



2022 USTA Heart of America TENNIS LEAGUES

18 & Over Winter & Summer
40 & Over, 55 & Over, 65 & Over
18 & Over Mixed, 40 & Over Mixed
18 - 39
Tri-Level

GENERAL LEAGUE RULES

The USTA Heart of America District emphasizes “safety first” in these unprecedented times of the COVID-19 pandemic. We urge all players to follow the Guidelines that we put forth from the USTA and community officials. Players must be personally responsible for their safety and their impact on the safety of others and follow the Guidelines we share.

2022 Rule Change Highlights

- Updated Age Eligibility (2A)
- More clearly defined “out of district” player (3C)
- Added new league format for Partial Round Robin (4A2)
- Updated Post Season Eligibility Guidelines (4E)
- Noted timed match procedures begin at 1 hour 45 minutes (5M2)
- Clarified how to determine the team that wins a match with even number of courts (5M4)
- Clarified Default processes (5N)
- Clarified Grievance Procedures (6)
- Reduced the Extreme Heat Index to 110 degrees (8)

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USTA HEART OF AMERICA 2022 LEAGUE RULES

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1. OFFICIAL LEAGUE RATING PROGRAM

The National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) is the official system for rating levels of competition for the USTA Heart of America Tennis League Program.

2. ELIGIBILITY FOR PLAYERS

- A. **AGE ELIGIBILITY** – Players must be 18 years of age prior to participating in a USTA league. All players shall have reached the respective age designation of each league (40 & Over, 55 & Over, 65 & Over) prior to or during the calendar year in which they play their first match. (Note: Players may not exceed 39 years of age in the 18-39 League.)
- B. **USTA MEMBERSHIP** - All participating players must have valid USTA memberships through the individual league season in which they are participating. Any non-USTA member participating in a USTA League match will forfeit all matches played as a non-member.
- C. **PLAYER REGISTRATION** - All players must be registered online in TennisLink prior to playing a match or be subject to default. League fees must be paid online.
- D. **NTRP RATING** - Any player registering for a league who does not have a valid NTRP rating must Self-Rate. The Self Rate Questionnaire can be accessed at the point of team registration or by logging into TennisLink.usta.com/leagues and clicking on the blue “Self-Rate” button. TennisLink will then assign a self-rating to the new player. If the player disagrees with the assigned self-rating, he/she has the option to appeal this rating on-line. The USTA Missouri Valley NTRP Self-Rate Appeals Committee will review the appeal and issue a decision to grant or deny the request.
- E. **PLAYER REGISTRATION DEADLINE** - Players may be added to rosters prior to two (2) weeks before the final regularly scheduled match. (Note: players must play two matches to qualify for post season play, so “two weeks before the final regularly scheduled match” assumes two matches are left to play.)
- F. **EARLY START RATINGS** - Players wishing to participate in a 2022 season Early Start League (season beginning prior to Year End Ratings Publication) will compete at their year-end rating issued December 31, 2019. Players in the 18 & Over Winter early start league who get bumped UP when year-end ratings are published in early December 2021, may finish the Winter session with that team, but cannot advance to any post season play (i.e., District, Sectional and National Championships) with that team. If their 2021 year-end rating is determined to be “significantly above level,” they must play at that new NTRP level effective immediately.

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Any player who gets bumped DOWN when year-end ratings are published in early December 2021, can finish the 18 & Over Winter session with that team and it will not affect the team's 40% at level standing (see 3A). They may also choose to register for a Winter team at the lower level IF there are at least 2 matches left in the season. Please note that as of January 1, 2022, players must register at their new year-end computer rating for any new leagues, i.e., ratings issued December 1, 2021.

G. DYNAMIC DISQUALIFICATION - A player receiving three strikes (results indicating above level play), anytime during the 2022 season (18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over, 65 & Over), will be immediately promoted to the next higher level. The three matches that caused the "promotion" will be defaulted and considered 6-0, 6-0 for the opposing team. Computer-rated players, players with a Mixed exclusive rating or a Tournament exclusive rating are not subject to dynamic disqualification.

H. CONFIRMING NTRP ELIGIBILITY - Captains and players are responsible for checking NTRP ratings and ensuring that all players for each match are eligible to play. An ineligible player results in default for that individual court.

