

2023 USTA GEPTA/Southern NM LEAGUE REGULATIONS

These League Regulations apply to all USTA League Types in the GEPTA and Southern New Mexico Regions (National Regulations, Southwest Regulations, and Friend at Court and the Code Supersede League Regulations)

Updated: 11/07/2022

(New GEPTA/SNM regulations highlighted in yellow; new Sectional and National regulations in red)

The following regulations shall apply to all GEPTA/SNM League matches:

- [USTA National League Regulations](#)
- [USTA Friend at Court](#)
- [USTA Code](#)
- [2022 Suspension Point System](#)
- [2022 Suspension Point System Q&A](#)
- [2022 Suspension Point System Calculation Tables](#)
- USTA GEPTA/Southern New Mexico League Regulations: Described in this Document

CAPTAIN'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1) The captain is responsible to attend the captains' meeting or send a team representative.
- 2) **The captain is responsible for knowing and following all current USTA League Regulations, national, sectional, and local rules and guidelines. Once a team signs up, they are agreeing to abide by all the rules and regulations as well as procedures and instructions discussed at the captain's meeting.**
- 3) It is the captain's responsibility to contact the league coordinator with any changes in their phone number and/or email address. Failure to do this could result in a team not receiving important information concerning league play. All teams must have a captain listed with a current phone number and email address.
- 4) It is the home team captain's responsibility to contact the host facility 48 hours in advance of the match to confirm court availability.
- 5) It is the captain's responsibility to secure a team number and instruct players to register in "Tennis Link".

LEAGUE FACILITIES

- 1) All league facilities or playing sites are required to have bathrooms available, and there must be enough courts for the entire match to be played on the scheduled match date.
- 2) League facilities are not required to provide courts for warm-up prior to the scheduled match time.
- 3) If there are no dates available for match schedules at a facility, matches may revert to the facility that has available courts at the league coordinator's discretion, resulting in uneven home and away matches.

OFFICIAL GEPTA SURFACE

- 1) All matches will be played on a hardcourt surface. The only exception to this, is if both teams/players agree to play on an alternative surface.

MATCH FORMAT

- 1) All matches will consist of the best of 3 sets, with a (10 point) MATCH TIE-BREAK played in lieu of a third set.

- 2) A (7 point) SET TIE-BREAK will determine a set at 6-games-all.
- 3) The COMAN TIE-BREAK PROCEDURE will be used in all tie-breaks.

RESCHEDULE OF MATCHES

- 1) Mandatory Rescheduled Matches:
 - a) Requests to reschedule MUST be accommodated by the opposing team for the following reason only: Conflict with a Sectional or National League Championship. b) Five days advance notice is required, or the match will be played as scheduled. c) All "Mandatory Rescheduled" matches must be completed before the last regularly scheduled match in that division unless approved by the GEPTA League Coordinator. The GEPTA League Coordinator must be advised of the reschedule date prior to the original match date.
- 2) Other Rescheduled Matches:
 - a) Matches on the original schedule that do not meet the "mandatory reschedule requirements" may be rescheduled IF BOTH CAPTAINS AGREE upon a date/time which occurs prior to the last regularly scheduled match in that division. If a date cannot be agreed on by both captains, The GEPTA League Coordinator will set the date. The new rescheduled date is binding, unless a change is approved by the GEPTA League Coordinator.
 - b) Any rescheduled matches due to COVID concerns will follow the procedures in the current regulations listed above. If captains can't agree to reschedule the match, the GEPTA League Coordinator can choose to reschedule the match. Matches will be rescheduled on a case-by-case basis. Sufficient information will need to be provided to the GEPTA League Coordinator to determine if a team has the minimum players needed to play a match based on USTA National Regulations. Falsification of Covid information relative to a reschedule request will result in a grievance filed against the Captain."

