

USTA LEAGUE NEBRASKA DISTRICT RULES 2017
FOR ADULT AND MIXED DIVISIONS

The Nebraska District League Tennis Rules, which are supplemented by the Missouri Valley Section League Tennis Rules and Regulations and USTA National League Tennis Program Rules and Regulations, shall apply to USTA League Tennis in the USTA Nebraska District. If the Nebraska District does not have a regulation in place to address an issue and there is a Sectional regulation on that issue, then the Nebraska District must follow the Sectional regulation; and If there is no Sectional regulation on that issue, and there is a National Regulation on that issue, the Nebraska District must follow the National Championship Regulation.

Captains will be responsible for reviewing all league regulations (District, Sectional and National) and communicating those rules to their players. The Nebraska District will hold captains meetings, however, any Captain unable to attend a scheduled Captains Meeting will be solely responsible for obtaining information provided at the meeting.

USTA League Program: The USTA League is a team competition for men, women and mixed genders at specified National Tennis Rating Program (“NTRP”) levels of play. The USTA League Program is organized as follows:

League Type	League Format	NTRP Levels	Championship Levels
Adult 18 & Over	1 – Singles 2 – Doubles	2.5, 5.0+	District, Sectional and National
Adult 18 & Over	2 – Singles 3 – Doubles	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	District, Sectional and National
Adult 40 & Over	2 – Singles 3 – Doubles	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5+	District, Sectional and National
Adult 55 & Over	3 – Doubles	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0	District, Sectional and National
Adult 65 & Over	3 – Doubles	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0	Sectional
Mixed 18 & Over	3 – Doubles	5.0, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0	District, Sectional and National
Mixed 40 & Over	3 – Doubles	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0	District and Sectional

The USTA MV League Championships will operate on a combination of select levels. There will be four Sectional Championships of League Combinations:

Championship	League Type Combination	NTRP Levels
Adult Section Championship I	Adult 18 & Over Adult 55 & Over	3.0, 4.0, 5.0+ 7.0 and 9.0
Adult Section Championship II	Adult 18 & Over Adult 55 & Over	2.5, 3.5, 4.5 6.0 and 8.0
Adult Section Championship III	Adult 40 & Over Men and Women	3.0 and 4.0 3.5 and 4.5
Mixed Doubles Section Championship I	Mixed 18 & Over	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0
Mixed Doubles Section Championship II	Mixed 40 and Over	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0

USTA League Type Age Requirements:

League Type	USTA League Participant Age Requirement
Adult 18 & Over	Must be at least 18 years of age, or turn 18, in the calendar year in which they will play.
Adult 40 & Over	Must be at least 40 year of age, or turn 40, in the calendar year in which they play
Adult 55 & Over	Must be at least 55 years of age, or turn 55, in the calendar year in which they play
Adult 65 & Over	Must be at last 65 years of age, or turn 65, in the calendar year in which they play
Mixed 18 & Over	Must be at least 18 years of age, or turn 18, in the calendar year in which they will play.
Mixed 40 & Over	Must be at least 40 year of age, or turn 40, in the calendar year in which they play

40 and over 5.0+ and 4.5+ NTRP Level teams are allowed to include up to three players from the next higher NTRP level, 18 and over are allowed up to two players. All Plus (+) players must play in the #1 position at either #1 singles or #1 doubles. The 5.0+ Level may only utilize one Plus (+) player in a team match. The 4.5+ Level may utilize two Plus (+) players in a team match.

Matches Required to Advance to Championships:

Championships	Local Matches Required	Defaults that Count
District	2 Matches	1 default received shall count
Sectional	2 Matches	1 default received shall count
National	3 Matches	1 default shall count.
RETIRED matches shall count for all players		

Move-up/Split-up:

2.06A (1): Adult Divisions: Teams and team members that advanced to, or qualified for, any Adult National Championship may play together as a team, in whole or in part in any Age Group within the Adult Division if they move up one NTRP team level in accordance with the table below. These players may combine and play at any level for which they are eligible in the Mixed Division.

