



2021 USTA GEPTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS

Updated: 2/8/2021 (New GEPTA regulations highlighted in yellow; new Sectional and National regulations in red)

The following regulations shall apply to all GEPTA League matches:

- USTA National League Regulations
- USTA Southwest Section League Regulations
- USTA GEPTA League Regulations: Described in this Document
- USTA Friend at Court and the Code

CAPTAIN'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1) The captain is responsible to attend the captains' meeting or send a team representative.
- 2) **The captain is responsible for knowing and following all current USTA League Regulations, national, sectional, and GEPTA's rules and guidelines. Once a team signs up, they are agreeing to abide by all the rules and regulations as well as procedures and instructions discussed at the captain's meeting.**
- 3) It is the captain's responsibility to contact the league coordinator with any changes in their phone number and/or email address. Failure to do this could result in a team default. All teams must have a captain listed with a current phone number and email address.
- 4) It is the home team captain's responsibility to contact the host facility 48 hours in advance of the match to confirm court availability.
- 5) It is the captain's responsibility to secure a team number and instruct players to register in "Tennis Link".

LEAGUE FACILITIES

- 1) All GEPTA league matches will be scheduled in El Paso.
- 2) All league facilities or playing sites are required to have bathrooms available, and there must be enough courts for the entire match to be played on the scheduled match date.
- 3) League facilities are not required to provide courts for warm-up prior to the scheduled match time.
- 4) If there are no dates available for match schedules at a facility, matches may revert to the facility that has available courts at the league coordinator's discretion, resulting in uneven home and away matches.

OFFICIAL GEPTA SURFACE

- 1) All GEPTA matches will be played on a hard court surface. The only exception to this, is if both teams/players agree to play on an alternative surface.

MATCH FORMAT

- 1) All matches will consist of the best of 3 sets, with a (10 point) MATCH TIE-BREAK played in lieu of a third set.
- 2) A (7 point) SET TIE-BREAK will determine a set at 6-games-all.
- 3) The COMAN TIE-BREAK PROCEDURE will be used in all tie-breaks.

RESCHEDULE OF MATCHES

- 1) Mandatory Rescheduled Matches:



- a. Requests to reschedule **MUST** be accommodated by the opposing team for the following reasons only: Conflict with a Sectional or National League Championship and representing a GEPTA team **or extreme weather conditions making it impossible to play the match.**
 - b. **Five days advanced notice is required, or the match will be played as scheduled.**
 - c. All “Mandatory Rescheduled” matches must be completed before the last regularly scheduled match in that division unless approved by the GEPTA League Coordinator. The GEPTA League Coordinator must be advised of the reschedule date prior to the original match date.
- 2) Matches on the original schedule that do not meet the “mandatory reschedule requirements” may be rescheduled IF BOTH CAPTAINS AGREE upon a date/time which occurs prior to the last regularly scheduled match in that division AND both captains send written consent (via email) along with the new date/time to the GEPTA League Coordinator no later than 5 days after the original match date.

OFFICIAL MATCH TIME AND DEFAULTS

- 1) It is recommended that both teams arrive at the match site at 30 minutes prior to scheduled match time.
- 2) When the visiting team arrives at the match site, the captains will agree on the official time. Cell phone time is suggested as the official time of day.
- 3) Team captains or their representative shall exchange their team line-ups simultaneously prior to the beginning of the team match. USTA Reg. 2.01C(5). Line-ups will be exchanged in time to start the match at the designated time on the published schedule. Both captains should have their line-ups written down prior to the exchange.
- 4) No substitutions may be made in a match after the line-ups have been exchanged, unless there is an illness or injury of a player prior to the start of the match. USTA Reg. 2.01C(5)
- 5) The USTA Point Penalty System shall be used. Default time is 15 minutes after the scheduled match time. Time penalties will be enforced: 5 minutes or less, 1 game, and the toss; 5:01 -10 minutes, 2 games and the toss; 10:01-15 minutes, 3 games and the toss; after 15 minutes, default.
 - a. Exception: Away teams with matches at Ft. Bliss are required to arrive at the Facility GATE no less than 30 minutes prior to match time, and may not be defaulted if held at the gate in order to obtain a PASS with proof of arrival time (i.e. Guard gate sign-in sheet with name/date/time.)
- 6) The order of individual defaults in GEPTA local leagues is the same as the USTA National League Regulation 2.03K: Team Defaults. A team must have a minimum number of eligible players available for play in each team match in accordance with the following table or the entire match must be defaulted. The maximum number of positions that may be defaulted without defaulting the entire match is noted. When defaults are necessary, the defaults shall be determined by the defaulting captain in accordance with the table below:

ALLOWABLE DEFAULTS				
DIVISION	AGE GROUP	MINIMUM NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE PLAYERS REQUIRED TO BE AVAILABLE PER MATCH	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF POSITIONS THAT CAN BE DEFAULTED	REQUIRED POSITION(S) AND ORDER OF MATCH DEFAULTS
Adult	18 & Over 2.5 women & 5.0+	3	1	No. 1 Singles Or No. 2 Doubles
	18 & Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	4	2	<u>Singles:</u> No. 2 Singles before No. 1



	40 & Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5+ (Using 4-court format)	5	1	Singles No. 1 Singles or No. 3 Dbls before No. 2 Dbls, and No. 2 Dbls before No. 1 Dbls.
Adult	55 & Over	4 players who are eligible to combine and compete	1	No. 3 Doubles
Mixed	18 & Over 40 & Over			

It is suggested that the line-ups be filled out, placing any potential late players in the default positions, so that the other matches will not be penalized for delays described in rule 5 above.

- 7) **National Regulation 2.01C(2) Team Match.** Each team match in a local league shall consist of such number of individual matches of singles, doubles, or any combination thereof as determined by the local league. Each team must have the minimum number of players available to play the majority of individual matches. If one team does not have the minimum number of players, the opposing team will be credited with winning each individual match. If neither team has the minimum number of players, the match shall be scored as a double team default, and neither team receives credit for a win. In the case of a team default or double team default any individual matches actually played will only count for NTRP ratings and eligibility for advancement and cannot count for determining standings.

If both teams have the minimum number of players available, but the combination of individual defaults given by the two teams would result in the majority of matches not being played, the teams must follow the procedure established by the Sectional Association, as required below, to ensure that a majority of individual matches are played. Each Sectional Association shall establish procedures to determine the 1) flight standings in the event of a team default or double team default and 2) actions to take when the combination of individual defaults given by the two teams in the team match results, or would result, in a situation where the majority of the individual matches are not played. If no such procedures have been established, the match will result in a double team default.

GEPTA adopts the following option: If a team defaults an entire team match (all lines) for any reason during the local season, it is considered a total team default, and all matches played by that team during that season will be deleted at the end of the season for purposes of determining final standings. Deleted matches will however be used for purposes of calculating NTRP ratings. The defaulted match may be appealed to the GEPTA Regional Council Adult League Committee if there are extenuating circumstances.

- 8) No coaching is allowed **at any time** during a league match, including between sets, or between the second set and a match tie-break. USTA Reg. 2.01D

SCORE ENTRY

- 1) All match results should be entered in TennisLink and confirmed within 48 hours after the match is played. Either team may enter scores. If the match is not confirmed, the initial entry will be considered valid and no appeals will be granted.
- 2) It is the captain's responsibility to report any teams not entering their scores or entering incorrect players or scores to the league coordinator.



- 3) Both captains should agree on scores at the conclusion of the match before leaving the facility. If there is a discrepancy, the players involved in the match in question should agree on the correct score. It is suggested that the visiting team captain sign the home team captain's scorecard to show agreement on scores.