OFFICIAL MATCH TIMES AND DEFAULTS

- 1) It is recommended that both teams arrive at the match site at least 30 minutes prior to scheduled match time.
- 2) When the visiting team arrives at the match site, the captains will agree on the official time. Cell phone time is suggested as the official time of day.
- 3) Team captains or their representative shall exchange their team line -ups simultaneously prior to the beginning of each team match. USTA Reg. 2.01C(5). Line-ups will be exchanged in time to start the match at the designated time on the published schedule. Both captains should have their line-ups written down prior to the exchange.
- 4) No substitutions may be made in a match after the line-ups have been exchanged, unless there is an illness or injury of a player prior to the start of the match. USTA Reg. 2.01C(5)
- 5) The USTA Point Penalty System shall be used. Default time is 15 minutes after the scheduled match time. Time penalties will be enforced: 5 minutes or less, 1 game, and the toss; 5:01 -10 minutes, 2 games and the toss; 10:01-15 minutes, 3 games and the toss; after 15 minutes, default.
 - a. Exception: Away teams with matches at Ft. Bliss are required to arrive at the Facility GATE no less than 30 minutes prior to match time, and may not be defaulted if held at the gate in order to obtain a PASS with proof of arrival time (i.e., Guard gate

sign-in sheet with name/date/time.)

2

- 6) The order of individual defaults in local leagues is the same as the USTA National League Regulation 2.03K: Team Defaults. A team must have a minimum number of eligible players available for play in each team match in accordance with the following table or the entire match must be defaulted. The maximum number of positions that may be defaulted without defaulting the entire match is noted. When defaults are necessary, the defaults shall be determined by the defaulting captain in accordance with the table below:

ALLOWABLE DEFAULTS			
DIVISION	AGE GROUP	MINIMUM NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE PLAYERS REQUIRED TO BE AVAILABLE PER MATCH	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF POSITIONS THAT CAN BE DEFAULTTED REQUIRED POSITIONS(S) AND ORDER OF MATCH DEFAULTS
Adult	18 & Over 2.5 women & 5.0+	3 1	No. 1 Singles Or No. 2 Doubles
	18 & Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	4 2	Singles: No. 2 Singles before No. 1 Singles
	40 & Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5+ (Using 4-court format)	5 1	No. 1 Singles Or No. 3 Dbls before No. 2 Dbls, and No. 2 Dbls before No. 1 Dbls.
Adult	55 & Over	4 players who are eligible to combine	1 No. 3 Doubles
Mixed	18 & Over 40 & Over	and compete	

It is suggested that the line-ups be filled out placing any potential late players in the default positions, so that the other matches will not be penalized for delays described in rule 5 above.

- 7) **National Regulation 2.01C(2) Team Match.** Each team match in a local league shall consist of such number of individual matches of singles, doubles, or any combination thereof as

determined by the local league. Each team must have the minimum number of players available to play the majority of individual matches. If one team does not have the minimum number of players, the opposing team will be credited with winning each individual match. If neither team has the minimum number of players, the match shall be scored as a double team default, and neither team receives credit for a win. In the case of a team default or double team default any individual matches actually played will only count for NTRP ratings and eligibility for advancement and cannot count for determining standings.

If both teams have the minimum number of players available, but the combination of individual defaults given by the two teams would result in the majority of matches not being played, the teams must follow the procedure established by the Sectional Association, as required below, to ensure that a majority of individual matches are played. Each Sectional Association shall establish procedures to determine the 1) flight standings in the event of a

3

team default or double team default and 2) actions to take when the combination of individual defaults given by the two teams in the team match results, or would result, in a situation where the majority of the individual matches are not played. If no such procedures have been established, the match will result in a double team default.

GEPTA/SNM adopts the following option: If a team defaults an entire team match (all lines) for any reason during the local season, it is considered a total team default (TTD). If a team has a (TTD), only the matches in the round robin in which that default occurred will be removed to calculate team standings. For example, if a team plays two round robins and has a (TTD) in the first-round robin, only the matches played in that round robin would be removed, not in the second-round robin. However, deleted matches will be used for purposes of calculating NTRP ratings.

- 8) No coaching is allowed **at any time** during a league match, including between sets, or between the second set and a match tie-break. USTA Reg. 2.01D

SCORE ENTRY

- 1) All match results should be entered in TennisLink and confirmed within 48 hours after the match is played. Either team may enter scores. If the match is not confirmed, the initial entry will be considered valid, and no appeals will be granted.
- 2) It is the captain's responsibility to report any teams not entering their scores or entering incorrect players or scores to the league coordinator.
- 3) Both designated captains for the match should agree on scores at the conclusion of the match before leaving the facility. If there is a discrepancy, the players involved in the match in question should agree on the correct score. It is suggested that the visiting team captain sign the home team captain's scorecard to show agreement on scores.

