

Section I - Membership

Membership in the Midwest Tennis On Campus League (MTOCL) is restricted mainly to accredited colleges and universities in the Midwest area of the United States as designated by the USTA/Midwest Section and NIRSA Region III and may be revised on a yearly basis. Colleges from other sections are welcome to compete in matches/tournaments with permission from the league organizer/coordinator and participating teams. **Individual players participating in the USTA/Midwest Section Tennis on Campus League must have a USTA membership to participate.**

Section II - Affiliation

The MTOCL is affiliated with the United States Tennis Association/Midwest Section (USTA/Midwest Section). Membership in the MTOCL is restricted to two-year and four-year accredited colleges and universities. The College or University should be in the boundaries of the USTA/Midwest Section: Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin (with the exception of 16 northwestern counties in WI), and bordering counties in Kentucky and West Virginia. Colleges from other sections are welcome to join with certain provisions.

Section III - Dues and application

The membership dues for the MTOCL are free, provided that each player on the team is registered on TennisLink on the team's roster. Captains/officers must submit the completed online application at the beginning of the fall season; deadline is **September 30** for this application. Colleges that start later in the year (i.e. quarters, trimesters) must have all completed application information and fees by October 15. **Teams will not be added to the calendar/schedule until all information is complete and submitted.** The exception is for brand new programs just starting during the school year.

Section IV - Officers and staff

The Tennis On Campus Committee and Tennis On Campus Staff Liaison preside over all matters affecting MTOCL. The commissioner (TOC Staff Liaison) may delegate specific authority or tasks to other league representatives (team captains) but only with consent of the TOC committee.

Section V - Schedules

By accepting membership in the MTOCL, each member school agrees to participate in all matches, as scheduled and certified by the coordinator. Changes to the MTOCL schedule may be made with the consent of all affected schools and the coordinator/Staff Liaison. Failure to satisfy match commitments may result in the suspension of membership for the team at fault as deemed by the coordinator. This league belongs to YOU and its **organization requires frequent communication.** You determine how much you would like to play. All efforts will be made to accommodate your team's schedule requests.

Section V - a. Invitational's, events (duals, triad's and quad's)

The host team of an event is responsible for scheduling court time, setting match times, **providing new balls**, and providing accommodation information for visiting teams. The court time fees for all invitational matches will be **split evenly** among the teams competing. The host team is responsible for collecting court time fees in a timely manner. If a match between two non-host teams is not played because of a failure of the host team to meet its responsibilities for scheduling a match or provision of court time, the host team will be placed on probation and may not be allowed to host any matches for the remainder of the semester. In the case of a match being cancelled because of the failure of a host team to meet its responsibilities or because of inclement weather, the match will not be scored. Acquiring the court time is the responsibility of the **home** team. Failure to schedule court time for a home match will result in a default by the home team. **The home team is also responsible for providing NEW balls for the match(es).**

Section VI – Match Format

Each match will be governed by the World Team Tennis Format (WTT) rules. While this format is used for the Sectional and National Championships, teams may modify scoring in order to comply with court-time, other conflicts or simply to make matches longer for more play. The format of play will be adhered to in the following order, however: Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles, Men's Singles, Women's singles, Mixed. Teams can decide on the number of games in the set i.e.: 6-game set, 8-game set, best of three sets, etc. This must be decided *before* the match begins. The host team makes this determination.

Below is the WTT format description:

1. **GAME SCORING:**
In WTT the scoring is no-ad. This means a game is won by the first team to win four points (1, 2, 3, game). When the game score is deuce (3-3) (game point), the receiving team chooses which side is to receive the serve. In the mixed doubles set the serve must be gender to gender at game point. *You may play ad scoring if you wish as long as the competing teams are in agreement with the scoring.*
2. **SET SCORING:**
Each no-ad (*or ad*) set is won by the first team to reach six games. A nine-point tiebreaker will be played at five games all in any set. *You may play regular set scoring if you wish as long as the competing teams are in agreement with the scoring.*
3. **MATCH SCORING AND OVERTIME:**
A match consists of five no-ad sets and includes one set of men's and women's singles and doubles, and one set of mixed doubles. The five set format has one set of mixed doubles, (mixed doubles is always played last).

