



2025-2026 League Season USTA Heart of America Captains Meeting

August 19th, 2025

Introductions

- Tracey Johnson- USTA Heart of America Board President
- Jody Holsinger - VP Adult Play
- Mary Buschmann - USTA Missouri Valley CEO & Executive Director
- Alyssa Stelmach - USTA Missouri Valley Manager of Adult leagues
- Rebecca Falkner Axelrod, USTA Heart of America Executive Director
- Blerina Boci, USTA Heart of America District League Coordinator



League/Level Coordinators

- Mixed 40 & over & Women 4.0 - Deb Fabrizius
- Mixed 18 & over - Jackie Gerhke
- Mixed 55 & over - Eric Santon
- Trilevel Coordinators- Jody Holsinger & Karen Luchinsky
- 55 & over- Anne Cusser

- 3.0 Men - Alysen Abel
- 3.5 Men- Jacqui Jensen
- 4.0Men- Sonya Muller
- 4.5 Men- Susan Neely
- 5.0 Men- Richard Kohn

- 3.0 Women - Mitch Bennett
- 3.5 Women- Bev Meyer
- 4.5 & 5.0 Women -Terry Miller



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2024 NATIONAL TEAMS!

- 18 & over - 4.0 Men – Captain Joe Zucht
- 18 & over - 5.0 Women - Captain Fiona Rey
- 40 & over - 3.5 Women - Captain Dawn Vitha
- 40 & over - 4.0 Women – Captain Bridget Throm
- 40 & over - 4.0 Men – Captain Mark Reedy
- 40 & over - 4.5 Women - Captain Michelle Gifford

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2024 NATIONAL TEAMS!

- 55 & over - 8.0 Men - Captain Jan Claussen
- 55 & over - 9.0 Women - Captain Michelle Gifford
- 65 & over - 6.0 Women - Captain Marcia Robertson
- 65 & over - 8.0 Men - Captain Terry Jackson



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HOA BY THE NUMBERS

- TOTAL PLAYERS FOR 2025 LEAGUE SEASON 6,960
- TOTAL TEAMS 456
- 18 & OVER DAYTIME- 432 PLAYERS - 27 TEAMS
- 18 & OVER WINTER(WEEKEND) - 1466 PLAYERS - 99 TEAMS
- 18 & OVER SUMMER - 1502 PLAYERS- 93 TEAMS
- 40 & OVER WEEKEND - 1180 PLAYERS - 76 TEAMS
- 40 & OVER DAYTIME - 418 PLAYERS - 25 TEAMS
- 55 & OVER - 475 PLAYERS - 33 TEAMS



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HOA BY THE NUMBERS

- 65 & OVER - 129 PLAYERS - 13 TEAMS
- MIXED 40 & OVER- 381 PLAYERS - 25 TEAMS
- MIXED 18 & OVER - 436 PLAYERS - 28 TEAMS
- HIGH TRI-LEVEL - 124 PLAYERS - 9 TEAMS
- MID TRI-LEVEL - 261 PLAYERS - 18 TEAMS
- LOW TRI-LEVEL - 165 PLAYERS - 10 TEAMS



2026 ADULT COUNCIL



CHANGES AND CONSIDERATIONS



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2026 LEAGUE SEASON CHANGES & CONSIDERATION

- 3.A – Team Registration – penalties for captain withdrawing a team after registering.
- 3.B - Percentage players at level raised from 40% to 50% (except for 5.0 and 3.0 leagues)
- 3.D - Player residency – HOA will allow up to three players from out of district to play in leagues; however, each of these players must be computer-rated

2026 LEAGUE SEASON CHANGES & CONSIDERATION

- 3.F – Consequence of breaking a team composition rule may disqualify a team from post-season.

5.B - For teams that refuse to reschedule an incomplete match, District/League/Level Coordinator will flip a coin to determine winner, and record as retirement at current score.

- 5.N.1.A – If a team defaults a court and then later the match is rescheduled, the original defaulted court will now stand



2026 LEAGUE SEASON CHANGES & CONSIDERATION

- 5.N.4 – Player may only leave court for approved reasons with 10 minutes considered reasonable time, after which time player will be retired at the current score
- 7 – Inclement Weather - Extreme heat rule dropped to 105.
See page 13 for specifications regarding



RESCHEDULING MATCHES

MAKE-UP MATCHES:

- Captains that have a valid reason to reschedule a match, may ask for permission **in advance** from the District League Coordinator or respective League Coordinator.

PLEASE TRY TO PLAY WHEN SCHEDULED. Ask in advance from the respective league coordinator OR DLC through the level coordinators

- You have 1 week to reschedule make-up matches.

IF YOU WILL NOT BE USING A COURT YOU MUST CANCEL 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE, IF YOU CALL THE CLUB MAKE A NOTE THE DATE/TIME YOU CALLED AND WHO YOU SPOKE WITH. IF POSSIBLE HAVE WRITTEN CONFIRMATION SUCH AS EMAIL. IF COURTS ARE NOT CANCELLED 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE AND THE CLUB SENDS HOA AN INVOICE FOR THE UNUSED COURTS WE WILL PAY FOR THE COURTS WITH THE CAPTAIN DEPOSIT CHECK. IF THERE IS MONEY LEFT FROM THE DEPOSIT CAPTAINS YOU WILL RECEIVE A REFUND VIA CHECK.



