



Passaic/Essex/Morris (PEM) 18& Over, 40& Over

2016 LOCAL REGULATIONS

The PEM Adult Leagues shall follow the regulations set forth by USTA National League Regulations, "The Code: Players Guide for Unofficial Matches" and in addition be governed by USTA Eastern, Inc. and the Rules of Tennis and Tournament Regulations. A summary of national and local rules are listed here. The complete League regulations are listed in the USTA Eastern website in the Captain's Tool Kit: http://assets.usta.com/assets/636/15/2016_Eastern_Regulations_Final_Version.pdf

I. FORMAT:

- A.** 60% of a team must consist of players at level to advance to championship rounds. For example, on a 3.5 level team of 12 players, seven of those players must be 3.5 level players.
- B.** Each League shall consist of a minimum of two (2) teams. Any leagues consisting of two teams must play a minimum of four (4) matches, a total of (5) matches is encouraged. 2 team leagues may have 40% of roster at level.
- C.** Each team shall have a minimum of 8 players, and may have additional players, no maximum.
- D.** Each team must have use of at least three courts for home matches.
- E.** Each match will consist of 2 singles court and 3 doubles courts; for a match to be considered an eligible match a minimum of three courts must be played. Advancing rounds will require 2 courts of singles and 3 doubles courts, i.e. districts, sectionals, nationals.
- F. WARM –UP** Limited to 10 Minutes.
- G. Time Limitation Rule:** We have a **"two hour"** match limit. The rule becomes effective **at 1 hour and 45 minutes**. With 15 minutes remaining in a scheduled match, the following guidelines will be used to ensure the match's completion in a timely manner:
 - 1. If one pair is ahead in the set by at least **2 games** (e.g., 6-3, 4-1), the pair with the 2- game lead wins the set, and wins match.
 - 2. If there is a one game difference in the set (e.g., 6-3, 4-5), another game must be played. If there is now a two game difference in the set, item #1 above comes into effect, the player with a two game lead wins the set.
 - 3. If the set is now tied, a 7 point (set) tiebreaker must be played to determine who wins the set.
 - 4. If the sets are tied (i.e., 1-1), a regular 10-point Match tiebreaker, first to 10 by 2 is played to determine the third set winner, the match winner. The last set's score should be entered as 1-0. **Play all points in match tie break up until time, do not stop if one team or player up by 2 points, finish points to determine winner.** All tie breaks are subject to Coman procedure, change ends after pts 1,5,9,13, etc.

If match tie break is tied when time called, a "sudden death" point must be played to determine winner. The server must declare before serving next point is a sudden death point.

Note: Before the match begins, both teams are required to synchronize their respective timepieces, i.e., "game clock," to determine default time as well as commencement of the "time limitation rule."

III. ALL TEAM MEMBERS MUST:

- A.** Register to play on their team through the Tennis Link web site (<http://tennislink.usta.com/LEAGUES/HomePage.aspx>) prior to playing their first match.
- B.** Be members of the USTA through the end of the National Championships, October 2016 to participate in the advancing rounds.
- C.** Have reached the age of 18 or 40 years prior or during the calendar year of the league season.

IV. PLAYER PARTICIPATION

- A.** No individual player is eligible to play for any championship team unless he/she is listed on a team roster for the PEM season. Players may NOT be added for flight playoffs. To qualify to participate in any Championship (District, Region or Section) a player must have participated in at least two team matches (1 default may count) during the PEM league season with the same team. To qualify for National

championships a player must have participated in 3 matches (no defaults) and must be a USTA member through the conclusion of the National championship tournament.

National Championship Teams. 2.06A(3) All Divisions: No more than 3 players (2 for Adult 2.5 and 5.0+) who were on the roster of any team or combination of teams, that advanced to, or qualified for, any National Championship the previous year may play together in any age group within the same Division and NTRP level or lower NTRP level as the National Championship team, if their NTRP rating allows. Move Up/Split Up requirements only apply to players who participated in three (3) or more matches (excluding all defaults) for that team during the championship year. If a Section has a regulation that limits the number of players on a roster that are at a specific level, the Section must suspend that regulation for one year for any team that advanced to, or qualified for, any National Championship the previous year and chooses to move up one NTRP team level.

2.06B Section Options for Move Up/Split Up.

2.06B(1) All Championships Below Nationals. Sections shall have the right to decide whether a team who competes at any championship level below the National Championships must move-up or disperse to form new teams for the following championship year and under what conditions.

B.32. USTA Eastern: Will allow crossover between Adult and Mixed Divisions

- C. Team members may play on more than one NTRP level within a division (adult or senior), providing it is a higher level than their rated level and is no more than one level above their rating.

NEW FOR 2016

A.17. USTA Eastern: Player Declaration Prior to Championship Play (including any local, district, regional, sectional playoffs) - Players who play on two or more teams at the same NTRP level in different regions of the Eastern Section must declare which team they will represent prior to the start of any local league playoff, district, regional or section championship should more than one team qualify to advance. This declaration is done by playing in the playoff match. A region may allow a player to play in multiple local league playoffs in the region if a majority of the season is not concurrent. If a player declares for a team and that team is no longer in playoffs, the player is eligible to re-select and play for a different team, in any local playoff, and district, regional, sectional championship as long as they meet eligibility requirements for that team.

