



COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

In case of any inconsistency between the guide and the governing rules, the guide will NOT be the controlling factor. Always refer to USTA League Tennis National, Southern, North Carolina, and Local WNC Regulations. Updated 3/2022.

SCHEDULING and RESCHEDULING

- 1. Does a match have to be played at the time assigned? Can we start lines at different times?** *The DATE that a match is assigned is what is important. If captains agree, one or more lines can be played at a different time than that scheduled, either before or after the assigned match time (if courts are available). For instance, a match scheduled at 6 pm could have a line play in the morning or a line starting at 7:30 pm. Captains are encouraged to work together to avoid defaults due to player availability, however, if a team is unable to play at the alternate time, the original time scheduled stands and a team unable to field enough players would forfeit those lines.*
- 2. When a match is postponed following the exchange of line-ups, do the original line-ups stand for the make-up match?** *The line-up would stand only for those positions that had already started (first service attempt) their match. All other positions, even those that were in warm-up may be changed including defaulted courts.*
- 3. What do I do if my opponent wants to keep rescheduling the rain-out match?** *Once the rained-out match has been rescheduled, the new day and time stand. The teams are expected to play that position at that time with any eligible player(s). If a team cannot play the position on the agreed rescheduled date, they forfeit that individual match. The agreed makeup date should be made in writing by email and a copy provided to the local league coordinator to avoid problems.*
- 4. If both captains agree, can we play matches AFTER the scheduled date?** *No. If captains have an issue with the scheduled date, matches or lines may be played BEFORE the scheduled match date by mutual captain consent to avoid defaults. They may not be played AFTER the scheduled date. If a team is unable to find a mutually agreeable day/time, the original day/time scheduled stands, and a team unable to field enough players would forfeit those lines. The only exception to this rule is for inclement weather or for players with USTA State, Sectional, or National Championship conflicts (4 or more players on the roster playing or working at League Championship) as authorized by the Local League Coordinator.*
- 5. My opponent and I can not agree on a make-up date and/or who should pay for indoor courts for a make-up match, what do we do?** *Both captains are required to notify the local league coordinator who will assign a **non-negotiable** date, time, and location for*

said match. If said match is not completed, the match will be entered as a default for both teams.

6. **What happens when courts are unavailable because another league hasn't completed their matches?** *Players are to wait for courts.*
7. **What happens when the WNC LLC discovers a makeup match has not been scheduled and/or played by the makeup deadline (2 weeks of the originally scheduled match or 1 week during the last two weeks of the season)?** *No extension is given and no point is awarded to either team. It is recorded as a double default.*
8. **If a team is unable to provide courts for a match at its registered home facility, may home matches be moved to another site within the same league area?** *Yes, if courts are in the same league area. The home team is responsible for securing the alternate courts, notifying the opponents in advance, and providing directions to the alternate site.*

INCLEMENT WEATHER

1. **Who can decide if a match should be stopped for inclement weather (including darkness)?** *Once a team match is underway, if either captain feels that conditions merit stopping play, then the match should be stopped. If both captains agree to continue play, and a player or players refuse to continue, then they are retiring (forfeiting) their line.*
2. **Do we have to wait 30 minutes for the rain to stop?** *Yes. Conditions may allow for play to resume on clay courts. On hard courts, if dryers are available and the rain stops soon, courts may be swept to resume play. Players should remain on-site for thirty minutes to confirm the match can not be restarted due to weather, unless captains mutually agree based on the forecast there is no chance of conditions improving.*
3. **Can we call the match off without showing up?** *Yes, if it is obviously raining the match may be rescheduled via a phone call. If telephone contact is not made between captains, both teams must show up ready to play. Captains should keep in touch with each other concerning "iffy" weather. Matches should not be called off until both captains are certain that the courts will be unplayable at match time.*
4. **In the case of inclement weather or predicted inclement weather, if I do not want to play on indoor courts, but my opponent is willing to pay the court rental, am I obligated to play indoors?** *Yes, in the event a team can secure and is willing to pay for indoor courts to avoid a reschedule, teams ARE REQUIRED to play the match to avoid a reschedule. It is recommended BUT NOT REQUIRED that both teams share the cost on indoor court rental to avoid a reschedule due to inclement weather.*
5. **Are we allowed to refuse to play indoors due to COVID concerns?** *If the indoor facility is open, players are obligated to play if their opponents are willing to cover the entire cost of the indoor court rental. Otherwise, the match should be rescheduled to a mutually agreeable time within two weeks of the original match date or one week if at the end of the season as per local regulations. Participating in leagues and programs is an individual*

decision. While nothing is without risk, tennis is ranked as one of the safest sports to play since it does not require any direct person-to-person contact.

