



**2021 USTA DELAWARE LEAGUE
CAPTAIN'S REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES**

I.	USTA MEMBERSHIP AND LEAGUE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS	1
II.	NTRP RATING SYSTEM	2
III.	DISTRICT & TEAM COURTS	3
IV.	MATCH PROCEDURES	4
V.	MATCH RESCHEDULING PROCEDURES	6
VI.	COURT CONDUCT	7
VII.	LATENESS AND DEFAULTS	7
VIII.	SCORE RECORDING	8
IX.	CHAMPIONSHIP PROCEDURES	8
X.	GRIEVANCES	9
XI.	2021 USTA DELAWARE LEAGUE CALENDAR	10

Delaware District USTA League Tennis rules elaborate but do not replace or supersede USTA or USTA MS Regulations

2021 Substantive Regulation Changes are Underlined

Web Site Links to 2021 USTA League Northern Delaware, Middle States and National Regulations, Year End Ratings, Medical Appeal Procedures, and Protocol for Filing A NTRP Grievance are given on the Delaware District website, Delaware.usta.com, under the header titled "USTA League Tennis"

Delaware Area League Coordinator (ALC) – Jill Wallace

I. USTA MEMBERSHIP AND LEAGUE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

A. All players must be members of the United States Tennis Association (USTA) and registered in the USTA League Division program(s) before playing his or her first match. Players may take out or renew USTA membership, or register for a team by accessing the USTA's TennisLink website (see below). Players without a rating will be asked to self-rate, in accordance with NTRP Guidelines, when they register. If a player has difficulty registering before a match, he/she must notify the ALC before match play for the match to count. If the player does not notify the Coordinator, the player may be disqualified for that match.

Take Out or Renew USTA Membership, or Register for a Team

1. Go to "www.delaware.usta.com".
 2. The Delaware District home page will be shown. Click on TennisLink in the lower left margin.
 3. Under the words "TennisLink" in the top header of the TennisLink home page, click on "USTA LEAGUE".
 4. On the page that displays, click on the menu at the left to make the appropriate choice (Register for a team; Find a League; Join USTA Membership).
- ***Players may also apply for or renew a USTA membership by phoning 1-800-990-8782 Monday through Friday 9:00am to 9:00pm, or Saturday 9:45am to 6:30pm EST. Players cannot register for a team by phone.

Adult League players must have reached the required minimum age of eighteen (18) to participate in an 18 & Over League.

Adult League players may participate in in a 40 & Over League, 55 & Over League, and 65 & Over League, prior to or during the year in which they turn the required league age (e.g. if a player turns 40 on November 30, 2021, they are eligible to play in a 40 & League effective January 1, 2021).

B. All teams must have a captain registered on TennisLink, including his/her phone number and email address. Non-playing captains may register for a team in TennisLink by sending an email to the ALC with the team number and the captain's USTA membership number. This saves a non-playing captain from paying the team registration fee.

**It is the team captain and each player's responsibility to ensure all player qualifications of this section are met. If any violations occur, the District reserves the right to change or adjust any affected league play results or standings accordingly

C. No player registrations will be allowed once registration has closed. Registration dates are referenced in the applicable League rules. A player may transfer to a different team up to the final date for registration provided that individual has not played a match or received credit for a default. A player wishing to be transferred should send an email to the ALC with his/her name, current flight and team number, and the new flight and team number.

E. Minimum at-level requirement – At least fifty percent (50%) of rostered players on any team shall be in level. **This applies to USTA League Tennis -- Adult 18 & Over and 40 & Over only.** Captains are responsible for policing this rule.

Cut-off dates for Northern Delaware league registration requirements are referenced in the individual league rules. Any Southern Delaware League must have team members registered by the Middle States league registration end-dates.

**When a flight consists of only 2 teams, each team must have 40% of its players at level of play. This rule does not apply to combined rating leagues.

F. Delaware Adult and Mixed Leagues will have a maximum roster size of 25 players per team.

G. A Player is allowed to play at his/her own NTRP level but no more than one level above in the Adult 18 and 40 & Over Leagues (e.g. a 3.0 player may play on a 3.0 Adult League team and a 3.5 Adult League team, but not a 4.0 team). Adult 55 & 65 & Over, and Mixed league levels will be 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0 or 10.0 where the combined ratings of the team partners on a given court must be equal to or below the league level. The partners may not be more than 1.0 level apart.

