



2017 RULES AND REGULATIONS

Greater Fort Worth Tennis is brought to you by the Greater Fort Worth Tennis Coalition (GFWTC). The GFWTC manages and delivers USTA-Texas programs, including USTA League Tennis and Junior Team Tennis. The GFWTC is an umbrella Community Tennis Association (CTA) comprised of seven local CTAs: Arlington Tennis Association (ATA), Fort Worth Tennis Association (FWTA), Fort Worth Professional Tennis Association (FWPTA), Northeast Tarrant Tennis (NETT), Keller Alliance Tennis Charter (KATCH), Parker County Tennis Association (PCTA), Mansfield Area Tennis Association (MATA).

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COORDINATORS

Ladies' & Lone Star Leagues

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Men's League

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Mixed Leagues

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GREATER FORT WORTH USTA MIXED LEAGUE INFORMATION

MIXED DOUBLES 18+ LEAGUE

Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0 and 9.0

Local League Coordinator: Jack & Laurie Sheehy: fwladiesusta@yahoo.com

Time: Sunday-not before 1:00 pm unless agreed upon by both captains or set by the coordinator or facility. Please contact league coordinator at fwladiesusta@yahoo.com if match is rescheduled on another day other than Sunday.

Roster-Mixed 18+

- A. The NTRP difference between members of an individual doubles team may not exceed 1.0.
- B. If match played with an illegal pairing, then the match will be forfeited.
- C. No more than 2 players, men or women, may play on concurrent leagues in Ft Worth/Dallas.
- D. Team players must be credited with 2 matches to be eligible for Sectional play (1 default may count)
- E. Teams may reschedule lines for players involved in other Ft Worth USTA league playoffs. (See **RESCHEDULING MAKEUPS** under Governing Rules). Regular USTA Tournaments are not considered excused for makeups.

Playoffs- Mixed 18+- winning teams in each flight will advance to Sectionals. There is no playoff. First place teams will receive awards.

MIXED DOUBLES 40+ LEAGUE

Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0

Local League Coordinator: Jack & Laurie Sheehy: fwladiesusta@yahoo.com

- A. Must be 40 years old or over, and can turn 40 during the calendar year
- B. A match consists of 3 total matches - 3 doubles lines at the 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, and 9.0 levels. The doubles teams that assemble must add their ratings together to play at the respective level.
- C. Team that wins 2 of 3 matches wins the match. (Format used for league play, playoffs, Sectionals and Nationals).
- D. Sectionals-Texas is its own section. Winning team from sectionals advances to Nationals to represent Texas.

MIXED DOUBLES 55+ LEAGUE

Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0

Local League Coordinator: Jack & Laurie Sheehy: fwladiesusta@yahoo.com

Must be 55 years old or over, and can turn 55 during the calendar year

- A. A match consists of 3 total matches - 3 doubles lines at the 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, and 9.0 levels. The doubles teams that assemble must add their ratings together to play at the respective level.
- B. Team that wins 2 of 3 matches wins the match. (Format used for league play, playoffs, Sectionals and Nationals).
- C. Sectionals-Texas is its own section. Winning team from sectionals advances to Nationals to represent Texas

GREATER FORT WORTH USTA LEAGUES GOVERNING RULES

All players participating in Fort Worth USTA Leagues, as a condition of said participation, agree to abide and be bound by the **USTA Constitution and Bylaws**; the **USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS**; the **FRIEND AT COURT - The USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations including THE CODE**, the **USTA Texas Operation Procedures**, and the **Fort Worth USTA Leagues Governing Rules**.

All players participating in these leagues shall abide by the standards of good conduct, fair play, good sportsmanship and are responsible for knowing the rules, regulations and operating procedures.

1. GEOGRAPHICAL AREA:

- A.** All matches are to be played at facilities that have been approved by the Greater Fort Worth Tennis Coalition (GFWTC).
- B.** A team may have only one player from outside the 50-mile radius of the center of a large city, Fort Worth, Dallas, San Antonio, Austin and Houston. Teams from all other cities can have a maximum of two players from outside the 50-mile radius of the center of the city. If a player does not have the specific league in one of the designated areas, (i.e. Abilene, Amarillo, Austin), he/she can play in another city without it counting as part of the out of city maximum.

