



IRMSL TENNIS LEAGUE

Guidelines

Please retain this document throughout all leagues for the 2026 calendar year. All information within is subject to change if deemed necessary by the League Administrator and will be emailed to all.

LEAGUE ADMINISTRATOR

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Facilitating Play for the following:

Adult 21 & Over players in Indian River, Martin & St. Lucie Counties

- Some leagues may have higher age minimums like 50 or 60

NOTE TO CAPTAINS

All captains must -

- 1) have access to my informational website – irmsltennis.net
- 2) use the team management/scoring system – <https://irmsltennis.topdoglive.com>
- 3) be able to communicate with the LA via email, phone, text, website, etc.
- 4) be compassionate and work through issues with other captains for the **love** of tennis
- 5) be the spokesperson for your team – players contacting the LA will be directed to the captain

TEAM/PLAYER REQUIREMENTS FOR LEAGUE PARTICIPATION

1. Each player will pay the communicated required fee to be included on a team.
2. Each team will have home courts OR be “travelers” prepared to pay guest fees.
3. Home teams will supply new tennis balls (surface appropriate) and lights if playing at night.
4. Players are not permitted to play in a match until they have been registered for the team. If a non-registered player plays undetected by both captains, the position in which he/she played will be reflected as a loss for that position – NO exceptions.
5. All players participating in any IRMSL Tennis League agree to abide by the Friend at Court and the IRMSL Tennis League Guidelines; and the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship.

LEVEL RATINGS (Benchmark) AND PARTICIPATION

1. Players will need a level rating to participate in these leagues – i.e., 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, etc.
2. Any player with a valid rating may play at or one level above their “benchmark” rating level.
3. A player may be on two (2) local rosters within the same league IF the two (2) rosters are at different rating levels OR at the same rating level if playing in different flights – i.e., daytime and nighttime.

4. If a player does not have a rating, research will be done & one will be assigned by the LA.
5. **SPRING PLAY** – dynamic ratings are not used nor calculated. It is Captains discretion to place pairs in order of strength to weakness to promote good fair competitive play.

MATCH SCHEDULING

1. To avoid conflict, it is possible that a team may have more away matches than home.
2. Team captains will provide the LA with dates in advance that their facility is unable to host a home match – known as a “blackout” date(s).
3. Once the schedule is published, changes will not be made for facilities that subsequently schedule club events that create a conflict.
4. Captains are responsible for securing “home match” courts.

MATCH INFORMATION

1. League schedules will be available on TopDogLive via <https://irmsltennis.topdoglive.com>. The match schedule is subject to change after publication ONLY if conflicts are brought to the LA’s attention before league play begins. If any such changes are made, the LA will notify all Captains in that league of the changes via email.
2. Captains should contact each other at least two (2) days prior to the scheduled match to verify location and number of warm-up courts (if any). Review any other pertinent information.
3. Players are given a 10-minute warm-up period.
4. Default time is defined as fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled match time. *A player that is late to the match will forfeit his/her right to the warm-up period.* Late is any time after the scheduled start match time. If players are still in the warm up, the “late” player may join in, BUT WILL NOT BE GRANTED ADDITIONAL TIME PAST THE OFFICIAL 10 MINUTE WARM-UP.
5. Coaching is allowed **only** during the break before 3rd set tiebreak. Coaching can be given by teammates, spectators &/or tennis pros.
6. Players should not converse with anyone other than their partner and opponents during the match.
7. Line calls or disputes during a match can **ONLY** be resolved by the players participating in that individual match. Spectators have NO say!
8. **ALL** electronic devices, capable of sending and receiving any type of communication, including watches, should be turned off or removed to avoid hindering match play and to avoid any possibility of receiving coaching. If during an individual match this is violated, penalties are as follows: 1st offense one (1) point, 2nd offense loss of game, 3rd offense match retired by offending team. Penalties to be enforced by opponents on the court.
9. There is **NO** rest period between the first and second game of any set. There is a 90 second rest on changeovers and a 120 second rest between sets. During the set, play should be continuous with the server ready to serve the next point within 20 seconds of the end of the previous point. Play should continue at the server’s reasonable pace.
10. Play can be suspended if any player feels the court conditions are unsafe – i.e., wet lines. If this occurs, players on the court affected should work together to remedy the situation or agree on a date/time to continue play. If another date/time is agreed upon, both team captains will notify the LA via email.

