



USTA LEAGUE TENNIS

2019 TULSA LOCAL LEAGUE RULES

Highlights - 2019 New Rules/Changes

- 1) **Tornado Warning:** If there is a tornado warning for Tulsa County matches will automatically be cancelled. (Rule #27)
- 2) **Rescheduled Matches:** If temperature is below 40° F **BOTH** captains must agree to play the match. League Coordinator has final say in extenuating circumstances. (Rule #27)
- 3) **Championship Requirements:** A player needs two matches in league play to participate in a local playoff. (Rule #30)

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1. RULES & REGULATIONS:

All players will abide by the 2019 Friend at Court, USTA League Regulations, Section and Local rules.

The USTA League Regulations may be accessed online at:

https://www.usta.com/content/dam/usta/pdfs/20180813_USTA_League_2019_Regulations.pdf#

The Section rules may be accessed online at:

https://www.usta.com/content/dam/usta/sections/missouri-valley/pdfs/adults/district_league_rules_regs/2018_USTA_Missouri_Valley_League_Regs.pdf

The USTA official publication, “The Code” (USTA 1.02) shall be used for all matches played without officials. “The Code” is available on the USTA national website and in the publication “Friend at Court”. Principles in “The Code” shall be in effect except where USTA/MV/Local Regulations specifically apply.

https://www.usta.com/content/dam/usta/pdfs/20180119_2018FAC-full.links.pdf

The Tulsa Local League Rules are supplemental to the USTA League Regulations and the Section rules. Any active local league not specifically mentioned in the local rules, shall be governed by the aforementioned rules.

2. TEAM REGISTRATION:

A. All team captains must have a “team number” in order to register a team. To request a team number, send an email to tulsaustaleagues@gmail.com with the following information:

CAPTAIN’S NAME & USTA #:

CO-CAPTAIN’S NAME & USTA #:

LEAGUE NAME & LEVEL: (For example, Adult 3.5 Men–18+, Adult 3.0 Women-40+)

PHONE NUMBERS: HOME-CELL-WORK

EMAIL ADDRESS:

HOME FACILITY:

A team number will be e-mailed back to the captain for players to register on a team.

B. Team Registration cut-off is February 10th, **at midnight**.

Each team must have at least 4 players on the roster by February 10th to qualify for scheduling; exception, Level 2.5 and 5.0 teams must have at least 3 players on the roster, otherwise, the team will be considered ineligible for scheduling and will be deleted.

C. No teams can be added after February 10th. **(Does not apply to daytime or tri-level league, Mixed 18+ or orphan teams. Other exceptions may be granted by the League Coordinator.)**

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3. ADDITIONS TO TEAM ROSTERS:

Players may be added to the roster from the start of player registration up to the day of the next to last originally scheduled match of the season. That date, **cannot be changed** by modifications to the original schedule. Only if a completely new schedule is generated, as defined by the local coordinator, can that date possibly change.

NOTE: In order to play, a player must be registered on the team's TennisLink roster before the start of a match. To be eligible, a player must have a valid NTRP (computer rated or self-rated) and a valid USTA membership number.

4. SCHEDULING:

- A. Schedules should be finalized by February 24^h. League matches will begin approximately March 1st.
- B. Any group level may be split into 2 or more flights, if deemed necessary for scheduling purposes.
- C. Leagues of 3 or more teams are guaranteed a minimum of 8 matches. The schedule for teams consisting of 2 teams will be coordinated with the captains to ensure enough matches are played to qualify all players for championship play.
- D. The LaFortune Tennis Center is a neutral playing site. Home matches from any other club may be scheduled at this facility, if necessary, to ensure timely completion of all matches. Once a match has been scheduled at the neutral site, it cannot be moved to the home team's facility, except if cancelled due to inclement weather.
- E. Home matches may be scheduled at the visitor's facility, if necessary, to ensure timely completion of all matches.

5. PLAYER FEES:

The player fee for registering on a team will be \$39 this season.

