



NORTHEASTERN OHIO TENNIS ASSOCIATION USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS (2020)

1.0 USTA (National)

1.04D(3)d 1: USTA League registration must be closed no later than two weeks prior to the end of the local league season in each District. The NEOTA District will not open the registration for players once the registration is closed. The date that the USTA League registration will be closed for each league season will be posted on the District Calendar.

1.04D(4)a: Teams are required to be fielded from a USTA Organization member.

1.04G(2)H: A player may only play on one team at each NTRP level within an Age Group. Accommodations will not be made for those who play on a second (different) team, which may be scheduled the same night.

2.0 USTA/Midwest Section

2.01C(1)a1: The District reserves the right to schedule additional matches in flights where it is beneficial.

2.01C(1)b1: The District reserves the right to permit additional cross-flight matches in a league, after the initial round robin, in which each team in one flight plays an equal number of matches in the other flight, selected randomly if not a full round robin where it is beneficial.

2.01C(1)c1: The District reserves the right to permit the top teams in a flight to play an additional round robin to determine advancement and the teams without a mathematical chance to advance may play an additional round robin where it is beneficial.

2.01C(3)a: All teams must play the best of three tiebreak sets with a match tiebreak in lieu of a third set. The tiebreak shall be scored as 1-set and 1-game for tiebreak purposes. Failure to comply with this rule will result in disqualification for both teams. TennisLink is the official source for league standings (head to head is last).

3.01A(1)a: The Grievance Committee will strive to meet within three business days after receipt by the DLC of the USTA League Grievance form and response. The Grievance Committee, after

their meeting, shall report its decision within two business days to the DLC; who shall then inform the parties of the decision within one business day.

If any party to a grievance wishes to file a USTA League Grievance Appeal (the "Appeal"), it must be filed by the captain within the time specified in the Grievance Committee's decision. The team captain must file the Appeal form by email to the DLC with a copy to the opposing captain. The Appeals Committee will strive to meet within three business days after receipt by the DLC of the Appeal form and response. The Appeals Committee, after their meeting, shall report its decision within two business days to the DLC; who shall then inform the parties of the decision within one business day.

3.03B(1)a: Any grievance alleging a violation by an individual or team during local league competition shall be filed in writing with the Local or District League Coordinator or designee having jurisdiction. The complaint 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 participates or (b) within 24 hours after the end of the local league season except for Eligibility Grievances. The Grievance Filing Fee is \$25.00. Please contact the District League Coordinator for payment procedures at adult@neohiotennis.com.

7.0 NEOTA (District)

7.01: Local League Dates and Deadlines

a. Team Registration Form, Completion of Online Captain's Training Video, and Roster Minimum(s) are due by the following dates:

i. Spring Dates

- A. Team Registration Opens-1/3/20
- B. Team Roster Minimum(s) Due-1/24/20
- C. "Live" Webinar Session Offered-1/26/20
- D. Captain's Online Webinar Must Be Viewed By-2/6/20
- E. Regular Season Begins-2/7/20
- F. Player Registration Ends-3/22/20
- G. Regular Season Ends-5/3/20

ii. Summer Dates

- A. Team Registration Opens-3/16/20
- B. Team Roster Minimum(s) Due-4/13/20
- C. "Live" Webinar Sessions Offered-4/26/20 & 5/3/20
- D. Captain's Online Webinar Must Be Viewed By-5/10/20
- E. Regular Season Begins-5/11/20
- F. Player Registration Ends-6/28/20
- G. Regular Season Ends-7/26/20

iii. Fall Dates

- A. Team Registration Opens-8/10/20
- B. Team Roster Minimum(s) Due-8/28/20

- C. "Live" Webinar Session Offered-8/30/20
- D. Captain's Online Webinar Must Be Viewed By-9/17/20
- E. Regular Season Begins-9/18/20
- F. Player Registration Ends-11/1/20
- G. Regular Season Ends-12/6/20

b. TennisLink fees: There is a \$22.00 TennisLink fee for each player when they register for each team. The TennisLink player registration fee is non-refundable. However, if a Player requests a Team Transfer before the Regular Season Begins date as set forth in 7.01a, then his or her TennisLink fee will be valid until the end of the calendar year and may be used towards another team registration.

