

2021 USTA NAZ ADULT LEAGUE REGULATIONS

Amended: April 21, 2021

The following regulations shall apply to all Northern Arizona (NAZ) League matches:

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

CAPTAIN'S RESPONSIBILITIES

IT IS THE CAPTAIN'S RESPONSIBILITY:

- 1) **To know and follow all current USTA League Regulations (as listed above). Once a team signs up, they are agreeing to abide by all the rules and regulations as well as any procedures and instructions discussed with the Captains.**
- 2) To verify their contact information is up to date in TennisLink.
- 3) To verify host facility availability and pay all associated court fees due (reimbursed by players).
- 4) To secure a team number and instruct players to register in "Tennis Link".
- 5) To verify all players are registered prior to any match play.
- 6) To notify the NAZ League Coordinator of any dates in the season that may be in conflict for most of the team. League Coordinator will do their best to accommodate.
- 7) To ensure team complies with the NAZ League Residency Requirements.
- 8) To make every effort to fill their teams with available players currently in the appropriate NTRP rating level players before adding players from the next lower level.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

LEAGUE PLAY

- 1) All players must be at least 18 years old, have a valid NTRP rating, and be registered in TennisLink to play a league match.
- 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. Exceptions will be at the discretion of the League Coordinator where a credit may be issued towards the player's next league registration.
- 3) Players are strongly encouraged to play in their current NTRP level to ensure competitive match play.
- 4) Players may play one level up.
- 5) No more than 1.0 rating level may separate the rating of the partners in each individual double's team.
- 6) Anyone who falsifies 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.

NAZ LEAGUE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

- 1) A team from Northern Arizona may not advance to championship play if their final roster contains less than Sixty-Five Percent (65%) "qualified players" whose primary residence is in the scope of the NAZ USTA district boundaries or own a home in the NAZ USTA district boundaries (in members name).
- 2) If prior to playing any matches, a team is found to be out of compliance, the Captain may pick which player(s) to remove to come into compliance. If a team is not in compliance with the Sixty-Five Percent (65%) requirement (i.e. has an ineligible player on its roster), all matches played by that ineligible player will be scored as a default in determining final standings. Ineligible player shall be defined as the last out-of-area player to register on the roster (as determined by that player's registration date).
- 3) For all advancing NAZ teams, the Residency Requirement shall be waived when a division of a league is unable to form for the lack of two teams (one team or none).
 - a. If the residency waiver is employed (league is formed with non-resident teams), the team captains will be required to accept eligible players from NAZ, under the residency requirement, to play on the non-resident teams. Any exceptions will be decided by the NAZ League Coordinator.

ELIGIBILITY FOR SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS – see 2021 note below

- 1) Players must have played on the same team at the same level and same age group in at least **two local league matches** and be otherwise eligible to advance to Sectional Championships. A maximum of one default received during local league play shall count.
- 2) Self-rated and Appealed Computer rated players (up or down) must have played in **four matches** on the same team at the same level in the same age group **with no defaults** and be otherwise eligible to advance to Sectional Championships.
- 3) Early Start League (ESL) players moved up at Year End (YE) to a higher level than their ESL level of play **WILL NOT** qualify to advance to Sectional Championship level play.
- 4) Retired matches shall count toward advancing for all players involved in the match.

Northern Arizona has elected to amend Player Eligibility Requirements for advancement to 2021 Sectional Championships.

All players are eligible to advance to Sectional Championship competition if that player has played on the same team in at least two matches at the same NTRP level in the same Age Group through Local Leagues and is otherwise eligible. No default received by the player during local league or championship competition shall count for advancing.

This amendment applies to **ONLY** the following 2021 NAZ Leagues: **18 & Over, 55 & Over, Mixed 18 & Over, Mixed 40 & Over, and 65 & Over**

ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS – see 2021 note below

- 1) Computer rated 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 play shall count.
- 2) Self-rated and Appealed Computer rated players must have played in **four matches** on the same team at the same level in the same age group **with no defaults** and be otherwise eligible to advance to National Championships.
- 3) Retired matches shall count toward advancing for all players involved in the match.

The USTA National League Committee has amended National Regulation 2.03A(4) regarding eligibility of players for advancement to 2021 National Championships. The amended regulation is as follows:

2.03A(4) In the Adult and Mixed Divisions, all players are eligible to advance to National Championship competition if that player has played on the same team in at least **two matches** at the same NTRP level in the same Age Group through Sectional Championships and is otherwise eligible. **No** default received by the player during local league or championship competition shall count for advancing.

