Congratulations to you and your team on advancing to a league national championship. USTA League is the world’s largest recreational tennis league with over 900,000 participants and only about 6,000 players qualify for the 14 national championships so you are among the elite!

Please take a moment to read this tournament handbook to get more information regarding your national championship tournament, host hotel, local attractions and much more.

Updated on 9/30/2019
Dates:

November 8th-10th, 2019

Match Play begins on Friday, November 8th, 2019.

Matches and awards will conclude on Sunday by approximately 2 pm. Please consider that inclement weather and other unforeseen circumstances may affect the schedule and ending time might vary, so players should plan accordingly (i.e. flights, etc).

Your section will check to make sure the appropriate number of players have registered, and afterwards, will submit your team roster to the USTA National staff. Therefore, it is imperative that players register promptly.

Sites:

All matches will be played at:

Surprise Tennis and Racquet Complex
14469 W. Paradise Lane
Surprise AZ 85374
623-222-2400
www.surpriseaz.com

Valley Vista High School
15186 W Tierra Buena Ln
Surprise, AZ 85374

Court Surface:

Hard Courts

Ball Type:

Penn Championship Extra duty balls will be provided

Practice Courts:

Practice courts available:

Practice court reservations for USTA player are made just 24 hours in advance of the requested day through STRC.

The official practice day is the Thursday before the event begins. (The STRC does not handle practice reservations for Friday-Sunday.) We use this policy all week for visiting USTA Players.

Each team can reserve 2 courts for one hour. The team captain should be making the reservation. Reservations are done on the hour with the first one at 8am and the last at 8pm.

The fees are per person (not per court) and will include everyone that goes out to practice including coaches and rotating players. All reservations before 3pm are $4 per person and from 3pm thru 8pm the fee is $5 per person.

The team captain should check in 10 min before the reservation and will pay for the entire reservation at that time. The STRC will not take payments from individual players and cannot make change. Visa and Mastercard are accepted.

Teams are allowed to go on a waitlist for practice courts later in the day only after they have completed their first reservation. This is explained to those teams that go on the waitlist and we request that waitlisted teams call approximately ½ hr ahead of their requested time to see if it is available or not.
PLAYER ENTRY FEE:

Every player advancing to the USTA League National Championships is required to register and pay the $55 individual player entry fee. Non-playing players that wish to receive the player amenities (player gifts, tournament t-shirt, ticket to player social, etc.) need to register and pay for the event. The registration deadline for this event is October 15th. Players may send refund requests to leaguenationals@usta.com, refunds will be granted until the registration deadline for each specific Championship.

*ALL CAPTAINS both playing and non-playing need to register and pay for the event.

Go to www.usta.com/nationalchampionships to your event page for the online registration link.

Eligibility:

**Team Eligibility**
- A minimum of six (6) players who were on the final local roster must be available to compete at nationals. **Waivers will not be granted to teams who are not able to field a full team.**

**Individual Eligibility**
- A player is eligible to advance to a National Championship competition if that player has played on the advancing team in at least three (3) matches from local play through the Sectional Championships. A maximum of one (1) default received by the player shall count for advancing in the 3-match requirement. (See national regulation 2.03A(4)). **Waivers will not be granted to players who have not played the required number of matches.**
- All individual team members must be from the appropriate level of play in accordance with the NTRP system.

DIRECTIONS

**Airport information:**
Fly into Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport – approximately 45 minutes from Surprise.