7.02: Roster Requirements

- a. Team Representative/Captain Requirements:
 - i. Each team shall designate one person the role of Captain on Tennislink.
 - a. Teams may also designate one Co-Captain if they choose.
 - ii. Captains and Co-Captains should designate themselves as such when registering for a team on TennisLink.
 - iii. Captains and Co-Captains are required to view the Online Captain's Training Video prior to the deadline stated in Rule 7.01a.
- b. Roster Minimum:
 - i. All League Teams are required to have a minimum number of players on their roster (per National Rule 1.04D(4)) at the time of the Team Registration Deadline previously stated in Rule 7.01a.
 - 1. For all Adult 40 and Over Women's Leagues, the team's roster minimum will be nine (9) players.
 - 2. For all Adult 55 and Over, Mixed Doubles, Combo, and Tri-Level Leagues, the team's roster minimum will be six (6) players that can form three (3) valid courts.
 - 3. For all Fusion Leagues, the team's roster minimum will be eight (8) players that can form five (5) valid courts.
 - ii. PENALTY: Failure to meet the roster minimum requirement by the deadline will result in the **team not being scheduled**.
- c. NTRP At-Level Roster Minimum:
 - i. All Men's and Women's Teams are required to carry a certain number of at-level players on their roster.
 - 1. Five (5) Court Leagues require four (4) at-level players.
 - 2. Three (3) Court Leagues require three (3) at-level players.
 - ii. The at-level minimum is required at the time of the Team Registration Deadline previously stated in Rule 7.01a.
 - iii. This rule does not apply to any combination-level leagues.
 - iv. PENALTY: Failure to meet the at-level requirement by the deadline will result in the **team not being scheduled**.

7.03: Spring/Fall & Summer League Season Match Start Times:

a. Spring/Fall

- i. There are no assigned days of play for the Spring and Fall League Season.
- ii. Any match played Friday is permitted to be scheduled between 6PM – 9PM.
- iii. Any match played on Saturday or Sunday is permitted to be scheduled between 9AM – 7PM.

b. Summer

- i. Evening Leagues assigned to Monday-Friday may be scheduled between 6PM – 9PM.
- ii. Women’s Day Leagues assigned to Monday-Thursday may be scheduled between 9:30AM – 3PM.
- iii. Women’s Day Leagues assigned to Friday may be scheduled between 9AM – 1PM.
- iv. Any Leagues assigned Saturday or Sunday may be scheduled between 9AM – 7PM.

c. Weekday Evening Scheduling: If a facility is hosting two (2) or less matches during a Weekday Evening (Monday-Friday), the first match cannot begin before 6:30PM. The following exceptions apply:

- i. Outdoor facilities,
- ii. Teams from indoor facilities that use outdoor courts,
- iii. Teams from four (4) court facilities that have more than one scheduled match, or
- iv. If the Captains from both teams agree to an earlier start time.

d. If requested by the Local League Coordinator, each captain will provide the time, date, and site for their home matches.

7.04: Adult 40 and Over League Format:

a. All Adult 40 and Over Women’s Summer Leagues will have the format of one (1) Singles and four (4) Doubles.

b. The format for all Men’s and Women’s Summer Leagues will change to the National Format of one (1) Singles and three (3) Doubles beginning with Qualifier play.

7.05: Adult 65 and & Over NEOTA League (gender based):

a. The League will follow the Summer League Dates.

b. Matches will be scheduled on Saturdays on TennisLink.

7.06: Summer League Season Day flights (sub-flights): All 18&Over and 40&Over Women’s Leagues will be permitted to have Day Flights. Players may be on a Day Flight Team, and/or an Evening Flight Team.

a. If a player plays on both a Day Flight Team and an Evening Flight Team, and both teams qualify for the playoffs, that player must declare for only one team.

b. If, after all players declare and only one eligible team remains, the second-place team from the league with the ineligible team will advance to the playoffs.

c. All 18&Over and 40&Over Women's Day Flights will be scheduled in accordance with Rule 7.03.

