



USTA New England Social League Rules & Regulations

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 have to be gender to gender.
- The winner of each match is based on total games won.
- Since our league plays best 2 out of 3 sets, if a team wins the first two sets, their maximum game 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 cannot get more than 12 points. The only ways a team could 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 are more than 5 minutes 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 fewer than 5 minutes left, the tiebreaker must be shortened – first to 5 points, win by 1.

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 1st and 2nd for total games won will play each other on the playoff night along with the teams in 3rd & 4th and 5th & 6th. If there is a tie between the teams in 2nd/3rd or 4th/5th 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 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.

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 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 well as players from the waitlist/sub list or players from outside the site (e.g., a player from another Social League site). The playing level of the sub must be a similar level to the player they are subbing for in order to 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 at the same site, a friendly match can and should be played if possible, but the team that is short an eligible player will forfeit the match 6-0, 6-0 (12-0 total).
- 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 there are no eligible subs available to 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 from a match
 - If a player must withdraw before their match is finished (e.g., due to a severe medical issue), their team 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 to be considered eligible. 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 = 1 game lost; 5-8 min left = 2 games lost; 9-12 min left = 3 games lost, etc.). Games will be added onto the opponent's score.

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.
- 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 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 matches have 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 ask that captains text their teammates to notify them more efficiently.
- If a site has any weather cancellations during the season, we will do our best to add additional dates to the season as long as our permit and schedule allow. If at least 6 of 7 sessions have been completed and all attempts have been made to make up the last session, the season will be considered completed and no refunds or credits will be issued. If fewer than 6 sessions are completed (in a 7-week season), a refund or credit will be issued to participants. If it's at least half-way through the night when a site gets

rained out, that session will be considered completed. Please note that these additional dates are not guaranteed.

- 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 session passed) 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 an event gets rained out and is not rescheduled, we will issue all players a refund. If an event has a publicized rain date and a player cannot attend on the rain date, no refund will be issued.
- If a refund is issued for a tournament, the refund amount will not include the payment transaction fee (approximately \$1.50).

If any other rule issues or questions arise, they should be brought to socialtennis@newengland.usta.com for review and a decision.