

Northern Illinois Tennis Association (NITA)
2020 USTA Local League Rules and Procedures
(Updated **11/25/19**)

USTA League Regulations, USTA/Midwest Section Standing Orders, and NITA USTA League Rules and Procedures shall apply to the Northern Illinois Tennis Association USTA League Programs. You will find these on the USTA, Midwest Section and NITA websites. Rule references if applicable are listed.

Interpretation of the NITA USTA League Rules is within the authority of the NITA District USTA League Coordinator and the NITA USTA League Committee.

Seasons Midwest Reg. 1.04D(3)a

The start and end dates of each league season are determined by the NITA USTA League Committee. These dates can be found on the NITA League Calendar which is posted on the NITA website at <http://northernillinois.usta.com>

NITA League Tennis Programs include the following seasons:

- Winter – early January through April
- Summer – early May through late July
- ESL/Fall – early September through year end or early-January

Winter and ESL/Fall leagues are indoor, weekend leagues playing matches on Friday, Saturday and Sunday using the Match Start Times below.

Match Start Times

Home matches/times will be scheduled as follows:

- Summer, weekday, outdoor – no earlier than 6:30 p.m. and no later than 8:00 p.m.*
- All seasons, weekday, indoor – no earlier than 6:30 p.m. and no later than 8:00 p.m.*
- All seasons, weekend, indoor or outdoor – no earlier than 9:00 a.m. and no later than 7:30 p.m.*
- All outdoor summer matches scheduled to start at 7:00 p.m. or later must be played at lighted facilities.
- Home teams should try to accommodate visiting teams traveling long distances

* unless agreed upon by both captains

Minimum Number of Players 1.04D(4)

Each league season a **preliminary** and **final** deadline will be set for teams to ensure that they have the minimum number of players registered. Failure to comply with these deadlines could result in team withdrawals.

Registration Deadline Midwest Reg. 1.04D(3)d

Registration for players with rating types other than “C” will close 2 weeks prior to each season end. Computer rated “C” players may register through the last date of each season but must contact the DLC for registration help during the final 2 weeks of each season as registration is locked.

Team Withdrawals

The following shall apply regarding team withdrawals:

- If a team withdraws from the league, it is the responsibility of the District USTA League Coordinator to notify each captain in the level effected.
- It is the responsibility of each captain in the level affected to notify their club regarding resulting court cancellations.
- It is the responsibility of each captain to inform their players of the withdrawal.
- Teams withdrawing after the local league schedule has been published on TennisLink may be subject to disciplinary action per the NITA/USTA Adult League Committee.

Competition Format National Reg. 2.01C(1), 2.01C(1)a and 2.01C(3)

In general all NITA teams/leagues will play a round robin competition.

- Local league matches will be the best of three, tiebreak sets (see Time Restriction Rules).
- Flight playoffs and District Championship matches will be the best of three, tiebreak sets with a match tiebreak (first to 10 points by a margin of two points) played in lieu of third set.
- NITA may add additional matches to fill out the season. Additional matches would count toward player progression and applicable ratings but may or may not be counted toward standings per rule of the majority of captains in the applicable league.

Team Match Length and Court Format

Team matches will be scheduled for a minimum of two hours. Court format for 2020 will be*:

Adult 18 and over and 40 and over women for all seasons – 1 singles, 3 doubles

Adult 18 and over men for all seasons – 2 singles, 3, doubles

Adult 40 and over men for all seasons – 1 singles, 3 doubles

Adult 55 and over, 65 and over, all mixed divisions, combo and tri-level for all seasons – 3 doubles

Advancing teams must be prepared to fill all positions required in championship play.

*Formats may be changed by majority vote of captains/teams in the leagues.

Standings

TennisLink is the official system for reporting scores and providing standings for the USTA Leagues and will be used to determine NITA league winners. Please be aware of these special cases:

- In the case of a perfect tie (which occurs when both teams participating in a match win/lose the same number of individual courts, sets, and games), TennisLink will award the team point to the visiting team in a four court format as they do not have home court advantage.
- Scoring of retirements – see 2020 USTA League Regulation 2.03N.
- Entire team defaults will count as a win for the team receiving the default*

*If an entire team default, retirement, etc. occurs during any season that affects the league standings at the end of that season the NITA USTA Adult League Committee has the right to review the impact on those standings and make justifiable changes.

Team Captain National Reg. 1.04B(4)

1. General

- Each team must have a designated captain and/or a co-captain.

