



MIDDLE STATES ALLEGHENY MOUNTAIN

DATE: April 27, 2023
Revised: April 24, 2023

TO: 2023 ADULT AND MIXED DOUBLES TEAM CAPTAINS

FROM: Katie Rogers, Area League Coordinator ("ALC")

RE: Allegheny Mountain District 2023 Adult and Mixed Doubles League Rules

1. **Membership Registration Requirements:** All team members must be members in good standing with the USTA before they register for a team or play a match. USTA memberships must be valid through the end of the league season they are registering for.
2. Players must join the USTA or renew their memberships by logging onto <http://tennislink.usta.com/leagues>. Please call (1-800-990-8782) for any membership related issues.
3. **League Registration Requirements:** To register for a team log onto the <http://tennislink.usta.com/leagues>. Once you are logged into TennisLink, click on the blue "Register with a Team #" icon. The 2023/2024 registration fee will be **\$27.15** per player participating in all adult leagues. All players will have a computer rating when signing up for a team or will be prompted to declare a self-rating during the registration process. Self-rated players will be prompted to complete an on-line questionnaire regarding their tennis experience. If players get a rating that is higher than they expected, they must appeal using the on-line appeal form that will display on the last page of the self-rating procedure. *It is the captain's responsibility to be sure all team members are properly registered with the USTA and that their self-rating is as accurate as possible before a match is played.*
4. **Team Registration Requirements:** In order for your team to be included in this year's League Schedule, the following four requirements must be completed by the Team Registration deadline applicable to your flight:
 - a. Team Application forms: Complete the 'AMD Adult League Registration' form, and accept the 'USTA League Tennis Consent and Waiver'. This was emailed to all captains and should be submitted to the ALC using the link provided.
 - b. Minimum Player Registration: On or before the Initial Roster deadline, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5 Adult League teams must have a minimum of eight players registered to your team through USTA Tennislink, 2.5 and 5.0 Adult League teams must have a minimum of five players registered and Mixed Doubles League teams must have a minimum of six players (3 male and 3 females) registered. Only those teams which have the minimum number of players registered by the Initial Roster deadline will be included in the League Schedule. Exceptions can be made by the ALC if circumstances warrant.
 - c. At least **50%** of the players on each Adult team must be in level. (In a 2 team league, 40% of players must be at level)
 - d. Maximum players on a roster cannot exceed 25 on all Adult and Mixed teams.

5.. **Player Participation:**

- a. Allegheny Mountain District players may play on more than one team within a division in the same local league as long as it is a different NTRP level. Players are required to play at their NTRP level or higher. (For example a 3.5 player may play on a 3.5 adult league team as well as a 4.0 adult league team). Players may elect to play on both teams if they advance to championship level. Any scheduling conflicts as a result of playing on more than one team are the responsibility of the individual player.
- b. Allegheny Mountain District players are allowed to play on an Adult 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over and 65 & Over league teams at the same NTRP level during the same local league season. They may play at their current NTRP level or higher.
- c. An individual player may play in only one singles or doubles match within each team match.
- d. Adult players **must be eighteen (18) years of age** to participate in the USTA Adult League.
- e. Adult players must reach the age of forty (40), fifty-five (55) or sixty-five (65) prior to December 31, 2023 to participate in the League Season.

6. **Scheduling of Matches:** After the League Schedule has been published all matches should be played as scheduled. Any scheduling changes for matches must be made with the mutual consent of **both** team captains and be made in writing via email. **If a match is not completed for any reason, it must be completed at a later date, or one team must default. If a match is postponed, please contact the Coordinator within 72 hours of the originally scheduled match date, with the new, agreed upon date and time. If captains cannot agree on a date the Coordinator will assign a makeup date and time.** The ALC must be notified of all changes in order to enter the revised date and times in the USTA TennisLink system.

Matches will be rescheduled by the ALC for the following reasons after the League Schedule has been published:

- Rain or snow;
- Postponement of matches or alternative match scoring can be requested if the following conditions occur: The temperature (wind chill) is below 50 degrees or the temperature (heat index) is above 100 degrees. Contact your league coordinator if these conditions exist.
- Unexpected court availability conflicts;
- USTA league playoff match. Local league matches will be rescheduled upon request if a team has 4 players in a **4 or 5 court program**, 3 players in a 3 court program involved in a district, section, or national championship. Teams should play as many courts as possible on the scheduled day. The players in question must be representing Middle States or a district within Middle States. Please give six days notice in writing (email) whenever possible.

