



**MIDWEST
WISCONSIN**

**USTA LEAGUE TENNIS
WISCONSIN DISTRICT
RULES 2026**

1. USTA LEAGUE:

- A. The 2026 USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS and the current USTA/MIDWEST SECTION LEAGUE REGULATIONS shall apply with the exceptions listed below.
- B. The “Code of Conduct” will apply for all matches conducted without officials see the Code in “Friend at Court”. The “Friend at Court” is the USTA handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations and is posted on www.wisconsin.usta.com and www.usta.com.

2. LOCAL LEAGUE PLAY:

- A. A player may play “up” one level only, i.e., a 3.5 player may only play at a 4.0 level not at a 4.5 level.
- B. Definition of a Captain: The individual USTA Member who agrees to form a USTA League Team and in accordance with Wisconsin District League Rule 2(B).
Expectations and responsibilities of a Captain include, but not limited to: possess a current USTA membership, have a current NTRP rating or has a verified self-rating, have met all eligibility requirements to play in this NTRP Level and League, submit Team Intent Form and Team Waiver to the appropriate local league coordinator on or before deadlines, communicate and relay information to players on your team, understand expectations of league championship pathway, read, understand, and follow all Local, District, Section, and Nationals rules/regulations, and any Local, District, Section, National Rule/Regulation that pertains to a Player and USTA Regulation 1.04E(4) Player Agreement, including The Code as written in Friend At Court.
- C. All cell phones and other electronic devices are banned from tennis courts during USTA League matches. A player MAY NOT use electronic devices such as cell phones, digital messaging systems, or radios. A "let" will be played the first time a phone rings or a pager goes off. There will be a loss of point

on each and every infraction thereafter. A player may bring to the court written notes that were prepared before the start of the match and may read those notes during the match. Hearing aids and watches not capable of receiving messages are permitted. **No phones, smart watches with line call apps will be allowed.**

D. Penalties for lateness begin at the scheduled match time. Penalties are Listed in the “Friend at Court”.

E. TEAM DEFAULTS: **According to USTA League Regulations, Total Team Defaults are not allowed. Local Leagues may opt to allow less than** minimum number of courts to be played in a match. A *minimum* number of courts must be played for each match, as follows: three courts for a five-court match and two courts for a three court match. Courts should be defaulted following rule 2.03K of 2026 USTA League Regulations. For 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.

Teams will be allowed to reschedule their matches for reasons beyond their control, i.e., schedule error, road construction, accident, weather, etc. If for any reason, an entire match is not played on the day scheduled, the flight chair and/or local league coordinator must be notified of the date, time and reason for the rescheduled match.

Each local league may determine the length of time for a rescheduled match to be completed, i.e., one week, two weeks, etc. All local league matches must be completed by the end of the local league season. The District has the option to allow the District League Coordinator to extend the league season due to extenuating circumstances.

If a team does not show up for the rescheduled match, the defaulting team will be charged a \$50 fine and be responsible for court fees, if applicable. If a full team forfeit has no bearing on the determination of the local league champion, such full team forfeit may be approved by the local league coordinator.

F. **NEW GAMES WON % OVERRIDE Local leagues** can override the use Games Won % in Tennis Link Stats and Standings to determine a league or flight winner by calculating defaulted games into the percentage, if the number of matches for each team in that particular flight are uneven.

3. ANTI-BULLYING/HAZING/HARASSMENT POLICY:

Bullying

Repeated inappropriate behavior, either direct or indirect, whether verbal, physical, or otherwise, conducted by one or more persons against another or others. It is the effect of the behavior on the individual which is important, not the intent of the person committing the act.

Specifically, bullying refers to:

a. An intentional, persistent, and repeated pattern of committing or willfully tolerating physical and non-physical behaviors that are intended to cause fear, humiliation, or physical harm in an attempt to socially exclude, diminish, or isolate the individual(s) targeted. b. Any violation of state law prohibiting bullying.

Examples of bullying prohibited by the USTA include, without limitation:

i. Physical behaviors, including: (a) repeated hitting, pushing, punching, beating, biting, striking, choking, or slapping an individual; (b) repeated throwing at or hitting an individual with objects, including sporting equipment. ii. Verbal and emotional behaviors, including: (a) repeated teasing, ridiculing, intimidating; (b) spreading rumors or making false statements; or (c) using electronic communications, social media, or other technology to harass, frighten, intimidate, or humiliate ("cyber bullying").

Bullying does not include group or team behaviors that: (i) are meant to establish normative team behaviors; (ii) promote team cohesion; (iii) are a condition of membership; or (iv) do not have reasonable potential to cause emotional or physical distress to any individual. For example, bullying does not include verbal admonitions to encourage team members to train harder and to push through a difficult training regimen.

Hazing

Intentionally humiliating, degrading, or risking emotional or physical harm regardless of the individual's willingness to participate.

Hazing specifically refers to coercing, requiring, forcing, or willfully tolerating any humiliating, unwelcomed or dangerous activity that serves as a condition for (a) joining a group; or (b) being socially accepted by a group's members. In addition, hazing refers to any act or conduct described as hazing under federal or state law. Activities that fit the definition of hazing are considered hazing regardless of an individual's willingness to cooperate or participate.

