

Dear NITA Captains and Players

We hope this finds you well and eager to play USTA League Tennis when we can resume safely!

On behalf of the NITA Adult League Committee, this letter will update you on the plans for the Northern Illinois District's USTA Leagues moving forward. The COVID-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on tennis locally, including the tennis clubs and facilities, tennis professionals, and all players. Our District and Midwest Section staff and volunteers have been continuously learning, assessing, and planning for the "reopening" of tennis, what that will look like, and what our players should expect when they visit clubs in Northern Illinois and the Chicago area.

Since Governor Pritzker announced the "Restore Illinois" program last week with five phases for business operations opening and four geographic regions defined, tennis clubs and facilities in our area now have better direction in terms of when they might reopen for indoor play.

We are assuming that USTA will not extend the suspension of play beyond May 31st. With that thought in mind, the following are the essential plans for USTA League Tennis in the Northern Illinois District moving forward this year:

- **Winter Leagues season to continue:** The NITA winter leagues were about halfway through their matches when USTA suspended play for all USTA sanctioned programs mid-March. Our goal is to give our teams the opportunity to complete as many of the remaining winter league matches as possible during the summer once our hosting clubs are ready to accommodate USTA League play.
- **If we are unable to resume Winter League play by the week of July 5th,** the remainder of the winter season will then be canceled. If that occurs, registered players who have not **physically** played any matches during the winter season, (defaults given do not count as matches **physically** played) will receive a credit on their USTA account for that league registration. The credit can be used for any USTA League in the Northern Illinois District through the 2021 Championship Season.
- **The Summer League that was scheduled to begin in May has been canceled.** We intend to work with the hosting clubs to replace already scheduled summer league match dates with extended winter season league matches.
- **2020 District Championships have been cancelled for all leagues except combo.** At this time, we are planning on 2020 Combo District, State and Sectional Championships in early 2021.
- **Awards will be given to ESL and applicable Winter league winners.**
- **We anticipate the new ESL/Fall Leagues will begin the second weekend in September as originally planned.**

There are still many things to be determined as far as actual court availability once clubs can open, with many changes in operations that players will find when they arrive. We hope to provide captains with a list of new features, guidelines, cautions, and requirements from each of the clubs hosting NITA league team matches in advance of safely resuming league play so that all of our team members will know what to expect.

We appreciate your patience and understanding while waiting for decisions to be finalized on USTA League play in the Northern Illinois District. Thank you – and stay well!