NORTHERN ARIZONA LEAGUE SCHEDULING

- 1) The NAZ League Coordinator will establish and publish the Advancing League Schedule in accordance with the Southwest League deadlines for completed play.
- 2) Matches will generally be scheduled as double-headers on Saturdays and/or Sundays to accommodate visiting team travel time. However, at the NAZ League Coordinator's discretion, a single match may be scheduled to accommodate Northern Arizona weather, shortness of daylight, or other special circumstances.
- 3) Divisions in Northern Arizona will play a **round-robin** format. The winner of the round robin will advance to the next championship level.
- 4) A minimum of six (6) matches will be scheduled each Advancing season. This may be waived by the NAZ League Coordinator.
- 5) An attempt will be made to allow each team equal hosting opportunities. The NAZ League Coordinator reserves the right to schedule matches that will not allow equal hosting opportunities due to the lack of available courts, weather, and other scheduling challenges.
- 6) If known in advance that your team will default a court, please notify the opposing Captain at least two (2) days prior and follow the default table below. Please be courteous so that players do not end up traveling unnecessarily.

- 7) In the event of a last-minute default (sickness, car problems, special circumstances, etc.), please notify the opposing Captain to attempt a reschedule prior to just calling for a default.
- 8) In the case of a potential total team default, contact the NAZ League Coordinator in advance to see if another solution is possible.

LEAGUE COURTS

- 1) There may not always be the appropriate number of courts at a match site to simultaneous play all courts in a match. Please consider this when scheduling courts and make sure you and the opposing Captain agree on playing order.
- 2) Please make opposing Captain and team aware of closest bathroom facilities and whether drinking water is available on site or not.
- 3) If there is not an available date for a home match, the match may revert to a location that has available courts at the NAZ League Coordinator's discretion.

OFFICIAL PLAYING SURFACE

- 1) If playing on a surface other than hardcourt, please make sure the opposing Captain agrees to play on the alternative surface. (i.e., grass courts at McPherson Park in Flagstaff)

MATCH FORMAT

- 1) NAZ League Matches are played without officials. USTA Official publication, THE CODE, shall be observed. A copy can be obtained at www.nazusta.com.
- 2) All matches will consist of the best of 3 sets, with a (10 point) MATCH TIE-BREAK played in lieu of a third set.
- 3) A (7 point) SET TIE-BREAK will determine a set at 6-games-all.
- 4) The COMAN TIE-BREAK PROCEDURE will be used in all tie-breaks.
- 5) 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

OFFICIAL MATCH TIME AND DEFAULTS

- 1) It is recommended that both teams arrive at the match site at least 30 minutes prior to scheduled match time. Any changes to start time listed in TennisLink, shall be agreed upon in advance of the match and in writing (email or text) by both Captains.
- 2) The second match of a double header shall start as soon, as can be reasonably expected, after the first match has been completed.
- 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 agreed upon time. Both Captains should have their line-ups prepared prior to the exchange. The same shall apply to the second match of a double header.
- 4) At match time, players should provide the opponent a warmup of up to 10 minutes. Serves are included in the 10 minutes.
- 5) 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)
- 6) The USTA Point Penalty System shall be used when a delay or player no-show cannot be resolved. Default time is 15 minutes after the scheduled match time. Time penalties: 5 minutes or less, 1 game and the toss; up to 10 minutes, 2 games and the toss; up to 15 minutes, 3 games and the toss; after 15 minutes, default. Special circumstances may arise; **please attempt to reschedule or complete play prior to calling the Default.** If match starts late, players are still allowed the 10-minute warmup period.
- 7) The order of individual defaults in NAZ 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 TABLE 1 below.
- 8) 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.

TABLE 1 - 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 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	4	2	<u>Singles:</u> Number 2 Singles before Number 1 Singles
	40 & Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	5	1	Number 1 Singles or Number 3 Dbls
Adult	55 & Over	4 players who are eligible to combine and compete	1	No. 3 Doubles
Mixed	18 & Over 40 & Over			

RESCHEDULE OF MATCHES

- 1) At the NAZ League Coordinator's discretion, requests to reschedule MUST be accommodated by the opposing team when there is a Team conflict due to a Sectional or National League Championship representing NAZ. Five (5) days advance notice to opposing Captain and League Coordinator is required, or the match MAY be played as scheduled.
- 2) Matches may be rescheduled (including weather-related), IF BOTH CAPTAINS AGREE upon a date/time which reschedule will occur PRIOR to the published season end date. Both Captains will send written consent (via email or text) along with the new date/time to the NAZ League Coordinator no later than five (5) days after the original match date. Exceptions will be at the discretion of the League Coordinator.

SCORE ENTRY

- 1) All match results should be entered in TennisLink by the home Captain and confirmed by opposing Captain within 48 hours after the final line of 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 (or designated proxies) 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 (proxy) sign the home team Captain's score card to show agreement on scores.

LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

- 1) Within one week after the official season end date, the Captain of winning team must notify the League Coordinator of their intention regarding advancement to the next championship round. If unable to attend, the berth may be offered to the second-place team or made available as a Southwest Section Wildcard.

USTA NAZ League Regulations are authored by NAZ League Coordinator as employed by the USTA Southwest Section. Regulations may be changed or amended as appropriate. Any questions or comments should be addressed to bates@southwest.usta.com.