2. Captains must:

- Have access to the internet to register their teams and to input match scores through TennisLink etc.
- Provide the District USTA League Coordinator with a current e-mail address and contact phone number
- Club pros may be team captains but should consider a co-captain that is on the team.

3. Pre Match Responsibilities

Forty-eight hours prior to a team match, **both** captains must contact each other directly to:

- Confirm match date, time, place, etc.**
- Notify each other if someone other than the captain will be acting captain.
- Notify of defaults (defaulting team is responsible for paying any court fees caused by late notice).
The home team must advise the visiting team if the match will be time restricted or will be played out. Matches at facilities that cannot exceed the minimum two hour time limit will be completed per options 1 and 2 below. Be advised that if options 1 or 2 will not result in a completed match the home team will retire the match on the unfinished court and the visiting team will be awarded the win. The score will be recorded as retired in TennisLink.

1. Start the Time Restriction Rules earlier
2. Move the unfinished court to another open court (if that's an option)

****Note: If matches are not confirmed captains must assume that they will be played as scheduled.**

Distances Between Facilities

Matches that are scheduled between teams where facilities are greater than 50 miles apart may be played on Saturday or Sunday between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (start times), or moved to a location someplace in between the two facilities unless the visiting captain agrees to play the match as originally scheduled.

Match Fees

Match fees will be the responsibility of both teams. Fees are a maximum of **\$20.00** per player for indoor courts. The captain of any team, including teams from private clubs, which use outdoor courts and charges a fee for those courts must notify the District USTA League Coordinator regarding these fees on the team application.

Balls

Balls for indoor matches will be provided by the home facility and included in the per player match fee. Balls for outdoor matches shall be provided by the home team at their expense.

Court Surfaces

If a team match is played at a facility which will use different surfaces, for example, hard and clay courts, the visiting team captain will decide the placement of the teams on the courts.

Warm-ups and default time

Warm-ups will be 10 minutes, starting from the agreed upon start time, using the home team clock, timers or captain's clock. A team not having all players present by the end of the 10 minute warm-up must default matches according to USTA League Regulation 2.03K.

Scoring

A. Scorecards/Line-ups

Scorecards/Line-ups will be used as a backup for the TennisLink scoring system. Both team captains will be responsible for providing the official TennisLink scorecards which provide all required information. The USTA League match scores, including matches that are defaulted, must be recorded in TennisLink by either team captain within 48 hours of the completion of the match.

B. Scorecard/Line-up Maintenance and Disputes

TennisLink provides the official USTA scorecard/line-up card which should be used for all matches. Both captains are responsible for maintaining a copy of the scorecard/line-up for future references (disputes, ratings appeals, etc.). Both captains are required to sign both scorecards. If the status of a match is disputed this should be written on the scorecard and the match should be entered as disputed in TennisLink. Immediately notify the District USTA League Coordinator via e-mail and phone (voice mail) of details.

C. Failure to Report Match Scores

Captains will be notified about unreported match scores. Any scores, including defaulted courts and entire team defaults, that remain unreported a week or more after the scheduled match date may be double defaulted. Captains that have not reported matches at the end of the season will be contacted by the DLC.

Default

A. Notification of Defaults

Notification of defaults shall be made by the defaulting team captain directly to the opposing team captain no later than **48** hours in advance. The defaulting team* will be responsible for paying any court fees caused by late notice of defaults. Any team* that owes fees from a previous season may be prohibited from participating in the league program until all fees are satisfied. **This would include current and future USTA/NITA league tennis seasons as well as NITA District Championships.**

B. Entire Team Defaults

Entire team defaults will count as a win for the team receiving the default. If a team defaults an entire away match and the two teams involved in that match are scheduled to play again, the defaulting team loses the right to host a home match against that same team. The defaulting team's scheduled home match against that team will be played at the opposing team's club.

*** Including captains and all registered players**

Reschedules

1. It is expected that all teams make the effort to play their matches as published in the original league schedule. In the event that a reschedule is necessary, it is expected that both team captains will communicate with each other in a timely fashion, and make every effort to cooperate and be reasonable in facilitating the reschedule process.
2. Any team may request a reschedule no later than 1 week (7 days) prior to each league season start date. The opponent is not obligated to accommodate a reschedule request made after this time unless the reschedule is due to a club constraint, such as an already scheduled event or tournament or a natural disaster. **After the pre-season deadline teams will be allowed a maximum of 2 reschedules which result in a change of date and/or time.**

