



2011 LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS

OAHU DISTRICT TENNIS ASSOCIATION LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS

MAJOR CHANGES FOR 2011

1. If an Adult or Senior League consists of only two teams in a level of play, each team must maintain its roster with at least 60 percent of its players at the designated NTRP level of play. *See Rule 10 – Team.*
2. A player may play only one NTRP level above the player's current NTRP level in the Adult and Senior Divisions. *See Rule 8 – Player Participation.*
3. Players who play exclusively in the Mixed Doubles Division and choose to participate in the Adult, Senior, and/or Super Senior Divisions the next year must enter those divisions by self-rating with the minimum rating being the higher of the self-rating or mixed exclusive rating. *Refer to HPS Year-End Computer Ratings to be Used for League Entry.*
4. Each Section Association shall designate a committee to handle Self-Rate Appeals for those that appeal their assigned self-rating. *Refer to HPS Year-end NTRP Computer Ratings and Appeal Procedures.*
5. Any player who is 70 years of age or older prior to, or during, the calendar year in which such player plays his/her first local league match and has achieved the same rating level or lower for the three prior years, without benefit of appeal, will be granted an appeal if they are promoted at year-end. *Refer to HPS Year-End Computer Ratings to be Used for League Entry.*
6. A Super Senior player is eligible to advance to National Championships competition if that player has played on that same team in at least three (3) matches through Section Championships. No defaults received by the player during all league competition shall count for advancing. A retired match shall count for all players involved. *See Rule 25 – Progression.*
7. Players with expired ratings will not be allowed to self-rate at a lower level than their last published NTRP rating. However, they will have the opportunity to file a self-rate appeal. *See Rule 6 – Entry.*
8. In the event of a tie in team points awarded, Head-to-Head will be the first of the procedures used to determine the winner. *See Rule 16 - Team Match Scoring. Applicable to ODTA leagues only.*
9. Player registration and refund deadline has been changed to 6pm on the day before the league start date. *See Rule 4 – Registration.*

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OAHU DISTRICT TENNIS ASSOCIATION LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. **Applicability.** The USTA League Regulations, as supplemented by the Hawaii Pacific Section (HPS) League Tennis Regulations, and The Rules of Tennis and Tournament Regulations shall apply to all matches played in the Oahu District Tennis Association (ODTA) League Tennis Program (Program) except as modified herein.

All matches played without officials shall observe the USTA official publication *THE CODE*.

2. **Local League.** The Program consists of the following divisions: Senior, Mixed Doubles, Adult, Super Senior, Ekolu, and Senior Mixed Doubles.
3. **USTA Membership.** All individuals who compete in the Program must be current USTA members in good standing for the league season as defined by the HPS. Any individual who progresses to championship level must be a current member through each championship progression.
4. **Registration.** TennisLink is the official system for registering teams and players for the Program. All teams must register by completing a team roster using the TennisLink system. The deadlines for Team Registration, Minimum Roster and Player Registration will be communicated in the League Timeline on the ODTA website: www.oahu.usta.com. The Player Registration deadline is: 6pm on the day before the league start date. A player's name must be added to the roster (using TennisLink) prior to the player's participation in a team match. Players may not be added to the team roster during District flight play-offs or at any championship.

Transferring Players. Players may not be transferred from one team to another after the minimum roster deadline, unless approved by the District League Coordinator (DLC).

Refund. Partial refunds of league fees will be issued provided the request is made on or before the Player Registration deadline.

5. **Adding Players.** Players may be added to a team roster after the player registration deadline during league competition (not District flight play-offs or Ekolu or Section championships) if the number of players on the team permanently falls below the minimum number due to injury or other unforeseen and extenuating circumstance provided approval to do so is given by the Section League Coordinator (SLC) and the chair of the Section Adult Leagues Committee. The captain of said team shall notify the Local League Coordinator (LLC) immediately; the LLC will inform the SLC.
6. **Entry.** A player with a current NTRP computer rating must use that rating to enter the Program. A player without a computer rating must self-rate to enter the Program. Players with expired ratings will not be allowed to self-rate at a lower level than their last published NTRP rating. However, they will have the opportunity to file a self-rate appeal.

Self-Rate. Players who do not have an NTRP published level on file in TennisLink shall self-rate in accordance with the National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) Computer Rating System Procedures and declare their self-rating on TennisLink when registering for a team. Players who self-rate shall do so only after reading the National Tennis Rating Program and General Characteristics of Various NTRP Playing Levels and completing the self-rating portion of TennisLink.

