USTA LEAGUE NEW ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT
RULES OF PLAY (16)

1. REGULATIONS:
The USTA Rules of Tennis (Friend at Court) and the Code will be observed during this event. USTA League Regulations, USTA New England Sectional Regulations and the Friend at Court will govern this event.

2. TEAM COMMITMENT/TEAM WITHDRAWL:
If for any reason your team is unable to participate in the USTA League New England Championships, please notify your tournament director immediately by email and phone. A team that does not make contact by the confirmation deadline to accept their tournament bid may be replaced by a wild card team. A $200 penalty may be imposed on a team that withdraws after the confirmation deadline has passed. A team that withdraws 48 hours or less from the start of the championship event will be responsible for 100% of their team fee. The captain may be sanctioned and the team may also be deemed ineligible for play or be required to split up for the following USTA League local Championship Year.

3. TEAM ELIGIBILITY:
Each team participating in a championship must be able to field enough players to fill all positions required to play in a team match through completion of that championship event. If a team cannot fill all positions the captains must contact the TD to discuss his/her situation. In exceptional situations and based on tournament needs a waiver might be granted.

4. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:
All players participating in a championship must have played at least two (2) local matches for the same team. A defaulted match shall count as a match played for the player(s) receiving the default. Refer to USTA League Regulation 2.03A (3). All players must have a valid membership. (Refer to New England USTA League Sectional Regulation 3.7)
3.7.2. A player may compete on one team, and one team only, at the same NTRP level in a championship event (Districts or Sectional) for each division and age group. Championships may be held in more than one location at the same time or on different dates and are considered one championship event.
3.7.3 A player may compete on more than one team at multiple NTRP levels, in a championship event (Districts or Sectional) for each division and age group. A championship event may be held in more than one location at the same time or on different dates and are considered one Championship.
3.7.4. Each team is expected to field all positions for each scheduled championship match. Defaults will be reviewed by the championship committee and penalties issued accordingly. Penalties could include loss of captaining, the team may be required to split up or sanctioned from participating in USTA League play in the next championship year.
3.7.5 From the first level of championship competition, within a division, age group and NTRP level a player is a member of that team. Once his team loses and is therefore not eligible to advance to the next championship level then the player may play for another team for which he is eligible.
3.7.6 In the event a team competes directly (in the same flight or play off semi/finals) against another team at a championship level that shares common players, the losing common players cannot advance with the winning team, regardless of whether they played in a match directly against the winning team.

5. PHOTO ID:
All players must bring a government approved photo ID to the Championship event. Players are required to show their ID to the tournament staff as they are being called for their match and prior to going on the court.

6. RETURNED CHECK:
A $25.00 fee will be charged for each check returned for uncollected funds.

7. ATTIRE:
Appropriate tennis attire (including shirts) and tennis shoes must be worn during the championship. Abdomens must be covered. A sport bra without an over shirt or an over shirt tucked up under the sport bra is not acceptable. Failure to comply may result in immediate default and may include sanctioning from USTA League play.

8. TEAM FORMAT:
Adult 18 & Over and 40 & Over matches will consist of two (2) singles and three (3) doubles matches with no repeats, except for the 2.5 and 5.0+ levels, which plays one (1) singles and (2) doubles matches with no repeats. Adult 55 & Over, 65 & Over and Mixed 18 & Over and 40 & Over matches will consist of three (3) doubles matches with no repeats.

9. SCHEDULES:
Captains will provide the tournament staff with your email address and home, work & cell phone numbers. In the event of a changed schedule the tournament staff must have means to notify you. Establish an effective communication system with your teammates to pass on any new information and/or schedule changes. It is your responsibility to know when your next match has been scheduled.

10. REGISTRATION:
All necessary forms & fees must be sent to the tournament director prior to the start of the Championship Tournament. Failure to do so may render the team/player ineligible for Championship play. In the event of no captain’s meeting, the team captain is required to check in at the tournament desk 45 minutes before their first scheduled match of the event to collect the team T-shirts, gifts, tournament materials/information and Player Party tickets (where applicable). FULL TEAM must report 30 minutes before the scheduled match time and be ready to play, as play may begin 30 minutes before the scheduled match time. We reserve the right to change the announced schedules in order to facilitate tournament play. Only the team captain should have contact with the tournament staff.

11. LINE-UPS:
Captains must submit line-ups for a given match to the site director of the tournament 30 minutes PRIOR TO SCHEDULED MATCH TIME. Please write clearly and include your players’ first and last names as printed on the roster. If a line up is submitted prior to the 30 minute timeframe, it may be changed up to 30 minutes before that scheduled match. In the event of injury to or disqualification of a player, prior to the start of said match, changes to the line-up must be authorized and approved by the tournament director and/or site director. If you have a conflict with submitting the team line-up timely you must contact the tournament director. Matches can be called 30 minutes before the scheduled match time. If players are not available at the time their match is called the Point Penalty System will be applied for ‘Lateness’ as described in FAC.