7.07: Home Team/Captain's Duties:

a. Match Fees and Balls: The home team will provide and pay any fee necessary to reserve the courts, as well as provide the USTA approved yellow balls.

b. Issues and Disputes: The Captains will decide all issues and disputes. The USTA Handbook *Friend at Court* is to be used whenever possible.

c. Alternate Captain: Prior to a match, a Captain may appoint another team member (listed on team roster) to act as captain for that entire match. He/she may not confer with original captain who has relinquished the captain's duties or anyone else.

d. Line Judges: It is the Captain's responsibility to oversee all matters, even as a line judge if requested. In that case, both Captains will call the lines, and if the Captain or Captains are playing a match, their match should be completed first and then they will act as line judges for the resumed disputed match (which has been suspended). If one or both Captains are playing a match, then such captain(s) may ask a volunteer (a registered player on their team), if available, to stand at each post. Volunteers can only confirm or overrule calls on their side of the court, and only if asked by one of the players. If Captains still cannot agree, then the match will continue under protest, notated on the official scorecard, and a grievance may be filed as set forth in National Rule 3.03B(1).

e. **Communication:** Captains must communicate with one another on league related issues. Communication may be by telephone calls, text messages or email. Captains should remember that they may need a document trail regarding certain communications. A message sent with no response is not a communication. The following is a listing of some, but by no means all, league related issues.

i. Match times: Captains **must** send all **home** match times to **their** opponents prior to the start of the **league** season.

ii. Facility issues: Captains will inform their opponents of issues such as court surface, indoor or outdoor courts, water and towel availability, and any other information players would deem important. If playing both indoor and outdoor courts for the same match, the Home Captain must inform their opponents at least five (5) days prior to the scheduled match date which courts will be playing where.

iii. Match Changes: The home team captain may change a match time no later than 10 days prior to the start of the league season provided a written paper trail (email) is created between the two captains. The home team captain must contact the opposing captain at least 10 days prior to the match to discuss if there are any changes to the time or place of the match (upon agreement by both captains in writing and notice of change sent to Local League Coordinator) and the progressive order of courts playing if other than all at once.

iii. Rainouts: Captains will adhere to Local Rule 7.10 concerning all rainout communications.

- iv. Forfeits: Captains should communicate possible individual court forfeits. Captains should notify the opposing captain of any such forfeit prior to match time plus travel time (as stated on the League website, under “Facility Locations”), or as soon as such forfeits become known to the captain, whichever comes first.
- v. Other League related issues: Captains will communicate with one another on any other League related issues that may arise during the season.

7.08: Match Accommodation: If a facility cannot accommodate a match on an assigned day due to lack of court availability, **the following procedures should be followed:**

- a. The facility or the Home Captain may contact the opposing facility or Visiting Captain to see if the two teams can switch their home matches. The two Captains must agree to the Date and Time of the proposed match.
- b. If the two Captains are unable to agree, then each captain will provide their Local League Coordinator with three **unique** dates and times, **which must include at least two (2) different days of the week.**
- c. If none of these six dates and times can be agreed upon the match will be played on a Date and Time selected by the Local League Coordinator.
 - i. If the Home Team’s Facility cannot accommodate such Date and Time, the visiting team may play on their home courts or any other courts of their choice, with costs assigned to the original Home Team.

7.09: All floating matches: The two Captains must agree to the Date and Time of the proposed floating match **adhering to the following procedure:**

- a. **The Home Captain will provide the Visiting Captain with three (3) unique match times, which must include at least two (2) different days of the week.**
- b. If the two Captains are unable to agree, then the match will be played on the Date listed on TennisLink at the Facility of the Home Team, at a time set by the LLC.

7.10: Rain Before and During Matches/Suspended Matches (Natural Disaster)

- a. If it is raining, the home captain or designee must contact the visiting captain or designee at least 1-1/2 hours before the match to discuss moving the match indoors. In this situation, outdoor facilities are not required to have backup courts.
- b. If rain starts during a match, play ceases, both captains record all match scores, and agree on the time and place to continue the match. When match is resumed, a five (5) minute warm-up period is allowed at the start. In this situation, outdoor facilities are not required to have backup courts.
- c. If no immediate alternative site is available, the match must continue as close to the original time and place as possible. If the home team captain cannot secure courts, the visiting captain may do so.
- d. If a match has begun, it must continue with the identical players and begin at the point it was delayed, with same service order, per USTA regulations. When rain forces a match indoors, the home team pays the cost.
- e. Rescheduled matches must be completed within three (3) weeks of the match date,

or one week prior to the final date of the League Season (see 7.01iiG), whichever is earlier, and played on the scheduled home team courts, if possible.

