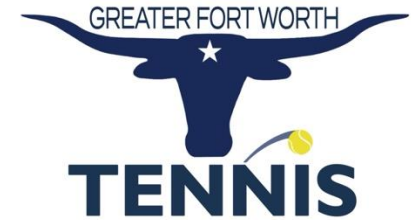




Welcome to our Virtual Team Meeting. All the information covered here can be found on the gfwtennis.com website under our local league rules. Please encourage your team members to visit the site and view the meeting. Winter brings rain to our area, here you will review our local league rules on the procedures to rescheduling and helpful tips. Be pro-active this league season, watch the weather-reach out to your team early in the week to know what the availability is. IMPORTANT-YOU MUST PLAY THE MAJORITY OF LINES—DO NOT DEFAULT MORE THAN ONE LINE IN A MATCH—TEAMS ARE ADVANCING TO SECTIONALS AND NATIONALS FOR THE 40 & 55 LEAGUES—players need to qualify and matches must be valid for teams to progress through the season. PLEASE REACH OUT IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS!!

Winter League Captain Meeting-Ft Worth 2026



Team Coordination and Updates

Captains/Players-visit the gfwtennis.com website throughout the season for updates/clarification of rules. Sign up on the website for league updates.



Reviewing Rules and Schedules

Everyone should carefully review the league rules for 2026-gfwtennis.com website. Sign up for updates/league information. Captains should review the printed rules when they are emailed to you-these are meant to be shared with your team!



Player Responsibilities-please read the rules!

Be available to your captain/team! Answer your emails/texts from your captain. If you are not clear on a rule, contact your captain—still unsure or need additional clarification-reach out to the coordinator!

Website tips-STAY INFORMED!

BOOKMARK	BOOKMARK THE GFWTENNIS WEBSITE-league notices/rules/links
SUBSCRIBE	SUBSCRIBE TO EMAIL LIST
FOLLOW	FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA: FACEBOOK site: facebook.com/gfwtennis
DOWNLOAD	DOWNLOAD LOCAL LEAGUE RULES-to your phone!
MAKE	MAKE SURE YOU HAVEN'T UNSUBSCRIBED FROM TENNISLINK COMMUNICATION
UPDATE	UPDATE ADDRESS INFORMATION IN TENNISLINK

Rosters



Managing Team Rosters

Player Management

How many players can I have on my roster? As many as it takes to complete the league. Some players can only play 1-2 matches in a season, others have full availability. There is no limit on the number of players on a team. Teams should have enough players on their roster to field all lines on match day.

Communication

Utilize digital tools on USTA Tennis-link-a great tool available to captains!

Effective Communication

Captains should reach out to their opponents prior to match day. For example: "There is a chance of rain on Thursday/Sunday-I'll be in touch with the court conditions as soon as I can". Winter leagues –great possibility of weather in our area...so be watching the weather and communicate with your opponents! Captains if you are not available on match day-you should be communicating with your opponents as to who is available on match day, things do come up and someone needs to be available to make decisions for your team.



Managing Team Rosters

Rule

FIFTY (50) percent of the players on a team must be rated at the level of the league the team is playing in for any league that advances to Sectional or National competition.

Team rosters must be made up of 60% of players residing within the Ft Worth playing area. Playing area includes: The current Ft Worth playing area- Tarrant Co., Denton Co., Parker Co., Hood Co. (Pecan Plantation), Johnson County (Southern Oaks). Questions regarding player rosters, should be sent to the coordinator before the start of any league/tournament. Rosters not in compliance are not eligible for playoffs.



Tennis Players Be Like



Let's go see if the courts are dry

Winter Weather Rules



- If the wind chill is 32 degrees, at your match location, the match may be rescheduled if one captain requests it. Wind Chill can change-you could move your match back or later in the day if players are available. There is not a “WIND” rule in our local league rules for our area.
- It takes “teams” working together to get the match played! Patience and answer your texts!
- The official weather reading will be found on the GFWTC website, www.gfwtennis.com
- In the event of rain or wet courts both captains can agree that the match is rained out, players do not need to go to the site prior to a match to determine the court conditions.

Rescheduling a Match-winter brings rain to our area.



Rescheduling Rules

The match must be rescheduled within 3 days, and dates emailed to the coordinator. The match is then locked in and cannot be rescheduled once it is locked in. You have two weeks to make up the match. The home team, should offer at least three options to the opposing team for a reschedule—WORK IT OUT-it takes a team to reschedule a makeup-players and captains—ANSWER YOUR TEXTS!

We are rained out again.....

A one week extension from the the rain out date should be observed—that gives you three weeks total. Email the coordinator. Other teams are looking for your scores, let the coordinator know and they can inform those asking about your scores. If it is the last match of the season, you have up to the last date that scores must be entered-do not wait and schedule on the last day—you will be defaulted.

Can both captains agree to play outside the date of a match?