2. PLAYER REQUIREMENTS:

- A.** Must have a USTA membership current throughout the league and any championship progression. Renewals and new memberships should be obtained through Tennis Link @ <http://national.usta.com> or by calling the USTA membership number: 1-800-990-8782. **DO NOT MAIL.** Please make sure your current address, phone number & last name is correct with USTA membership.
- B.** All players competing must be registered on Tennis Link before each match begins. Unless extenuating circumstances, if a team plays a non-registered player, the line played will be defaulted. **(USTA League Reg. 3.03(B)3a)** *Please notify the coordinator & opposing captain when this situation happens.*

3. NTRP:

For each league season, a player will enter at the level of their most recent computer rating or higher. If you are unsure of your level, click on "About NTRP Ratings" or "NTRP Rating Help" at <https://www.usta.com/Adult-Tennis/USTA-League/ntrp/>. **Players** who are good athletes or intend to spend a great deal of time taking lessons should be aware that their improvement may be significant enough to surpass their original self-rating by the time they reach the end of the local league season. To avoid NTRP disqualification, these players should enter at a higher level of play at the beginning of the local league season.

- A.** Players who are 59 years or under during the 2017 League Year will have their most current computer rating displayed in Tennis Link. They must self-rate if their NTRP rating is older than 3 years. ****Exception:** A player who receives a published (M) or (T) rating and chooses to participate in the Adult Division will be required to self-rate even if the (M) or (T) rating is less than 3 years old.
- B.** Players who will be 60 years or older during the 2017 League Year will have their most current computer rating displayed in Tennis Link. They must self-rate if their NTRP rating is older than 2 years. ****Exception:** A player who receives a published (M) or (T) rating and chooses to participate in the Adult Division will be required to self-rate even if the (M) or (T) rating is less than 2 years old.

See **RULES VIOLATIONS/GRIEVANCES** for filing a Fair Play Grievance against self-rated players.

4. MOVE UP/SPLIT UP RULES:

Captains and players should be familiar with USTA League National Regulation 2.06 regarding team limits on players who have qualified or advanced to National Championships the previous year.

https://www.usta.com/Adult-Tennis/USTA-League/national_regulations/

5. CAPTAINS GUIDELINES:

Home team supplies new USTA approved yellow balls (standard size) and outdoors courts for the entire length of match. **Players are responsible for their own water.**

Even though the schedule is on Tennis Link, the Captains should:

- A. Exchange contact information for any acting captain being used for an upcoming match.
- B. Advise visiting captain of any road construction near home match site which might cause travel delays.
- C. If court times are split, the captains should decide which line(s) will play at the later time.
- D. Captains should try to advise their opposing captain of any known defaults at least 48 hours before the scheduled match. **NOTE: Once an early default is issued it can only be voided due to a rainout or extreme weather (See Rainouts).**
- E. Notify home facility of any court cancellations as soon as they are aware.

6. ADDING PLAYERS:

A. Players may be added to the roster up to the day of the 5th match from the beginning of the season (day of 5th match). Exact dates are listed on the Ladies League page at www.GFWTennis.com & on the printed schedules.

B. As long as 2 or more regular season matches remain for a team, a player may be added to replace a player who is unable to play for the rest of the season due to injury or other extenuating circumstances. An added player must have the same NTRP level or lower than the player being replaced. Self-rated players cannot be used to replace a player.

C. A player who is disqualified by the DNTRP during the season may be added to a higher-level team without having to replace a player. (The team must have 2 or more remaining matches in the season, excluding playoffs.)

NOTE: A self-rated player who receives 3 red flags is disqualified and the team loses all the lines that player played during the league.

D. Added players must meet the league requirements and be approved by the coordinator before they are registered on Tennis Link

7. LEAGUE FEE REFUNDS:

A. Players should contact the League Coordinator when requesting a league fee refund.

B. A refund may be issued if a league does not make or if a registered player withdraws BEFORE

first scheduled match of a league season.

C. In the event that an entire team withdraws from a league after the roster deadline and after schedules have been posted, NO players will receive a league fee refund.

D. Approved league fee refunds will be issued less the administrative fee(s).

8. SCORECARDS AND LINEUPS:

Blank scorecards are available on Tennis Link and list eligible players at the bottom. **Written lineups should be filled out before reaching the match site and should be exchanged FIVE (5) minutes prior to match time. USE OF CELL PHONES TO EXCHANGE LINEUPS IS NOT PERMISSABLE.** Teams are not required to field players in order of strength.

