



2010 USTA Local League Rules

USTA 2010 Local League Rules for Cincinnati

The Rules of Tennis and Tournament Regulations as contained in the 2010 USTA League Regulations, USTA/Midwest Section Standing Orders and Ohio Valley District Rules and Regulations shall apply to all matches played in the Cincinnati USTA League Program except as modified herein.

LOCAL LEAGUE: A local league shall consist of a minimum of two (2) teams in a specific level of competition.

TEAM: A team shall consist of a minimum of eight (8) players (six (6) for seniors, five (5) for 2.5 and 5.0 and Open levels) of the same sex eligible to compete at a specific level of competition. Mixed teams shall consist of a minimum of six (6) players. Team members have individual NTRP ratings below, but not higher than the maximum NTRP level of which they are competing. The maximum number of players on a Mixed Doubles team is eighteen (18). There is a one point limit on the NTRP differences between members of a mixed doubles team.

ELIGIBILITY FOR PLAYERS: All individuals who compete in the USTA League Program must be a current members of the USTA in good standing for the local league season and must register on Tennis Link (the official system for registering for a team) prior to playing in their first local league match. Any individual who progresses to championship level in the USTA League Program must be a current USTA member through each championship progression. All players must have reached the age of nineteen (19) years prior to or during the calendar year in which such player plays in his/her first local league match. If a player needs help registering, a captain or club coordinator may register them on-line.

The USTA NTRP Computer Rating System is the official system to determine computer ratings for players throughout the country who participate in the USTA League Tennis Program. It is a mathematical system that assigns computer ratings to players by direct and indirect comparison of match results obtained from USTA League Tennis, select NTRP tournaments and Open and Adult/Senior Age Division tournaments.

A computer-derived rating is valid for two (2) years for individuals 60 years of age and older prior to or during the championship year and for three (3) years for all others, or until another computer rating is generated.

Players who do not have a computer rating (generated within the last THREE years) shall self-rate themselves in accordance with the National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) Guidelines and declare their self-rating on TennisLink when entering the program regardless of the NTRP level they are entering.



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1. A player may play on one team in a NTRP level within a division (USTA League Adult, Senior and/or Mixed Doubles) in the same local league during the same season.
2. In order to be eligible for the regular season, players must have a computer rating or self-rate.
3. A player who has received a computer rating must be play at the rated level or higher. If the player plays at a lower level, all points will be forfeited.
4. A player's official rating is the most recent of the computer ratings. Early Start League matches will be calculated into the year end rating for the current year.
5. Once a player is assigned a computer rating that computer rating is valid for three years (individuals 59 and under) and valid for two years (individuals 60 years and over).

SCORING AND REST: A 10 minute warm-up period shall precede each match. All matches shall be the best of three sets, with regular scoring, and the 9 point tie-breaker shall be used at 6-all in each set in the fall and winter seasons, with a 12 point tie-breaker in the summer season. If an emergency arises and someone needs to use the restroom, finish out the game they are playing and go. Please call out the score and agree to it before that person goes to the restroom.

TEN MINUTE RULE: This is in effect for all LOCAL MATCHES. AFTER 1 HOUR AND 50 MINUTES, if a team/player is ahead by two or more games in the set being played, regardless of the set score (e.g.2-0 or 4-2), the match is concluded and the team/player ahead in that set is declared the winner of the set. If after 1 hour and 50 minutes, the teams/players are tied one set apiece, a 9 point tie-breaker will be played to determine the winner of the third set and therefore the match. However, if after 1 hour and 50 minutes a team/player is down one game in the set being played, they will play one more game. If after the game is played, a team/player is ahead two games, they are declared the winner of the set. If the game is over and the games are tied, a 9 point tie-breaker shall be played.

TEAM LINE-UPS: Teams are recommended to field their teams in order of strength, but it is not required. The team captain for each team shall exchange their team match cards simultaneously prior to the beginning of a match. No substitutions may be made after the line-up has been presented except for injury to, illness of, or disqualification of, a player prior to the start of the match. Every player must provide their two digit player number prior to the match. If a player cannot provide this, they forfeit the court.

PLAYER PARTICIPATION: A player may play on one team in a NTRP level within a division (USTA League Tennis Adult, Senior and/or Mixed Doubles) in the same local league during the same



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season. Example: A 3.5 NTRP rated woman may play in a 3.5 Adult daytime league, and 3.5 Adult weekend league.

A player can participate on a USTA League team at their current NTRP level or higher NTRP level. You may not play below your current NTRP level.

COACHING: No coaching of any player will be permitted at any time.

SINGLE PARTICIPATION: An individual may play in either one singles or one doubles match within each team match.

