

# 2019 NNMTA District League Rules

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## **2019 USTA League Tennis Rules & Regulations Northern New Mexico Tennis Association District**

Dear Captain of a USTA League Tennis Team:

The following information needs to be read carefully. It outlines duties as a captain, contains information needed to start a team, and information with procedures regarding important league rules and policies. I will schedule captains meetings in both Albuquerque and Santa Fe in early or mid March.

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**Note: Be certain that you understand and accept the rules and conditions of the leagues as stated in this document before you enter a team into any of the USTA Leagues.**

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The basic steps to enter and have a team compete in any of the "USTA League Tennis" Leagues are as follows.....

- 1) Submit request for team to the DLC (District League Coordinator).
- 2) The DLC will set up the team in Tennislink and forward the Registration Number to the captain.
- 3) Captain then forwards the Registration Number to all team members so they can register for the team online by the registration deadline.
- 4) The DLC will schedule each League after the deadline to submit for teams.
- 5) Once the schedule is complete, the DLC will notify ALL captains via email.
- 6) **YOUR SCHEDULES WILL BE ONLINE IN TENNISLINK. A "PAPER" SCHEDULE WILL NOT BE "SNAIL MAILED". THE DATES AND TIMES WILL BE CORRECT ON YOUR TEAM HOME PAGE IN TENNISLINK AND THAT WILL BE THE ONLY SCHEDULE YOU WILL RECEIVE.**

If you have further questions about USTA rules, please consult the NNMTA website which has this document (under USTA League Tennis) as well as links to both the USTA National & SW Section League Rules and The Code which is part of the Friends at Court rulebook. The Code gives insight to some of the common problems facing players and is a handy reference in un-officiated matches. The NNMTA website can be found at <http://nnmta.usta.com>. Please give this information to your team players so they have access to league rules as well.

## USTA League Tennis Player Registration on TennisLink

TennisLink is the official system for registering teams and team members for USTA League Tennis. It is required that all players use this online system for USTA League registration (phone registrations are not accepted).

TennisLink is a great system with several benefits, including.....

- It links to the USTA membership on-line application to join or renew membership.
- It walks through a self-rating process if a player does not have a rating.
- It goes through a step-by-step process for USTA League registration (\$26.00 total).
- A player can enter and confirm or dispute league match scores.
- Team rosters, scores and standings can be accessed.
- Possible to scout out opponents by viewing their scores and standings.

**\*\* "Total Team Default" rule:** There is a National Rule which addresses the Total Team Default situation. That rule is located in the National League Regulations booklet which states:

*"If a team defaults an entire team match for any reason during round robin play, then all matches of that team played or to be played, shall be null and void. If all teams in contention for the Championships have already played the defaulting team in good faith, the team matches stand as played. The section may impose further sanctions or penalties on said team."*

Basically, what this means in our NNMTA District is:

- If a team commits a TTD, they can continue to play their remaining team matches of the season.
- At the end of the season, all team matches from this team will be removed from the standings, unless the teams in contention for the playoffs have already played this team.
- Even if a team commits a TTD and wins their remaining team matches, they are ineligible for the local playoffs or the SW Section Championships.

# Recent Rule Changes and Updates

## LOCAL RULES

- **OPTIONAL RESCHEDULING OF TEAM MATCHES IS NO LONGER ALLOWED**  
Team matches **MUST** be played as scheduled by the District League Coordinator (DLC). There are only **THREE** instances where a team match reschedule is possible. 1) Weather, please see pg 16 of this document for details, 2) A full team line-up is not available due to a conflicting USTA or DLC-approved tennis related function (Another current league match at a different level is **NOT** considered an event requiring a reschedule), or 3) 3 or more players are missing due to participating in a USTA National or Sectional League Championship or Level 1 or 2 Tournament.
- Postponed matches **MUST** be played and the results reported in Tennislink by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday following the original scheduled date. I will run an "unplayed match report" each Sunday evening and **ANY** match not reported that is 15-21 days past its original scheduled date could be recorded by me as a double default for **BOTH** teams. An exception will be granted if **BOTH** captains agree to a new date (further out than the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday) and email me the new match date. I will modify the schedule in Tennislink with the new date. I **MUST** get the new date from the captains **BEFORE** the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday and the new date must be adhered to with weather being the **ONLY** reason for additional postponement.
- A National rule allowing incomplete round robin scheduling means that each League will now have a known number of matches (up to 8, 9, 10 or 12) regardless of the number of teams at a level. See pg 6 & 7 of this document for details. Smaller flights could have fewer matches if all captains agree.

## SECTIONAL RULES

- As of the 2017 Championship year, year-end ratings moves ups playing in the early start Adult 40 & Over League **WILL** be eligible to play with their team at Sectionals as long as they are not "clearly above" the new level but **WILL NOT** be eligible to play at Nationals should the team advance.
- Self rated players are allowed to play the local Tri-level League but will only be allowed to advance to Sectionals or Nationals if they generate a current year end rating. They will then play at that rating.

## NATIONAL RULES

- 2.03A(4) and Inside Cover: Allow one (1) default to count towards eligibility for National Championships.
- Early Start Ratings are eliminated.  
2.05B(3)a: Players who are moved up and are clearly above level must adjust to their new NTRP level immediately.  
2.05B(3)b: Players will always use their most recent valid year-end rating to register for any early start leagues. Players moved up at year-end are not allowed to advance to any National Championship at the lower NTRP level.  
2.05B(3)c: There is an exception for players on a 2.5 team; they may continue through National Championships unless they are clearly above level.
- 2.05E(2): Ratings for players 65 & Over who are moved up will be published; automatic appeal will be granted upon request (through TennisLink auto-appeal function).
- 2.07: Only National Championship players will not be allowed to appeal their rating down for one year after participating in a National Championship. All other Championship players will be allowed to appeal their ratings up or down. The appeal will be granted if they meet the appeal criteria.
- 3.01 Grievance Procedures: Sections may honor sanctions imposed in another Section.

