

USTA LEAGUE COMMITTEE
NORTHERN INDIANA DISTRICT/MIDWEST SECTION/USTA
SOUTH BEND AREA LOCAL LEAGUE RULES 2020

Player Agreement: All players participating in the USA league Program, as a condition of their participation, agree to abide and be bound by the USTA Code and Constitution, By-Laws and Regulations: the 2020 USTA League Regulations, USTA/Midwest Section Standing Orders NINTA South Bend Local League Rules, and the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship.

Player Eligibility:

All team members must be members of the USTA and have reached the age of 18 years before registering for Adult 18 & Over, Mixed 18 & Over, Combo 18 & Over and Tri-Level 18 & Over Leagues. All team members must be members of the USTA and have reached the age of 40 years by December 31, 2020 for Adult 40 & Over and Mixed 40 & Over Leagues. All team members must be members of the USTA and have reached the age of 55 years by December 31, 2019 for Adult 55 & Over Leagues.

1. All players must have a current NTRP rating or self-rate according to the guidelines as determined by prescribed methodology. If a player is DQ'd midseason, he/she may elect to join another team at the higher NTRP level up to 14 days prior to the last scheduled match of the league season. (Exception: Combo deadline is December 15)
2. Each player must have a TennisLink player number for each team on which the player is playing on **prior** to match play. Players may **register** on only **one** roster **per level** of each division, including Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over, Mixed 18 & Over, Mixed 40 & over, Combo Doubles 18 & Over, and Tri-Level 18 & Over.
3. District/Area, State, Section and National Benchmark ratings from championship play cannot be appealed the first year received.
4. All players must play a *minimum* of two (2) matches with only one default counting on the same team during the local league season to qualify for Playoffs, District, State and /or Section Championship level. A maximum of one default received by player during the local league season shall count for advancing.

Teams, Competition, and Scoring:

1. **Team Composition:** a team will consist of a *minimum* of eight (8) eligible players for the adult 18 & Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5. A minimum of 7 players for adult 40 & Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5+. A *minimum* of five (5) eligible players for the Adult 18 & Over 2.5 and 5.0+. A *minimum* of six (6) eligible players for the Adult 55 & Over and a *minimum* of six (6) with 3 being Men and 3 being Women in Mixed 18 & Over and Mixed 40 & Over. A *minimum* of six (6) for combo and Tri-Level, players may be added to a team no later than two weeks prior to the end of the local league season. (Exception: Combo deadline is December 15)

2. **Round Robin Format:** Each NTRP level within a local league will play at least one round robin competition wherein every team plays every other team. Any NTRP level may be divided into flights and each team will play every other team in its flight. The flight winners **may** enter a playoff structure to establish a local league playoff for that NTRP level. Any NTRP level with only two or three teams is required to play a minimum of three matches. Only one local team will advance to the District Championship.
3. **Team Strategy:** Teams are NOT required to field players in the order of strength. Note exception in + division leagues where + player may only play #1 Singles or #1 doubles.
4. **Team Match:** Each team match in the Adult 18 & Over League type will consist of two singles matches and three doubles matches. Adult 40 & Over will be 1 singles and 3 doubles matches. Adult 18 & Over 2.5 and 5.0+ levels will consist of one single and two doubles matches. Adult 55 & Over, Mixed 18 & Over, Mixed 40 & Over, Combo & Tri-Level will have matches consisting of three doubles.
5. **Courts:** All teams will play at **only** the courts reserved and scheduled by the District or Local League Coordinator.
6. **Balls:**
 - A: Winter Mixed – balls will be supplied by the participating clubs.
 - B: Summer Adult Leagues – balls will be supplied by the home teams.
7. **Team Lineups:** The team captains, or designated captains, **must** exchange their team match cards **simultaneously prior** to the beginning of the team match. Therefore, both team captains should bring a printed scorecard obtained from TennisLink and the line-ups **must** be completed **before arrival** at the scheduled courts. No substitution may be made in an individual match after the lineup has been presented, **except** for injury to, illness of, or disqualification of a player, **prior** to the start of such match and except under such further circumstances as the section authorizes. Substitution will be at the **same** position as the injured/ill/disqualified player **only**. The initial line-up will stay as is **except** for that position. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute player is entitled to a five (5) minute warm-up. Home Team Captains will be responsible for getting teams onto the appropriate courts.
8. **Lateness:** The lateness penalty clock (facility clock if available or clock agreed to by both captains) starts at the time the match has been scheduled, the court is available, and a player has not arrived. Five (5:00) minutes or less equals loss of toss plus 1 game. 5:01 to 10 minutes equals loss of toss plus two games. 10:01 to 15 minutes equals loss of toss plus three games. Over fifteen (15:01) minutes equals court default. A player is deemed to have arrived when the player checks in at the designated area, (court or balcony based on court availability) and is properly clothed, equipped and ready to play. The choice to play an unofficial match that has been defaulted will be up to the players present.
9. **Defaults:**
 - a) If a player **fails to appear, this is a default**. Scoring will be a 6-0, 6-0 win for the player (doubles team) receiving the forfeit. In the event of a forfeit by **both** opposing players (teams), both sides will be given a 6-0,6-0 loss and neither receives credit for a win. Use names of on site players. Defaulted team names are not listed.