6. **Our match was stopped due to rain. My opponents want to continue the match at their onsite indoor courts. Am I required to pay for indoor courts to finish the match?** *No. It is good sportsmanship and recommended that both teams share the cost of an indoor court rental, but it is not required. However, if the other team is willing to pay for indoor courts, your team is required to finish the match indoors to avoid a reschedule. Otherwise, captains should determine a mutually agreeable time within the two weeks reschedule time frame to finish the incomplete match or one week if at the end of the season as per local regulations.*
7. **What happens when the home team has no lights and the match must be suspended for darkness?** *The match is rescheduled under the inclement weather rules – no default points may be taken.*
8. **What happens when lights go off in the middle of a match and can't be re-lit?** *Wait 10 minutes for lights to come back on, or if you have no control of the light switch, you must use inclement weather rules.*
9. **It is obviously raining at the home courts, and I have confirmed with the facility that the courts will not be playable. However, I have been unable to reach the home captain. Do we have to go to avoid a forfeit? That seems crazy. It's a long drive.** *Keep trying to reach the home captain or co-captain, and be prepared to go. Even if the facility has confirmed its outside courts are closed and will not be playable, you need to confirm if the home captain is able to secure indoor courts and is willing to pay the court fees, you will be required to play. If you are unable to reach the home captain before you have to leave to arrive on time, and the facility you were scheduled to play is confirmed closed, the match is considered a rainout. Please report what happened to the Local League Coordinator. A grievance may be filed against the home captain or co-captain for lack of communication.*

COURT SURFACE & PLAYABILITY

1. **My opponent, the home team, wants to play two courts on clay and one on hard courts, but I don't want to play a line on hard courts, do I have to?** *"Home teams" will have the choice of court surface for which they wish to play their home matches. Court surface must be the same surface for all individual lines unless prior agreement between both captains. In this case, if you do not wish to play on two different court surfaces, the match would need to be stacked, with the third line starting as soon as line 1 or line 2 finish. (Note: courts lined also for Junior Team tennis are okay for USTA league play, Pickleball court lines are not allowable for USTA league play.)*
2. **What should I do if during the warmup (prior to the start of the match) I feel a court is dangerous or unsafe for play?** *Stop playing and discuss the issue with the captains. The captains should consider their options: moving to another court, moving indoors, etc. A player may retire from a match if the situation cannot be resolved at the site. Captains*

should always have subs available for this possibility. Substitutes cannot be made once the match has started.

3. **What if the net looks too high?** *If no one has a measure to check the height, the court is deemed playable.*
4. **What if there is no center strap on the net?** *This is not a fully equipped court and therefore no one is forced to play on it. If you decide to play, you have played in good faith and no grievance may be filed if the outcome is not satisfactory,*

LINE UPS

1. **I think my opponent stacked their team, playing their weakest players on line 1 and their strongest on line 3. Can I dispute the match?** *A team's lineup does not have to be listed in order of strength, except in the Tri-Level Leagues, where the highest NTRP level must play on the #1 court, the 2nd highest NTRP level must play on the #2 court and the lowest NTRP level must play on the #3 court. For example: in the 2.5/3.0/3.5 leagues, the 3.5 rated players play on the #1 court, the 3.0 players on the #2 court, and the 2.5 players on the #3 court. It is noted that in NTRP spring leagues, players participating on any line of the match are considered at the same level.*
2. **In a match played in two shifts, does the substitution rule apply to both shifts?** *Yes. For example, if a match is being played at 3:00 and 4:15, and at 4:30 one of those players is not available, an eligible substitute may be used in that player's position.*
3. **If a line is forfeited to my opponent early, does a rainout allow me to play the line in a rescheduled match?** *Yes. Forfeits given prior to the written line-up exchange are considered a courtesy and are not binding.*