## Other Important Notes and Information

- Please review the playoff scenario columns from the **Scheduling Information** on pages 6 & 7. Please note that ANY TEAM that finishes undefeated in a level with only one flight will not be required to playoff. They will proceed to Sectionals without a playoff.
- Mixed levels that require splitting will be broken into equal flights with travel between Albuquerque and Santa Fe being on the weekends. Matches between teams from the same city will be weeknights at 6 or 6:30pm.
- If an Adult -18 & Over League or Adult - 40 & Over League 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.
- A player may play only one NTRP level above the player's current NTRP level in the Adult - 18 & Over and Adult - 40 & Over Divisions.
- Players who play exclusively in any Mixed Doubles Leagues and choose to participate in any Adult Leagues the next year, must enter those Leagues by self-rating with the minimum rating being the higher of the self-rating or the mixed exclusive rating.
- Only National Benchmark ratings are not appealable. District and Sectional Benchmark ratings may be appealed if within the allowable range.
- Medical Appeals will be reviewed by a Sectional Committee before being forwarded to the National Medical Review Committee for a final decision.
- All players on any of the USTA League teams must have played **two** regular league season individual matches in order to qualify to play in the **Local League playoffs**. One of these may be a default.
- A team can be considered "Undefeated" without **playing** all of their team matches, that is, a win by Total Team Default will count as a match *played*.
- Individual matches required to advance to any Championship level are shown on page 22.
- There will be a \$30.00 fee for each player participating in any of the Southwest Section Championships (Sectionals).
- Only the 3<sup>rd</sup> strike match at the Local Level is overturned for any player that is DQ'd up to the District Playoffs.
- No dynamic disqualification of Year-end Computer (C) or Benchmark (B) players. ALL other ratings are still subject to be dynamically DQ'd.
- **Local Playoff Note:** A DQ Report will be run at the end of the NNMTA local playoffs. If a player is DQ'd, the team results will stand, but the player(s) will not be eligible to advance to Sectionals or Nationals.

## SCHEDULING INFORMATION I:

Adult 18 & Over and Adult 40 & Over Leagues  
Both Leagues will play up to 12 regular season matches

<u># of teams</u>	<u>ROUND ROBINS</u>	<u># in playoffs</u>
2	captains decision	0
3	captains decision	0
4	captains decision	0
5	captains decision	2
6	captains decision	2
7	2 complete	2
8	1 complete + 5 random	2
9	1 complete + 4 random	2
10	1 complete + 3 random	3
11	1 complete + 2 random	3
12	1 complete + 1 random	3
<u>13</u>	<u>1 complete</u>	<u>3</u>
14 (7 teams)	2 complete	2 *
(7 teams)	2 complete	2 *
15 (8 teams)	1 complete + 5 random	2 *
(7 teams)	2 complete	2 *
16 (8 teams)	1 complete + 5 random	2 *
(8 teams)	1 complete + 5 random	2 *
17 (9 teams)	1 complete + 4 random	2 *
(8 teams)	1 complete + 5 random	2 *
18 (9 teams)	1 complete + 4 random	2 *
(9 teams)	1 complete + 4 random	2 *
19 (10 teams)	1 complete + 3 random	2 *
(9 teams)	1 complete + 4 random	2 *
20 (10 teams)	1 complete + 3 random	2 *
(10 teams)	1 complete + 3 random	2 *
21 (11 teams)	1 complete + 2 random	2 *
(10 teams)	1 complete + 3 random	2 *
22 (11 teams)	1 complete + 2 random	2 *
(11 teams)	1 complete + 2 random	2 *
23 (12 teams)	1 complete + 1 random	2 *
(11 teams)	1 complete + 2 random	2 *
24 (12 teams)	1 complete + 1 random	2 *
(12 teams)	1 complete + 1 random	2 *

For 5 to 13 total teams at a level, there will NOT be a playoff if any team is undefeated

\* = There are no allowances for any undefeated teams with split flights

## SCHEDULING INFORMATION II:

Adult 55 & Over, Mixed 18 & Over & Mixed 40 & Over Leagues

All Leagues will play up to 10 regular season matches

<u># of teams</u>	<u>ROUND ROBINS</u>	<u># in playoffs</u>
2	captains decision	0
3	captains decision	0
4	captains decision	0
5	captains decision	2
6	2 complete	2
7	1 complete + 4 random	2
8	1 complete + 3 random	2
9	1 complete + 2 random	2
10	1 complete + 1 random	3
11	1 complete	3
<hr/>		
12(6 teams)	2 complete	2 *
(6 teams)	2 complete	2 *
13(7 teams)	1 complete + 4 random	2 *
(6 teams)	2 complete	2 *
14 (7 teams)	1 complete + 4 random	2 *
(7 teams)	1 complete + 4 random	2 *
15 (8 teams)	1 complete + 3 random	2 *
(7 teams)	1 complete + 4 random	2 *
16 (8 teams)	1 complete + 3 random	2 *
(8 teams)	1 complete + 3 random	2 *
17 (9 teams)	1 complete + 2 random	2 *
(8 teams)	1 complete + 3 random	2 *
18 (9 teams)	1 complete + 2 random	2 *
(9 teams)	1 complete + 2 random	2 *
19 (10 teams)	1 complete + 1 random	2 *
(9 teams)	1 complete + 2 random	2 *
20 (10 teams)	1 complete + 1 random	2 *
(10 teams)	1 complete + 1 random	2 *

For 5 to 11 total teams at a level, there will NOT be a playoff if any team is undefeated

\* = There are no allowances for any undefeated teams with split flights

## SCHEDULING INFORMATION III:

Adult 65 & Over & Tri Level Leagues

Both Leagues will play up to 8 regular season matches

These two Leagues typically do not have the number of teams at any level that requires splitting the group into flights. Up to 8 matches will be played utilizing multiple round robins or a single round robin with additional random matches to get up to 8. Undefeated teams will not have to playoff. For levels with 2 to 4 teams, there will not be a playoff even if none are undefeated. For levels with 5 or more teams, the top 2 teams will playoff if none are undefeated.