6. ON LEVEL PLAYER REQUIREMENTS:

All teams in the Adult 18 & Over or 40 & Over Divisions must maintain their roster with at least 40% of its players at the designated NTRP level of play (2.5 – 5.0). On-level player requirements uses combined NTRP rating levels for Mixed Leagues or 55 and 65 & Over Leagues.

7. PLAYING UP A LEVEL:

A player may play only one NTRP level (0.5) above his or her published self-rate or computer rating.

8. NTRP Plus (+) LEVELS OF PLAY (ADULT 18, 40 & OVER TYPE):

2.01A(1) A player cannot have an NTRP rating higher than the NTRP level in which the player is competing, except:

- 4.5+, Adult Division, 40 & Over, may include up to 3 players from 5.0 NTRP level
- 5.0+, Adult Division, 18 & Over, may include up to 2 players from 5.5 NTRP level

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2.01A(1)a In Plus (+) NTRP levels utilizing three individual matches within a team match, no more than one Plus (+) level player shall be allowed to play in a team match and shall be required to play in the #1 position, either singles or doubles.

2.01A(1)b In Plus (+) NTRP levels utilizing four or more individual matches within a team match, two Plus (+) level players may play in a team match and shall be required to play in the #1 position, either singles or doubles. Two Plus (+) level players may partner to play the #1 doubles position.

9. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS ON A TEAM:

ADULT 18 & OVER – 18; EXCEPTION: 2.5, 5.0 NTRP – 14

ADULT 40 & OVER – 18

ADULT 55 or 65 & OVER – 14

MIXED 18 or 40 & OVER – 20

10. MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENT:

Each player shall have reached the required minimum age prior to or during the calendar year in which such player participates in his or her first local league.

11. TEAM COMPOSITION:

A. The format for adult 18 & Over and 40 & Over division matches will be two singles courts and three doubles courts, except for levels 2.5 and 5.0 the format will be one singles court and two doubles.

B. The format for Adult 55 & Over, Mixed 18 & Over and Mixed 40 & Over will be three doubles courts.

C. 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. “Viable” would mean a minimum number of combination rated players to fill court formation. EX: 3 courts of 9 combination doubles, minimum, to participate in Adult 55+ & Over 9.0 league. (Section)

D. Not more than two (2) players from outside the district may play on a local team.

12. CHECK NTRP RATING:

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 individual match disqualification for that court.

For combo teams, there may not be more than a two-level (1.0 point) difference between partners on the court. For example, a 4.5/3.5 may partner on an 8.0 team but 4.5/3.0 may not.

13. REPORTING SCORES:

Within 48 hours of the meet, the winning captain/designee must enter the score in TennisLink. The opposing captain/designee must confirm or dispute scores entered within 48 hours of match time or the scores will be confirmed automatically by TennisLink and a dispute may not be filed. When a score is disputed, follow the procedure set forth in rule 14 below.

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Failure to report scores within 96 hours after completing the match may result in a Double Default on all courts. The 96 Hour Rule will be enforced unless the District League Coordinator approves a valid reason for delaying score entry.

14. DISPUTED SCORES:

When a score is disputed, the League Coordinator and the opposing captain should be immediately notified of the discrepancy, via email. The opposing captain must respond and either approve/reject the requested change. The dispute originator will follow up with the other captain if a response is not received within a reasonable amount of time.

15. DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS: 2019 tentative

ADULT 18 & OVER – TULSA: July 13-14

ADULT 40 & OVER – OKCTC: August 10-11

ADULT 55 & OVER – TULSA: June 21-22

ADULT 65 & OVER – TBD:

MIXED 18 & OVER – OKCTC: August 17-18

MIXED 40 & OVER – TULSA: June 22-23

TRI-LEVEL 18& OVER – OKCTC: October 12-13 possible date

WOMEN'S LOCAL PLAY-OFFS: Fall Day vs Spring Night

ADULT 18 & OVER – 2.5, 3.5 – June 10-12 LAF

ADULT 18 & OVER – 3.0, 4.0 – June 17-19 LAF

TRI LEVEL – September 17-19 LAF

16. SECTION & NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP DATES:

See enclosed championship schedules.