2.06A (2) Mixed Divisions: Teams and team members that advanced to, or qualified for, any Mixed Division National Championship may play together as a team, in whole or in part in any Age Group within the Mixed Division if they move up one NTRP team level in accordance with the table on the Missouri Valley USTA website. These players may combine and play at any level for which they are eligible in the Adult Division.

2.06A (3) All Divisions: No more than 3 players (2 for Adult 2.5 and 5.0+) who were on the roster of any team or combination of teams, that advanced to, or qualified for, any National Championship the previous year may play together in any age group within the same Division and NTRP level or lower NTRP level (if their NTRP rating allows) as the National Championship team. Move Up/Split Up requirements only apply to players who participated in three (3) or more matches (excluding all defaults) for that team during the championship year.

Local League:

- Local League Season:** Local league season and District playoff dates shall be determined by the District League Coordinator, but must be in congruence with the dates set by the USTA Missouri Valley Section (“USTA MV”). The 2016 local league season for the Nebraska District begins on January 1, 2016 and the District Championships, local league, local league playoffs and/or local league matches must be completed as follows:

League Types	Date
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Adult 18 & Over	July 23, 2017
Adult 40 & Over	July 23, 2017
Adult 55 & Over	August 20, 2017
Adult 65 & Over	June 18, 2017
Mixed 18 & Over	August 27, 2017
Mixed 40 & Over	August 27, 2017

*Adult 18 and 40 and over teams must be formed by June 25 2017 in order to be eligible for sectional play.

2. The state will be divided into three Local Leagues. Omaha, Lincoln and Mid-State (all other).
3. The Local League Coordinators will be responsible for setting up a schedule of play with the District League Coordinator. After the schedule is approved by the District League Coordinator, the schedule will be published on TennisLink.
4. The Local League Coordinators shall not deviate from any of the rules voted on and approved by the player's council without approval by the player's council.
5. A team may compete in more than one Local League at the discretion and authorization of the District League Coordinator. If a team, captain (including non-playing captains) or player qualifies for the District League Championships in more than one Local League at the same Division, then that team, captain or player must choose only one Local League to represent at the District League Championships for that Division.
6. If a Local League has a Division consisting of a single team then that team may participate in another Local League. If neither the Omaha, Lincoln nor Mid-State Local Leagues have 2 or more teams in a Division, then an All-State League will be played with the teams from all of the Local Leagues. There will be no District League Championship for All-State Leagues.
7. If only two teams exist in the entire state for a level, they will play a minimum of three (3) team matches to determine the Nebraska representative at the Sectional Championships. Two-Team Leagues must schedule and publish the schedule on TennisLink with a minimum of 3 matches. All score reporting rules must be followed if the winner of a two-team league wishes to be considered a valid team to advance to a sectional championship.
8. **40 Percent Rule:** If an Adult 18 & Over and Adult 40 & Over League consists of only two teams in a level of play, each team must maintain its roster with at least 40% of its players at the designated NTRP level of play.
9. **30 Percent Rule:** An Adult 18 & Over and Adult 40 & Over League must maintain 30% of its roster with atleast 30% of its players at the designated NTRP level of play.

Participation:

1. **Individual Participation:** A player may play on one team per Division, per local league, per local season. A player may play only one NTRP level above the player's current NTRP level in the Adult or Mixed Divisions.
2. **Division:** A Division is one NTRP level of one USTA League Type. A League Type is Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over, Adult 65 & Over, Mixed 18 & Over and Mixed 40 & Over.
3. **Captain:** No individual may captain, or be involved in captain decisions, for more than one team per Division of play in each Local League (See 6.5).
4. **Membership:** USTA Membership valid through August will be required to register for a team for Adult 18 & Over and Adult 40 & Over; through September for Adult 55 & Over, Adult 65 & Over, Mixed 18 & Over and Mixed 40 & Over.