- f. If the attempt at rescheduling this match results in another rain-out, the following options will be required for playing and scheduling the third make-up match. In all cases, the original home team is financially responsible for the court costs:-
- OPTION 1: Home team has indoor backup courts available.
 - OPTION 2: Both teams agree to play the match at the visiting team's courts.
 - OPTION 3: The District League Coordinator (or designate) will choose site, time and date of third match.
- g. If a rainout occurs during the last **week** of the season, the rescheduled match must be played according to the following schedule:
- i. For matches originally scheduled for Monday-**Thursday**, the match must be played and have scores entered into Tennislink **within 48 hours of the originally scheduled match**.
 - ii. For matches originally scheduled for Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, the match must be played and have scores entered into Tennislink by Sunday at 11:59PM.
 - iii. Failure to do so will result in the individual team match not counting towards the league standings.
 - iv. **The following options, all of which the original home team will be financially responsible for the court costs, will be required for playing and scheduling the make-up match within the limits set forth above in i and ii:**
 - OPTION 1: Home team has indoor backup courts available.
 - OPTION 2: Both teams agree to play the match at the visiting team's courts.
 - OPTION 3: The District League Coordinator (or designate) will choose site, time and date of third match.

7.11: Order of Courts Being Called: Individual courts must be called based on court availability after the agreed upon team match scheduled-starting time. Courts will be called from the top down **for** singles and/or doubles.

a. The home team Captain must call 1st Singles or 1st Doubles for the first available court. The second available court must be one of the following: whatever was not chosen for first court or continue in the order of what was chosen for the first court – 2nd Singles or 2nd Doubles. 1st singles or 1st doubles must be called before any lower individual matches may be called-, unless otherwise **agreed to** by both Captains.

b. When a match has a staggered start time (ex. One court at 6:00PM and four courts at 7:30PM), the Captains must still send out courts according to **this** rule, unless otherwise **agreed to** by both Captains.

7.12: Late Player Arrival: If a player arrives for a match later than 15 minutes after their scheduled match time, and a court for such match is available, they will be defaulted. If no court is available 15 minutes after their scheduled match time, a player will not be defaulted

until a court becomes available. If the player arrives prior to a court becoming available, they must be given a complete 10-minute warm-up.

7.13: Team Match and Total Team Default:

a. Each team match 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. Valid team matches shall consist of **three (3)** of **five (5)** courts played, **three (3)** of **four (4)** courts played and **two (2)** of **three (3)** courts played. Failure to play the required number of courts will result in a total team default (“TTD”). If one team does not have the minimum number of players, the opposing team will be credited with winning each individual match 6-0, 6-0. 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.

b. 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 following procedure to ensure that a majority of individual matches are played: The least amount of courts should be defaulted and all players available should be utilized. If no prior notice is given, the team that has the most players present and available to play will receive the defaulted courts and may change their lineup. (If a team refuses to play, they are defaulted)

- **Seven (7)** players: Default #2 Singles
- **Six (6)** players: Default #3 Doubles
- **Five (5)** players: Default #2 Singles & # 3 Doubles
- **Four (4)** players: Default #2 and #3 Doubles

c. If a team commits a total team default (“TTD”), the team captain will be contacted by the District League Coordinator (the “DLC”), or designee, to discuss the facts of the match and inform the captain of the penalty (and/or fine and process for paying it).

i. **Three (3) Court Leagues**

1. The fine for the first TTD during a season is \$100.
2. The fine for the second TTD during a season is \$350 and potential exclusion from future league play (in all levels and age divisions) of the captain and all rostered players.

ii. **Five (5) Court Leagues**

1. **The fine for the first TTD during a season is \$150.**
2. **The fine for the second TTD during a season is \$400 and potential exclusion from future league play (in all levels and age divisions) of the captain and all rostered players.**

iii. **All fines** must be paid within seven days of notice or the team captain will not be permitted to participate in any NEOTA League matches.

iv. All fines are non-refundable.

