

**2014 USTA SUMMER LEAGUE TENNIS  
COLUMBUS 55& OVER, MIXED and COMBO  
RULES AND REGULATIONS**

The Team Captain should be a member of the local USTA Team and should be familiar with the structure and procedure of the Greater Columbus USTA League Tennis Rules for Summer Leagues, rules of the 2014 USTA League Regulations Handbook, USTA/Midwest Section Standing Orders and the Rules of Tennis. The above mentioned shall apply to all matches played in the USTA League Tennis Program except as modified herein.

**ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

League Season begins June 3, 2014 and completion of all matches no later than August 15, 2014.

**Local USTA League Tennis Coordinator for Columbus Summer USTA League Tennis is Shelby Rhyne. She can be reached at h) 614-775-0197 c) 614-284-4716 or email [ssrhyne@gmail.com](mailto:ssrhyne@gmail.com)**

**ELIGIBILITY:**

1. **55 & Over:** A player shall have reached the age of 55 prior to or during the calendar year in which such a player plays in his/her first local league match. Combined NTRP levels of partners shall not exceed team NTRP level. NTRP difference between partners shall not exceed 1.0
2. **Mixed:** A player shall have reached the age of 18 prior to or during the calendar year in which such a player plays in his/her first local league match. Combined NTRP levels of partners shall not exceed team NTRP level. NTRP difference between partners shall not exceed 1.0
3. **Combo:** A player shall have reached the age of 18 prior to or during the calendar year in which such a player plays in his/her first local league match. Combined NTRP levels of partners shall not exceed team NTRP level.
4. All individuals who complete in the USTA League Program must be a current member of the USTA and be a current USTA member through each Championship progression.
5. A player is only eligible to play on one team per NTRP level per USTA league season, unless they are playing in two separate leagues.
6. 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 defaulted.
7. A player's official rating is the most recent of the computer ratings.

**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.

Player should have a current NTRP computer rating for the 2014 season or Player may self-rate when registering for a team on TennisLink in accordance with the National Tennis Rating System (NTRP) Guidelines and declare their self-rating on TennisLink when entering the program regardless of the NTRP level they are entering. Any questions about NTRP ratings may be directed to the OVTA District League Coordinator via email to [ovta@woh.rr.com](mailto:ovta@woh.rr.com).

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.

**LOCAL LEAGUE:** A local league shall consist of a minimum of two (2) teams in a specific level of competition. The local league season ends on the date published in TennisLink as the league season end date.

**PLAY UP RULE:** A player may only play up one level in 55 & Over Divisions. Any player who registers for a team that is more than one NTRP level above the player's rating (computer or self) will be removed from that team's roster. Any individual matches played by that player will be a default to the team's opponent(s).

**LOCAL FLIGHT PLAYOFF:** A player is eligible to progress to local flight playoff-level competition if the player has played on the same team in at least two (2) matches during the local league season. A maximum of one default received by the player during local league competition shall count for advancing. A retired match shall count toward advancing for all players involved

**LEAGUE WINNER** The total number of **courts** won throughout the league will decide the league winner. In the event of a tie, the following tie break procedures will determine the winning team.

- Team losing the fewest sets
- Team losing the fewest games
- Won/Loss head to head match results
- Fewest sets lost head to head results
- Fewest games lost head to head match results
- Coin flip

#### **CAPTAIN RESPONSIBILITY**

Team Captain is responsible for:

- distributing TennisLink Team Number information to their team members
- ensuring that all players are registered before playing in a league match
- entering the match scores on TennisLink for NTRP rating purposes
- In the spirit of good sportsmanship and fair play, notifying the opposing captain of a known default at least 2 hours before the match begins

#### **PLAYER REGISTRATION**

TennisLink League Fee is \$20.00 per player and will be collected through registration on TennisLink. All USTA League Team Members must have a current USTA membership good through each championship progression. Visit the USTA home page <http://www.usta.com/> to join or renew.

You must register six players on TennisLink who have a legitimate player numbers before playing the first league match. A team must have enough registered players (6) to fill all courts, prior to the first match or match will be a default since teams are ineligible - no points are awarded to either team.

For all Divisions: Player may be added to rosters up to 14 days prior to the end date of play for their respective league as noted in TennisLink (per Articles of Agreement for USTA League, USTA/Midwest Section). Any problems should be reported immediately to USTA League Tennis Coordinator, Shelby Rhyne.

