



USTA Northern League Rules

Advancing Track

Local Season Format of Play:

When the coach/team manager prints out the scorecard the format is on the card. Most local team matches consist of:

- One male and female singles match
- One male and female doubles match
- One mixed doubles match

Most local programs use an 8-game pro-set scoring format with a 7-point tiebreak at 7-7. The winning team will be determined by total games won.

Note: The Area Playoffs and Section Championships use an 8-game pro-set, no-ad scoring format with a 7-point tiebreak at 7-7; only one mixed doubles set is used. Tournament director reserves the right to alter this scoring format, if needed.

Local Match Procedures:

- What if a team doesn't have the required number of players for a local match?

If a team doesn't have enough players for the match, the coach/team manager should contact the opposing team to let them know 24 hours in advance. Play as many of the positions as you can possible with the players available.

- Rain: If you think there may be rain, please connect with the coaches involved. Decisions related to playable courts are the host facility's responsibility.
- Check in: Coach/Team Managers or another designated person should check in for the team match. Line-ups will be exchanged and court assignments will then be given out.
- Rescheduling: All of the Twin Cities League scheduling will be dual based, so rescheduling will be between the opposing coaches.

- Line up: Coach/Team Managers in all divisions are highly encouraged to communicate their team's "order of strength" prior to the match to allow for the best match ups between players. Players who are not registered on that team in TennisLink are not allowed to play.
- Order of matches: Coaches should exchange line-ups and look to see if any players are playing twice. If so, those players should play their first match right away. If no players are doubling up, it is recommended that doubles go out first, then singles, and then mixed doubles and any exhibition matches. This will depend on court availability.
- Coaching: Coaching is allowed only on changeovers and is limited to 90 seconds. Coaching is allowed after the first game, but it must be kept short and cannot be a disruption to the flow of the match. No coaching is allowed during a tie-break. The coach should encourage the player and offer constructive criticisms when sandwiched between positive comments.
- Match: When the match is complete, each player must come to the net and shake hands to congratulate the opponent. It is important that coach/team managers convey the message of good sportsmanship through their actions and the directions given to the players.

Local Program Expectations:

Local program expectations are in place to ensure that a high quality program is administered by all involved, and that those who violate our expectations are held accountable. It is recognized that emergencies do occur. If a coach/team manager is notified in a timely manner by the opposing coach of a situation, they should be flexible and try to accommodate the other team.

- All coaches MUST be listed in Net Generation and approved through the USTA Safe Play Program.
- Teams shall be knowledgeable of the program rules and regulations and adhere to them.
- The coach/team manager is responsible for holding their players accountable to play and act in accordance to the Rules of Tennis and The Code as outlined in the Friend At Court.
- Coaches, players and spectators are expected to display good sportsmanship and treat all players, coaches, and others in attendance with respect at every match.
- USTA Northern expects the local program match environment to be free of drugs, tobacco and alcohol.
- Teams must register all of the players participating in local program matches on TennisLink PRIOR to their first match.
- The local match scores are expected to be recorded in TennisLink within 48 hours of completion of a team match with the exception of the last match of the local season, as scheduled in

TennisLink, which must be recorded no later than 24 hours after completion in order for those matches to count toward player eligibility.

- Once a team registers in TennisLink and commits to a local program schedule, they are expected to honor that commitment and bring at least six (6) players (3 boys and 3 girls) to every scheduled match.
- If a team is unable to field enough players for a team match, they shall notify the opposing coach at least 24 hours prior.
- Teams shall make an attempt to reschedule all local program matches that were not able to be played on the original date.
- Teams are expected to have at least three (3) courts available for every home dual match.
- Coaches, players, and parents are expected to express any concerns through the proper channels in a dignified manner.

Spectator Policy

No other sport allows umpire/official/spectator communication, whether it be about a ruling or any other facet of a sports event. TENNIS IS NOT AN EXCEPTION. Being a parent, coach, etc. does not endow special privileges. With the only exception of the right to remove their own child from competition, at any time, a parent, friend or coach is merely a spectator.

Coaching, interjection into a match, audible obscenities, physical confrontation or verbal confrontation deemed to be threatening or disruptive by a coach, spectator, friend or parent is unacceptable in USTA Northern and will not be tolerated.

Should this occur, the following process is in immediate effect, and will be diligently and stringently enforced.

1. Any attempt by a spectator (which includes the above mentioned) to question an official, tournament staff or player regarding a line call or other ruling during match play will be cause for immediate removal from the playing area and, if warranted, from the premises.
2. Any spectator behavior deemed unacceptable towards a player, other spectator, official, or staff member will be cause for immediate removal from the playing area or entire premises. If said behavior is directed towards a player, either before, during or after a match/tournament, it will result in an automatic and immediate suspension of that spectator's right to attend USTA Northern tournaments, matches, and team events for a period of time to be determined by the USTA Northern Junior Competition Committee.