12. PROCEDURE FOR CALLING MATCHES:
All district and sectional championship matches are scheduled on a followed by basis, meaning that as each match finishes another match will be assigned to that court. The tournament desk may call matches for any open court up to 30 minutes prior to the published match time. In the Adult 18 & Over and 40 & Over Age Groups, positions may be called in the following order: 1S, 2S, 1D, 2D, 3D. In Adult 55 & Over and 65 & Over and Mixed Doubles positions may be called in the following order: 1D, 2D, 3D. The order that matches are called may be changed at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

13. WARM-UP:
A 10-minute warm-up period, including practice serves, will be observed.

14. SCORING:
Scoring will be the best of three sets using regular scoring with a 7-point set tiebreak (first to 7 by 2) at 6-6 in each set. In the event of split sets a 10-point match tie-break (first to 10 by 2) shall be played in lieu of a third set. A rest period of 2 minutes may be taken between each set. There are no 10-minute rest periods between sets. Coaching is not allowed during a rest period or at any time during the match. Adult 18 & Over and 40 & Over matches will consist of five individual positions (2 singles and 3 doubles) except the 2.5 and 5.0+ levels will consist of three individual positions (1 singles and 2 doubles). Ad 55 & Over and 65 & Over and Mixed Doubles matches will consist of three individual positions. In championship events the winner is determined by Team Wins. One point is awarded for each position win. The team with the most
individual position wins shall be the winner of the Team Match. In the event of a team tie, the winner will be determined as follows: 1) most individual positions won 2) head to head 3) fewest sets lost 4) fewest games lost. Scoring procedures may be changed at the discretion of the tournament director. Coman Tiebreak Procedure will be used for both the 10-point match tiebreak and the 7 point set tiebreak.

15. STANDINGS:
If necessary a play-off will be held within each level, between each flight’s winner, to determine the Champion and the Finalist (Runner-up).

16. CHAMPIONSHIP ADVANCEMENT AND WILD CARD PROCEDURE:

16.1. If one or more round robin flights result in a first place tie, the round robin flight winner shall be determined by the following procedures:
- 15.1.1 Individual Matches: Winner of the most individual matches
- 15.1.2. Head-to-Head: winner of the head-to-head match.
- 15.1.3. Sets: team with the fewest number of sets lost.
- 15.1.4. Games: team with the fewest number of games lost.

15.2 If a wild card is required the team shall be determined from all second place teams by the following procedures:
- 15.2.1 If each flight has the same number of teams, the following procedure shall be used to determine the wild card:
  - 15.2.1.1. Individual Matches: Winner of the most individual matches
  - 15.2.1.2. Sets: team with the fewest number of sets lost.
  - 15.2.1.3. Games: team with the fewest number of games lost.
  - 15.2.1.4. Random drawing: If two or more teams are tied the winning team will be determined by a random drawing.
- 15.2.2 If any of the flights have a different number of teams, the following procedure shall be used to determine the wild card:
  - 15.2.2.1. Games: The team with the highest percentage of games won by them vs. games played by them in their round robin. Defaults RECEIVED shall not count. Defaulting teams shall receive a 0-6; 0-6 score calculated into their percentage of games won for every match defaulted.
  - 15.2.2.2. Random Drawing: If teams are tied in highest percentage, the winning team will be determined by a random drawing.

NOTE: Scoring in the event of defaults or retirements shall be managed as described in USTA League Regulation 2.03J-Scoring of Individual Defaults and 2.03N-Scoring of Retirements.

15.3 If a draw results in the wild card team playing against the first place team from its own flight, the draw shall be adjusted accordingly.

17. FORFEITS:
A player or doubles team may be forfeited by default or by disqualification. The non-forfeiting party shall be credited with a 6-0, 6-0 win.

18. DEFAULTS:
The 15-minute default rule (and penalties as written in “Friend at Court”) shall be observed throughout the Championship.
The point penalty system will be enforced at 5:00 minutes or less - loss of toss plus 1 game. 5.01-10:00 minutes loss of toss plus 2 games. 10:01-15:00 loss of toss plus 3 games. Player(s) may be defaulted at 15:00:01 minutes late (past their scheduled match time, an officially revised scheduled time or if there is an open court available to be played on at the time the match is called). If the player arrives before the default time, he is to receive a five (5) minute injury prevention warm-up. In case of a default, the non-defaulting party (must be present) shall be credited with a 6-0, 6-0 win.

A call to the tournament desk to advise them that a player will be late will NOT guarantee that the player will not be penalized. At the discretion of the tournament director the order of court assignments may be changed.
All players and teams are specifically prohibited from defaulting any championship matches (whether during the course of a match or prior to its commencement) except for illness, injury, or personal emergency. Failure to complete a match or a tournament can result in loss of future rights to play in any USTA League. All defaults must be approved by the tournament director.
19. RETIREMENTS:
Scoring will be recorded in such a manner as to add the number of games, which would have been won if the match was completed and the non-retiring party had won every subsequent game.

20. REST PERIODS:
Play should be continuous throughout the match. There is no rest after the 1st game of any set but players will change ends. After any set a set break, not to exceed two minutes (120 seconds) may be taken. Players change ends if the set is completed on an odd game. In the event of back to back matches a minimum of a 30 minute rest period will be allowed for all divisions. Reference FAC.