3. TEAM COMPOSITION

A. NUMBER OF PLAYERS - Each USTA Heart of America league has a specified minimum and maximum number of players. At least 40% of the players must have a rating equal to the level of play. The 40% rule does not apply to teams that move up as a result of qualifying for Nationals or to combination leagues. For all combination rating league types (i.e., 55 & Over, 65 & Over, and Mixed Leagues), it is required that you have 3 courts of players appropriately within level for the combination rating.

LEAGUE	MINIMUM PLAYERS	MAXIMUM PLAYERS
18 & Over – 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 40 & Over	8	18
18 & Over – 2.5, 5.0 & Open	6	10
18-39 55 & Over	8	15
65 & Over	8	12
Mixed & Tri-Level	8	16

Teams at their player limit may replace players who have not played a match if they have either been injured or have a personal circumstance that prevent them from playing.

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- B. **MOVE UP/SPLIT-UP RULE** – Teams that qualify for a National Championship may play together as a team if they move up one NTRP team level. For those teams to compete at the same NTRP level, no more than 3 players may play together on a team within the same Division and Age Group. For example, a team that qualifies to go to the 4.0 Women's 18 & Over Nationals, may not have more than 3 players on a team in the 4.0 Women's 18 & Over League the following year. However, more than 3 players from the National team may play together on a 4.0 Women's 40 & Over League the following year. The District will provide a “National Player” report so that captains can check the status of players who may be counted as a “National Player”. For a detailed explanation of this ruling, please see Attachment A.
- C. **PLAYER RESIDENCY** - A team may have no more than two players domiciled (i.e., the place where a person has a true, fixed permanent home) outside USTA Heart of America.
- D. **NTRP PLAYING UP** - A player may play at their current NTRP level or up only one NTRP level (for example - a player with a 3.5 NTRP rating may play on 3.5 and 4.0 USTA teams, but not on 3.0 or 4.5 USTA teams).

4. COMPETITION

- A. **COMPETITION FORMATS** - Competition formats for USTA Leagues (from National Regulation 2.01C)
1. Full Round Robin: Each NTRP level within a local league may play at least one Full round robin competition wherein every team plays every other team.
 2. Partial Round Robin: Each NTRP level within a local league may play a partial round robin competition wherein every team plays the same number of matches against randomly selected opponents. A minimum of the top two teams shall progress to a single elimination playoff to establish a local league champion for that NTRP level.

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B. **TEAM MATCH** - Each team match will consist of:

LEAGUE	MATCH FORMAT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 & Over Summer 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 	2 Singles & 3 Doubles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 & Over Summer 2.5, 5.0 	1 Singles & 2 Doubles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 & Over Open (Summer & Winter) 	1 Singles & 2 Doubles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 & Over Winter • 55 & Over • 65 & Over • All Mixed Doubles • Tri-Level 	3 Doubles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 & Over 	1 Singles & 3 Doubles

1. Individual Match: An individual match is any singles match or doubles match played as part of a team match.

C. **TEAM STANDING** – Team standing in the league is determined in descending order and reflected in TennisLink by:

1. Winner of most team matches
2. Individual match wins
3. Winner of head-to-head matches
4. Fewest sets lost
5. Fewest games lost

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D. DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP ADVANCEMENT

1. 18 & Over Leagues

- a. In the 18 & Over Leagues, winners of the Winter Weekend, Winter Daytime and Summer Leagues will advance to the District Championships. Dates and places for the District Championships are on the USTA Heart of America District calendar.
- b. The number of advancing teams will be determined by the size of the flights:

18 & Over District Championship Advancement Guidelines	
# of Teams Participating at Each Level or Flight	# of Teams Advancing to District Championships
5 & Below	1
6 - 12	2
13 & Above	3