TEAM REGISTRATION/PLAYER PROFILE/ELIGIBILITY FOR LEAGUE PLAY

- 1) All players must register in TennisLink.
- 2) No refunds will be given after registration is accepted in TennisLink. All players should be made aware by the team captain that they should not register for a team if they are not sure they will be able to play. Exception: In the case of extreme medical situations with documentation and approved by the GEPTA League Coordinator, a credit may be issued towards the player's next league registration.
- 3) The maximum number of players on a team will be 18. There are no exceptions to this rule.
- 4) Teams may add COMPUTER RATED players to their roster any time prior to the last 3 matches of the season, provided that the new player has moved to the El Paso area from a minimum of 100 miles away after the start of the season and can provide documentation. In addition, the player cannot have played GEPTA league tennis in the last 12 months.
- 5) No self-rated players will be allowed to register after that start of the season, with the exception of players who filed a self-rate appeal prior to the first match of the season and are waiting on a decision.
- 6) A player without a valid NTRP rating level in TennisLink, a returning player with an expired NTRP rating level and a Tournament Exclusive (T) rated player or a Mixed Exclusive (M) rated player who does not have a valid computer © or benchmark (B) rating from a previous year and chooses to participate in the Adult Division must self-rate to enter the USTA League Program and are subject to Dynamic Disqualification until he/she generates a Computer Rating.
- 7) Anyone who falsified information on a self-rate player profile or anyone who knowingly condones falsification of information may be subject to a NTRP Grievance and subject to suspension from league play for no less than 364 days.
- 8) **1.04F(1)e** Self-ratings are valid for two years from the date issued or until replaced by a dynamic or computer rating. **If there is a change in a self-rated player's playing experience the player may appeal their rating up at that time or they may be promoted by the Sectional coordinator.**
- 9) **If any 18 and over or 40 and over age group consists of only 3 teams in a level of play, each team must maintain it's roster with at least 50 percent of it's players at the designated NTRP level of play. The exception being if there is no other level in which you can play.**
- 10) **Teams will be given a 10 day grace period to register after the date posted for league play to begin.**

PLAYER CONDUCT

- 1) In all league matches played without officials, the USTA Official publication, THE CODE, shall be observed. Courtesy is expected.
- 2) Use of a USTA Official or Court Monitor: A request for a USTA Official or Court Monitor to assist players in the management of their match should only be utilized in extreme cases when players are unable to manage their match themselves and/or conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner.
 - a. Requesting a Court Monitor during a match in progress: Players may request a court monitor at any time during a match in progress to assist with line calls and score keeping. Each team captain



should appoint a person with tennis knowledge to stand side by side at a net post (on the same side) and offer assistance ONLY when asked.

- b. Requesting a USTA Official or Court Monitor in advance of a scheduled match:
In advance of a scheduled team match, a team Captain at his/her discretion, and as a representative of their team, may request a Court Monitor or USTA Official to help manage a team match.

Procedure to request a Court Monitor or USTA Official:

- Only a team captain may request a court monitor or USTA Official.
- The GEPTA League Coordinator must be advised of the request a minimum of 5 days before the match in question.
- GEPTA shall maintain a list of Court Monitors and USTA Officials.
- The League Coordinator shall select the Court Monitor or USTA Officials.
- The League Coordinator shall advise both team captains involved in the match of the name of the Court Monitor or USTA Official at least 48 hours before the match.
- The Court Monitor or Official shall advise both teams of his/her authority
- A fee per match will be charged and paid to the Court Monitor or Official prior to the start of the match by the requesting team. The fee will be set by the Court Monitor or Official.

LOCAL LEAGUE SCHEDULING:

- 1.) Divisions in local leagues with **7 or fewer teams** will play a **double round-robin** or whatever number of rounds that will give them a minimum of 8 matches. The winner of the round robin will advance to the next championship level (i.e. Fall/Spring District Championship or Sectional Championship, whichever is applicable)
- 2.) Divisions in local leagues with **8 or more teams** will be **guaranteed a minimum of 8 matches**. The winner of the local league will advance to the next championship level (i.e. Fall/Spring District Championship or Sectional Championship, whichever is applicable.)

CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY

LOCAL LEAGUE FALL/SPRING DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP & PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- 1.) All Local League Divisions that are offered in 2 seasons per championship year (ie. Fall & Spring) shall have a Local League District Championship following the conclusion of the Spring league to determine the league winner and advancement to the Sectional Championship.
- 2.) Fall/Spring District Championship Format:
 - a. The winner of the Fall League and the winner of the Spring League of the same League Division and NTRP level will play a one-match district championship play-off to determine the District winner.
 - b. If the winner of the Fall and Spring league has the same captain and similar rosters the captain must choose which roster to advance and there will be no District Championship.
 - c. If the winner of the Fall league and the Spring team have different captains with similar rosters the captains may decide which team advances; OR if the captains wish to do so and are able to field the required number of players to play every position in the District Championship match, the rosters may be split for the championship match. All eligible players on the roster of the winning



team, whether they participated on the winning team roster for the District Championship match or not, may advance to Sectionals with the winning team.