H. NTRP Levels of Play

- Adult 18 & Over – 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0, Open
- Adult 40 & Over – 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0
- Adult 55 & Over – Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0
- Adult 65 & Over – Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0
- Mixed 18 & Over – Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0
- Mixed 40 & Over – Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0
- Mixed 55 & Over – Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0

I. Move-Up/Split-Up Requirement: (Will not apply for 2021 Leagues)

No more than 3 players who are on the roster of a 2019 Adult or Mixed League that qualified to play at any national championships (played in 3 or more matches including a default) may play together in the same age group and division for 2020. In example, if a 3.5 18 & Over team advanced to 2019 Nationals, the players may play together on a 3.5 40 & Over team in 2020. Exception to this rule: Teams can move up a level and play together in the same age group they advanced with to Nationals. **The Move Up/Split**

Up requirement does not apply to 65 & Over Leagues, Mixed Doubles 55&Over, and Tri Level 4.5. For 2020 players who played two matches and have credit for one default for a total of 3 matches are eligible to play at Nationals.

J. Delaware District players are permitted to play on teams in another district during the same league season (as defined by league starting and ending dates).

K. Section Crossover Rule. Delaware District teams may include players from other districts. Players may play in various districts at the same NTRP level and age level in accordance with district regulations. No more than four (4) players in a 4 or 5-court USTA National League Program, or three (3) players in a 3 court USTA National League Program may play together on the same teams at the same NTRP level and age level in more than one district. This rule only applies to teams playing in Middle States. Penalties may include player disqualification for those teams in violation of this crossover rule. Team captains are responsible for monitoring their rosters throughout the season to ensure these limits are not exceeded. If players break the 4 or 3 player crossover rule referenced above, the ALC will ask the players where they want to remain. The players themselves must send the Area League Coordinator an email letting the ALC know where they want to remain. If the player has played a match for the team they are leaving, the ALC will "disqualify" the player for that team and any matches won will be reversed.

L. Teams may play in leagues that are offered in different seasons. If a team wins the local league in more than one season, the team will have to choose which team will advance. 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 districts (8 for the 5 court teams, 7 for 4 court teams and 6 for 3 court teams). There may be a local league playoff among flight winners to determine the representative to districts.

M. Delaware District players may play on more than one team within the Delaware District as long as they are at different age divisions (18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & over, and 65 & Over) or at different league NTRP levels.

II. NTRP RATING SYSTEM

A. Returning USTA League Tennis players

Early Start USTA Leagues will use a player's last valid year-end rating. If a player's Final year-end rating is lowered, that player may play with the lower rating for the remainder of the local league season, effective immediately. Players whose Final year-end ratings are above the level at which they are playing may continue to play through the local league season at their lower rating, unless they are clearly above level. Players with ratings clearly above level must move up immediately and play at their higher rating. *Players may not advance to championships with their rostered rating if they are moved up.*

B: Age Groups 60 or Over, 65 or Over, and 70 or Over

****If a player has reached the age of 60 and is promoted, they will be granted an appeal (A rating), if they desire, and if their 3 most recent year-end ratings were at the lower level, without the benefit of an appeal. The appeal will automatically be granted as long as the player's rating is not clearly above level.**

****All players age 65 or over, if promoted, will automatically be granted an appeal(A rating) of their current rating back to their previous valid year-end rating, as long as the player's rating is not clearly above level.**

****Players age 70 or over will automatically be granted an appeal (A rating) of their current rating to the next lower, as long as the player's rating is not clearly above level.**

****Players playing with an appealed rating will be subject to Disqualification.**

C. New USTA League Tennis players (Players not having a computer-generated rating.)

New players enter the program by rating themselves. Players unsure of their rating are encouraged to contact their local pro for guidance. New players may self-rate by going to Tennislink under "Find NTRP Rating Info" look for "Self-Rate." Click there and follow the prompts. Players do not need to be a member of USTA to self-rate. Players and not captains must do the self-rate.

Self-Rated players may appeal their rating up or be promoted by the Section Coordinator at any time if there is a change in their playing experience.

D. Online NTRP Appeal process - Appeal a Final Rating

Players with a "C" (computer), "M" (mixed exclusive) or "T" (tournament exclusive) rating type shown, after their NTRP rating, may appeal their rating online at TennisLink. **Only National Championship players will not be allowed to appeal their rating down for one year after playing in a National Championship match, but will be allowed to appeal their rating up if they qualify.** Once an appeal is granted, players cannot appeal again electronically. Players having difficulty should send an email to the Delaware District ALC.

Players may appeal only their own ratings. Captains who appeal the ratings of team members without their permission will be subject to grievance if the player complains

How to Appeal a Rating Online:

1. Login to "www.delaware.usta.com".
2. The Delaware District home page will be shown. Click on "TennisLink" in the lower left margin.
3. Under the top header of the TennisLink home page, click on "USTA LEAGUE".
4. You must log in with your USTA number and password. After you log in you will see your rating on the upper right side of the page and the words "Appeal Rating." Click there and follow the prompts.
5. A message will immediately display telling you if the appeal is granted or denied. If the appeal is denied, the only other avenue of appeal is a medical appeal. Medical appeals must be submitted to the Middle States Section League Coordinator (Sharon.Narsiff@ms.usta.com), who will forward to the Middle States Medical Appeals Committee. Medical appeals will only be granted in the event of a very serious, permanent injury.

