



# 2010 USTA League Tennis Rules For All Divisions

**(Red Bolded sentences mark changes for 2010)**

1. The Maryland District will enforce all National and Sectional USTA League rules/regulations. The principal responsibility for enforcement of the rules lies with area league coordinators (ALC).
2. Any rules proposed by local leagues (whether to reinforce an existing rule, or establish a new one) must be in written form and submitted annually for approval to the Maryland District Leagues Administrator (DLA). The deadline for filing such rules is **3 weeks** before local league play begins.
3. ALC's must transmit to the DLA area league's written rules or written certification that no separate rules will be issued and a USTA League Registration form at least **3 weeks** prior to the commencement of area league play. ALC's must **coordinate with** the DLA area player registration dates and commencement of area league play. Without this information, team codes and match numbers cannot be assigned. One cannot begin player registration via TennisLink without this information.
4. **Captains will be responsible for reviewing all league regulations, (national, section, district and local) and communicating those to their players. Local leagues will hold captain meetings and any captain unable to attend will be solely responsible for obtaining the information obtained at the meeting.**
5. **All USTA Adult League participants must be at least 18 years of age, in the calendar year in which they will play.**
6. League fees include:
  - a. **\$20** Maryland District tennis fee to be collected when a player registers on-line using TennisLink (Adult, Senior, Super Senior, Adult Mixed Doubles)
  - b. \$12 Maryland District tennis fee to be collected when a player registers on-line using TennisLink (Super Duper)
  - c. \$9 Maryland District tennis fee to be collected when a player registers on-line using TennisLink (for all leagues that do not advance).
  - d. \$16 Maryland District tennis fee to be collected when a player registers on-line using TennisLink (Winter and Summer Combo)
  - e. **\$7 Maryland District tennis fee to be collected when a player registers on-line using TennisLink (First year Tri-level; subsequent years \$9).**
  - f. **\$3.75** Mid-Atlantic fee to be collected when a player registers on-line using TennisLink.
  - g. TennisLink fee (Active.com) set by National
  - h. Additional league fees to be determined by each local league
7. **The final deadline for all teams to be entered into TennisLink is:**  
**Adult Mixed – March 15, 2010**  
**Adult – May 17, 2010**  
**Senior – July 21, 2010**  
**Super Senior, Super Duper, Senior Mixed – August 2, 2010**  
**Combo/Combo Mixed – September 16, 2010**
8. The Maryland District and TennisLink will be using:
  - a. Adult Mixed/Senior Mixed combination ratings of 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0 and 10.0. Each individual mixed doubles team's combined **current NTRP** rating may not exceed the level entered. For example, local leagues may consist of a 3.5 and a 4.5 or two 4.0 partners in the 8.0 levels. Partners cannot have a rating differential of more than 1 point.
  - b. Combo/Combo Mixed combination ratings of 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5 and 10.5. Each individual combo doubles team's combined **current NTRP** rating may not exceed the level entered. For example, local leagues may consist of a 3.5 and a 5.0 or a 4.0 and a 4.5 in the 8.5 levels. Partners cannot have a rating differential of more than 1.5 points.
9. The Mixed Doubles Districts will be June **11, 12, 13**, Adult District July **17, 18, 19**, Senior District August **20, 21, 22** and Combo District October **8, 9, 10**. At the Mixed Doubles, Senior and Combo districts, a minimum of six (6) team members who were on the final roster of their area league team at the conclusion of local league play must be available and eligible to compete. At the Adult districts, a minimum of eight (8) team members who were on the final roster of their area league team at the conclusion of local league play must be available and eligible to compete. **All local leagues of three or more teams, including those with 13 or more teams per level and who received a second team entry by virtue of the "Rule of 10," are eligible to receive a wild card entry via weighted random draw. No local league may receive the benefit of more than one "wildcard entry" per level.**



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10. Representation at 2010 District League Championships will be as follows:

