



## WOMEN'S ADULT DAY LEAGUE 2012-2013 LOCAL REGULATIONS

The Women's Adult Day Leagues shall follow the regulations set forth by USTA National League Regulations, "The Code: Players Guide for Unofficial Matches" and in addition be governed by USTA Eastern, Inc. and the Rules of Tennis and Tournament Regulations. A summary of national and local rules are listed here. The complete League regulations are listed in the USTA Eastern website in the Captain's Tool Kit:

[http://assets.usta.com/assets/636/15/2011%20Eastern%20League%20Regulations\\_final%20rev.pdf](http://assets.usta.com/assets/636/15/2011%20Eastern%20League%20Regulations_final%20rev.pdf)

### I. FORMAT:

- A. Sixty percent of a team must consist of players at level to advance to championship rounds. For example, on a 3.5 level team of 12 players, seven of those players must be 3.5 level players.
- B. Each League shall consist of a minimum of two (2) teams. Any leagues consisting of two teams must play a minimum of four (4) matches.
- C. Each team shall have a minimum of 7 players, and may have additional players, no maximum.
- D. Each team must have use of at least three courts for home matches.
- E. Each match will consist of 1 singles court and 3 doubles courts; for a match to be considered an eligible match a minimum of three courts must be played. Advancing rounds will require 2 courts of singles and 3 doubles courts, i.e. districts, sectionals, nationals.
- F. **Time Limitation Rule:** In our league we have a "two hour" match limit. The "Time Limitation Rule" is put in place to make sure that all matches are completed according to the court's programming requirements. The rule becomes effective at 1 hour and 45 minutes after the scheduled start time of each match and will be in effect. With 15 minutes remaining in a scheduled match, the following guidelines will be used to ensure the match's completion in a timely manner:
  - 1. If one pair is ahead in the set by at least 2 games (e.g., 5-3, 4-1), the pair with the 2-game lead wins the set.
  - 2. If there is a one game difference in the set (e.g., 1-0, 4-5), another game must be played. If there is now a two game difference in the set, item #1 above comes into effect, the player with a two game lead wins the set.
  - 3. If the set is now tied, a 7point (regular) tiebreaker must be played to determine who wins the set.
  - 4. The match winner then will be determined as follows: If the set score is 2:0 or 2:1, the match is complete with the winner having 2 sets.
  - 5. If the set is tied (i.e., 1-1), a regular 10-point tiebreaker is played to determine the third set winner, and hence, the match winner. The last set's score should be entered as 1-0.

**Note:** Before the match begins, both teams are required to synchronize their respective timepieces, i.e., "game clock," to determine default time as well as commencement of the "time limitation rule." The "game clock" must show that time has expired upon completion of the last point, not when teams are done with their break between games or right before the server starts to serve the point of the next game. This will deter teams that are ahead from intentionally delaying time between games.

The "Time Limitation Rule" is needed to ensure timely completion of match play. If the final score of a match is determined with this rule, the score for that match should be entered as "Timed" instead of "Completed". Below are possible scenarios for further clarification:

Scenario 1:

At 1 hour and 45 minutes into a match Team A is up 3 to 1 in the second set. Team A also won the first set. The fifth game in the set has not yet started. Team A wins the match with 15 minutes remaining.

Scenario 2:

At 1 hour and 45 minutes into a match Team A is down 3 serving 5. Team A also lost the first set. Game #9 is currently being played. Team A wins the game resulting in a 4 – 5 second set score. One more game is played which Team A also wins. The set score is now 5 – 5. A tie breaker is played to determine the second set winner. Team A wins the tie breaker and wins the set. The match score is 1 set all. A tie breaker is now played in lieu of a third set. Team A wins the third set tie breaker and wins the match.

Scenario 3:

At 2 hours into the match (i.e. match scheduled end time) during a 3rd set tie-breaker, if the score is tied, the next point becomes the deciding point. Before initiating the serve, the server must declare that the next point is match point.