5. **NTRP Rating Requirement:** All players must have a valid NTRP rating to participate in the USTA League. A valid rating is a computer rating or proper self-rating.
6. **2.7 Self-Rating:** New players who will need to self-rate themselves according to the National League Rules, may not do so and join a team until they have contacted the District League Coordinator. Failure to contact the District League Coordinator before self-rating and joining a team may be considered unsportsmanlike conduct, and an NTRP Grievance may be filed.
7. A player who plays exclusively in the Mixed Doubles Division and chooses to participate in an Adult Division the next year must enter the Adult Division by self-rating. The player must then play at the higher of the self-rating and the mixed exclusive rating.
8. Each team must compete at the level of the highest combined rated doubles team on the roster. It is the responsibility of the team Captain to ensure that all doubles partners are within the combined level of play during each match. Failure to comply will result in match disqualification. There may be no more than a two-level (i.e. one-point) difference between partners on the court (e.g., 5.0 and 4.0 are okay, but 5.0 and 3.0 are not).
9. **One Rating:** All rated players of the self-rate category including medical or automatic appeal players, will have their rating defined by the NTRP level of play in which they participate in the adult and mixed leagues. Each player will have a single rating, and the same rating for all leagues. Should a player play at multiple adult NTRP levels, his/her highest NTRP level of participation in adults leagues will be the defining level of play.
10. **Team Registration:** A player must be registered on his/her team prior to playing his/her first match. Should a player compete for a team without being registered on the team, the individual matches that the player competed in will be deemed forfeits. New players registering for a team during a league season must do so before the last two scheduled matches in the flight or Division on which they are participating. Team participation for all Divisions of play shall be committed by their respective Commitment Date listed above.
11. All District information (rosters from local league winning teams and team fee) regarding the Sectional Championships is to be submitted no later than 14 days prior to the start of Sectional Championship competition. If any team enters the Sectional Championship, but withdraws within 5 days prior to the Start of the Championship competition, the entry fee shall be forfeited and each rostered player eligible for play at sectionals shall not be able to participate in local league play for that division (Adult or Mixed) during the following year.

Rosters & Fees:

1. **Roster Fee:** Each player will be required to pay \$20 to register for a team. This money is collected by the USTA's Tennis Link computer program. This registration fee is not refundable should a player not participate on the team he/she registered for, unless there are extenuating circumstances that would warrant a refund. Any refund given to a player is done so at the discretion of the District League Coordinator.
2. **Roster Changes:** Additions may be made to the roster prior up until the last two scheduled matches of that team's local league. If an added team member fails to meet the requirements of Rule 2.0 then matches played by that player are forfeit. Deletions of players from a roster are permitted provided the deleted player has not played any matches. No refund of roster fees is possible. The league coordinator must be notified of the deletion. At no time may the number of players on a roster exceed the limit set forth in Rule 3.3. This must be compliant with Sectional rules.
3. **Closed Roster:** No team, in any Division, shall have more than 16 active players on Adult leagues. No team, in any Division, shall have more than 14 active players on Adult 18 & Over (5.0+ only), Adult 55 & Over, Adult 65 & Over, Mixed 18 & Over and Mixed 40 & Over leagues. Any player on a roster who has not been listed on a scorecard in a match can be deleted from the team. No refund of registration fee is available for the player deleted from a team.