## **PROCEDURE FOR THE SEPARATION OF FLIGHTS:**

Levels requiring flighting will be separated as follows:

- The DLC has the discretion to "seed" teams based on based the prior year's results in order to achieve parity between the flights.
- Once the playoff teams from the prior year are flighted, the remaining teams are flighted randomly.
- When there are 3 or more teams from the same facility, the top 2 teams will be chosen (by their past history) and separated into the groups randomly. The remaining team(s) will also be separated into the groups randomly.
- Teams from Northern counties are to be flighted with equal numbers in each group (as much as possible).

## **ADULT - 18 & OVER LEAGUE:**

- The league season will be played all days of the week with travel between the cities on weekends during the Spring.
- Any team matches that cannot be played at any facility due to over-scheduling at that facility will be played at the Jerry Cline Tennis Center. Court fees for those team matches will be paid by the NNMTA District league funds.
- The deadline for team matches to be played is the Wednesday before the playoff weekend. The team match standings on the Friday morning before the playoff weekend will determine the teams competing in the local playoffs.

## **ADULT - 40 & OVER LEAGUE (Early-Start):**

- The league season will be played all days of the week with travel between the cities on weekends during the Fall of the year before the Championship Year.
- The Early Start Ratings (ESR) that come out in August of the calendar year will determine the NTRP level at which the players must play.
- Playoffs for this league will be played at the participant's home facilities. The team with the better record will be the higher seed and the Home team. The Home team will be responsible for all the balls and all court fees at their home facility.
- The deadline for team matches to be played is the Wednesday before the playoff weekend. The team match standings on the Friday morning before the playoff weekend will determine the teams competing in the local playoffs.

## **ADULT - 55 & OVER LEAGUE:**

- Matches will be played all days of the week with travel between the cities on the weekend during the Summer.
- Playoffs for this league will be played at the participant's home facilities. The team with the better record will be the higher seed and the Home team. The Home team will be responsible for all the balls and all court fees at their home facility.
- The deadline for team matches to be played is the Wednesday before the playoff weekend. The team match standings on the Friday morning before the playoff weekend will determine the teams competing in the local playoffs.

## **ADULT - 65 & OVER LEAGUE:**

- Matches will be played weekday mornings during the Fall.
- Playoffs for this league will be played at the participant's home facilities. The team with the better record will be the higher seed and the Home team. The Home team will be responsible for all the balls and all court fees at their home facility.
- The deadline for team matches to be played is the Wednesday before the playoff weekend. The team match standings on the Friday morning before the playoff weekend will determine the teams competing in the local play-offs.

## **MIXED - 18 & OVER LEAGUE & MIXED - 40 & OVER LEAGUE:**

- The league seasons will be played all days of the week, with travel between the cities on weekends, during the late Spring and Summer.
- All Albuquerque and Santa Fe Teams will be combined in flights randomly, just as with the Adult Leagues. Matches between teams from the same city will be weeknights at 6pm. Matches between teams from different cities will be held on weekends.
- The deadline for team matches to be played is the Wednesday before the playoff weekend. The match standings on the Friday morning before the playoff weekend will determine the teams competing in the local playoffs.
- In **Mixed Doubles** the ratings are to be written next to the players' names on the initial lineup.
- There cannot be more than a 1.0 difference in NTRP ratings between the two partners or the combination of the partners' ratings cannot exceed the level at which they are playing.
- Mixed League captains are responsible for checking the ratings of their opponents (ratings can be checked on TennisLink) to determine that the difference between partners is not more than 1.0 or that the doubles team is playing legally at their level. **TennisLink is not able to catch abuse of this rule.**
- It is the responsibility of the opposing captain to contact the DLC in the case of violation of either situation above. If it is true that a violation of either situation occurred, the individual match will be awarded to the other team.

## **TRI-LEVEL LEAGUE:**

- The season will be played during the Late Summer and Early Fall with matches played on Tuesday evenings.
- The local NNMTA District Playoffs will be the week after the conclusion of the regular season at the facility of the higher seeded team. Home team will pay court fees and provide balls.
- The SWS Tri-Level League Sectionals will be held the following January & the SW Sectional winners will play at the BNP Paribas Open Tri Championship in March.
- Below is the basic Tri-Level League format, as determined by the USTA.
- USTA Membership required.
- A valid computer NTRP rating (C ,M or A) or self-rate (S) are required to play. Self rated players can play the local Tri-level League but will only be allowed to advance to Sectionals or Nationals if they generate a current year end rating. Only players with (C) ratings can play at Sectionals or Nationals.
- Participants must be 18 years or older during the championship year.

- A team shall consist of a minimum of 6 people of the same gender and should consist of a minimum of one doubles team in each of the designated NTRP levels (3.5, 4.0, 4.5). Players are allowed to "play up" to form a doubles team, but not to "play down." Players may play up one level only.
- A team match will consist of 3 doubles matches played simultaneously (i.e., 3.5d, 4.0d, and 4.5d).
- The match format is the same as with the other USTA Leagues. Best 2 out of 3 tiebreak sets with a 10 pt match tiebreak played in lieu of the 3<sup>rd</sup> set if the first 2 sets are split.
- All other USTA League regulations will apply.

