



2019 LOCAL REGULATIONS

Adult 18&over, 40&over, 55&over and 65&over Age Categories

Southern Region – Westchester/Rockland

All captains and players are responsible for following these rules & regulations

GOVERNING RULES

USTA Adult leagues are divided into layers of organization: National, Sectional (Eastern), Regional (Southern), District (Westchester/Rockland), and then Divisions. Three levels of rules apply: The USTA League Tennis Regulations (National), the USTA Eastern rules (Section), and the Local Rules (Southern Region). In addition, the USTA Code of Conduct applies. The local rules are to be read in a manner consistent with the Section and National rules whenever possible and are not intended to supplant those rules. The local rules are intended to identify only the most essential portions of the National and Section rules and only depart from those rules (available at [2019 National and Eastern Regulations](#)) as authorized by the USTA. For the purposes of local leagues, players should refer to the appropriate section (The Code) in "[Friend at Court](#)" for unofficiated matches.

PLAYER PARTICIPATION/ REGISTRATION

1. Players must be members of the USTA through October 31, 2019.
2. All players must register through [TennisLink](#).
3. **A minimum of six players must be registered by March 15, 2019 for the 3.0-4.5 flights; a minimum of 4 players for 55 & over, 65 & over and 2.5 and 5.0 18 & over.**
4. A player(s) may be added to a team within the local league season until 7/8/19 in the 18&over league, 7/15/18 in the 40&over league and 7/29/19 in the 55 and 65&over leagues. Roster additions after these dates will require approval of the Local League Coordinator.
5. **All participating team members must be registered prior to play.**
6. Requests for a registration refund or transfer to another team must be made by the league registration deadline.
7. Players who play on two or more teams at the same NTRP level and age group in the Eastern Section must declare which team they will represent prior to the start of any local, regional or sectional championship should more than one team qualify to advance. This declaration is done by playing in a championship match. If a player declares for a team and that team is eliminated from championship play, the player is eligible to re-select and play for any other team, in any local, regional or sectional championship as long as they meet eligibility requirements for that team, regardless of region. See USTA Eastern Rule A.13 for additional information.
8. This is an amateur, recreational league. Players may not accept any gifts, money, reimbursement for travel expenses or incentives for playing in a match from **anyone**, including captains.
9. **National Championship teams**
 - A) Move Up – Teams and team members that advanced to, or qualified for, any National Championship may play together as a team, in whole or in part, if they move up one NTRP team level.
 - B) Split Up – No more than three (3) players who were on the roster of any team that advanced to, or qualified for, any National Championship team the previous year may play together in the same Division, same Age Group and at the same NTRP team level as the National Championship team(s), if their NTRP rating allows. Split-Up requirements only apply to players who participated in three

(3) or more matches (including one default) for that team during the championship year [See National/Eastern Regulations (Player Participation 2.06A) for details.].

CAPTAINS' RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Make sure all players are registered through TennisLink and listed on the official roster.
2. Make sure all player information is true and not intentionally withheld from League Administrators.
3. Captains are responsible for ensuring new players do not have a current computer rating from any other US State. Captains should verify a player's level of play and background before the player "self rates". **Neglect of this responsibility is grounds for removal of a captain and possible suspension from league play.**
4. BOTH home & visiting captains should make contact at least 5 days prior to the match to confirm match site, start time and number of courts. **It is the responsibility of the home team to inform the visiting team of any dress code required by the home site.**
5. Be present at every match or assign someone to be acting captain.
6. Print official scoresheets to take to match and ensure that all players slated to play are registered before beginning match.
7. Complete your line-up on your scoresheet and exchange scoresheets with the other captain simultaneously prior to the beginning of the team match. **If it is a staggered match (three courts to start with two to follow) the players for the later matches MUST be designated on the lineup scorecard.**
8. Sign both the scorecards after checking that the scores are written correctly. **BOTH team captains are responsible for inputting scores into TennisLink within 48 hours.** The first team to report will input the scores, the next to report will "confirm or dispute" scores. Penalties may occur if scores are not entered in a timely manner. **Captains may forfeit their right to dispute a scorecard if they do not confirm match results in TennisLink within 48 hours.**

TEAMS

1. In order to play at any given NTRP level a team must have 60% of players "currently rated" at that NTRP level. Under limited circumstances, League Coordinators may allow a team to participate in the leagues with less than 60% of rostered players at level.
2. "Currently rated" is defined as:
 - Any player, under the age of 60, who has played in the USTA Adult League and has a computer rating from 2016 to present. A computer rating is valid for 3 years.
 - Any player, age 60 or over, who has played in the USTA Adult League and has a computer rating from 2017 to present. A computer rating is valid for 2 years.
3. Players new to the league must self rate.
4. Players who have a year-end mixed exclusive (M) or tournament (T) rating must self rate to play in an Adult League Division.
5. Team rosters are limited to 22 players for the 18, 40 and 55&over league and 24 players for the 65&over leagues.
6. It is the responsibility of each entire team to pay its home court league expenses. It is at each team captain's discretion as to the allocation of those costs among the individual team members.
7. The home team must supply a new unopened container of USTA approved balls for each individual match. The balls must be appropriate to the surface on which the match is to be played.