7.14: 48 Hour Score Reporting: USTA League match scores must be reported within 48 hours of the completion of the match. Either team may report the scores. Failure to report match scores within the required 48-hour time limit are as follows:

- i. First offense: A written warning to both Captains, and
- ii. Any additional offenses: The unreported match will not be counted toward the League standings, but the results will still be used to generate player ratings.

7.15: Flight, Subflight, Wild Card Standings, and Qualifier Home Teams: Flight, subflight, and Wild Card standings, as well as Qualifier Home Teams, will be determined in the following order:

1. Team Winning Percentage
2. Individual Matches Won Percentage
3. Least Sets Lost Percentage
4. Least Games Lost Percentage
5. Head-to-Head
 - i. Any standings in TennisLink are not official and are not the deciding factor in determining Flight, Subflight, and Wild Card winners.
 - ii. Wild Card Teams are not eligible to host home matches, unless they are playing one another.
 - iii. When seeding teams, Subflight winners will be seeded first, even if a Wild Card Team has a better record.

7.16: Same Team Winning Both Sessions:

- a. In any league with two or more sessions during a league year, there will be a District playoff between the league level champions of the sessions. If any Eligible Players, including the Captain, are on the winning teams from multiple sessions, they must declare to play for only one team throughout the playoffs. Eligible Players are those who are rostered on multiple winning teams and have played enough matches in each session to qualify for playoffs.

7.17: Qualifier Rules and Procedures:

- a. **Fees:** Both Teams will share the normal host Facility League Court Fees equally. The designated Home Team will supply the balls.
- b. **Match Scheduling:**
 - i. The Teams must play on the designated match date. Day Flight Teams should be advised that their Qualifier Matches may be scheduled in the evening.
 - ii. The Home Team chooses the match time. If the match is scheduled on Monday through Friday, the Home Team may schedule a match between 6PM and 9PM. If the match is scheduled on Saturday or Sunday, the Home Team may schedule a match between 9AM and 7PM.
 - iii. All 1st Round match times must be reported by the Home Captain to the Visiting Captain and League Coordinator within 24 hours of receiving the time from their Facility, but no later than 72 hours prior to the match date.

iv. All 2nd Round match times must be reported by the Home Captain to the Visiting Captain and League Coordinator as soon as possible after receiving the time from the Facility, and no later than 24 hours before the match time.

v. For all 55&O Women's matches that feature a Day Flight Team versus an Evening Flight Team, that match will be scheduled on a Saturday.

c. **Inability to Field a Team:** If a Team cannot field a complete line-up, the Captain must immediately notify the DLC and Level Coordinator, who will then contact the next qualifying team and offer them an opportunity to compete in place of the originally qualified team.

d. **Exchanging Scorecards:** Captains should exchange the team scorecards with each other at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to the start of the scheduled match. By exchanging the team scorecard, the Team Captain is stating that the entire team is present and ready to play.

e. **Player Eligibility:** A player must have played in two matches to be eligible to play in a Qualifier Match. Only one Default Match counts towards eligibility.

f. **Score Reporting:** Captains are required to report scores on TennisLink prior to 12:00AM on the day of the match. Either team may report the scores. Failure to report Qualifier match scores prior to this time will result in the following penalties:

- i. First offense: A written warning to both Captains, ~~and~~
- ii. Second offense: A \$50 fine will be issued to both Captains, and
- iii. Any additional offense: The unreported match will not be counted toward the League standings, but the results will still be used to generate player ratings.

7.18: District Playoff Rules and Procedures

a. **Inability to Field a Team:** If a Team cannot field a complete line-up, the Captain must immediately notify the DLC and Level Coordinator, who will then contact the next qualifying team and offer them an opportunity to compete in place of the originally qualified team.

b. **Player Eligibility:** A Player must have played in two matches to be eligible to play in a District Match. Only one Default Match counts towards eligibility.

7.19: Interpretation: Any interpretation of USTA/Midwest Section/NEOTA USTA League Rules and Regulations is within the authority of the USTA/Midwest/NEOTA District USTA League Coordinator.