4. **Lineup:** Teams are not required to field players in order of strength at any level of league competition within the Nebraska District. Team Captains for each team shall exchange their team match cards simultaneously **prior** to the scheduled start time of the team match. **Lineups must be exchanged on or before scheduled match time. If a player in the lineup is not present at this time they must be placed on the lineup card at the #2 singles or # 3 doubles spot or be replaced by another player who is present. This must be done prior to start time. If it is a mixed or 55 and over match they must be placed at #3 doubles. If it is a 5.0 match they must be placed #1 singles or #2 doubles spot. For more on late arrivals, see below.**
5. **No substitutions** may be made in an individual match after the lineup has been presented, except for injury to, illness of, or a disqualification of a player prior to the start of such match. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the option to recommence the war-up rests with the substituted player. The first serve is considered the start of the match.
6. **Active Players:** A player who has played a match or been listed on a scorecard on a team, may become inactive should he/she sustain a season ending injury, move away from the district, or have an NTRP increase that ends his/her eligibility to participate on the team. The captain must notify the District League Coordinator of players on the same team or become active on another team in that Division.
7. **District Fee:** Each Adult 18 & Over and Adult 40 & Over team playing in the District Championship will be required to pay a \$120 entry fee. Each Mixed Doubles or Adult 55 & Over and Adult 65 & Over team playing in the District Championships will be required to pay a \$90 entry fee. The District League Coordinator will collect this fee. This fee may be waived, decreased, or increased by the District League Coordinator should the need arise.

Match Format & Scheduling of Matches:

1. National League Regulations specify the team format to be used by the Nebraska District.
2. Match Format of Play: The format of play for individual matches is the best of three sets where the third and deciding set is a Match Tiebreak in Lieu of the set itself.
3. Round Robin Play: The procedures in the event of a tie will be in accordance with the National League Regulations.
4. **Scheduling of Leagues:** Prior to the first match in a league, all matches must be scheduled and set up on the internet. No schedule changes are allowed except for those due to weather restrictions, facility failure, or due to error in scheduling by the District League Coordinator (example of facility failure would be power outage or facility schedule errors).
5. **Schedule Changes:** No additional team matches can be added to the schedule after the team match schedule is completed.

Scorecards

1. At the conclusion of each match the captains shall enter the results using USTA's Tennis Link. Standings will be used to determine advancement in the league play and it is essential for all matches to be recorded properly. Any entry errors shall be reported to the District League Coordinator. Scores must be entered within 48 hours of completing the match. Teams have 48 hours after the score is reported to confirm or dispute. TennisLink will automatically confirm scores 48 hours after being reported. Failure to report scores 96 hours after completing the match shall 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.

Captains Meeting

1. The Local League Coordinator shall schedule and organize each of their Local League captain's meeting.

2. League materials will be distributed at the captain's meeting. Every team captain or their designee must be present. All teams are responsible for information, rules, regulations, etc., distributed, discussed, voted on, and agreed to or in any other way acted upon at the captain's meeting.

Late Arrivals

1. Any player who is late to a match by 15 minutes past scheduled match time will be defaulted. A timepiece mutually agreed upon by both captains or acting captains will be used to determine the 15 minute default time. **There will be no exceptions to this rule, even should both captains agree to an exception.** For lineup information whereas a player is not present, please see above under Lineups.

Incomplete Matches

1. At the end of the scheduled match time, the players participating in an incomplete match shall:
 - a. Finish the match at a mutually agreed upon time, before the next schedule match (in that league), for any of the players involved in the match.
 - b. If a mutually agreed upon time cannot be determined, then the Level Coordinator or the District League Coordinator will set a new time, date and location for the completion of the match, unless one party retires from the match.
 - c. If the players are assigned a time and place to complete a match or agree to finish the match at a mutually agreed upon time and place, and one party cannot make the new time, that party forfeits, and the match is concluded. There is no additional rescheduling involved.
 - d. Notify the District League Coordinator of the incomplete match with 48 hours and new schedule time so the 48- hour default rule can be suspended.

District Championships

1. **Eligibility:** A team will consist of players that have played a minimum of two matches against teams of the same level within their Local League's Division. Players from advancing teams are eligible to advance to the District Championships if they have two qualifying matches, with only one default counting as a match played. The 1st place team in each level within their respective Local League shall be eligible for Districts. If the first place team cannot compete the 2nd (or 3rd, etc.) place team in that league will fill this spot. If no team will compete from a Local League then the spot will be vacant.
2. **Format:** Play will be a round robin format with no more than 4 teams for each level. If only 2 teams are entered in the district championship for a level than a single team match may be used to determine the winner. The District League Coordinator determines the format for the championships.
3. **Wildcards:** The purpose of wildcards is to fill the draw to the 4-team format. If there are less than 4 teams selected to compete at a level, and the District Coordinator determines a wildcard team is necessary, then the wildcard team will fill this position.