- D. Teams are encouraged to field their players for each team match in order of strength.

V. THE TEAM CAPTAIN MUST:

- A. Be aware of all local and national league rules. The best resource for all league info can be found on the website (eastern.usta.com). In the Adult League section, captains should access the Captain's Toolkit for info on rules, ratings, appeals, grievances, championship rules and dates and other useful information.
- B. Make sure all players are registered through TennisLink and listed on an official roster and have valid ratings before participating in any match.
- C. Make sure every player listed on the roster is eligible for play at that level/division.
- D. Contact the opposing captain at least 48 hours prior to the match to discuss the site and confirm that there are no forfeits.
- E. Be present at every match or assign someone in his/her place to be the acting captain; designees must be familiar with league rules.
- F. Exchange lineups **simultaneously, prior to starting play**, and record scores of each match. Sign the scorecards after checking that the scores are written correctly. Entry of scores by either team within 48 hrs with confirmation within 48hrs. Captains may forfeit their right to dispute a scorecard if they do not confirm match results in Tennis Link within 48 hours.

VI. THE LEAGUE COORDINATOR WILL:

- A. Form the Leagues based on levels 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0.
- B. Make sure scores are entered and confirmed by both captains on TennisLink within 48 hours.

- C. Provide the schedule for local teams.
- D. Provide league awards for the winning team in each flight (the USTA provides 10 per team).

VII. MATCH REGULATIONS:

- A. **There is a fifteen-minute default rule** in effect for all league matches. Players arriving after the 15 minute grace period are subject to default.
- B. Once the scorecards are exchanged, no changes can be made unless a player becomes ill or injured during the warm up. If a change is needed due to injury or illness only rostered players can be used as a substitute. **
Defaults must occur from the bottom up. If a doubles player is missing at the end of the warm-up, the line-up must be adjusted and that team put into the 3rd doubles position. The 2nd and 3rd doubles teams will be moved up 1 position – no changes in the teams are allowed. A missing singles player must be moved to the 1st singles position. 3rd doubles and/or 2nd singles must be the first courts defaulted.
- C. All matches will be the best of two out of three sets, with regular scoring, and a set tiebreak at 6-all in each set. In the event of split sets, a match tiebreak (first to 10 points, win by 2) shall be played in lieu of a third set. **The Coman tie-break procedure** will be used as a set tie-break (first to 7 by 2) or a match tie-break (first to 10 by 2). Players will exchange ends of the court after the first point and every 4 points thereafter. This tie-break procedure allows doubles teams to continue serving from the same side of the court as they have been doing throughout the set or match.

VIII. SCORING:

- A. PEM local match scoring is as follows:
 1. **Points per Position**, 6,5,3,Doubles 6,5 singles for PEM local season.
 2. **Head-to-Head**- Winner of head-to-head match.
 3. **Sets** - Loser of the fewest number of sets.
 4. **Games** - Loser of the fewest number of games.

B. FORFEITS/DEFAULTS:

A forfeit/default is **“planned” if you are aware of it before the line-ups are exchanged**. A planned forfeit is to take place from lowest position in singles/doubles. Cancellation notice must be given to the tennis facility and the opposing captain a **MINIMUM of 24 hours in advance**. A cancellation that occurs the day of the match, or after 3:00 pm on the day prior to the match, will result in the forfeiting team ***paying any court fees to the opposing club***. If a team reserves courts at a tennis facility and if they do not show up, or if they cancel without notifying the facility of the cancellation 24 hrs in advance, that team will be responsible for paying any court fees at said club where match is scheduled.

- C. **Forfeited/Defaulted matches.** The non-forfeiting party shall be credited with a 6-0, 6-0 win. Please review Eastern Section penalties **as respects team forfeit**, may be found in via website, Captain’s tool kit, Eastern League Regulations. Strict penalties will apply if entire team forfeits a match without prior notification to the League Coordinator as to circumstances.

X. CHAMPIONSHIPS:

- A. All matches will be the best of two out of three sets, with regular scoring, and a set tiebreak at 6-all in each set. In the event of split sets, **a match tiebreak (first to 10 points, win by 2) shall be played in lieu of a third set, subject to Coman Rotation. Format is 2 singles courts, 3 doubles courts.**
- B. A minimum of 8 players (5 for 2.5 & 5.0) must be available to participate at any level of championship play. There must be 8 eligible players for every match at any championship level. **All championship matches must be played if team enters championship play.** However, if a team is unable to field the minimum team required to participate, the second place team of the flight may be invited to attend. Teams who register for advancing play and who do not comply are subject to further sanctions and penalties which may include, but are not limited to, team split up, suspension of captain, players, and/or team, and loss of eligibility for future championship play.
- C. The winner of each flight will compete in the NJ Regional Tournament, July/August 2016 with opportunity to advance to Section Championships in Westchester County, NY August 2016.