

OAHU DISTRICT TENNIS ASSOCIATION
LEAGUE RULES and REGULATIONS

Rule 22: DEFAULTS and RETIREMENTS

For each team match, a majority of the individual matches (positions) must actually be played to constitute a valid team match. A team must have the minimum number of eligible players available for play in a team match in accordance with the Allowable Defaults table or the entire team match will be defaulted. The maximum number of positions that can be defaulted in a team match and the number of positions that must actually be played without defaulting the entire team match are shown in the table.

A default occurs when a player/doubles team fails to appear or is more than 15 minutes late for an individual match. A defaulted position shall count as a position played for the player/doubles team receiving the default. If both players/doubles teams default the same position that position will not count as a position played by both players/doubles teams. **However, a defaulted position does not count as a position actually played.**

An entire team match default occurs when one team does not have the minimum number of eligible players required to be available for the team match. **A double-default of the entire team match will be declared** when: a) both teams did not have the minimum number of eligible players required to be available for the team match; or b) both teams had the number of players required but the majority of positions were not actually played; or c) the combined defaulted positions of both teams resulted in the majority of positions to not actually be played.

A retirement occurs when an individual match has started and a player is unable to continue due to injury, loss of condition, emergency or refusal to play. A match is considered "started" when the first service attempt of the match is made. A retired match shall count as a position actually played.

ALLOWABLE DEFAULTS

Division/Age Group/Level	Minimum Number of Eligible Players Required to Be Available Per Match	Maximum Number of Positions That Can Be Defaulted in a Team Match	Required Position(s) and Order of Match Defaults	Number of Positions That Must Actually Be Played
Adult 18 - 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	4	2	<u>Singles</u> #2 Singles before #1 Singles	3 Positions
Adult 40			<u>Doubles</u> #3 Doubles before #2 Doubles, and #2 Doubles before #1 Doubles	
Adult 18 - 2.5 Women, 5.0+	3	1	Singles or #2 Doubles	2 Positions
Adult 55 & Adult 65	4 Players who are eligible and able to combine and compete.	1	#3 Doubles	2 Positions
Mixed 18 & Mixed 40				
Ekolu	4 Players who are eligible and able to combine and compete.	1	Any Position	2 Positions

The positions that must actually be played based on the number of players available are noted in the table below. Any other combination of positions may result in the majority of positions to not actually be played.

When one or both teams do not have a full lineup for the team match, the positions that must actually be played by the two teams are those that are noted for the lineup with the fewest number of players. For example: the #1 & #2 singles and #1 doubles should be played when one lineup has 4 players and the other lineup has 5 or more players.

POSITIONS THAT MUST ACTUALLY BE PLAYED

Number of Positions in the Team Match	Number of Eligible Players Available	Positions That Must Actually Be Played
5 (2 singles & 3 doubles)	4	#1 & #2 singles, and #1 doubles
	5	#1 singles, and #1 & #2 doubles
	6	#1 & #2 singles, and #1 & #2 doubles; or the three doubles.
	7	#1 singles, and three doubles.
3 (Singles & 2 doubles)	3	Singles & #1 doubles
3 Doubles	4	#1 & #2 doubles

ODTA Comment 22.1: *What should captains do when they exchange lineups in a 5-position team match and the scorecards show both teams are defaulting different positions (for example: one team defaults #2 and #3 doubles, and the other team defaults #1 and #2 singles)?* The captains should adjust their lineups because the combined defaults of both teams would result in the majority of positions to not actually be played. If the captains cannot agree on which two positions to default and which three positions to actually play, the match is scored as a double-default of an entire team match.

ODTA Comment 22.2: *What happens in a 5-position team match when one team had 4 players and the other team had a full lineup of 8 players, and both captains agreed to actually play only the #1 and #2 doubles?* A double-default of the entire team match will be declared because both teams had enough players to actually play three positions but only two positions were actually played. A double-default would not occur if the teams play the positions as noted in the table for the team with 4 players (lineup with the fewest number of players).