**SHUTTLE SERVICE:**
To any Surprise hotels call “To My Surprise” Shuttle at 623-218-6035 or toll free 877-495-6035 to schedule your pickup. This should be done at least 24 hours in advance. Use your USTA member# & get $10 off a Round Trip!
One Way $39.95 Round Trip $79.95*
Additional discounts for multi riders
*Prices reflect discount

ADER 55 & Over 6.0/9.0
HANDBOOK

If you have any questions please email us at leaguenationals@usta.com
EVENT HOTELS

**Holiday Inn Express:**
16540 North Bullard Avenue
Surprise, Arizona 85374
Please click on the link below to book your room:

**Residence Inn Phoenix NW/Surprise:**
16418 North Bullard Avenue
Surprise, Arizona 85374
Please click on the link below to book your room:
http://www.marriott.com/meeting-event-hotels/group-corporate-travel/groupCorp.mi?resLinkData=USTA%20Tennis%5EU11%60PHXSZ%60&app=resvlink&stop_mobi=yes

**Hilton Garden Inn:**
16601 N. Stadium Way
Surprise, Arizona 85374
Please click on the link below and then enter P2 in the group code.
www.surprisephoenix.hgi.com

**Hampton Inn & Suites:**
14783 W. Grand Ave
Surprise, AZ 85374
623.537.9122
You can call the hotel and identify with the USTA group.
**Mandatory Team Captain’s Registration and Captains Meeting:**
WHERE: Surprise Tennis and Racquet Complex
WHEN: Thursday November 7th, 2019 from 5:30-7:00pm (Arizona Time)
NOTE: Captains can check in their team from 5:30-6:30pm, at this time the captain will get their captain’s packets and player gifts. The check in takes about 10-15 minutes. The captains meeting will be from 6:30-7:00pm (AZ Time)

**Player Social:**
WHERE: Surprise Stadium 15930 N Bullard Ave, Surprise AZ 85374. This venue is located across Bullard Ave from the tennis complex.
WHEN: Saturday November 9th from 7:30pm-10:00pm (AZ Time)
Every registered person will receive dinner, this player social will feature an Italian buffet with vegetarian options, two (2) free drinks (beer, wine or soft drinks), iced teas, water and lemonade will also be provided and will not require a drink ticket. Guest who would like to attend must purchase their guest tickets by NOON on Friday at the tournament desk. Guest tickets are $20.00 per person, we can only accept cash. We will have a live band and a photo booth at no additional charge for all attendees as well as lawn games. Dress is casual.

**Trainers:**
There will be a trainer on-site to assist with athletic injuries. They will have access to ice.

**Emergencies:**
Banner Del E Web Medical Center- 14502 W. Meeker Blvd, Sun City, AZ 85375 / 623-214-4000
Advantage Urgent Care: 14800 W. Mountain View Blvd Ste. 190, Surprise, AZ 85374 / 602-530-6189

**Awards:**
Awards and banners will be presented to the teams that finish 1st-4th. Six (6) awards will be present on site. USTA will provide additional award beyond the 6 for registered/ rostered players, these additional awards will be shipped to the captain after the championship has concluded. Teams may purchase additional awards through USTA.

**Sportsmanship Awards:**
Each team will be provided with sportsmanship wrist bands to give to their opponents after each match. More details will be provided at the captain’s meeting

**Player Gifts:**
All players attending the 2019 National Championships will receive a championship shirt, bag tag, towel and dampener.

**Official Merchandise:**
Official USTA League National Championship merchandise will be available for purchase on site and after the championship on our website at [www.usta.com/nationalchampionships](http://www.usta.com/nationalchampionships).

**Team Photos:**
Team photos will be taken throughout the weekend as well as candid shots. To schedule an appointment, team captains should make an appointment during the team registration. Photos are FREE at [www.usta.com/nationalchampionships](http://www.usta.com/nationalchampionships)

**Website:**
The USTA League National Championship home page will be updated with stories, photos and scores daily. Be sure your local newspaper sports editor, friends and family have the address so they can check the results at [www.usta.com/nationalchampionships](http://www.usta.com/nationalchampionships)
Rules and Regulations:

- USTA Rules and League Regulations and Friend at Court will be enforced during championships.
- All match lineups should be submitted to the tournament desk by the team captain, or a designated representative of the team, at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the scheduled match time. Failure to comply may result in penalties at the Tournament Referee and Tournament Director’s discretion.
- The match schedule can change frequently. The final match schedule will be posted at the start of the Captain’s Registration period. Therefore, please check TennisLink often for updates.
- NTRP Observers may be present at national championships to help fine tune the year-end rating process.

