



## 2026 MADISON LOCAL LEAGUE RULES

### A. USTA LEAGUE

1. 2026 USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS, the current USTA/Midwest Section League Regulations as well as the Wisconsin District Rules pertaining to USTA Leagues, and 2026 Madison Local Rules shall apply.
2. Any of the above rules and regulations that are not followed may result in suspension from league play for a period of time to be determined.

### B. ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYERS

1. A player may not play on more than one team in an NTRP Level within an Age Group, during local league season. Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over, Adult 65 & Over, Mixed 18 & Over, Mixed 40 & Over, Combo 18 & Over and Tri-Level 18 & Over are separate Age Groups. A player may participate in more than one NTRP level in the same Age Group 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.)

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.

2. USTA membership for a 2026 USTA/Wisconsin Madison League must be valid through the end of the local league season. Refer to USTA Reg 1.04E(2) for Championship advancement.
3. No player may participate in a USTA/Wisconsin league match until they have registered for a team on TennisLink. All team members must have a current NTRP rating. Team members who do not have a current NTRP computer generated rating will declare a self-rating when registering for a team. There will be a Self-Rate Declaration Box on the registration screen. Existing players begin the new season with their end-of-year rating from the last season that they played. Any computer rating generated from the 2025 league year will be good for three years (2024 for players 60 years or older) or until a new computer rating is generated.
4. Players who do not have a computer rating on file in TennisLink will self-rate in accordance with the National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) guidelines and complete the self-rating process on TennisLink when registering for a team. Failure to do so or omission of information regarding a player's tennis history will subject the player, the captain and/or others who condoned inaccurate self-rating to the grievance process.
5. DISQUALIFICATION - No dynamic disqualification of Year-end Computer (C) players, Reg. 2.04B (see NTRP Dynamic Disqualification Table - inside 2026 USTA League Regulations back cover).

Who can be dynamically disqualified? NTRP published level followed by A (appeal - all), S (self-rated), M (mixed exclusive), T (tournament exclusive), D (dynamic or NTRP complaint disqualified) in the Adult divisions through the Sectional Championships.

6. In the event of an NTRP disqualification for that particular level of play, all matches played at the disqualification level or below and any subsequent match played by the player shall be considered

losses and those matches shall be considered wins for the opposing player or doubles team. Players may join a team at their new NTRP level up to two weeks before the end of the season.

7. If a player is NTRP Disqualified at a certain level in an Adult Division, and is also participating in a Mixed Division, the new rating will be used in the combination of the mixed doubles pairing (i.e., player participating in 8.0 Mixed League that was rated a 4.0, was DQ'd at that level, and now is rated a 4.5, needs to pair up with a 3.5 rated player to be a qualified team) but must stay within the 1.0 NTRP difference when combining with another player in order to remain eligible.
8. A captain does not need to be a registered team member (on TennisLink) of their team as long as they have an active USTA membership **and** lists a co-captain who is a registered player on that team.
9. Local League Coordinators will do their best to place a local NTRP Disqualified player on another team (at the player's expense, if applicable) unless they are already a member on a team at their new level or there is less than two weeks left in the local season.

### C. TENNISLINK: REPORTING SCORES & TEAM REGISTRATION

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

1. USTA League Tennis match scores must be reported by team captains, co-captains or designated players within 48 hours of the completion of a match. A representative from **BOTH** teams either enters or confirms (whomever gets into the site first) the scores within 48 hours of match completion. Match reports will be run daily for Dynamic Rating computation. Consequences for failure to report scores by either captain within 48 hours of match completion are as follows:
  - A written warning may be issued to both teams for the first offense.
  - Loss of all matches for all subsequent violations.

Match results would still be used to generate player dynamic ratings.

#### Step by Step process of score entry -- applies to ALL leagues

- A. One team enters -- click Finish; one team Confirms or Disputes -- click on the button. Each team gets just one time in the scorecard process.
- B. If the confirming team doesn't agree with the entry -- click Dispute.
- C. DO NOT email to ask LLC to fix it.
- D. Email OPPONENT and fully explain the reason(s) for the Dispute (name error(s)/score) and copy LLC.
- E. Provide **MATCH #**.
- F. Ask the opponent to reply via email for agreement and copy LLC showing agreement.