- d. The winner of the District Championship will advance to the Sectional Championship.
- 3.) District Championship Player Eligibility: USTA Reg. 2.03A(3):
- a. In the Adult and Mixed Divisions, players other than Self-Rated and Valid Computer Rated Appealed Players are eligible to progress to championship level competition below National Championships (i.e. Sectional and District Championships) if that player has played on the same team in at least two matches at the same NTRP level in the same Age Group during its local league season and is otherwise eligible. A maximum of one default received by the player during local league competition shall count for advancing. All Self-rated and Valid Computer-rated Appealed players are eligible for District Championships if that player has played in at least four (4) matches on the same team at the same level in the same age group and be otherwise eligible to advance to District Championship; no defaults shall count towards eligibility.
 - b. NO Early Start League players who are moved up at Year End to a higher level than their Early Start League level of play shall qualify to advance to District Championship level play. Per National Regulations, this rule DOES NOT APPLY to the 2.5 LEVEL, with the exceptions of individual 2.5 player whose YE rating has reached the clearly above level or has been DQ'd.
 - c. Retired matches shall count toward advancing for all players involved in the match.

SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYER ELIGIBILITY: 2021 USTA REG. 2.03A(3)a & b

1. In the Adult and Mixed Divisions, all players **other than Self-Rated and Valid Computer Rated Appealed Players** are eligible to progress to championship level competition below National Championships (i.e. Sectionals and District Championships) if that player has played on the same team in at least two matches at the same NTRP level in the same Age Group during its local league season and is otherwise eligible. A maximum of one default received by the player during local league competition shall count for advancing. **All Self-Rated and Valid Computer Rated Appealed players are eligible to progress to Sectional Championship competition if that player has played on the same team in at least four matches at the same NTRP level in the same Age Group during its local league season and is otherwise eligible. No defaults received by the player during local league or championship competition shall count for advancing.**
2. **NO Early Start League players who are moved up at Year End to a higher level than their Early Start League level of play shall qualify to advance to Sectional Championship level play. Per National Regulations, this rule DOES NOT APPLY to the 2.5 LEVEL, with the exceptions of individual 2.5 player whose YE rating has reached the clearly above level or has been DQ'd.**
3. A maximum of one default received during local league play shall count.
4. Retired matches shall count toward advancing for all players involved in the match.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYER ELIGIBILITY: 2021 USTA Reg. 2.03A(4)

1. **In the Adult and MX division (with the exception of self-rated and valid computer rated players) players must have played on the same team at the same level and same age group in at least three matches and be otherwise eligible to advance to National Championships. A maximum of one default received during local league or championship play (i.e. play-offs and sectionals) shall count.**
2. **All Self-Rated and Valid Computer Rated Appealed players are eligible to progress to National Championship competition if that player has played on the same team in at least four matches at the same NTRP level in the same Age Group during its local league season and is otherwise eligible. No defaults received by the player during local league or championship competition shall count for advancing.**



1. NO Early Start League players who are moved up at Year End to a higher level than their Early Start League level of play shall qualify to advance to National Championship level play. Per National Regulations, this rule DOES NOT APPLY to the 2.5 LEVEL, with the exceptions of individual 2.5 player whose YE rating has reached the clearly above level or has been DQ'd.
3. Retired matches shall count toward advancing for all players involved in the match.
4. Move-up / Split-up Rule: All rostered members of a team who qualify to advance to a National Championship must adhere to the national regulation as described in the most current USTA League Regulations.

CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY RESTRICTIONS ON GEPTA PLAYERS WHO ALSO QUALIFY FOR CHAMPIONSHIP ADVANCEMENT IN OTHER SWS REGIONS:

- 1) An individual player may not advance to any championship level of play on a GEPTA team, including GEPTA local playoffs, if he/she is also on a qualifying out of Region (formerly District) team roster advancing to Sectionals that is comprised of 40% or more GEPTA players from any combination of GEPTA teams and in the same league type (i.e. 18's, 40's, 55's, MX, etc.) and the same NTRP straight level division (i.e. 3.0, 3.5, etc.) or combo NTRP level division (i.e. 7.0, 8.0 , etc.) in the same championship year in another district.
- 2) The team captain is ultimately responsible for compliance with this requirement. A waiver of these requirements may be submitted to the Greater El Paso Tennis Regional Council for consideration.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

- 1) Any team Captain wishing to file a USTA League Grievance should familiarize themselves with grievance procedures as set forth in the most current USTA League Regulations. Refer to the USTA website for grievance regulations, procedures and forms.
- 2) Grievances against an individual or team must be filed by the Team Captain of the team that competed in the match where the alleged violation occurred and must be in compliance with USTA League Regulations.