E. NTRP Disqualification

Dynamic NTRP ratings will be calculated after every match to determine if Adult Division players are clearly above level (a "strike"). Players will be disqualified if they achieve the currently established above level status three times (three "strikes") based on all matches reported during the league year. Players with a valid computer (C) rating are not subject to dynamic NTRP disqualification at any level. All other players with rating designations of "A" (appeals-all), "S" (self-rated), and "D" (dynamic or NTRP Grievance Disqualified Players) are subject to disqualification at any level, including District and Sectional Championships.

The Middle States Section League Coordinator is responsible for monitoring dynamic ratings. If a "third strike" situation arises, she will notify (a) the affected player; (b) the player's team captain; and (c) the relevant Area and Local League Coordinators. Notification is made within one business day of determination that a third strike has been received. The team captain of the disqualified player will have seven (7) days to appeal the disqualification. Appeals must be based on missing or incorrect information, and submitted in writing (email acceptable) to the Section League Coordinator (Sharon.Narsiff@ms.usta.com).

F. Effects of Player NTRP Disqualification

Eligibility: A disqualified player is not eligible to participate at that NTRP level.

Local League Matches: If a player is disqualified, the last match played that generated the strike, will be reversed. Exception: If a player is disqualified at 3.0 and the last strike happened in a 3.5 match, no matches will be reversed.

Delaware District Championship Matches: The last individual match during District championship play shall be considered a loss and a win by the opposing player or doubles team.

G. NTRP Grievance Procedures

Any league captain, coordinator or member of a championship committee has the right to file a NTRP Grievance against a player with an A, D, M, S or T rating. Grievance Forms can be found on the Delaware District website, under "Delaware League Links". NTRP grievances must be filed with the Middle States Section League Coordinator (Sharon.Narsiff@ms.usta.com).

NTRP Grievances filed within two weeks of the start date of the player's District or Section Championships will be administered after the event unless the Section authorizes the administration of the grievance prior to that time. If the grievance is not administered until after the event, points won by players will stand. Disqualified players and/or captains that are suspended will not be eligible to advance to the next level of championship play.

III. DISTRICT & TEAM COURTS

A. District Courts

Before the start of each league season, district administrators will contact managers of public courts throughout the Delaware area to obtain authorization to use their courts for Team's "Home" matches. These courts, referred to as "District Courts", are made available to teams not having access to private courts. Teams will not be required to pay court fees when using Outdoor District courts. **The current fee for Indoor Court usage per player is \$16 for timed 90-minute matches and \$20 for timed 2-hour matches (All Indoor Court Fees must be paid prior to going on court). In an indoor match, if a court is defaulted, the team defaulting the court is responsible for the court fees.** For a court to qualify as a "District Court", it must:

- Be available to any team during the initial scheduling process, and
- Have all unscheduled slots available to any team for rescheduling matches throughout the season.

Copies of permits for outdoor "District Courts" will be posted on the Delaware District's web site, "delaware.usta.com". Captains should take a copy with them in the event they have difficulty getting non-league players to vacate the courts.

B. Team Courts

After consulting with the League Coordinator to determine the number of matches to be played, captains of teams providing courts for their "Home" matches should work with their site manager to develop the following information for league play at their site.

Captains are asked to provide 10-20% additional dates and times to allow for rescheduling rainouts or conflicts. In some instances, more than one team may have its "Home" courts at the same site. When this happens, teams are asked to specify dates and times that do not conflict with those of other teams at the site, or teams may request the ALC to determine the dates and times. Teams that provide courts for their "Home" matches are to provide them free of charge to visiting teams.

IV. MATCH PROCEDURES

Scoring will be Points Per Position in all Leagues (Points are referenced in individual League rules)

A. Untimed Matches (Summer League/Tri-Level)

Delaware league matches will be best of 3 sets with a 10 Point tie-break played in lieu of a 3rd set. Teams have the option to play a 3rd set, if time allows, and all players are in agreement on the court. However, the score will still be recorded as 1-0. ***In the event the match must be moved indoors due to inclement weather, the format will remain the same.***

B. Timed 90 Minute Matches (Adult Winter Indoor)

Format is the best 2 out of 3 sets with a match tiebreak in lieu of a third set. All tiebreakers during the 90-minute matches are 9-point tiebreaks (first to 5, win by 1 point. See below on procedure).

