

**USTA LEAGUE COMMITTEE
NORTHERN INDIANA DISTRICT/MIDWEST SECTION/USTA
NORTHWEST INDIANA AREA LOCAL LEAGUE RULES
2018**

Player Agreement: All players participating in the USTA League Program, as a condition of their participation, agree to abide and be bound by the USTA Code and Constitution, By-Laws and Regulations: the 2018 USTA League Regulations, USTA/Midwest Section Standing Orders, NINTA Local League Rules, and the standards of good conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship.

Player Eligibility:

All team members must be members of the USTA and have reached the age of 18 years by December 31, 2018 for Adult 18 & Over, Mixed 18 & Over, Combo and Tri-Level. All team members must be members of the USTA and have reached the age of 40 years by December 31, 2018 for Adult 40 & Over and Mixed 40 & Over Leagues. All team members must be members of the USTA and have reached the age of 55 years by December 31, 2018 for Adult 55 & Over Leagues.

1. All players must have a current NTRP rating or self rate according to the guidelines as determined by prescribed methodology. If a player is DQ'd midseason, he/she may elect to join another team at the higher NTRP level up to 14 days prior to the last scheduled match of the league season.
2. Each player must have a TennisLink player number for each team on which the player is playing on **prior** to match play. Players may **register** on only **one** roster **per level** of each division, including Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over, Mixed 18 & Over, Mixed 40 & Over, Combo and Tri-Level.
3. District/Area, State, Section and National Benchmark ratings from championship play cannot be appealed the first year received.
4. All players must play a *minimum* of two (2) matches with only one default counting on the same team during the local league season to qualify for Playoffs, District, State and /or Section Championship level. A maximum of one default received by player during the local league season shall count for advancing.

Teams, Competition, and Scoring:

1. **Team Composition:** A team will consist of a *minimum* of eight (8) eligible players for the Adult 18 & Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, and for the Adult 40 & Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5+, *minimum* of five (5) eligible players for the Adult 18 & Over 2.5 and 5.0+, a *minimum* of six (6) eligible players for the Adult 55 & Over and a *minimum* of six (6) players with 3 being Men and 3 being Women in Mixed 18 & Over and Mixed 40 & Over. A *minimum* of six (6) for Combo and Tri-Level, Players may be added to a team no later than two weeks prior to the end of the local league season.
2. **Round Robin Format:** Each NTRP level within a local league will play at least one round robin competition wherein every team plays every other team. Any NTRP level may be divided into flights and each team will play every other team in its flight. The flight winners **may** enter a playoff structure to establish a local league playoff for that NTRP level. Any NTRP level with only two or three teams is required to play a minimum of three matches. Only one local team will advance to the District Championship.
3. **Team Strategy:** Teams are not required to field players in the order of strength.

4. **Team Match:** Each team match in the Adult 18 & Over and the Adult 40 & Over League Type will consist of two single matches and three doubles matches. The exceptions are Adult 18 & Over 2.5 and 5.0+ levels, which will consist of one single and two doubles matches. Adult 55 & Over, Mixed 18 & Over, Mixed 40 & Over, Combo & Tri-Level will have matches consisting of three doubles.
5. **Courts:** All teams will play at the courts reserved and scheduled by the District or Local League Coordinator. In the event of a match that is rescheduled through rule 15, the home team is responsible for notifying the club. Every effort should be made to play the re-scheduled match at the facility that it was originally scheduled for.
6. **Balls:**
 - A: Winter Mixed & Combo – balls will be supplied by the participating clubs.
 - B: Summer Adult Leagues – balls will be supplied by the home teams.
7. **Team Lineups:** The team captains, or designated captains, **must** exchange their team match cards **simultaneously prior** to the beginning of the team match. Therefore, both team captains should bring a printed scorecard obtained from TennisLink and the line-ups **must** be completed **before arrival** at the scheduled courts. No substitution may be made in an individual match after the lineup has been presented, **except** for injury to, illness of, or disqualification of a player, **prior** to the start of such match and except under such further circumstances as the section authorizes. Substitution will be at the **same** position as the injured/ill/disqualified player **only**. The initial line-up will stay as is **except** for that position. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute player is entitled to a five (5) minute warm-up. Home Team Captains will be responsible for getting teams onto the appropriate courts.
8. **Lateness:** The lateness penalty clock (facility clock is available or clock agreed to by both captains) starts at the time the match has been scheduled, the court is available, and a player has not arrived. Five (5:00) minutes or less equals loss of toss plus 1 game. Five (5:01) to ten (10:00) minutes equals loss of toss plus two games. Ten (10:01) to fifteen (15:00) minutes equals loss of toss plus three games. Over fifteen (15:01) minutes equals court default. A player is deemed to have arrived when the player checks in at the designated area, (court or balcony based on court availability) and is properly clothed, equipped, and ready to play. The choice to play an unofficial match that has been defaulted will be up to the players present.
9. **Defaults:**
 - a. If a player **fails to appear, this is a default**. Scoring will be a 6-0, 6-0 win for the player (doubles team) receiving the forfeit and a 0-6, 0-6 loss for the player (doubles team) that forfeited the match. In the event of a forfeit by **both** opposing players (teams), both sides will be given a 0-6, 0-6 loss and neither receives credit for a win.
 - b. Adult 18 & Over 3.0-4.5 and Adult 40 & Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 & 4.5+ NTPR Levels must have a minimum of four eligible players available to play or the entire match must be defaulted. A team may default a **maximum of two positions in a match** without defaulting the entire match. # 2 Singles must be defaulted before #1 Singles. No. 3 Doubles must be defaulted before No. 2 Doubles. Adult 18 & Over 2.5 and 5.0+ NTRP levels must have a minimum of 3 eligible players available to play or the entire match must be defaulted. A team may default a **maximum of one position in a match** without defaulting the entire match. Either the No. 2 Singles or the No. 2 Doubles may be defaulted. Adult 55 & Over and Combo NTRP Levels must have a minimum of 4 players who are eligible to combine and are available to play without defaulting the entire match. Mixed 40 & Over must have a minimum of 4 Players (2 women and 2 men) who are eligible to combine and are available to play without defaulting the entire match. A team may default a **maximum of one position** in a match without defaulting the entire match. The No. 3 doubles must be defaulted.