## II. NTRP RATINGS:

- A. If a player is under the age of 60 during the 2012 Championship year and does not have a computer rating from 2009, 2010 or 2011, they must declare their self-rating when they register for their team on Tennis Link. If a player is 60 years of age or older during the 2012 Championship year and does not have a computer rating from 2009 or 2010 they must declare their self-rating when they register for their team on Tennis Link.
- B. Any player disqualified from Adult or Senior competition may not play at the disqualified NTRP level of play or lower for the remainder of the year and for the succeeding league year.
- C. Individuals who receive their third strike while participating in another division but following the conclusion of their Mixed Section Championships for a given year will be allowed to advance to the Mixed Doubles Nationals at their NTRP disqualified level if they otherwise qualify.

## III. ALL TEAM MEMBERS MUST:

- A. Register to play on their team through the Tennis Link web site (<http://tennislink.usta.com/LEAGUES/HomePage.aspx>) prior to playing their first match.
- B. Be members of the USTA through the end of the National Championships, October 2013 to participate in the advancing rounds.
- C. Have reached the age of 18 years prior or during the calendar year of the league season.

## IV. PLAYER PARTICIPATION

- A. No individual player is eligible to play for any championship team unless he/she is listed on a team roster for the Somerset/Middlesex/Union County Day league season. Players may NOT be added for flight playoffs. To qualify to participate in any Championship (District, Region or Section), a player must have participated in at least two team matches (1 default may count) during the Somerset/Middlesex/Union County Day league season with the same team. To qualify for National championships a player must have participated in 3 matches (no defaults) and must be a USTA member through the conclusion of the National championship tournament.
- B. A minimum of fifty percent (50%) of the players on a team roster must reside in (using the address registered in TennisLink) or work in (designated work location for tax purposes) the area being represented by the team. A waiver of these requirements may be granted subject to a vote of the Adult League Committee. All matches played by an ineligible player will be scored as a default. An ineligible player will be determined by his/her registration date and is the last out-of-area player to register on the roster.
- C. Team members may represent public or private facilities. The local league coordinator will assist in securing courts if needed.

- D. Team members may play on more than one NTRP level within a division (adult or senior), providing it is a higher level than their rated level and is no more than one level above their rating. The team member must keep within the league guidelines regarding the percentage of players at level (60%).
- E. A player may play on more than one team per season as long as it is not the same league level within the Somerset/Middlesex/Union Day league. The Section has the right to accept or deny participation.
- F. Players who play on two teams may play on both teams in the same region or section championship provided they are different NTRP levels.
- G. Players who play on two or more teams at the same level in different regions in the Eastern Section must declare which team they will represent within 48 hours of completion of the deciding match, should more than one team qualify for a playoff championship, eg. district, regional, sectional championship.
- H. Teams are encouraged to field their players for each team match in order of strength.

#### **V. THE TEAM CAPTAIN MUST:**

- A. Be aware of all local and national league rules. The best resource for all league info can be found on the website ([eastern.usta.com](http://eastern.usta.com)). In the Adult league section, captains should access the Captain's Toolkit for info on rules, ratings, appeals, grievances, championship rules and dates and other useful information.
- B. Make sure all players are registered through TennisLink and listed on an official roster and have valid ratings before participating in any match.
- C. Make sure every player listed on the roster is eligible for play at that level/division.
- D. Contact the opposing captain at least 48 hours prior to the match to discuss the site and confirm that there are no forfeits. In bad weather home captains are responsible for securing backup indoor courts. If courts are not available that day the match will have to be made up at later date based on agreements between the two captains. The agreement should be communicated in writing to the local league coordinator. If the makeup location requires additional costs, all players will share the court costs. If individual courts have to be played at different times in order to get the match played the roster presented prior to the first match will be the one followed for the rest of the matches in that series. NO substitutions on the roster are allowed once the first match of the makeup match is played. **If the captains cannot agree on a date for a rained out match, the league coordinator will assign a date.**
- E. Be present at every match or assign someone in his/her place to be the acting captain; designees must be familiar with league rules.
- F. Exchange lineups simultaneously, prior to starting play, and record scores of each match. Sign the scorecards after checking that the scores are written correctly. The home team captain is responsible for inputting scores into Tennis Link within 24 hours. The opposing team captain is responsible for confirming the scores within 48 hours of the match. Penalties may occur if scores are not input in a timely manner. Captains may forfeit their right to dispute a scorecard if they do not confirm match results in Tennis Link within 48 hours.