## **ADDITIONAL SCHEDULING INFORMATION:**

- All players and especially captains must be aware of the scheduling situation regarding "home" team matches at some facilities. Each facility, at the beginning of the season, gives their allowance of the number of courts that can be used at specific times of the day at their facility for scheduled league matches. If during the scheduling of league team matches by the League Coordinator the allowance of courts at a certain facility are exhausted, the pro at that facility will be notified that there are no more courts available at their facility with more team matches to be scheduled there. At that point, the facility pro will make the decision to either allow more courts for the remaining team matches to be scheduled there or for the remaining unscheduled team matches to be played as "away" team matches.
- **Rescheduling Team Matches** - Postponed matches **MUST** be played and the results reported in Tennislink by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday following the original scheduled date. I will run an "unplayed match report" each Sunday evening and ANY match not reported that is 15-21 days past its original scheduled date will be recorded by me as a double default for BOTH teams. An exception will be granted if BOTH captains agree to a new date (further out than the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday) and email me the new match date. I will modify the schedule in Tennislink with the new date. I **MUST** get the new date from the captains **BEFORE** the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday and the new date must be adhered to with weather being the **ONLY** reason for additional postponement.
- The **deadline to play NNMTA District League team matches** is the Wednesday evening before the "playoff weekend." The NNMTA District standings that are on TennisLink on the morning of the Friday before the "playoff weekend" will determine the teams that are in the NNMTA District local playoffs.
- If the captains cannot agree on a rescheduled date, call me and I will assign one. **Only request this if communication has broken down and there is NO chance the match can be rescheduled by the captains!! ONCE SCHEDULED, MY DECISION IS FINAL & BINDING. THE POLICY IS THAT THE FIRST OPEN DATE AT THE HOME TEAM'S FACILITY THAT NEITHER TEAM HAS A MATCH WILL BE USED.** If the teams involved are from different areas (Albuquerque area or Santa Fe area) then the first open weekend day that conforms with the above condition will be selected.
- A) If any team is missing 3 or more players due to a District, Sectional, or National League match or Section or National Level 1 or 2 Tournament, the opposing team is **required** to reschedule the team match if requested to do so. B) This situation also applies if enough players on a team are committed to play another Local USTA or DLC-approved tennis related function that reduces the number of players on a roster below the number needed to field a full line-up, **BUT**, if there are enough players left on the roster who are not committed to said function, the team match **must** be played as scheduled.

- If a team match has to be rescheduled and the home team cannot get courts (at any facility) but the visiting team is able to get courts for that team match, then the team match will be played at the visitor facility. This also applies to Santa Fe-Albuquerque team matches
- If a team commits a **Total Team Default** they are **ineligible** for the local playoffs & and any other post-season play.

## **PLAYER REGISTRATION:**

- Each player must be a USTA member to register for a team.
- To join the USTA or to renew membership:
  - 1) Call USTA Customer Service Center @ 1-800-990-8782.
  - 2) Register on-line in TennisLink.
  - 3) Mail in a filled-out enrollment form to the USTA offices. (this process takes 2-3 weeks from when the USTA receives the application)

Send a completed form and payment to:

**USTA**

**PO Box 643767**

**Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3767**

- The membership must be valid through the end of the league season.
- A player's NTRP rating must be equal to or lower than the NTRP level specified for the specified level of competition.
- A player without an NTRP rating is able to play by "self-rating" themselves when they register for their team using TennisLink.
- A computer generated rating is valid for 2 years for individuals 60 years old & older prior to or during the championship year and for 3 years for all others or until another computer rating is generated.
- The **deadline for player registration** on any of the league rosters is shown below:
  - Adult - 18 & Over League = May 05
  - Mixed - 18 & Over League - June 18
  - Adult - 55 & Over League = July 21
  - Mixed - 40 & Over League = August 09
  - Tri-Level League = September 08
  - Adult - 65 & Over League = September 13
  - Adult - 40 & Over League = October 20

**NOTE:** A player **MUST** be registered on the roster in order to play an individual match; if a player plays an individual match before being registered on the roster, **that individual match will result in a default.**

## **Procedure to register for a USTA League team:**

- Go to the following Website: <http://tennislink.usta.com/leagues/> and log into your USTA account.
- To register, a player will need: 1) a current USTA membership number, 2) a credit card, and 3) team ID number (9-10 digit number).
- On the left side of the page click on "Register for a team."

- Enter the 9-10 digit team ID number, personal and current USTA membership number & the telephone number in the associated boxes.
- Enter your rating if you have one.
- If you don't have a rating, answer the questions provided to receive an initial rating.
- Click on "Next Step."
- Continue to enter the credit card information.
- The fee will be \$23.00 for the league plus \$3.00 for TennisLink fee, for a **total of \$26.00**.
- "Submit" all of the information

**NOTE:** If the player is not a USTA member at the time of registration, they will have to join the USTA at this Website in order to register for a USTA League team.

### **SCORECARDS:**

- Scorekeeping is done in TennisLink.
- Scorecards to be used for team lineups before each team match are accessed from your team's home page.
- The lineup must be completed and exchanged with the opposing captain no later than **match default time** (15 minutes after the team match time for all local teams or 30 minutes for the out of town team in matches involving teams from different cities).

### **TEAM LINEUPS:**

- The procedure for the team lineup exchange is as follows: The lineup should be filled out and exchanged at match time. The latest the lineup can be exchanged is at default time, **NO LATER**. For local team matches, if one of the teams is going to default an individual match, it should not be revealed until the lineup is exchanged. For matches between teams from different cities, refer to the **HOME TEAM section (below)**.
- If the lineup has been exchanged and the team match is stopped due to weather, new lineups may be presented at the make-up team match, **only** for individual matches that had not begun play. If play had started in any of the individual matches, those same (2 for singles, 4 for doubles) players must complete the make up-match.
- Defaults from the original team match date will stand only **IF** the lineup has been exchanged.

### **NOTES:**

- In **Mixed Doubles** the ratings are to be written next to the players' names on the initial lineup.
- There cannot be more than a 1.0 difference in NTRP ratings between the two partners or the combination of the partners' ratings cannot exceed the level at which they are playing.
- Mixed League captains are responsible for checking the ratings of their opponents (ratings can be checked on TennisLink) to determine that the difference between partners is not more than 1.0 or that the doubles team is playing legally at their level.
- **Captains have 48 hrs after scores are entered to alert the DLC of a violation of the above rule. The individual match will be overturned and ruled a default for the non-violating team. If the DLC is not made aware within the 48 hrs, the scores will stand as recorded.**

## REPORTING OF TEAM MATCH SCORES:

- **Any member** of either roster may enter the team match results.
- Be certain that the **correct players** are entered.
- Be certain that the **correct winners** are selected.
- Be certain that the **correct scores** are entered.
- Be certain that the **correct date** is entered.
- If the results have already been entered, review them and click on either "Confirm" or "Dispute."
- If the results are disputed please alert the DLC to make any changes.
- If an individual match ends in retirement enter the score up to the point of retirement and list the individual match as "Retired" instead of "Completed." Enter the score from the prospective of the non-retiring player(s).