FACILITIES

1. The home team will provide courts for five matches (three courts for 55 & 65 & over, 5.0 & 2.5 level 18 & over) at no cost to the visiting team.
2. A minimum of three (3) courts must be available at the commencement of a team match. If less than three (3) courts are available, the visiting captain shall have the right to require that the match be rescheduled. Exceptions may be approved by the local league coordinator.
3. Home teams shall provide a minimum of two (2) hours per match for a minimum of 10 court hours per team match except in an emergency or inclement weather. Other special arrangements must be approved by the USTA League Coordinators.
4. Facilities must be within the boundaries of the Westchester/Rockland Area. The League Coordinators may allow teams to play at facilities outside the Westchester/Rockland Area under extenuating circumstances.
5. Facilities' dress codes must be adhered to by visiting teams.

MATCHES

1. All matches will be the best two out of three sets, with regular scoring, and a set-tiebreak (first to 7 by 2 points) at 6-all in each set. In the event of split sets, a match tie-break (first to 10 by 2 points) must be played in lieu of a third set. The tiebreak shall be scored as 1 set and 1 game for tiebreak procedures. *The final third set score will be entered as 1-0 for the winning team.* All tiebreaks (set & match) should follow "Coman" tiebreak procedure for switching sides (switch after 1st point...then every 4 points thereafter - 5, 9, 13, etc.)
2. When only three courts are available at the commencement of a match, the individual matches shall be played in the following order: #1 singles and #1 and #2 doubles, followed by #2 singles and #3 doubles.
3. The Women's 40&over 3.0, 3.5 and 4.0 league matches shall be played in the following order: #1 singles, #1 doubles and #2 doubles, followed by #3 doubles and #4 doubles.
4. In 55&over and 65&over leagues, the order of play is #1 doubles, #2 doubles, #3 doubles.
5. The captains may agree to change this order by mutual consent.
6. If it is a staggered match, the players for the later matches MUST be designated on the lineup scorecard.
7. Defaults must occur from the bottom up. If a doubles player is missing, the line-up must be adjusted and that pair placed in the 3rd doubles position. The 2nd and 3rd doubles teams (as designated on the scorecard exchanged) for the team with the missing player must then be moved up 1 position e.g. if the 1st doubles team is missing a player those players must be placed in 3rd doubles and the 2nd doubles team moved up to 1st and the 3rd doubles team moved up to 2nd. No other changes in either team's line-up are allowed. Similarly, a missing singles player must be placed in the 2nd singles position. 3rd doubles and/or 2nd singles must be the first courts defaulted.
8. If, after the scorecards have been exchanged but prior to the first point of an individual match being played, a player becomes unable to play due to injury or illness, one substitution may be made using a rostered player.
9. In staggered matches (i.e., #2 singles & #3 doubles start later), if a player is not present for the agreed start of the staggered match time & another rostered player is available, then one substitution may be made. If there is not another rostered player available, the singles player or doubles team is defaulted.
10. It is the responsibility of the players to make sure they are on the correct court with the proper opponents. Captains should give their players the names of their opponents when sending them to

their court. If there is an error in court positions played, the home team's scorecard will take precedence. **All matches stand as played.**

