

2026 USTA KANSAS LEAGUE TENNIS - RULES AND REGULATIONS

These USTA Kansas rules and regulations are supplemental and subordinate to the USTA National League Tennis Program Rules and Regulations and the current USTA Missouri Valley League Tennis Rules and Regulations. Further league information can be found at: [USTA Missouri Valley Local USTA Leagues](#)

Section 1 - League Administration: For any matters regarding USTA League Tennis, please contact Kansas District Adult League Coordinator, **Dylan Jones** at KansasDLC@gmail.com

The District League Coordinator, with permission from the Adult Play Committee, has the authority to make exceptions to the district rules to facilitate the league's organization and growth.

Any exceptions made must first be verbally passed to the Chairman of the Adult Play Committee and followed up with a written exception.

Section 2 - TennisLink:

- TennisLink is an internet-based system used by the United States Tennis Association (USTA), USTA Missouri Valley, and USTA Kansas.
- All players must be registered on TennisLink Leagues before playing any USTA match and must meet all USTA, Missouri Valley Section, and Kansas District eligibility requirements.
- TennisLink provides the following functions:
 - Enters players on the roster of their chosen team and collects all appropriate fees.
 - Verifies the player's USTA membership status and NTRP level.
 - Provides the source for league schedules.
 - Accepts match results (as entered and confirmed by opposing captains).
 - Keeps track of flight standings, including tie breaks.

Section 3 - Rosters:

- A. All players **must** have a valid NTRP rating and USTA membership, which is valid through all league matches.

- All team rosters must have the minimum number of players to fill the required number of courts in a division's format.
- Captains should consider possible injuries, vacations, and scheduling conflicts in determining roster numbers.
- **Out-of-District Players: Teams may roster out-of-district players. There must be one (1) Kansas District player on the roster who plays the minimum requirements for the team to qualify for advancement.**
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- **Tri-level teams** shall consist of men's and women's doubles teams of straight NTRP levels. 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 division, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 division, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0 division, all have the opportunity to advance to section championships and a national level event.
- Tri-Level match format shall be three (3) courts of doubles, one court of each NTRP level.
- A player may play up to one level.
- An individual may be in one match within a team match.
- All USTA League Tennis Regulation in Section 1.00 GENERAL and Missouri Valley Tri-Level regulations shall apply to Kansas District
- Tri-Level Regulations.
- Tri-level matches **WILL BE** included in USTA year-end ratings.
- Tri-level teams will not be subject to the move-up/split-up rules. g. Players must play at least one match with their team to be eligible to play at the Section or National event.

Section 4 - League Eligibility:

- All USTA League participants must be 18 years of age **before participation in the USTA league program.** Players in higher age divisions, i.e. 40, 55, and 65 & Over must reach the league division's required minimum age during the calendar year in which they will play.
- Players must not play at a level below their NTRP rating and may not play more than one (1) level above their NTRP level. USTA has established minimum NTRP levels for players to be eligible to participate in Age Groups that use combined NTRP team levels in the Adult and Mixed Divisions.
- **Adult leagues must maintain their roster with at least 40% of their players at the designated NTRP level of play regardless of roster size.**

- If a league consists of only two teams in a level, each team must maintain its roster with at least 30% of its players at the designated NTRP level of play regardless of roster size.
- All two-team leagues, in any division, must have two viable teams participating, including any combination rating league types. No accommodation matches will be created for local league advancement.

Section 5 - League Deadlines:

