



LEAGUE RULES—Central New York Tennis Association League Men, Mixed Doubles and Tri-Level Men.

I. LEAGUE DESCRIPTION:

USTA Tennis League may consist of any or all of the following divisions: 18 & Over League, 40 & Over League, 55 & Over League, 65 & Over League, 18 & Over Mixed Doubles League, 40 & Over Mixed Doubles League, and the Tri Level League

The 18 & Over League shall consist of teams at the 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 4.5+ and 5.0+ levels. All "+" teams may have three players at a higher level on the team, only two higher level players may play in each match and it must be at the 1st singles or 1st doubles position. The 18 & over league will be two courts of singles and three courts of doubles with a roster limit of 18 for the 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 & 4.5 levels... The 2.5 and 5.0+ levels are one court of singles and two courts of doubles with a roster limit of 12. The 40 & Over League shall consist of teams at the 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5+ levels. 4.5 teams may have three players with a 5.0 rating. As this is a five court match, both players may play in the same match but can only play in the 1st singles and/or 1st doubles positions. All levels in the 40 & over league will be two courts of singles and three courts of doubles.

The 55 & over along with the 65 & over, 18 & Over Mixed Doubles and the 40 & Over Mixed Doubles divisions are a combination of both players ratings. The levels are 6.0 and below, 7.0 and below, 8.0 and below, 9.0 and below, and 10.0 and below. Roster limit is 16.

Tri Level League shall consist of three courts of doubles with one at the 3.5 level, one at the 4.0 level and one at the 4.5 level. Players may only play up one level and of the two players on each court, one must be on level. There is a roster limit of 6 players at each level per team.

II. CLUB RELATED RULES:

A. All teams may have as their home club either an indoor or outdoor facility with no less than five courts available for the 18 & Over and the 40 & Over matches and three courts for the 55 & Over league, along with the 65 & Over, 18 & Over Mixed, 40 & Over Mixed and tri level matches. In cases of inclement weather or other conditions inhibiting outdoor play, play is suspended when both players feel conditions are unsafe. There must always be an indoor backup facility. Players should then wait one hour in order to determine if play can continue. If both captains agree, this hour can be suspended. Players, together must record and initial the exact score on paper when play is stopped and immediately moved to the indoor backup location.

B. Each club may have as many participating teams as it can field on each Level of play providing there is no scheduling conflict.

III. TEAM MEMBERSHIP:

A. All members of a team must be members of the USTA throughout the season of league play including all District, Region, Section and National Championships. Each team member must register on TennisLink, <http://tennislink.usta.com/leagues/common/home.aspx> have a current USTA membership, enter a rating after honestly and completely filling out the questionnaire required.

B. Each player shall have reached the age of 18 years during the calendar year of the season being played for the 18 & Over, reached 40 years of age for the 40 & Over and 55 years of age for the 55 & Over League and 65 years of age for the 65 & Over League.

C. The 18 & Over and the 40 & Over League teams must have a minimum of eight players and a maximum of eighteen. Sixty percent of the players on the roster must be in level. The remainder of the team may be one level lower (playing up). In five court matches, no more than 4 players below level can play in the same match and no more than 3 for 5.0 matches. 55 & Over, 65 & Over and both Mixed Doubles League teams must have a minimum of 6 players with a maximum of 18. The 2.5 and 5.0 divisions must have a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 12. Teams that disregard this rule will have the last "under level" player removed from the roster by the league coordinator.

D. A player may only play up one level above their self rated rating or computer rating.

E. An individual may play on more than one team at the same level provided that the teams do not play each other during the local season. Teams at the same level, within the same league (18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over) may not share more than 30% of the same players. A player may only play on one of those teams at the same level once District playoffs begin and will be committed to that team until it has been eliminated .

F. Each team shall have a team captain who shall be responsible for making sure all team players have registered for the team. At the time of registration all players must furnish their USTA number or join, have an N.T.R.P rating or enter their self rating after filling out the questionnaire, and pay the roster fee. If anyone plays a match before being registered they will be considered ineligible and at the coordinators discretion, all courts may be given to your opponent. It is up to the captain to check their rosters before exchanging scorecards.

G. Captains may not captain more than one team in the same division where the two teams would be playing each other. Either the captain or co- captain (or both) must be on the team.