Qualifying Teams	Wild Cards	Total Teams	Description
2	0	2	Finals Only
3	1	4	2 flights of 2, winners meet in final
4	0	4	2 flights of 2, winners meet in final
5	1	6	2 flights of 3, winners meet in final
6	0	6	2 flights of 3, winners meet in final
7	1	8	2 flights of 4, winners meet in final
8	0	8	2 flights of 4, winners meet in final
9	3	12	4 flights of 3, winners meet in Semis Semi winners meet in Finals
10	2	12	4 flights of 3, winners meet in Semis Semi winners meet in Finals
11	1	12	4 flights of 3, winners meet in Semis Semi winners meet in Finals
12	0	12	4 flights of 3, winners meet in Semis Semi winners meet in Finals
13	3	16	4 flights of 4, winners meet in Semi Semi winners meet in Finals
14	2	16	4 flights of 4, winners meet in Semi Semi winners meet in Finals
15	1	16	4 flights of 4, winners meet in Semi Semi winners meet in Finals
16	0	16	4 flights of 4, winners meet in Semi Semi winners meet in Finals

Random draw, weighted based on the number of teams in each local league, will be conducted among local leagues with 3 or more teams. **The Tournament Committee reserves the right per USTA Tournament Regulations to draw additional wild cards to fulfill the draw.**

11. **In all counties where there are recognized and approved Local Leagues, the local league winners shall advance to a Maryland District League Championship Tournament. Counties in which there is more than one league at the same division and level must have a local league playoff as defined in each set of District-approved local league rules. The District Championship winners will earn the right to compete at the corresponding Mid-Atlantic Section League Championship Tournament. Combo local league winners shall advance to a Maryland District League Championship Tournament only**
12. Winning teams not able to participate must notify the DLA of their intention not to participate at least ten (10) days prior to the start of the Tournament. Teams that violate this rule shall be reported to the District Grievance Committee for investigation and appropriate disciplinary action. Penalties will be severe, up to and including being banned from league play for the following league year. Upon notification that a winning team is unable to advance, the second place team may advance in its place. If the second place team is unable to participate, the DLA shall determine whether that area league shall retain its right to place an entry in that specific level or flight.
13. At all District Championship tournaments, match line-ups are due to the Tournament Desk 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start of each team match. Failure to turn in line-ups on time shall result in an automatic \$50 cash fine for each such occurrence. Any such fine must be paid before the offending team will be allowed to play its scheduled match. Match times are tentative and play will be on a "followed by" basis. The Tournament Desk has the right to call a match to begin play up to 30 minutes before the scheduled start time, assuming courts are available to do so. Once a match has been called, the USTA's Point Penalty System applies and will be strictly enforced.
14. Players/teams leaving a District Championship tournament before completing their entire schedule of assigned matches and without the Tournament Director's approval shall be reported to the Chairman of the Tournament Grievance



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Committee for investigation and appropriate disciplinary action. Penalties will be severe, up to and including suspension or other sanctions for the following league year.

15. To be eligible to advance to Sectional Championship competition, a team must have registered the minimum number of players required by Rule 3.01B and played the number of matches required by Rule 3.01H(1) and Mid-Atlantic Rule 13 by:

June 7<sup>th</sup> for Mixed Doubles championship competition;  
July 5<sup>th</sup> for Adult league championship competition;  
August 16<sup>th</sup> for all Senior league championship competition;  
August 30<sup>th</sup> for Super Senior league championship competition

Local leagues are determined to be concluded when the final match (each individual match included) of each local league playoff match, (if applicable) is completed. In any case, the local league is defined as "concluded" by the date specified as end of season in TennisLink.