- c. Players may only play for one team at a given NTRP level at District Championships. For example, if a player qualifies with a Winter Daytime 3.5 team and a Summer 3.5 team, they can only play for one team at the District Championships. They can participate in a 4.0 Championship match but will not be accommodated in the Championship match schedule.
- d. Teams can only advance to District Championships if they can fill all courts for each match scheduled.
- e. If the winning team in the division cannot attend with the minimum number of players needed, then the district will invite the # 2 team in that flight. If the # 2 team cannot fill all courts at every match, the # 3 team will be invited and so on until a representative is found or the district declines to invite additional teams.
- f. Only teams with winning records will be extended an invitation to be an alternate for the District Championships (i.e. more match wins than losses)

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2. All Other Leagues

- a. Winners of leagues with only one flight (40 & Over, 55 & Over, 65 & Over and Mixed) will advance directly to Sectional Championships.
- b. 40 & Over Levels with Daytime Flights - For Women's 40 & Over, there will be a playoff match from the winner of the Weekend flight and the Daytime flight to determine the league champion.

See Attachment B for details.

E. POST-SEASON PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

The chart below provides the minimum number of matches players must complete to be eligible for each level of post-season play.

Type of NTRP Rating	Qualification Requirements		
	Districts	Sectionals	Nationals
Computer Rated Players	2 matches 1 can be a Default	2 matches 1 can be a Default	3 matches 1 can be a Default
Self-Rated Players Appealed Players Self-Rate Appealed Players	2 played matches	3 played matches	4 played matches
Matches must be on the same team & season			

5. RULES OF PLAY

- A. **HOME TEAMS & BALLS** - The Home team shall be listed first on the schedule. For all indoor leagues, the clubs will provide one can of balls per court. For outdoor leagues the Home team shall provide the balls. **Captains should check with the clubs at least 24 hours prior to all matches to verify the court reservation and determine any necessary safety protocols.**
- B. **ALLOTTED MATCH TIME** - The maximum time is two (2) hours, unless circumstances like finishing a third-set tiebreak take more time. Note: If the time is up and the court is still available, teams should complete the match. If another team is taking the court after your match, you must relinquish the court at their match time. Check with the club to see if another court is available. If so, move to that court and finish the match or reschedule for another time. If the club charges you for the extended period, ask for a receipt and submit it to USTA Heart of America for reimbursement. These situations are rare but do occur.

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C. **OFFICIAL CLOCK** - A timing device at the home facility, or other agreed upon device, shall be designated as the official clock prior to each individual match.

D. **LINEUPS & SCORESHEETS**

1. Each team must have a captain or acting captain present at every match.
2. Team captains shall simultaneously exchange **written lineups** using the TennisLink scoresheet prior to the scheduled starting time of the match. Lineups can be exchanged just prior to the later individual match(s) for split match times.

Note: Line-ups must be exchanged prior to match time. In irregular circumstances, e.g., a scheduling conflict occurs at a club or there are split match times, and court(s) must be played at different times or days, it is permissible to wait to exchange line-ups for the later matches just prior to the matches because there could be unknown problems that may arise. If captains put the entire line-up in writing and exchange it prior to the first match played, then the opposing captain can hold that captain to that line-up. However, in the spirit of sportsmanship, we encourage captains to work together and exercise flexibility in cases where there are staggered times/dates.

3. Upon completion of the match, both captains should verify scores and players and sign the written scoresheet.

E. **ORDER OF STRENGTH** - Teams are not required to field players in order of strength.

F. **WARM UP** - Maximum warm-up is ten (10) minutes (including serves).

G. **PLAYER SUBSTITUTION** - 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. The first serve which starts the first point of the match is considered the start of the match. The USTA Missouri Valley Section and USTA Heart of America District authorize no further circumstances for substitution. The default principles outlined in the USTA League Regulations are applicable with no modifications.

H. **LATE ARRIVALS** - USTA penalties for lateness to a match or resumption of a suspended match will apply. **THE CLOCK STARTS AT THE SCHEDULED MATCH TIME.** (Ref: 2020 USTA Friend at Court, Table 16, Penalties for Lateness, p. 110)

5:00 Minutes or less	Loss of toss plus one game
5:01 – 10:00 Minutes	Loss of toss plus two games
10:01 – 15:00 Minutes	Loss of toss plus three games
More than 15:00 Minutes	Default