- b) Adult 18 & Over 3.0-4.5 and Adult 40 & Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 & 4.5+ NTRP Levels must have a minimum of four eligible players available to play or the entire match must be defaulted. A team may default a **maximum of two positions in a match** without defaulting the entire match. #2 Singles must be defaulted before #1 Singles. #3 Doubles must be defaulted before #2 Doubles. Adult 18 & Over 2.5 and 5.0+ NTRP levels must have a minimum of 3 eligible players available to play or the entire match must be defaulted. A team may default a **maximum of one position in a match** without defaulting the entire match. Either the #2 Singles or the #3 Doubles may be defaulted. Adult 55 & Over, and Combo NTRP Levels must have a minimum of 4 players who are eligible to combine and are available to play without defaulting the entire match. Mixed 40 & Over must have a minimum of 4 players (2 women and 2 men) who are eligible to combine and are available to play without defaulting the entire match. A team may default a **maximum of one position** in a match without defaulting the entire match. The #3 doubles must be defaulted.
- c) **Whole Team Default:** A whole team default will result in a warning being issued, avoiding a sanction, provided the defaulting captain contacts the League Coordination AND the opposing team captain, prior to the scheduled match. Each team will only be allowed one warning per season. A sanction will automatically be issued to any team that neglects to notify both the League Coordinator and the opposing team captain, or on the second occurrence of a total team default. The defaulting team will be charged \$50.00, which if unpaid by the end of the regular season, will result in the defaulting team members being suspended from any further Local League play, or advancement to District, State, Section or National play from the current season, until the fee is paid.
10. **Scoring of Retirement:** In case of a retirement after commencement of a match, the non-retiring player (doubles team) shall be credited with such number of additional games as would have been won if the match was completed and the non-retiring player (doubles team) won every subsequent game.
11. **Match Format:** All divisions and levels will play two sets with regular scoring and a **SET** tiebreaker (first to seven by a margin of two) at six games all in each of those sets, if necessary. If the first and second sets are split, **a MATCH tiebreaker (first to ten by a margin of two) will be played in lieu of a third set. There will be no ball change.**
12. **Warmup:** Ten minute warm-up **only. CAPTAINS WILL MONITOR.**
13. **Continuous Play:** The continuous play rule will be in effect regardless of the format, no break after the first game of the set. Teams will change ends and complete the second and third game of the first set before a break is permitted. Amount of time allowed at game changeover is 90 seconds.
14. **Coaching and Rest Period:** **No** coaching will be allowed during any part of the match. There is a two-minute break between the second set and the match tiebreaker.
15. **Incident Weather:** In the event of a **WEATHER delay or postponement**, the scheduled match must be completed or played before the end of the local league season. The home captain must contact the local league coordinator within **48 hours** of the postponed match and notify the coordinator in order to prevent a forfeit being

recorded. Matches shall be rescheduled at the original site whenever possible and as soon as possible.

Inclement Weather: **(Please notify the match facility)**

- a) Both captains shall agree as to whether existing weather conditions are suitable for play.
 - b) If play **has not** begun:
 1. The home team captain shall contact the visiting captain to advise him/her team and be prepared to play the match.
 2. If the visiting captain has not been otherwise notified by the home team Captain, the former shall arrive at the designated site with his/her team and be prepared to play the match.
 3. If both Captains agree that weather conditions do not permit the match to be played, the match must be rescheduled. Both captains must agree on the new match time and place. Rescheduled matches shall be played at the original site whenever possible. However, if an alternate location is available on the scheduled date, teams are encouraged to play at the alternate location as a first option. Notify the facility if cancelling.
 - c) If play **has** begun:
 1. All Completed matches shall stand as played.
 2. Matches in progress shall be stopped, the current score recorded.
 3. Matches will resume at the point when the delay occurred. Line-ups cannot be altered when the match resumes.
16. **Team Scoring:** The team winning the majority of individual matches will be awarded **ONE** team point. Team match points will be accumulative. Ties at the conclusion of the league season will be broken by the 2019 USTA League Regulation 2.02H-2.03H(5).
17. **Score Cards:** At the completion of the match, the official score cards **must** be signed by **both** captains and/or designees, to verify the scores are correct. The **winning** captain, or designated captain, will be responsible for **recording** the match scores on the TennisLink website within 48 hours. The **losing** captain, or designated captain, will be responsible for **confirming** the correct scores have been entered on TennisLink website within 48 hours. If a captain believes incorrect scores have been entered they should contact their District League Coordinator for any further review and or action. All captains should keep a copy of the match score cards until the end of the league season.
18. **Failure to Report Scores:** All match scores must be reported within 48 hours of the completion of the match. Failure to report the match scores will result in the following consequences:
- a) A written warning issued to both teams for the first offense
 - b) Loss of all matches for all subsequent violations
 - c) Match results will still be used to generate player dynamic ratings
19. **League Fee Refunds:** THERE WILL BE **NO** LEAGUE FEE REFUNDS.
20. **Team Advancement Fee's:** As NIN pays all of the advancement fee's for teams advancing to the District, State, and Section level playoffs, and as the Midwest Section issues a fine of \$100 to a team that does not field a full team at the playoff level, the team that does not field a full team at a playoff match will be responsible for the \$100

fine. If the fine is not paid to NIN, the offending team members, will be suspended from further NIN USTA League play until the fine is paid in full.

Grievance Procedure/NTRP Complaints:

1. A grievance is an allegation that a violation of a local, sectional or national 2020 USTA League Tennis Regulation has occurred. Such complaint to be filed according to Regulations 3.00 Grievance Procedures.
2. All captains and players should read and be familiar with USTA League Regulations, the Code, the USTA/Midwest Section Standing Orders and the South Bend Local League Rules.

Jan Orban, USTA District League Coordinator
USTA/Midwest Section/Northern Indianan District
Cell: 574-551-0121
jan.orban@comcast.net

Patty Schrock
Local League Coordinator
USTA/Midwest/Northern Indiana
574-304-2050
schrocktennis@aol.com