

**2022 USTA SUMMER LEAGUE TENNIS COLUMBUS**  
**Adult 55&OVER, MIXED 18&Over, Mixed 40&Over and COMBO**  
**RULES AND REGULATIONS**

The Team Captain should be a member of the local USTA Team and should be familiar with the structure and procedure of the Greater Columbus USTA League Tennis Rules for Summer Leagues, rules of the 2022 USTA League Regulations Handbook, USTA/Midwest Section Standing Orders and the Rules of Tennis. The above mentioned shall apply to all matches played in the USTA League Tennis Program except as modified herein.

**ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

League Season begins May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, and completion of all matches no later than August, 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

**Local USTA League Tennis Coordinator (LLC) for Columbus Summer USTA League Tennis is Susan Storrer. She can be reached at 614-309-2968 or [susanstorrer@gmail.com](mailto:susanstorrer@gmail.com).**

**ELIGIBILITY:**

1. **Adult 55 & Over:** A player shall have reached the age of 55 prior to or during the calendar year in which such a player plays in his/her first local league match. Combined NTRP levels of partners shall not exceed team NTRP level. NTRP difference between partners shall not exceed 1.0
2. **Mixed 18 & Over:** A player shall have reached the age of 18 prior to registering and playing in his/her first local league match. Combined NTRP levels of partners shall not exceed team NTRP level. NTRP difference between partners shall not exceed 1.0 **Mixed 40 & Over:** Combined NTRP levels of partners shall not exceed team NTRP level. NTRP difference between partners shall not exceed 1.0
3. **Combo:** A player shall have reached the age of 18 prior to registering and playing in his/her first local league match. Combined NTRP levels of partners shall not exceed team NTRP level. NTRP difference between partners shall not exceed 1.5.
4. All individuals who complete in the USTA League Program must be a current member of the USTA and be a current USTA member through each Championship progression.
5. A player is only eligible to play on one team per NTRP level per USTA league season, unless they are playing in two separate leagues.
6. A player who has received a computer rating must be play at the rated level or higher. If the player plays at a lower level, all points will be defaulted.
7. A player's official rating is the most recent of the computer ratings.

**THE USTA NTRP COMPUTER RATING SYSTEM** is the official system to determine computer ratings for players throughout the country who participate in the USTA League Tennis Program. It is a mathematical system that assigns computer ratings to players by direct and indirect comparison of match results obtained from USTA League Tennis, select NTRP tournaments and Open and Adult/Senior Age Division tournaments.

Player should have a current NTRP computer rating for the current season or Player may self-rate when registering for a team on TennisLink in accordance with the National Tennis Rating System (NTRP) Guidelines and declare their self-rating on TennisLink when entering the program regardless of the NTRP level they are entering. Any questions about NTRP ratings may be directed to the OVTA District League Coordinator via email to [ovtaleagues@gmail.com](mailto:ovtaleagues@gmail.com) .

A computer-derived rating is valid for two (2) years for individuals 60 years of age and older prior to or during the championship year and for three (3) years for all others, or until another computer rating is generated.

**LOCAL LEAGUE:** A local league shall consist of a minimum of two (2) teams in a specific level of competition. The local league season ends on the date published in TennisLink as the league season end date.

**PLAY UP RULE:** A player may only play up one level in USTA adult leagues.

**LOCAL FLIGHT PLAYOFF:** A player is eligible to progress to local flight playoff-level competition if the player has played on the same team in at least two (2) matches during the local league season. A maximum of one default received by the player during local league competition shall count for advancing. A retired match shall count toward advancing for all players involved

### **LEAGUE WINNER**

**In the event of a tie, whether in round robin or single elimination competition, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:**

**2.03H(1) Individual Matches. Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition**

**2.03H(2) Head-to-Head. Winner of head-to-head match**

**2.03H(3) Sets. Loser of the fewest number of sets**

**2.03H(4) Games. Loser of the fewest number of games**

### **CAPTAIN RESPONSIBILITY**

Team Captain is responsible for:

- distributing TennisLink Team Number information to their team members
- ensuring that all players are registered before playing in a league match
- entering the match scores on TennisLink for NTRP rating purposes
- In the spirit of good sportsmanship and fair play, notifying the opposing captain of a known default at least 2 hours before the match begins

### **PLAYER REGISTRATION**

TennisLink League Fee is \$20.00 per player and will be collected through registration on TennisLink. All USTA League Team Members must have a current USTA membership good through each championship progression. Visit the USTA home page <http://www.usta.com/> to join or renew.