7. **Format:**

- a. Team Format:
 - Adult 18 & Over (M and W) - 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5 Leagues - 2 Singles and 3 Doubles
 - Adult 18 & Over - 2.5 and 5.0 Leagues - 1 Singles and 2 Doubles
 - Adult 40 & Over (W) - 3.0 and 4.5 Leagues - 1 Singles and 3 Doubles
 - Adult 40 & Over (W) - 3.5 and 4.0 Leagues - 1 Singles and 4 Doubles
 - Adult 40 & Over (M) - 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, and 4.5 Leagues - 1 Singles and 3 Doubles
 - Adult 55 & Over (W and M) - 3 Doubles

- Adult 65 & Over (W and M) - 3 Doubles
- Mixed Doubles League - 3 Doubles
- Combo Mixed League - 3 Doubles
- Tri Level 18 & Over (W and M) – 3 Doubles

Team format for individual levels can be changed for local matches by majority vote of the captains.

Please see [Appendix 3 for the 2023 Adult League Team Formats](#).

b. Match Format:

- Best two out of three tie-break sets, with regular scoring and a 7 point tiebreak at 6-6. The Comen method of switching sides should be used in the 7 point tiebreak.
- Timed Matches will use the procedure outlined in Appendix 1 as prescribed by our Section rules. Matches shall only be designated as ‘Timed’ if the facility has told the home captain the teams must be off the courts at the end of 2 hours.
- All lines in the match must follow the same format. The match format cannot be changed by either captain once the match has begun (first serve played on any court).
- In the event that the match cannot be finished within the allotted time, the remainder of the match will be scheduled at a later date, acceptable to the players. All scoring, including who is serving, must be communicated to both captains and the captains need to make every effort to schedule a time for the remainder of the match, before the end of the league season.
- The communication (preferably by email) from the home team captain should be specific if the match will be a Timed Match. This altered format should be reported as a Timed Match in TennisLink.

Match format for individual leagues can be changed for local matches by majority vote of the captains.

Please see [Appendix 3 for the 2023 Adult League Match Formats](#).

8. **Match Play and Minimum Courts Required:** Adult league matches will follow the Team Format shown in [Appendix 3](#). All leagues will use the Points Per Position method of scoring (See appendix 1). No player may play in more than one individual match (singles or doubles) per team match. The home team is responsible for providing a minimum of three courts for Adult 18 & Over and Adult 40 & Over League matches and a minimum of two courts for Adult 55 & Over, Adult 65 & Over, Mixed Doubles, and Tri Level League matches.
9. **Court Times:** Home team captains are responsible for confirming pre-booked court times at least 6 days prior to each home match. Home Team Captains shall send the “Pre-Match Email” to the Visiting Team Captain **at least 4 days, not including the match date**, prior to the match to confirm the following:
 - a. Address of your facility
 - b. Date and time of the match
 - c. Cost per player
 - d. Dress code, if any
 - e. If there is water on the court for players to drink
 - f. If courts will be available for warming up prior to match start time (if known at this time)
 - g. If it will be a Timed Match or not (if known at this time)
 - h. Your facility’s cancellation policy (so if the opposing team needs to default a line, they know what their deadline is)
 - i. **Which lines will be played on which surface, if multiple surfaces are available**

Also, please inform opposing captains of any known construction or travel related problems. If you are unable to field a full team, you must contact the opposing captain according to the facility's cancellation policy to avoid being charged for unused court/(s).

If a facility dictates that the match start time be staggered, the line/(s) waiting to play MUST take the first court that opens immediately, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon by both captains.

Home team captains are also responsible for making sure the courts are free from standing puddles, and any equipment (ball carts, etc) that could create a hazard to the players.

All players must adhere to the policies of the facility they are playing at. If the ALC or captain is notified that a player broke any rules, consequences can be levied and may include overturning of match results and/or suspension from play. The grievance committee will be called upon to review such incidents.

10. **Captains:** Each team must have a Captain or Acting Captain present at every match.
11. **Balls and Court Costs:** The home team will provide balls. Court costs are shared equally between the teams, and under no circumstance shall teams collect money from visiting teams in excess of half of the total court fees. In addition, total court fees shall never include the cost of tennis balls provided by the home team nor should court fees include any non-member fees charged to home team players who are not members of the home team club. **Any team who is found to charge visiting teams more than one half of the total court fees will be referred to the grievance committee for action.**
12. **Warm Up:** All warm-ups (including serves) will be limited to the first 10 minutes of the match. Captains or acting captains are responsible for starting the matches on time. This issue is critical if the match is a Timed Match.
13. **Scoring:** Regular Scoring will be used for all matches, best two of three tiebreak sets, with a Set Tiebreak (first to 7 by a margin of 2) used at 6-all. Any deviations for Regular Scoring will be communicated by the ALC prior to the start of the league season. **Please see Appendix 3 for scoring by league that will be used in the 2023 Adult League seasons.**
14. **Match Defaults:** Any team that defaults an entire team match may not advance to championship level. Teams forfeiting an entire match may receive further penalties (see below). Results of defaulted matches stand.