MATCH CANCELLATIONS: (Indoor Season Only)

If a team has to cancel a court, there must be a 24 hour notice given to the club where the match is going to be held, as well as a phone call or email to the captain or club coordinator. In the fall and winter months, a club can bill the visiting club who did not cancel within the 24 hours. In the summer season, there will not be billing for late cancellations.

Summer Season: If a court needs to be forfeited, the captain of the other team must be called to cancel. If the captain cannot be reached, please call the club and/or the coordinator to help reach the players.

FORFEITS: An adult team must have a minimum of 3 courts available to play in each match. In Mixed Doubles and Seniors, a team must have a minimum of 2 courts available for play in each match. In 5.0 and 2.5, a minimum of 2 courts shall be available for play. In such cases of forfeits, the following order shall be observed:

Singles: Number 2 singles must be forfeited before Number 1 Singles.

Doubles: Number 3 doubles must be forfeited before the Number 2 or Number 1 doubles.

A team **CANNOT FORFEIT AN ENTIRE MATCH**. If this occurs, all matches that team has played will be reversed at the local level.

GRIEVANCES: A complaint against a player or team alleging a violation during Local competition shall be filed with the Local League Coordinator prior to the team's next match, or within 24 hours of the last match at the end of the season. At the same time, the complaining party shall send a copy of such complaint to the party's against whom the complaint is made. If the grievance is about a person's rating and the Local Grievance Committee determines that the complaining party is correct, the team or player against whom the complaint is lodged will lose the point for the



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match when the violation occurred and any further points played in the future.

LATE ARRIVAL RULE: Warm-up is the first 10 minutes on court. Match starts after 10 minute warm-up. Additionally, games will be forfeited as follows due to late arrival:

0-10 minutes – no games lost
11-15 minutes – 2 games lost
16-20 minutes – 3 games lost
21-25 minutes – 4 games lost
26-30 minutes – 5 games lost
31 minutes – match forfeit

Please use the clock at the host club closest to the court you are on. If you are outside and there is no clock, agree on one person's watch for the official time.

RAIN RULE: If the match is to be made up, it must be played within two (2) weeks of the original scheduled date. The entire match does not have to be played at the same time. The captains do need to wait until all the matches have been played before reporting the score in Tennis Link. If the matches are not made up within two (2) weeks and one captain has attempted to reschedule and the other is not cooperating, the captain needs to notify their Club Coordinator who should notify the Local League Coordinator. The one team will receive a warning and shall forfeit the match if not played.

RECORDING OF SCORES ON TENNIS LINK: USTA League match scores must be reported by either team within 48 hours of the completion of the match. After match scores have been entered on Tennis Link, they must be confirmed by the opposing team within 48 hours of the initial entry or the initial score will automatically be considered valid and no appeals will be allowed.

The USTA League District Coordinator will run the match score reports daily. The consequences for failure to report match scores are as follows: a) a written warning issued to both teams for the first offense; b) all subsequent violations will result in the individual team match not counting toward league standings, however, match results will still be used to generate player ratings. Tennis Link is the official system for reporting scores and providing standings for the USTA League Program.

DISQUALIFICATION: During the local league competition and at every level of championship competition below national championships, computer ratings will be calculated for all players to determine if any players have reached the disqualification (DQ) criteria. Players will be NTRP disqualified if they reach the disqualification level three times based on all matches reported in the national database. The OVTA District USTA League Coordinator will notify the affected player, his/her



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captain, and the Local USTA League Coordinator. The individual match that produced the NTRP DQ and all previously matches played by the player shall be considered losses at that NTRP level.

TEAM REGISTRATION: USTA League registration must be closed no later than two weeks prior to the end of the local league season in each district. Dates will vary for each NTRP level of play.

MATCH TIE-BREAK: In Cincinnati, the local decision is to play a third set rather than playing a match tie-break. The Match Tie Break will be used at the District Championships, State Championships, USTA/Midwest Championships and National Championship play. The Tie-Breaker used for the summer session is the 12 point tie-breaker. For the fall and winter seasons, players shall use the 9 point tie-breaker (same as interclub).

EXTRA BYE: At the end of the league, if two or more teams are vying for the league championship, and any of these teams has less points because of an extra bye, the team's average courts won on a weekly basis will be added to their total. Only matches played will count toward the averaged points. Points earned through defaults will not be counted. It will then be determined which team wins based on most matches won.

Grievance Committee:

Carole Meldon, Chairman; Moira Granger, Toni Gross

Appeals Committee:

Joe Wilkerson, Chairman; Carol Tanner, Lynn Larman

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