NO! You can agree to play prior to the match date-your team may need to play a line earlier one day-so if you can accommodate the team, you might consider it. All matches must be played on the date scheduled unless weather related .

Rescheduling once rain begins and players on site

Rules to follow-these are on the gfwtennis.com website

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 void.

If a minimum of one line has served the first ball, the lineup is locked in and cannot be changed, including any defaults.

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.



League Rules on Minimum Line Play-THIS IS IMPORTANT!!!!

Majority Line Play Requirement

A team must play the majority of lines in a match. (USTA Reg 2.01C(3).) 4/5 Line league-must play 3; 3-line league, must play 2 lines. Team is subject to grievance and scores pulled for all matches in the league if the majority of lines are not played and team will not continue in the season. (Q) Can I default a line and my opponent defaults a line? (A) No, it is not a "VALID" match-the majority MUST be played.

Ensuring Fair Competition

These rules prevent teams from defaulting matches and ensures fair play for the league.

Impact on League Standings

When the majority of lines are not played-imagine what it does to the standings that your team defaulted more lines to one team than another—it changes the standings, players do not get qualified. Teams are advancing in the winter leagues for sectionals and nationals, please do not default the majority of lines-we will pull your team from the standings-your team will not complete the season-it requires A LOT OF WORK and it is simply not fair to the league!! Contact the coordinator if your having problems BEFORE you default!!!!



Get a lot of
sleep

Drink enough
water

Play more
tennis





Strategies to Avoid Line Defaults

Early Player Availability

Confirming player availability early helps teams plan effectively and avoid unexpected lineup defaults.





Flexible Rosters

Maintaining flexible rosters allows teams to adjust lineups quickly in response to changes or absences.

Advance Communication

Communicating lineups a week in advance, helps to ensure your team is covering the majority of lines—having a “back up player or two can help on match day.

When to Contact the Coordinator

-  **Check the rules first** – most answers are in the local league rules.
-  **Need assistance with a rule?** Captains email the coordinator; players contact their captain first.
-  **Incident on court?** Email the coordinator.
-  **Looking for players?** Contact the coordinator for help.

Best Way to Communicate

-  **Email is BEST** – preferred and most reliable method.

Day of Match-tips



Start your match on time. Be mindful of teams coming behind you. Do not let your team warm up, and then decide to take a bathroom break at the time the match is to begin—this should all be done before the match begins. Start “ON-TIME”!



Lineup exchange occurs 5 minutes before the match starts. Lack of warm-up courts is not an issue, as the home team is not obligated to provide them. Matches must BEGIN ON TIME!



Rule 8H: If a match isn't finished by the time the next team is scheduled to play and is halted, the home team must provide an alternate court within one hour or declare the unfinished lines retired, awarding the win to the visiting team. If a line is starting or playing the third set tiebreak, the incoming team must wait until the match concludes.



Score entry: Confirm scores with the opposing team and ENTER YOUR SCORES! Anyone can enter scores, and there's no reason scores can't be submitted within a few hours after the match. It's not solely the home team's responsibility; teams should assist each other in submitting scores.



2026 Rule Changes

Local league rules are on the gfwtennis.com website. These are not all the rules that govern tennis, however these are for the week to week matches and the rules for our local playoffs are located here.

Rosters 2A. All players/captains must have a USTA number/ membership current throughout the league and championship progression. (Ref. 1.04E(2) National Rule). If requested, players must comply and provide proof of residency and a form of identification.

CAPTAINS!

- 8D. Any changes in match times/facilities will be stated on the printed schedules for each league and forwarded to the team captain. Captains should check their printed schedules at the beginning of each season, contact the coordinator with any issues.
- Captains should check with facility each week and confirm court times and availability.
- 8I. Defaults: Captains should notify opposing captains of any defaults by 7PM the night before a scheduled match. Except in cases involving sudden emergencies or illness. Once an early default is issued, it can only be voided due to a rainout or extreme weather.

REFRESHER!

Difference in retirement/default-HOW TO SCORE
THESE IN TENNIS LINK

--playing and injury occurs=retirement

--player does not show up=default

8G. Points played in good faith stand. If a disagreement arises, it should be resolved before play resumes. Match results will stand as played.
(Friend at Court: Part 2 - The Code #2)





Tennis in Texas and in the United States

- As of July 2025- 605 areas are represented in USTA League Tennis in the Nation, below is number of registrations ending Sept
- #1 Atlanta 37K
- #5 Dallas 18K
- #12 Austin 12K
- #14 Houston 11K
- #22 Ft Worth 9K, we are #4 in the State of Texas

Wrapping it all up!

Thank you for getting
your teams together,
thank you for
supporting tennis in
the Greater Ft Worth
playing area. Please
reach out if there is
anything we can help
you with, we are
here to support you
through the league
season. Best of luck
to you all!



GFWTC

Greater Ft Worth Tennis Coalition

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!

