2017 LOCAL REGULATIONS
Adult 18&over, 40&over, 55&over and 65&over Age Categories
Southern Region – Westchester/Rockland
All captains and players are responsible for following these rules & regulations

GOVERNING RULES
USTA Adult leagues are divided into layers of organization: National, Sectional (Eastern), Regional (Southern), District (Westchester/Rockland), and then Divisions. Three levels of rules apply: The USTA League Tennis Regulations (National), the USTA Eastern rules (Section), and the Local Rules (Southern Region). In addition, the USTA Code of Conduct applies. The local rules are to be read in a manner consistent with the Section and National rules whenever possible and are not intended to supplant those rules. The local rules are intended to identify only the most essential portions of the National and Section rules and only depart from those rules (available at 2017 National and Eastern Regulations) correct as authorized by the USTA and whenever deemed necessary and advisable by local league administration. For the purposes of local leagues, players should refer to the appropriate section (The Code) in “Friend at Court” for unofficiated matches.

PLAYER PARTICIPATION/ REGISTRATION
1. Players must be members of the USTA through October 31, 2017.
2. All players must register through TennisLink.
3. A minimum of six players must be registered by March 15, 2017 for the 3.0-4.5 flights; a minimum of 4 players for 55 & over, 65 & over and 2.5 and 5.0 18 & over.
4. A player(s) may be added to a team within the local league season until June 30, 2017. Roster additions after June 30th will require approval of the Local League Coordinator.
5. All participating team members must be registered prior to play.
6. Players who play on two or more teams at the same NTRP level in different regions of the Eastern Section must declare which team they will represent prior to the start of any regional or sectional championship. This declaration is done by playing in a championship match. If a player declares for a team and that team is eliminated from championship play, the player is eligible to re-select and play for a different team, in any regional or sectional championship as long as they meet eligibility requirements for that team. PLEASE REFER TO SECTION 1.04G IN THE NATIONAL/EASTERN REGULATIONS FOR DETAILS.
7. This is an amateur, recreational league. Players may not accept any gifts, money or incentives for playing in a match from anyone, including captains.
8. No more than three players (two for 2.5 & 5.0 teams) who were qualified (3 matches, no defaults) to participate for any national adult league team in 2016 may be on the roster of any 2017 adult USTA team at the same level or lower than the national team. [See National/Eastern Regulations (Player Participation 2.06A) for details.] The only exception to the requirements is if more than three players from the same NTRP level team wish to stay together as a team, in whole or in part, they may do so if they move up one NTRP team level (if their individual NTRP levels allow).

NOTE: Mixed doubles players are not included in these restrictions. National mixed players may participate together in adult leagues.

CAPTAINS’ RESPONSIBILITIES
1. Make sure all players are registered through TennisLink and listed on the official roster.
2. Make sure all player information is true and not intentionally withheld from League Administrators.
3. Captains are responsible for ensuring new players do not have a current computer rating from any other US State. Captains should verify a player's level of play and background before the player “self rates”. **Neglect of this responsibility is grounds for removal of a captain and possible suspension from league play.**
4. BOTH home & visiting captains should make contact at least 5 days prior to the match to confirm match site, start time and number of courts. **It is the responsibility of the home team to inform the visiting team of any dress code required by the home site.**
5. Be present at every match or assign someone to be acting captain.
6. Print official scoresheets to take to match and ensure that all players slated to play are registered before beginning match.
7. Simultaneously exchange lineups at least 5 minutes before the scheduled match start time. **If it is a staggered match (three courts to start with two to follow), the players for the later matches MUST be designated on the lineup scorecard.**
8. Sign both the scorecards after checking that the scores are written correctly. **BOTH team captains are responsible for inputting scores into TennisLink within 48 hours.** The first team to report will input the scores, the next to report will “confirm or dispute” scores. Penalties may occur if scores are not entered in a timely manner. **Captains may forfeit their right to dispute a scorecard if they do not confirm match results in TennisLink within 48 hours.**

**TEAMS**
1. In order to play at any given NTRP level a team must have 60% of players “currently rated” at that NTRP level.
2. “Currently rated” is defined as:
   - Any player, **under the age of 60**, who has played in the USTA Adult League and has a computer rating from **2014 to present**. A computer rating is valid for 3 years.
   - Any player, **age 60 or over**, who has played in the USTA Adult League and has a computer rating from **2015 to present**. A computer rating is valid for 2 years.
3. Players new to the league must self rate.
4. Players who have a year-end mixed exclusive (M) or tournament (T) rating must self rate to play in an Adult League Division.
5. Under limited circumstances, League Coordinators **may** allow a team to participate in the leagues with less than 60% of rostered players at level.
6. Team rosters are limited to 26 players.
7. The league coordinator may allow additional player(s) under limited circumstances.
8. It is the responsibility of each entire team to pay its home court league expenses. It is at each team captain’s discretion as to the allocation of those costs among the individual team members.
9. For administrative purposes, all teams should list both a captain and a co-captain. However, confirmation of an upcoming match may be made to the captain alone and will be deemed proper notification to the team.
10. The home team must supply a new unopened container of USTA approved balls for each individual match. The balls must be appropriate to the surface on which the match is to be played.
11. **WATER:** If the home facility does not provide water on the courts, the home team must supply water for the visiting team.