11. In the case of injury, a one-time, **three (3) minute** suspension of play is allowed for that injury. An injured player shall not be permitted to leave the facility site. If the player leaves the court for a bathroom break or injury treatment, no coaching is allowed at that time.
12. The match officially starts when play of the first point is begun. If the match needs to be stopped, due to weather or any extraordinary circumstances, the original line up may be changed on a court that has **not** officially started play even if the players completed warm-up. A court that has begun a first point (the first ball is struck) must be completed by the original roster lineup.
13. A 15-minute default period begins with the scheduled starting time of the match. The opposing captain has the discretion to extend the default time and play the match when possible. All late players are guaranteed a 5 minute warm up. NO POINT PENALTY is allowed for a late player. For a "to follow court" or "staggered matches", a default cannot be claimed unless a court is available for play. In the case of "extenuating circumstances", the local league coordinators may extend the default time. Captains should make contact with a coordinator for approval (extenuating circumstances would include, but not be limited to, extreme weather travel conditions, such as snowstorms, bridge or tunnel closings, fires, tornadoes and major street closings).
14. If, during a league match, an irresolvable dispute arises between the players about the accuracy of calling the lines or other issues, any player may suspend the match to request a court monitor to be present for the remainder of the match. The players shall seek out their respective captains or acting captains to arrange for the mutually acceptable court monitor. If there is no acting captain available, the players shall mutually designate a person, acceptable to all players, to monitor the match. If possible, two monitors are suggested. The monitor(s) shall stand at the net post and make a line call or resolve any other dispute only if requested to by any player. The monitor(s) shall not independently make a line call or other ruling. The line call or ruling of the monitor(s) shall be final, controlling and not appealable. If there are two court monitors on the court and they disagree regarding a call, the call made by the player(s) stands.
15. In the event a court needs to be defaulted, the opposing captain must be contacted 24 hours prior to the start of the match. Opposing captains must confirm receipt of the email. If defaults are not communicated in this timeframe, the defaulting team will be responsible for covering the match fee charged by the club.
16. In the event a court is defaulted due to lateness by the visiting team, the following applies. If the court is used, the court fees continue to be the responsibility of the home team. If the court is not used, the visiting team is responsible for the court fee if requested by the home club.
17. For a "valid" match a 5 court team match must play a minimum of 3 courts (4 players) and for 3 court matches a valid match consists of 2 courts.
18. Scorecards from both captains are to be entered online and confirmed in TennisLink within 48 hours after the match (see Captain Responsibilities #8). Players must be on the roster at the time of the scheduled match to be entered as the default. Players entered for a defaulted court cannot be changed.
19. **Spectators (including pros, coaches, players and captains) watching matches:**
 - **May not** talk to players on the court.
 - **May not** coach, either verbally or visually.
 - **May not** comment or make visual signals on line calls.
 - **May not** cause any distractions to the players.
 - **May not** get involved with any dispute between the players on the court.
 - **May not** interrupt a match in progress for any reason. .
 - **May not sit on the court.**

DARKNESS AND RAIN INTERRUPTION RULE

UNLIT COURTS

If a lit court is available or becoming available at the facility within 30 minutes, continue the match to the finish on those courts, even if it is before putting on other courts that are not yet started. If the lit court is a different surface, up to a 5 minute warm-up will be allowed.

If no lit courts are available or becoming available at the facility:

Before the match starts, the captains/players shall note the stop time for darkness as below. **Please continue play until the official stop time (unless match is completed prior to that time).**

May- 8:15PM June - 8:30PM July - 8:30PM August - 8:15PM

If a match tiebreak has already been started at the stop time, it should be finished then and there, even if it is almost dark.

PRIOR TO THE START OF THE MATCH, the VISITING team players/captain will have the choice of the following options. The chosen decision covers the entire match and MUST be announced, acknowledged by both teams before play starts and written on the top of the scorecard. If a decision is not made prior to the start of the match, points will be allocated using option 2.

- (1) Come back & finish the match** at another agreed time within two weeks. The scores of the unfinished match should be written down on the back of the scorecard and signed by the captains. If an agreement on time/day cannot be reached among the players/captains, the League Coordinator shall set the time/date & location. If one side cannot make the assigned date for a match stopped due to darkness, the match will be recorded as a retirement in favor of the team that could play.

OR:

(2) End the match and allocate the points according to the following guidelines.
(Use the “timed match” option when entering the scores for this court):

- If the teams have split sets, with no time left to start the 3rd set tiebreak:
The points for that court are split.
- If the team that won the first set is on serve, tied, or ahead by 1 break or more in the 2nd set:
That team wins all the points.
- If the team that won the first set is losing the 2nd set by 1 break or more:
The points for that court are split.

NOTE: A game in progress at the end of the time period is to be finished.

ADDENDUM: All matches held on lit courts are expected to be played to completion. In staggered matches, if the 2nd round starts late and the facility may close or lights will go out before the match

is expected to be completed, captains must state the time the match must end before the match starts on the later courts, and the visitor decides one of the following:

- If there is not an hour and quarter (75 minutes) left, choose to reschedule.
- Play using the darkness rules above and choose to come back if the match is incomplete or opt for timed match scoring.

Rain interruption scoring: Similar to darkness, if rain interrupts a match after one set is completed, use the above darkness regulations for scoring the match. **Visitors MUST declare before the match**, that they will either come back to finish or timed match scoring will be used.

RELOCATING OUTDOOR MATCHES DUE TO WEATHER

Relocation of a match due to predicted weather must be communicated and agreed upon by both teams no less than 6 hours before the scheduled time of the match. If indoor courts are going to be use the day of the match, both teams split the cost of the courts.

If either team does not want to relocate a match indoors - REFER TO RESCHEDULING MATCHES.

