



## **EASY REFERENCE RULE GUIDE**

For more information, please visit:  
[www.usta.com](http://www.usta.com)  
[www.southwest.usta.com](http://www.southwest.usta.com)  
[www.national.usta.com](http://www.national.usta.com) (TennisLink)

### **Match Format**

- Adult: Team Format 2.5 & 5.0: 1 Singles & 2 Doubles
- Adult: Team Format 3.0-4.5: 2 Singles & 3 Doubles
- Super Senior (60+): Team Format Combined 6.0-10.0 or Straight NTRP Levels 3.0-5.0 : 3 Doubles
- Senior (50+): Team Format 3.0-4.5: 3 Doubles
- Mixed Doubles: Team Format 6.0-10.0: 3 Doubles
- Best of 3 sets with a match tiebreak in lieu of 3rd set. It is up to the local CTA to determine if a match tiebreak is played in lieu of a 3<sup>rd</sup> set or if a full set is played. Please contact your Local League Coordinator for more information.
- Both captains should communicate with each other to confirm the match time and location prior to the match date.
- End of match: Players agree on score, captains sign scorecard and report scores on TennisLink.
- At the conclusion of local league competition, the Local League Coordinator shall certify to the Section League Coordinator the results of the local league competition

### **How to Play a 10-Point Match Tiebreak (in lieu of a 3rd set)**

- The team who first wins 10 points shall win the match provided they win by a margin of 2 points.
- The original order of service continues.
- In doubles, the order of serving and receiving within the team may be altered, as in the beginning of each set.
- The team whose turn it is to serve begins serving the first point from the deuce (right) side of the court.
- Thereafter, each player shall serve in rotation for 2 points, (serving from the Ad (left) side of the court, then the deuce (right) side of the court), until the winner of the set has been decided.
- Teams change ends of the court after each multiple of 6 points, if it was determined at the beginning of the match that the teams change ends on the odd games.
- The score for the match tiebreak will be entered on TennisLink as 1-0 for the winner of the match & choose 'completed match'.

### **How to play Coman Tiebreak**

- It can be used for either a 7-point Set tiebreak or a 10-point Match tiebreak
- Ends are changed after the 1<sup>st</sup> point, then after every four points, and at the conclusion of the tiebreak
- In doubles, players can decide which partner will serve first in the Coman Tiebreak. (Therefore, partners have the option to continue to serve on the

same side during the tiebreak that they served from during the entire match.)

### *Southwest Local League Coordinators*

Greater El Paso	Jerry Pippins jpippins@elp.rr.com
Northern Arizona	Jana Perpich jperpich@infomagic.net
Northern New Mexico	Tony Stephens feb61987@aol.com
Central Arizona	Barbara Addiego tennis@azplaytennis.com
Southern Arizona	Ruth Fuchs Senior & Super Senior ruthleagues@aol.com
	Leslie Keys Adult, & Mixed Doubles La.keys@comcast.net
Southern New Mexico	Jack Saunders jack_sau@msn.com
Southeastern Arizona	Jeff Emory emoryj2@yahoo.com

### **Score Cards**

- Exchange line-ups prior to the start of the match.
- Both captains are responsible for entering & confirming scores on TennisLink within 48 hrs.
- Contact the league coordinator if you have any questions about score entry.

#### To print a 'Blank Score Card' prior to your match:

- Go to TennisLink.
- Enter your team # under 'View League and Championship Stats & Standings' and then click on Blank Scorecard.
- Make copies to use at each match
- You may also go to 'Record a Score' on the TennisLink home page, enter the match # and print a blank scorecard which will show both team rosters at the bottom of the scorecard
- Both Captains MUST SIGN the completed scorecard. Failure to sign may negate a captain's right to dispute a match.