- c. **Whole Team Default**: A whole team default will result in a warning being issued, avoiding a sanction, provided the defaulting captain contacts the League Coordinator AND the opposing team captain, prior to the scheduled match. Each team will only be allowed one warning per season. A sanction will automatically be issued to any team that neglects to notify both the League Coordinator and the opposing team captain, or on the second occurrence of a total team default. The Defaulting Team will be charged \$50.00, which if unpaid by the end of the regular season, will result in the Defaulting Team Members being suspended from any further Local League play, or advancement to District, State, Section, or National play from the current season, until the fee is paid.
- 10 **Match Format**: All matches shall be the best of three sets, with regular scoring and a Set Tie-Break at six all in each set. In the event of split sets, a Match-Tie Break (first to 10 win by 2) shall be played in lieu of a third set with no rest period or coaching allowed.
- 11 **Warmup**: Ten-minute warm-up only.
- 12 **Continuous Play**: The continuous play rule will be in effect regardless of the format, no break after the first game of the set. Teams will change ends and complete the second and third game of the first set before a break is permitted. Amount of time allowed at game changeover is 90 seconds.
- 13 **Coaching and Rest Period**: No Coaching will be allowed during any part of the match. There is a two-minute break between the second set and the match tiebreaker.
- 14 **Inclement Weather**: In the event of a **WEATHER delay or postponement**, the scheduled match must be completed or played before the end of the local league season. The home captain must contact the District & Local League Coordinator within **48 hours** of the postponed match and notify the coordinator in order to prevent a forfeit being recorded. Matches shall be rescheduled at the original site whenever possible and as soon as possible.

Inclement Weather:

- a. Both captains shall agree as to whether existing weather conditions are suitable for play.
- b. If play **has not** begun:
 1. The home team captain shall contact the visiting captain to advise him/her of weather conditions.
 2. If the visiting captain has not been otherwise notified by the home team Captain, the former shall arrive at the designated site with his/her team and be prepared to play the match.
 3. If both captains agree that weather conditions do not permit the match to be played, the match must be re-scheduled. Both captains must agree on the new match time and place. Rescheduled matches shall be played at the original site whenever possible. However, if an alternate location is available on the scheduled date, teams are encouraged to play at the alternate location as a first option.
- c. If play **has** begun:

1. All completed matches shall stand as played.
2. Matches in progress shall be stopped, the current score recorded.
3. Matches will resume at the point when the delay occurred. Line-ups cannot be altered when the match resumes.

- 15 **Team Scoring:** The team winning the majority of individual matches will be awarded **ONE** team point. Team match points will be accumulative. Ties at the conclusion of the league season will be broken by the 2018 USTA League Regulation 2.03H (1)-2.03H(5). **Score Cards:** At the completion of the match, the official score cards **must** be signed by **both** captains and/or designees, to verify the scores are correct. The **winning** captain, or designated captain, will be responsible for **recording** the match scores on the TennisLink website within 48 hours. The **losing** captain, or designated captain, will be responsible for **confirming** the correct scores have been entered on TennisLink website within 48 hours. If a captain believes incorrect scores have been entered they should contact their District League Coordinator for any further review and or action. All captains should keep a copy of the match score cards until the end of the league season.
- 16 **Rescheduled Matches (Non-Weather related):** Every effort should be made to play each match on the scheduled date, time and location. If a team cannot field a valid amount of players for a match, the Captain may ask the opposing Captain to reschedule the match. The opposing Captain has the option to agree or decline rescheduling the match. If the Captain declines to reschedule, then the match must be played as scheduled. If the opposing Captain agrees to reschedule, then both Captains need to notify the District League Coordinator and Local League Coordinator as soon as possible. It is the responsibility of the captains to contact the facility where the match was scheduled and find an alternate time and date for the match. The match needs to be rescheduled prior to the end of the league season and the Home Team should also notify the League Coordinator and Local League Coordinator of the reschedule date, time and location of match. Rescheduling matches should not be requested on a regular basis.
- 17 **Failure to Report Scores:** All match scores must be reported within 48 hours of the completion of the match. Failure to report the match scores may result in the following consequences:
- a. a written warning issued to both teams for the first offense
 - b. loss of all matches for all subsequent violations
 - c. match results will still be used to generate player ratings
- 18 **League Fee Refunds.**
There will be NO League Fee Refunds.
- 19 **Team Advancement Fee's.**
As NIN pays all of the advancement fee's for teams advancing to the District, State, and Section level playoffs, and as the Midwest Section issues a fine of \$100.00 to a team that does not field a full team at the playoff level, the Team that does not field a full team at a playoff match will be responsible for the \$100.00 fine. If the fine is not paid to NIN, the offending team members, will be suspended from further NIN USTA League play until the fine is paid in full.

Grievance Procedure/NTRP Complaints:

1. A grievance is an allegation that a violation of a local, sectional, or national 2018 USTA League Tennis Regulation has occurred such complaint to be filed according Regulations 3.00 Grievance Procedures.
2. All captains and players should read and be familiar with League Regulations, the Code, the USTA/Midwest Section Standing Orders and the Northwest Indiana Local League Rules.

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