Two of the next eligible teams (usually 2nd place teams), from each Local League, with the highest winning percentage (wins/total matches) will play a qualifying match to determine the wildcard entry. If there are only two leagues at a level in the District, then the District Coordinator may allow a 2nd place team from each of the two Local Leagues represented to play in the District Championships (Clarification Example: 2nd place from Local League one is 8-1 with a winning percentage of 89%, 2nd place from Local League two is 3-1 with a winning percentage of 75%, and 2nd place team from Local League three is 2-2 with a winning percentage of 50%. The Local League one team and Local League two team would play a single match to determine who is the wildcard qualifying team)

- b. **Wildcard Determination:** The District Coordinator shall determine if Wild Card Teams are necessary.

4. **Order of Play:** When four (4) teams are competing at a single level, then the order of play is determined in the following sequence.
 - a. If three (3) Local Leagues are represented, then teams from the same Local League shall play each other last.
 - b. If two (2) Local Leagues are represented, then #1 seeds from each Local League shall play each other last. Teams from the same Local League shall play in the second round.
 - c. If one (1) Local League is represented, then the teams shall be seeded with #1 vs. #4 and #2 vs. #3, then #1 vs. #3 and #2 vs. #4, and then #1 vs. #2 and #3 vs. #4. The four teams should be scheduled to play at the same times. If this cannot be accomplished, then the preference of scheduled playing time (following the above rotation) must be given to the team traveling the farthest (or the highest seeded team if distance is equal). If only 3 teams elect to play at the district championship the team traveling the farthest shall have the choices of playing times. The order of play will then be determined by a coin toss.
5. **Substitutions:** If a substitution due to injury or illness occurs during the warm-up time, the warm-up clock shall restart.
6. **Waiver:** In the case of an All-State league (one league in District) then a District Championships will not be necessary and the league winner will advance directly to the sectional championships unless the District Coordinator decides otherwise.
7. **Sectional Championship Commitment Deadline.** Any and all teams advancing to a Sectional Championship must register for said Sectional Championship as follows:
 - a. Teams advancing from District Championship must register within three (3) days of completion of District Championship; and
 - b. Teams advancing from All-State League must register within two (2) weeks of completion of All-State League.

If an advancing team does not register by the aforementioned deadlines, said advancing team shall be disqualified from advancing to a Sectional Championship. A replacement team will be chosen at the discretion of the District League Coordinator.

Grievance and Appeals

1. Interpretations of these rules may be appealed to the Players Council by forwarding the appeal to the District League Coordinator. There is a \$25 fee for all non-NTRP appeals. This fee is payable to the NTA, and must be included with the written appeal. All appeals need to be filed with the District League Coordinator. If the appeal is upheld, any fee shall be refunded. The District League Coordinator will forward the appeal to the Players Council Chairman. (See section 2.00 of national league rules)
2. **Grievance and Appeal Committees:** The Player Council Members shall act as the Grievance and Appeal Committees for the Nebraska District. The Vice-President of Adult Competition of the Nebraska Tennis Association shall chair the Player Council and shall appoint Council members to the Grievance and Appeal Committees with the approval of the District League Coordinator and the Sectional League Coordinator as needed.
3. All complaints alleging a violation by an individual or team during local league competition shall be filed in writing with the Local or District League Coordinator (or designee) having jurisdiction. The complaint must be filed prior to the commencement of the next team match in that flight involving such individual or team, or within 24 hours after the end of local league play, whichever occurs first.
4. If a player contacts any Coordinator to report that a captain or player has used the Auto-Appeal Function to appeal the player's rating without the player's permission, a grievance will be immediately filed by the coordinator, with a recommendation of suspension of 1 year for the person using the appeal function.