#### **VI. THE LEAGUE COORDINATOR WILL:**

- A. Form the Leagues based on levels 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0.
- B. Make sure scores are entered and confirmed by both captains on TennisLink within 48 hours.
- C. Provide the schedule for local teams.
- D. Provide league awards for the winning team in each flight (the USTA provides 10 per team).

## VII. MATCH REGULATIONS:

- A. Regular matches will be scheduled and played according to the league schedule, if possible. Rained out matches or stoppage of play due to circumstances beyond the control of the players should be rescheduled **within one week** and must be played on the rescheduled date/time using the original line up cards exchanged on the originally scheduled date and time. Agreements for rescheduled matches must be submitted **in writing** by both captains to the Local League Coordinator, unless the league coordinator reschedules the match. Matches may be played indoors the date of original match date if **BOTH** captains agree and **all** players split fees accordingly.
- B. In the event of rain or stoppage of play due to circumstances beyond the control of the players:
1. Completed individual matches will stand as played.
  2. An incomplete match shall be continued by the same players and resumed at the exact point where it was discontinued - set, game, point - as existed when play was halted. (Any point played is always counted and never replayed.) If players (s) are unavailable to continue the match on the rescheduled date then the individual match will be scored as either a retirement in favor of the team whose players are available or a double default if both teams are missing a player.
  3. If teams have assembled to play and the beginning of the match is delayed by rain or wet courts or other circumstances beyond the control of the players, teams must wait no longer than one hour past the original time for the start of the first match to determine whether or not courts are playable. If the courts are not playable after 1 hour, teams are free to leave and reschedule the match, unless both teams agree to wait longer.
  4. Inclement Weather & Snow- All matches will be played in accordance with the schedule provided, weather permitting. A match may not be postponed until three hours prior to the scheduled start time, 9AM in most cases. **Either team may elect to postpone a match if travel conditions are hazardous, or when schools are closed or openings are delayed.** If roads become hazardous during travel time, an immediate phone call to the host club by the traveling players is required. Make-up dates will be provided in the schedule should inclement weather prevent a match from being played. A match may be rescheduled on the date provided or any day and time mutually acceptable to both clubs. Any doubles pair may make up a match at a time independent from the rest of the doubles pairs. If no mutually agreeable date can be chosen then the teams must play on the scheduled make-up date provided. The League coordinator must be notified
- C. **There is a fifteen-minute default rule** (inclusive of warm up time) in effect for all league matches. Late arrivals will be allowed the time left within the 15-minute grace period. In the cases of extenuating circumstances, the local league coordinator may extend the default time. These circumstances would include, but not be limited to major street/bridge closings due to natural disasters or major accidents or extreme weather travel conditions. If the opponents are warned about travel restrictions by the opposing captain prior to the match, these restrictions cannot be used as a reason to arrive late.
- D. Once the scorecards are exchanged, no changes can be made unless a player becomes ill or injured during the warm up. If a change is needed due to injury or illness only rostered players can be used as a substitute. **\*\* Defaults must occur from the bottom up.** If a doubles player is missing at the end of the warm-up, the line-up must be adjusted and that team put into the 3<sup>rd</sup> doubles position. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> doubles teams will be moved up 1 position – no changes in the teams are allowed. A missing singles player must be moved to the 1<sup>st</sup> singles position. 3<sup>rd</sup> doubles and/or 2<sup>nd</sup> singles must be the first courts defaulted.
- E. All matches will be the best of two out of three sets, with regular scoring, and a set tiebreak at 6-all in each set. In the event of split sets, a match tiebreak (first to 10 points, win by 2) shall be played in lieu of a third set. **The Coman tie-break procedure** will be used as a set tie-break (first to 7 by 2) or a match tie-break (first to 10 by 2). Players will exchange ends of the court after the first point and every 4 points thereafter. This tie-break procedure allows doubles teams to continue serving from the same side of the court as they have been doing throughout the set or match.