**FACILITIES**
1. The home team will provide courts for five matches (three courts for 55 & 65 & over, 5.0 & 2.5 level 18 & over) at no cost to the visiting team.
2. An exception to rule #1 above will occur when a team cannot provide home courts for 50% of its matches. In this case, the league coordinator will designate, as possible or necessary, that teams act as “host” even though the match will be played at their opponents' courts. A visiting team, which has been designated as the host team, will be required to pay all court fees for that team match. Before
the start of the match, the host team captain must pay these fees or the host team will forfeit the match.

3. A minimum of three (3) courts must be available at the commencement of a team match. If less than three (3) courts are available, the visiting captain shall have the right to require that the match be rescheduled. Exceptions may be approved by the local league coordinator.

4. Home teams shall provide a minimum of two (2) hours per match for a minimum of 10 court hours per team match except in an emergency, darkness or inclement weather. Other special arrangements must be approved by the USTA League Coordinators.

5. Facilities must be within the boundaries of the Westchester/Rockland Area. The League Coordinators may allow teams to play at facilities outside the Westchester/Rockland Area under limited circumstances.

6. Facilities’ dress codes must be adhered to by visiting teams.

MATCHES

1. All matches will be the best two out of three sets, with regular scoring, and a set-tiebreak (first to 7 by 2 points) at 6-all in each set. In the event of split sets, a match tie-break (first to 10 by 2 points) must be played in lieu of a third set. The tiebreak shall be scored as 1 set and 1 game for tiebreak procedures. The final third set score will be entered as 1-0 for the winning team. All tiebreaks (set & match) should follow “Coman” tiebreak procedure for switching sides (switch after 1st point, then every 4 points thereafter - 5, 9, 13, etc.)

2. When only three courts are available at the commencement of a match, the individual matches shall be played in the following order: #1 and #2 singles and #1 Doubles, followed by #2 and #3 Doubles.

3. The Women’s 40&over 3.0, 3.5 and 4.0 league matches shall be played in the following order: #1 singles, #1 doubles and #2 doubles, followed by #3 doubles and #4 doubles.

4. In 55&over and 65&over leagues, the order of play is #1 doubles, #2 doubles, #3 doubles.

5. The captains may agree to change this order by mutual consent.

6. If it is a staggered match, the player for the later matches MUST be designated on the lineup scorecard.

7. If, after the scorecards have been exchanged but prior to the first point of an individual match being played, a player becomes unable to play due to injury or illness, one substitution may be made using a rostered player. In staggered matches (i.e., #2 & #3 doubles start later), if a player is not present for the agreed start of the staggered match time & another rostered player is available, then one substitution may be made. If there is not another rostered player available, that doubles team is defaulted (if it is #2 doubles then the #3 doubles must move up to play #2 doubles & 3rd doubles is defaulted).

8. It is the responsibility of the players to make sure they are on the correct court with the proper opponents. Captains should give their players the names of their opponents when sending them to their court. If there is an error in court positions played, the home team’s scorecard will take precedence. All matches stand as played.

9. In the case of injury, a one-time, three (3) minute suspension of play is allowed for that injury. An injured player shall not be permitted to leave the facility site. If there is a genuine toilet emergency, a bona fide toilet visit by a player is permissible and the player shall return immediately and directly to the court. If the player leaves the court for a bathroom break or injury treatment, no coaching is allowed at that time.

10. The match officially starts when play of the first point is begun. If the match needs to be stopped, due to weather or any extraordinary circumstances, the original lineup may be changed on a court that has not officially started play even if the players completed warm-up. A court that has begun a first point (the first ball is struck) must be completed by the original roster lineup.

11. A 15-minute default period begins with the scheduled starting time of the match. The opposing captain has the discretion to extend the default time and play the match when possible. All late players are guaranteed a 5 minute warm up. NO POINT PENALTY is allowed for a late player. For a "to follow court" or "staggered matches", a default cannot be claimed unless a court is available for play. In the case of “extenuating circumstances”, the local league coordinators may extend the default
Captains should make contact with a coordinator for approval (extenuating circumstances would include, but not be limited to, extreme weather travel conditions, such as snowstorms, bridge or tunnel closings, fires, tornadoes and major street closings).