9. MATCH SCORE ENTRY ON TENNIS LINK:

Scores should be posted, confirmed, or disputed, by **BOTH** captains, on Tennis Link, **within 24 hours after the match is completed.** Either captain may do the initial entry. Notify the coordinator immediately of any scoring dispute.

10. PHONES AND OTHER COMMUNICATION DEVICES:

Cell phones and other communication devices must be turned off or placed in VIBRATE MODE before the match starts and MAY NOT be checked during changeovers. If a player's cell phone rings during a point, the opponent may stop the point and claim the point based on deliberate hindrance (**Friend at Court: Part 2- The Code #36**)

11. STAGGERED COURTS:

When facilities must stagger times due to court shortage, the home captain must contact the visiting captain by the Sunday before the scheduled match to determine which lines will be played at which time.

12. MATCH FORMAT: (Outdoor League)

Any additional changes will be stated on the printed schedules for each league. Round Robin; Regular scoring; best of 3 tiebreak sets with third set, if needed, played as a Match Tiebreak (1st to 10 winning by 2); Coman tiebreak will be used; a 7-point set tiebreak will be played when set score reaches 6-6 (first to 7 by 2); five-minute warm-up including serves; 1-point for a team win; Playoff when applicable; If a Saturday league only has 1 or 2 teams in a level with at least 50% in NTRP level, the Friday teams may be required to play 1 or 2 Saturday matches.

Points played in good faith stand. If a disagreement arises on court it should be resolved before play resumes. Match results will stand as played. (**Friend at Court: Part 2 - The Code #2**)

13. WARM-UP:

5-minute warm-up, including serves. Late players (still within the 15-minute default time frame) will be allowed a 5-minute warm-up, including serves.

14. PACE OF PLAY:

Play should be continuous. Between points, a maximum of **20 seconds** is allowed. When players change ends at the end of a game, a maximum of **90 seconds** is allowed. After the first game of each set and during a tie-break game, play shall be continuous and the players shall change ends without a rest. At set break, a maximum of **120 seconds (2 minutes)** is allowed. (**Friend at Court: Part 1- ITF Rules of Tennis #29a**)

15. MEDICAL/BLEEDING TIMEOUTS:

Detailed information regarding medical and bleeding timeouts can be found in (**2016 Friend at Court Part 3 page 96 USTA Regulations III.E and Table 13**).

A MEDICAL TIMEOUT consists of evaluation time and up to 3 minutes of treatment time for a treatable medical condition. The maximum time allowed for the entire timeout is 15 minutes. A BLEEDING TIMEOUT consists of up to 15 minutes to stop visible bleeding,

clean up the court, and dispose of contaminated items. Once a timeout has been taken for a condition, another is not allowed for the same condition.

16. COACHING:

No coaching is allowed during a USTA match.

17. SUBSTITUTIONS:

No substitutions may be made after the lineups have been exchanged except if an injury or illness occurs during the warm-up or if a player fails to appear. If an extra player is available, he/she can **ONLY** replace the injured/ill player/no-show and the remainder of the lineup remains the same. If no substitute is available for an injured player, that particular line shall be defaulted. No shows (not filled by a substitute before the 15-minute default time) are discussed under DEFAULTS.

18. DEFAULTS:

Cell phones are the official time device for match play. Lineups must be **exchanged 5 minutes** before the scheduled match time and all players assigned their courts **ready for play**. No line shall begin play before the 15-minute default time unless all players from the HIGHER LINE(S) are present. Singles and doubles lines are independent of each other.

- (a) If line 1 singles is late, line 2 singles must wait until a default is declared.**
- (b) If line 2 singles is late, line 1 singles starts on time.**
- (c) If line 3 doubles is late, line 1 and 2 doubles start on time.**
- (d) If line 2 doubles is late, line 1 doubles starts on time.**
- (e) If line 1 doubles is late, all doubles must wait until a default is declared.**

If a player fails to appear and no substitute is available, the default will start from the bottom up for singles and/or doubles. Example: If line 1 singles player is a no show, line 2 singles moves to line 1. If line 1 doubles is missing a player, lines 2 and 3 move up to lines 1 and 2 and line 3 is a default. In the event that players from different lines are unavailable for play, the available player from the lower line may take the place of the unavailable player from the higher line to form a new team at the higher position in order to avoid an additional default. The team receiving the default cannot move players.