## VIII. SCORING:

A. In the event of a tie, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures:

1. Individual matches-Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.
2. Sets - Loser of the fewest number of sets.
3. Games - Loser of the fewest number of games.

### B. FORFEITS/DEFAULTS:

A forfeit/default is **“planned”** if you are aware of it before the line-ups are exchanged. A planned forfeit is to take place from lowest position in singles/doubles. Cancellation notice must be given to the tennis facility and the opposing captain a **MINIMUM of 24 hours in advance**. A cancellation that occurs the day of the match, or after 3:00 pm on the day prior to the match, will result in the forfeiting team ***paying any court fees to the opposing club***. If a team reserves courts at a tennis facility and if they do not show up, or if they cancel without notifying the facility of the cancellation 24 hrs in advance, that team will be responsible for paying any court fees at said club where match is scheduled.

An **“unplanned” forfeit/default** takes place at the affected court position. It can be due to late arrival or a “no show” of one or both players which was not known by the captain until after the official match start time. Court fees will not be mandatory.

A team that forfeits/defaults **eight (8)** or more courts during the season may be dropped from the league.

C. **Forfeited/Defaulted matches.** The non-forfeiting party shall be credited with a 6-0, 6-0 win. Please review Eastern Section penalties **as respects team forfeit**, may be found in via website, Captain’s tool kit, Eastern League Regulations. Strict penalties will apply if entire team forfeits a match without prior notification to the League Coordinator as to circumstances.

## IX. NTRP

- A. Any player disqualified from Adult or Senior competition may not play at the disqualified NTRP level of play or lower for the remainder of the year and for the succeeding league year.
- B. Individuals who receive their third strike while participating in another division but following the conclusion of their Mixed Section Championships for a given year will be allowed to advance to the Mixed Doubles Nationals at their NTRP disqualified level if they otherwise qualify.

## X. CHAMPIONSHIPS:

- A. All matches will be the best of two out of three sets, with regular scoring, and a set tiebreak at 6-all in each set. In the event of split sets, **a match tiebreak (first to 10 points, win by 2) shall be played in lieu of a third set, with no coaching allowed at any time during the match. Format is 2 singles courts, 3 doubles courts.**
- B. A minimum of 8 players (5 for 2.5) must be available to participate at any level of championship play. There must be 8 eligible players for every match at any championship level. **All championship matches must be played if team enters championship play.** However, if a team is unable to field the minimum team required to participate, the second place team of the flight may be invited to attend. Teams who register for advancing play and who do not comply are subject to further sanctions and penalties which may include, but are not limited to, team split up, suspension of captain, players, and/or team, and loss of eligibility for future championship play.
- C. Teams that qualify for National Championships but do not participate, will have to follow the Move-up/Split up Regulations.
- D. Teams competing in the Somerset/Middlesex/Union County Leagues will participate in a district playoff. This



date will not conflict with Middle States districts. This playoff will be winners of Indoor Day League flights, Spring outdoor day season flights, to be held end of July 2013. Winner will advance to NJ Regional Championship August, 2013. The format for competition may be round robin or single elimination or a combination of the two.

- E. The winner of the district playoff championships will compete in the NJ Regional Tournament, August 2013 with opportunity to advance to Section Championships in Albany, NY mid August 2013.

