

SETX USTA LOCAL LEAGUE RULES - 2023
January, 2023

I. REGULATIONS:

The USTA League Tennis Regulations for 2023 can be found on the USTA Texas Section web site: www.texas.usta.com.

II. LEAGUES: Locally we will attempt to form the following adult leagues:

Adult 18 & Over Women's 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 4.5 and Lone Star (players new to league play)
Adult 18 & Over Men's 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5
Mixed 18 & Over Doubles League 6.0, 7.0, 8.0 and 9.0
Adult 55 & Over Women's and Men's Doubles League 6.0, 7.0, 8.0 & 9.0
Adult 65 & Over Women's and Men's Doubles League 6.0, 7.0 and 8.0
Mixed 40 & Over Double's League 6.0, 7.0, 8.0 and 9.0
Combo 6.5, 7.5 and 8.5
40 & Over Women's and Men's 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5 plus
Tri-Level Women's and Men's 4.5 and 4.0

III. AGE REQUIREMENT:

- a) Players **MUST BE** 18 years of age prior to participating in the USTA League program. Each player over the age of 18 shall have reached the required minimum age prior to or during the calendar year in which such player participates in his or her first local league. ([2023 National & Texas League Regulations 1.04E\(3\)](#))
- b) Players must be 40 years of age or turning 40 in the current calendar year to play 40 & Over leagues, at least age 55 or turning 55 in the current calendar year to play 55 & Over leagues and at least 65 or turning 65 in the current calendar year to play 65 & Over leagues.
- c) TennisLink will prevent the registration of an age-restricted player.

IV. TEAM ROSTERS:

- a) See table below for minimum number of players per team
- b) **Two Team Leagues.** If any Adult Division Age Group consists of only two teams in a level of play, each team must maintain its roster with at least 40 percent of its players at the designated NTRP level of play. The exception is the Adult Division 55 & Over Age Group that uses combined NTRP rating levels and will not be required to comply with this Regulation. ([2023 National & Texas League Regulations 1.04D\(5\)](#))
- c) All players must have current USTA membership. Players may obtain membership online at www.usta.com. Players cannot be added to the roster on Tennis Link unless they have a valid USTA membership. *All individuals who compete in the USTA League must be current USTA members in good standing through the local league season. Any individual who progresses to a championship level in the

USTA League must be a current USTA member through each championship progression. (2023 National & Texas League Regulations 1.04E(2))

d) All team rosters must be entered on TennisLink.

League	Minimum Roster	Matches for C Rated	Matches for S / A	Local teams needed
Adult 18 & Over	3.0-4.5= 8 player LS, 2.5, 5.0, & Open = 5 players	2 matches (one can be a default)	3 matches (zero defaults)	Two teams locally (3.5 & 4.0 - 3 teams, LS & Open - 1 team)
Adult 40 & Over	7 players (Open 5 players)	2 matches (one can be a default)	3 matches (zero defaults)	Two teams locally (3.5 & 4.0 - 3 teams, Open - 1 team)
Adult 55 & Over	6 players	2 matches (one can be a default)	3 matches (zero defaults)	2 teams
Adult 65 & Over	6 players	1 match	1 match	1 team
Mixed 18 & Over	6 players	2 matches (one can be a default)	3 matches (zero defaults)	2 teams
Mixed 40 & Over	6 players	2 matches (one can be a default)	3 matches (zero defaults)	2 teams
Mixed 55 & Over	6 players	1 match	1 match	1 team
Tri-Level	6 players	1 match	1 match	1 team
Combo	6 players	1 match	1 match	1 team

e) No player can play a league match until they are entered on the TennisLink team roster.

f) Players who are NTRP dynamically disqualified may be allowed to move up and participate on another team at a higher NTRP level during that same local league season provided registration has not closed. (2023 National & Texas League Regulations 2.04B(4))

g) A player may play on more than one team in a league as long as: (1) they are not playing on another team at the same level; (2) they are not participating on a team as a player with a lower rating level than their current NTRP rating; and (3) the Texas Section does not prohibit players playing on more than one team in this particular league.

- h) If a player does play on more than one team in a league, they will be required to declare which team they will commit to go to the Sectional Tournament with, should both team win locally. This agreement should be made with the player and both captains involved.
- i) There will be a maximum of 2 players per team living outside a 50 mile radius.
- j) Players may be added to team rosters as long as that player can meet the qualifying match requirement for that league; i.e. if 2 matches are required to qualify for sectionals – there must be at least 2 matches remaining in the published league schedule.