- The Home Team Captain or acting Captain will set their cell phone alarm for 1 hour 20 minutes (if the match is at 12:30 pm set your alarm for 1:50 pm) and put the phone on mute. Players should remain on the same side throughout the entire set and switch sides for the second set, and 3rd set tie break. Drink breaks are allowed on odd games except after the first game. **Please note a let can not be called when the cell phone timer sounds.**
- **If your match is not completed with 10 minutes to go finish games/tiebreaks in progress:**
If you are in a tie break, finish the tie break. If you are in the middle of a game, finish the game with no-ad scoring (if you are on an Ad Point finish playing that point, if the game goes back to deuce, the next point wins). Deuce (Game Point) will be receiver's choice.
- **After finishing games in progress and tiebreaks, if your match is not complete:**
 1. If a team leads by at least 1 game, they win the set (e.g. 5-4, in the second set, the team ahead at 5 games, would win the set).
 2. If the teams are tied in games in the set, a 9-point tiebreaker will be played for the set (See explanation below for 9-point tiebreaker). ***If the second set has not started, play a 9-point tiebreaker for the second set.***
 3. If the first and second sets are split, play a 9-point tiebreaker.
- If you are in the middle of a Tiebreaker when the 90 Minute time limit runs out, the TEAM AHEAD wins the tiebreaker. When time runs out and there is a tie in a tiebreaker, play ONE SUDDEN DEATH POINT to determine the winner of the tiebreaker.

9 Point Tie-breaker: The first player (or team) to win five points, by one, wins the tiebreaker. The person who is next to serve begins the tie-breaker. Each player serves two points in succession starting from the deuce court. If the tie breaker reaches 4-4, the server who serves the eighth point serves the (final) point to the receiver's choice.

C. Timed 2 Hour Matches (Mixed Indoor)

Format is the best 2 out of 3 sets with a match tiebreak, first to 10 by 2, in lieu of a third set (ads are played out). If time allows, you may play a 3rd set if all players on the court agree based on the timing referenced below (set will be recorded as 1-0 when recording match score). Once there is only 15 minutes remaining on the clock, the match tiebreak is shortened to the first to 7 by 2 (see below on procedure).

- The Home Team Captain or acting Captain will set their cell phone alarm for 1 hour 45 minutes (if the match is at 12:30 pm set your alarm for 2:15 pm) and put the phone on mute. Players can choose to switch on odd games or remain on the same side throughout the entire set and switch sides for the second set, and 3rd set tie break only. Drink breaks are allowed on odd games except after the first game. **Please note a let cannot be called when the cell phone timer sounds.**
- **If your match is not completed with 15 minutes to go finish games/tiebreakers in progress:**
If you are in a tiebreaker, finish the tiebreaker. If you are in the middle of a game, finish the game with no-ad scoring (if you are on an Ad Point finish playing that point, if the game goes back to deuce, the next point wins). Deuce (Game Point) will be served gender to gender.
- **After finishing games in progress and tiebreakers, if your match is not complete:**
 - (1) If one team is ahead by two games or more, they win that set.
 - (2) If the teams are tied in a set, they play a Set Tiebreaker (first to 7 by 2).
 - (3) If one team is ahead by only one game, play one more game, and then either "1" or "2" will apply.
 - (4) If you split sets, play a set tie-break (first to 7 by 2) for the 3rd set.

****If the first set has not been completed follow the steps above to complete the set. Play a tiebreaker for the second set (first to 7 by 2). If the sets are split, play the same tiebreaker to decide the match.**

If you are in the middle of a tiebreaker, the TEAM AHEAD when the time expires wins the tiebreaker. When time is expired and there is a tie in a tiebreaker, play ONE SUDDEN DEATH POINT to determine the winner of the tiebreak (service rotation should continue for sudden death point).

****Timing for Third Set- You may play a 3rd set if all players on the court agree (set will be recorded as 1-0 when recording match score)**

40+ Minutes – Third set can be played out

30 – 40 Minutes – Third set can be played with No-Ad scoring. Deuce (Game Point) will be served gender to gender.

Less than 30 minutes – Third Set Match Tiebreaker will be mandatory.

Since timed matches are played indoors in the Delaware District under a time limit, play must be continuous. Players are not allowed to leave the court except for a bathroom break, or to assist an injured player on their court.

- Bathroom Breaks: Bathroom breaks are not allowed during the last 10 minutes of a match. Taking a bathroom break, when permissible, must be limited to 5 minutes and must be communicated to the opposing players before leaving the court.
- Injuries: Only one injury time-out per player is permitted, and the time-out shall be limited to 5 minutes. If an injury occurs during the last 5 minutes of a match and play does not resume before the match time limit expires, the match will be reported with the injured player “retired” and the score of the match at the time of the injury will be entered.