## **Step-by-step procedure to enter League team match scores:**

- go to <http://tennislink.usta.com/leagues/> and log into your USTA account.
- on the right side of the page, under "My Quick Links," click on "Record a Score."
- enter the team match number (8-10 digits)
- click on "Next"
- review the team names and if correct, click on "Next"
- enter the date played
- enter the correct players' names and scores
- under each individual match result, click on "Completed", "Retired" (with the score), "Default", "Dbl Default" or "Timed Match."
- click on "Next"
- if everything is correct, click on "Finish"
- the opposing team has 48 hours from the time of entry to confirm the score entry or the score will stand as entered.

## HOME TEAM:

- Each team must designate a home location.
- Be sure to inform your facility of your intent to have your team play there. **Be certain that your facility will be able to provide courts for your home team matches!!**
- The home team provides USTA League approved balls of their choice and pays court fees. High altitude balls should be used if the temperature at match time is above 50 degrees F.
- About half of your team matches will be at home. The City of Albuquerque asks that any teams playing out of their facilities pay their league home match fees before the league begins (after you have received the team schedule).
- The home captain should let the other captain know if drinking water is not available on the courts.
- **For matches between teams from different cities: If the home team will not have a complete lineup of players, the home team MUST notify the visiting team of the positions that will be defaulted.** The reason for this is so players will not make the trip to the other city with no one to play. In this instance, the visiting team **does not** have to notify the home team that they will be short players. **If a team match is postponed because of weather, defaults will stand only IF the lineup has been exchanged.**

## **TEAM MATCH FORMAT:**

- For the Adult - 18 & Over League and Adult - 40 & Over League, the entire team match, three doubles and two singles (two doubles and one singles for 2.5, 5.0 and Open), must be played as scheduled and published.
- For the Adult - 18 & Over League and Adult - 40 & Over League, three of the individual matches must be **"Played Individual Matches."**
- For the Mixed Leagues, Adult - 55 & Over League, Adult - 65 & Over League, and Tri-Level League, the entire team match consists of three doubles teams. Two of the individual matches must be **"Played Individual Matches."**
- Teams are encouraged but not required to field their team in order of strength.
- In the "+" Levels, the + players must play in the #1 singles or #1 doubles line. The opposing captain needs to notify the DLC of abuse of this rule and the individual match will be awarded to the non-offending team.

## **AGE-MEMBERSHIP:**

- Players must have a current USTA membership & must turn the age of eligibility prior to or **during the calendar year** in which the player plays in his/her first league team match.

## LEAGUE SEASONS:

	Adult 18 & Over League	Mixed 18 & Over League	Adult 55 & Over League	Mixed 40 & Over League	Tri Level League	Adult 65 & Over League	Adult 40 & Over League Early Start For 2020
Maximum Number of team matches	12	10	10	10	8	8	12
Team Registration Period Opens	01/02/19	03/25/19	04/08/19	05/13/19	05/27/19	07/01/19	07/01/19
Team Registration Deadline	02/08/19	04/26/19	05/10/19	06/14/19	07/05/19	08/02/19	08/02/19
Team Player Addition Deadline	05/05/19	06/18/19	07/21/19	08/09/19	09/08/19	09/13/19	10/20/19
Season Start Date	03/02/19	05/27/19	06/17/19	07/10/19	08/06/19	08/26/19	08/26/19
Season End Date	05/23/19	07/09/19	08/11/19	08/30/19	09/24/19	10/04/19	11/10/19
Deadline for last match	05/26/19	07/11/19	08/14/19	09/04/19	09/27/19	10/09/19	11/13/19
Matches played	All days of the week	All days of the week	Weekend mornings	All days of the week	Tuesdays	Weekday mornings	All days of the week
District Playoffs	05/28 thru 05/30/19	07/13/19 07/14/19	08/17/19 08/18/19	09/07/19 09/08/19	10/01/19	10/12/19 10/13/19	11/16/19 11/17/19
Location	JCTC	JCTC	Home Facility	JCTC	Home Facility	Home Facility	Home Facility
2019 SW Sectionals	08/09/19 thru 08/11/19	09/27/19 thru 09/29/19	09/13/19 thru 09/15/19	09/27/19 thru 09/29/19	01/10/20 thru 01/12/20	12/06/19 thru 12/08/19	*05/31/19 thru 06/02/19
2019 Location	Albuquerque	Tucson	El Paso	Tucson	Phoenix	Phoenix	*Albuquerque

\* 40 & Over Sectionals for last fall's 2019 Early Start Adult 40 & Over League

## MATCH TIE-BREAKER

The **10-point Match Tie-Breaker** must be played in place of the third set. **This format will be used in all leagues.** When inputting a Match Tie-Breaker score into TennisLink, it is put in as "1-0", not "7-6". The Coman method of playing the Tie-Breaker must be used.

## WARMUP & BREAKS:

- Warmup is limited to **10 minutes** including practice serves.
- Please adhere to **20 seconds** between points, **90 seconds** on change overs, except for the 1<sup>st</sup> game in which there is no "sit down" break, and **2 minutes** between sets.
- Coaching is not allowed.....**at any time!**

## WEATHER:

- The weather number in Albuquerque is **821-1111** and the weather number in Santa Fe is **988-5151**. These are the **official numbers** that determine whether a team match is played or not, due to wind speed or temperature.
- If the wind is blowing over **30 mph** at match time, **consistent and NOT gusts**, and either of the captains wants to reschedule, then the match **must** be rescheduled.
- If both captains agree to play the team match when the wind is over 30 mph then the results will stand.
- If outdoor team matches are scheduled and the temperature is below **40 degrees** at match time, then if either captain wants to reschedule, the team match **must** be rescheduled.
- For information on temperature and wind, check the Weather Channel; on the internet go to <http://weather.newsday.com>, scroll down a bit, enter the city on the left hand side and you'll have access to current conditions in Santa Fe & Albuquerque on your screen; or call your local Weather Service. **But remember**, the **official numbers** that determine whether a match is played or not, due to wind speed or temperature are **821-1111 & 988-5151**.