17. PENALTIES FOR LATENESS:

5:00 minutes or less Loss of toss plus 1 game

5:01 – 10:00 minutes Loss of toss plus 2 games

10:01 – 15 minutes Loss of toss plus 3 games

More than 15 minutes Default

Note: Any player who is not ready to play at the scheduled match start time, although present, may be considered late and penalized per the above schedule.

18. PLAYING ON MORE THAN ONE TEAM:

A. Players may play on 2 teams at different levels, in the same local league season. A player may play on both teams at districts during the same championship weekend but **no special consideration will be made in scheduling.**

B. A player can play on 2 teams at the same level, in the same season, in different area local leagues or a day and a night league. For example, a player on a 4.0 team in Tulsa may also play on a 4.0 team in Oklahoma City. **In the event both teams make it to the local play-off or district championship, a player may only play on one team.**

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- C. However, if the day and night league in the same local league area advance to meet for play off and the roster is 100% identical, no play off is needed.

19. TEAM LINEUP:

The team captains shall exchange their team lineup cards simultaneously prior to the beginning of the team match

20. SET & MATCH TIEBREAKS:

The local, district, sectional, and national levels will use the Coman Tiebreak.

21. NO COACHING ALLOWED:

Coaching is considered to be communication, advice, or instruction of any kind, audible or visible, to a player.

22. ONLY MATCH PARTICIPANTS ALLOWED ON COURT:

Only match participants are allowed on court, at any time, during a match.

23. NO REST PERIOD AFTER FIRST GAME:

There will be **no 90 second rest** after the first game; however, you will still switch sides of play. This is done to comply with the same tournament play rules as USTA tournament play.

24. NO CELL PHONE USE ALLOWED:

All players must turn off their cell phone before going to the court. Using a cell phone during match play is strictly prohibited.

25. FACILITY WILL SUPPLY BALLS:

A standard Type 2 USTA approved ball shall be used. Any USTA “transition” ball is prohibited.

26. INCLEMENT WEATHER (RAIN/HEAT/SNOW/ICE/TEMP. BELOW 40°):

This rule covers only a limited number of possible hazardous/non-playing conditions. Therefore, when it comes to safety of the players, common sense shall prevail.

- A. In case of rain/snow/ice, the home captain is responsible for contacting the playing site, one hour before match time to determine court playability.
- B. If a team match is in progress when inclement weather occurs, teams must wait one half-hour before agreeing to reschedule. (EXCEPTION: If the facility staff or both captains agree the courts will not be playable in one half-hour.)
- C. If the temperature forecast is below **40°F**, including wind-factor, **both captains must agree to play the match**; however, no match should be cancelled more than **3** hours in advance of the scheduled match time.
- D. If the temperature/heat index during match time is forecasted to reach **105° F** or higher, the match must be rescheduled, unless both captains agree to play. In order for this rule to take effect, team captains must communicate with each other, at least one hour before the start of the match and make their intentions known. If possible delay the start time.

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- E. If you are scheduled to play at a facility, and there is a **TORNADO WARNING** for that particular **COUNTY**, the USTA matches scheduled will automatically be cancelled. Captains should still call the facility to make sure the matches are cancelled.
- F. The Local League Coordinator has the authority to call matches off for eminent hazardous weather up to 3 hours before a match.

NOTES:

- **Not showing up for a match without notifying the other captain, is a team default. A team that defaults an entire match will be dropped from the round robin.**
- If there is a disagreement regarding the temperature conditions, the following website should be referenced to decide: www.mesonet.org/index.php/weather/local/tuln
- When rescheduling a match, if at all possible, try to move the match to a later time on the same day.
- When a match is cancelled, the home team is responsible for notifying the tennis facility that the match has been cancelled and for scheduling the make-up match with the league Coordinator.