Scoring:

1. Best of two tiebreak sets with a 10-point Match Tiebreak in lieu of a 3rd set.
2. Match Tiebreak (10 Points, Win by 2): When the score in an individual match is one set all, a Match Tiebreak shall be played in lieu of a 3rd set. This tie-break game replaces the deciding final set. The player/team who first wins ten points (win by two) shall win this match tie-break and the match. If the score goes to 9-9 and beyond, players continue to play until there is a winning margin of 2 points (i.e. 11-9, 12-10, 15-13, etc).
3. Two minute rest between the 1st and 2nd set and between the 2nd and 3rd set Match Tiebreak.
4. Coman Tiebreak procedures apply to all tiebreak sets including the Match Tiebreaker. First team serves one time, followed by two serves for each team thereafter. Change sides after the first serve and then after every four points thereafter. (Note: Easy way to remember in doubles is that each player will serve from the same side.)

Move Up/Split Up Reg 2.06A:

Teams that advance to a National Championship are subject to the Move Up, Split Up regulation. Please see USTA League Regulation 2.06A for complete details, or contact your Sectional League Coordinator on questions relating to compliance or how this regulation may affect your team in 2020.
Championship Format *
Teams will compete in 4 unflighted matches against randomly selected opponents. Teams can expect to play 2 matches on Friday and 2 matches on Saturday. On Sunday, the top 4 teams, based on TennisLink standings, will advance to the semi-finals, followed by the finals and the 3rd/4th match.

In the event of a team match tie, the tie will be broken by the first of the following procedures:

• Winner of the most individual matches in the competition
• Winner of head to head match (winner of head-to-head match only if all tied teams have played each other and one team defeated all the teams that are tied)
• Loser of the fewest number of sets
• Loser of the fewest number of games
• A method to be determined by the Championship Committee

*Format and schedule are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.

Coaching
No coaching allowed by captains, teammates, or spectators. Cell phones or electronic devices are not allowed on court. Please work out problems on court as best as you can. If players are not able to work out a dispute, one of them may come to the Tournament desk to request the Referee. (Please note that captains and/or players should not be involved with decision making or requesting an official without a player’s consent.)

Player ID
Tournament staff may conduct random checks of player ID at time of check-in for matches. If a player is without ID when asked for it, he/she will be asked to provide it before they can be sent on court.
Grievance and Appeal Procedures

1. The following guidelines and procedures will be used during this championship. Please review them carefully. Any staff member on site will be glad to assist you with the forms and answer any questions on procedures.

2. 3.03C(1) Any grievance alleging a violation during championships competition shall be in writing and delivered to the duly appointed site director or designee prior to whichever occurs first: (a) within 30 minutes of the completion of the involved team’s match or (b) the commencement of the involved team’s next match, whether or not the involved player participates except for

3. Administrative Grievances (See Reg. 3.03A(2), Eligibility Grievances (See Reg. 3.03B(3) and NTRP Grievances (See Reg. 3.03E(3).)

4. 3.03E(3) NTRP Grievances will not be accepted at National Championships.

5. 3.04B(1) The Grievance Appeal Committee shall not be required to hold any hearing except as provided in 3.04B(2). Its decision may be based entirely on the findings of fact by the Grievance Committee whose decision is being appealed and on the facts and arguments submitted in writing by the parties to the appeal.
**Inclement Weather and Communication Plan**

In the event of an impending major weather situation that could impact a USTA League National Championship Event, the USTA has committed to using best efforts to keep the players, captains, volunteers and staff updated prior to the event.

- USTA League national staff will post emergency updates to usta.com/nationalchampionships.
- USTA League national staff will send out an email notice to players and captains to inform players if the Championship will continue as scheduled or will be cancelled. Best efforts will be used to make decisions and inform players no later than Tuesday at 12:00 PM noon prior to event start.
- Best efforts will be made to reschedule a cancelled USTA League National Championship. Players will be informed within four (4) weeks following the scheduled date as to whether the Championships will be rescheduled.