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1. Late arrivals are limited to the remainder of the 10-minute warm-up.
 2. An individual match is defaulted at 15 minutes past the scheduled match time.
- I. **ELECTRONIC DEVICES** - All electronic communication devices (cell phones, pagers, etc.) must be silenced while on court. Players are forewarned about cell phones ringing on the court via league rules. Once a match begins and an electronic communication device rings, there will be a point penalty. The player should immediately turn off the electronic communication.
- J. **CONTINUOUS PLAY** - Play is continuous. Players are allowed 25 seconds between points and 90 seconds on changeovers.
- K. **COACHING** - No coaching will be allowed at any time during a match.
- L. **MATCH RESCHEDULING – No Individual Or Team Matches Can Be Rescheduled** – The schedule as posted on TennisLink will stand. (See Section 7) for inclement weather rules.) Matches rescheduled for reasons other than Inclement Weather may result in Captains being assigned **League Suspension Points**.
- M. **SCORING**
1. Regular scoring
 - a) If the first or second set score reaches 6-6, play a 7-point set tie-break (first to 7 with a 2 point margin **using Coman procedures**).
 - b) If teams each win a set, play a 10-point match tie-break (first to 10 with a 2 point margin) in lieu of a third set **using Coman procedures**.
 - c) Tie-breaks count as one game. (For example, Tennislink will reflect the score of a set ending in a tie-break as 7-6.). After the tie-break, change sides. The next server is from the team that received the first point of the tie-break.
 - d) **Coman Procedures**: Change sides after the first point, and then after every four points. Switch sides at the conclusion of a set tiebreak.
 2. **Timed Match Procedures**: Time will be called after **1 Hour, 45 Minutes** from the designated match time. All games in progress shall be completed (a game is in progress after the first service ball is struck). Any team ahead by two games shall be awarded the win for that set.
 - a) If the match is in the second set and tied, or neither team is ahead by 2 games, play a 7-point set tie-break (first to 7 by 2) **using the Coman procedures**.

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- b) If sets are split after a second set tie-break, play a 10-point match tie-break (first to 10 by 2), **using Coman procedures.**
 - c) Indicate on the scoresheet that the score reflects a Timed Match.
3. At the end of the match both captains (or their designees) will complete and sign the scoresheets.
4. **No Match Will End In A Tie.** The team winning the majority of the individual matches will be awarded the win.

In matches with even number of courts, if the teams are tied at the end of play, the tie shall be broken by broken by the first of the following methods (from National League Regulation 2.03E):

- 1. Sets – Loser of the fewest number of sets
 - 2. Games – Loser of the fewest number of games
 - 3. Game Winning Percentage – total games won divided by total games played
 - 4. Winner of #1 Doubles match
5. Verifying, entering, and confirming or disputing scores is a shared responsibility.
- a) **Both captains** (or their designees) must verify and initial all score sheets prior to leaving the match. League Suspension Points as determined by the Grievance Committee will be assessed for falsifying or knowingly signing a falsified score sheet.
 - b) **Either the winning *or* losing captain** should enter the scores on TennisLink within **48 hours**.
 - c) Scores must be confirmed or disputed within **96 hours from the time of the scheduled match**. After 96 hours, the scores and players will stand. To dispute a score, send an email to the level or league coordinator.
 - d) If **either captain does not enter match scores within 96 hours**, the matches may be entered as a Double Default on each court. Captains should notify their League or Level Coordinators of any extenuating circumstances.

N. **DEFAULTS**

- 1. Court Default
 - a. If a Captain is aware ahead of match time that they will not have enough players to fill the lineup, they need to notify the opposing captain within 48 hours of the match time that there will be a defaulted court.
 - b. Any team defaulting a court(s) in advance is responsible for calling the applicable Club to cancel the court. Captains should cancel 48 hours in advance.

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If canceled later than that, and there is a fee, this will be deducted from the team deposit.

- c. The default should be recorded on the line-up card on the lowest court, e.g., Court #3 for doubles or Court #2 for singles in the 5-court format.
- d. If a late player is the cause of a resulting default, the default should be recorded to the court to which that player was assigned at the time of the line-up exchange, i.e., if the late player is assigned to Court #1, the win is to the opposing team on Court #1. It is not necessary to “move up” players from Court #2 to Court #1 and from Court #3 to Court #2. Once players have been assigned courts and started warm-up, they should continue to play on their assigned court.
- e. Ineligible Player - If an ineligible player plays on a court (i.e., a player not registered on TennisLink), that court will be considered a default. If any portion of the match was played, the player names and scores should be entered on TennisLink for rating purposes.