3. The District USTA League Coordinator must be notified of any reschedule request at the time the initial request is made. These requests should be done via e-mail for record keeping purposes.
4. A minimum of 3 alternate dates which are not recognized holidays or match dates already on the opponents schedule should be offered for reschedules.
5. A new match date must be confirmed by both captains and the new match date must be received by the DLC within 21 days (three weeks) of the original request. Failure to comply with this procedure may result in loss of the match.
6. In the correspondence with the District USTA League Coordinator please include:
 - match number
 - level of play and Age Group (example: 3.5 women, Adult 18 and Over)
 - original match date and time
 - new match date and time
7. If a reschedule request date is not resolved as outlined above the District USTA League Coordinator may step in to aide in the resolution of the reschedule. Should this become necessary the District USTA League Coordinator has jurisdiction to do any or all of the following:
 - choose a new match date, time and/or location
 - default and/or double default the match

Match Splitting

All courts should be played per the original format of each league on the originally scheduled date. **Match splitting will only be allowed if all courts are scheduled to play on the same date. Teams that cannot field the majority of the courts will need to default the entire match.**

Unavailability of Facility and Possible Match Relocation

If home courts become unavailable or unplayable due to circumstances beyond the home team's control (example: weather) and the home team cannot provide a reasonable backup court plan, the match could reasonably be moved to the visiting team facility if courts are available and time permits. If neither team can secure backup courts for the match it is the responsibility of both captains to reschedule the match to be completed within two weeks of the original match date. In the event that a team has defaulted 1 or more courts and the match is still viable, and weather or some other unforeseen incident dictates that this same match will need to be rescheduled, the team receiving the original default may at their discretion allow those defaulted courts to be played at the new date and time of the rescheduled match.

Teams that play their matches on outdoor courts for the summer season need to have backup indoor courts available in order to avoid entire team defaults.

Grievance and NTRP Grievance Procedures National Reg. 3.00

A. Grievance and Grievance Appeals (Grievance procedures may be time sensitive)

A \$25.00 fee must accompany all grievances and grievance appeals. If the NITA USTA League Grievance or Grievance Appeals Committee rules in favor of the team filing the grievance, this fee will be refunded. All grievances alleging a violation of USTA regulations etc., must be sent to the NITA District USTA League Coordinator and shall be filed in writing with the NITA USTA League Grievance Committee. All administrative grievances will be sent to the USTA/Midwest Section USTA League Grievance Committee. The fee for these grievances is \$50.00, payable by credit card.

B. NTRP Grievance

NTRP Grievances must be sent to the USTA/Midwest Section USTA League Coordinator. A \$50.00 fee must accompany each NTRP grievance, payable by credit card only. If the NTRP Grievance is upheld with the player in question, the \$50.00 fee will be refunded and match(es) played by the

ineligible player will be considered losses based on USTA League Regulations and USTA Midwest Section Standing Orders.

Note: The Midwest Section fee for all grievances will be \$100.00 from July 15th through the championship season.

Progression

A. Local Championships

Each team that wins a specific NTRP level of local league competition shall be entitled to advance to the next level of competition. In the event that a league winner chooses to default, not compete in, or is unable to play in the Sub-flight or District Championship, the next team in line respectively in that league season that is able to compete will be asked to participate in the championship.

1. Sub-flight Championships

Each team that wins a specific level of a sub-flight shall be entitled to advance to sub-flight playoffs.

2. District Championships

Each team that wins the sub-flight playoff of a specific NTRP level shall be considered the NITA flight winner and shall be entitled to advance to NITA District Championships. Each team that wins their flight will be responsible for the applicable NITA District Championship team fee. This fee will be billed to any winning team choosing not to advance to NITA District Championships if a replacement team cannot be found. Teams with unpaid fees will be ineligible for NITA league play. In 2019 all Adult 18 and Over and Adult 40 and Over ESL and Winter advancing teams will be required to remit a \$100.00 deposit toward their District Championship fee and a team entry form no later than 05/31/19. Consideration will be given to those captains/teams that become eligible to advance from summer season. Teams that do not remit this fee will not be included in the championship schedule.