Ekolu League. For Players Ages 18 - 30 with High School Varsity or College Experience and notwithstanding the self-rate system on TennisLink, a player who is between the ages of 18 and 30 (a player who makes 31 during the calendar year in which Ekolu is played is not subject to this regulation) who is self-rating for Ekolu and has not played in Adult League or Mixed League during the same year as Ekolu shall self-rate no lower than the following:

- a) College or Junior College level. If a player was on the roster of their college or junior college tennis team, that player may not self-rate below 4.0.

- b) High School Varsity level. If a player was on the roster of their high school tennis team, that player may not self-rate below 3.5.

If a player subject to this regulation self-rates himself or herself incorrectly, the Local League Coordinator (LLC) shall inform the player and captain of the minimum rating required by this rule. The player may not play in Ekolu League until a new rating is requested and confirmed by the LLC. However, the match results from any matches prior to such notice shall stand.

7. **NTRP Disqualification and Disqualification Review Procedures.** *Refer to HPS League Regulations.*
8. **Player Participation.** A player may play only one NTRP level above the player's current NTRP level in the Adult and Senior Divisions. A player may play in more than one NTRP level within the Super Senior, Mixed, Senior Mixed, and Ekolu divisions in the same local league during the same season. Further, a player may play on more than one team within a division at the same NTRP level in the same season provided they are in separate local leagues.

Players who qualify for Section level competition within a division (Adult, Senior, Super Senior, Mixed, Senior Mixed, and Ekolu) in more than one NTRP level may represent teams in different NTRP levels at the Section championships. However, the Championships Committee will not make special scheduling accommodations for players playing in more than one NTRP level in the same competition.

Players who qualify for Section level competition within a division at the same NTRP level in separate local leagues must choose which team they will represent at the Section championships. If the player does not communicate his or her choice, the first team the player plays for at Section championship at the same NTRP level becomes the player's team and any play on another team at that same level results in a disqualification. However, said player may choose to play on the other team at the next championship level should this team advance beyond the Section championship.
9. **Team Captain.** Each team shall appoint a team captain to handle administrative affairs and to represent the team in ODTA League Tennis matters. The captain or acting captain (designee) shall be present at every match. Captains or designees of winning teams shall be responsible for entering scores on TennisLink. Captains of teams designated as the "home team" shall provide the balls for the match.
10. **Team.** A team shall consist of players eligible to compete at a specific level of competition in accordance with the table below.

Division	Gender	Minimum No. Players	Maximum No. Players
Adult NTRP Levels: 3.0 to 4.5	Same Gender	8	16
Adult NTRP Levels: 2.5 and 5.0		5	16
Senior		6	14
Super Senior		6	14
Mixed Doubles, Senior Mixed Doubles and Ekolu	Men and Women	3 Men and 3 Women	14

If an adult or senior division league consists of only two teams in a level of play, each team must maintain its roster with at least 60 percent of its players at the designated NTRP level of play.

Players participating in the Adult and Senior divisions cannot have a higher individual NTRP rating than the level in which they are competing. It is not necessary for all of the players on a team to be of the same rating; however, if there is a mixture of abilities, the team may compete only at the level of its highest rated player.

Doubles teams playing in the Super Senior, Mixed Doubles, Senior Mixed and Ekolu divisions cannot have a higher combined NTRP rating than the combined NTRP level in which they are competing. The NTRP difference between members of an individual doubles pair may not exceed 1.0.

11. **Age Requirement.** Each player shall have reached the age prior to or during the calendar year in which such player plays his/her first local league match in accordance with the following table:

Division	Minimum Age
Adult Mixed Ekolu	18
Senior Senior Mixed	50
Super Senior	60

12. **League Fee.** Current fee for each league will be posted on the ODTA website at www.oahu.usta.com.