## DARKNESS:

- In the event that the length of a league team match goes past dusk, if **any** of the players has problems seeing due to darkness, the individual match must be stopped and continued at a later time. However, if a lit court is available at the site or nearby, the individual match must be completed using the lit court.

## WET COURTS:

- Obviously, if the courts are too wet to play on, the team match shall be rescheduled.
- If there is a difference of opinion between the captains as to the playability of the courts due to wetness, then a neutral party should be brought in to determine if the courts are too wet, such as the pro or the manager of that particular facility.
- If there is **ANY** possibility that the team match could be played (such as clearing skies, drying courts, etc.) all players must wait at the site for a minimum of 30 minutes.
- If the courts are not playable at the end of the 30 minute time period, the team match must be rescheduled.
- Captains should keep in mind that if any individual matches begin, those **same players** must finish the individual matches at a later date.

## NTRP RATINGS:

- USTA League players must have a current valid NTRP rating.
- Players without current NTRP ratings will "self-rate" themselves into the USTA League.
- NTRP ratings are published on **TennisLink** in late November each year.

- Appeals are handled automatically from your USTA League login page. Players can appeal up or down if their year-end ratings are within an undisclosed appealable range.
- A medical appeal may also be submitted at any time during the year. The condition must be permanent and disabling. Contact your DLC for info on how to file a medical appeal.
- National benchmark ratings are not appealable.
- A computer rating is valid for two years for individuals 60 years old and older and for three years for all others, or until another computer rating is generated.
- Computer (**C & M**) ratings cannot be DQ'd. All else are subject to 3 strikes and a DQ.

### **DEFAULT TIME:**

- Default time is 15 minutes for matches between teams from the same city and 30 minutes for the traveling team in matches between teams from different cities. Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Rio Rancho and Los Alamos are all considered separate cities for USTA League purposes.
- The 30 minute rule applies to the traveling team only. **The home team only gets 15 minutes.**
- The home team's city will be determining factor in setting the default time even if that team has some players from a different city.

### **DEFAULTING INDIVIDUAL MATCHES:**

- See **page 16** in the 2017 National Regulations book. These guidelines must be followed.
- In the Adult - 18 & Over League and the Adult - 40 & Over League, the #2 singles must be defaulted before the #1 singles and the #3 doubles must be forfeited before #2 doubles.
- For Mixed, Adult - 55 & Over League, and Adult - 65 & Over League, the #3 doubles must be defaulted before the #2 doubles.

### **DISPUTES:**

- All disputes occurring during an individual match must be settled prior to continuing play.
- If a dispute cannot be resolved, the match should be suspended and finished when a court monitor can oversee the completion of the match.
- If an individual match is completed in good faith, the results will stand as played.
- If the captain is not at the team match, a person must be designated as acting captain.
- Keep in mind that USTA League Tennis is a non-officiated league.

### **BAD LINE CALLS:**

- If a player feels that he is getting bad line calls, after questioning 2 or 3 calls, the player should stop play and get a court monitor.
- All involved players must agree on the selected court monitor.
- The court monitor should stand about two feet from the net post and over rule all incorrect calls.
- If a court monitor cannot be agreed upon, the individual match should be suspended until a mutually acceptable person can be found.

### **ETIQUETTE:**

- It is assumed that good sportsmanship will be exhibited by all.
- Remember to call the score often and clearly.
- Points played in good faith stand.

- No spectators should be on the court or voicing their opinions. Absolutely no coaching is allowed.
- All issues must be resolved by match participants only. Captains may be consulted for rule clarifications during a match but all scoring conflicts must be resolved by the players. If players cannot agree on a score, then they will "go back" to a point in the match where they can all agree on the score. The match will proceed from that point.

## **GRIEVANCES AND NTRP COMPLAINTS:**

- Here is a link for all grievance procedures and forms. **Take note of the deadlines on the grievance form!** <https://www.usta.com/Adult-Tennis/USTA-League/resources/?intloc=headernavsub2>
- The National Regulations also have detailed explanations of grievance procedures.
- Be aware of a \$75 filing fee for all Sectional grievances. It is refunded if the grievance is upheld.
- Submit Local grievances to the DLC who will then forward the grievance to the District Grievance Committee Chair or the Section League Coordinator, whichever is appropriate.
- Administrative grievances against the DLC should go directly to the Section League Coordinator.

## **CHAMPIONSHIPS:**

- The winners are determined by the season win/loss records.
- Tiebreak procedures are on page 15 of the 2018 National Regulations.
- For each level, the season win/loss record will determine seeding.
- Any team that commits a "Total Team Default" is ineligible for any of the Championships.

**BE AWARE:** For teams who are very close in the standings for the playoffs, only the teams who have played all of their team matches will be considered for the playoffs. The only exception is if the remaining unplayed team matches will not change the standings.

### **Example 1**

2 teams go to the playoffs at a particular level; there are 12 matches to be played in the season; the following are the standings at the deadline:

Team A = 10 wins & 2 losses  
 Team B = 9 wins & 2 losses  
 Team C = 9 wins & 3 losses  
 Team D = 7 wins & 5 losses  
 Team E = 4 wins & 7 losses

Teams A & C go to the playoffs because they have played all of their team matches, while Team B only played 11 team matches.

### **Example 2**

2 teams go to the playoffs at a particular level; there are 12 matches to be played in the season; the following are the standings at the deadline:

Team A = 11 wins & 1 loss  
 Team B = 9 wins & 2 losses  
 Team C = 7 wins & 5 losses  
 Team D = 6 wins & 5 losses  
 Team E = 4 wins & 7 losses

Teams A & B go to the playoffs because, even though Team B did not play all 12 team matches, it will not change the standings.