D. General

1. All players should have no more than a 10-minute warm-up.
2. An individual player may play in only one singles or doubles match within each team match.
3. At the conclusion of a first and second set, a break of no longer than two minutes is permitted. (Coaching is not allowed between a second set and Match Tiebreaker).
4. The Coman tiebreak procedure will be used in all local league matches, and District and Section Championships. The Coman procedure is the same as the present “set” or “match” tiebreaker except that ends are changed after the first point, then after every four points. A Set Tiebreaker is determined by first to 7 points, by 2, and a Match Tiebreaker is determined by first to 10 points by 2.
5. Each team must have a Captain or Acting Captain present at every match. In the absence of a Captain, when possible, the opposing team should be notified prior to the match the acting captain's name and contact information. Captains should exchange line-ups simultaneously, complete with player names prior to the scheduled match starting time. No substitutions may be made in an individual match after the lineup has been presented and before the first serve attempt except for injury to or illness of a player.
6. Because the order of strength rule is not enforced at Section and National championships, there will be no order of strength rule in effect for local league play. However, Captains are encouraged to field their players in order of strength.
7. When players disagree on the score during play, the following procedure from the USTA’s “Friend at Court”, “The Code” should be used to resolve the dispute. (1) Count all points and games agreed upon by the players and replay only the disputed points or games; if they cannot agree (2) Play from a score mutually agreeable to the players (3) Each player states the score they believe to be correct, then a racquet is spun and the winner’s score stands.
8. Home team, listed in Tennislink, will provide balls and record the match scores within 48 hours.
9. Electronic Devices –During the playing of a match (including during changeovers), the use of cell phones or other electronic devices are prohibited. This includes cell phone ringing, texting, or answering. Any violation will be penalized as follows:

1st Offense.....1 Point

2nd Offense.....1 Game

3rd Offense.....Default

10. Spectators are not allowed on any court during a match.
11. A captain who has notified an opposing captain that he/she will default a court cannot reinstate that court on the day of the match unless the opposing captain agrees. If two teams meet to play and the match is postponed for any reason, the lineups for both teams may be changed for the rescheduled match and previously defaulted courts are reinstated.
12. **We will use Points Per Position (PPP) Format for all 2021 USTA Leagues.** If “Points’ ’ are tied at the end of season - the first tiebreaker is head to head (the team that scored the most points in head to head matches), 2nd-Least Sets lost, 3rd-Least Games lost, 4th-Game Winning Percentage.

18 & Over (2 Singles/3 Doubles)	18 & Over (1 Single/2 Doubles)	40 & Over (1 Single/3 Doubles)	40 & Over (1 Singles/4 Doubles)	55/ 65 & Over (3 Doubles)
Singles 1 - 5 Points	Singles 1 - 3 Points	Singles 1 - 4 Points	Singles 1 - 5 Points	Doubles 1 -4 Points
Singles 2 - 4 Points	Doubles 1 -4 Points	Doubles 1 -4 Points	Doubles 1 -6 Points	Doubles 2 -3 Points
Doubles 1 -5 Points	Doubles 2 -2 Points	Doubles 2 -3 Points	Doubles 2 -5 Points	Doubles 3 -2 Points
Doubles 2 -4 Points		Doubles 3 -2 Points	Doubles 3 -4 Points	
Doubles 3 -3 Points			Doubles 4 -3 Points	

In each flight, every team must play every other team within the flight at least once. When a flight consists of only two teams, each team is required to play a minimum of three local league matches. When a flight consists of only three teams, each team is required to play a minimum of four local league matches (double Round Robin). Note: Some higher NTRP level flights (e.g. 5.0) occasionally do not have enough at level players to form the minimum number of teams. If this happens in ALL districts, the Middle States Section League Coordinator MAY choose to play a local league in "tournament style" at the Section championships. ALC's having a single team flight will contact the Section League Coordinator to determine the status of leagues in other Middle States districts and ask if a "local league" will be played at the Section championships. If necessary, the ALC is authorized to form a local league to qualify a team for Section championships, including having players from lower levels that would otherwise be outside of the normal playing rules for level of play.

V. MATCH RESCHEDULING AND PROCEDURES

A. Teams will be allowed to reschedule matches as referenced below:

1. USTA Events (6 days notice should be given to the opposing Captain)

If four or more players in a 5-court match, or three or more players in a 4-court or 3-court match on an individual team are involved in the below USTA events. All courts that can be played on the original match date should be played.

- Delaware Districts
- Middle States Sectionals
- National Summer and/or Mixed League Championships

2. Inclement Weather

Rain: In the event of rain or impending rain, captains should communicate by phone in sufficient time prior to the match so that team members can be notified of cancellation. As long as both captains are in agreement, the match may be postponed because of weather. If there is any dispute between captains concerning whether to play or not to play, both teams must show up at the scheduled match site and start time in order to avoid a potential forfeit. If teams have assembled to play and the start of the match is delayed by rain or wet courts, teams must wait no longer than one hour past the scheduled start time.

