



Southern New Mexico—USTA Amended League Guidelines (2021)

All players **MUST** be members of the USTA in order to register for a league. All players must register for SNM leagues using TennisLink. 18 & Over league players must have reached their 18th birthday before being able to register and play a match. All other divisions must reach the minimum age required for their respective league division by December 31st of the league year in which they are participating.

I. CAPTAIN'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. A captain or a designee from all teams **must** attend the captains' meeting set up by the District League Coordinator (DLC) prior to start of each league. The captain is responsible for knowing, understanding and following all regulations in the current USTA League Regulations book, USTA Southern New Mexico's rules and guidelines, and USTA's *Friend at Court*. Once a team signs up, they are agreeing to abide by all of the rules and regulations given out and discussed at the captain's meeting and in the official regulations.
 - i. The rules and regulations can be found on the SNM website at: <http://www.southernnewmexico.usta.com>
- b. Each team must have a captain or designee present at the beginning of every match. The captain or designee must present a lineup at least 5 minutes before play, either on paper or via mobile device. Both captains, or designees, must confirm the scores at the conclusion of play. Either team captain may record the scores in TennisLink within 48 hours after the completion of all lines of the match. The opposing team captain is responsible for verifying the scores within 48 hours of the scores being entered, by either confirming correct scores or disputing wrong scores in TennisLink. Captains need to discuss and decide who will enter the scores. If the match scores are not confirmed or disputed within the 48 hours of being entered then the initial score entry will be considered valid and no appeals will be granted. If a score has not been entered after 24 hours, please give a gentle reminder to the team captain who was selected to enter scores, to please go in and enter the scores. Please make sure that the correct player, opponent, position and date are selected for entry. If an

individual match ends in a retirement, the score should be entered from the winner's perspective. Falsification of scores/players can result in a grievance (see Section IV).

- c. If there are situations that cannot be resolved by the team captains within the rules, the DLC should be contacted via e-mail or text message with both team captains included in the e-mail or text message, in order to resolve the dispute.

II. TEAMS AND PLAYERS

- a. All team members must be a member of the USTA prior to league play. If a player's membership will expire soon, TennisLink will not allow that player to register for a team until a renewal is purchased. If a player does not already have an NTRP rating then that player must go into USTA.com and complete a Self-Rate profile questionnaire. After completion, that player will receive an NTRP rating. All players registering for a SNM league team must do so online using TennisLink. All 18 and over players, must have reached their eighteenth birthday prior to signing up and playing a match. All other players must reach the minimum age required for their league by December 31st of the league's year.
- b. SNM leagues are open to all players within the SNM region as defined by zip codes in the By-Laws that include, but not limited to: Deming, Silver City, Las Cruces, Ruidoso, Cloudcroft, Roswell, Artesia and Carlsbad, New Mexico. Players from other regions are encouraged to play in the USTA SNM region leagues as long as 30% of a team's roster are residents of SNM. This applies to 18+, 40+, 55+, and all Mixed leagues. The 65+ and Tri Level leagues do not need to abide by this rule but are encouraged to follow suit. To accommodate teams that are travelling long distances due to the area size of the SNM region, the league coordinator may schedule two matches for the same day. See (III) below for match format. (Exception: If SNM can only form 1 team in any given league, with the exception of the 65+ division, the League Coordinator may invite a team from outside the region in order to make a two-team league). 65+ leagues may send a team to sectionals in a one team only situation.
- c. Players may participate in only one line per team match. A player may participate on more than one league team per season, as long as they are of different levels or age. Players may not play on two teams at the same NTRP level in the same league, in the same region.
- d. There is a maximum of 16 players on an Adult 18+ and 40+ team, and a maximum of 12 players on Mixed 18+ and 40+, Adult 55+, Senior 65+ and Tri Level. It is the captain's responsibility to have adequate players and player combinations for any of the Combo leagues (Mixed, 55+ and 65+).