## **PLAYOFFS:**

**NOTE:** A DQ Report will be run at the end of the NNMTA local playoffs. If a player is DQ'd, the results will stand, but the player(s) will not be eligible to advance to Sectionals.

- The local Adult - 18 & Over League playoffs will be held at Jerry Cline. Sites for playoffs of the other league are variable from year to year.
- A team can be considered "Undefeated" without *playing* all of their team matches, that is, a win by Total Team Default will count as a match *played*.
- There will be a **\$30.00 fee** charged to each player participating in any of the Southwest Section Championships (Sectionals).
- Whenever there are 3 teams in league playoffs for **one group of teams**, the seedings are as follows: 2<sup>nd</sup> place plays 3<sup>rd</sup> place with the winner playing the 1st place team.
- In the situation where there are **two groups of teams** having two teams from each group, the playoffs are as follows: #1 from one group plays #2 from the other group and vice versa. The two winners will play to determine the winner of the four teams involved in the playoffs.
- Once the schedule is made for all local league playoffs, there will be no changes made for any team having players involved in more than one playoff team match. The only exception will be for scheduling purposes only, such as moving a later team match to an earlier time due to a time-slot opening up.
- "Total Team Default" rule:  
*"If a team defaults an entire team match for any reason during round robin play, then all team matches of that team played or to be played, shall be null and void. If all teams in contention for the Championships have already played the defaulting team in good faith, the team matches stand as played. The section may impose further sanctions or penalties on said team."*

What this means is:

- If a team commits a TTD, they should continue to play their remaining team matches of the season.
- At the end of the season, all team matches from this team will be removed from the standings, unless the teams in contention for the playoffs have already played this team.
- Even if a team commits a TTD and wins their remaining team matches, they are **ineligible** for the local playoffs or the SW Section Championships.

## **CAPTAINS, PLEASE REMIND YOUR PLAYERS OF THE FOLLOWING:**

- In all leagues, a **10-point Match Tie-Breaker MUST be played** if the first two sets are split and no break is to be taken after the second set. The Coman method of playing the tiebreaker must be used. (See page 21 for details on the Coman method).
- To receive an NTRP computer rating for 2018 league season play, a player must play three individual matches in the Adult or Mixed leagues. To default an individual match in any of the leagues doesn't count toward generating a rating.
- Remind players the ten minute warm-up includes serves, good conduct on the court, no coaching from others and only players are allowed on the court.

## **FACILITY COURT SITUATIONS:**

### **Clubs that have less than five courts:**

Albuquerque Country Club - 4 courts. Three doubles are played then singles during the Adult - 18 & Over League season and the Adult - 40 & Over League season, unless other arrangements made by the captains.

Salvador Perez (Santa Fe) - 4 courts. Usually another court close-by can be used.

Santa Fe Country Club - 3 courts. Any other SF courts, including Capitol HS, may be used.

Los Alamos - 4 courts (plus 1 additional court at another location)

White Rock (Los Alamos) - 3 courts (plus 2 additional courts at another location)

### **Designated Court surfaces for facilities that have indoor courts in addition to outdoor courts:**

Lobo Tennis Club - Adult - 18 & Over League and Adult - 40 & Over League = 5 outdoor  
All Mixed League = 3 outdoor  
Adult - 55 and Over League and Adult - 65 & Over League = 3 outdoor  
Tri-Level League = 3 outdoor

El Gancho - Adult - 18 & Over League and Adult - 40 & Over League = 2 indoor & 3 outdoor  
All Mixed League = 3 outdoor  
Adult - 55 and Over League and Adult - 65 & Over League = 3 outdoor  
Tri-Level League = 3 outdoor

Santa Fe Tennis Club - Adult - 18 & Over League and Adult - 40 & Over League = 1 indoor & 4 outdoor  
All Mixed League = 3 outdoor  
Adult - 55 and Over League and Adult - 65 & Over League = 3 outdoor  
Tri-Level League = 3 outdoor

Shellaberger Tennis Center - Adult - 18 & Over League and Adult - 40 & Over League = 5 indoor  
All Mixed League = 3 indoor  
Adult - 55 and Over League and Adult - 65 & Over League = 3 indoor  
Tri-Level League = 3 indoor

### **Rules for USTA League Play involving tennis facilities with indoor and outdoor courts when matches will be played inside & outside.....**

1. Indoor courts must have working ventilation.
2. The visiting team captain has the option to call the home team captain 48 hours in advance to find out which position may be played indoors.
3. If an individual match is not completed in the time frame of 2 hours, **the facility is at liberty to charge the players their normal fees to finish the individual match in their indoor courts.**

4. Captains need to get their players out to the courts by team match time and take no more than a 10 minute warm-up. Do not waste time talking! There are many back-to-back team matches that have to be played in a two-hour time frame.
5. Individual matches can only be changed from indoor to outdoor or outdoor to indoor with the **agreement of both captains or acting captains.**
6. If team matches are canceled due to bad weather, be prepared to pay the regular facility price to use the indoor courts if the teams decide to play the team matches indoors anyway.

**CAPTAINS' RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Make certain that your home facility knows that you will have a team out of their facility.
- Make sure that all team players are registered.
- Make sure that all team players are aware of all District & Sectional playoffs dates.
- Pass on all important league information to the team members, such as the season schedule and local rules.
- Work with other captains to reschedule any makeup matches that have to be played; if no agreement can be made, call the League Coordinator who will assign a date.
- Provide lineup cards for all team matches.
- Make sure that match scores are entered into TennisLink.
- Recruit enough players and alternates necessary to field a complete team for every team match.
- Be certain that anyone acting as captain, in the absence of the official captain, is well aware of the captain's responsibilities at team match time.

**Coman Tiebreaker:**

1. Player(s) change ends after the first point, then after every four points and at the conclusion of the tiebreak.
2. Coman Tiebreak Procedure is required for all set Tiebreaks as well as the 10-Point Match Tiebreak.
3. As the 10-Point Match Tiebreak is played in lieu of a full third set, doubles teams have the option to choose which player begins service for their team in the Match Tiebreak.

