



2026 GML Season Rules

1) LEAGUE

All USTA Rules, 2026 USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS, and 2026 USTA/Midwest Section Standing Orders, shall apply with the exceptions listed below.

The Code of Conduct will apply for all matches conducted without officials. See The Code in *2026 Friend at Court*.

USTA League or Greater Milwaukee League (GML) Rules and Regulations that are not followed, may result in suspension from league play for a period of time to be determined.

All home court/facility locations must be within the current boundaries of the Greater Milwaukee League.

2) ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

A player may participate in more than one NTRP level in the same division in the same season (i.e., - 3.0 and 3.5 for a 3.0 rated player). A player may play on more than one team within the District in the same season, (i.e., on an adult league in Milwaukee and an adult league in Madison.) but not in the same local league. **Players may only play up by one NTRP level of play. (i.e., 3.0 may play 3.0 and 3.5, but not 4.0).** Daytime and Evening leagues at the same level are not treated as the same local league. A player who qualifies for Championship level competition within an age group on two different NTRP levels may play on both teams but there will be no accommodation in the championship schedule. A player who qualifies for Championship level competition in the same age and NTRP level in two different local leagues or in two different seasons within a local league will need to declare which team they will play for at the Championship level via the Player Decision Form and the Monday prior to the Championship weekend.

USTA membership for the 2026 USTA League must be valid through December 31, 2026.

For each team member to progress, they must have competed in **at least two local league season matches** on the same team to be eligible for GML Playoffs or championship play through Sectional Championships. For the National Championships, all players other than self-rated and computer-rated appealed players need at least 3 matches on the same team. Only one default will count for advancing. Per USTA Regulations, self-rated players will need four matches played on the same team prior to reaching the USTA National Championships and no defaults will count.

3) TENNISLINK - SCORING & TEAM REGISTRATION

TennisLink is the official system for player registration, reporting scores, and providing standings for the USTA League Tennis Program.

Any discrepancies found after the scores have been entered into the computer, and after checking with the opposing captain to confirm that an error has been made, email the discrepancy with the match number to your LLC; Sarah Evans (GML women/men/mixed/combo/tri level) sarah.evans380@gmail.com, or Gillian Lester-George de Montesinos (metro) gillianlgdem@gmail.com

Scores not confirmed within the 48-hour timeline will be considered confirmed.

4) COMPETITION FORMAT

Time and Day of Matches: Daytime flights will have a starting time between 9:00 a.m. but not later than 2 p.m. Evening flights will have a starting time between 6:00 p.m. but not later than 9:00 p.m.

BOTH team captains are responsible for contacting each other. There must be VERBAL contact between the captains one week prior to the start of each match.

The home team captain must call and confirm the time and location of the match. The visiting team captain should call three days prior to the match if the home captain has not called. Messages left on answering machines or with a family member will not be considered verbal contact. Home team captains, it is your responsibility to get your match times from your club coordinator and relay that to the visiting team captain.

Captains may email each other in lieu of verbally contacting the opposing captain in order to communicate the time of the match. The opposing captain must email back to confirm that the message has been received. A non-response from the initial email is considered a non-confirmed or informed match. If both captains have not communicated via email then verbal communication must be made between captains.

Matches where the visiting team was not informed of the change in time and the home team is not present when the visiting team arrives, teams will still play the match on the same day as scheduled when courts become available.

For GML women, the 40&O 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5 teams will play 4 courts of doubles and 1 court of singles per the captain's vote in February 2023 (unless the flight agrees to a different format prior to the season). The 2.5 and 5.0 levels will continue to play 1 court of singles and two courts of doubles.

For GML men, the 40&O 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5 teams will play 4 courts of doubles and 1 court of singles per the 40&O captain's vote in February 2025.

It is the responsibility of BOTH captains to communicate verbally.

5) SCORING - ALL LEAGUES

All matches shall be the best of-three tiebreak sets with a match tiebreak in lieu of a third set.

The match tiebreak shall be scored as 1-set and 1-game for tiebreak purposes. (Coman format shall be used for both the Set tiebreak and the Match tiebreak.)

TOTAL TEAM DEFAULTS will follow the National Rule with the exception of: Amended following vote: If both teams have agreed to double default their match, the match will be deleted from the flight with no additional consequences. If captains have not agreed, the national rule will stand of deleting all pertaining matches from the season of the team that total team defaulted.

6) COURT SITE AND TENNIS BALLS

The home team will furnish the courts and balls. If home courts are not available then: a neutral site selected by the home team with no fees to the visiting team will occur, same court surfaces will be used for all matches within a team match, the visiting team may supply their courts with no fees to them.

RAIN/INCLEMENT WEATHER –

BEFORE MATCH STARTS - Captains must contact each other to determine the match status when inclement weather may force a rescheduled match or play indoors. If captains have not communicated with each other prior to match time, both teams must show up at the play site to determine play or make-up matches.

In case of extreme temperatures: heat index above 95 degrees as determined by accuweather.com for the zip code of the location of the match. Extreme Heat: The following rules apply to all outdoor leagues. Captains may agree to take the match indoors (at the cost of all players) if the forecasted heat index for the scheduled match is above 95 degrees. If the captains agree to play matches outside and the heat index is above 95 a match may be suspended by any player (rules would follow darkness rules). Captains need to notify the League Coordinator of any rescheduling.

Both team captains must agree to move the match indoors.

If captains have agreed to move the match indoors, it is the responsibility of each captain to notify their own team members of the match status.