V. RATINGS:

- a) A player shall not play on a lower NTRP level league team. *When using straight NTRP levels, a player cannot have an NTRP rating higher than the NTRP level in which the player is competing. ([2023 National & Texas League Regulations 2.01A\(1\)](#))
- b) A player may play up to one NTRP level higher than the player's current NTRP level. ([2023 National & Texas League Regulations 1.04G\(5\)](#))
- c) When using combined NTRP levels, the combined NTRP rating levels of the doubles team cannot exceed the combined NTRP level in which the players are competing. ([2023 National & Texas League Regulations 2.01A\(2\)](#))
- d) The NTRP difference between members of an individual doubles team may not exceed 1.0. ([2023 National & Texas League Regulations 2.01A\(3\)](#))
- e) New players in the league will self-rate their level of play on Tennislink. CAUTION: with dynamic NTRP, computer ratings will be run continuously through the league year, which could result in a player being disqualified DURING the league season if they are playing out of level. Please be truthful in answering the self rate questions in Tennislink to avoid getting disqualified.
- f) A player moving into the Texas Section from another USTA Section will retain their computer rating from that Section.

VI. LEAGUE FEES

- a) League fees will consist of USTA fees (local and state), TennisLink fees and court fees to be determined by the League committee (SETTA) and the Local League Coordinator.
- b) All league fees will be collected on TennisLink via credit card when signing up for a particular league.
- c) There will be no refunds.
- d) Players will provide their own balls for matches. The Home team will provide the balls as noted on the league schedule.

VII. TENNIS LINK:

- a) All rosters are required to be entered on TennisLink.
- b) A team number from the Local League Coordinator will be required before a team roster can be generated. The team number will be generated when the Local League Coordinator receives the captain's USTA number and that captain provides a skeleton roster of at least 4 verbally confirmed players.

VIII. TEAM FORMAT:

- a) See table below for league formats

USTA LEAGUE PROGRAM ORGANIZATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL			
DIVISION	AGE GROUP	LEAGUE FORMAT	NTRP LEVELS
Adult	18 & Over	1 – Singles 2 – Doubles	2.5 women, 5.0
	18 & Over	2 – Singles 3 – Doubles	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5
	40 & Over	1 – Singles 3 – Doubles	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5
	55 & Over	3 – Doubles	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0
Mixed	18 & Over	3 – Doubles	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0
	40 & Over	3 – Doubles	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0

- b) All matches will be best of three tiebreak sets with a set tiebreak at 6-all using the Coman tiebreak procedure – the first to 7 points by a margin of at least 2 points. The match tiebreak shall be recorded as one set and one game for tiebreak purposes. If teams split sets, the Coman tiebreak procedure will be used – the first to 10 points by a margin of at least 2 points. ([summarized 2023 National & Texas League Regulations 2.01C\(4\)](#))
- c) When the scoring method is the best of three tiebreak sets and a 10 minute rest period is taken between the second and third sets, coaching is permitted only during this rest period. ([2023 National & Texas League Regulations 2.01D](#))

IX. HOME AND VISITING TEAM CAPTAINS:

- a) The home team captain is responsible for entering match scores on TennisLink no later than 48 hours following the league match played. If the captain needs assistance, or has problems with computer access, the league coordinator will help enter the scores if requested to do so.
- b) The visiting team captain is responsible for confirming match scores within 48 hours after the initial score entry by the home team. If scores are not confirmed by the opposing team within 48 hours of the initial entry, the initial score will automatically be considered valid and no appeals will be allowed.

X. MATCH LOCATIONS AND TIMES:

- a) All scheduled matches will be played at the time and site listed on the TennisLink schedule.

- b) Matches postponed due to rain may be played at an alternate site with agreement from both captains – or as determined by the League Coordinator if captains cannot agree on a location. (See Rain Delays).
- c) Match time is 6:30 – lineups must be exchanged by 6:15 p.m.

XI. LINEUPS:

- a) Lineups shall be exchanged 15 minutes before scheduled match time.
- b) The home team captain is responsible for locating the visiting captain and exchanging the lineups by the designated time. Visiting captain shall be available.
- c) Remember to list players that are late to the match at the lower lines. Number 3 doubles must be defaulted before Number 2 and number 1, and number 2 singles must be defaulted before number 1.
- d) There are only 3 ways an exchanged lineup can be changed:
 - (1) An injury, illness, or disqualification occurs during warm-up and an eligible replacement can be made within the default time (See Defaults/Penalties).
 - (2) In the event that players from different lines are unavailable for play, the available player from the lower line can take the place of the unavailable player from the higher line to form a new team.
 - (3) In case of a rain out, if the individual match has not begun, the line-up can be changed.
- d) The team captain for each team shall exchange their team line-up simultaneously prior to the beginning of the team match. No substitution may be made in an individual match after the line-up has been presented, except for injury to, illness of, or disqualification of a player prior to the start of such match and except under such further circumstances as a Sectional Association may authorize. ([2023 National & Texas League Regulations 2.01C\(6\)](#))