On two courts, the order of sets will be:

- Women's and men's doubles
- Women's and men's singles
- One set of mixed doubles

The entire line-up should be recorded on the scorecard prior to the match beginning.

After the mixed doubles set is finished and scores are recorded and totaled, the procedure is as follows:

- A. If the leading team won set number five, the match is over.
- B. If the trailing team won set number five, the match continues into overtime until the leading team wins one game or until the score is tied. If a tie occurs, a Supertiebreaker will be played to determine the winner.
- C. If the overall score ends tied, a Supertiebreaker will be played to determine the winner.

Overtime is a continuation of the fifth set. Once you have come out of the mixed doubles set, you cannot return in overtime. The first person to serve in overtime is the person who was next to serve at the end of the fifth set. This overtime rule gives the trailing team a chance to make a comeback. It also emphasizes the importance of the mixed doubles set.

4. **SUBSTITUTIONS:**

A team can at any point, INCLUDING THE SUPERTIEBREAKER, substitute a player (same gender) into a set for any reason. Once a player is replaced, he/she cannot return in that set. If a substitution occurs in doubles, the remaining player cannot change the side on which he/she receives or the service order. Substitutions are allowed in overtime if a player has not already played in mixed doubles. The Supertiebreaker should be treated as a new set, and all substitutions are allowed. Substitutes are not allowed in warm-up time.

5. **WARM-UP TIME:**

In WTT you warm up with your teammates, however, you may warm up with your opponents as in regular tournament play. All players are allowed a five-minute warm-up. All team members are encouraged to warm-up during this time. Once play has begun, a three-minute warm-up is allowed between sets. This must be adhered to so that all sets will be completed in the time allotted. However, in Midwest TOC League play, teams may agree upon an alternate warm-up process that they feel is more appropriate.

6. **SERVICE ORDER:**

The home team will be determined by the spin of a racquet. The home team serves first in all doubles sets. The away team serves first in the singles sets. In the fifth set the away team serves first. Note: Since the serving order is predetermined, the receiving team selects from which end of the court they want to receive.

7. **CHANGING ENDS:**

After every four games players change ends. In the nine-point tiebreaker, change ends only after the first four points. In the Supertiebreaker, change ends only after the first six points.

8. **SERVICE LETS**

Service lets will not be played as "live balls" as in traditional WTT. Service lets will be played in accordance with the standard USTA Tennis Rules and Regulations.

9. **COACHING/LINE CALLS:**

Coaching is allowed throughout the match as long as it does not interfere with continuous play. We encourage team members to stand along the court and support their team. Only the two players (singles) or four players (doubles and mixed doubles) can make the line calls. Team members along or near the court cannot make the line calls.

Please note rule for the National Campus Championship and the Section Championship: A roster player may appear in only two (2) sets per match whether as a starter or a substitute (excluding the Supertiebreaker). This rule does not apply to Midwest TOC League play, only the Badger Classic, National Invitationals, Section and National Championships.

10. **DEFAULT RULE:**

If the home or away team player does not show up on time for his/her match, there will be a 15 minute default time should a substitute player not be available. If a set is defaulted, the score should be recorded as 6-0 in favor of the players present. The default rule will not apply when the missing player is on court playing a previous match. If the home or away team does not show up on time for the match, there will be a 15-minute default time. If a match is defaulted, the match score should be recorded as **6-0 for all matches** in favor of the team present. NOTE: In TennisLink the matches are scored as a 4-0, 4-0 default for each match, so an entire match would be 40-0. If a player defaults during a set and cannot be substituted, the score will be recorded with the games played standing with the opposing team receiving six games.

11. **EXPLANATION OF TIEBREAKERS:**

Nine-Point Tiebreaker

A nine-point tiebreaker will be played at five games all in any set. The person who is to serve next begins the tiebreaker. Each player serves two points in succession starting from the deuce court. Players change sides after four points. The first team (or person) 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 receiver, however, has the choice of sides (except in mixed doubles, where the service must be gender-to-gender). The winner of the ninth point is the winner of the set. Note: You do not have to win by two points.