21. COACHING:
No coaching of a player by coaches, teammates or spectators will be permitted at any time during the tournament. Players who violate this rule will be subject to the Point Penalty System.

22. REPORTING SCORES:
At the conclusion of each individual match, a player from both teams must return to the Tournament desk with the balls and report the match score and initial the scorecard. At the conclusion of the team match, team captains must verify that all scores have been reported accurately and sign the scorecard. If the captain does not sign the completed scorecard within 30 minutes of the completed match, they forfeit their right to dispute the match.

23. CONDUCT:
All players will abide by the USTA Rules of Tennis (Friend at Court), the USTA League Rules and Regulations, the USTA New England Sectional Regulations and 'The Code' of tennis conduct. Officials may be present at some Sectional Championships. When playing in an officiated or unofficiated match, the server will call the score after each point, clearly and loudly enough for his/her opponent to hear. Line calls will be made as accurately as possible. Note- if you cannot call your opponent’s shot out, it is good! Do not ask spectators. No coaching of any player will be permitted at any time. Return balls from other courts promptly. Be ready to receive serve promptly. Always insure that your opponent is ready for your serve.

24. DYNAMIC NTRP AND PLAYER DISQUALIFICATION: (excluding mixed divisions)
The Dynamic NTRP calculation for Adult 18 & Over and Adult 40 & Over Championships will be run during the event. If a player receives his/her third disqualification strike from this championship event, he/she will no longer be eligible to play on his/her team. Self rated and players who were granted an appeal are all subject to 3-strike disqualification. Dynamic NTRP Calculations will be run after the Championship event for the Adult 55 & Over. If a player is disqualified, matches played will stand. Players may be asked to complete the Experienced Player History Form and self rated players deemed to be at the wrong level may be disqualified following review. Fair Play Grievances may be filed during the event; however review of the grievances and action will not take place until after the event.

25. TEAM WITHDRAWL FROM CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT:
Under no circumstances may a team withdraw before the completion of a championship tournament. A team that withdraws after the start of the championship event will be subject to review by the Championship Committee and such penalties may be imposed; the captain may be sanctioned and the team may be deemed ineligible for play or be required to split up for the following USTA League local Championship Year.

26. SPECIAL/UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES:
Players should commit themselves to the Championships for the entire event and should be prepared for the following but not limited to:
- Matches being delayed
- Matches being called 30 minutes ahead of the published schedule
- Waiting on-site for further instructions
- Postponed and/or rescheduled matches
- Shift to No-Ad scoring
- Shift to a different court surface
27. **BALLS:**
One can of USTA approved balls will be used for matches that use the Match tie-break in lieu of a third set.

28. **FOOD:**
Please, NO FOOD or BEVERAGE CANS will be permitted on the court. Alcoholic restrictions will apply in accordance to the individual championship sites. No alcoholic beverages are permitted on college property.

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**The Coman Tiebreak Procedure**

**What is the Coman tiebreak?**
The Coman tiebreak allows all players to serve on the same side of the net as they did throughout the entire set. Therefore, a player doesn't suddenly find him/herself serving in a condition that they were not accustomed to during the critical set or match tie-break. It provides for a fairer outcome to a match.

**When is the Coman tiebreak used?**
In a 7-point set tiebreak (1st to 7 by 2) at 6-6 in a set and in a 10-point match tie break (1st to 10 by 2).

**How does it work? When do the players change sides during a tiebreak?**
The Coman tiebreak procedure is identical to the regular procedure except that the players change ends after the first point, then after every four points, and at the conclusion of the tiebreak.

**Is it easy to implement?**
It is important to emphasize continuous play and after using the Coman procedure one time, players get used to it.

**Where can I find more information about the Coman tiebreak?**
The Coman tiebreak is an approved method as described in Friend at Court. Refer to the Index in the back of the book.

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**Medical Time-out**

- **Medical condition**: Medical condition includes, but is not limited to, an injury, illness, and heat-related conditions or cramping.

- **Medical time-out**: For amateur play, a player may receive one 3-minute medical time out per injury or condition.

- **Penalty**: If more than 3 minutes elapse between when the medical time out begins and play resumes, the player shall be subject to the Point Penalty System.

- **Bleeding**: A medical time-out shall be called whenever a player is bleeding externally. If more than 15 minutes elapse and the bleeding cannot be controlled and the court cannot be cleaned, the match is retired with the win going to the non-bleeding player/s.

- **Limitation on medical time-outs for heat-related conditions and cramping**: Only one medical time-out shall be permitted for heat related conditions and cramping in any match, even if the heat related condition or cramping occurs in different parts of the body.

**First Responders**: If spectators see a person get injured or go down on a court during a match, immediately alert the tournament desk. The tournament staff is the (recognized) authorized body to handle all medical situations. Under no circumstances can spectators go onto a court and intervene in a situation where they have not been authorized to do so.
Full regulations on Medical time-out may be found in Friend at Court

On behalf of USTA New England and the USTA League Tournament Staff we wish you and your team a successful and fun championship!