If a team is knocked out of championships because of a full-team default, there will be a playoff match between the two teams involved (the team that got knocked out of a playoff position and the team that got into a playoff position as a result of the full match default).

If a visiting team (Team A) forfeits an entire team match against another team (Team B), Team A, which would otherwise normally have a home match against Team B the following year, Team A will be the visiting team against Team B the following year. If Team A and Team B would otherwise play twice the following year, then Team A will be the visiting team for both of these matches. Team A will not receive an additional home match against another team to make up for the home match it otherwise would have had against Team B. This procedure will be monitored by the ALC.

As stated in the National rules, if the majority of the courts in a team match are not played, the results entered will not count for advancement. For each team match, a majority of the individual matches must actually be played by the 2 teams to constitute a valid team match in accordance with National

Regulation 2.01C(2). Teams will be permitted/required to make up defaulted courts to comply with these regulations.

Remember, it takes only 4 players (2 singles, 1 doubles for Adult 18 & Over and 40 & Over Leagues) and (2 doubles for Adult 55 & Over and 65 & Over and Mixed Doubles Leagues) to avoid a team forfeit. Everyone joined the league and paid their fees in order to play tennis. Therefore, there should be no excuse for a team forfeit. Please extend your opponents the courtesy of showing up for the match, even if you cannot field a complete team.

15. **Defaulting a Line:** If you must default a line, default third doubles or second singles first for Adult 18 & Over and 40 & Over leagues and third doubles first for Adult 55 & Over, Adult 65 & Over and Mixed Doubles leagues. Default second doubles or second singles for Adult 18 & Over and Adult 40 & Over leagues next and second doubles for Adult 55 & Over and Adult 65 & Over leagues.

If the line-ups have been exchanged and the players are in the warm up period, players and their partners must move up *together* to fill a higher defaulted line. The team that is NOT defaulting does not change their line up. Example: A line 1 player texts their captain and says they are not coming. Their partner does not play the match. That team's line 2 players move up to play line 1, the line 3 players move up to play line 2, and line 3 is defaulted. We always default from the bottom up and partners move up TOGETHER, on both teams.

Two doubles players will play together in the higher position when both of their partners do not arrive in time in order to avoid two defaults.

When a match is postponed to another day and an individual match has not started (first serve attempt did not take place) a captain may change the lineup for any such match. **Announced defaults may be reinstated.**

16. **Lateness:** Warm-ups and matches are to begin at the exact time indicated on the League Schedule. The USTA Point Penalty System will be in effect:

Minutes Late	Penalty
5:00 minutes or less	loss of toss and one game
5:01 to 10:00 minutes	loss of toss and two games
10:01 to 15:00 minutes	loss of toss and three games
More than 15:00 minutes	Match defaulted.

If only one player is late, the penalty will be applied only to that player's match. The lateness time is calculated from the later of (1) the scheduled match starting time, (2) the time the court becomes available for play or (3) the time the singles player or both doubles players for one team has/have arrived and are ready to play. If the match site has fewer than 5 courts (3 is the minimum for the 18 & Over and 40 & Over leagues and 2 is the minimum for 55 & Over, 65 & Over and Mixed Doubles leagues) available for the matches, matches for which players are available will be played first, and lateness penalties will only accrue from the later of the scheduled starting time or the time the court becomes available for the second matches.

Although we must have rules, please apply some reasonableness and flexibility if one or more players are delayed by traffic or road conditions and are in communication with the Captain or Acting Captain regarding their situation. If no communication has been

made, the Lateness Penalty will be enforced. Please be as reasonable as possible, however, the rule is the rule.

