

Corpus Christi Tennis Association

United States Tennis Association League Rules

(Promulgated April 19, 2024, as revised July 17, 2024, and September 20, 2024)

1. Rosters and Refunds

1A. The maximum roster size for a team in a particular league is double the minimum number of players required to field a team plus four. The minimum roster size for a team in a particular league is the number of players required to all lines for a match in that league.¹ Teams that do not meet minimum roster requirements by the team registration deadline risk removal from the league.

1B. Teams may add players to their roster, up to the league's maximum, until two (2) weeks prior to the last scheduled match of the flight based on the original schedule.

1C. If a player needs to be removed from a team's roster, the team captain or the player must send in a written request to the Director of Leagues. The player cannot be removed from the roster if they have started a match for the team.

1D. If a player decides not to play before the schedule is posted, they will be eligible for a league credit to be used within the same championship year. Once final schedules are posted there are no refunds or credits.

1E. CCTA will only issue a refund if a team or flight does not make. If a refund is issued, it will be less the TennisLink fee and a \$3 processing fee. Absolutely no refunds will be issued at any time during a season for injury, relocation, or lack of play. Refunds must be claimed within two weeks of the season start date by submitting a written request to the Director of Leagues

2. Team Percentage Requirement

2A. Subject to Section 3C, below, at least 25% of a team's roster must consist of players rated at the level of play entered at the registration deadline. In the event a team violates this requirement, either initially or at any point during league play, that team shall be subject to removal from the league, or removal of players of that team who are not rated at the level of play entered (players removed beginning with the last of the players to register who are not rated at the level of play entered), at the discretion of the Director of Leagues. Therefore, Captains are strongly advised to check the USTA rating of each player they invite to join their team.

2B. A team shall be exempt to the requirement set forth in Section 3A, above, if it was the winner of the same previous local league at a certain level of play, and at least 75% of the players on that team desire to play on the same team at the next higher level of play of the same league in a subsequent season.

2C. A team shall be exempt to the requirement set forth in Section 3A, above, if an adult league or age group division is comprised of less than 25 total players at that particular level of play.

2D. If an adult league or age group division consists of only two teams in a level of play each team must maintain its roster with at least 40% of its players at the designated level of play.

2E. This regulation does not apply to Age Group divisions using combined NTRP level.

¹ For instance, in a league that calls for two singles lines and three doubles lines in a match, the minimum roster size would be eight (8) and the maximum roster size would be twenty (20).

2F. Any team requesting exception to the requirements set forth in this section must send it in writing to the Director of Leagues for approval no later than two weeks prior to the minimum roster deadline. The Director of Leagues retains the right to issue exceptions to the requirements set forth in this section in his/her sole discretion for the good of the league.

3. NTRP Rating

3A. A USTA rating is required for league play in all levels. Computer ("C") ratings will take priority in determining the rating for a player. In the event a player does not have a "C" rating, his/her rating shall be determined based upon the following in order of priority:

Tournament ("T") rating; and
Self ("S") rating.

A Mixed ("M") rating will not be used in determining the rating of a player for league purposes.

3B. For straight NTRP level leagues players cannot have a rating higher than the level of play entered. Players may only play up one NTRP level (.5) above their current NTRP level (e.g., a 3.5 can play on a 4.0 team).

3C. For combined NTRP level leagues (such as Mixed 9.0 or 65 & over 7.0), the combined NTRP of each doubles line cannot exceed the NTRP rating of the level entered. The NTRP difference between teammates on a line may not exceed 1.0. The minimum NTRP level for 6.0 is 2.5; 7.0 is 3.0; 8.0 is 3.5; 9.0 is 4.0; 10.0 is 4.5.

4. Multiple Team Registrations

4A. A player may play on multiple teams of different levels (such as 3.5 and 4.0) regardless of team play days. A player may play on multiple teams of the same level only if the teams play on different days.

5. Match Play

5A. Match play is un-officiated. Coaching is not allowed during USTA league play.

5B. In general, the warm-up for any league match shall not exceed 10 minutes. However, in the event a court becomes available more than 10 minutes after the scheduled match time for that match, the warm-up for that match shall not exceed 5 minutes. Unless otherwise authorized in this section and subject to court availability, all lines must begin play within 15 minutes of the scheduled match time or risk default. Each line plays best 2 out of 3 tiebreak sets with a 10-point tiebreak in lieu of a third is set. Between points, a maximum of 20 seconds is allowed. A maximum of 90 seconds is allowed on changeovers. There is a 2-minute break after each set. Tiebreaks are considered a continuous game with sitting not allowed during changeovers. Bathroom breaks can be taken as needed during changeovers with deliberate speed.