13. **Levels of Play.** ODTA league levels are in accordance with the following table:

Division	Division Level of Play	Comment
Adult (separate men's and women's leagues)	2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0	- A player may play only one NTRP level above the player's current NTRP level in the Adult and Senior Divisions. - Players cannot have a rating higher than the NTRP level in which the player is competing.
Senior (separate men's and women's leagues)	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	
Mixed Doubles	Straight 2.5, and Combined 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0	- The combined NTRP level of the doubles team cannot exceed the combined NTRP ratings level entered. - The NTRP difference between members of an individual doubles team may not exceed 1.0.
Senior Mixed Doubles	Straight 2.5, and Combined 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0	
Super Senior (separate men's and women's leagues)	Combined 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0	
Ekolu	Combined 5.0, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0	

14. **Competition Format.** Each NTRP level within a league shall play at least one round robin competition. Any NTRP level may be divided into flights and each team shall play every other team in its flight. Any NTRP level with only two or three teams are required to play a minimum of three matches.
15. **Individual Match Scoring.** Best of two sets, with regular scoring and a set tie-break (first to 7, win by 2) at 6-all in each set and a match tie-break (first to 10, win by 2) in lieu of a third set in the event of a split set. The switching of sides for service during any tie-break shall follow the Coman tie-break rule.

Under the Coman tie-break rule, players change sides after the first point and after every four points thereafter.

16. **Team Match and Scoring.** A team match will consist of the matches as shown in the table below.

Division	Team Match	Team Point Awarded For
Adult 3.0 – 4.5	2 Singles, 3 Doubles	3 Individual wins
Adult 2.5 and 5.0	1 Singles, 2 Doubles	2 Individual wins
Senior	3 Doubles	
Mixed Doubles		
Senior Mixed Doubles		
Ekolu	One men’s doubles, one women’s doubles, one mixed doubles.	

A team winning the majority of individual matches shall be awarded one team point. The team with the most team points shall be entitled to advance to the next level of competition. In the event of a tie, the tie will be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so. *Procedures b) through d) shall apply to the head-to-head matches played by the tied teams.*

- a) Head-to-head. Winner of head-to-head match.
- b) Individual matches. Winner of the most individual matches.
- c) Sets. Loser of the fewest number of sets.
- d) Games. Loser of the fewest number of games.

If the tie still exists, then procedures b) through d) shall apply for all matches (including the head-to-head matches) played by the tied teams.

17. **Team Lineups.** The team captains shall exchange the team match scorecards simultaneously prior to the beginning of the team match. *(It is recommended team lineups be exchanged at least 10 minutes prior to start of the first match.)*

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 or during the 5-minute warm-up period. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute player is entitled to a five-minute warm-up.

Players. Players must be present when their matches are called or be subject to the lateness penalty. It is not necessary to have all players present at the start of the team match. However, regulations regarding lateness will apply when a player whose name is on the lineup is not present when his/her match is called. Once lineups are exchanged, the regulation regarding substitution applies.

18. **Order of Matches.** The order of play for each division shall be:

Division	Order of Play
Adult 3.0 – 4.5	1 st singles, 2 nd singles, 1 st doubles, 2 nd doubles and 3 rd doubles.
Adult 2.5 and 5.0	Singles, 1 st doubles and 2 nd doubles.
Senior	1 st doubles, 2 nd doubles and 3 rd doubles.
Mixed Doubles	
Senior Mixed Doubles	
Ekolu	Men's doubles, women's doubles, and mixed doubles.

Order of play may be changed provided both captains agree to the changes prior to the start of the team match.

19. **Penalty for Lateness.** The USTA Point Penalty System is used for all league seasons.

TABLE OF PENALTIES FOR LATENESS

5:00 Minutes or Less	5:01 – 10:00 Minutes	10:01 – 15:00 Minutes	More than 15 Minutes
Loss of Toss Plus 1 Game	Loss of Toss Plus 2 Games	Loss of Toss Plus 3 Games	Default

The lateness penalty clock starts when the match is scheduled and called, a court is available, and a player has not arrived.

20. **Continuous Play and Rest Periods.** The warm-up time at the beginning of each match shall consist of five minutes, including serves. Captains are asked to ensure this rule is enforced. Players should begin the warm-up soon after reaching the assigned court. The warm-up time starts when the first ball is hit. Play shall be continuous after the first game of each set and during a tie-break, and the players shall change ends without a rest period.

A Set Break of a maximum of 120 seconds shall be taken at the end of each set, including the second set of a split set.

21. **Coaching.** There shall be no coaching at anytime.

22. **Defaults and Disqualifications.** A team must have a minimum number of eligible players available for play in each team match in accordance with the table below or the entire match must be defaulted. The maximum number of positions that may be defaulted without defaulting the entire match is also noted. When defaults are necessary, the defaults shall be determined by the team captain in accordance with the table.