TEAM REGISTRATION/PLAYER PROFILE/ELIGIBILITY FOR LEAGUE PLAY

- 1) All players must register in TennisLink.
- 2) Refunds will be issued on a case-by-case basis. Contact GEPTA League Coordinator.
- 3) The maximum number of players on a team will be 12 for the 2.5 and 5.0 divisions. All other divisions in the 18+ league will be a maximum of 18. The maximum number of players in the 40+ and all mixed leagues will be 18. The maximum number of players in the 55's and 65's leagues will be 16. The maximum number of players in tri-level will be 12. There are no exceptions to this rule unless players fall under the late registration guidelines.
- 4) Teams may add COMPUTER RATED players to their roster any time prior to the last 3 matches of the season, provided that the new player has moved to the GEPTA/Southern New Mexico area from a minimum of 100 miles away after the start of the season and can provide

documentation. In addition, the player cannot have played GEPTA/SNM league tennis in the last 12 months.

- 5) No self-rated players will be allowed to register after the start of the season, except for players who filed a self-rate appeal prior to the first match of the season and are waiting on a decision.
- 6) A player without a valid NTRP rating level in TennisLink, a returning player with an expired NTRP rating level and a Tournament Exclusive (T) rated player or a Mixed Exclusive (M) rated player who does not have a valid computer © or benchmark (B) rating from a previous year and chooses to participate in the Adult Division must self-rate to enter the USTA League Program and are subject to Dynamic Disqualification until he/she generates a Computer Rating.
- 7) Anyone who falsifies information on a self-rate player profile or anyone who knowingly condones falsification of information may be subject to a NTRP Grievance and subject to suspension from league play for no less than 364 days.

4

- 8) **1.04F(1)e** Self-ratings are valid for two years from the date issued or until replaced by a dynamic or computer rating. If there is a change in a self-rated player's playing experience the player may appeal their rating up at that time or they may be promoted by the Sectional coordinator.
- 9) If any adult division age group (2.5, 3.0, etc.) consists of only three teams, all teams must maintain its roster with at least 50 percent of its players at the designated level of play.
- 10) Prior to the league season If a player wants to transfer teams, both captains must notify the GEPTA League Coordinator that they approve the transfer. The GEPTA League Coordinator will make the final determination with regards to the request.

PLAYER CONDUCT

- 1) In all league matches played without officials, the USTA Official publication, THE CODE, shall be observed. Courtesy is expected.
- 2) Use of a USTA Official or Court Monitor: A request for a USTA Official or Court Monitor to assist players in the management of their match should only be utilized in extreme cases when players are unable to manage their match themselves and/or conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner. Requesting a Court Monitor during a match in progress: Players may request a court monitor at any time during a match in progress to assist with line calls and score keeping. Each team captain should appoint a person with tennis knowledge to stand side by side at a net post (on the same side) and offer assistance ONLY when asked.
- 3) No spectators or players are allowed to remain on empty or vacant adjacent courts while matches are being played.

LOCAL LEAGUE SCHEDULING:

- 1) Divisions in local leagues with **7 or fewer teams** will play a **double round-robin** or whatever number of rounds that will give them a minimum of 8 matches. The winner of the round robin will advance to the next championship level (i.e. Fall/Spring District Championship or Sectional Championship, whichever is applicable)
- 2) Divisions in local leagues with **8 or more teams** will be **guaranteed a minimum of 8 matches**. The winner of the local league will advance to the next championship level (i.e. Fall/Spring District Championship or Sectional Championship, whichever is applicable.)

CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY

All Southwest, National and Regional Guidelines can be accessed by going to Southwest.USTA.com. Go to search and type what Guidelines you are looking to acquire.