5C. A single medical time-out per player is allowed during any league match, provided that any such medical timeout is limited to 5 minutes.

5D. Unless otherwise extended by this section, a default will occur when a player is not on court within 15 minutes after the scheduled match time, or within 5 minutes of a court becoming available after the scheduled match time, whichever is later.

5E. Team lineups shall be exchanged, all courts shall be assigned and balls given out at least 5 minutes before the scheduled match time. No line shall begin play before the 15-minute default time unless all players from the higher line(s) are present. Defaults must be from the bottom up (i.e. singles 2 before singles 1, or doubles 3 before doubles 2). Teams or individual players may only move up in a line-up. A player may be replaced/switched under the following conditions:

5E(a). If an injury occurs during-warm up or a player fails to show, then an eligible replacement may be made within the 15-minute default time. The eligible replacement may only replace the injured or no-show player.

5E(b). If more than one player from different lines are unavailable for play, and there are no replacement players, the available player from the lower line MUST take the place of the unavailable player at the higher line to form a new team at the higher position as defaults must be from the bottom up.

5E(c). Defaults must be communicated prior to the line-up exchange. Unaware opposing captain may re-order his/her line-up if defaults are not communicated.

5F. If a team does not play the majority of the lines for each team match that match shall be considered a “team default”. If a “team default” occurs for any reason during round robin play, at the discretion of the Director of Leagues, the defaulting team will:

- Default all remaining matches in the round robin.
- The defaulting team must split up in the next championship year, same league type/level, with no more than 4 members of the defaulting team on a roster.

5G. Players must be registered to play at the start of their match or the line is defaulted.

5H. The winning captain has primary responsibility to report scores in TennisLink, but either Captain may enter scores within 48 hours of the completed match. Score disputes must be filed within 48 hours the time in which the scores are reported in TennisLink. If not confirmed or disputed within 48 hours reported scores will be considered final and not subject to change. Scores cannot be entered in TennisLink until all lines are completed.

5I. A Captain-initiated floating match is a match that Captains have mutually agreed to reschedule for any reason. Captains are responsible for working out all the details of these matches. Matches can be played as a team or line-by-line at any time so long as all such matches are completed before 2 weeks before the end of the season as may be extended for weather related reasons. Incomplete Captain-initiated floating matches become double defaults at the end of the season unless otherwise authorized by the Direct

or of Leagues.

5J. A team match will consist of the number of individual matches outlined in the following table:

<u>Division/Age Group</u>	<u>Format</u>	<u>Winner Decided By...</u>
18 & Over 2.5, 5.0, Open	1 Singles, 2 Doubles	2 matches won
18 & Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	2 Singles, 3 Doubles	3 matches won
Adult 40 & Over all levels	1 Singles, 4 Doubles	3 matches won
55 & Over; 65 & Over All Mixed Leagues; Combo; Tri-Level; Lonestar; Fall Fun Flex League; Summer Doubles	3 Doubles	2 matches won

In the event a double-default causes a match to be tied in matches won, the winning team will be decided based on the number of total sets won. In the event the match remains tied the winning team will be decided based on the number of total games won.

5K. Captains, teams and/or players who are found to have defaulted league matches without sufficient notice to opposing captains and/or teams on multiple occasions shall be subject to penalties, including but not limited to suspension from league play, at the discretion of the Director of Leagues.

6. Post-Season Play

6A. The playoff format for qualifying seasons will be communicated by the Director of Leagues to team captains at the beginning of each season.

6B. If a wild card teams is required to round out the playoff structure, the team(s) that is invited to participate will be determined by their game winning percentage as stated in TennisLink. If game winning percentage is not available, overall win/loss percentage will be used.

6C. The winner of playoffs will qualify for Sectionals. The playoff's runner-up will qualify for Little State (if offered) and be eligible for a Sectional wild card (if available).

6D. A "C" computer-rated player is eligible to participate in local playoffs and Sectionals if they have two qualifying matches (one received by default may count). A player is eligible to participate in Nationals if they have three qualifying matches (one received by default may count). A retired match counts as a full qualifying match for all involved.

6E. An "S" self-rated or "A" appealed-rating player is eligible to participate in local playoffs and Sectionals if they have completed three matches. An "S" or "A" rated player is eligible to participate in Nationals if they have completed four matches. No defaults will count. A retired match counts as a full qualifying match for all involved.

6F. Each player on a team that withdraws from Sectionals within 14 days of the tournament, or leaves Sectionals causing a full team forfeit before completing all scheduled matches, cannot advance to any Texas Sectional Championships in the following year. The players through their league coordinator may appeal their suspension within 14 days of notification to the Sectional Appeals Committee who may grant relief under extenuating circumstances.