FORFEITS / DEFAULTS

1. **What is a default?** *A default is a failure to show up and play a match. An individual default occurs when a player fails to show up for a match and no substitute is available. A team default occurs as follows:
3-line league = failure to play at least 2 individual matches
5-line league = failure to play at least 3 individual matches*
2. **If I have to forfeit a line, where must I forfeit?** *You must forfeit from the bottom up (line 3 doubles or line 2 singles).*
3. **What is the default time if someone is late to a match?** *15 minutes after the scheduled time of the individual match (or 15 minutes after the time mutually agreed to by captains). Changes to the match time should be made in writing when possible.*
4. **May a captain be flexible in allowing extra time before claiming a default?** *Yes. However, it is imperative that both captains be very clear, mutually agree, and communicate their exact agreement in writing (text or email) to all players to avoid any misunderstanding. Captains should remember, matches may be played anytime during the day and evening*

of the scheduled match date by mutual captain agreement. If you know a player is going to have trouble making the match time, try to work it out BEFORE the match.

5. **What if a lower position starts out of sequence and then a higher position later defaults?** *All matches stand as played*
6. **What happens when the WNC LLC discovers a makeup match has not been scheduled and/or played by the makeup deadline (2 weeks of the originally scheduled match or 1 week during the last two weeks of the season)?** *No extension is given and no point is awarded to either team. It is recorded as a double default.*

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. **Can I ask a teammate from another court or my captain a question about a rule or how to play a tie break?** *No. USTA matches are unofficiated. Players are on their own to call their own lines, interpret unclear rules and otherwise police themselves. Players should carry a copy of The Code, Friend at Court and Rules of Tennis. Teammates may give you a copy of theirs if you don't have it, but it is up to your court (the players assigned to that line of the match) to read and interpret the rules. Points and games played in good faith stand.*
2. **Can anyone on the court call a let for a ball on the court?** *Yes on both sides of your court. You may not call lets on adjoining courts even if your ball rolls onto another court. Exception: You may not call a let if the ball falls out of your own or your partner's pocket.*
3. **What if an injury occurs during a match?** *A medical timeout shall begin when a player states the need for one. A maximum of three minutes is allowed for a medical timeout. His/her opponent(s) may begin timing the three minutes after which play must resume immediately or the match must be retired. A player may not take more than one medical timeout for the same condition.*
4. **We got into a heated disagreement with our opponents about a rule. We “gave in”, but when we looked up the rule after the match, we were correct, and we believe their refusal to budge changed the momentum and cost us the match. Furthermore, we think they knew they were wrong. Can we file a grievance for bad sportsmanship?** *Grievances are serious matters and can foster resentment that harms the league program, so the decision to file must be considered carefully. “Thinking someone is being malicious and knowing it is not the same”. You would have to “make your case” with evidence that what happened was bad sportsmanship and not simply a misunderstanding of the rules. USTA matches are unofficiated. Players are on their own to call their own lines, interpret unclear rules, and otherwise police themselves. Any points played in good faith stand. In this case, if you had a copy of The Code, Friend at Court, and Rules of Tennis on hand, you would have been able to correct your opponent during the match.*
5. **After the match is completed, it is determined that the player is ineligible (e.g. not registered on TennisLink). If the player subsequently becomes eligible, does the match count for advancement purposes for the ineligible player, his/her partner, and the**

opposing player(s)? *This should not happen. Captains should always print out a scorecard for use at the match. The TennisLink scorecard lists the registered players for each team. In the event this does happen, contact your local league coordinator. The individual match with the ineligible player will be marked as DQ, but the match will stand as a match played by opponents in the standings.*

6. **If a player is winning 4-2 in the first set and then retires, does this count for the person's eligibility to advance and their computer rating?** *ADVANCEMENT: The match will count for advancement for all players involved regardless of how many points/games were played. NTRP YEAR-END RATING: No. Defaults or retirements in which neither player(s) wins six or more games are not part of the rating calculation. In the case stated the match would not count as a match played in order to receive a year-end rating.*
7. **What are the rules regarding restroom breaks?** *Restroom breaks are given "reasonable" time. Reasonable time is defined as the time it takes to walk briskly to the restroom, use the toilet, wash hands and then walk briskly back to the court. Restroom breaks should be taken first at set breaks, and then if necessary during a changeover. Only in a true emergency should a bathroom break be taken at any other time. It is unsportsmanlike to use restroom breaks for fatigue, to recover condition, or to gain any type of advantage.*
8. **What are grievances and who can file grievances?** *Only team captains, co-captains, or local league coordinators may file grievances. Grievances should be filed prior to the next league match or within 24 hours after the end of the league season.*
9. **How do grievances work?** *A captain contacts the WNC LLC to discuss the situation and determine if the basic elements that warrant a grievance exist. If so, the captain formally files the grievance by submitting a written complaint. The process includes a period for parties to the grievance to submit statements and evidence, followed by adjudication of the grievance by the appropriate committee. Once a decision is reached, parties are notified and any penalties are assessed.*