If matches have started and it begins to rain, the two captains should immediately decide if they want to reschedule all courts to be played at one time and location, or if they want to reschedule on a court-by-court basis. Players **must** stop playing as soon as a lightning flash is visible in the area, no matter how far away, and reschedule. When rescheduling, substitutions or lineup changes are not allowed on individual courts where the first point has been served. **If a match is postponed and/or not started line-ups may be changed and defaulted courts reinstated.**

Heat: If, at the time of your match, the Heat Index is 95° or higher, teams can agree to use alternate scoring (8 game pro sets or no-ad scoring). Players, not comfortable playing with this heat index, may reschedule their courts individually (all other courts should be played, and names exchanged for courts to be rescheduled).

Snow: The ALC will communicate any cancellations to the Captains as early as possible.

3. Darkness

If a match is not completed **at** sunset, upon the request of either team, the match may be suspended and completed at a later date. The rescheduling procedures below should be followed.

If both teams wish to play beyond sunset, they are strongly encouraged to do so. Daylight conditions vary during the course of the summer. If outdoor lights are available at the match site, these courts should be utilized at the start of the match so play can continue until the match is completed. Indoor courts may be utilized at the concurrence of all players involved, recognizing that court fees may apply for all players.

B. Match Rescheduling Procedures

- Captains or Players should contact the opposing team and offer the ALC 3 possible dates and times for a make-up match.
- Contact the ALC within 72 hours of the original match, and the ALC will assign the new match time, date and location. The match must be played on this date, except in the case of inclement weather. If the match is not played, a double default will be entered for both teams. If only one team shows up to play, the other team will default the match.
- All matches must be completed and scores reported by the deadline established by district rules. Teams that do not comply with this requirement may not advance to any championship level. Entering fictitious scores will result in severe penalties.

VI. COURT CONDUCT

A. All matches should be conducted according to USTA Code of Conduct rules. Any violation of these rules may be grounds for filing a grievance.

B. Players are responsible for picking up litter or trash left at court sites. **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE PROHIBITED AT ALL SITES.** When informed of alcoholic beverage use, the ALC shall file a grievance with the District Grievance Committee. Violation(s) may result in players or teams being suspended.

C. Private clubs do not allow tank tops, spandex running shorts or running shoes. If there are questions, check with the club's team captain.

D. Disrespectful behavior toward site managers will not be tolerated. When informed of such behavior, the ALC shall file a grievance using the procedure given in Section XI. Violation(s) may result in players or teams being suspended from play. The District will accept a site manager's interpretation of "disrespectful behavior".

E. USTA League players should only use authorized courts and bring a copy of court permits, if applicable, to matches. Team captains should not relinquish an unused court to other players during a match as it could invite problems such as interference from non-league players. (For example, balls rolling onto USTA courts, non-league players hit with balls and being injured, etc.) If necessary, captains should challenge non-league players, including instructors, for a copy of their permit, if applicable. (All court permits can be found on the USTA Delaware District website, under "USTA League Tennis").

VII. LATENESS & DEFAULTS

A. Lateness: Any player who is more than FIFTEEN (15) minutes late (based on Cell Phone time) for a match may be defaulted by the opposing team. The Point Penalty system will be in effect, as noted below for Mixed and Adult Summer and Winter Leagues.

5:00 Minutes or Less	5:01 – 10:00 Minutes	10:01 – 15 Minutes	More than 15 minutes
Loss of Toss and 1 Game	Loss of Toss and 2 Games	Loss of Toss and 3 Games	May be Defaulted

All late arriving players are entitled to a warm-up. If a player is not there by the default time, courts must move up so the default is taken from the bottom up. In a 3-court match, if the late arriving player is on Doubles 1, Doubles 2 players will move up to Doubles 1, and Doubles 3 players to Doubles 2, and the 3rd doubles court defaulted. In a 5-court match, if the late arriving player is on Singles 1, the Singles 2 player will move to Singles 1, and the Singles 2 court defaults.

B. Defaults: For scorecard purposes, enter the names of the winner(s) and the match status as "default". The score will automatically be recorded as a 6-0, 6-0 win for the players or doubles team receiving the default. If both opposing players (doubles teams) default, enter the match status as "double default." In a team match, the majority of courts must be played to constitute a match (2 Courts in a 3 Court Match, and 3 Courts in a 5 or 4 Court match). If the majority of courts in a team match are not played, the results entered will not count for advancement to Championships. **Teams will be permitted and/or required to make up defaulted courts to comply with this regulation.**

*****Any team defaulting an entire team match where players do not show on any court, will not be eligible for championships. Teams forfeiting an entire match may receive further penalties.**

VIII. SCORE RECORDING

A. Match results must be recorded on TennisLink by the HOME captain within 48 hours of the match completion, and subsequently verified by the OPPOSING captain within 48 hours. Match scores will be locked-in on TennisLink after 48 hours of their entry if the opposing captain has not verified the entry. Once a captain records a score, only the League Coordinator can make a change in case of error. A captain must contact the Coordinator when a score is disputed. Failure to report scores may result in the winning

team not receiving credit for the win and the losing team not having the matches recorded and counted. Scorecards should be retained in case of future disputes.