Exception for defaulting from the bottom:

- (a) When a player is injured or becomes ill during warm-up. **(See SUBSTITUTIONS above)**
- (b) When courts are played at different times or on different days.
- (c) When an ineligible player causes a default after the match has been played.

When a match is not completed by the time another team is scheduled to play and the unfinished match is halted, the home team must provide alternate court(s) **within one (1) hour** or report the line(s) as retired with the win going to the visiting team. However, if a line is starting or playing the 3rd set Match tiebreak, the incoming team will wait until play is finished.

Captains should try to notify the opposing team captain of any defaults at least 48 hours in advance except in cases involving sudden emergencies or illness. **NOTE: Once an early default is issued, it can only be voided due to a rainout or extreme weather.** The line receiving the default is not required to appear at the match site. Defaults, either singles or doubles, start from the bottom line.

- (a) In a league playing 5 courts, a team defaulting 3 or more courts at one time....
- (b) In a league playing 4 courts, a team defaulting 3 or more courts at one time....
- (c) In a league playing 3 courts, a team defaulting 2 or more courts at one time....

Will not be eligible for an award or a playoff position for that league. All other teams, played &

not played, will receive the highest points possible unless all teams in contention for the playoffs (or for 1st and 2nd place from league play with no playoff), have already played the defaulting team in Good Faith, then the match points stand as played. However, if 3 or fewer matches remain to be played for the league, the defaulting team may be asked to play the minimum number of courts required.

19. ENTIRE TEAM FORFEIT

Any team defaulting an entire match will have all players on the roster suspended from all Fort Worth USTA League Tennis leagues for a period of 11 months from the start date of the league the infraction occurred. If a player registers for a team while on suspension, that player will be moved to a holding team in the Tennis Link system and the player will forfeit the associated registration fee. In the case of an extenuating circumstance, the suspension may be appealed to the FWUSTA Grievance Committee (See Rules Violations/Grievances below).

20. RAINOUTS

- A.** In the event of rain or wet courts, all players must be ON SITE **unless both captains** agree that the match is a rainout.
- B.** Should rain begin after match play has begun, all players must remain ON SITE for up to 30 minutes in an effort to resume match play unless BOTH captains agree otherwise. If courts are not playable, then the match will be treated as a rainout.
- C.** In matches where lineups have been exchanged but match play has **NOT BEGUN**, a new lineup may be exchanged for the makeup match. If a default has been issued, it is now **voided**.
- D.** If a minimum of one line has served the first ball, the lineup is locked in and cannot be changed, including any defaults.
- E.** Incomplete matches will be continued by the same players at the exact place halted- set, game, point, and server, side. Indicate such on back of both score sheets to prevent controversy when resuming play.
- F.** If rain occurs just before play starts or during play and captains agree to move indoors, these matches will be treated as a rain make-up. All lines are not required to play indoors.

21. EXTREME WEATHER GUIDELINES (Effective January 2016)

If the wind chill is 32 degrees or below at your match location, the match may be rescheduled if one captain requests it. The official weather reading will be found on the GFW Tennis website, www.gfwtennis.com click the "weather forecast" to view the "feels like", or wind chill, on the day of match only. Enter the zip code under "search locations" for accurate information. Due to the frequent inaccuracy of weather forecasts, matches may not be canceled a day in advance. Captains should make a determination no earlier than 2 hours prior to the scheduled match time and notify their players accordingly.

22. RESCHEDULING MAKE-UPS:

- A.** In the event a match is not played or completed on the scheduled date due to weather (see RAINOUTS or EXTREME WEATHER GUIDELINES), Religious Holidays, **Thanksgiving Holiday (Saturday or Sunday before and weekend after), FWUSTA League Playoffs**, Sectionals/Nationals, or spring break, the match must be made up within 2 weeks (14 days) from the match date. Match **continuations** where facilities are greater than 35 miles driving distance MAY be played at a neutral facility midway between the involved teams' home facilities.
- B.** Match **MUST** be rescheduled within **72 hours (3 days)** and **BOTH CAPTAINS** must e-mail the coordinator the date, time & site for each rescheduled line. Teams have **2 weeks (14 days)** to complete this match. If the match is unsuccessfully completed in **the 14 days allowed**, then the match will be sent to the FWUSTA Grievance Committee for a decision.
- C.** Rescheduled matches can be played at any time. They can be played as a whole or by individual lines on different days. If match play has not already begun, then lineups are not locked in.
Once a match is rescheduled and confirmed by both captains, the date, time, & site cannot be

changed unless it is rained out or weather is too severe (See EXTREME WEATHER GUIDELINES).