3. Refusal to adhere to a removal request will trigger immediate enforcement of the point penalty system against the player with whom the spectator is involved (clearly detailed in the point penalty system regulations within Friend At Court).
4. The referee/acting referee, officials, tournament director/staff, Junior Competition Committee members, Junior Team Tennis Committee, Officials Council Chair, Director of Junior Teams and the Director of Junior Competition are the SOLE judges regarding unacceptable behavior. REMOVAL IS NOT SUBJECT TO APPEAL.

Dealing with Situations:

Questioning an Official, Player, or Tournament Staff on a Ruling during Match Play

Within the guidelines of our spectator policy, this will not be tolerated. If someone does question you on a line call or a ruling you have the right to remove them/ask them to leave the playing area. Should they refuse to leave the playing area, let them and the player know that the player will now receive a code violation related to this action and will continue to do so until either one of two things occur –

- The parent/spectator leaves the area
- The player reaches his or her third code violation and is defaulted from match play.

Parent/Spectator Continues to be Unruly

These are grounds for immediate removal from the playing area and facility. Should they refuse to leave the premises and having gone through Code Violations, then do not hesitate to contact security or the police to have them removed. Safety of the players, officials, tournament staff and facility staff always comes first.

Should an Incident Occur

If something does take place, please contact Zeny McCoy in the section office at zeny@northern.usta.com.

Team Eligibility

1. All teams in the Junior Team Tennis track are required to play a minimum of three (3) team matches over a period of at least three (3) days (a one or two day event is not sufficient).
2. For Junior Team Tennis, a team must advance from a division with a minimum of two teams at the same age and play level as the championship division to which the team is advancing.

Player Eligibility

Players must remain age eligible through **August 31, 2019** in order to register, participate, and advance in Junior Team Tennis.

A player is eligible to progress to championships level competition, including National Championships, if that player has met all of the following conditions:

- Participated on a team from a eligible program within TennisLink
- Played on the advancing team in at least two (2) team matches during the local season
- The results of the two (2) matches must be recorded in TennisLink. Neither of the two (2) matches may be the product of a default. A retired match shall count toward the (2) match requirement for the players involved.

All players must be rated in accordance with the Junior National Tennis Rating Program (Junior NTRP) in TennisLink to determine play levels. Players with a rating of 3.5 and above **MUST** play in the Advanced level.

Junior Self-Rate Process

In order to self-rate, you must be logged in to TennisLink. The self-rate process is only available when you're registering for an event that requires ratings. If players don't have a junior rating, they can self-rate by:

1. Select a rating on the self-rate form. On the self-rate form you will be asked to select your rating based on rating descriptions. You will have the opportunity to adjust the suggested rating level before saving it.
2. Complete a quick and easy questionnaire. After filling out the simple questionnaire, you will receive a suggested rating level. You will have the opportunity to adjust the suggested rating level before saving it.

[Click here](#) to review the Ratings Characteristics.

[Click here](#) to preview the self-rate questionnaire.

[Click here](#) to access Frequently Asked Questions about Junior Ratings.

[Click here](#) to view a customer webinar on junior ratings. (*You may have to download the AdobeConnect add-on.*)

Section Championships

Registration

\$175 per team

\$100 Team penalty (assessed if a team fails to show up for a scheduled match during the two-day event.)

Refund policy: Teams that withdraw before the deadline will receive a full refund minus the non-refundable processing fee. No refunds will be distributed after the entry deadline.

Location

Lakeville North and South High Schools

Dates

July 22-23: 14U Intermediate and Advanced (Advancing Track)

July 24-25: 18U Intermediate and Advanced (Advancing Track)

July 26: 12U Intermediate (Non-Advancing Track)

July 26-27: 14U Intermediate (Non-Advancing Track)

July 27-28: 18U Intermediate (Non-Advancing Track)

JTT 2019 Pre-Season Tournament (Advancing Track)

June 14: 18U Intermediate and Advanced, Eau Claire, WI

June 15: 14U Intermediate and Advanced, Hastings, MN

12U will be scheduled mid-season

Match Format

- One (1) 8-game, no-ad proset with a 7-point tiebreak at 7-7 of the following:
 - Boys Singles
 - Girls Singles
 - Boys Doubles
 - Girls Doubles

- Mixed Doubles (double-ups have to occur in the mixed doubles set)

Player Eligibility

A player is eligible to participate in the Section Championships, if that player has played in at least two (2) team matches, cannot be the product of a default, during its local Championship Junior Team Tennis season and has the results of said match recorded in TennisLink Team Tennis. Players must have a current USTA membership and remain age eligible through August 31st of the Championship year.

Advancement

Teams that win the Section Championship will have the opportunity to advance to the National Championships in San Antonio, TX.