#### To 'Record A Score' after a match is complete:

- Go to TennisLink.
- Enter your USTA # in the Captain/Coordinator field.
- Click on 'Record a Score' on the right hand side of the page.
- Enter the match #.
- The next screen will indicate whether match scores have been entered by your opponents
- If the scorecard is blank, enter the scores, starting with the winner's score, and click on FINISH, you cannot re-enter and make changes on the scorecard. If you find you have made an error, contact your coordinator and provide your team #, match #, player names and scores.
- If the opposing team has already entered the scores you must review them for accuracy and press CONFIRM or DISPUTE. Remember, to confirm a score, press 'Submit'. If you are disputing a score, click on dispute at the bottom of the scorecard and then send an email to your coordinator with

the following information: match #, team #, disputed position, player names and actual score.

### What happens if a player is late?

- The point penalty system can be enforced with the late player losing toss plus 1 game for each 5 minutes late.
- Penalties begin at the scheduled time of the match.
- The match is a default at 15:01 minutes late & considered a 6-0, 6-0 win for the player/team present.
- If the player arrives before the defaulted time, he/she is to receive a 5 minute injury prevention warm-up.
- Late penalties will be imposed only when a player's arrival is at fault for holding up the start of play. (Exception- if courts are not available at scheduled time of match).

*Point Penalty System for Lateness: Match start time is 8:00. 8:01-8:05 = loss of toss, plus 1 game. 8:06-8:10 = loss of toss, plus 2 games. 8:11-8:15 = loss of toss, plus 3 games. 8:15:01 = def.*

### In the Event of a Disagreement

- The players are encouraged to resolve their disagreements on the court.
- Under no circumstances can any other person intervene in a match in progress.
- If there is a disagreement about the score during the match, go back to the most recent point all players can agree on.

### What happens if it rains – match in progress

*(outdoor matches or club hindrance)*

Both teams record the following information on score sheet

- Score when play stopped (down to game point score if needed)
- Serving order
- Time match was stopped

Remaining time for this match can continue when rain stops or at a later rescheduled date. Both teams need to agree on rescheduling the remainder of the match. After a 15 minute delay players are entitled to another 10 minute warm up.

### Ways to Use the Match Time Effectively

- Arrive on time and be ready to play (tennis attire, water, restroom)
- Be prepared to be on the court and ready to start the match at the scheduled time.
- Line-ups are exchanged before the match so the players are prepared to go to the correct court.
- Adhere to the 10 min warm up which includes serves
- The purpose of the warm-up is to 'warm-up', not to practice 'winning' shots where the ball cannot be kept in play.
- Catch the opponents serve practice and serve the ball back. Do not practice your return of serve until after you have completed your serve practice and only if there is still time left in the warm-up.
- Play is continuous from the time a match starts until the match ends.
- Between points a maximum of 20 seconds is allowed
- On odd games a maximum of 90 seconds is allowed
- There is no 90 second break after the 1st game of any set
- Drinks should be taken on odd games only
- At the end of each set a maximum of 120 seconds is allowed.

*All points played in good faith stand.*

### Sportsmanship

- Points played in good faith stand.
- Give your opponent benefit of the doubt on all calls.
- A ball that is 99% out is 100% in.
- Accept defeat graciously.
- Shake hands at the end of the match, even if the handshake was made in error, it is binding.
- Courtesy. Tennis is a game that requires cooperation and courtesy from all participants.
- Make Tennis a fun game by praising your opponent's good shots.
- Treat all points the same regardless of their importance.
- Any issue pertaining to a match can only be resolved by the players involved in that match.
- Outside interaction could be considered "interruption of play".

*Good sportsmanship helps you own your game.  
Stay focused and don't let someone live rent free in your head!*

### Regulations

This Easy Reference Rule Guide summarizes local league play. It is not intended to be a complete reference to all of the regulations governing league play.

Please refer to the following for a complete reference to all of the league regulations and rules of tennis:

- USTA National League Regulations
- SWS League Regulations
- Local League Regulations
- Friend At Court