D. Rescheduled matches that are rained out will be allowed a one (1) week extension from the rescheduled date OR the remainder of the ORIGINAL TWO (2) WEEK PERIOD, whichever is later.

If a rescheduled match is rained out, the captains must email the coordinator the new date, time & site.

E. **NOTE:** The Friday match before **Thanksgiving** or a spring break week is not eligible for rescheduling unless both captains agree and the match is completed **PRIOR** to or by the scheduled match date. The opposing team captain must be notified no later than **5 DAYS** prior to the scheduled match date when lines must be rescheduled. Available players will play on the original scheduled date. The rescheduling rules for a rainout will be applied. **NOTE: When teams reschedule lines due to players participating in FWUSTA Playoffs, or attending a USTA Little State, SECTIONAL or NATIONAL tournament on a FWUSTA team, each rescheduled line MUST include a player from the Playoff, Little State, Sectional or National team.** Excluding the above situations, when both captains agree to play a line outside the scheduled date, **the match must be played before or anytime on the original scheduled date.** If not possible, the team that is short a player will default the line.

23. INDOOR COURTS:

When both captains agree to play indoors, each player will split the court fee cost. The captains or the individual lines should decide before the match begins what they will do if time expires before the match is finished. To save time, players may decide to switch ends only at the end of each set, play no-ad, etc. Teams opting to play indoors must be diligent in observing start times/warmup time and tolerant of activities on courts in close proximity to their match.

24. LEAGUE STANDINGS TIE-BREAK:

If team points are tied at the end of the league, the USTA League Tennis Regulation tiebreak procedure will be used, starting with 1 point for a team win. If still tied, the following will be used until the tie is broken: team with most individual matches won, head to head, fewest number of sets lost, most sets won, fewest number of games lost, toss of coin.

25. RULES VIOLATIONS/GRIEVANCES

Any grievance alleging a violation by an individual or team of (i.) the USTA Constitution and Bylaws; (ii.) the USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS; (iii.) the FRIEND AT COURT – The USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations including The Code; or (iv.) the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship, shall be filed in writing **by the team captain or acting captain who was present at the match where the alleged violation occurred.**

The Grievance Report should be filed with the Local League Coordinator WITHIN 7 DAYS of alleged violation or within 24 hours of the league season, whichever comes first. Upon receipt of the grievance, the league coordinator shall immediately send a copy to the Chair of the GFW Tennis Grievance Committee and to the party(ies) against whom the Grievance has been filed.

The GFW Tennis Grievance Committee will investigate the alleged violation and shall have the power to dismiss or deny the grievance or to direct the correction of any violations by reasonable means, including the suspension of an individual or team. This is applicable to any party to the grievance as long as such party has been given the opportunity to review and present evidence.

The GFW Tennis Grievance Committee shall prepare a written decision setting forth the basis for its decision and the deadline for any written appeal and promptly send copies to the parties involved. **(USTA League Regulation 3.03D)**

The Grievance Report Form can be found on the League Website at www.gfwtennis.com

26. FILING A FAIR PLAY GRIEVANCE AGAINST SELF-RATED PLAYERS:

A grievance may be filed by a captain, coordinator or member of a championship committee against a self-rated player when that player is seen at the TOP OF THE NEXT LEVEL or higher. Email your local coordinator your complaint, and it will be sent to the Texas Section Grievance Committee. The Texas Section Grievance Committee, after review, and in consultation with the NTRP experts who have augmented the committee, will take action, as they deem appropriate.

Such action may include disqualification, suspension from league play or other league sanctions. When disqualified, all matches played for that league will be taken away. The Texas Section Grievance Committee decision may be appealed in accordance with Regulation 2.03 of USTA League Tennis Regulations.