**2019 Matches Required to Advance Past Local Play:**

MATCHES REQUIRED TO ADVANCE TO CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR ADULT AND MIXED DIVISIONS			
SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AND BELOW		NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	
LOCAL MATCHES REQUIRED	DEFAULTS THAT COUNT	TOTAL MATCHES REQUIRED THROUGH SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP	DEFAULTS THAT COUNT
To advance to <b>any</b> championship level through Sectional Championship	To advance to <b>any</b> championship level through Sectional Championship	To advance to National Championship	To advance to National Championship
2 matches on the same team	1 default <u>received</u> shall count	3 matches on the same team	1 default <u>received</u> shall count
RETIRED matches shall count for all players.			

## 2019 National Championships Info

<https://www.usta.com/en/home/play/play-as-a-member/national/usta-league-nationals-schedule.html>

## Directions to Albuquerque Facilities

### Albuquerque Country Club (247-9257)

On I-40 west, exit south on Rio Rancho. Go south past Central and wind around to south end of the facility.

### Tennis Club of Albuquerque (262-1691)

On I-40 west, exit at Carlisle Blvd. Go south on Carlisle to Indian School. Turn west on Girard. Club is on the right.

### Jerry Cline Tennis Center (256-2080 or 848-1381)

On I-40 west, exit south on Louisiana. Turn east at traffic light. Courts are on the left.

### Coronado Club

On I-40 west, exit south on Wyoming. Go south to Wyoming Gate into KAFB. Continue straight to first traffic light and turn right. (You may need to stop at the Gate for a base pass).

### Highpoint Sports & Wellness (293-5820)

On I-40 west, exit north on Tramway. Go to Montgomery and turn east. Turn right at Landau (second street). Courts are on the left.

### Tanoan Country Club (822-0455)

Exit at San Mateo from I-25. Go south to Academy and turn left. Go east on Academy past Eubank. The entrance to Tanoan is on the left.

### Sierra Vista West (897-8819)

Go on Paseo del Norte to Coors. Go south on Coors to Montano. Turn west (left) on Montano. The courts are on the right about a mile or so.

### Club Rio Rancho (formerly Chamisa Hills Country Club (896-5014))

Go on Rio Rancho (528) to Southern. Turn left on Southern and then right on Country Club Dr. From Santa Fe, take Alameda Exit and go west all the way to Rio Rancho (528).

### Canyon Club (formerly Four Hills Country Club (299-9555))

On I-40 west, exit south on Tramway past Central. Turn right on 4 Hills Rd. Follow it up the hill. Go left at the fork. Take first right turn.

### Lobo Tennis Club (925-5780)

On I-25 south, exit east on Avenida Cesar Chavez. Turn right on University. Courts are on the left just past the parking lot.

# Directions to Northern Counties Facilities

## El Gancho (988-5000)

On I-25, exit on Old Pecos Trail. Turn left and then right on to Old Las Vegas Highway. The entrance is a mile or so on the left.

## Shellabarger Tennis Center (473-6543)

On I-25, exit on Cerrillos Rd. Go north to St. Michael's Dr. Turn right into the College of Santa Fe. The tennis center is around the circle to the left.

## Santa Fe Country Club (471-3378 ex22)

On I-25, exit on Cerrillos Rd. Go to Airport Rd. Turn left and go to Country Club Dr. and turn left.

## Santa Fe Tennis Club (formerly Sangre de Cristo (983-7978))

On I-25, exit on Old Pecos Trail. Proceed left toward Santa Fe to traffic light at Cordova/Armentia. Turn right on to Armentia to the T-intersection at Camino Corrales. Turn right on Corrales. Proceed 6/10 mile to the bottom of the hill. Stay right to the club entrance.

## Santa Fe Community College Courts

On I-25, exit on Cerrillos Rd. At the intersection of Cerrillos and Rodeo (by the Villa Linda Mall), turn right on to Rodeo. After 3 traffic lights, turn right on to Richards Rd. About 2 miles to the left is the college. Go into the entrance of the college and take an immediate right on to the inner loop road. Follow the loop to the William Witter Fitness Education building. Check in at the front desk and go to the courts.

## Alto Park Courts

From I-25 take Exit 282 (SF Plaza/St. Francis Dr.) on to South St. Francis Dr.

Go 3.9 miles and turn left on Hickox St.

Go 0.3 mile and turn right on Salazar St.

Go 0.1 mile and turn left on Agua Fria St.

Go less than 0.1 mile and turn right on La Madera St.

Go 0.2 mile and turn left on Alto St.

Go 0.1 mile to Alto Park on the right. (1121 Alto St.)

## Santa Fe High School Courts

Santa Fe High School Tennis Courts (2100 Yucca Rd).

Take I-25 to the Saint Francis Exit.

Take the St Francis Exit into Santa Fe.

Go straight through the major intersections (with Stop Lights) of Sawmill Rd and Zia Rd to Siringo Rd.

Turn left on Siringo Rd to Yucca (turn left on Yucca) - you will see the courts on the left.

The tennis courts are on the corner of Siringo and Yucca.

### **Salvador Perez Courts**

From I-25 North, take the St Francis exit heading North. Proceed North about 3 miles to Alto Vista St. Turn right and the courts are on the left at 601 Alta Vista St.

### **Los Alamos Pinon Courts (662-9505)**

Take 502 from Pojaque then Route 4 to White Rock. Go thru traffic light past McDonalds on the left about 1000 feet to Sherwood. Turn left on Sherwood, past Smith's on left and park on right. Just past post office on left is paved road on right that leads back behind the park to the courts.

### **Los Alamos Urban Courts (662-9505)**

Take 502 into and through Los Alamos to Diamond Dr. (stop light with hospital on left). Turn right on to Diamond, through 2 stoplights. Then about 1/2 mile, turn left on to Urban St., then 1/2 mile and left on to North Road. Courts are on the left in park about 500 feet further.