



## USTA New England Social League Rules & Regulations

### Defaults and Substitutions

- Substitutions
  - Captains should always do their best to fill all matches in advance. All lineups should be entered 24 hours in advance of matches in the league google sheet. If a captain knows they will be short a player and their site has a sub list, they should reach out to the list to find a sub (after confirming that none of their teammates can fill the spot). If their site does not have a sub list, contact [socialtennis@newengland.usta.com](mailto:socialtennis@newengland.usta.com) and the site coordinator to see if we can help find a sub.
  - In order for a match to count, there must be an eligible sub. The sub cannot be a current player from a different team in the league (e.g., if the Red team is missing a player, a player from the Blue team is not eligible). Subs can be players on the same team as the player that cannot play, as well as players from the waitlist/sub list, past league players or players from another league location. The playing level of the sub must be a similar level to the player they are subbing for and must keep the playing level of the match as even as possible.
  - If a sub cannot be found or if the only sub available is from another team in the league, the match can be played for fun, but the team that is short an eligible player will forfeit 6-0, 6-0 (12-0).
- Late arrivals
  - Please make every effort to be on time for your match and be prepared to be on court at the start of your scheduled match time. Because most of our leagues happen in or near cities, we allow a 10 minute window for lateness. If a player is more than 10 minutes late and no one from their team can take their place, they will forfeit 1 game per 4 minutes late (i.e., 11-14 minutes late = 1 game lost, 15-18 minutes late = 2 games lost, etc.). Games will be added onto the opponent's score.
- Withdrawing due to medical issue
  - If a player must withdraw from a match due to a severe medical issue, they will forfeit the remainder of the match unless a sub from their team is already on site and ready to immediately start in their place. The sub must be a similar level to the player they are subbing for and cannot be on their way to the courts, they must already be present and ready to play. The intent of this substitution cannot be because a player is simply not playing well. If a player is withdrawing from a match, it should only be due to it being unsafe for them to continue (i.e., they are experiencing heat stroke, have badly injured themselves, etc.).
  - If a player must withdraw and there is no eligible sub, the team will forfeit 1 game per 4 minutes left in the match (i.e., 4 min or less left in the match time slot = 1 game lost; 5-8 min left = 2 games lost; 9-12 min left = 3 games lost, etc.).

## Match Format

- Match time includes warm up time of approx. 5-10 minutes.
- We play no-ad scoring with deuce being a sudden death point. Since our league is co-ed, not mixed doubles specifically, the receiving team can pick who returns the serve. It does not need to be gender to gender.
- The winner of each match and our league is based on total games won.
- Since our league plays 2 out of 3 sets, if a team wins the first two sets, their maximum score is 12. If there is time remaining and the players want to continue to hit, they are welcome to do that, but the winning team can't get more than 12 points. The only ways a team would score more than 12 points is if the teams split the first two sets and need to play a third set (within the time allotted), or if one of the sets goes to a tiebreak (i.e., the set score is 7-6).
- If a set is tied 6-6 and there is time left, play a 7-point tiebreaker (first to 7 points, win by 2). If a set is tied 6-6 and going into a tiebreaker with less than 5 minutes left in the time slot, the tiebreaker must be shortened – first to 3 points, win by 1 (you will rotate servers after each point in this case).

## Playoffs

- For seasons that end in a playoff night, the playoff pairings are determined by total games won throughout the regular season. The teams in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> for total games won will play each other on the playoff night along with the teams in 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>. If there is a tie between the teams in 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> going into playoffs, the seeding for playoffs will be determined based on which team won the head-to-head match when they played during the regular season.
- On that playoff night, the previous total game scores from the regular season are wiped away and the winner of the league is determined by that head-to-head match on playoff night.

## Sportsmanship

- This is a social and fun tennis league. Sportsmanship is of the utmost importance and all players must demonstrate good sportsmanship on and off the court.
- Points played in good faith stand.
- If a player or site coordinator witnesses poor sportsmanship shown by another player, we would like them to report it to us via email (all reporters will remain anonymous) at [socialtennis@newengland.usta.com](mailto:socialtennis@newengland.usta.com).
- If we receive repeated complaints about a player, we will contact that player to notify them and discuss the issue. If the behavior continues after this, the player will be banned from our league.

## Weather Cancellations

- Because our league only plays outdoors, we are subject to potential weather cancellations. We will email all players around 4pm (or the night before if the league is on a weekend morning) if a site has to be cancelled due to weather. We generally do not make calls earlier than 4pm as the weather forecast can change several times throughout the course of the day.
  - Weather cancellations are typically due to rain but may also be due to heat. If the Heat Index temperature is above 100°F we may cancel matches or delay the start time if possible, though you are still welcome to play at your own risk.
- If a last-minute weather cancellation is made (i.e., after about 5pm), we will email all players AND ask that captains text their teammates to notify them more efficiently.
- If a site has one or more weather cancellations during the season, we will do our best to add additional weeks onto the end of the season as long as our permit and schedule allow in order to have a total of 7 weeks (or however many weeks the site was originally slated for). If it's at least half-way through the

night when a site gets rained out, that week will not be made up. Please note that these additional weeks are not guaranteed.

- If we are not able to play the full number of weeks due to weather cancellations, we will refund or credit all players \$10 per week not played (i.e., if we play 6 out of 7 weeks, we will give you \$10 back; if we play 5 out of 7 weeks, we will give you \$20 back).
- For sites where registration is administered through the local Park & Recreation Department, refunds or credits for weather cancellations will be up to the discretion of the Park & Recreation Department, not USTA.

### **Refund Policy**

- We do not issue refunds or allow prorated registration fees for weeks a player misses due to illness, vacation, etc.
- If a player must withdraw from a league or event and it is at least one week before the start date, we will issue that player a full refund.
- If a player must withdraw from a league or event and it is less than a week before the start date, we will issue a full refund ONLY if we can find someone to take their spot or the withdrawal is due to a new medical issue and the player has a note from their doctor.
- If a player must withdraw from a league and the start date has already passed, we will issue a partial refund (subtracting \$10 for each week already played) ONLY if we can find someone to take their spot in the league or the withdrawal is due to a new medical issue and the player has a note from their doctor. We will not issue a refund for a missed event.
- If a player must withdraw from a league where registration is administered by the local Park & Recreation Department, the refund policy will be up to the discretion of the Park & Recreation Department, not USTA.

If any other rule issues or questions arise, they should be brought to [socialtennis@newengland.usta.com](mailto:socialtennis@newengland.usta.com) and our Social League Committee for review and a decision.