(If his/her team has members on an equal team category in another region, league coordinator/league committee may choose to increase allowable number of players per team, for any league, as necessary, after investigation of a request by a team captain.) Only team captains should be contacting the DLC. All captains will be notified via email or text of any such changes at the same time, on the same thread, immediately after a decision is made.

- e. As per the USTA National League Committee amendment of National Regulation 2.03A(4) regarding eligibility of players for advancement to 2021 Sectional and National Championships, the SNM region will require each S and A rated players to now only need to have played 2 actual matches. No defaults will count toward the 2 played matches requirement. These players will now be eligible to advance to Sectional play with their team, should their team win locally. This is for 2021 ONLY. Computer rated players (C rated) must play in at least 2 matches during the local league session to be eligible for the USTA Southwest Sectional Championships. A win by default or forfeit will count as a match played. Only one default/forfeit can count towards the two required matches. Captains cannot rely upon their opposing teams' captains to change dates or lines to accommodate one of your players with this rule.
- f. Players may be added to a team's roster, as long as more than 50% of that team's matches have **not** been played. If there is interest in adding a player to the roster once the league season has commenced please check with the DLC to ascertain the team's progression of completed matches.

III. MATCHES

- a. All matches will be the best 2 out of 3 sets using regular scoring and a Coman set tiebreak (first to 7, win by 2) at six-games all, in each of the first two sets. In the event of split sets, a match tiebreak (first to 10, win by 2) in lieu of a third full set shall be played immediately following the two-minute end-of-set rest period. **The Coman tiebreak procedure will be used for all tiebreaks.**
 - i. Southern NM leagues will use the match format for:
 1. Adult 18+ leagues: 2 lines of singles and 3 lines of doubles.
 2. 40 & Over league: 1 line of singles and 3 lines of doubles (if scoring creates a complete tie that the computer cannot break, then the #1 doubles line winner will determine the team winner).
 3. Adult (55+), Senior (65+), and all Mixed leagues will play 3 lines of doubles.
 4. Tri Level will play 3 lines of doubles.

inability to meet one of the dates would result in a total team default, then the matter will be arbitrated by the DLC.

- v. All efforts should be made to play a match as scheduled. If it becomes apparent there is abuse of the reschedule rule then the DLC will need to be notified and the matter investigated.
- d. Matches must be rescheduled due to club/facility conflicts, sectional or national championships tournaments involving team players, L1 tournaments held in SNM region, weather conditions which make it impossible to play, player injuries or unavailability of enough players to play the minimum number of lines.
 - i. USTA SNM encourages all matches and all lines be played whenever possible, to maximize playing opportunities for all players and teams. Given the limited number of teams and significant travel time involved for some matches, captains are encouraged to survey their players' availability well before each scheduled match, and cordially coordinate or adjust schedules as necessary with as much advance notice to opponents as possible.
- e. **Captains are strongly urged to foster an atmosphere of FLEXIBILITY AND FRIENDLY play between teams.** If both teams agree, teams may stagger start times. The times of all lines should be agreed upon by both captains. Lineups are to be exchanged 5 minutes before their line is played. The 24-hour rescheduling notification requirement applies to all captains requesting staggered start times/dates. Entire team defaults should never take place. Team captains should make every effort to avoid line defaults by giving their players sufficient notice of scheduled and rescheduled matches and by nurturing a relationship of trust with their fellow captains. Captains are encouraged to have an alternate available in case of any unforeseen circumstances.
- f. The home team must furnish an unopened, court surface appropriate can of balls for each line to be played. Captain should remind opposing captain if there will not be water furnished on the courts.
- g. Warm-up is limited to 10 minutes, including all practice serves.
- h. Coaching is illegal at all times during a match, during changeovers and during breaks between sets. Teammates, spectators or coaches may not volunteer advice on line calls, scoring or on the conduct of a match. It is each team captain's responsibility to control his or her team members' conduct, and any of their spectators' conduct during match play.
- i. No substitutions may be made in a match after the line-ups have been exchanged, unless there is an injury or illness of an involved player prior to the first strike of the ball in a match, by either player(s), in that player's

match. If the substitution is made during the 10-minute warmup, the substituted player is entitled to a 5-minute warmup.

