

USTA Middle States Section 2023 New Jersey District Adult League Rules February 1, 2023

The USTA National Adult League Regulations, Middle States Section Regulations are to be followed for all Adult League matches in the New Jersey District. The following rules have full force and applicability at all levels of play in USTA Adult League tennis in the USTA Middle States Section, **New Jersey District (NJD)**.

USTA MEMBERSHIP & TEAM REGISTRATION

- All league players must have a current USTA membership, be at least 18 years of age, and be in good standing before registering for a team. Membership must be valid through the end of the league season in which they are playing.
- Players can register the same day of competition but must be registered prior to the exchange of lineups. Final date to register a player for a team will be issued by the Coordinator at the onset of the season.
- To register, go to <http://tennislink.usta.com/leagues>.
- For membership issues call **800-990-8782**. League coordinators cannot change any proprietary information (address, email, etc.)
- Players must have a computer rating or will be prompted to declare a self-rating. 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.
- The 2023 team registration fee is \$27.15.

LEAGUE PARAMETERS

- Team rosters can have no more than 25 players.
- At least fifty percent (50%) of rostered players must be at the rating level of the league (Adult leagues 18+ and 40+). For a two-team league, roster must be 40% at level (National Regulation). Captains are responsible for policing this rule.
- Once a schedule has been published, locations cannot be changed without a valid reason.
- Format is best 2 out of 3 sets with a third set tiebreaker to 10 points, win by 2 in lieu of a full third set. A set tiebreaker is to 7 points, win by 2.
- Coaching is prohibited.
- For a player to be eligible to advance to championships:
 - For NJ Districts & Middle States Sectionals, computer-rated (C) players must play two matches, one can be a received default. Self-rated (S) and Computer-Appealed (A) players must play two matches, no defaults
 - For National Championships, computer-rated players must play three matches, one can be a received default. Self-rated and Computer-Appealed players must play four matches, no defaults. (Retired matches count as a played match)
- Teams will switch sides on odd games.

- The Coman format is to be used for all tiebreaks.
- Courts must be canceled 24 hours prior to scheduled match start time or defaulting team is responsible for court fees. This rule applies for both indoor and outdoor leagues.
- **If a team defaults an entire match they cannot advance to local championships.**
 - Teams/captains that repeatedly default courts and/or are unable to produce valid matches as scheduled, may be prohibited from participating in local leagues in the future.
 - Teams, regardless of their place in the standings, must complete their season as scheduled.
- All matches must be valid: 3 courts must be played in a 4 or 5 court league and 2 courts in a 3 court league.
 - The team that can't field a valid match as scheduled, must reschedule the number of courts to make it valid (follow reschedule rule below). The other team has the option to 1) take a defaulted court, as long as match is valid or 2) play the full match (if the defaulting team can play all courts within two weeks).
- Match results can be input by either captain, but it is recommended that the home captain enter the scores within 24 hours. After 48 hours, scores will automatically be confirmed by tennislink. PLEASE CHECK YOUR SCORES AND PLAYERS AFTER EACH MATCH. Only League coordinators can correct scores. To request a score change, both captains must be on an email sent to the Coordinator, detailing the match number date and correction.

STAGGERED START TIMES

- In leagues with staggered start times, the highest weighted courts will play first. If two courts play first, it must be S1 and D1. If only one court plays first, the home captain must inform the visiting captain which court, S1 or D1 will play at the earlier start time. The visiting captain must be informed in writing (email or text) four days prior to the match.
 - If both captains agree to deviate from this order, it must be in writing (text or email) at least four days in advance, detailing the start time for each court.
 - Lineups can be exchanged separately for each start time.

RESCHEDULING

If there is a valid reason for rescheduling, please play as many courts as possible on the scheduled date. In the event of rain or an extreme weather event, please try to play indoors (as many courts as possible). Rescheduled courts must be played within 2 weeks of the scheduled match. The Coordinator must be given written notice within three days with the reschedule date, time and location. If captains cannot agree within the two-week period, the Coordinator will choose the date, time and location.

In addition to the Middle States Section Regulations for ***'Postponements/USTA League Playoff Matches'*** (page 4), the New Jersey District will also allow rescheduling for Eastern Section Championships but teams must meet the MS Section criteria of the number of players on both the local league team and the championship team involved.

CROSSOVER

- New Jersey District **teams** may play in leagues that are offered in different seasons, at the same age and NTRP level. If a captain or club has teams in more than one season, the team or club will have to choose which team will advance. However, if no more than 4 players are common to both teams, both teams can advance. Teams must guarantee a minimum number of players committed for championships (8 for 5 court leagues, 7 for 4 court leagues and 6 for 3 court leagues).
- A **player** may NOT play in a league with the same season, age and NTRP level in the New Jersey District regardless of area (i.e., Central, North, South, Shore).
- A **player** may play on teams in the other five Middle States districts (Allegheny Mountain, Central PA, Eastern PA, Delaware and Philadelphia) at the same age and NTRP level and season, contingent on following those Districts rules and Middle States Section Regulations.

TEAM ADVANCEMENT

Second Place Team

If a first place team from a flight opts not to advance to NJ District Championships, the second place team can take their place if they won at least 50% of total league points. If the second place team doesn't meet that criteria or they opt not to advance, no team advances for that flight.

Wildcard Selection

NJ District Coordinators can select a wildcard in any league at any time during the season. Criteria:

- Second place teams that won at least 50% of total league points during the local season.
 - If multiple teams meet that criteria and are within 3 percentage points of each other, there will be a playoff for advancement.
 - If one team is more than 4 percentage points above the other teams, they advance directly with no playoff needed. Note: This is percentage of total points won, not "Games Won Percentage" displayed on tennislink.