2. Default Scoring

- a. Default with No Games Played - In case of a default, the non-defaulting party shall be credited with such number of additional games as would have been won if the match was completed and the non-defaulting party won every subsequent game (6-0, 6-0). If a default occurs, write the names of all players of the non-defaulting team on the scorecard. Do not list the players of the defaulting team.
- b. Default with Games Played – If a default occurs after games have been played, enter the names of all the players and the scores. An example would be if after the match, it is discovered that one of the players was not registered at the time of the match. The non-registered player’s team would be assigned the loss, but all players and the score would be entered into TennisLink for rating purposes.

Note: If a captain calls another captain prior to a match and says he/she must default one court and to cancel the court at the facility, how binding is that call? A call is fine to give a heads up, but captains should get that information in writing, e.g., via email. Once a captain puts it in writing, it’s binding. If there is a last-minute change and both captains agree in writing to play the match, then that message will become the binding message. Strive to get all matches played but remember to get it in writing!

3. Team Default

- a. To avoid defaulting an entire match, the match must be “legal”, that is, players must be eligible team members, registered in TennisLink, and present for play in at least 3 of 5 courts, 3 of 4 courts, or 2 of 3 courts, depending on league/level format.

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- b. For each league session, all teams will send a check to their Level Coordinator as a deposit. The deposit amounts will be posted along with Captain's Registration Information. At the end of the season, all deposit checks will be shredded, unless cashed due to a team defaulting an entire match or if fees are charged for a court default without adequate club notification.
- c. If at the conclusion of local league play, if a team has defaulted an entire team match, that team is not eligible to for post-season play.
- d. To determine final team standings in the event a team defaults an entire match, all matches of the defaulting team already played in a completed round robin will be counted. Matches played within an incomplete round robin will only be counted if all teams with a mathematical chance to advance have played the defaulting team in good faith. All matches played by the defaulting team will be used for rating and advancement purposes.
- e. District (and district league coordinators) may adopt further rules, procedures and penalties to maximize team play and minimize entire team defaults.

6. GRIEVANCES

- A. **ADMINISTRATIVE GRIEVANCE** - Any grievance with the administration of the USTA Heart of America District Leagues may be filed with the USTA Missouri Valley Section. All grievances must be in writing. The written grievance must be sent to the USTA Missouri Valley Section's Manager of Adult Leagues, who will submit it to the Section's League Grievance Committee. An administrative grievance may be filed **within one year of the incidence.**
- B. **NTRP GRIEVANCE** – **Any self-rated player who is playing at an NTRP level lower than his/her actual skill level is subject to an NTRP Grievance (National Rule 3.03E). NTRP Grievances should be filed in writing with the USTA Heart of America League Coordinator who will forward them to the USTA Missouri Valley Section's Manager of Adult Leagues. The grievance will be administered by the USTA Missouri Valley League Grievance Committee. In addition, a player who inappropriately self-rates, and captains and others who condone inappropriate self-rating, may be subject to additional penalties under the League Suspension Point System.** An NTRP Grievance may be filed at any time. A player with a valid NTRP computer rating or a player granted automatic appeal of a computer rating is not subject to an NTRP grievance.
- C. **LOCAL LEAGUE GRIEVANCE** - Captains may file a grievance in writing for other circumstances (e.g., un-sportsmanlike conduct), against an opposing team or player through the District's Executive Director to the District's Grievance Committee. Local League grievances must be filed prior to the commencement of the next team match in that flight involving such individual or team, or within twenty-four hours after the local league

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commences play, whichever occurs first. Note: The grievance form may be found at: https://www.usta.com/content/dam/usta/pdfs/usta_league_grievance_070915.pdf