27. MAKE-UP MATCHES:

- A. Rescheduling matches for any reason other than inclement weather must be approved and rescheduled by the local league coordinator, 3 days in advance of scheduled match. **PLEASE TRY TO PLAY WHEN SCHEDULED.**
- B. You have 2 weeks to reschedule make-up matches.
- C. League Coordinator has final say and discretion for extenuating circumstances and may approve a reschedule less than 3 days in advance.

NOTE:

- When completing the scorecard for a rescheduled match, be sure to enter the date the match was actually played.

28. DEFAULTS:

- A. If an ineligible player plays a match, that line will be declared a default.
- B. When defaulting individual lines, you must default lines from the bottom up. At the time of exchange, the lineup may be adjusted to record the default in the proper place.
- C. Any team defaulting one complete match which is at least three (3) lines, if it is a five (5) line league format, or, two (2) lines, if it is a three (3) line league format, **may be ineligible to play the rest of the season.**

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29. ALL SCHEDULED MATCHES MUST BE PLAYED:

If a captain REFUSES to play all the scheduled matches for the season, HE/SHE WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PLAY THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

30. MATCHES REQUIRED TO ADVANCE TO CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY:

- A. A player must play at least 2 matches in a Local League to be eligible for Local Play-offs, District and Section Championships, and 3 matches before advancing to nationals.

- B. One (1) default match received shall count as a match played for advancing to Local, District, Section and National Championships.

- C. RETIRED matches shall count for all participants.

31. NTRP APPEALS:

Only a player logged into their USTA Account may appeal their rating. Please note that no National Championship benchmark rating may be appealed the first year received except for medical reasons.

32. REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR SECTION CHAMPIONSHIP:

- A. *Players from teams that win District must self-register within 3 days after winning to confirm their participation at the Section Championship.* Any teams that do not have the minimum number of players registered, by the deadline, will be contacted immediately by the District Coordinator and asked to complete the registration or the second-place team may be invited. Once a team completes the online registration, no funds will be refunded for any reason.

- B. **Any player who has missed the Sectional Registration Deadline, set by the section, and who wishes to participate in the championship, must contact the Adult Program manager for permission and will submit a check, cash or credit card for the registration fee, payable to USTAMV, at the captain's check-in, to be eligible to play. No players will be allowed to play in the championship if they did not register or pay the fee by check, cash or credit card.**

33. BULLYING/HAZING/HARASSMENT RULES: See Appendix B

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34. 2019 TRI-LEVEL LEAGUES ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS

Tri-Level Leagues are subject to all national, sectional, and local league regulations except in the instances list below. The below listed rules are subject to change before the start of the 2019 Tri-Level League season.

- 1. Team.** A “team” shall consist of 3 doubles lines for NTRP levels, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 or 2.5, 3.0, 3.5. Team matches shall consist of a minimum of three NTRP consecutive levels (a “Tri-Level Format”).
- 2. Levels of Play.** For league play, doubles teams will use straight NTRP levels (2.5, 3.0, and 3.5 / 3.5, 4.0, and 4.5). A player may play one level higher than the player’s rating.
- 3. Competition Format. Round Robin.** Each Tri-Level format within a local league shall play at least one round robin competition wherein every team plays every other team. Any Tri-Level format with only two or three teams is required to play a minimum of three matches.
- 4. Ratings.** All Tri-Level Matches will be used for Year End Ratings Calculations.
- 5. Championships:** All 2019 Tri-Level Local league play must conclude by October 27th, 2019 to be eligible to compete in the section invitational. Tri-Level Section Invitational **TBD**. Teams will use round robin format to determine a winner.
- 6. Self-Rated players** are eligible to participate in a Section Championship, but must generate a Year End Computer Rating, at the same level they competed in the local league, to be eligible to compete at the National Championship tournament in Indian Wells (i.e., all players competing in Indian Wells must have a computer rating).
- 7. Advancement:** Players must play at least **one** match with their team to be eligible to play at the district or section event. Defaults do not count for matches played.
- 8. Sectional Invitation Requirements:** Teams wishing to compete at the 2019 Section Invitational must have at least 2 rostered players in each of the NTRP levels able to attend the invitational. If not, the team will not be invited to attend.