Supertiebreaker

If the match enters into a Supertiebreaker, a coin toss will decide which team serves first/receives or chooses side in the Supertiebreaker. The Supertiebreaker should be treated as a new set and substitutions are allowed. Either player on the serving team may serve first. The receiving team selects from which end of the court they want to receive. In addition, court positions may be changed (i.e. the person who played forehand position may switch with his/her partner to play the backhand position). Each player serves two points in succession starting from the deuce court. Players change sides after six points. The first team to score seven points wins the Supertiebreaker. If the Supertiebreaker reaches 6-6, the person who served the 12th point will serve the 13th (final) point. Since this set is mixed doubles, the final serve will be gender-to-gender. The winner of the 13th point wins the Supertiebreaker and the match. Note: You do not have to win by two points. The Supertiebreaker counts as one game in overall match scoring.

Section VII – Defaults: IMPORTANT

In addition to the penalty highlighted below, a penalty for the default/no-show by a team will also be a verbal/email warning from the MTOCL coordinator. A second forfeit by the team will result in suspension from the MTOCL for the remainder of the season. This decision is at the discretion of the coordinator and TOC committee. Any match played by a team that is later suspended will not count in the calculation of the final standings. **Important: A cancellation for the following Saturday or Sunday after the previous Sunday at 6:00PM Eastern is a late cancel.** If the forfeiture results in court time charged to the host team then the defaulting team is required to pay to cover the costs incurred by the home team as a result of their late cancellation AND must pay the section a \$100 fee. The team that has been defaulted against will produce a receipt for the funds paid and email a copy to the Coordinator and offending team. A team that does not pay their obligated expenses *within 21 days* will be subject to immediate suspension from the league and all of the offending team's future matches on the calendar will be deleted. If a late cancel or no-show occurs a second time in the same semester the team will be suspended from the league. If a late cancel or no-show happens a second time at the *end* of the semester or the team's last match they are suspended for the *following* semester which can include the fall semester if the violation occurs in the spring.

Weather: In the case of inclement weather, both parties must decide and use their best judgment with what is best with regards to cancelling a match. In the case of icy roads, or snow, for example, teams may cancel within 24 hours without penalty if the roads/traffic are unsafe.

All matters of defaults, any cancellations, weather issues, etc. must be copied to the Coordinator immediately.

Section VIII - Match Results and Standings

The HOME team will be responsible for reporting the match scores in **TennisLink** by **Tuesday 8:00AM** following the match. The competing teams need to look up the scores and report any discrepancies to the affected teams and copy the TOC coordinator. Failure to respond/report match results by *all* captains involved in the match may result in match forfeiture. For 2016-17, standings will be determined on TennisLink. All matches will be included in the determination of league standings. Matches against colleges outside of the Midwest Tennis On Campus League (and "B" teams not registered in the TennisLink system) *are not* calculated.

Section XI - Expansion

Expansion of the MTOCL will be subject to a majority vote by current MTOCL member teams that are not on probation, and by referrals of the MTOCL coordinator as well as input from the Midwest TOC Committee. In any case, new teams will be subject to the following guidelines:

- 1.) A one (1) season probationary period where the following will be considered:
 - A. Team Conduct
 - B. Participation
 - C. Maintaining League responsibilities
- 2.) The forfeit of one or more league matches during a probationary period will be grounds for removal from the league at the discretion of the Midwest TOC Committee.

Section XII - Postseason Play: Midwest Tennis On Campus Championship, National Campus Championship, Invitationals

The Midwest Tennis On Campus League Champion *may* receive a seed in the Midwest Tennis On Campus Championship; not necessarily the top seed. Only teams within the boundaries of the USTA/Midwest Section may participate. The USTA/Midwest Section is not always guaranteed bids to the National Tournament. Bids may be granted if the USTA Campus Championship-Midwest tournament is large enough, up to 7 bids maximum. The winner through fifth place of the section tournament will have bids to go to the national tournament. Other league teams that played in the section championship may accept at-large bids to the tournament, if such bids are extended by the NIRSA NCCS tournament committee.

The Midwest Tennis On Campus Championship will be a maximum of 32 teams. The first place team from the regular season is required to attend the Sectional Championships. "B" teams may participate if there is an opening. This is on a first come-first serve basis.