Division	Minimum Number of Eligible Players Available Per Match	Maximum Number of Positions That Can Be Defaulted	Position(s) and Order of Match Defaults
Adult 3.0 – 4.5	4	2	<u>Singles</u> No. 2 Singles before No. 1 Singles <u>Doubles</u> No. 3 Doubles before No. 2 Doubles, and No. 2 Doubles before No. 1 Doubles
Adult 2.5 and 5.0	3	1	Singles or No. 2 Doubles
Senior	4	1	No. 3 Doubles
Mixed Doubles	4 Players who are eligible and able to combine.		
Senior Mixed Doubles			
Ekolu			Any Position

If matches are not defaulted in this order, the match that was originally defaulted will stand as having been defaulted, and the match that should have been defaulted shall also be defaulted.

However, if due to unforeseen circumstances, the captains agree to allow a lower position to start out of sequence, and later on the higher match ends up a default – all matches stand as played. Rationale: captains accepted the conditions under which the match was played when he/she permitted the lower position to start – ALL matches played in good faith stand.

A defaulted match shall count as a match played for the player/doubles team receiving the default, but not for the player/doubles team who defaulted. The score shall be reported as 6-0, 6-0 for the non-defaulting team. In the event of a default by both opposing player/doubles teams, both sides will be given a 0-6, 0-6 loss, and neither receives credit for a win. If a double default or double disqualification results in a tie, the local league tie-break procedure shall be used to break the tie.

Retired Match. A retired match shall count for all players/doubles teams involved. In case of a retirement, the non-retiring player/doubles team shall be credited with such number of additional games as would have been won if the match was completed, and the non-retiring player/doubles team won every subsequent game. For NTRP computer data entry in TennisLink, mark as *retired* and submit actual scores of match at the point of retirement.

Entire Team Default. All scheduled team matches shall be played. If a team defaults an entire team match for any reason during a local league season, then all matches of that team played, or to be played, shall be null and void. If the Adult Leagues Committee (ALC) determines that all teams in contention for the championships have already played the defaulting team in good faith, the matches stand as played.

If a team match default occurs, the captain of the defaulting team shall notify the Local League Coordinator (LLC) within one day of the defaulted team match. The Local League Coordinator (LLC) shall inform the Section League Coordinator (SLC) of the team match default who will then inform the ALC. The ALC may suspend some or all members of the defaulting team from playing USTA league tennis for the remainder of the calendar year in which the team match default occurred and/or for the succeeding calendar year.

23. **Rescheduling of a Team Match.** A scheduled team match may be rescheduled if, and only if, **all** of the following criteria are met:

- a) both team captains are in mutual agreement to the date, time, and location of the rescheduled team match, and
- b) the rescheduled match is played within two weeks of the original match date.

Both team captains shall notify the LLC of the date, time, and location of the rescheduled match.

If both team captains cannot agree to the date, time, and location of the rescheduled team match, the team match must be played as originally scheduled.

Rained-Out Team Match. A team match may be deferred from its scheduled time and location due to inclement weather. The home team captain shall decide, in consultation with the captain of the visiting team, what constitutes “unplayable” weather. In the event the teams have assembled to play, and the beginning of the team match has been delayed by rain or wet courts, the teams do not have to wait for more than one hour past the original scheduled start time; however, both teams may agree to wait longer. If a team match is postponed due to unplayable weather, the match shall be deemed a “rained-out” team match.

In the event of a rained-out team match, the teams do not have to exchange scorecards. However, both captains may agree to exchange scorecards at a predetermined time before the match to facilitate rescheduling either the team or individual match. Once scorecards are exchanged, no substitutions are permitted except as specified in these regulations. The team or individual match for a rained-out match must be re-scheduled within two-weeks of the original team match date.

However, if the rained-out team match is the last team match of the season, it must be made up within one week. Team members need not be present at the time a team match is deemed unplayable, and a decision is made to postpone a match. However, if a match is delayed and not postponed, players shall be subject to the requirements specified in these regulations.

Both team captains shall notify the LLC of the date, time, and location of the rescheduled match.