17. **Team Lineups:** Team captains shall exchange lineups simultaneously PRIOR to the scheduled start time of a team match. An individual match starts when the first ball is put in play (first serve attempt). After the start of an individual match, if injury to, illness of, or disqualification of a player occurs, the opponents will be awarded a default for that individual match only.
18. **Cancellation Notice:** If the proper notice is not given to the club before canceling a match, the team canceling will be responsible for the court costs. The home captain is responsible for communicating their facility's cancellation policy in the pre-match email.
19. **Score Cards:** At the completion of the match, each captain should record the scores on their respective scorecards. Either captain can go on-line to record or confirm the scores in Tennislink, however, it is normally, the home team captain who enters the scores. **Scores must be entered within 48 hours of the completion of the match.** Also, team captains must verify within 48 hours after the scores have been entered or forfeit the right to appeal the scores. Any input errors should be reported to the ALC to be changed in the USTA TennisLink system.
20. **Court Conduct:** All matches should be conducted according to USTA Code of Conduct rules. Any violation of these rules may be grounds for filing a grievance. Please remind your players of the following rules to avoid the most common on-court arguments:

- Announce the score loud enough so all players hear it before each point.
- When unsure of a line call, the ball is **GOOD**.
- Players may NOT enlist the aid of spectators when making line calls.
- You may question your opponent ONE TIME regarding a line call.
- Coaching is not allowed.
- Gamesmanship or abusive language is prohibited.

A. **Electronic Devices:** During the playing of a match (including during the changeovers), the use of cell phones or other electronic devices, **including sports watches** is prohibited. This includes cell phone ringing, texting, or answering. Any violation will be penalized as follows:

- a. 1st Offense – Loss of a point
- b. 2nd offense – Loss of a game
- c. 3rd offense – Default of the match

Cell phones may be used for a Timed Match to set alarms only. **All electronic devices should be turned off or put in airplane mode during match play.**

21. **Postponement of a Match:** In the event of rain/weather delays, please refer to the USTA Middle States Section Rules. If a match is postponed for any reason, it must be made up by prior to the end of the League Scheduled Season. Please notify the ALC of the postponement. **You must reschedule the remainder of the match within 72 hours of the postponement of the match. If a new date is not agreed upon within 72 hours, the ALC will choose a date and time.**

22. **COVID 19 Related:** All players are expected to follow state and local guidelines. In addition, players must adhere to all facility covid related rules when visiting for a match, as well as the Section level rules which can be found on the Middle States website
<https://www.usta.com/en/home/stay-current/middlestates/USTAMSCoronavirusUpdate.html>
23. **Timed Match Procedures:** Where court time is limited *as determined by the facility* and the match is a Timed Match the following procedures will be enforced. (See Appendix 1)
24. **USTA League Tennis Regulations for 2023:** Each team captain should familiarize yourself with the 2023 USTA League Regulations. The National and Section Regulations can be found here:
<https://www.usta.com/en/home/organize/program-resources/middlestates/Middle-States-League-Captain-Resources.html>
25. **Playoffs:** The Adult and Mixed Doubles Season Continuation/Playoff schedule and structure is contingent upon how many teams are in each league. In addition, depending on the number of games scheduled within each league will also have a determining factor on how the playoffs will be structured.

If no district championship is held, the winner will be the No. 1 team in the final standings in TennisLink. TennisLink uses national rule: 2.03H “Procedures in the Event of a Tie in the national rulebook to break ties. The Area League Coordinator shall identify to the sections their winning teams at each level.

Championships: Teams must be able to play all courts in a championship. A waiver may be granted if you apply to the championship committee.

26. **National Championships:**

Move-Up/Split-Up Rule:

Teams may move up one NTRP level, all of the team members or just some of the team members if they chose to.

Split-up only applies to the same Division (Adult or Mixed), same age group and same NTRP team level that the team qualified for or advanced to National Championship, and applies to players that were eligible to advance by playing three (3) matches, with 1 default counting for eligibility. For example, your 3.5 adult 40 & Over team qualifies for nationals. There is no limit on the number of players who choose to play together next year on a 3.5 adult 18 & Over team and/or a 7.0 55 & Over team as long as their ratings permit and they meet the age group’s criteria. A Mixed 18 & Over team that advances to nationals may play together in any adult league for which they are age eligible and any Mixed 40 & Over league for which they are age and rating eligible.

27. **All disputes will be handled by the Area League Coordinator.** In the event the problem can not be resolved by the ALC, it will be referred to the Section Manager. In addition, the ALC has the discretion to amend a rule if circumstances dictate.