- a. A waiver to compete with less than the minimum requirement can be requested and will be considered only if there are the minimum number of players eligible/qualified to play on the team roster and if no more than one (1) court is forfeited. The NITA Championship Tournament Committee will not grant a waiver request for a team that does not have enough eligible players. The waiver request must be made to the NITA Championship Tournament Committee and must include the precise reasons for the request. The NITA Championship Tournament Committee will review all requests and will determine if a waiver should be granted. All decisions of the NITA Championship Tournament Committee regarding waiver requests will be final.
 1. Any team that is granted a waiver and/or is not represented by a full complement of courts will be **assessed a fee to offset the cost of the defaulted courts. That fee will be based on the number of matches/players affected by the defaulted courts.**
 2. Teams receiving a default must be advised prior to submission of their line-ups so that they may adjust their positions.
- b. Each team that wins their division at district championships will be responsible for the applicable Illinois State Championship fee. This fee will be billed to any winning team choosing not to advance representing Northern Illinois at any Illinois State Championship if a replacement team cannot be found. Teams/players with unpaid fees will be ineligible for NITA league play.
- c. The district reserves the right to invite Wild Card Teams to compete in district championship

events. These teams will be determined based on overall win percentage during the applicable league seasons.

B. Illinois State USTA League Championships* (see note below)

Each team that wins the NITA District Championships of a specific NTRP level shall be considered the NITA District Champion and shall be entitled to advance to Illinois State Championships (if applicable).

C. USTA/Midwest Section USTA League Championships* (see note below)

Each NITA team that wins the Illinois State Championships of a specific NTRP level shall be considered the Illinois State Champion and shall be entitled to advance to USTA/Midwest Sectional Championships (if applicable). NITA will pay the Midwest Section team entry fee for advancing teams.

D. National USTA League Championships

Each NITA team that wins the USTA/Midwest Section Championship of a specific division/ NTRP level/and/or gender shall be considered the USTA/Midwest Section Champion and shall be entitled to advance to National USTA League Championships. The team winning the National Championship in each level of competition shall be the USTA League National Champion.

*Note: If a team has not requested a waiver from the Championship Tournament Committee and is not represented by a full complement of courts at the initial check in at the USTA League State and/or Sectional Championship, their District will be fined \$100. If this should occur all fines will be the responsibility of the team(s) failing to request the waiver.

Time Restriction Rules (Updated, 11/23/19)

These rules will apply to any match that requires a time limitation of 2 (or more) hours. Generally the Time Restriction Rules would begin 15 minutes prior to the end of match time. Please refer to Pre Match Responsibilities, for additional information regarding this.

Match play will be a minimum of 2 hours.

- a. The home team clock, timer, watch or cell phone will be used as the official time. Devices with alarms are highly recommended. It is the responsibility of both captains to let their players know the official time.
- b. **Any first set game in progress**, at the designated time, will be completed using no-ad scoring (see note). The team having a two game lead shall win the first set. If the games are tied, a set tiebreak (first to 7 by a margin of 2) will be played to determine the first set winner. If neither team is ahead by two games, one additional game will be played using no-ad scoring. If, after the additional game is played, both teams are tied, a set tiebreak (first to 7 by a margin of 2) will be played to determine the first set winner. A set tiebreak (first to 7 by a margin of 2) will then be played to determine the second set winner. If the result of this should be that each team has won one set, a match tiebreak (first to 10 by a margin of 2) will be played to determine the match winner.
- c. **Any second set game in progress**, at the designated time, will be completed using no-ad scoring (see note). The team having a two game lead shall win the second set. If the games are tied, a set tiebreak (first to 7 by a margin of 2) will be played to determine the second set winner. If neither team is ahead by two games, one additional game will be played using no-ad scoring. If, after the additional game is played, both teams are tied, a set tiebreak (first to 7 by a margin of 2) will be played to determine the second set winner. If the result of this should be that each team has won one set, a match tiebreak (first to 10 by a margin of 2) will be played to determine the match winner.
- d. **Any third set game in progress**, at the designated time, will be completed using no-ad scoring (see note). The team having a two game lead shall win the third set and match. If the games are tied, a set tiebreak (first to 7 by a margin of 2) will be played to determine the third set and match winner. If neither team is ahead by two games, one additional game will be played using no-ad scoring. If, after the additional game is played both teams are tied, a set tiebreak (first to 7 by a margin of 2) will be played to determine the third set and match winner.
- e. Play shall be continuous. If play is indoors it is not necessary to change sides after odd games; you may change sides after completion of a set to save time. Time between points and games is 20 seconds. At the completion of a game, if there is any time left you must begin another game. A 90 second break will be allowed when changing ends.

Note: 1. If either team already has the ad point when the Time Restriction Rules goes into effect an Additional point will be played. After that point has been played if the result is a deuce, a final (no ad) point will be played to determine the winner of that game.

2. It is recommended that the Coman tiebreak procedure be used for all tiebreaks.