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APPENDIX B: Bullying/Hazing/Harassment Rules

1. Bullying

Repeated inappropriate behavior, either direct or indirect, whether verbal, physical, or otherwise, conducted by one or more persons against another or others. It is the effect of the behavior on the individual which is important, not the intent of the person committing the act. Specifically, bullying refers to:

- a. An intentional, persistent and repeated pattern of committing or willfully tolerating physical and non-physical behaviors that are intended to cause fear, humiliation, or physical harm in an attempt to socially exclude, diminish, or isolate the individual(s) targeted.
- b. Any violation of state law prohibiting bullying.

Examples of bullying prohibited by the USTA include, without limitation:

- i. Physical behaviors, including: (a) repeated hitting, pushing, punching, beating, biting, striking, choking, or slapping an individual; (b) repeated throwing at or hitting an individual with objects, including sporting equipment.
- ii. Verbal and emotional behaviors, including: (a) repeated teasing, ridiculing, intimidating; (b) spreading rumors or making false statements; or (c) using electronic communications, social media, or other technology to harass, frighten, intimidate, or humiliate ("cyber bullying").

Bullying does not include group or team behaviors that: (i) are meant to establish normative team behaviors; (ii) promote team cohesion; (iii) are a condition of membership; or (iv) do not have reasonable potential to cause emotional or physical distress to any individual. For example, bullying does not include verbal admonitions to encourage team members to train harder and to push through a difficult training regimen.

2. Hazing

Intentionally humiliating, degrading, or risking emotional or physical harm regardless of the individual's willingness to participate.

Hazing specifically refers to coercing, requiring, forcing or willfully tolerating any humiliating, unwelcomed or dangerous activity that serves as a condition for (a) joining a group; or (b) being socially accepted by a group's members. In addition, hazing refers to any act or conduct described as hazing under federal or state law. Activities that fit the definition of hazing are considered hazing regardless of an individual's willingness to cooperate or participate.

Hazing does not include group or team behaviors that: (i) are meant to establish normative team behaviors, or (ii) promote team cohesion.

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APPENDIX B – (CONTINUED)

Examples of hazing prohibited by the USTA include, without limitation:

- a. Requiring, forcing or otherwise requiring the consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs;
- b. Tying, taping, or otherwise physically restraining an individual(s);
- c. Sexual simulations or sexual acts of any nature;
- d. Requiring social actions (e.g., grossly inappropriate or provocative clothing) or public displays (e.g., public nudity) that are illegal or meant to draw ridicule; or
- e. Beating, paddling, or other forms of physical assault.

3. Harassment

Harassment includes, but is not limited to, harassment on the basis of race, creed, color, disability, marital status, veteran status, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, religion, physical handicap, and stalking. While it is not easy to define precisely what harassment is, it includes, but is not limited to, slurs, epithets, threats, derogatory comments, unwelcome jokes and teasing, derogatory pictures, posters, gestures, and unwanted blocking or interference of movement and personal space.

Examples of harassment that are prohibited by the USTA include, without limitation:

- a. (i) making negative or disparaging comments about an individual's sexual orientation, gender expression, disability, veteran status, age, sex, physical handicap, religion, skin color, ethnic traits, domestic violence victim status, stalking, genetic predisposition or carrier status; (ii) displaying offensive materials, media, gestures, or symbols; (iii) withholding or reducing playing time to an athlete based on his/her sexual orientation.
- b. Any act or conduct described as harassment under federal or state law.

END