12. If, during a league match, an irresolvable dispute arises between the players about the accuracy of calling the lines or other issues, any player may suspend the match to request a court monitor to officiate the remainder of the match. The players shall seek out their respective captains or acting captains to arrange for the mutually acceptable court monitor. If there is no acting captain available, the players shall mutually designate a person, acceptable to all players, to monitor the match. If possible, two monitors are suggested. The monitor(s) shall stand at the net post and make a line call or resolve any other dispute only if requested to by any player. The monitor(s) shall not independently make a line call or other ruling. The line call or ruling of the monitor(s) shall be final, controlling and not appealable. If there are two court monitors on the court and they disagree regarding a call, the call made by the player(s) stands.

13. At the discretion of the USTA Local League Coordinator, a team that forfeits an entire match without due cause, or causes an invalid match to occur, will not be allowed to advance to playoffs. For a “valid” match a 5 court team match must play a minimum of 3 courts (4 players) and for 3 court matches a valid match consists of 2 courts.

14. Scorecards from both captains are to be entered online and confirmed in TennisLink within 48 hours after the match (see Captain Responsibilities #8).

15. Spectators (including pros, coaches, players and captains) watching matches:
   - May not talk to players on the court.
   - May not coach, either verbally or visually.
   - May not comment or make visual signals on line calls.
   - May not cause any distractions to the players.
   - May not get involved with any dispute between the players on the court. A captain may offer clarification on a match rule only if asked by a player.
   - May not interrupt a match in progress for any reason.
   - May not sit on the court.

DARKNESS AND RAIN INTERRUPTION RULE

UNLIT COURTS

If a lit court is available or becoming available at the facility within 30 minutes, continue the match to the finish on those courts, even if it is before putting on other courts that are not yet started. If the lit court is a different surface, up to a 5 minute warm-up will be allowed.

If no lit courts are available or becoming available at the facility:

Before the match starts, the captains/players shall note the stop time for darkness as below. Please continue play until the official stop time (unless match is completed prior to that time).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>August</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:15PM</td>
<td>8:30PM</td>
<td>8:30PM</td>
<td>8:15PM</td>
</tr>
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If a match tiebreak has already been started at the stop time, it should be finished then and there, even if it is almost dark.

PRIOR TO THE START OF THE MATCH, the VISITING team players/captain will have the choice of the following options. The chosen decision covers the entire match and MUST be announced and acknowledged by both teams before play starts:

(1) Come back & finish the match at another agreed time within two weeks. If an agreement on time/day cannot be reached among the players/captains, the League Coordinator shall set the time/date & location. If either side cannot make the assigned date for a match stopped due to
darkness, the points outcome will be decided based on the score when play was stopped (as outlined below).

OR:

(2) **End the match** and allocate the points according to the following guidelines. (Use the “timed match” option when entering the scores for this court):

- If the teams have split sets, with no time left to start the 3rd set tiebreak: **The points for that court are split.**

- If the team that won the first set is on serve, tied, or ahead by 1 break or more in the 2nd set: **That team wins all the points.**

- If the team that won the first set is losing the 2nd set by 1 break or more: **The points for that court are split.**

**NOTE:** A game in progress at the end of the time period is to be finished.

ADDENDUM: All matches held on lit courts are expected to be played to completion. In staggered matches, if the 2nd round starts late and the facility may close or lights will go out before the match is expected to be completed, captains must state the time the match must end before the match starts on the later courts, and the visitor decides one of the following:

- If there is not an hour and quarter (75 minutes) left, choose to reschedule.
- Play using the darkness rules above to start play and then come back if the match is incomplete or opt for timed match scoring above.

**Rain interruption scoring:** Similar to darkness, if rain interrupts a match after one set is completed, use the above darkness regulations for scoring the match. Visitors MUST declare before the match, that they will either come back to finish or timed match scoring will be used.

**RELOCATING OUTDOOR MATCHES DUE TO WEATHER**

Relocation of a match due to predicted weather must be communicated and agreed upon no less than 6 hours before the scheduled time of the match. Day of the match, these are the options:

Home team reserved courts at an indoor facility of their choosing and pays the full cost for the match.

If the home team cannot reserve courts and the visiting team has home courts available, they will host the match and pay the full court fees.

If both teams decide on a neutral facility to use for the match, total cost will be split by both teams. Consult with your local league coordinator for possible court availability.