7. INCLEMENT WEATHER

- Weather related (ice, snow, rain) rescheduling decisions should not be made until 2 - 3 prior to the scheduled match time.
- The two captains can have an alternative plan (indoor back-up courts, or alternative dates at the same facility), but **DO NOT** make this the definite plan until 2-3 hours prior to match time. (Players are responsible for indoor court fees when matches move inside.)
- Captains should use discretion and common sense in unsafe conditions. If one or both captains believe the weather puts their players in danger, the match should be rescheduled.
- Once you are closer to match time, if the two captains agree to reschedule, they should contact their Level Coordinator or League Coordinator.
- Contact the site where the match was to be played to cancel the courts so no fee is charged.
- Within 7 days, decide on a new match date and notify the Level Coordinator. The rescheduled match should be played at the same site where the match was originally scheduled.
- Complete the match on the new date and notify the Level Coordinator of its completion.

8. EXTREME HEAT RULE

If the heat index reaches **110 degrees**, the captains may agree to take the match indoors (at the cost of the players) or reschedule the match within one week. Captains need to notify the Level Coordinator of any rescheduling. Failure to agree on a date will result in the Level Coordinator re-scheduling the match, which must be played as rescheduled under the penalty of default.

2022 USTA League Regulations will be the official basis for rules not covered by these USTA Heart of America League Rules. National League Rules and other resources can be found at this link: [USTA League Resources](#)

“The Code” shall be used for all matches played without officials. “The Code” and “Friend at Court” are available at this link: [2021 Friend at Court](#)

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ATTACHMENT A

MOVE-UP/SPLIT-UP Regulations from USTA National League Regulations

2.06A National Championship Teams.

2.06A(1): Move-Up - Teams and team members that advanced to, or qualified for, any National Championship may play together as a team, in whole or in part, if they move up one NTRP team level.

2.06A(2): Split-Up - No more than three (3) players who were on the roster of any team that advanced to, or qualified for, any National Championship team the previous year may play together in the same Division, same Age Group and at the same NTRP team level as the National Championship team(s), if their NTRP rating allows. Split-Up requirements only apply to players who participated in three (3) or more matches (including one default) for that team during the championship year.

2.06A(3): If a Section has a regulation that limits the number of players on a roster that are at a specific level, the Section must suspend that regulation for one year for any team that advanced to, or qualified for, any National Championship the previous year and chooses to move up one NTRP team level.

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ATTACHMENT B

USTA Heart of America LEAGUE DISTRICT
ADVANCEMENT GUIDELINES

18 & Over District Championship Advancement	
# of Teams Participating at Each Level or Flight	# of Teams Advancing to District Championships
5 & Below	1
6 – 12	2
13 & Above	3

18 & OVER LEAGUES

- This chart for District Championships applies **ONLY to 18 & Over leagues** – 18 & Over Winter Weekend, 18 & Over Winter Daytime, and 18 & Over Summer leagues.
- Players may only play for one team at a given NTRP level at District Championships. For example, if a player qualifies with a Winter Daytime 3.5 team and a Summer 3.5 team, they can only play for one team at the District Championships. They can participate in a 4.0 Championship match but will not be accommodated in the Championship match schedule.
- Teams can only advance to District Championships if they can fill all courts for each match scheduled.
- Teams advancing to the District Championships and/or Playoffs must have a winning record, i.e., more wins than losses (at issue when session winners cannot field a team to advance).
- The USTA Heart of America Adult Council reserves the right to amend the rules and/or regulations should any unforeseen circumstances arise that may affect the playoff format.

40 & OVER LEAGUES

- Any NTRP divisions with multiple flights will have a playoff match at the conclusion of the regular season between the winner of each flight to determine the league champion.
- For the Women’s 40 & Over NTRP levels with Weekend and Daytime Leagues - there will be one representative from the Weekend and Daytime Leagues in the Playoffs. If the winner cannot fill the lineup, the next in line with a winning record in the respective league will be invited.)

USTA Heart of America Questions & Answers

Q.1. What is considered “just-in-time” for rescheduling outdoor matches because of rain, and why is this the best policy?

A.1. Many captains hastily reschedule matches at the first sign of rainy when the conditions could eventually clear up. To avoid unnecessary rescheduling, please follow these guidelines.