**Teams must register six players on TennisLink prior to the first scheduled match or the team will be deem ineligible to participate in the league. No refunds are given.**

For all Age Divisions: Player may be added to rosters up to 14 days prior to the end date of play for their respective league as noted in TennisLink (per Articles of Agreement for USTA League, USTA/Midwest Section). Any problems should be reported immediately to USTA League Tennis Coordinator, Susan Storrer. Computer-rated players are allowed to register with less than 14 days in the league but must contact OVTA District League Coordinator (DLC) for assistance, [ovtaleagues@gmail.com](mailto:ovtaleagues@gmail.com) .

**ANY TEAM USING A PLAYER WHO HAS NOT REGISTERED ON TENNISLINK WILL FORFEIT THE COURT IN WHICH THE INELIGIBLE PLAYER PLAYED.** All match results should be entered on TennisLink as played and original score sheet should be sent to the Local USTA League Tennis Coordinator, Susan Storrer. Adjustment for disqualified players will be done by the OVTA DLC on TennisLink. Scores will remain on TennisLink but default of courts will be reflected in the Stats and Standings on TennisLink.

## **RECORDING OF SCORES ON TENNISLINK**

TennisLink is the official system for reporting scores and providing standings for the USTA League Tennis Program. USTA League Tennis match scores can be reported by either captain no later than 48 hours after the match. All participants are encouraged to check the scores.

The consequences for failure to report match scores are as follows: a) a written warning issued to both teams for the first offense; b) all subsequent violations will result in the individual team match not counting toward league standings; however, match results will still be used to generate player ratings (per Article of Agreement for USTA League Tennis, USTA/Midwest Section).

### **\*GRIEVANCES: Local and NTRP**

**\*\*Please note, the new Suspension Point System will now be used for all grievances and at every level of championship play. Link below:**

<https://www.usta.com/en/home/play/adult-tennis/programs/midwest/league-documents.html>

**Local** Grievances for this league should be forwarded in writing to the Local League Coordinator (LLC) using the proper grievance form, either before the team in which the grievance is filed against is scheduled to play again or within 24 hours of the end of the league season, whichever comes first.

[https://www.usta.com/content/dam/usta/pdfs/usta\\_league\\_grievance\\_070915.pdf](https://www.usta.com/content/dam/usta/pdfs/usta_league_grievance_070915.pdf)

### **NTRP Grievances**

The grievance will claim that the player committed or condoned obtaining a Self-Rate which is at a lower NTRP level but has demonstrated the ability to compete at a higher NTRP level.

NTRP Grievances are subject to a \$100 filing fee and are handled by the Midwest Section. All NTRP Grievances shall be sent to OVTA DLC via email and are not processed until the filing fee is paid online. If the grievance is upheld, the filing fee will be returned. Please contact OVTA DLC for NTRP grievance guidelines, forms and payment process, [ovtaleagues@gmail.com](mailto:ovtaleagues@gmail.com) or use the links below for this information:

[https://www.usta.com/content/dam/usta/pdfs/usta\\_league\\_grievance\\_070915.pdf](https://www.usta.com/content/dam/usta/pdfs/usta_league_grievance_070915.pdf)

<https://www.usta.com/content/dam/usta/pdfs/ntrp%20grievance%20protocol%20combo%20final%200813091.pdf>

\*Please note, score disputes are not necessarily the same as a grievance. Captains/Players should NOT hit the Dispute button on TennisLink for any reason other than to start the procedure to correct a score error on TennisLink. If an error is found, the captain/player is to hit Dispute (only available up to 48 hours after scores have been reported on TennisLink) **and then contact the Local League Coordinator for assistance with the correction.** A captain/player can request a score correction after 48 hours but must do so through the LLC. In both cases, the burden of proof is on the captain/player who Disputes the score, so be prepared to provide a score sheet or email communication between the affected players that proves the requested correction.