Hazing does not include group or team behaviors that: (i) are meant to establish normative team behaviors, or (ii) promote team cohesion.

Examples of hazing prohibited by the USTA include, without limitation:

- a. Requiring, forcing or otherwise requiring the consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs;
- b. Tying, taping, or otherwise physically restraining an individual(s);
- c. Sexual simulations or sexual acts of any nature;

- d.* Requiring social actions (e.g., grossly inappropriate or provocative clothing) or public displays (e.g., public nudity) that are illegal or meant to draw ridicule; or
- e.* Beating, paddling, or other forms of physical assault.

Harassment

Harassment includes, but is not limited to, harassment on the basis of race, creed, color, disability, marital status, veteran status, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, religion, physical handicap, and stalking. While it is not easy to define precisely what harassment is, it includes, but is not limited to, slurs, epithets, threats, derogatory comments, unwelcome jokes and teasing, derogatory pictures, posters, gestures, and unwanted blocking or interference of movement and personal space.

Examples of harassment that are prohibited by the USTA include, without limitation:

- a.* (i) making negative or disparaging comments about an individual's sexual orientation, gender expression, disability, veteran status, age, sex, physical handicap, religion, skin color, ethnic traits, domestic violence victim status, stalking, genetic predisposition or carrier status; (ii) displaying offensive materials, media, gestures, or symbols; (iii) withholding or reducing playing time to an athlete based on his/her sexual orientation.
- b.* Any act or conduct described as harassment under federal or state law.

4. Team Intent Forms

- A.** Team intent forms are submitted by captains to the LLC by the deadline date.
- B.** Upon receipt of the team intent forms, the LLC will determine which leagues will have enough teams to be valid and will arrange teams into flights, as necessary, and begin scheduling matches.
- C.** The team intent deadline for each season is determined by the LLC. A late team Intent form is subject to review and acceptance by the DLC who may seek input from the ED as he/she sees fit. In most cases, late team applications will not be accepted after schedules have been created. Flights/schedules are typically determined within 7 days of the team intent form deadline.

5. CHAMPIONSHIP/PROGRESSION:

- a.* Each area may determine criteria for their local league winners, i.e. either Team Wins or Individual Wins.
- b.* Local league winning captains must notify their local league coordinator by noon on the day following their final local league match whether or not they

are prepared to advance to the State Championships and will field a full team.

- c. Every team participating in USTA leagues play to win and advance beyond their local level to State, Sectional, and perhaps Nationals as stated in the USTA League Regulations 1.04A. Every team will be required to notify the district office in writing at least 30 days prior to the posted Sectional Championships date that their team chooses NOT to participate at the Sectional Tournament if they should win at the State Tournament. If a team notifies the WTA less than 30 days from the Sectional Championship posted date, wins at State, and becomes eligible for Sectionals, the entire entry fee will be the responsibility of the team. Checks must be made payable to the Wisconsin Tennis Association. If less than 30 days notification is given and the WTA finds a replacement team to advance to Sectionals, the entry fees will be returned to the team. Any team and all its roster players who refuse to pay the penalty fee will not be allowed to participate in USTA Leagues until that fee is paid to the District.
- d. In local leagues where there are 21 teams or more in a division, i.e. 18&O 3.5, the local league will advance the top two teams to the State Championship.
- e. The dates of 2026 USTA/Wisconsin State Championships are as follows:

Adult 18 & Over and 40 & Over August 7-9, Madison, WI

Adult 55 & Over, Adult 65 & Over,
Mixed 18 & Over, and Mixed 40 & Over September 19-20, Neenah, WI

Tri-Level
Date: TBD
Location: TBD

Combo
Date: TBD
Location: TBD

6. GRIEVANCES:

- a. The fee for filing a District Grievance is \$100.00. To file a NTRP Grievance with the USTA/Midwest Section, email Toby Gaynor at toby@midwest.usta.com.
- b. Each Wisconsin Local League Division will appoint a Grievance and a Grievance Appeals Committee.
- c. **NEW PROPOSED GRIEVANCE/LEAGUE SUSPENSION POINT RULE**

The District reserves the right to convey to a captain information regarding their player(s) who have received league suspension points. It will be to the reserved discretion of the District to reveal the extent of the details shared.

ADDENDUM (added Sept 2025)

Changing of a scorecard

A captain may request a change be made on a league scorecard as to which of their players received a default during local league play to comply with the 2 match rule for a player to advance to postseason play. The LLC will confirm that the player receiving the match default was registered on the team on the date/time of the match default prior to making the change AND confirm that this change will not create eligibility issues for the player that is being removed from the scorecard.

The above rules are recommended and approved by the Wisconsin District League Committee.

Adult League Committee

Lynn Armitage
Kelly Cordill
Todd Hammond
Alex Cadigan
Roxie Anderson
Maureen McGrath
Karlyn Jakusz

League Grievance Committee

Theresa Palasota
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Duane Brandt

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Amberlee Baugus
Michelle Messling
Natalie Brandt