



**USTA - Wisconsin District  
Northeastern USTA League Tennis (NEL)  
2026 Local Rules**

The 2026 USTA League Regulations, USTA/Midwest Section League Regulations and the Wisconsin District Rules shall apply with the exceptions listed below. The Code of Conduct will apply for all matches conducted without officials. See The Code in *2026 Friend at Court*.

**PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

All team members must be **members of the USTA** and have reached the age of **18 years** by the time they register to play.

All team members must have a **current NTRP rating**. 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 (C) 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. A player with a valid NTRP rating level in TennisLink must use that rating to enter the USTA League Program.

The NTRP Year-End computer ratings are available for the 2025 playing season on USTA TennisLink.

Captains, please be sure to let your players know his/her rating from this past season, even if that person does not intend to play on your team again. All ratings are based on the USTA/NTRP Computer Rating package that analyzes match results from the 2025 season.

District/Area, Region, Section and National Championship benchmarks may not be appealed in the first year received. There will be no dynamic disqualification of year-end Computer (C) or Benchmark (B) players, Reg. 2.04B. Players subject to NTRP Dynamic Disqualifications are described in the NTRP Dynamic Disqualification Table on the back cover of the 2016 USTA League Regulations.

Who can be dynamically disqualified? NTRP published level followed by A (appeal-all), S (self-rated), M (mixed exclusive), T (tournament exclusive), D (dynamic or NTRP complaint disqualified), E (dynamic rating for Early Start Rating leagues) in the Adult Divisions through the Section Championships.

## Adult Division

Players who do not have a current computer or benchmark rating are subject to NTRP Dynamic Disqualification. They will be dynamically disqualified if they reach the disqualification level three times based on matches except retirements received during the current championship year.

In the event of an NTRP disqualification for that particular level of play, all matches played at the disqualified level or below and any subsequent match played by the player shall be considered losses and those matches shall be considered wins for the opposing player or doubles team.

Players may only participate on teams that are at their rating and/or one level higher (i.e., a 3.5 rated player may play on a 3.5 and 4.0 team but will not qualify to register for a 4.5 team).

If a player is disqualified (DQ'd) at a certain level in an Adult Division, and also is participating in a Mixed Division, the new rating will be used in the combination of the mixed doubles pairing (i.e., player participating in 8.0 Mixed Division that was rated a 4.0 and was DQ'd at that level and now is rated a 4.5, his/her partner needs to be a 3.5 rated player to be a qualified team).

A player may play on teams that are at the player's NTRP level and one NTRP level higher in each League Type (Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over, Adult 65 & Over, mixed 18 & Over and Mixed 40 & Over are in **separate** division). If an ineligible player (not registered on TennisLink team roster, no NTRP rating or self-rated and no current USTA membership) is used it is an automatic default.

## TEAM COMPOSITION

- A team shall consist of a minimum of eligible players:
  - Adult 18 & Over and Adult 40 & Over (3.0 through 4.5) = 9 players
  - Adult 18 & Over (2.5 & 5.0) = 5 players
  - Adult 55 & Over = 6 players
  - Adult 65 & Over = 6 players

## SEASON SCHEDULE

The League Coordinator will determine local season schedule.

If a day team is scheduled to play a night team, whether they are the home or away team, the match must be held at night, unless the night team agrees to field a team during the day; it is also permissible to split the match up if the night team has a couple of matches that could be played during the day (see Rain Cancellations & Postponements)

In general, the following are the seasons for the following leagues:

Adult 18 & Over and Adult 40 & Over: May - August  
Mixed 18 & Over and Mixed 40 & Over: June - August  
Combo: October - mid February  
Tri-level: March - May  
Adult 55 & Over and Adult 65 & Over: June - August

## **COMPETITION FORMAT & SCORING**

Regular Scoring: Match Tiebreak in lieu of 3rd Set (first team to 10 points with 2 point differential). Only a two-minute break is allowed before entering a Match Tiebreak, with NO COACHING ALLOWED. If you wish to change your serving order or switch receiving sides, you may do so prior to the start of the Match Tiebreak.