A tie in the regular season final standings will be resolved according to the following sequence if game win percentage is tied:

- 1.) Head to head results
- 2.) Total season games won
- 3.) Total season games lost

Waitlist for Sectionals:

If a team is on the waitlist for the Midwest Campus Championship they may receive a waiver to play in the Spring Invitational providing the following criteria are met: 1) if they are called upon to play in the Midwest Championship up to 3 days before the championship, they are able to participate with a full team, 2) they are a club in good standing with the Midwest Campus League.

Section XIII- Coordinator's (Midwest Staff Liaison) Statement

In the event a circumstance of significance to the League arises that is not covered in the policies, the coordinator is empowered to use his/her discretion to resolve the situation in the best interest of the MTOCL. The Coordinator will consult with the USTA/Midwest Section TOC Committee on all matters requiring enforcement of league policies. Club teams are encouraged to accommodate other teams during unforeseen circumstances. **In the case of a determination of a forfeit, the coordinator should be contacted immediately.** Clubs do not have to use the same players each week from their team in order to participate. It is recommended and encouraged that all players on the club team be given a chance to participate in home and away matches. It is also recommended that teams set up "exhibition" or extra matches at each event to encourage more play.

Section XIV - Eligibility

Play is restricted to full and half-time registered university students; graduate and undergraduate students are allowed. Each team can consist of as many players as the team would like and able to have; the more the better. The use of ineligible players during matches at the league and championship level will result in forfeiture of each match the ineligible player(s) has played and reversal of the scores. While every effort is made to keep this from happening, this is a self-governing policy. *No current varsity players are allowed* in the campus league, Sectional Championship or National Championship. **Teams are allowed one (1) former varsity player to participate in the Campus League matches and Sectional Championship.** Teams may have more than one former varsity player on the actual team roster. Only one former varsity player can compete (and travel with the team) in any one match day. **Note: Players have six total years of eligible play including any years of play on a varsity team; not consecutive.**

In the case of a Midwest college dropping a varsity program, a waiver may be granted for the former varsity players to participate on a club tennis team and in the MTOCL. These teams may not progress to Sectional or National Championships the first year but will be allowed to participate in Midwest TOC League play. After the first year the team may be eligible upon approval from the Midwest TOC Committee and the NIRSA Championship Committee.

National Invitational eligibility: For the Fall National invitational, it is not a requirement that players have played in their Section Championship to participate. For the Spring National Invitational (usually in April), teams need to have played in their respective section championship in order to be eligible to play. Go to: <http://play.nirsa.net/nirsa-championship-series/player-eligibility-requirements/> for more information.

Section XV - Standards of conduct

The Code of Conduct shall serve as a standard for how individuals are expected to behave when participating in a **Midwest Championship or Midwest Tennis On Campus League** event. Students and staff enrolled in an institution of higher learning assume an obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with the college/university's function as an educational institution. When involved in an event sponsored or endorsed by NCCS, the participant indicates, by his or her registration in the event, he or she agrees to represent his or her club/team and college/university in a way that does not detract from the reputation of the institution he or she represents, and to act morally and display sportsmanship-like behavior, before, during and after any competition. Guidelines of conduct include, but are not limited to, the examples outlined below.

Participants shall not:

Use drugs, except for medical purposes, while traveling, competing, socializing and/or using facilities including lodging spaces.

Consume alcohol while traveling, competing or spectating.

Attend any part of the tournament or tournament events while intoxicated/under the influence.

Strike, attempt to strike or otherwise physically abuse any individual.

Intentionally engage in or incite participants and/or spectators to engage in abusive or violent conduct.

Use verbal, or non-verbal profanity, disrespectful language, threats, obscene gestures or behavior.

Violate any rules or policies of the NIRSA Championships, Midwest Championship, Tournament Hotels/Facilities, or city, state or governmental entities.

Violation of the Standards of Conduct may result in:

Suspension from the game/match;

Suspension from the Tournament;

Forfeiture of any individual or team awards;

Ejection from the Tournament hotel(s);

Forfeiture of all games/matches won and possible team elimination from current and future Midwest TOC league and/or NIRSA sponsored or endorsed events;

Liability for all monetary damages arising from, or caused by, a participant's conduct while participating in, and attending, a NIRSA Tournament.

Notification to University Officials for any violation of the Standards of Conduct by an individual or team.