TEAM LINEUPS

1. Captains will print one (1) match specific scorecard as close to match time as possible so it lists ALL eligible players for both teams. Exchange this scorecard with opposing captain.
2. It is the responsibility of BOTH captains to verify that players on the exchanged line-up are registered on the team, appear on the team roster and proceed to the correct designated court.
3. Captains will exchange their completed line-ups simultaneously once all scheduled players are present.
4. Once the line-ups have been exchanged, no changes can be made EXCEPT for a player who becomes ill/injured during the warm-up period. If this occurs, and there is an eligible team player there to “substitute” in, this player” will be inserted **exactly** where the ill/injured player was in the line-up. If no such player is available, that court/position is defaulted.

FORMAT OF PLAY

1. Matches shall be the best of three (3) sets with a 10-point match tiebreak being played in lieu of a full 3rd set. The **SET** tie-breaker (first to 7 by 2) is played at the end of a set when games are tied 6 games all. The set is recorded 7-6. The **MATCH** tie-breaker (first to 10 by 2), sometimes called a “super tie break”, will be played in lieu of playing a third set when the match is tied at 1 set each. The match tiebreaker result is recorded as 1-0.
2. The Coman Tie Break Procedure will be utilized for both tiebreakers. Bathroom breaks should not be taken during tiebreakers. Coaching is permitted between the 2nd set and match tie-breaker.

AVOIDING DEFAULTS

1. Captains should work together, within reason, to avoid recording a default. This means possibly agreeing to play the position on a different day/night/time PRIOR to the scheduled match.
2. It should be a practiced courtesy to advise the opposing team in advance if you will be defaulting a position for your weekly scheduled match. Once a default is declared, it will be up to the opposing captain to agree to play if the defaulting captain rescinds the default.

SCORE ENTRY

1. Captains are responsible for either giving the scores & player’s names to the LA to enter OR entering and confirming scores and player’s names (first and last) themselves at the conclusion of the match via <https://irmsltennis.topdoglive.com>
2. **Either** captain may enter the scores upon completion of the match. The other captain is responsible for confirming or disputing* the score entries.
 - Please enter scores by 6pm on day of the match

**Disputed score entries need to be communicated to the LA and the opposing captain immediately. This includes details of the match - league name, NTRP level and all information related to the error(s) need to be included so the error(s) can be corrected.*

SPRING PLAY WILL HAVE ENTIRE MATCH RAINOUTS PLACED AT THE END OF SCHEDULE.
RAINOUTS

An individual match/position has officially started when the first service attempt has occurred. If this occurs on all the scheduled positions, the team match has officially started. Once an individual match has officially started, only the player(s) on that court are able to finish that match.

- If time permits, a rained-out match may be placed at the end of the initial scheduled division season OR it may be completely removed from the initial schedule upon the LA's judgement.

❖ **No Individual Matches Have Started Play:**

1. If line-ups have been exchanged and subsequently the team match has been declared rained out, a new line-up may be presented at the start of the rescheduled match, including any previously defaulted position(s), by both teams.
2. Both Captains will inform the LA via email that the match was not played and advise why.
3. Each individual position may be made up separately or the match may be made up as a team. In either situation, Captains are agreeing ONLY to what position will be played on what date/time. Player(s) names are not required to be given.
4. If each individual match is being played separately, a team line-up is not exchanged.
5. The agreed upon date/time of the rescheduled match will be void for rain or inclement weather.
6. The agreed upon date/time of the rescheduled match CAN be changed IF both captains agree.
7. Both Captains should email the LA to advise of rescheduled agreed upon arrangements.

❖ **Match Started, Suspended and Resumed - Same Day:**

If it rains after play has started during a team or individual match, both Captains shall keep a copy of the team line-ups, scores, who was serving and resume play starting where play stopped with the same players. Any point played is always counted and is never replayed. Upon restarting the match, a ten (10) minute warm-up is allowed.

1. No player changes may be made to the exchanged line-up.
2. Any court that cannot resume play will be recorded as a retirement.

❖ **Match Started, Suspended and Resumed - Another Day:**

If it rains after play has started for a team or individual match and play will be resumed on another day, both Captains shall keep a copy of the team line-ups, scores, who was serving and resume play starting where play stopped with the same players. Any point played is always counted and is never replayed. Upon restarting the match, a ten (10) minute warm-up is allowed.

1. The same players at the same positions where play stopped are required to resume play at the exact score, set and game point where they were when match play was suspended.
2. A new line-up may be presented for any individual match that had not started and for any individual match previously indicated as a default at the time the initial line-up was exchanged.
3. Both captains must inform the LA of the date/time of the rescheduled match.
4. The agreed upon date/time of the rescheduled match will be void for rain or inclement weather and another agreement needs to be made.
5. The agreed upon date/time CAN change IF both captains agree.
6. Both Captains will inform the LA of this situation.