16. Players without a computer rating are required to declare a self-rating when first entering the Leagues program. In making their self-rating decision, players should consider the NTRP Guidelines posted on the TennisLink website; their on-court performance against established league players; relevant tennis history including frequency of play and instruction; and general fitness. Penalties may be imposed for incorrect or incomplete information, or failure to complete the form. Once made, the self-rating declared by the player shall apply to all Divisions until superseded by a computer-generated rating established according to USTA-approved computer methodology. A NTRP published **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 NTRP published **rating** is generated.
17. Team captains and coordinators are required to review player rosters, league standings, and other TennisLink administrative reports on a regular basis. Coordinators are required to secure and retain Player Deletion forms sufficient to demonstrate compliance with the Maryland District's Rule, which limits roster size to no more than 20 players for Mixed, Adult, Senior, and Combo leagues (12-player maximum on any 5.0 and 2.5 level team).
18. A person is allowed to captain and/or co-captain only ONE team in the same division, in the same level and in the same local league.
19. League players may be added to a TennisLink team roster at any time throughout the local league season subject to **any** local league rule otherwise limiting roster additions. No player is eligible to progress to Championship level competition unless he/she has played on that same team in at least two matches during its local league season with no more than ONE default. A defaulted match shall count as a match played for the player(s) receiving the default, but not for the player(s) who defaulted. A retired match shall count for all player(s) involved. DEFAULTS cannot count towards the 3-match minimum needed to establish eligibility to participate at National Championships.
20. Match results must be reported on TennisLink within 72 hours of the completion of the team match. This may be done by either the winning or losing team captain or their designee. Failure to do so shall cause the ALC to instruct that the match be scored as a Double Default. The non-reporting captain or designee must log into TennisLink and confirm or dispute the reported scores within 48 hours after they have been reported. After that time, TennisLink automatically blocks any attempt to edit or otherwise contest reported results, which are deemed final and complete with no further right of challenge.
21. As governed by Mid-Atlantic Rule #7, a team match should not remain uncompleted for more than seven days after its scheduled date or the deadline for completing local league match play, whichever occurs first. (This does not preclude an ALC from formally rescheduling a match date/time where local circumstances require, so long as established dates for completing local play are not violated.)
22. Per USTA League Tennis Regulations, all complaints alleging a violation during local league competition shall be filed in writing with the Local or District League Coordinator or designee having jurisdiction. The complaint must be filed prior to the commencement of the next team match in that flight involving such player or team, or within twenty-four hours after the end of local league play whichever occurs first. At the time a complaint is filed, a copy of such complaint shall be sent to the party (ies) against whom the complaint has been made. A copy of its decision shall be promptly sent to the DLA.



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23. Each local league shall appoint a Local League Grievance Appeal Committee consisting of no less than three (3) persons, including a chairman, responsible for adjudicating any Grievances properly within local jurisdiction. All members of the Grievance Committee must first be approved by the Mid-Atlantic Section League Coordinator. **The names of persons approved to serve on the Local League Grievance Appeal Committee must be readily available to team captains, either by publication in local league rules or comparable notice, such as posting to the local league's website.**
24. No member of a Grievance Appeal Committee may be a member of a Grievance Committee. The Grievance Appeal committee shall have the power to affirm, modify or reject the decision of the Grievance Committee. Per USTA League Tennis Regulations, the Grievance Appeal Committee's decisions are final and binding. A copy of this decision shall be promptly sent to all interested parties and to the DLA.
25. **A member of a Local or District Grievance or Grievance Appeal Committee shall be recused from participating in any hearing or decision emanating from a local league in which they play or serve in any administrative capacity whatsoever.** If a grievance is filed against the administration of a local league, that grievance is to be heard by the Grievance Committee at the District level.
26. Complaints alleging NTRP violations must be filed with the Mid-Atlantic Section League Coordinator. Original complaints are limited to a request for "Player Review" to confirm whether a player has met the requirements for disqualification under the Dynamic NTRP methodology. Appeals of any player disqualifications are governed by USTA League Tennis Regulations, Rule 3.04.

Grievance Committee:

**Jim Lawson, Chair**  
**Linda Iberra**  
**Venita Cooper**  
**James Dorf**

Grievance Appeal Committee:

**Peggy Sange, Chair**  
**Carrie Anderson**  
**Liz Baker**  
**MaryGray Sachtjen**  
**Lynne Hauff**