

## HLTA Rules – Highlights

**Lineups:** Each team must have a Captain or Acting Captain present at every scheduled match. Captains must exchange lineups before the match begins and must record the scores after the match. ONCE LINEUPS HAVE BEEN EXCHANGED, LINES OR NAMES CANNOT BE MOVED FROM ONE LINE TO ANOTHER. A substitute (player that is not listed on the original score sheet) can be used in any line that has not begun play. Once on the court, players are responsible for checking to make sure they are playing the correct opponents on the correct line.

**Default rule:** All first matches start at 9:00 a.m. with a warm up not to exceed 15 minutes. If a team has to travel a long distance a 9:30 or 10:00 starting is permissible and all 4 lines may play at one time if agreed upon in advance by both Captains. DEFAULT RULE: There will be a 20 minute default rule in effect for all scheduled matches. Official time 713-529-4444.

**Warm up:** Play must be continuous – all warm-ups, including serves, must be taken before the first point is played. Match play must begin promptly at 9:15 am.

**Phones:** TURN OFF YOUR PHONES. First occurrence – offending line forfeits game. 2<sup>nd</sup> occurrence – offending line forfeits match. If a player uses her phone on the court during match (except to turn it off), her line automatically defaults the match. Phones may only be used **off court** during the 10 minute break between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> sets.

**Breaks:** When players change ends, a maximum of 90 seconds are allowed. However, after the first game of each set and during a tie-break game, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> sets only. Bathroom breaks should take place between sets or when the players change ends, but may be taken at any time, if necessary.

**Line calls:** All HLTA matches are un-officiated matches. No linesman or umpires will be provided. No coaching will be allowed during matches. Teammates and spectators may not volunteer advice on line calls, scoring or the conduct of the match.

**Rain:** In questionable weather, teams scheduled for 9 am matches must be at the playing site. Cancellation of matches by captains should not be made before 10 am. If rain occurs after matches have begun, wait 30 minutes to determine if courts become playable. Consult online rules for rain makeup procedure.

**Scoring:** Individual matches will be the best 2 out of 3 sets – playing regular scoring. The 12-point tiebreaker as specified by USTA will be in effect any time the score reaches 6-all in any set. A **bonus point** will be given for a 3-set loss, provided all three sets are completed.

**Tiebreak:** A tiebreak is played at 6-6 in a set

- Winner is the first to earn 7 points provided they lead by a 2 point margin
- The 1<sup>st</sup> server serves one 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 right service court (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 tiebreak is over, players change ends.
- The team to serve first in the tiebreak receives serve in the 1<sup>st</sup> game of the next set.

The HLTA Rules - Highlights is just a guideline for reference while on court. For a complete set of rules, go to <http://www.hlta.com> or ask your level coordinator if you have a question.