1. Login to "www.delaware.usta.com".
2. The Delaware District home page will be shown. Click on TennisLink in the lower left margin.
3. Under the words "TennisLink" in the top header of the TennisLink home page, click on "USTA LEAGUE". Be sure to log in using your USTA number and password.
4. On the page that displays, click on "Record a score" in the right margin. "Record a score" will not be in the right margin if the player is not logged in.
5. A new page will display where you will be asked to enter the match number.
6. The page for entering scores will display. Enter the scores. NOTE: IF A PLAYER'S NAME IS NOT SHOWN WHEN CHOOSING PLAYERS FROM THE TEAM DROP-DOWN MENU, THAT PLAYER MAY NOT BE REGISTERED. CONTACT YOUR LEAGUE COORDINATOR IF THIS HAPPENS. If a match tiebreaker is used in lieu of a third set, enter the score as 1-0, and then choose "Timed match" from the drop-down menu.
7. Click on "Next", and a new page will display for you to confirm the scores. Always be sure to choose "Confirm" before exiting scorecard entry.

If you do not agree with a score previously entered, choose "Dispute" and contact your Area League Coordinator by email with a copy to the opposing captain stating the reason for the dispute.

B. Captains may review other match scorecards by entering the match number in the box under the header "Stats & Standings."

IX. CHAMPIONSHIP PROCEDURES

A. General. A District Championship is a meeting of flight winners. Flight winners must be seeded above flight runners-up (second or third place finishers) irrespective of the number of teams within flights. As an example, if a level (e.g. 3.5 Adult Men) has multiple flights, one with five teams, another with ten teams, etc., each flight's winner must participate in a District championship to determine which team will advance to Section championships. In an effort to make leagues more competitive, Delaware's ALC may invite second, third, or fourth place teams, in a flight, to compete in championships. Such teams cannot be seeded. **Tennislink standings are final.** Based on Age Group and Level, the below chart will be followed for advancement to District Championships. Please note this is based on total teams within each Age Group Level (e.g. there are 2 flights of 7 for the 3.5 18+ Women, 4 teams, 2 from each flight, will advance based on the total number of teams of 14). In the event of four flight winners a round robin will be scheduled and no additional teams will advance. In the event of 3 flight winners a round robin will be scheduled and a wild card team invited. All teams must have earned 50% or more of total possible points in order to participate at Districts.

Any Spring Southern Delaware League Winner or Northern Winter league Winner will qualify as one of the advancing teams in the District Championships.

Teams in Flight	18+	40+	55+	65+
3 or less teams	1 st Place team advances to Sectionals*	1 st Place team advances to Sectionals*	1 st Place team advances to Sectionals*	1 st Place team advances to Sectionals*
4 Teams	2 Teams	2 Teams	2 Teams	2 Teams
5 – 6 Teams	3 Teams	3 Teams	3 Teams	3 Teams
7 or More Teams	4 Teams	4 Teams	4 Teams	4 Teams

***Only if there is no Southern Delaware League winner and/or Winter League Winner advancing to a playoff at Districts.**

B. If a team receives a full match default and is the league winner, they must be in first place by more than the number of points received from the defaulted match. If not, the first place team must have a playoff with the second place team to determine the league winner.

C. Players must follow the guidelines given in the chart below in the event more than one team advances to District or Section championships. Any scheduling conflicts as a result of playing in more than one District are the individual player's responsibility.

**Guidelines for Multi-Team Players advancing to Championships

Player Status	More than one team advances to District Championships	More than one team advances to Middle States Section Championships
Playing at more than one level in Delaware District.	May play at more than one level.	May play at more than one level.

Playing in Delaware and another district at the same level.	May participate in all District Championships	Must choose a team.
Playing in Delaware and another district at different levels.	May play in more than one district championship and more than one level in each district championship.	May play for both teams at different levels. Any match conflicts are the player's responsibility.
Playing in Delaware in the Winter, and Summer League at the same level.	Must choose a team.	N/A

D. Winners in single flight leagues not participating in District championships will be determined by the final standings given in TennisLink.

E. For computer rated players to participate at Local League Playoffs, Districts and Sectionals, they must play 2 matches (1 may be by default). For self-rated or computer-rated appealed players to participate at Local League Playoffs, Districts and Sectionals, they must play 2 matches (zero defaults allowed.) For All Players (C,S,A) to participate at Nationals in the 18+, 40+, and 55+ Leagues, they must play 2 matches (zero may be by default). For all players in the 65+ Leagues they must play 2 matches (1 may be by default) to participate at National Invitational.