RESCHEDULING MATCHES

You must play majority of lines for a match to be valid/legal. To avoid defaulting an entire match, the match must be “legal”, that is, players must be eligible team members, registered in TennisLink, and present for play in at least 3 of 5 courts, 3 of 4 courts, or 2 of 3 courts, depending on league/level format. At the conclusion of local league play, if a team has defaulted an entire team match, that team may not be eligible for post-season play. (Their matches will be DQd from the standings)

Not having the best players available is NOT a reason to reschedule a match.

Matches required to advance to Districts/Sectionals

1. (S) Self-rated players-must play at least 3 matches on the same team at that same level in that same age group. Defaults do not count.
2. (S) Self-rated players whose appeals have been granted—must play at least 3 matches on the same team at that same level in that same age group. Defaults do not count.
3. (A) Computer-rated players whose appeals have been granted—must play at least 3 matches on the same team at that same level in that same age group. Defaults do not count.
4. (M) Mixed exclusive players- For Mixed leagues only- Players must have at least 2 matches on the same team at the same level in that same age group. (They may have won 1 match by default.)
5. (C) Computer rated players—must play at least 2 matches on the same team at that same level in that same age group. (They may have won 1 match by default.)
6. Any player whose rating changes during a season must qualify at that rating type (A, C, D, or S) to advance to the championships.



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LATE ARRIVALS & PENALTIES

CLOCK STARTS AT SCHEDULED MATCH TIME

5 MINUTES OR LESS → LOSS OF TOSS PLUS ONE GAME

5 - 10 MINUTES → LOSS OF TOSS PLUS 2 GAMES

10-15 MINUTES → LOSS OF TOSS PLUS 3 GAMES

15:01 MINUTES → DEFAULT



WRONG SCORE/PLAYER ENTRY

Upon completion of the match both captains must verify scores and players names.

If there is a discrepancy email your level or league coordinator with the match number, date and information you need corrected, copy tennislink coordinator Pat Sibenaller pat.usta@gmail.com and cc opposing captain.



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TIMED MATCH PROCEDURES

- Time is called at 1 hour and 45 minutes
- Games in progress shall be completed
- Team ahead by 2 games wins that set, otherwise play a 7 point tiebreaker to determine set winner.
- If match is in the first set, match is complete and recorded.
- If match is in the 2nd set and the same team won both sets, match is complete and recorded.
 - If sets are split proceed with 10 point match tiebreaker.
- Players must leave the court at 2 hours unless no one is coming on the court. They must complete the tiebreaker on another court if there is one available or another date/time.

2026 DISTRICTS DATES

40s DISTRICT PLAYOFFS- MAY 2-3RD **PLAZA TENNIS CENTER**

18s DISTRICTS - 3.0, 4.0, 5.0 **OVERLAND PARK RACQUET CLUB**

JUNE 26TH 6PM-10PM

NO MATCHES JUNE 27TH -WORLD CUP GAME

JUNE 28TH - 8AM - 7PM

18s DISTRICTS 3.5, 4.5 **OVERLAND PARK RACQUET CLUB**

JULY 18 & JULY 19TH



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SPORTSMANSHIP



GRIEVANCES



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Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship is the foundation of tennis.

- Understanding and following the rules
- Being fair
- Acting with character
- Respecting others
- Winning with humility and losing with grace
- Maintaining composure
- Being accountable for one's own actions
- Giving others the benefit of the doubt

GRIEVANCES

NTRP Grievances - Filed against players who self rate below their skill level, or against others who condone inappropriate self-rating.

These get sent to USTA Missouri Valley

Administrative Grievances- Grievances with the Heart of America Office administration will go to the Missouri Valley Section.

League Grievances- Captains file against another player or captain for other circumstances (e.g un-sportsmanlike conduct). Include \$50 check and send to Heart of America District League Coordinator.

Link to Grievance form- https://www.usta.com/content/dam/usta/pdfs/usta_league_grievance_070915.pdf



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Know the Rules

- Communicate with other Captains - they are not your enemy
- No cell phone use on the courts
- Exchange line-ups using printed scorecard on Tennislink and confirm scores after the match.
- Match winner records the scores
- Coaching is considered to be communication, advice, or instruction of any kind, audible or visible, to a player and is not ever allowed during league matches.

Q & A

Communications



Please make sure you know the rules before you play. Please refer to the 2025 Friend at Court and the most recent USTA League Regulations!

- **Friend at Court**

<https://www.usta.com/content/dam/usta/2025-pdfs/2025-friend-at-court.pdf>

- **USTA Missouri Valley League Regulations**

<https://www.usta.com/content/dam/usta/sections/missouri-valley/pdfs/adults/2025-usta-missouri-valley-league-regulation.pdf>

Know The Rules



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USTA Missouri Valley Page

USTA Missouri Valley Main Page- add how to print scorecards

<https://www.usta.com/en/home/play/adult-tennis/programs/missourivalley/usta-missouri-valley-local-usta-leagues.html>

USTA Missouri Valley League Rules -

<https://www.usta.com/content/dam/usta/sections/missouri-valley/pdfs/adults/2025-usta-missouri-valley-league-regulation.pdf>

National League Rules -

<https://www.usta.com/content/dam/usta/sections/missouri-valley/pdfs/adults/2025-national-regulations-with-qa-interpretations.pdf>

USTA Heart of America League Rules (2025) -

<https://www.usta.com/content/dam/usta/sections/missouri-valley/pdfs/adults/2025-heart-of-america-gen-league-rules.pdf>

USTA Heart of America League Rules 2026 - coming soon

Nominate a Good Sport!



SCAN ME





Send us your pics!

And tell us why your League is the best!

QR codes will be around the facility for sharing photos with our Marketing Team.

Text your photos with your name and League to ***communications@movalley.usta.com***