Match start times may vary based on home court availability but should start at a reasonable time. Home captains should contact visiting captains with starting time and location as soon as the home captain knows (should not be any later than one week prior to the match).

Format of Play:

Summer Teams:

2.5 Women 18&over and 40&over: 1 singles/ 2 doubles  
3.0 Women 18&over and 40&over: 1 singles court/ 4 doubles courts  
3.5 Women 18& over and 40& over: 1 singles court/ 4 doubles courts  
4.0 Women 18& over and 40& over: 1 singles court /4 doubles courts  
4.5 Women 18& over: 1 singles court/ 3 doubles courts  
3.0 Men 18&over and 40&over: 2 singles/ 3 doubles  
3.5 Men 18&over and 40& over: 2 singles/ 3 doubles  
4.0 Men 18&over and 40& over: 2 singles/ 3 doubles  
4.5 Men 18& over and 40& over: 2 singles/3 doubles  
5.0 Men 18&over and 40&over: 1 singles/ 2 doubles  
7.0 Men and Women 55&over: 3 doubles  
8.0 Men and Women 55&over: 3 doubles

Combo and Tri-level Teams:

3 courts per match

## **LEAGUE STANDINGS**

League standings will be determined by Team Wins, which means each team match will be worth 1 point. USTA TennisLink standings will be the accurate standings for all leagues.

Breaking of a tie within a level will be determined by the following order: Individual Matches Won

Head-to-Head

Least Sets Lost

Least Games Lost

If the top two teams are still tied, a match will be played at a site determined by the League Coordinator to determine winner.

## **GENERAL PROCEDURES - MATCHES**

### **COSTS**

The Home Team shall be responsible for all court fees & new tennis balls.

### **WARM-UPS**

Warm-ups, including serves, shall be no longer than 10 minutes. This 10-minute period also serves as the time allotted prior to a no-show or lateness defaults. Late arrivals are limited to the remainder of the 10 minutes.

### **RAIN CANCELLATIONS AND POSTPONEMENTS**

The Home Captain (or substitute) shall notify the visiting team captain (or substitute) at least 1½ hour prior to the start of a match in case of inclement weather. If the visitors either have better weather or indoor courts and if the 2 teams are playing against each other for the first time and they are scheduled to play against each other again later in the season, they may agree to switch home/away matches against each other (if this is done, please use corresponding home/away match #). If this is the only time the teams will meet, or teams have already met once before and the scheduled home captain agrees to play the match at the visitor's site, then any costs incurred will be split evenly between both teams (please contact a League Coordinator with any questions).

In case of darkness, any player may suspend a match. There does not need to be mutual agreement and a Captain cannot suspend the match. The match must continue indoors if possible or be completed before the next scheduled match.

In case of interrupted play (rain, darkness, etc.), all points played stand. Note the score and service order; either find indoor courts (split costs between teams) or complete play as soon as possible within the 14 day limit (if rescheduling issues arise, please contact League Coordinator). If one or more of the team matches has started, the rescheduled match must be played with the same players for all matches, even if some match(es) have not started. Any defaults must stand. If no matches have started, the line-up may be changed for the rematch and prior defaults are not binding.

In case of extreme temperatures: temperatures below 32 degrees or above 95 degrees for the Adult 18 & Over and Adult 40 & Over league and below 35 or above 95 degrees for the Adult 55 & Over and Adult 65 & Over league as determined by [accuweather.com](http://accuweather.com) for the zip code of the location of the match. Extreme Heat: The following rules apply to all outdoor leagues. Captains may agree to take the match indoors (at the cost of all players) if the forecasted heat index for the scheduled match is above 95 degrees. If the captains agree to play matches outside and the heat index is above 95 a match may be suspended by any player (rules would follow darkness rules). If the heat index forecast is to be above 104 degrees, the captains will move the match indoors or reschedule the match within 14 days. Captains need to notify the League Coordinator of any rescheduling. Failure to agree on a date will result in the League Coordinator scheduling the match, which must be played as scheduled under the penalty of default.