- All Kansas District league matches shall be subject to the deadline dates posted in the Missouri Valley rules. All qualifying matches must be played by these deadlines for teams to advance to Section Championships. Published deadline dates are absolute except for:
 - National TennisLink malfunction, permanent move into the district from another district, or a dynamic disqualification from a lower league level. Players moving up from a dynamic disqualification or moving in from another district should contact the District League Coordinator to be added to a roster after the deadline, subject to individual coordinator's discretion and overall league coordinators' final decision.
- Each district shall set registration deadlines for players on teams advancing to Section Championships. A minimum number of players on the advancing team must complete online registration by the district's deadline or may not be allowed to play in Section Championships. In this case, the District League Coordinator may invite the second-place team to immediately register by a revised registration deadline. The District League Coordinator may continue to invite teams in the order of standings to establish revised registration deadlines until the coordinator finds an eligible team to compete. Once the advancing team has been determined and the required minimum number of players registered, no fees will be refunded for any reason.
- District deadlines must be set to coincide with a date fourteen (14) days before section events and must coincide with registration deadlines published by the Missouri Valley Section.
- Any player who has missed the section registration deadline set by the section, and who wishes to participate in the championship, must contact the Section Adult Program Manager for permission.
- **Kansas District Add Deadline:** All players wishing to be added to a team must do so before the first point played of the second to last match date of The team's published schedule. If the match is a doubleheader, the deadline shall be before the first played point of the first match.

Section 6 - Status of Promoted Players:

- If a captain of a 2.5 or a 3.0 Adult 18 & Over team, or that of a 3.0 40 & Over team, has a player who is promoted, the captain may replace that player within the time frame of scheduled matches for the season before the player add deadline, as players at these levels should improve.
 - If a captain of an Adult 18 & 40 and Over, at the 3.5 level or above, has a player who is promoted, the captain **may not** replace that player. Captains should make this a consideration when establishing team rosters.
 - If a captain of a 55 & Over, 65 & Over, TriLevel, or Mixed Doubles team (at any rating level or age division) has a player who is promoted, the captain **may not** replace that player if the add deadline has passed. The
 - promoted player may continue to play on that team paired with a partner whose rating corresponds with his/her new rating.

Section 7 - Guidelines for Self-Rated Players:

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- Players will need to “self-rate” if they do not have a valid computer rating in Tennislink if they have an expired NTRP rating if they have a Tournament Exclusive (T) rating, or a Mixed Exclusive rating (M). These players are assigned a new rating at their last expired rating, or a higher rating based on their playing history.
- Self-ratings are valid for two years from the date issued or until replaced by a dynamic or computer rating. If there is a change in playing
 - experience, the player may promptly appeal to the request for a higher rating (appeal up) or may be promoted by the Section League
 - Coordinator.
- Players with an expired rating will not be allowed to self-rate at a lower level than their last published NTRP rating. However, they will have the opportunity to file a self-rate appeal.
- Players should study the NTRP guidelines found at www.usta.com and should complete the entire Self-Rate questionnaire by answering every question honestly to avoid disqualification and penalties that may result from an attempt to be placed in an inappropriate level by the system.
- If you have questions about the appropriate level, players may contact the District League Coordinator.
- Players, **not the captain** seeking to place players on a team, are responsible for their rating, the completion of the Self-Rate

- questionnaire, and any subsequent Self-Rate questionnaire appeals.
- Players should take care not to register below their ability as they will be most susceptible to being moved up in the middle of a season and having matches forfeited.
 - Players who are good athletes, or intend to spend a good deal of time taking lessons or practicing, or who formerly played should be aware that their improvement may be significant enough to surpass their original self-rating by the time they reach the end of the local league season or championship level. To avoid NTRP disqualification and forfeits, these players should enter at a level higher than they hope/expect to attain.
 - Players disqualified during a league season **must** re-register and pay again to play on another team.
 - District or Section League Coordinators may file a Self-Rate grievance at any time.

Section 8 - Eligibility to advance to Section Championships:

Players are eligible to advance to the Section Championship under the following conditions:

- Self-rated players - must PLAY at least three (3) matches on the same team at the same level in that division. Defaults DO NOT count.
- Self-rated players whose appeals have been granted must play at least three (3) matches on the same team at the same level or in the same age group. Defaults DO NOT count.
- Computer-rated players whose appeals have been granted must play at least three (3) matches on the same team at the same level or age group.
- Computer-rated players must play at least two (2) matches on the same team at the same level or age group. One (1) Default may count.