Our priorities are players, captains, volunteers and staff safety and communication when a major weather emergency arises.

Please note that the tournament format, number of matches and scoring format may change due to circumstances beyond our control such as weather. Extreme weather conditions could cause delays, modifications and possible cancellation of the tournament. There are no guaranteed back-up indoor courts where the championship can be played in the event of rain.

In the event of rain or suspension of play caused by extreme heat during the tournament, please remain at the tournament site until the tournament staff informs you of the play schedule. In the event of a long rain delay or heat suspension, it will be at the discretion of the Championship Committee to use an alternative-playing format.

During the tournament, players will be notified of delays via:
- An email notification to the email you registered with
- A text message if you opted in to receive messages at registration

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**2.03J Scoring of Individual Defaults.**
For the purpose of determining standings, individual defaults will be scored as a 6-0, 6-0 win for the player or doubles team receiving the default and a 0-6, 0-6 loss for the player or doubles team that defaulted the match. In the event of a default by both players or doubles teams, both sides will be given a 0-6, 0-6 loss and neither receives credit for a win. If a double default results in a tie, the tiebreak procedure shall be the same as in Reg. 2.03H Procedures In the Event of a Tie in order to determine a winner of that team match. This regulation can be found on page 16 of the 2019 USTA League Regulations.

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**2.03K(1)**
The Championship Committee has the authority to file a grievance and recommend the actions to take when multiple match default(s) given by one team result in a situation that may materially impact the championship’s standings. Team penalties may include but are not limited to, non-advancement, disqualification or suspension. (See Regulation 3.03A(7)).
Show your section spirit on your way to and at the 2019 USTA League National Championships!

Every team that qualifies for nationals will be given 2019 National Championship wristbands at the conclusion of their Section Championships in their section’s designated color. When each team arrives at their National Championship, they will be given wristbands in their section’s color to exchange with their opponents for each of their matches on Friday and Saturday. We would love for you to show us your spirit by posting on social media sporting your 2019 National Championship wristbands as you prepare for nationals using #ustaleague. More information on this will be provided at the Captain’s Meeting.

Show your section pride by representing your section’s designated colors by:

- Wearing the national championship wristband you received for winning sectionals
- Planning team attire & uniforms in your section’s color
- Getting all your national supplies – water bottles, wrist bands, grips, towels, etc. in your section’s color
- Posting your team on social media in your section color wristbands #ustaleague

*Individuals who post in the USTA League Facebook Group using #ustaleague will be entered into a drawing to be held at the conclusion of the last national championship event. 40 individuals will be randomly drawn and a color wars prize package will be mailed to them.*

Is your team looking to participate in the section swap? Don’t worry about bringing gifts this year. The national championship tournament desk will supply teams with extra wristbands that they can exchange with their opponents!
If you would like to match your uniforms/outfits, teams swag etc. to your section’s color we have provided the universal Pantone number for each color that should be able to be easily matched by vendors and companies.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Pantone Number</th>
<th>Color</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caribbean</td>
<td>Pantone 108</td>
<td>Neon Yellow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern</td>
<td>Pantone 270</td>
<td>Lavender</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>Pantone 430</td>
<td>Silver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>Pantone 806</td>
<td>Neon Pink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermountain</td>
<td>Pantone 662</td>
<td>Navy Blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid Atlantic</td>
<td>Pantone 286</td>
<td>Royal Blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle States</td>
<td>Pantone 266</td>
<td>Purple</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>Pantone 2925</td>
<td>Sky Blue</td>
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<td>Missouri Valley</td>
<td>Pantone 236</td>
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<td>Orange</td>
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<td>Nor Cal</td>
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<td>Pantone 871</td>
<td>Gold</td>
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For all questions please email leaguenationals@usta.com