If none of the above options, REFER TO RESCHEDULING MATCHES.

**RESCHEDULING MATCHES**

Captains may have 48 hours to agree on a reschedule date for incomplete matches (other than matches stopped due to the darkness rule). Rescheduled matches must be played within two weeks of the originally scheduled date. Captains must report the rescheduled date to the League Coordinator. Incomplete matches that occur within the last two weeks of the season will be rescheduled by the League Coordinator. If teams are not able to agree upon a date within 48 hours, the League Coordinator will set
the date and location for the match to be played. If the home team is unable to provide courts within this
time frame, the visiting team’s courts may be used or a neutral site may be chosen. Any court costs
incurred should be the responsibility of BOTH teams. Any team unable to play at this time will be
deemed to have forfeited the match. Using weekends for rescheduled matches is strongly recommended.

If it becomes too difficult to schedule the lineup at one date/time, it is permissible to reschedule matches
on a mutually agreed individual basis.

The USTA League Coordinator may reschedule any unplayed or incomplete matches occurring at the end
of the season, which would impact the determination of a league winner. Any cost incurred would be
shared by BOTH teams.

Any team unable to complete their scheduled matches by the end of the league season, may, at the
discretion of the USTA League Coordinator, have their match results removed from the league standings.
Such teams/players may be deemed ineligible by the local league coordinator to compete the following
season. SEE “MATCHES” - #13.

**MATCH SCORING:**

Scoring is by Point System as outlined below:

**ADULT TEAMS 5 courts:** 2 singles and 3 doubles courts. (*18&Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 & 4.5, Women’s
40&Over 4.5+, Men’s 40&over 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5+*)
The points awarded are: **1S = 5pts, 2S = 4pts, 1D = 6pts, 2D = 4 pts, 3D = 3pts**

**ADULT TEAMS 5 courts:** 1 singles and 4 doubles courts. (*Women’s 40&Over 3.0, 3.5 and 4.0*)
The points awarded are: **1S = 5 pts, 1D = 6 pts, 2D = 5 pts, 3D = 4 pts, 4D = 3 pts**

**Adult Teams 3 courts:** 1 singles and 2 doubles courts (*18&Over 2.5 and 5.0*)
The points awarded are: **1S = 5pts, 1D = 6pts, 2D = 4 pts**

**55 & Over & and 65&Over (3 Doubles):** 1D = 6pts, 2D = 4pts, 3D = 3pts

**LOCAL PLAYOFFS:**

Points are cumulative throughout the season; the team with the most points at the end of the season
wins. In the event of a tie in points at the end of the season, Tennislink tiebreaks will be used to break the
tie. They are head-to-head competition, least sets lost, least games lost.
The playoff schedule is determined at the sole discretion of the league coordinator, and matches may be
scheduled at any time during the designated playoff period. Players must play at least twice in the local
season to be eligible for Local Flight/District, Regional and Sectional playoffs. Only 1 of these matches can
be a default.

- **Leagues with 4 or fewer teams & 2 or more rounds of local matches:** The 1st place team advances
directly to the regional playoffs.
- **Leagues with 5-6 teams & 2 or more rounds of local matches:** The 1st & 2nd place teams will have a
playoff match to qualify for regionals.
- **Leagues with 7 or more teams in one division & one round of local matches:** There will be a
playoff at the end of the season between the top 4 teams.
- **Leagues with 2 divisions:** The top two teams in each division advance to playoffs. The 1st place team
of each division will play the 2nd place team of the opposite division.
• **Leagues with 3 divisions**: The 1st place team in each division and the 2nd place team with the highest % of winning points (amongst all the divisions) will advance to playoffs.

• **Leagues with 4 divisions**: the 1st place team in each division will advance to playoffs. Seeding will be based on highest % of winning points.

• Local League Coordinators may alter these playoff formats as necessary. All teams affected will receive notice of such changes.

**GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**:

1. All local grievances, other than self-rate or NTRP, must be submitted within 48 hours of the incident. A link to the Local League Grievance Form is available on playtennisny.com. Notify your League coordinator when it has been submitted. The coordinator will forward the grievance to the Grievance Committee and to the player and captain.

2. A fee of $25.00 **must** accompany your grievance; this fee will be refunded if the grievance is upheld. Grievance decisions may be appealed with an accompanying fee of $50 filing fee payable to USTA Eastern; fees will be refunded if the appeal is upheld. **There are online forms to pay the fees by credit card on USTA.com.**

3. For NTRP & self-rate grievances, a copy of the “Eastern Grievance Complaint Form” is provided online in the captain’s toolkit on the Eastern website (Grievance Form) and the Local Grievance form is on Southern Region website.

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