- j. Only three (3) players from a team roster that advanced to nationals may stay together for the next equivalent league season with the exception of 65+ and Tri-Level which may keep the same team.
- k. It is the captain's responsibility to contact the DLC with any changes in his/her phone numbers and e-mail addresses.
- l. **Appropriate Player Behavior and Good Sportsmanship** will be expected during league play. If there is a player who is exhibiting poor behavior or sportsmanship the following steps should be taken:
 - i. Resolve the conduct issue on court between players during the incident.
 - ii. Next option is to stop play (noting the exact score and ends of each player) and have the two team captains rectify the situation.
 - iii. Last option, match is suspended and a grievance filed to the DLC to evaluate the charges and apply any sanctions against any players they find in violation of appropriate behavior/good sportsmanship.

IV. PENALTIES AND FORFEITURES

- a. Any protest or grievance must be submitted in writing to the SNM DLC. The grievance must be filed prior to the commencement of whichever occurs first: (a) the involved team's next match in that flight, whether or not the involved player(s) participates or (b) within 24 hours after the end of the local league season, except for Administrative Grievances.
- b. When a team defaults an entire team match for any reason, then all matches of that team, played or to be played, will be null and void. If all teams in contention for the Championship have already played the defaulting team in good faith, the matches stand as played.
 - i. In a league with only two teams, and, if one of those teams defaults an entire match, the other team will automatically advance to the section championship if they have won a majority of their matches. The defaulted match may be appealed to the DLC if there are extenuating circumstances. The DLC will determine if the match will be rescheduled. Refer to USTA League Regulations 2.03L Scoring of Team Defaults.
- c. Any person playing under an assumed name or any person having knowledge of such act and failing to report said act to the DLC in a timely manner will be suspended. Similarly, any person who knowingly enters false or misleading information into the USTA self-rating system in order to receive a lower rating than is appropriate for their skill level will also be

suspended.

V. INCLEMENT WEATHER and SUSPENDED PLAY

- a. In the event of inclement weather (rain, hail or high winds, etc.) or other suspension of play (such as lights going out during a night match and no like alternate court available at facility), completed individual matches will stand as played. Players should be prepared to wait 15 minutes to determine if the courts/conditions are playable. Any one of the players scheduled to play the match, may determine that courts are not suitable for safe play, but his or her partner (when applicable) must be at courtside for the determination to be made. If courts are still not playable after 15 minutes has elapsed, teams are free to leave and reschedule a continuation of play. Incomplete matches must be resumed by the same players in the exact set, game count, side, and point, as they stood, when halted. Doubles players must continue play in the same receiving positions as well. Captains, along with their players, will need to work out a mutually acceptable date/time to complete the match.
- b. If weather is starting to cause a concern, the two team captains must contact each other and mutually agree that their players do not need to show up to the courts. Safety of players travelling to the courts should be taken into account. Failure of one team to decide not to show up may result in a total team default.** Matches cancelled due to inclement weather should be made up within a reasonable time frame and before the season play cutoff date. Once teams agree on a rescheduled date, they are committed to play on that date, unless suspension occurs again. Both captains must agree on the make-up match dates and times. The home team captain must contact the League Coordinator when a match is rescheduled due to inclement weather and suspended play. The home team is responsible for coordination of court availability for the make-up match and for informing the league coordinator.
- c. If the players or their captains cannot agree on a date to reschedule a match cancelled due to inclement weather or other court emergency, the team captains must contact the DLC within 5 days of the suspended match to the DLC and the DLC will reschedule the match.**

VI. USTA SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO REGION CHAMPIONSHIP

- a. The USTA Southern New Mexico Region Championship will be played at a site and date that will be determined by the USTA Southern New Mexico when applicable. USTA Southern New Mexico will provide the cost of tennis balls and court fees.
- b. If the District does not have a regulation in place to address an issue, then the Southwest Section regulation will apply. If the Section does not have

rules in place on that issue, then the National regulations apply. See USTA League Regulations 1.00 General.

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