LOCAL LEAGUE FALL/SPRING DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP & PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- 1) All Local League Divisions that are offered in 2 seasons per championship year (ie. Fall & Spring) shall have a Local League District Championship following the conclusion of the Spring league to determine the league winner and advancement to the Sectional Championship.
- 2) Fall/Spring District Championship Format:
 - a) The winner of the Fall League and the winner of the Spring League of the same League Division and NTRP level will play a one-match district championship play-off to determine the District winner. Captains will agree to the date of play-off with spring team having the home field advantage. If date cannot be agreed to, GEPTA League Coordinator will determine date.
 - b) If the winner of the Fall and Spring league have the same captain and similar rosters, the captain must choose which roster to advance and there will be no Regional Championship.
 - c) If the winner of the Fall league and the Spring team have different captains with similar rosters the captains may decide which team advances; OR if the captains wish to do so and are able to field the required number of players to play every position in the District Championship match, the rosters may be split for the championship match. All eligible players on the roster of the winning team, whether they participated on the winning team roster for the District Championship match or not, they may advance to Sectionals with the winning team.
 - d) The winner of the District Championship will advance to the Sectional Championship. e) The loser of the Championship match will receive a wild card if offered. Any exception will be determined by the GEPTA League Coordinator.
- 3) District Championship Player Eligibility: USTA Reg. 2.03A(3): *See under Championship Play.
 - a) All Self-rated and Valid Computer-rated Appealed players are eligible for District Championships if that player has played in at least three matches on the same team at the same level in the same age group and be otherwise eligible to advance to the District Championship; no defaults shall count towards eligibility.
 - b) NO Early Start League players who are moved up at Year End to a higher level than their Early Start League level of play shall qualify to advance to District Championship level play. Per National Regulations, this rule DOES NOT APPLY to the 2.5 LEVEL, with the exceptions of individual 2.5 players whose Year End rating has reached the clearly above level or has been DQ'd.
 - c) Retired matches shall count toward advancing for all players involved in the match.

SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYER ELIGIBILITY: 2022 USTA REG. 2.03A(3)a & b

- 1) In the Adult and Mixed Divisions, all players other than Self-Rated and Valid Computer Rated players are eligible to progress to Sectional Championship competition, if the player has played

on the team in at least 2 matches and at the same NTRP level and the same age group during its local league season and is otherwise eligible. A maximum of 1 default received during the local league play shall count.

- 2) Self-Rated and Valid Computer Rated Appealed players are eligible to progress to Sectional Championship competition if that player has played on the same team in at least three matches at the same NTRP level in the same Age Group during its local league season and is otherwise eligible. No defaults received by the player during local league or championship competition shall count for advancing.
- 3) NO Early Start League players who are moved up at Year End to a higher level than their Early Start League level of play shall qualify to advance to Sectional Championship level play. Per National Regulations, this rule DOES NOT APPLY to the 2.5 LEVEL, with the exceptions of individual 2.5 players whose YE rating has reached clearly above level or has been DQ'd.
- 4) Retired matches shall count toward advancing for all players involved in the match.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYER ELIGIBILITY: 2022 USTA Reg. 2.03A(4) 1) In the Adult and MX division (with the exception of self-rated and valid computer rated players) players must have played on the same team at the same level and same age group in at least

6

three matches and be otherwise eligible to advance to National Championships. A maximum of one default received during local league or championship play (i.e. play-offs and sectionals) shall count.

- 2) All Self-Rated and Valid Computer Rated Appealed players are eligible to progress to National Championship competition if that player has played on the same team in at least four matches at the same NTRP level in the same Age Group during its local league season and is otherwise eligible. No defaults received by the player during local league or championship competition shall count for advancing.
- 3) NO Early Start League players who are moved up at Year End to a higher level than their Early Start League level of play shall qualify to advance to National Championship level play. Per National Regulations, this rule DOES NOT APPLY to the 2.5 LEVEL, with the exceptions of individual 2.5 player whose YE rating has reached the clearly above level or has been DQ'd.
- 4) Retired matches shall count toward advancing for all players involved in the match.
- 5) Move-up / Split-up Rule: All rostered members of a team who qualify to advance to a National Championship must adhere to the national regulation as described in the most current USTA League Regulations.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

- 1) New beginning League Championship year 2023, the USTA League Grievance Committee shall conform to the USTA Suspension Point System. Any team Captain wishing to file a USTA League Grievance should familiarize themselves with grievance procedures as set forth in the most current USTA League Regulations. Refer to the USTA website for grievance regulations, procedures and forms.
- 2) Grievances against an individual or team must be filed by the Team Captain of the team that competed in the match where the alleged violation occurred and must be in compliance with USTA League Regulations.
- 3) Grievances must be submitted in writing to the GEPTA League Coordinator. A \$50.00 filing fee will be assessed by the Southwest Section, refundable only if the grievance is affirmed.