XII. DEFAULTS – PENALTIES:

- a) For those arriving late, or delaying matches past their start times, the following penalties will be assessed:
 - (1) 10:01 – 15:00 minutes: Loss of toss plus 1 game
 - (2) 15:01 – 20:00 minutes: Lost of toss plus 2 games
 - (3) 20:01 – 25:00 minutes: Loss of toss plus 3 games
 - (4) 25:01 minutes: Default
 - (5) Please be courteous. If a captain is aware that a player will be late before match time please notify the other captain ASAP. Please do your best to accommodate late requests due to emergencies and or family/work related issues. We understand that some things cannot be avoided. However, if repeated offenses occur with the same player and/or team captain, the above penalties may be enforced. Please notify the local league coordinator if this issue becomes excessive and before enforcing the above penalties.

- b) Should a player included in the exchanged lineup not be present for the match, their line will have to be forfeited (defaulted). However, #2 singles must be forfeited before #1 singles; #3 doubles must be forfeited before #2 doubles; and #2 doubles must be forfeited before #1 doubles. CAPTAINS – PLACE PLAYERS THAT HAVE NOT ARRIVED OR MAY BE LATE ON THE LOWER LINES IF THEY ARE NOT PRESENT WHEN LINEUPS ARE EXCHANGED. However, as previously stated, if a #1 player doesn't show up for a match, one of the #3 players can play partners with the listed #1 player in attendance resulting in a default of the #3 line.
- c) Cell phones are not allowed on the court. Please keep them on silent in your tennis bag or out of site during the duration of the match. If a player's phone rings while play is in progress the opposing team is awarded the point.

XIII. RAIN DELAYS – RESCHEDULING OF MATCHES:

- a) Rescheduling is ONLY for rain.
- b) Captains should be in contact by 5 p.m. but may not cancel a match before 5:30 p.m. Notify out-of-town players first.
- c) Reschedule the match within 2 days and play all match lines within two weeks of the originally scheduled date or by a week after the cutoff for the end of the league, whichever comes first. If the make-up match is not completed in this time period, the league coordinator will schedule the match (or remaining lines) on the next Saturday and there will be no changes.
- d) Both captains must email or text the league coordinator with new times, dates and sites for all lines. Captains are responsible for making their own court arrangements for the make-up matches.
- e) Once a match is rescheduled and confirmed by both captains, changes cannot be made unless it is rained out again.

XIV. TEXAS REGULATION FOR SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS:

- a) **Team Penalty for Pulling Out of the Sectional Championships-** When a team, which is scheduled to play in a Sectional Championship, pulls out within 14 days of the Championship or leaves a Sectional Championship, causing a full team forfeit before completing all scheduled matches, all players on the forfeiting team can play in their local league the following year but **cannot advance to any Texas Sectional Championships for a period of 12 months, including the Sectional Championship they dropped out of for the following year.** The local league coordinator for the city or area in whose league the team played will be notified of the year suspension for all players on the team. The players through their local league coordinator may appeal their suspension within 14 days of notification to the Section Appeals Committee who may grant relief under **extenuating circumstances.** (2023 National & Texas League Regulations 2.02B(3))

XV. GRIEVANCES

See Section 3.03B Local League Procedures of the 2023 USTA League Regulations handbook for rules governing complaints and alleged violations during local league competition.

- a) All complaints alleging a violation by an individual or team during local league competition shall be filed in writing with the Local League Coordinator by the team captain.
- b) The complaint must be filed prior to the commencement of whichever occurs first: (i) the involved team's next match in that flight, whether or not the involved player participates or (ii) within 24 hours after the end of the local league season.

Weather Conditions

When weather conditions are poor and there is no chance of clearing and no chance of play, the home team captain shall contact the visiting captain no later than 5:00 pm. **The match may not be cancelled until 5:30 pm.**

When weather conditions are questionable, captains (or their appointed representative) with all team members scheduled in the night's lineup shall meet at the courts no later than 6:00 pm to determine playability of the courts. Cancellation may not occur before 7:00 pm. The match will be cancelled if:

- 1) The captains for their appointed representative agree to cancel the match **or**
- 2) In the event where captains or their appointed representative cannot agree on whether or not to proceed, then the match will be cancelled for the night and lineups will be exchanged.

****Please notify the League Coordinator of any cancellations/reschedules due to weather.****

Safety if the first priority.

LOCAL LEAGUE COORDINATOR:

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