Section 9 - Fees:

- Team registration fees are \$42 per player for each team on which they are eligible to play.
 - Indoor Court fees are dependent upon the league format.
 - **Players who register but are injured or unable to play due**

- to scheduling conflicts or relocation may be eligible for full or partial TennisLink credit by applying to the Kansas District League Coordinator, Dylan Jones at
- KansasDLC@gmail.com
 - Players who play one or more matches will not be eligible for a refund under any circumstance.
 - **ALL PLAYERS are responsible for their own court fees for matches played indoors (either scheduled or moved indoors due to bad weather).**
 - In case of a total team default, the defaulting team will be required to pay ALL court fees as a result of the default if courts are not canceled **24 hours BEFORE match time**. Teams failing to notify opposing captains and the reserved facility of their inability to fill all reserved courts will be required to pay for ALL reserved courts regardless of how many courts are used for the scheduled match. Failure to fully pay fees may result in forfeiture to play in future leagues.
 - Captains of teams advancing to USTA National Championships may receive a stipend from the USTA Kansas District.

Section 10 - League Season/Match Scheduling:

- Local leagues may be divided into divisions. League play would be between teams within the division. Local league play may be scheduled on weeknights if league numbers dictate the necessity.
- Two matches per day may be scheduled depending on the availability of courts and league registration.
- Captains and players should use sound discretion when bad weather makes travel dangerous. The District League Coordinator may cancel matches if road conditions are hazardous. Decisions to cancel will be made no earlier than 24 hours before the day of the match by the District League Coordinator and will be based on current information from the Kansas Highway Patrol, National Weather Service, etc.
- Contact the District League Coordinator the morning of the match if there are any questions.
- **Non-weather-related schedule changes are not permitted.**
- Schedulers will attempt to avoid scheduling matches on the weekends local tournaments, holidays, etc. There are NO guarantees.

Section 11 - Match Procedures:

- Captains should confirm court reservations with each other and the facilities to ensure the correct location and time of matches no later than 24 hours in advance.
 - Captains must inform each other in advance, no later than 24 hours in advance of any default courts.
 - TennisLink scorecards should be completed and exchanged simultaneously 5 minutes before the scheduled match time.
 - Players **need not** be present at the time of the line-up exchange.
 - Players arriving late will be penalized according to the following time frame and game forfeits:
 - • 5 minutes or less: Loss of toss + (1) game
 - • 5:01 to 10 minutes: Loss of toss + (2) games
 - • 10:01 to 15 minutes: Loss of toss + (3) games
 - • More than 15 minutes: Default of match
 - Penalties **MAY NOT** be waived, even if the other captain consents. Captains should be sure players arrive on time.
 - Captains should confirm scores and sign the opponent's scorecard to ensure correct scores are recorded after the match.
 - The home team shall provide tennis balls.
 - All scores need to be entered on TennisLink by the **HOME TEAM CAPTAIN within 24 hour of the completed match.**
 - Ten-minute warm-up is permitted. Play is to begin no later than 10 minutes after the published match time.
 - All indoor matches will be 2-hour timed at **EVERY** facility. The procedure is as follows:
 - Time will be called at 1 hour, 45 minutes from the designated match time. All games in progress shall be completed (a game is in progress after the first ball is struck). Any team ahead by two games shall be awarded the win for that set.
 - If the match is in the second set and tied, or neither team is ahead by two games, play a 7-point tie-break (first to 7 by 2) using the Coman Tiebreak.
 - If sets are split after a second set tiebreak, play a 7 point tie-break (first to 7 by 2) using Coman Tiebreak.
- Indicate on TennisLink “Timed Match” on the dropdown.

- If rain interrupts a match in progress, the captains are to document the exact score, service, and side of the court. Resumed matches shall pick up exactly as left off. This is true whether there is a ten-minute delay or a two-week delay. **H.**
ALL electronic communication devices must be OFF when playing a match.

Section 12 - USTA Kansas Forfeit Rules:

USTA rules state that #2 Singles court must be forfeited before #1 Singles. Further stating #3 Doubles must be forfeited before #2 doubles, and on to #2 Doubles before #1 Doubles. **USTA Kansas has elected to impose additional rules.** In the event a team must play with fewer than the required minimum number of players as stated previously, the captain shall be informed before the exchange of lineups and the following policy shall apply:

Of Players Available Action

- 7 Forfeit #2 Singles
- 6 Forfeit #3 Doubles
- 5 Forfeit #2 Singles and #3 Doubles
- 4 Forfeit #2 Doubles and #3 Doubles
- 3 or fewer Forfeit Match

All forfeited matches are recorded as 6-0, 6-0 for the winner, and 0-6, 0-6 for the forfeiting team.