H. Team captains are responsible for making sure that every team member is completely aware of the rules and that payment for court time is arranged prior to the start of the match. Participating clubs are entitled to payment without complication. The fees for indoor court use shall be uniform at all participating clubs and shall be established by CNYTA for each season prior to the commencement of league play.

I. There must be a minimum of two teams at any level in order for that level to continue.

IV.. PLAYER RATING:

New Players--

Based on the N.T.R.P Rating System, new players will self rate themselves at the level they feel they will be competitive with the understanding that if they under rate themselves, they can be disqualified from playing at that level during the season based on the computer results. When self rating there is a questionnaire that must be filled out completely and honestly. If, based on your answers, you are not permitted to sign up for the desired level, you can appeal the rating given in TennisLink immediately or appeal later after exiting the self rate process with the USTA/Eastern office. Anyone not filling out the information honestly, will lose all matches played.

Current Players--

You must check your rating online at

<http://TennisLink.usta.com/leagues/common/home.aspx> . It is your responsibility to check your rating each season.

There will not be any other means of notification. A rating for a player 59 years old and under is in effect for three years. For players 60 and over, a rating is in effect for two years.

V: LEAGUE PLAY:

A. All league play shall follow the rules and regulations as set forth by the USTA/Eastern and National organizations.

- B. Scoring will be as follows: first two sets are played with conventional scoring; 12 point set tie break will be played at 6 all (first one to 7 by a margin of 2). In the event of the two sets being split, you will then play a match tiebreak....the first one to ten by a margin of two, in place of a third set. The Coman tiebreak procedure must be used.**
- C. The visiting team must supply (only) one unopened can of USTA approved balls for each individual match. No new balls need be used for match tiebreak.**
- D. 18 & Over and 40 & Over league matches will consist of two courts of singles and three courts of doubles at the 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5 levels. 2.5 and 5.0 will be one court of singles and two courts of doubles. 55 & Over, 65 & Over, 18 & Over Mixed Doubles, 40 & Over Mixed Doubles and Tri Level matches will consist of three courts of doubles.**
- E. The league coordinator and his/her committee will provide a schedule of play to each captain no later than two weeks before the first scheduled team match.**
- F. For all matches, BOTH captains must confirm the date and time of the match which will be posted on TennisLink. If a match time is changed from what is on the site, the computer administrator must be notified so the site can be updated. All changes to your schedule in the 18 & Over and 40 & Over league must be done by June 1st and July 1st for the 55 & Over league. Any changes after these dates will result in a 3rd doubles forfeit for the team requesting the reschedule.**
- G. For matches that begin on time, warm up is limited to 15 minutes, including service warm up. All service practice must be taken prior to the start of the match. Team captains are responsible for making certain that all matches start promptly. For matches that begin less than ten minutes late, a full warm up period is permitted. For matches more than ten minutes late in starting, warm up is limited to 5 minutes.**
Captains are expected to have their players present 10 minutes before match time and it is strongly suggested that another team member know the line up for the match in case the captain is detained. At least five minutes before match time, even if all players have not yet arrived, scorecards must be filled out and simultaneously exchanged. Once exchanged, a scorecard can only be changed in the event of a player getting ill or injured during warm up. In this case, the only change made is the rostered team player that goes in the place of the ill or injured player.
- Defaults: When a doubles player is not yet present, all effected doubles teams should extend their ten minute warm up to fifteen minutes (the default time). If at the 15 minute default time that player is still not present, that player and their partner are moved to the third doubles court with the other doubles positions moving up. Example: The missing player was on first doubles, the missing player and the partner written on the scorecard are moved to third doubles with the 2nd doubles moving to 1st and the 3rd moving to 2nd. No other changes are permitted by either team. If the missing player is from 2nd doubles, 1st doubles can start their match after the 10 minute warm up as they will not be effected while 2nd and 3rd doubles will warm up for an additional 5 minutes. 2nd singles must be defaulted before 1st singles with the same sequence of events to be followed as described for the doubles courts.
- H. Both captains must record the scores of each individual match and the team match within 48 hours of the match completion, making sure they are in agreement of all scores.**
- I. At the conclusion of all matches, it is the home team captain's responsibility to enter the scores on TennisLink within 24 hours. team must confirm that the scores were put in properly within 48 hours of the match. This rule will be strictly enforced.**
- J. Two hours per match will be reserved by clubs for the scheduled starting time. All matches will be played to completion and players scheduled after the match in progress, will wait. Courts must be available for ALL courts being played in that match**
- K. Default and Retirement – In cases where a match is not completed due to default or retirement of one player, the player remaining on court will be awarded all games necessary to conclude the match if play had continued and the player remaining had won every subsequent game.**