F. Rain During District Championships. Rain invariably causes delays. Matches are not shifted from outdoor to indoor sites until the Championships Committee concludes that outdoor play cannot proceed within a reasonable amount of time, or if the forecast indicates a high probability of rain. Therefore, teams should be prepared for the following:

- Matches being delayed/ Waiting on-site for further instructions
- Matches being postponed to the following day(s), evenings, or the following weekend.
- Possible shift to no-ad scoring or pro sets
- Divisions and teams being split between different sites
- Championship matches being played throughout an entire weekend, including evening play.

X. GRIEVANCES

A team captain, League Coordinator or member of a Championship committee may file a grievance at any time. *Administrative Grievances can not be filed against a Captain or Committee Member.* All captains should read the 2021 USTA League Tennis Regulations and the USTA Middle States Section Rules for additional rules and grievance procedures. When in doubt about a rule or procedure, captains should contact their ALC. If it becomes necessary to file a grievance, follow the procedures spelled out in the 2021 USTA League Tennis Regulations, Section 3.03. Grievances must be filed with the Delaware District ALC before the next team match in that flight involving the team, or within 24 hours after the deadline for the end of local league play, whichever occurs first. "Grievance Complaint" forms should be used and can be obtained by logging into Delaware.usta.com, and sending the completed form to the ALC. Upon receipt of the complaint, the ALC will immediately send a copy to the Chair of the Delaware District League Grievance Committee and to the persons listed below.

- 1) Captain of the player(s) or team against whom the grievance has been made;
- 2) Local League Coordinator, if applicable.
- 3) Middle States Director of Adult Competition.

XII. 2021 USTA DELAWARE LEAGUE CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 12-14, 2021, Middle States Section Tri-level League Championships, Hershey, PA

APRIL 10 and 11, 2021, SATURDAY and SUNDAY, Delaware District 18 and Over, 40 and Over Mixed Doubles League Championships, Wilmington, DE

JUNE 4 THROUGH JUNE 6, 2021, FRIDAY THROUGH SUNDAY, Middle States Section 18 and 55 & Over Mixed Doubles League Championships, Landisville, PA.

JUNE 11 THROUGH 13, 2021, FRIDAY THROUGH SUNDAY, Middle States Section 40 & Over Mixed Doubles Adult League Championships, Landisville, PA.

JULY 15, 2021, Deadline for completion and recording in TennisLink all Delaware District 18 & Over Adult League matches for teams participating in Delaware District 18 & Over Adult League Championships.

JULY 24 and 25, 2021, SATURDAY and SUNDAY, Delaware District 18 & Over Adult League Championships; Delcastle Tennis Center, Wilmington, DE

JULY 31, 2021, Deadline for completion and recording in TennisLink all Delaware District 18 & Over Adult League matches for teams not participating in Delaware District League Championships.

JULY 20, 2021 Deadline for completion and recording in TennisLink all Delaware District 40 & Over Adult League matches for teams participating in Delaware District 40 & Over Adult League Championships.

JULY 31 and AUGUST 1, 2021, SATURDAY and SUNDAY, Delaware District 40 & Over Adult League Championships; Delcastle Tennis Center, Wilmington, DE

AUGUST 20 THROUGH 22, 2021, FRIDAY THROUGH SUNDAY, Middle States Section Adult 18 & Over Adult League Championships, Princeton, NJ.

AUGUST 5, 2021, Deadline for completion and recording in TennisLink all Delaware District 55 & Over Adult League matches for teams participating in Delaware District League Championships.

AUGUST 20, 2021, Deadline for completion and recording in TennisLink all Delaware District 55 & Over Adult League matches for teams not participating in Delaware District 55 & Over Adult League Championships.

AUGUST 28 and 29, 2021 SATURDAY and SUNDAY, Delaware District 55 & Over Adult League Championships; Delcastle Tennis Center, Wilmington, DE

AUGUST 22, 2021, Deadline for completion and recording in TennisLink all Delaware District 65 & Over Adult League matches for teams participating in Delaware District 65 & Over Adult League Championships.

SEPTEMBER 8 and SEPTEMBER 9, 2021, Delaware District 65 & Over Adult League Championships (as needed), DuPont CC, Wilmington, DE

SEPTEMBER 10 THROUGH 12, 2021, FRIDAY THROUGH SUNDAY, Middle States Section 40 & Over Adult League Championships, Princeton, NJ

September 15, 2021, Deadline for completion and recording in TennisLink all Delaware District 55 and 65 & Over Adult League matches for teams not participating in Delaware District League Championships.

SEPTEMBER 17 THROUGH 19, 2021, FRIDAY THROUGH SUNDAY, Middle States Section 55 & Over Adult League Championships, Landisville, PA

SEPTEMBER 24 THROUGH 26, 2021, FRIDAY THROUGH SUNDAY, Middle States Section 65 & Over Adult League Championships, Delaware Valley TC, PA