- If both teams are missing players, the above plan **must** be followed using the guidelines for the team with fewer players so that the maximum number of players present can play consistently with the league. Both teams will forfeit the courts in which they cannot field a full team. A term used in TennisLink is “Double Default” for entering scores.
 - If a team default occurs, the results in TennisLink will remain. Final team standings will be determined at the end of the league season by the District League Coordinator manually tallying match results. A team default “received” cannot be the deciding factor in final team standings.
 - If any team is in contention for the championship, the matching default committed will stand in the defaulting team’s record as a 0-5 loss (0-3, for three-court format).
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- Total team defaults in a league schedule must be reported to the District League Coordinator. Teams failing to complete play in their published league schedule will be subject to penalty. **Teams total team defaulting a match will not be allowed to advance to a Section Championship nor will the team be eligible to accept a wildcard offer.**
 - **If a captain refuses to play any of the scheduled matches after the season**

has started, he/she will not be allowed to captain any team for the remainder of the year.

Section 13 - Weather Policy:

- Notify the District League Coordinator, Dylan Jones at KansasDLC@gmail.com as soon as possible if a match date needs to be changed **due to weather. The District League Coordinator MUST have notice within one week** of the mutually agreed upon date for the changed match that has been set by captains involved in changing match dates. Weather rescheduled matches MUST NOT overlap from one season to the other as in Indoor and Outdoor league seasons.
- Host captains shall be responsible for securing indoor facilities, if necessary and available, and shall make every effort to play on the day scheduled to avoid scheduling and facility issues.
- Host captains are asked to be responsible for all matches being played at their level, in their city/site, on a given day.
- Make every attempt to play matches on the date scheduled. This may involve playing indoors or waiting a few hours for the weather to clear up.
- **Play interrupted by rain should continue indoors if courts are available.** Team captains are responsible for fees for any indoor match.
- Captains are responsible for informing their players and opposing captains of match location and time changes.
- Captains are responsible for notifying the District League Coordinator within 24 hours of changes in play dates due to weather.
- Captains are asked to reschedule complete or partial weather-related matches within one week of the original match date.
- **IF, 48 hours before the scheduled match, the temperature/heat index during match time is forecasted to reach 105F or higher, according to the National Weather Service, the District League Coordinator and team captains must confer within 24 hours of the match to reschedule, move the match indoors, or adjust the start time(s).**
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- **Summary:**
 - a. Make every attempt to play on the scheduled date.
 - b. Delays in start times are permissible due to bad weather.
(Communicate with the tennis facility to ensure court availability)
 - c. Changes in plans (moving indoors, rescheduling times or dates) shall be done by the participating captains by agreement.
 - d. The host captains shall be responsible for logistics when weather becomes a factor.

Section 14 - On Court Rules and Conduct:

The District League Coordinator has the right to file a grievance against a captain, player, or any team whose behavior has been found not to comply with the regulations and/or violates the standards of good conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship, including egregious, disruptive or abusive behavior that interferes with the administration of the league. Please follow “The Code” as it appears in the Friend At Court.

Section 15 - Match Scoring:

- All Men’s, Women’s, and Mixed Doubles matches shall be 2 sets with a match tiebreak instead of a third set in both Indoor and Outdoor leagues unless the match is time-restricted.
- A set tie-break shall be played at 6-6 in all sets. Coman tie-break procedures shall be followed.
- **A two-minute rest period** (called a set break) is permitted between all sets when a tie-break is used instead of a third set.
- **COACHING IS NOT PERMITTED AT ANY TIME DURING USTA LEAGUE MATCHES.**
- Scorecard entry errors should be reported to the District League Coordinator. Scores will be utilized in the TennisLink Dynamic Rating System and updated daily. Timely reporting of scores is necessary to generate ratings.