Once that is done, the LLC of that league will make appropriate changes.

2. Scores not confirmed within the 48-hour timeline will be considered confirmed.
3. USTA Reg: **FULL TEAM DEFAULTS ARE NOT ALLOWED**. If a team defaults an entire team match, the opposing captain will contact the Local League Coordinator immediately about the full team default.
4. A majority of courts must be played. (In a 3 court league at least 2 courts must be played; in a 4 court league at least 3 courts must play; in a 5 court league at least 3 courts must play). If a majority of the courts are not played, the match will be deleted from Tennislink.
5. If a team is the cause of a deleted match, they are ineligible for advancement to post-season play.

### D. COMPETITION FORMAT:

1. Starting times will be posted on TennisLink OR by separate schedule. If all league matches will be played at the same location, a separate schedule may not be provided.

## 2. **INDOOR SCHEDULES:**

All USTA members are obliged to follow all COVID protocols set by the facility. LLC will provide the latest information available prior to the first match.

Captains should exchange lineups simultaneously and players should be ready to walk on court at the posted start time so as not to delay the start of the match. Whenever indoor matches are scheduled back-to-back, the first match should start exactly on time and players should not go on the court before the scheduled time. Upon match completion, clear the court so players from the next scheduled match may have the court earlier if the court is open. A ten-minute warm-up should be taken immediately.

ALLOWED TIME PER MATCH IS DETERMINED BY LLC PRIOR TO START OF LEAGUE SEASON. To accommodate this "tight" schedule, it is recommended to NOT change ends during sets. Change ends after each set when using indoor courts.

### **SCORING:**

All **indoor** matches will use no-ad scoring IF the scheduled match length is 90 minutes or less. Same gender tie games: At 3-3, receiving team determines who will receive the deciding point. Mixed doubles tie games: At 3-3, same gender server/receiver.

ALTERNATE SCORING: If scheduled indoor court time exceeds 90 minutes, the above does **NOT** apply. Regular Scoring (described below) shall be used.

MATCH TIE-BREAK (first to 10 by 2) and SET TIE-BREAK (first to 7 by 2) is used for all league matches. When playing a Match tiebreak **indoors**, change ends **before** commencing the tiebreak, but not during the tie-break.

Water: In order to keep indoor match play moving, players are allowed to get a drink after odd games. However, it is expected this will be accomplished within 20 seconds.

## 3. **OUTDOOR SCHEDULES:** Line-ups must be exchanged simultaneously no later than the designated start times shown on the team schedules distributed at the beginning of the local league season. Players should be on site at least 20 minutes prior to the designated match start time so as not to delay lineup exchange or match start.

The official 10-minute warm-up period begins at the designated start time.

NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE ALLOWED ON SCHOOL GROUNDS—this includes COURTS.

### **SCORING -- ALL LEAGUES -- Regular Scoring**

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.)

## 4. **Pre-Playing, Post-Playing, and Rescheduling Matches**

- Re-scheduled matches (due to weather) must be completed within two (2) weeks of the original scheduled date. No individual matches will otherwise be allowed beyond the scheduled match date with the following exception:

\*Conflict due to post-season advancement. The two weeks rescheduled time frame from original scheduled date is firm.

- Pre-scheduled matches: If team captains know in advance that they will be short-handed for a particular match, they may by mutual agreement schedule early match play under the following criteria:

\*One or more courts may be pre-played.

- It is at the opponent's discretion whether to accommodate the requesting team. It should be

emphasized that captains are NOT obligated to agree to play any courts early and should not be pressured into doing so.

- A majority of courts must be played for every match. If a majority of courts are not played, the match will be deleted from TennisLink. If a team is the cause of a deleted match, they are ineligible for advancement to post season play.