FEES - If rain/darkness prevents completion of a match, the home team is responsible for the court fees. The home team is not required to move the match to a neutral indoor site and has the option to reschedule the remainder of the match.

Clarification: The site is listed as the home team not the courts. A visiting team is not required to pay whether they play indoors or outdoors at the home team facility.

When no courts have started, but the lineup was exchanged: the line-up can be changed for the rescheduled match if necessary.

Notify Local League Coordinator of rescheduled time.

If one or more of the team courts have started the match and you are prevented from continuing the match due to bad weather, the match must be resumed with the same players for all the courts, even if some courts may not have started.

Any defaults must stand.

No matter when the match is rescheduled, players will begin the match with the score that

existed at the time of the rain out/darkness. The match continues as if there was no interruption in play except for the 10 minute warm up. The previously existing set score, game score, and point-in-the-game score will stand.

Rescheduled matches must be played within two weeks of the rained out match, or prior to the end of the league season, whichever comes first.

The local tennis clubs have asked that you do not reserve courts prior to match day in anticipation of rain. Call the day of the match only. If you reserve courts indoors and it does not rain, you are still responsible for the cost of the courts. (Many clubs require a credit card for the reservation.)

RETIREMENTS; a retirement occurs when an individual match has started (points have been played) and a player/team is unable to continue due to injury, loss of condition, or an emergency.

7) STANDINGS

MEN'S LEAGUES: The team with the most TEAM match points (**one point per team match win**) accumulated during the season will be the winner. (Effective April 2025 per the men's captains' vote).

WOMEN'S LEAGUES: The team with the most TEAM match points (**one point per team match win**) accumulated during the season will be the winner. (Effective March 2019 per the Captains' meeting.)

When scheduling, if there are excess weeks of play after each team has played the other teams in the flight, additional matches will be randomly assigned by TennisLink. Mini Round Robin's will not be allowed.

Ultimate standings default to what is listed in Tennis Link for the Match Win Criteria.

8) TIES

No ties will stand at the end of the season.

Ties will be determined by USTA League Rule 2.03H – 2.03H(2)f and following what is listed in Tennis Link under Stats and Standings for the league.

9) FLIGHT PLAYOFFS & CHAMPIONSHIPS

The first place team in every flight will play a round robin competition to determine the overall winner. A second place team with the highest win/loss percentage may be invited to fill out the round robin playoffs.

10) EQUIPMENT - RACQUETS AND TENNIS BALLS

The Head TI. S7 tennis racquet and the Gamma Big Bubba (137) and Big Bubba Pro (137) are illegal racquets according to the Rules of Tennis and therefore not approved for league play.

If a player plays a match to completion with the Head Titanium racquet or the Gamma Big Bubba and no protest is lodged, the match results stand and may not be protested. If a player plays with the racquet after being asked not to do so, the match may be protested through the normal grievance procedures of the USTA Leagues.

Over sized rally-type balls may not be used.

11) PHONES, PAGERS, SMART WATCHES

All cellular phones and other electronic devices are banned from tennis courts during USTA League matches. This includes Apple watches and the equivalent thereof. The offending player/team will lose the point if any electronic device goes off on the court while the match is being played. Players are allowed to wear a device on airplane mode.

10) END OF GML LOCAL LEAGUE SEASON

The Adult 18&Over, Adult 40&Over and Adult 55&Over, 65&Over, Mixed 18&Over tennis, Mixed 40&Over local season ends on the date provided in Tennis Link for each division. Some divisions may be allowed to play longer based upon number of teams in a flight and weeks in the season, as well as a need for a play-off.

12) GRIEVANCE & GRIEVANCE APPEALS PROCEDURES AND NTRP GRIEVANCES

AS OF 2022, LEAGUE SUSPENSION POINTS CAN BE ASSESSED AS A RESULT OF A GRIEVANCE

A grievance is an allegation that the opponent violated a local, USTA/Midwest Section Standing Order and/or USTA League Regulation. An NTRP grievance; a grievance contending that player's NTRP level is lower than the actual skill level.

A player with a valid NTRP computer (C) rating or granted automatic appeal rating of a computer (C) rating is not subject to an NTRP grievance. Any other player may be subject to an NTRP grievance.

All grievances shall be directed to the Local League Grievance Committee. Contact your local league coordinator as to where to find the appropriate forms and instructions. GML Women's, Men's and Mixed Leagues contact Sarah Evans at sarah.evans380@gmail.com, and Metro Leagues contact Gillian Lester-George de Montesinos at gillianlgdem@gmail.com. There is a \$100 filing fee. If your grievance is upheld, the \$100 fee will be returned.

There is an Appeals Committee for any member involved in the grievance. Again, you may contact your LLC. Additional information can also be found at www.wisconsin.usta.com.

All NTRP Grievances shall be forwarded to Toby Gaynor toby@midwest.usta.com. The USTA/Midwest Section League Coordinator. There is a \$100 filing fee. If the grievance is upheld, the \$100 fee will be returned.

After July 15, 2023 all NTRP Grievances fees increased to \$100.00 due to time restraints on determining winners of the local league, or progression of teams to championships.

All grievances shall be filed in writing with the appropriate committee. Each committee shall consist of no less than three persons including the chair.

2026 Grievance Committee

Amy Richmond – (Chair)
Amyrichmond13@gmail.com
414-745-3406 (cell)

Scott Kossoris
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2026 Grievance Appeal Committee

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