If teams which are not in contention to advance must play makeup matches due to inclement weather or unforeseen extenuating circumstances at the end of the local league season, these teams may request a waiver from making up these matches without penalty provided the makeup matches were to occur within two weeks of the original match. The Section will determine whether or not to grant the waiver. These teams involved must mutually agree to do this, and their not playing should have no impact on the team standings for teams in contention.

24. **Score Reporting and Standings System.** TennisLink is the official system for reporting scores and providing standings for all USTA Tennis Leagues, including Ekolu. The captain or designee of the winning team shall report scores within 72 hours of the day that the last individual match of the team match is played or default the win, i.e., the winning team shall lose one (1) team match point. In other words, the team win will be defaulted. This may affect the overall standing in the particular

flight/gender. However, the individual match scores will stand. Therefore, if a tie occurs in team wins, the actual results will apply in breaking the tie.

The 72 hours is 72 hours from the day that the last match is played. Winning teams are urged to post scores as soon as possible within the 72-hour period.

After match scores have been entered on TennisLink, they must be confirmed by the opposing team within 48 hours of the initial entry or the initial score will automatically be considered valid. Opposing captains are urged to confirm scores as soon as possible within the 48-hour period.

If the winning team cannot report the score due to unforeseen problems, or there is a discrepancy in match results, an email or phone message shall sent to the LLC within the 72-hour or 48-hour periods.

25. **Progression.** The team with the most points within its flight will advance to flight playoff. District flight champions of each division will advance to the next level of championship competition of their respective divisions.

<u>Matches Required to Advance</u>				
Section Championships			National Championships	
<u>Division</u>	<u>League Matches Required</u>	<u>Defaults Received</u>	<u>All Matches Through Section Championships</u>	<u>Defaults Received</u>
Adult	2 matches	1 default may count	3 matches	No defaults
Senior				
Mixed				
Super Senior			2 matches	1 default may count
Senior Mixed				
Ekolu	2 matches	1 default may count		
A RETIRED match shall count for all players.				

Players who are NTRP disqualified while participating in another division after qualifying for Adult, Senior, Mixed Doubles, Super Senior or Senior Mixed Doubles national championships will not be allowed to advance to the national championship unless participating at the higher level.

26. **Team No-Show for Section or Ekolu Playoffs.** The Championships Committee shall penalize any team that fails to appear and participate with the minimum number of players (as stated in HPS Rule 12) at Section Championships or Ekolu Playoffs. This penalty shall be imposed on all the players and the captain and may include declaring the players and/or captain ineligible to participate in any USTA league play for the immediate ensuing year.

At the sole discretion of the Championships Committee, this penalty may be waived if the team that is not participating gives written notice to the appropriate parties of its non-participation prior to the completion of the match schedule for Section Championship or if another team takes the place of the team that could not participate in the Section Championship.

27. **Eligibility.** National championship rostered team members, and teams that qualify to advance to National Championships, but do not participate, may move up one level as a team or must disperse to form new teams.

The new teams that are at the same level as the National Championship team are limited to the number of players who were on the final roster at the conclusion of local league play of any team or combination of teams that advanced to National Championships in accordance with the table below. *This applies to any player who participated in any match for that team during the championship year, including defaults received.*

Division	Number of Players for New Team at Same Level	Move-Up/Split Up Rules Apply
Adult 3.0 – 4.5	3	National Championship and National Championship eligible teams.
Senior		
Mixed Doubles		
Adult 2.5 & 5.0	2	
Super Seniors		
Senior Mixed		

Ekolu: Section League champions must move up one level as a team or disperse to form new teams with no more than three players who were on the final roster at the conclusion of the local league play on any single team for the following league year. *This applies to any player who participated in any match for that team during the championship year, including defaults received.*

28. **Violations of Rules and Procedures:** All intentional violations of ODTA, HPS or USTA league Tennis Regulations shall be subject to such sanctions as may be imposed by HPS including, but not limited to disqualification or suspension.
29. **Grievance and Grievance Appeal Procedures.** All grievances and appeals shall be filed with the Section League Coordinator. *Refer to HPS League Regulations.*
30. **Year-end NTRP Computer Ratings and Appeal Procedures.** *Refer to HPS League Regulations.*
31. **Protocol for Filing a Self-Rate NTRP Grievance.** *Refer to HPS League Regulations.*
32. **Year-End Computer Ratings to be Used for League Entry.** *Refer to HPS League Regulations.*
33. **Applicability of Player Defaults for Progression.** *Refer to HPS League Regulations.*