- When you wake up the day of a match and it is raining, **DO NOT** reschedule your match! It may stop later in the day and courts could be dry by the time of your match.
- If it is raining the day of your match, both captains wait until 2-3 hours before the match to see if the rain has stopped, and then decide what to do.
- If you want to reserve indoor courts earlier to have courts available, that is fine. But **DO NOT** make this the definite plan with the other captain or tell your players you have indoor courts. You still need to wait to see if the rain will clear out. (Players are responsible for indoor court fees when matches move inside.)
- If the rain has stopped at the 2-3 hour mark before the match, you simply plan to play your match outside as scheduled.
- If the rain has not stopped at the 2-3 hour mark before your match, you either reschedule the match at that time with the same facility, or plan to play inside (at the players’ expense).
- Be sure to notify your league or level coordinator of any rescheduled matches right away.
- These same guidelines can apply to hazardous weather conditions, such as snow/ice for indoor matches. Streets may be cleared or treated, and matches can still be played as scheduled.
- Captains should use discretion and common sense in unsafe conditions if the 2-3 hour advance notice is unrealistic. If the match is rained out, or one or both captains believe the weather puts their players in peril, the match will be rescheduled.

Q2. What happens to the line-ups when two teams arrive for a match, but it must be postponed due to inclement weather?

A2. Whether or not line-ups have been exchanged, if the inclement weather occurs before the first point is played, captains may change their line-ups for the make-up match. However, if even one point has been played on a court, then the individuals playing on that court must remain the same for the rescheduled match and any or all **other** players in both line-ups may be modified or kept the same. If a point has not been played on a given court, then the line-up may change for that given court for the rescheduled match.

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Q3. What happens when two teams must re-schedule due to inclement weather but they cannot mutually agree upon a time/date?

A3. Captains must notify their Level Coordinator who will consult with each captain and set a final makeup date. If one team does not show for the rescheduled date, that team is defaulted. If both do not show, it will be a double default.

Q4. If a captain calls another captain prior to a match and says he/she must default one court and to cancel the court at the facility, how binding is that call?

A4. Captains should get that information *in writing*. Once a captain sends a message that he/she is forfeiting a court and canceling the court, then that message is binding. If there is a last-minute change and both captains agree *in writing* to play the match, then that message will be binding. We hope that all matches are played and that every effort is made to make it happen. Just get it *in writing*!!

Q5. If a player on a team going to Nationals does not play Districts, Sectionals, or Nationals, does that player count as a "national player"?

A5. If a player has played 3 times at any time during the season on a team that qualifies for Nationals, then that player is counted as a "national player" and will be affected by the move-up, split-up rule.

Q6. How many matches must a player have to be eligible to advance to post season play, and when does a "default" count as a match played?

A6.

Type of NTRP Rating	Qualification Requirements Matches must be on the same team & season		
	Districts	Sectionals	Nationals
Computer Rated Players	2 matches 1 can be a Default	2 matches 1 can be a Default	3 matches 1 can be a Default
Self-Rated Players Appealed Players Self-Rate Appealed Players	2 played matches	3 played matches	4 played matches

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Q.7. What is the rule for exchanging and/or changing line-ups in irregular circumstances (such as a scheduling conflict at a club or split match times)?

A.7. Line-ups are to be exchanged prior to match time. When some courts in a team match must be played at different times or days, it is permissible to wait to exchange line-ups for the later matches "just-in-time" because of unknown problems that may arise. If captains put the entire line-up in writing prior to the first match played, then a captain can hold that captain to that line-up. However, in the spirit of sportsmanship, we encourage captains to work together and exercise flexibility in cases where there are staggered times/dates.

Q.8. What is the course of action when teams have run out of time before completing a match?

A.8. If the time is up and the court is still available, teams should complete the match. If another team is taking the court after your match, you must relinquish the court at their match time. Check with the club to see if another court is available. If so, move to that court and finish the match or reschedule for another time. If the club charges you for the extended period, ask for a receipt and submit it to HOA for reimbursement. These situations are rare but do occur.

Q.9. Does the USTA Heart of America require players to use a certain color of tennis balls for league matches?

A.9. While the National rules list ITF designated colors as yellow or white, the USTA Heart of America requirement is that players use yellow balls for all league matches.