## 5. Miscellaneous Guidelines for Indoor AND Outdoor Matches

- Final date for registering players in ALL leagues – two/three matches prior to the end of each local league season. REASONING: Each player needs a minimum of two matches credited to them in order to be eligible for advancement.
- Tennis balls shall be provided by the home team for each match. Balls are not provided by WTA.

## 6. WARM-UP, INJURY, and SUBSTITUTION:

- A Warm-up is not practice. Players should make a special effort to hit shots directly to the opponent. Courtesy dictates that you not practice your service returns when your opponent practices serving. Warm-up time must not exceed ten minutes total. This 10-minute period also serves as the time allotted prior to a no-show or lateness forfeit. Late arrivals are limited to the remainder of the 10 minutes.
- In un-officiated matches, players may not leave the court except for an injury or personal emergency. Treatment of an injury is to take no longer than three minutes, with a total amount of elapsed time of play stoppage not to exceed 5 minutes or the match is forfeited. (Extra racquets, shoes, knee braces, etc., need to be on the court.)
- A legitimate restroom visit is permissible and is not regarded as loss of physical condition.
- If injury occurs during a warm-up, a substitute player may be brought in because the start of the match is defined as the first point played. The substituted player must be on the court immediately and is entitled to a five minute warm-up.

## 7. DEFAULTS or RETIREMENTS:

Penalties for lateness begin at the scheduled match time and players should expect the policy to be enforced. Penalties are described in "Friend at Court".

Play will not be interrupted on courts where match play has begun.

Lateness for Start of Match

5 minutes or less – loss of toss plus 1 game

5:01 – 10 minutes – loss of toss plus 2 games

10:01 – 15 minutes – loss of toss plus 3 games

More than 15 minutes – default

DEFAULTS: Refer to 2026 USTA League Reg. 2.03K and District 2.E.

What happens when a captain expects/states that the #1 position will be there shortly, so the opposing captain permits the other positions to start their matches and then the person does not show up and a default is recorded at the #1 position?

Answer: Defaults are to be taken at the lowest position; however, if due to unforeseen circumstances, the captains allow (either by word or failure to prevent) a lower position to start out of sequence and the higher match ends up a default – all matches stand as played. 2026 USTA League Reg. 2.01C(5)

**Note:** Tri-level matches -- the court for which there are no players will be the defaulted court, i.e., in a 3.0; 3.5; 4.0 league, if there are no 3.5 players, court #2 may be defaulted.

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.

#### **E. WEATHER POLICY (outdoor courts only):**

In the event of inclement weather that prevents the start of a league match at its scheduled time, the match is postponed and should be completed within the following two weeks of the scheduled match date to the mutual agreement of the team captains.

Inclement weather that may hinder outdoor league play:

1. **Rain.** In the event that it is raining prior to match start time or might rain at the scheduled match time, a decision may be made on the same day to reschedule if both captains agree. If there is no consensus between captains, all players will arrive at the courts as scheduled to exchange line-ups.
2. **Air Quality Index.** Refer to the USTA Wisconsin Air Quality Guidelines. Decision to play or reschedule **MUST** be done shortly before match time. Air quality levels can change day to day, hour to hour, so a decision can't be made the night before or even the morning/afternoon of scheduled matches. Therefore, all teams should be prepared to play right up until match time.
3. **Heat Index.** In the event that the heat index reaches 90 degrees one hour prior to scheduled match time, a decision may be made to reschedule if both captains agree. If there is no consensus between captains, all players will arrive at the courts as scheduled to exchange line-ups.

If a team captain knows she or he will be unavailable for a particular match date, s/he should contact the other team captain before the match and advise of an alternate team player to contact in their absence in the event of inclement weather.

In the event a scheduled team match was started and in progress when interrupted by inclement weather, all points stand as played. All players agree on the score prior to leaving the court. Matches shall be completed within a two week period. If neither captain can agree on a rescheduled date, they must contact the Local League Coordinator to determine play schedule.

If one or more of the team matches has started, the rescheduled match must be played with the same players for all matches, even though some matches may not have started. Any defaults must stand.

If no matches have started, the line-up may be changed for the rematch and prior defaults are not binding. All rescheduled and/or unfinished matches **MUST** be reported to the local league coordinator.