L. Injury Time Outs – If an injury occurs during play, the injured player must be ready to resume play in three minutes after start of treatment. If this player can not continue play after the three minute time out, the opposing team is entitled to declare the match a retirement

M. Bathroom Breaks – are permitted and should be taken on a change over.

N. Forfeit- A team may forfeit up to two courts in a five court match and one in a three court match, however the following must be followed:

Singles: the #2 singles must be forfeited before the #1 singles.

Doubles: the #3 doubles must be forfeited before the #2 and #1.

O In five court matches, three courts must be played for it to be a valid match. In three court matches, two courts must be played to be a valid match.

P. When forfeiting courts the forfeiting team must contact the club where the courts for that match are booked and cancel the court or courts at least 24 hours in advance. If the court is forfeited with less than 24 hour notice and the court has not been resold, the forfeiting team is responsible for the full payment of that court provided the court was not used by the opposing team's players. They would then just be responsible for their share.

Q. IF AN ENTIRE TEAM FORFEITS A MATCH WITH "NO DUE CAUSE" THE ENTIRE TEAM, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COORDINATOR, MAY NOT BE PERMITTED TO PLAY THE NEXT SEASON. ANY TEAM THAT FORFEITS AN ENTIRE MATCH MAY HAVE ALL THEIR MATCHES FOR THE ENTIRE SEASON DECLARED NULL AND VOID. IF IT IS KNOWN BEFOREHAND THAT A FULL TEAM WILL NOT BE FIELDED IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE TEAM CAPTAIN TO CONTACT THE OPPOSING TEAM CAPTAIN AND LET HIM OR HER KNOW WHICH POSITIONS WILL BE FORFEITED. THE HOME TEAM CAPTAIN SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CONFIRM WITH HIS OR HER CLUB THAT ONE LESS COURT WILL BE USED. TEAMS THAT FAIL TO PROVIDE 24 HOUR NOTICE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR COURT FEES. THE HOME CLUB CAN CALL A FORFEIT OF THE ENTIRE MATCH IF THESE FEES ARE NOT PAID BEFORE THE MATCH. A CLUB BEING TOO FAR OR YOUR TEAM IS NO LONGER IN THE RUNNING IS NOT CONSIDERED DUE CAUSE. PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THE EFFECT YOUR ACTIONS CAN HAVE ON ANOTHER TEAM IN THE STANDINGS.

R. Team captain or co-captain must be on the roster of the team they are captaining. A non rostered person can be either captain or co-captain.

S. League winners are determined by the higher number of team matches won. In the event of a tie, the tie shall be broken by the first of following procedures:

- 1. Winner of Most Individual matches**
- 2. Winner of Most Head to Head Matches**
- 3. Loser of the fewest number of sets**
- 4. Loser of the fewest number of games**

VI. LOCAL GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

All grievances must be submitted in writing by the captain of the grieving team to the USTA coordinator. It must be delivered (fax, email, etc.) or post marked within 48 hours of the match in question or it will not be considered and will be returned. In order for a grievance to be valid, it must state specific rules within the league rules that have been broken and be accompanied with a \$25.00 filing fee. If your grievance is denied, the filing fee will not be returned. If the grievance is granted, the fee will be returned. A grievance that is not accompanied by the \$25.00 filing fee will be returned to you unsettled.

The Grievance Committee Action: Within 48 hours after the receipt of a grievance from the team captain, the USTA Coordinator will notify the Grievance Committee. As soon as reasonable an investigation of the alleged violation will occur. If the committee deems necessary and appropriate it will arrange for a hearing at which the parties involved must

make themselves available to present evidence. The grievance committee shall have the power to dismiss the complaint or to enforce the correction of any violation by reasonable means, including the suspension of a player or team from further participation in the USTA Tennis League for that year. The Grievance Committee will deliver a written decision setting forth the basis for its ruling.

Appeals: Any party to the complaint may appeal the decision of the Grievance Committee within three days after the date of such decision or prior to the next level of competition or whichever occurs first. All appeals shall be in writing and shall be filed in accordance with the Eastern Rules and Regulations.