COURT CONDUCT

All USTA matches will be played according to ***Friend at Court*** which is the book of rules and regulations under which tennis is played in the United States. It includes ITF Rules of Tennis, The Code and USTA Regulations. Link here: [Friend at Court](#)

GRIEVANCES

All Captains should read the 2022 USTA National Regulations and the USTA/Middle States Section 2022 Regulations and grievance procedures. The National League Division has mandated that all USTA Adult League Sections will comply with and enforce the new 2022 Penalty Point System. Players can accrue penalty points based on the determination of any Grievance Committee. Captains can also be assigned points if one of their grieved-against players has been assigned points and the Grievance Committee determines that the captain was complicit or should have acted differently. Accumulation of points can



result in suspension. Points can be assigned based on but not limited to: Eligibility, Sportsmanship, Gross Misconduct, Self-Rate Violation, Extreme Circumstances.

2023 NJ District Championship Dates

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| Mixed Doubles 18+ | May 6-7 | (Mercer County Park) |
| Mixed Doubles 40+ | May 20-21 | (Mercer County Park) |
| Adults 18+ | August 4-6 | (Veteran's Park) |
| Adults 55+ | August 11-13 | (Mercer County Park) |
| Adults 40 & 65+ | August 25-27 | (Mercer County Park) |

Timed Match Rules follow on next page

Area League Coordinators, New Jersey District:

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Rules for Timed Matches

Your coordinator will determine on a league by league basis if matches are to be timed.

ALL INDOOR MATCHES MUST adhere to timed match rules. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Timed matches begin at scheduled start times and include a warm-up.

CONFIRM BEFORE YOU START PLAYING THAT THE MATCH IS TIMED AND TIMED MATCH RULES APPLY.

In any league where there is a time limit (90 minutes or 2 hours), one of the following will be used to determine a winner.

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| <p style="text-align: center;">90-Minute Matches</p> <p>Format is the best 2 out of 3 sets with a tiebreak in lieu of a third set. ALL tiebreaks for a 90-minute match will use a 9 point tiebreaker (first to 5, win by 1) - for both a set tiebreaker and third set. See below for procedure. If indoors, players may remain on the same side throughout the entire set and switch sides for the second set. Drink breaks are allowed on odd games except after the first game of each set.</p> <p>Time will be determined by one clock or cell phone ON EACH COURT, chosen and agreed upon prior to the start of the match. Use a cell phone alarm with the phone on mute.</p> <p>TWO alarm times must be set: for 10 minutes before end of match AND THE END TIME OF MATCH. Example - match is from 9am-10:30am. Alarm 1 is for 10:20am, Alarm 2 is for 10:30am.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> If the server is in the middle of a game, they must complete their service game with no ad scoring. If score goes to deuce, next point wins the game, then either B or C applies: The team leading by one game wins the set. If the teams are tied in games in the second set, play a 9-point tiebreaker for the second set. If the second set has not started, play a 9-point tiebreaker for the second set. If the first and second sets are split, play a 9-point tiebreaker to determine match winner. <p style="text-align: center;">9 Point Tiebreak</p> <p>The person or team who is to serve next begins the tiebreaker. Each player serves two points in succession starting from the deuce court. The first team to score five points wins the tiebreaker. If the tiebreaker reaches 4-4, the person who served the eighth point serves the ninth (final) point. The receiving team has the choice of AD or DEUCE side. The winner of the ninth point is the winner of the set.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Two-Hour Matches</p> <p>Format is best 2 out of 3 sets, third set is tiebreak to 10, win by 2. HOWEVER, if there is less than 15 minutes left in the match, the match tiebreak is SHORTENED to a 7-point tiebreak, win by 2 (see below for procedure).</p> <p>Time will be determined by one clock or cell phone ON EACH COURT, chosen and agreed upon prior to the start of the match. Use a cell phone alarm with the phone on mute.</p> <p>TWO alarm times must be set: for 15 minutes before the end of the match AND THE END TIME OF MATCH. When first alarm goes off FINISH THE POINT IN PROGRESS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> If the server is in the middle of a game, they must complete their service game with regular scoring If one team is ahead by two games or more, they win the set. If the teams are tied in a set, they play a Set Tiebreak (first to 7 win by 2). If one team is ahead by only one game, play one more game, and then either B or C will apply <p>WINNER DETERMINATION</p> <p>If the winner of the first and second sets are the same, the match is over, regardless of any time remaining.</p> <p>If sets are split, play a SEVEN POINT Tiebreak (first to 7 by 2) for the third set (NOT 10 points).</p> <p>SUDDEN DEATH</p> <p>If you are in the middle of a Tiebreak, the TEAM AHEAD when time expires wins the tiebreak. When time has expired and there is a tie in a tiebreak, play ONE SUDDEN DEATH POINT to determine the winner of the tiebreak. Announce that the final point is the SUDDEN DEATH point.</p> <p>IF ONLY ONE SET IS COMPLETED WITH 15 MINUTES TO GO</p> <p>If only the first set is completed, play a 7 point tiebreaker to determine the second set. If sets are split play another 7 point tiebreaker to determine the third set. If time has run out and score is tied, play sudden death points until the winner is determined. Example: if score is 3-3 in the second set tiebreaker and time is up – play one sudden death point to determine that set. If sets are split – play one sudden death point to determine the third set.</p> |
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