

HLTA Rules Highlights – Fall 2017– Spring 2018

(Highlights are a guideline only. For a complete set of rules, go to www.hlta.com)

Line-ups: Each team **MUST** have a Captain or Acting Captain present at every scheduled match **who will verify scores and sign both teams' score sheets.** Captains **MUST** exchange line-ups **before** players are sent to their courts **and record the scores after the match no later than 5:00 p.m.** ONCE LINE-UP SHEETS HAVE BEEN EXCHANGED, LINES OR NAMES CANNOT BE MOVED FROM ONE LINE TO ANOTHER. A substitute (a player who is not scheduled to play on the original score sheet) may be used on any line that has not begun play. **It shall be the Home Team's responsibility to ensure that all lines are playing on the proper court.**

Default rule: There will be a **20 minute** default rule in effect for all scheduled matches (9:20 for a 9:00 a.m. match; Default time for second round matches will be immediately following completion of first round matches but not before 20 minutes after the scheduled time, so 10:50 for a 10:30 a.m. match). **The official time is available at 713-529-4444.**

Warm up/Start Time: Two first round matches should be scheduled at 9:00 a.m. Warm-ups should begin promptly at the scheduled time with the available players from both teams and shall not exceed **15 minutes.** The match begins when the first point is played and all warm-ups, including serves, must be taken beforehand. First matches should begin promptly at 9:15. **If a team has to travel a long distance,** a later or staggered start time is permissible and all 4 lines may play at one time if agreed upon in advance by **both** Captains.

Electronic Devices:  All portable electronic devices **MUST** be turned OFF and are not permitted for use on the tennis court for any reason at any time. If a player chooses to use her electronic device on the court during the match, **other than to turn it off, her line will immediately default the match.** If a device makes a sound on the court it must be turned off IMMEDIATELY without use and is considered a warning. The opponent may claim the point due to hindrance, if applicable. Any subsequent violation of this rule by ANY player on that court will result in a forfeiture of the match by the offending team on that court. Players may use their electronic devices during the 10 minute break allowed between the 2nd and 3rd sets provided they are NOT ON THE COURT.

Breaks: Play must be continuous. When players change ends, a maximum of 90 seconds are allowed, however, after the first game of each set and during a tiebreak, play shall be continuous, and the players shall change ends without a rest. A break not to exceed 10 minutes may be taken between the 2nd and 3rd sets only, but bathroom breaks may be taken at any time, if necessary.

Line calls: HLTA matches are non-officiated matches. No linesmen or umpires will be provided.

Children: No children are allowed courtside at matches at any time. Offending line will be defaulted.

Coaching: No coaching will be allowed during matches at any time which includes coaches, pros, captains, teammates or any other spectator. Teammates, spectators, captains, coaches and pros may not volunteer advice on line calls, scoring or the conduct of the match. **It is the Home Team's responsibility to control the spectators' conduct during match play.**

Rain: If weather is questionable, check HLTA Rule Match Play #6 for Rain Out rules.

Scoring: Individual matches will be the best 2 out of 3 sets playing regular scoring. The 12-point tiebreak as specified by USTA will be in effect any time the score reaches 6-all in any set.

Tiebreak:

- Winner is the first to earn 7 points provided they lead by a margin of 2 points.
- The player whose turn it is to serve shall serve the first point from the right service court (deuce court).
- The next server serves two consecutive points, always serving the first point from the left service court (ad court) then serving the second point from the deuce court.
- Service rotation continues as it did in the set, with each player serving 2 points.
- Every 6 points, players change ends.
- When the tie-break is over, players change ends if an additional set is to be played.
- The team to serve first in the set that ended in a tiebreak shall receive serve in the 1st game of the next set.

Disputes: Disputes over the score shall be resolved by using one of the following methods which are listed in the order of preference: (1) Count all points and games agreed upon by the players and replay only disputed points or games; (2) Play from a score mutually agreeable to all players; (3) Spin a racket or toss a coin.