These District rules along with the Section and National Regulations have full force and applicability at all levels of play in USTA Adult League Tennis in the USTA Middle States, Allegheny Mountain District (USTA MS/AMD). These rules apply to all age groups. These can be found here:

[2023 USTA Middle States Captain's Resource Page](#)

Katie Rogers
Area League Coordinator
Phone: 412-726-7525 (c)
Email: rogers@ms.usta.com

Appendix 1 - Timed Match Procedure - 2 hours

Appendix 2 - Points per Position, by number of courts

Appendix 3 - Match and Team Formats by League

APPENDIX 1 - Timed Match Procedures

Timed Match Rules

1. **Two-Hour Matches** - If two hours have been reserved for team match play, the following rules will be in effect:
 - a. Time will be determined by a clock that is agreed upon by all players prior to the start of the match. We recommend players use their cell phone to set the alarm and put the phone on mute.
 - b. With only 15 minutes left in the match, the game in progress is to be completed and the following will apply:
 - i. If one team is ahead by two games or more, they win that set.
 - ii. If the teams are tied in a set, they play a Set Tiebreak (first to 7 by 2). Players shall switch every 6 points.
 - iii. If one team is ahead by only one game, play one more game, and then either "i" or "ii" will apply.
 - iv. If sets are split, play a Tiebreak (first to 7 by 2) for the third set. Players shall switch every 6 points (Switching every 6 points should ONLY be used in the last 15 minutes of a timed match and a set tiebreaker is being played).
 - v. If you are in the middle of a Tiebreak, the TEAM AHEAD when the time expires wins the tiebreaker. When time has expired and there is a tie in a tiebreaker, play ONE SUDDEN DEATH POINT to determine the winner of the tiebreak. Receiver chooses who receives this last point.

APPENDIX 2 - Points per Position

Scoring in Local League

All 2023 leagues will use Points Per Position

Points Per Position (PPP) is a USTA League team match format whereby individual matches of a team match played would be awarded points based on position played. (No team points would be

awarded in this format, and points accumulate throughout the competition.) There is a possibility that a team match may end with both teams having the same number of points. For example, the #1 singles position would be weighted to count more than #2 singles and the higher doubles positions would be weighted to count more than the lower doubles positions. Flight winners would be determined by the total number of weighted individual match points won.

In a 5 court match (3D/2S):

#1 Singles is 5 points

#2 Singles is 4 points

#1 Doubles is 5 points

#2 Doubles is 4 points

#3 Doubles is 3 points

In a 5 court match (4D/1S):

#1 Singles is 5 points

#1 Doubles is 6 points

#2 Doubles is 5 points

#3 Doubles is 4 points

#4 Doubles is 3 points

In a 3 court match (3 doubles):

#1 Doubles is 4 points

#2 Doubles is 3 points

#3 Doubles is 2 points

In a 3 court match (2 Doubles, 1 singles):

#1 Singles is 3 points

#1 Doubles is 4 points

#2 Doubles is 2 points

In a 4 court match (1 singles, 3 doubles):

#1 Singles is 5 points

#1 Doubles is 5 points

#2 Doubles is 4 points

#3 Doubles is 3 points

Cumulative points at the end of season determine flight standings.

Tie-break for standing is as follows. (1st is points, 2nd is head to head, 3rd is least number of sets lost, 4th is least number of games lost)

APPENDIX 3 - Match and Team Formats by League

Adult Women:

18 & Over Women -

3.0 - 3D and 2S; Best of 3 full sets

3.5 - 3D and 2S; Best of 3 full sets

4.0 - 3D and 2S; 10-point match tie-breaker in lieu of a full 3rd set

4.5 - 3D and 2S; 10-point match tie-breaker in lieu of a full 3rd set

40 & Over Women-

3.0 - 3D and 1S; 10-point match tie-breaker in lieu of a full 3rd set

3.5 - 4D and 1S; 10-point match tie-breaker in lieu of a full 3rd set

4.0 - 4D and 1S; 10-point match tie-breaker in lieu of a full 3rd set

4.5 - 3D and 1S; 10-point match tie-breaker in lieu of a full 3rd set

55 & Over Women -

7.0 - 3D; Best of 3 full sets

8.0 - 3D; 10-point match tie-breaker in lieu of a full 3rd set

65 & Over Women -

7.0 - 3D; 10-point match tie-breaker in lieu of a full 3rd set

Adult Men:

18 & Over Men -

3.0 - 3D and 2S; Best of 3 full sets

3.5 - 3D and 2S; Best of 3 full sets

4.0 - 3D and 2S; Best of 3 full sets

4.5 - 3D and 2S; Best of 3 full sets

5.0 - 2D and 1S; Best of 3 full sets

40 & Over Men -

3.5 - 3D and 1S; Best of 3 full sets

4.0 - 3D and 1S; Best of 3 full sets

4.5 - 3D and 1S; Best of 3 full sets

55 & Over Men -

7.0 - 3D; 10-point match tie-breaker in lieu of a full 3rd set

8.0 - 3D; 10-point match tie-breaker in lieu of a full 3rd set

65 & Over Men -

8.0 - 3D; 10-point match tie-breaker in lieu of a full 3rd set