RESCHEDULING MATCHES

- Requests for full match reschedules are not permitted and captains do not have to agree to reschedule a full match
- If you are struggling to field a full line-up, as many courts as possible should be played on the originally scheduled date (preferably 3 out of 5 courts or 2 out of 3 courts to make the match valid). If fewer than 3 out of 5 courts or 2 out of 3 courts are played, then only those courts to make it a valid match must be rescheduled
- If a captain does agree to reschedule a match, the lowest doubles must be defaulted by the team who made the request
- Changes to this procedure due to extenuating circumstances are at the discretion of the league coordinator.
- When a Heat State of Emergency is in effect for any part of Westchester or Rockland Counties, matches may be rescheduled.

Captains may have 48 hours from the day of the originally scheduled match to agree on a reschedule date for an incomplete court (s). Two viable dates must be given as options by the home team. If a date is not confirmed within this time period, the League Coordinator will set the date. Rescheduled court (s) must be played within two weeks of the originally scheduled date. Captains must report the rescheduled date to the League Coordinator. Incomplete court (s) that occur within the last two weeks of the season may be rescheduled by the League Coordinator. If the home team is unable to provide courts within this time frame, the visiting team's courts may be used or a neutral site may be chosen. Any court costs incurred will be the responsibility of BOTH teams. Using weekends for rescheduled matches is an option.

If an entire match is rescheduled due to rain, any previously defaulted courts for that match will remain as defaults for the rescheduled date.

The USTA League Coordinator may reschedule any unplayed or incomplete matches occurring at the end of the season, which would impact the determination of a league winner. Any cost incurred would be shared by BOTH teams.

Any team unable to complete their scheduled matches by the end of the league season, may, at the discretion of the USTA League Coordinator, have their match results removed from the league standings. Such teams/players may be deemed ineligible by the local league coordinator to compete the following season.

MATCH SCORING:

Scoring is by Point System as outlined below:

ADULT TEAMS 5 courts: 2 singles and 3 doubles courts. (18&Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 & 4.5, 40&Over 4.5+)

The points awarded are: **1S = 5pts, 2S = 4pts, 1D = 6pts, 2D = 4 pts, 3D = 3pts**

ADULT TEAMS 5 courts: 1 singles and 4 doubles courts. (Women's 40&Over 3.0, 3.5 and 4.0)

The points awarded are: **1S = 5 pts, 1D = 6 pts, 2D = 5 pts, 3D = 4 pts, 4D = 3 pts**

Adult Teams 3 courts: 1 singles and 2 doubles courts (18&Over 2.5 and 5.0)

The points awarded are: **1S = 5pts, 1D = 6pts, 2D = 4 pts**

55 & Over & and 65&Over (3 Doubles): 1D = 6pts, 2D = 4pts, 3D = 3pts

LOCAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS:

Points are cumulative throughout the season; the team with the most points at the end of the season wins. In the event of a tie in points at the end of the season, Tennislink tiebreaks will be used to break the tie. They are head-to-head competition, least sets lost, least games lost. The championship schedule is determined at the sole discretion of the league coordinator, and matches may be scheduled at any time during the designated championship period. If a local championship match overlaps with a regular season match and over 30% of the roster players are shared amongst the teams, the regular season match may be rescheduled. Players must play at least twice in the local season to be eligible for Local Flight/District, Regional and Sectional championships. Only 1 of these matches can be a default.

- **Leagues with 4 or fewer teams & 2 or more rounds of local matches:** The 1st place team advances directly to the regional championships.
- **Leagues with 5-9 teams & 1 or more rounds of local matches:** The 1st & 2nd place teams will have a local championship match to qualify for regional championships.
- **Leagues with 10 or more teams in one division & one round of local matches:** There will be a local championship at the end of the season between the top 4 teams.
- **Leagues with 2 divisions:** The top two teams in each division advance to the local championships. The 1st place team of each division will play the 2nd place team of the opposite division.
- **Leagues with 3 divisions:** The 1st place team in each division and the 2nd place team with the highest % of winning points (amongst all the divisions) will advance to the local championships.
- **Leagues with 4 divisions:** the 1st place team in each division will advance to the local championships. Seeding will be based on highest % of winning points.
- Local League Coordinators may alter these local championship formats as necessary. All teams affected will receive notice of such changes.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES:

All complaints, grievances, and appeals must be submitted in writing by the team captain within **48 hours** of the incident.

Grievance procedures, forms and payment can be found at <https://www.usta.com/en/home/play/play-as-a-member/eastern/GrievancesandAppeals.html>.

A submitted payment form **must** accompany your grievance. The \$25 fee will be refunded if the grievance is upheld.

League Coordinators:

Amy Guttman, 18&over and 55&over League Coordinator, guttman@eastern.usta.com 914 263 7262

Kate Jennings, 40&over and 65&over League Coordinator, jennings@eastern.usta.com 914 589 0700