Captains/Players are NOT to use the Dispute process on TennisLink to report any type of rule violation, etiquette issue or questions of sportsmanship, those are Local Grievances and need to be handled through that process. The OVTA DLC will clear such Disputes on TennisLink and refer the captain/player to the LLC for resolution.

Team Captains may be requested to sit on the Grievance Committee or Grievance Appeal Committee. Hopefully we will have a grievance-free season, but your help with any potential grievance resolution will be appreciated.

### **MATCH SCHEDULE AND RAIN OUT PROCEDURES**

NO SCHEDULE CHANGES are permitted once the schedule is published other than for scheduling errors or mutually agreed upon by both captains and reported to both the LLC and DLC for TennisLink update. Rain outs are not schedule changes.

Rained out matches must be completed within two (2) weeks of the original rain out date or the end of the season, whichever occurs first. The host captain must give the visiting captain at least two (2) dates from which to choose, **within 24 hours**, to complete the rained out match. Matches, in which play had begun, must start play at the point of interruption. All players are responsible for writing down the scores at the time of the interruption and all players must initial the written score.

If rain occurs and both teams agree to go indoors to complete the match, court costs will be split equally by both teams.

### **MATCH RULES**

Adult 55 & Over, Mixed 18 & Over, Mixed 40 & Over and Combo USTA leagues will play three courts of doubles.

Home Team will supply one (1) can of new balls for each playing court for each individual team match. New balls for a third set will not be used.

Each team will simultaneously exchange their line-ups at 6:30 pm. It is recommended that Team Captains run a copy of the TennisLink score sheet, which lists all eligible players for the match. This is your protection that there will be no ineligible player participating in the match.

All match warm-ups begin at 6:30 pm. Warm-up time is fifteen (15) minutes and includes serves.

No changes in line-ups are permitted except for injuries that may occur during warm-up. If a player becomes ill or injured during the 15 minute warm-up, a substitute who is on site and ready to play may be put into that position of the ill or injured player only.

**UPDATED: Late Arrival Rule: NEW:** There will no longer be a grace period to appear on the court, players are expected to arrive, ready to play, at the scheduled match time; 6:30 for summer USTA.

For players arriving late, the following rules **NOW** apply:

- a) Players coming late to the match are still entitled to a warm-up (to prevent injury),
- b) 5 minutes or less: loss of toss plus 1 game,
- c) 5:01 to 10 minutes: loss of toss plus 2 games,
- d) 10:01 to 15 minutes: loss of toss plus 3 games,
- e) More than 15 minutes after scheduled match start time, match defaulted.

Summer USTA matches are **NOT** timed matches. Playing in order of strength is not required.

Each court plays 2 sets, regular scoring, with set tiebreak if matches are 6-6 (set tie break is first to 7, by a margin of 2 points). The Coman Tiebreak Procedure will be used for all set tiebreaks. Players change ends after the first point of the tie-break and thereafter every fourth point and at the completion of the set tie break. The team who did not serve the first point of the tie break, serves to start the next set (NOT just the team who didn't serve the last point).

**Matches that split sets** will adhere to the following rules:

- There is no break between the second and third set.
- A Match Tiebreak will be used to determine the third set winner: first to 10 by a margin of 2 points. The team whose turn it is to serve may choose the player to serve the first point of the Match Tiebreak. The opponents shall serve the following two points. After this, each team shall serve alternately for two consecutive points until the end of the tie-break.
- The Coman Tiebreak Procedure will be used for the match tiebreak. Players change ends after the first point of the tie-break and thereafter every fourth point.

### **Scoring of Team Defaults.**

A team must have a **minimum of four players who are NTRP eligible to combine and compete** and available to play in each match or the entire match must be defaulted. A team may default one position in a match without defaulting the entire match. The defaulted position shall be No. 3 Doubles.

If a team defaults an entire team match for any reason during round robin play, then all matches of that team played or to be played, shall be null and void when determining standings. If all teams in contention for the Championship have already played the defaulting team in good faith, those matches stand as played.

Retirement occurs when an individual match has begun and a doubles team is unable to continue due to injury, loss of condition, or emergency.

### **GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE**

Cindy Ferrara  
Mike Murphy  
Laura Ellis

### **GRIEVANCE APPEALS COMMITTEE**

Rob Postma  
Heath Elliott  
Kathy Martin

Revised : May 2022