TENNISLINK / STANDINGS / ADVANCEMENT

1. **I just noticed that the score from our match last week was entered incorrectly. Who do I contact to correct it?** *Captains and players can not correct scores once they have been submitted. Any disputes or errors should be made known via email to the opposing team captain and the Local League Coordinator no later than two weeks after the match was completed.*
2. **My team had the same record as Team B, and we beat them in our head to head. How can Team B be the League Champion?** *Because Team B won more individual matches. The League Champion is determined by the team with the best record. Ties in records are broken as follows (1) winner of the most individual matches, (2) head to head winner, (3) loser of the fewest number of sets, (4) loser of the fewest number of games, (5) highest percentage of games won versus games played.*

3. **I have a player who is signed up in the 40 & over Charlotte 4.5 league. Can he play regular-season matches in the same league in Western NC?** *Yes. He can play in both WNC and Charlotte. If both of his teams went to state, he would have to decide which team to play on.*
4. **What is the 40% NTRP Rule?** *If any Adult Division Age Group consists of only two teams in a level of play, each team must maintain its roster with at least 40 percent of its players at the designated NTRP level of play. The exception is the Adult 65 & Over Age Group and the 9.0 Adult Division 55 & Over Age Group that uses combined NTRP rating levels. They will not be required to comply with this Regulation.*

GENERAL

1. **Why do we have to drive so far to some of our matches?** *The Western NC league covers a wide geographic area which means some teams may be a substantial distance apart. Note that other areas in North Carolina also have substantial distances between facilities. Scheduling is done to give teams an equitable amount of home and away matches but is dependent upon availability of courts and the season limit. Captains in flights with team facilities more than 50 miles from each other who are unable to travel that distance, should work with the Local League Coordinator to reschedule the match at a neutral facility in between (fees may be involved) or move the match to a weekend date that would allow players more time to make the drive.*
2. **If a team is far away and we don't want to make the drive, can we just forfeit the match?** *A full team default may affect the final standings of the league and could result in a grievance against the defaulting team. Teams with 2 full team defaults will not be eligible for advancement, and all their matches played or to be played will be null and void.*
3. **What are the WNC USTA League's COVID guidelines?** *Participating in leagues and programs is an individual decision. It is expected that players and participants follow state and local government guidelines, mandates, and common sense behaviors. Do not go to any tennis league matches or programming if you have symptoms. Players are expected to follow any facility mask mandates and signs. Pay attention to any signs when entering our pro shops/buildings/restrooms regarding face mask coverings. While nothing is without risk, tennis is ranked as one of the safest sports to play since it does not require any direct person-to-person contact.*
4. **Can teams from different facilities combine together and use both facilities for their home matches?** *Yes, contact your LLC. The combined team would be scheduled an equitable number of home matches at each facility. The posted schedule would indicate which facility will be used for each home match. Captains should confirm with their facility the WNC agreement on combined team applicable fees*

NTRP RATINGS AND APPEALS *(LLCs are not involved in NTRP ratings)*

1. **I am a computer-rated player. Can I change my rating?** *Maybe. Computer-rated players may request an automatic appeal (up or down) of their year- end rating on TennisLink. The computer evaluates the player against a sliding scale of actual rating and number of matches, and then automatically grants or denies the appeal.*
2. **I am a self-rated player. Can I change my rating?** *It depends. A self-rated player may automatically appeal his/her rating up at any time. To appeal a rating down, the player must complete and submit an appeal, which is reviewed by the Self-Rate Appeals Committee.*
3. **How do I appeal my rating?** *Log on to TennisLink and use the automatic appeal process. Computer rating appeals will be decided immediately. Once an appeal is granted, it remains in effect for the remainder of the current league year. A player cannot change his mind and go back to his former rating.*
4. **What if my automatic appeal is denied?** *You must continue to play with your current rating for the remainder of the year.*