**ANY TEAM USING A PLAYER WHO HAS NOT REGISTERED ON TENNISLINK WILL FORFEIT THE COURT IN WHICH THE INELIGIBLE PLAYER PLAYED.** All match results should be entered on TennisLink as played and original score sheet should be sent to the Local USTA League Tennis Coordinator, Shelby Rhyne. Adjustment for disqualified players will be done by the District USTA League Tennis Coordinator on TennisLink. Scores will remain on TennisLink but default of courts will be reflected in the Stats and Standings on TennisLink.

### **RECORDING OF SCORES ON TENNISLINK**

TennisLink is the official system for reporting scores and providing standings for the USTA League Tennis Program. USTA League Tennis match scores can be reported by either captain no later than 48 hours after the match. All participants are encouraged to check the scores.

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 (per Article of Agreement for USTA League Tennis, USTA/Midwest Section).

### **GRIEVANCES**

Grievances for this league should be forwarded in writing to the Local League Coordinator within 24 hours. A copy of the grievance must also be sent to the Captain of the team on which the grievance is filed. Please review the USTA League Tennis Regulations for further information regarding the grievance procedure.

NTRP Grievance: A grievance contending that player's NTRP level is lower than the actual skill level. All NTRP Grievances shall be forward to the Midwest SLC. There is a \$50 filing fee. If the grievance is upheld, the \$50 fee will be returned. Checks should be made payable to the USTA/Midwest Section c/o Diane Ansay, 1310 E. 96<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 100, Indianapolis, IN 46240. After July 15, during championship time, the fee is \$100.00

Team Captains may be requested to sit on the Grievance Committee or Grievance Appeal Committee. Hopefully we will have a grievance-free season, but your help with any potential grievance resolution will be appreciated.

### **MATCH SCHEDULE AND RAIN OUT PROCEDURES**

NO SCHEDULE CHANGES are permitted once the schedule is published other than for scheduling errors. Rain outs are not schedule changes.

Rained out matches must be completed within two (2) weeks of the original rain out date or the end of the season, whichever occurs first. The host captain must give the visiting captain at least two (2) dates from which to choose, **within 24 hours**, to complete the rained out match. Matches, in which play had begun, must start play at the point of interruption. All players are responsible for writing down the scores at the time of the interruption and all players must initial the written score.

If rain occurs and both teams agree to go indoors to complete the match, court costs will be split equally by both teams.

## **MATCH RULES**

55 & Over, Mixed and Combo USTA leagues will play three courts of doubles.

Home Team will supply one (1) can of new balls for each playing court for each individual team match. New balls for a third set will not be used.

Each team will simultaneously exchange their line-ups at 6:30 pm. It is recommended that Team Captains run a copy of the TennisLink score sheet, which lists all eligible players for the match. This is your protection that there will be no ineligible player participating in the match.

All match warm-ups begin at 6:30 pm. Warm-up time is fifteen (15) minutes and includes serves..

No changes in line-ups are permitted except for injuries that may occur during warm-up. If a player becomes ill or injured during the 15 minute warm-up, a substitute who is on site and ready to play may be put into that position of the ill or injured player only.

**Late Arrival Rule:** Beginning at the scheduled match start time, there will be a grace period of 15 minutes to appear on the court. Warm-up will not be extended for players coming late. For players coming late the USTA rules apply (see page 123 of Friend of the Court):

- When players arrive between 15-20 min late: the penalty is loss of toss plus one game.
- When players arrive between 20-25 min late: the penalty is loss of toss plus two games.
- When players arrive between 25-30 min late: the penalty is loss of toss plus three games.
- When players arrive 30 or more min late – the match is defaulted.

Playing in order of strength is not required.

Each court plays 2 sets, regular scoring, with the 12 point set tiebreak if matches are 6-6. The Coman Tiebreak Procedure will be used for all set tiebreaks. Players change ends after the first point of the tie-break and thereafter every fourth point.

**Matches that split sets** will adhere to the following rules:

- There is no break between the second and third set.
- A 10 point Match Tiebreak will be used to determine the third set winner: first to 10 by a margin of 2 points. The team whose turn it is to serve may choose the player to serve the first point of the Match Tiebreak. The opponents shall serve the following two points. After this, each team shall serve alternately for two consecutive points until the end of the tie-break.
- The Coman Tiebreak Procedure will be used for the match tiebreak. Players change ends after the first point of the tie-break and thereafter every fourth point.

**Scoring of Team Defaults.** If a team defaults an entire team match for any reason during round robin play, then all matches of that team played, or to be played, shall be null and void when determining standings. (2.03L Scoring of Team Defaults, 2014 USTA National Reg.)

**Revised February 15, 2014**