Section 16 - League Standing/District/Section Championships:

- A. Each 5-court match (2 singles & 3 doubles) or 3-court match (1 singles and 2 doubles, or 3 doubles) event shall be referred to as a “TEAM MATCH”
- B. The team in each league level with the best team match record shall be the league champion. A team shall be credited with one win by winning 3 of 5, 4 of 5 of 5 individual matches of a 5-court team match, or 2 of 3 or 3 of 3 in a 3-court match.
- In the event of a tie in a team match (due to individual match forfeits this is possible) the team winner will be determined by:
 - a. Total sets lost. (Includes defaulted matches)
 - b. Total games lost. (Includes defaulted matches)
 - D. If a tie, based on team match records exists at the end of the league season, a tie-break will be applied in the following USTA order:
 - Individual Matches. Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.
 - Head-to-Head. Winner head-to-head match only if all tied

teams have played each other and one team defeats all the teams that are tied. c. Sets. The loser of the fewest number of sets.

- Games. The loser of the fewest number of games.
- 1 match playoff.

- Teams with the highest standings in their level in Indoor and Outdoor league play will play a Single District Championship Tournament if two different teams have won the Indoor and Outdoor Leagues. **Teams that are the winners of the Indoor League must be able to field enough players to compete in a 5-line court format in the District Championships.**
- Kansas District Championship dates will be scheduled according to the Missouri Valley guidelines and must be played before the deadlines set by the Missouri Valley Section. Winners of the District Championship will qualify to advance to the Section Championship.
- The captain(s) whose teams have won both the Indoor and Outdoor league at their level may choose either roster to the Section Championships. D. Teams should not accept any District, Section, or National Championship invitation unless they have enough players attending to fill all courts for every match. Teams are required to play ALL championship matches scheduled. Any team withdrawing without coordinator approval is subject to a grievance and penalties.
- In the event Kansas receives a Section Wildcard in a particular NTRP level, the wildcard position shall be determined as the second-place team in that level's District Championship between the winners of the Indoor and Outdoor league. Wildcards will not be offered to districts that fielded teams in the level that had only two teams in the level. Wildcards will be offered if the requirements of the Missouri Valley regulations are met.
- Should no District Championship take place, the second-place team in the Outdoor league shall be offered the position confirming the team can meet the minimum number of players stated in the USTA regulations. The next team in the Outdoor League shall be awarded the Section Wildcard if the League Champion (or Wildcard team) declines a Section Championship bid.
- Section and National Championship dates and locations will be published on the USTA and USTA Missouri Valley websites. The District League Coordinator will provide all other information.

Section 16 - Grievance/Appeal Procedures:

- Self-Rate NTRP Grievance: Players who enter the USTA League Tennis program by inappropriately self-rating at an NTRP level lower than their actual skill level

are considered to have violated the standards of good conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship. These players may be subjected to an NTRP grievance. A player who inappropriately self-rates, and captains and others condone inappropriate self-rating may also be subject to possible sanctions, including disqualification and suspension.

- A player with a valid NTRP Computer “C” rating or Benchmark “B” or a granted Automatic appeal “A” or a computer rating is not subject to a self-rate grievance.
- Other grievances: a formal complaint by a captain against an opposing team or player may be filed, in writing, with the Kansas District League Coordinator within 96 hours of the infraction, and before the next scheduled match.
- A complaint regarding failure to meet eligibility may be filed by a team captain, League Coordinator, or a member of the championship committee at any time.
- A League Coordinator or member of a championship committee may file a grievance against an individual or team at any time.
- Players disqualified by the Dynamic Rating System will receive a letter from the Missouri Valley Office.
- The Missouri Valley Section NTRP Appeals Committee will process all self-rate appeals.
- A medical appeal may be requested by a player for reconsideration of his/her NTRP rating based on a permanently disabling injury or illness that has occurred since the player generated the year-end rating. Only the player may appeal his/her computer generating rating DUE TO MEDICAL REASONS. To request medical Appeal Forms, please reach out to your **District League Coordinator, Dylan Jones - KansasDLC@gmail.com**
- All NTRP Appeals should go through the “Auto Appeal” function in TennisLink.