



2026 Martin Luther King Tournament Referee Reference Guide V01 01/16/26 22:00

- 1. National Anthem** Daily 7:45AM Before First Match of AM waves. **Timed Warmups start after National Anthem**
- 2. Credentials: TO BE STRICTLY ENFORCED** HOA or Tournament Credential required to sit on bench.
Credential Check each Match
Credentials: Green COACH or MLK Tournament Credential NO Credential - No Access to Bench!!!
SEND TO CHAMPIONSHIP!!! Red PARENT Credential - Not so much - Ask if USAV member!!!
- 3. Warm-Ups All Club Divisions:** 10 minutes total. 2-Shared; 4-Serving Team; 4-Receiving Team.
18 O/U/L/A Qualifiers: Use this warm-up protocol.
1&2 matches of wave: 5-Shared; 4-Serving Team; 4-Receiving Team.
All others matches: 2-Shared; 4-Serving Team; 4-Receiving Team.
Make sure the team not warming up is at their bench and **out of the way** of the team that has the court.
Exception: Off team may shag balls for the team warming up (both teams agree)
Work team: Must be present at the start of warmups (10 minutes prior to match time).
Is not present if a **CREDENTIALed coach/18s Qualifier rostered adult** is not present.
Coach should time warmups while R1 gets scoresheet if necessary
Penalty 1 point per minute late (next set). **Penalty Clock starts when the 10 minutes starts.**
HOA requires that coaches be the **R2 or SC of record for all non-qualifier (Club Divisions matches).**
Qualifier matches (18) a rostered adult must be the R2.
If an R2 is assigned by HOA, a Coach/rostered adult must sit at the Scoring Table
PLEASE REMIND COACHES THAT THEY MUST BE PRESENT FOR THE ENTIRE MATCH.
If they leave during the match a penalty of 5 points per set of the following match. (Club Div Only)
- 4. Match Format All sets win by 2 for everyone**
Best of 3 sets All sets start at 0 to 25. Deciding set to 15.
Automatic 3 set All sets start at 0 to 25. **Coin Flip Between Sets 2 & 3**
Match Protocol Baseline Protocol **No court switch between sets**
Coin Toss: Prematch: Serve, receive, or Side **Deciding Set:** Serve, Receive **ONLY!**
- 5. Start Time:** 1st Match of morning wave **Must start at Scheduled Time.**
All remaining matches may start early, if referee present, **Qualifiers (18s): Unless any of the 3 teams object.**
Timed Warmup should start immediately at the conclusion of the previous match.
PM Wave: May NOT start early, if PM wave on court is 18A, 18U, 18L! VTTgrid 8A, 8U, 8L
All other courts may start early!
- 6. Protests** Remember **only** the Captain or the Head Coach may protest.
Use some discretion and attempt to resolve the issue without a protest.
If a protest is accepted, stop play immediately and call for a head official
or send a responsible adult to the championship desk to get the head officials.
See Communications on MLK page – Please start your thread as soon as you read this!!!
Do Not Leave the Court. Secure the scoresheet!!! Ensure R2 is not engaging with playing Coaches!!!
Do Not Discuss the Issue with anyone including your partner until a head referee arrives.
- 7. Tiebreakers:** There may be playoffs at the end of each 18 American/Liberty/USA (8 A/L/U) wave.
Do not start the following wave on those courts early. Tie-Breakers will be 1 set to 15 starting at 0.
Please remain available for any playoffs if needed. As soon as we know you will know.
Courts and Pools may move. Be prepared and fluid!!! PM referee may officiate-tiebreaker match.
- 8. Scoresheets** Pickup and return scoresheets to Championship Desk - Pick up only 1 or 2 matches at a time.
If you take 2 you must enter the scores into AES after each match. This is important.
Verify and Sign. You may enter scores in AES <https://advancedeventsystems.com/scores/mobile>
Find Event [2026 ASICS Kansas City MLK Tournament](#) bookmark page Password: **KCMLK2026**
Return scoresheets to championship ASAP

NOTES:

- **BALL HANDLING - NO BALL HANDLING ANYWHERE EXCEPT ON SPORT COURT!!!**
- **Spectators** – Keep all spectator seating along with bags off sport court.
- **Bench Control** – Subs, if standing, must be in warm-up area (read definition)
- **Assistant Coach** – Only 1 assistant may be standing (**Coach may stand in warm-up area**)
- **Antennae** – Check and adjust antennae prior to starting 1st set of each match