5. **NTRP Grievance Complaint.** Any captain, coordinator or committee member may file a Grievance against any player and/or captain they feel has entered, or condoned entering, below their actual skill level. The player they are filing a grievance against must be a Self-Rated player, a Tournament-Exclusive player, or a Mixed-Doubles-Exclusive player. The Section League Grievance Committee having jurisdiction, augmented as necessary by experts in NTRP ratings, will review the alleged violator's completed USTA Player Electronic Self-Rate questionnaire. If NTRP Grievances are filed during a Sectional Championship, they will be held and then forwarded to the Section League Grievance Committee within 48 hours of the conclusion of the championship. After review, and in consultation with the NTRP experts who have augmented the committee, they will take action as they deem appropriate, including, but not limited to, disqualification, suspension from league play, or other league sanction.
6. Any player NTRP disqualified from the USTA League Tennis-Adult division may not play at the disqualified level of play for USTA Mixed Doubles or any event sanctioned by USTA for the remainder of the championship league year or for up to three years, unless a new NTRP rating is generated.

District League Coordinator

1. The District League Coordinator with the permission of the player council has the authority to make exceptions to the District rules in order to facilitate organization and growth of the league.
2. Any exceptions made must first be verbally passed to the Chairman of the Players' Council and followed up with written exception.
3. The exception must have the approval of a majority of the captains at that level in the league. The District League Coordinator must approve the change and then the Player Council will either approve or disapprove. The council vote will be handled by mail or e-mail and will take approximately two weeks. The information sent to the Council will include any input the change and will be notified of the outcome of the vote and their right to submit information to the council.

Player's Council

1. The Player Council Members shall serve until such time as they step down from office. The Council shall have the authority to appoint members to the council and these members must be approved by the Nebraska Tennis Association Adult Competition Committee Chair.
2. The Grievance and Appeal Committees for the Nebraska District shall be comprised of the Player Council Members.

Indoor/Outdoor weather rescheduling:

INDOOR meet rescheduling:

The District Coordinator or designee may cancel matches if road conditions or weather conditions are hazardous. Decisions to cancel will be made only by the District Coordinator or designee. In case of inclement weather, the team captain or designee should contact the District Coordinator or designee the morning of the match to see if your match has been cancelled. Decisions to cancel are based on current information from the Nebraska Highway Patrol or the National Weather Service. No match will be cancelled more than 24 hours in advance of the scheduled match time. If the match is cancelled, the captains within 2 days must select a mutually acceptable new date to play the makeup match. The makeup match does not need to be played within 2 days, but the reschedule date must be DECIDED and the District Coordinator notified within 2 days. If captains are unable to agree on a date the District Coordinator will reschedule the match. New line-up scorecards will be exchanged at the time of the rescheduled match.

OUTDOOR meet rescheduling:

If the match has begun (first service ball struck) and the match is halted because of rain, the match is considered incomplete. Within 2 days of the rained out match, the specific players involved will set dates to complete their

individual matches. The match does not need to be completed within 2 days, but the match completion date must be DECIDED and the District Coordinator notified within 2 days. Match scores resume at the point of rain delay. For example, if a team won the 1st set 6-3 and is up 3-2 in the 2nd set, the match resumes at 6-3, 3-2. The District Coordinator should be notified immediately of incomplete matches and the final scores should be entered on Tennis Link when the match is concluded.

If the match has NOT yet begun (no service ball has been struck) due to rain the match is cancelled before it starts. The entire match will be rescheduled with new line-up scorecards. The captains within 2 days must select a mutually acceptable new date to play the makeup match. The makeup match does not need to be played within 2 days, but the reschedule date must be DECIDED and the District Coordinator notified within 2 days. If captains are unable to agree on a date the District Coordinator will reschedule the match. New line-up scorecards will be exchanged at the time of the rescheduled match.