Individual Match Default. A default occurs when a player/doubles team fails to appear or is more than 15 minutes late for an individual match (*ODTA Rule 19 – Penalty for Lateness*).

If positions are not defaulted in the order shown in the Allowable Defaults table, the position that was originally defaulted will stand as having been defaulted, and the position 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.

A defaulted position shall count as a position played for the player/doubles team receiving the default, but not for the player/doubles team that defaulted. **However, a defaulted position does not count as a position actually played.**

For the purpose of determining standings, individual match defaults will be scored by TennisLink as a 6-0, 6-0 win for the player/doubles team receiving the default and a 0-6, 0-6 loss for the player/doubles team that defaulted the match. If both players/doubles teams default the same position, both sides will be given a 0-6, 0-6 loss and neither receives credit for a win. When a double-default results in a tie in the team match, TennisLink will determine the winner based on tiebreak procedures.

ODTA Comment 22.3: In the spirit of good sportsmanship and fair play, the opposing captain should be advised of a known default before the match date. It is recommended that all non-defaulting players be present to receive the “win by default” when line-ups are exchanged unless both captains agreed to allow the non-defaulting players to be absent.

Entire Team Match Default. An entire match default occurs when one team does not have the minimum number of eligible players required to be available for the team match.

When a team defaults an entire team match for any reason during a local league season, that team will be ineligible for championship play. All matches of that team played, or to be played, shall be null and void when determining standings, except if due to extenuating circumstances which are beyond the control of the team. The Section will determine the validity of such circumstances.

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. The ALC may suspend some or all members of the defaulting team from playing USTA League play for the remainder of the calendar year in which the total team default occurred and/or for the succeeding calendar year.

ODTA Comment 22.4: *What happens when my team has only 3 players for a 5-position team match and the opposing team has 4 players?* An entire team match default will be declared for your team because your team does not have the minimum number of eligible players required to be available for the team match.

Double-Default of Entire Team Match will be declared when:

- a. both teams did not have the minimum number of eligible players required to be available for the team match; or
- b. both teams had the number of players required but the majority of positions were not actually played; or
- c. the combined defaulted positions of both teams resulted in the majority of positions to not actually be played.

Both teams involved will incur the same penalties that would result for a default of an entire team match.

When an entire team match default/double-default occurs, the captain(s) of the defaulting team(s) shall notify the Local League Coordinator (LLC) within one day of the defaulted team match. The LLC shall inform the Section League Coordinator (SLC) of the team match default who will then inform the ALC.

Retired Match. A retirement occurs when an individual match has started and a player is unable to continue due to injury, loss of condition, emergency or refusal to play. A match is considered "started" when the first service attempt of the match is made. A retired match shall count as a position actually played by both teams.

For score entry in TennisLink, mark the position as *retired* and input the actual scores of the match at the point of retirement. The winning (non-retiring) team's scores are to be entered first. For the purpose of determining team standings, TennisLink will credit the non-retiring player/doubles team 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.

ODTA Comment 22.5: *Can a match be retired when a player is unable to continue due to injury or illness during the warm-up?* No. The 5-minute warm-up period is not considered the start of the match. A substitution can be made for a player who is injured or ill during the warm-up. *ODTA Rule 17 – Team Lineups (Substitution)*.

ODTA Comment 22.6: *How should the actual scores be input when Team A won the first set 6-2 then retired after losing the first three games of the second set to Team B?* The actual scores at the time of retirement should be shown on the scorecard and input to TennisLink as: 2-6, 3-0 in favor of the non-retiring Team B.

WARNING: Captains and players can be sanctioned for falsifying USTA League match scores and/or reporting matches in TennisLink that were not actually played. Individuals found in violation can receive sanctions that include being denied the opportunity to advance to championships, suspension from USTA League play and captains being prohibited from captaining teams. This is a recreational league and unethical and unsportsmanlike behavior of any individuals associated with USTA League Tennis will not be tolerated.