In the event that the match needs to be rescheduled, contact the coordinator and reschedule within 14 days (2 weeks) of the scheduled match, unless the match is within 2 weeks of end

of scheduled season or league coordinator gives permission. If neither captain can agree on a rescheduled date, they must contact the League Coordinator in charge of their league to determine play schedule.

If rescheduling league match becomes difficult to get all players to play on the same makeup date, the captains may split up the team match by the individual courts so the match may be completed (i.e. #2 singles and #3 doubles are available on one day and the rest of the courts are available another day, this format is allowed, however, none of the matches can be recorded until all individual matches are completed for that team match (when entering played date on USTA TennisLink, use date of last match completed).

## DEFAULTS

### 1. Individual Court Default

a. Lateness - If a player arrives after the scheduled start time, the penalties below will be assessed:

- 5 minutes or less: loss of toss plus 1 game
- 5:01 - 10 minutes: loss of toss plus 2 games
- 10:01 - 15 minutes: loss of toss plus 3 games
- More than 15 minutes: Default

*(i.e., if a player arrives at 6:04, when the match was scheduled to be played at 6:00, then the player is 4 minutes late, so the loss of toss plus 1 game assessment would be appropriate.)*

**PLEASE NOTE:** Due to unforeseen circumstances the offended team may choose to play without penalty and forgo the above penalties.

b. Individual Default before the lineups have been exchanged: When a captain is aware before the scheduled match that a singles/doubles position will not be able to be played then #3 doubles or #2 singles must be defaulted per Section 2.03K in the USTA League Regulations.

c. Any team fielding an ineligible player will default that position only.

- Team Defaults: **Total team defaults are not allowed.** The minimum number of courts that must be played are as follows:

Scheduled matches	Defaults allowed	Minimum to be played
3 courts	1 court	2 courts
4 courts	1 court	3 courts
5 courts	2 court	3 courts

If, for any reason, an entire match is not played on the day scheduled, the league coordinator must be notified of the date, time, and reason for the rescheduled match.

**Total team default** will result in the team's entire season being disqualified. Any matches played up to the default will not count and be erased from the standings. This team and its members will not be able to play for the remainder of the season. This

follows the national rule. Amendment to the rule was voted upon by the captain's to allow the following: if both teams involved in the match surrounding the total team default agree that both want to default the match, the match will be removed from the system with no further consequences.

**Majority Team default** will result in the DQ of the match if the majority is not played (2 out of 3 or 3 out of 5). Any matches played will count toward the players match count for state eligibility and NTRP.

## **PHONES & ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

All cellular phones and other electronic devices are banned from tennis courts during USTA League matches. The offending player/team will lose the point if any electronic device goes off on the court while the match is being played.

## **GRIEVANCE & GRIEVANCE APPEALS PROCEDURES & NTRP GRIEVANCES**

A grievance is an allegation that the opponent violated a local, USTA/Midwest Section Standing Order or USTA League Regulation. A NTRP Grievance: A grievance contending that player's NTRP level is lower than the actual skill level. 3.02E

1. All grievances shall be directed to the Local League Grievance Committee. There is an Appeals Committee for any member involved in the grievance. A filing fee of \$100 will be assessed for all grievances. If the original grievance is upheld, the fee will be returned to the filer. Please send a copy and check to Theresa Palasota, W3318 Geenen Ln, Freedom, WI 54913
2. All NTRP Grievances shall forward such grievances to the USTA/Midwest Section League Coordinator Steve Wise at [steve@midwest.usta.com](mailto:steve@midwest.usta.com). There is a \$100 filing fee. If the grievance is upheld, the \$100 fee will be returned. USTA/Midwest Section accepts credit cards only so please call 317-669-0451.
3. All grievances shall be filed in writing with the appropriate committee. Each committee shall consist of no less than three persons including the chairman.

## **2026 NORTHEASTERN LOCAL GRIEVANCE COMMITTEES**

### GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE:

Carol Naslund, Chair  
Jill Frenette, member  
Duane Brandt, member

### GRIEVANCE APPEALS COMMITTEE:

Shirley Connor, chair  
Jennifer Maier, member  
Kaitlyn Jonen, member