#### **F. LOCAL LEAGUE CHAMPION:**

1. The team with the most Team Wins accumulated during the season will be the local league winner and will advance to the 2026 USTA/Wisconsin State Championships.

**In the event that teams are tied in Team Wins, tie-breaker progression is as follows:**

- Individual Matches Won
  - Head to Head
  - Least Sets Lost
  - Least Games Lost
2. If an NTRP level is divided into flights, a playoff will be held where only the winner of each flight plays the other. The winner of this playoff will be the local league winner and will advance to the 2026 USTA/Wisconsin State Championship.
  3. Half Round/Mini Round Robins (if applicable): After a full round robin, total teams in a flight may be divided into two or more tiers to play a mini-round. Only teams who are in the top tier at the end of the full round will be eligible to advance, and the NTRP level winner will be determined by the team with most TEAM wins on TennisLink. Results from the mini-round robins are cumulative with the results from the full round robin.

4. If a match is deleted from Tennislink due to full team default, the team with the highest Games Won % will be the local league winner and will advance to the 2026 USTA/Wisconsin State Championships.

## **G. CHAMPIONSHIPS:**

1. Players who are disqualified while participating in another Age Group after qualifying for Adult or Mixed National Championships will not be allowed to advance to the National Championship unless participating at the higher level.
2. **ADVANCING TEAMS:** Local League winners must confirm within 48 hours of the end of their league season their ability to field a team to advance to the next level, i.e., either the State or Sectional Championships. If the first place team cannot field a team, the second place team will be invited.

## **H. GRIEVANCE & GRIEVANCE APPEAL PROCEDURES and NTRP GRIEVANCES**

A grievance is an allegation that the opponent violated a local, USTA/Midwest Section Standing Order for USTA League and/or USTA League Regulation. An NTRP Grievance: A grievance contending that player's NTRP level is lower than the actual skill level. 3.02E

A player with a valid NTRP Computer (C) rating or granted Automatic Appeal rating of a Computer (C) rating is not subject to a NTRP grievance. Any other player may be subject to a NTRP grievance.

All grievances shall be directed to the Local League Grievance Committee. Contact your Local League Coordinator for the appropriate forms and instructions. There is a \$100 filing fee. If your grievance is upheld, the \$100 fee will be returned.

All NTRP Grievances shall be forwarded to Toby Gaynor at [toby@midwest.usta.com](mailto:toby@midwest.usta.com).

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

**GRIEVANCE AND GRIEVANCE APPEALS COMMITTEES - ALL LEAGUES (2026)**

Grievance Committee: Will Wait-Chair, Renee Riviere, Jeremy Heidel, Kim Shaul (alternate)

Grievance Appeals Committee: Derek Hubbard- Chair, Marques De Grandis, Jeremy Parrish, Gina Kolpek (alternate)

**LEAGUE CONTACT for the following leagues is Jenny Liao - [jpliao.tennis@gmail.com](mailto:jpliao.tennis@gmail.com)**

40 & Over Adult

55 & Over Adult

65 & Over Adult

TRI-LEVEL 18 & Over Women's Singles and/or Doubles (Delta 3.0, 3.5, 4.0)

TRI-LEVEL 18 & Over Women's Doubles (Omega 3.5, 4.0, 4.5)

TRI-LEVEL 18 & Over Men's Single/Doubles (Alpha 4.0, 4.5, 5.0 and Delta; Delta, Omega and Alpha)

TRI-LEVEL Mixed Doubles (Delta and Omega)

**LEAGUE CONTACT for the following leagues is Kendra Heidel -**

**[kmh22.tennis@gmail.com](mailto:kmh22.tennis@gmail.com)**

18&Over Mixed Doubles

40&Over Mixed Doubles

Combo 18&Over

Combo Mixed 18&Over

**LEAGUE CONTACT for the following league is Sydney Verbauwhede -**

**[verbauwhedes@gmail.com](mailto:verbauwhedes@gmail.com)**

18 & Over Adult