6G. Any regularly scheduled league match involving a team in which 50% or more of its roster players is scheduled to play in a USTA Local Playoff, Little State, Sectionals, Nationals or NTRP National Championships and/or CCTA sponsored event shall be granted an automatic reschedule by the Director of Leagues and the opposing team. The opposing team Captain must be notified at least 7 days prior to the scheduled match date. If a conflict arises less than 7 days before a regularly scheduled league match, the Director of Leagues must approve the reschedule. Once both Captains acknowledge the rescheduled match, they will have 72 hours to establish a plan to complete these matches following the inclement weather guidelines herein.

6H. The National Move-Up/Split-Up rule for teams attending Nationals only applies to the team for which the player advanced with – not to all teams the player is on.

7. Inclement Weather Conditions Guidelines

7A. Either captain may reschedule a league match if any of the following weather conditions exist at the match site, at match time: rain or wet courts; actual temperature is below 40 degrees (hereinafter “Inclement Weather”). The Weather Channel App shall be platform to determine if the temperature is below 40 degrees.

7B. If none of the lines have played a single point before the match is suspended due to Inclement Weather, the entire line-up is null and void and captains may alter line-ups for the make-up match. Any defaults given are rescinded.

7C. If any line has played a single point before the match is suspended due to Inclement Weather, the entire line-up is frozen, and those players must play the make-up match at the line in which they were assigned. If any of the original players become unavailable to play the make-up match they must default that line.

7D. Inclement Weather make-up process before play has started:

7D(a). All lines shall be rescheduled within 72 hours of the line-up exchange, line by line or the entire match. Any line(s) not rescheduled and communicated to the Director of Leagues risks default. The time and date for the make-up match, once agreed upon, may not change except for the Inclement Weather conditions as described herein.

7D(b). The home team has primary (but not exclusive) responsibility for contacting the visiting team and offering alternate make-up date/time combinations for the match. Captains should consider any option that works for both parties. Captains are to show flexibility and good sportsmanship with this process.

7D(c). All lines should be played within 2 weeks of the match as originally scheduled, or within 2 weeks prior to the end of the season, whichever is later. Should the last match of a season be postponed due to Inclement Weather, the match must be completed and posted at least 7 days prior to playoffs. If there is no playoff for that division, the match must be completed and posted within 7 days of the end of the league season. The Director of Leagues must authorize any extension.

7D(d). If Inclement Weather forces a reschedule of your make-up match, the rescheduling time frames set forth in this section resets.

7E. Inclement Weather make-up process after play has started:

7E(a). Players must wait up to 15 minutes before officially suspending a match.

7E(b). Players must make a concerted effort to prepare courts for the resumption of play.

7E(c). To resume play, Captains must mutually agree that the courts are playable. Any player may reasonably refuse to resume play if citing a safety concern pertaining to the Inclement Weather delay.

7E(d). If play cannot resume, teams shall exchange player contact information and reschedule the match line by line or the entire match at that time on site, or by following the rescheduling process outlined in this section.

8. Grievances/Protest

8A. A grievance alleging a violation of USTA rules and procedures, standards of conduct, fair play and/or good sportsmanship may be filed in writing with the Director of Leagues within 7 days of the violation.

8B. The complaint form must be submitted by a team captain, local coordinator, or league committee member, prior to the start of the next scheduled team match involving the protested individual or team, or within 24 hours after the end of the season, whichever occurs first. The grievance will then be forwarded to opposing party for a reply.

8C. There is no fee for filing the complaint form. Complaints will be initially reviewed by the Director of Leagues and Grievance Committee to establish if the complaint has merit. They will issue a Preliminary Ruling on the complaint.

8D. Any party to the complaint may appeal the preliminary ruling to the CCTA Board of Directors for a \$50 fee. If the CCTA rules in favor of the appeal-filer the fee will be refunded.

8F. If the matter is an NTRP protest, a written protest must be submitted by a team captain to USTA Texas.

8G. The CCTA Leagues Committee has the ultimate responsibility to monitor compliance with rules, process complaints of rules violations, impose sanctions and take such other measures as deemed appropriate to promote sportsmanship within all CCTA leagues. If a violation of the Code of Conduct is found to have occurred, depending upon the severity of the violation, the Leagues Committee and/or the CCTA may impose suspension points as outlined in the USTA Suspension Points table.

9. Know the Rules

9A. Captains and players should know the rules and be aware of all USTA National regulations, Texas Operating Procedures, Friend at Court guidelines, and The Code.

9B. Any issues not explicitly addressed herein shall be left to the discretion of the Director of Leagues until the Leagues Committee can meet to discuss it.