

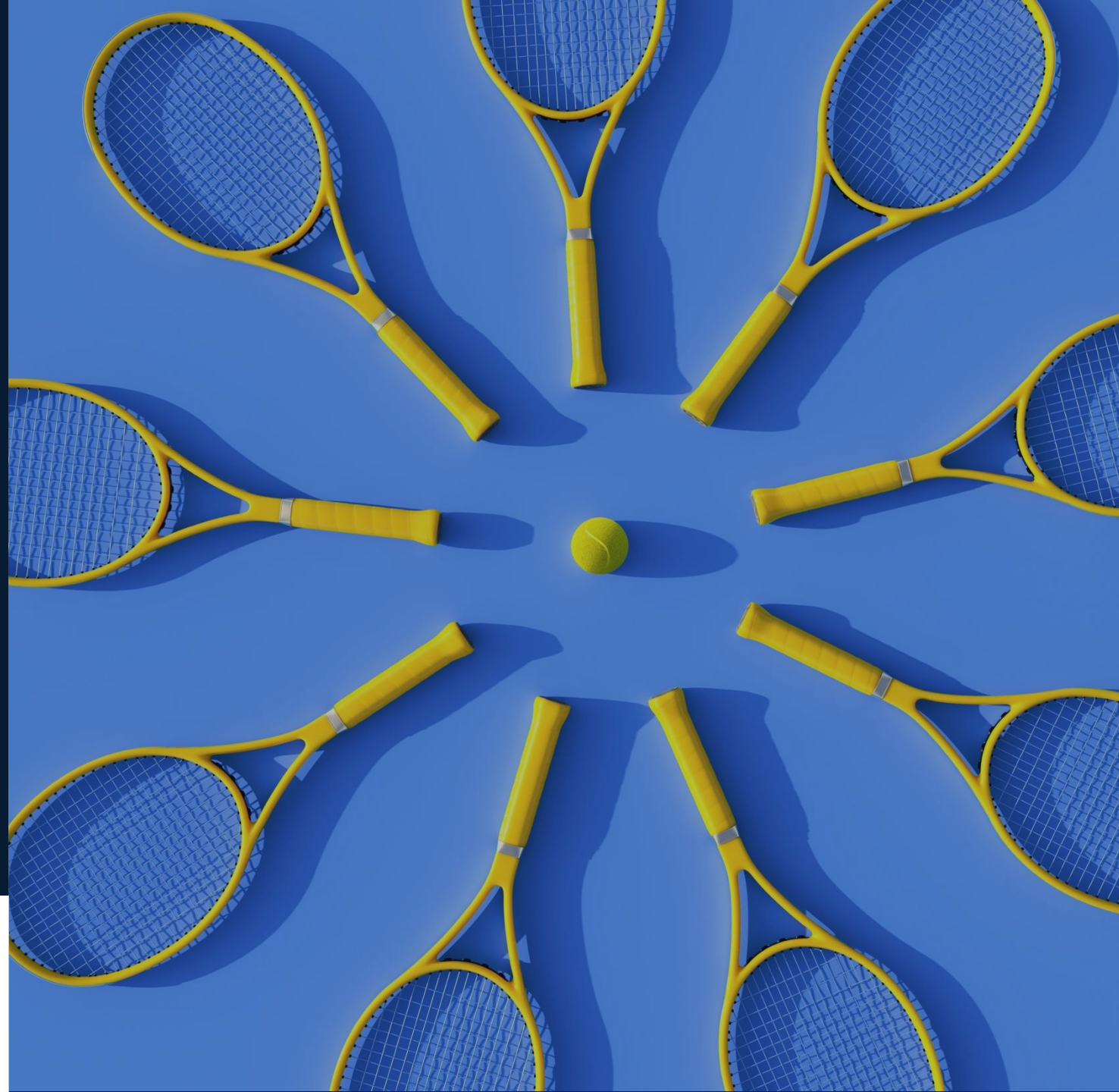
Local League Rules

We are highlighting a few of the rules here, please review all the rules on the gfwtennis.com website. Use these rules throughout the local league season. The Rules Committee reviews them every year to keep them clear and easy to follow. If you have a question, contact the coordinator before your match.

Fall League Trial: “Play Up”

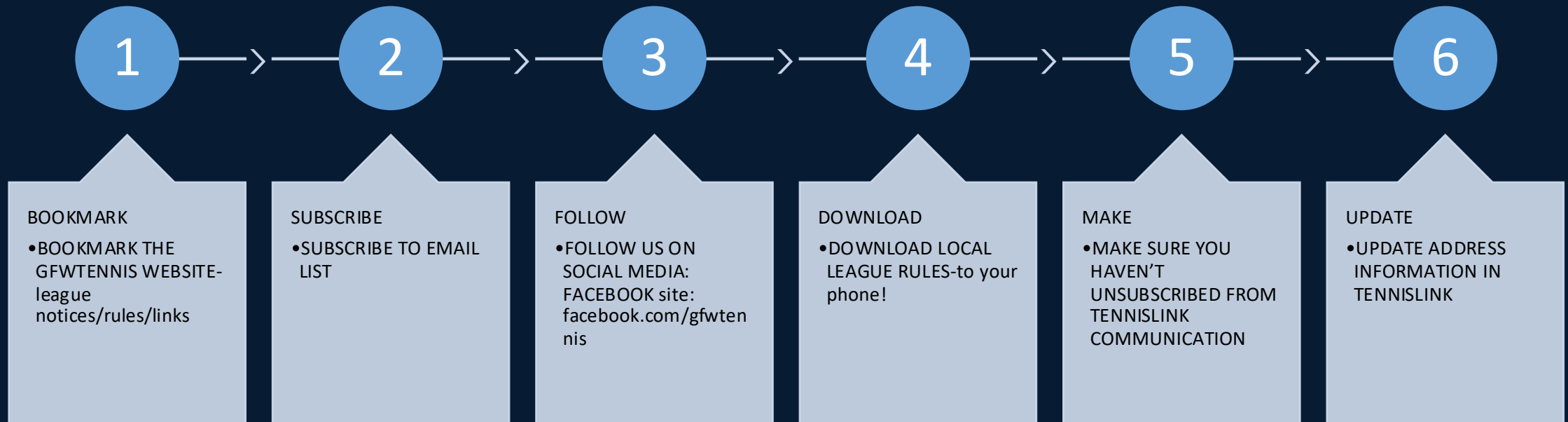
This fall, requests to “play up” are part of a trial. At the end of the season, we will review the feedback.

Good luck to all teams this fall!



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Website Tips: Stay Informed



Build a Match-Ready Roster

Managing Team Rosters

Player Management

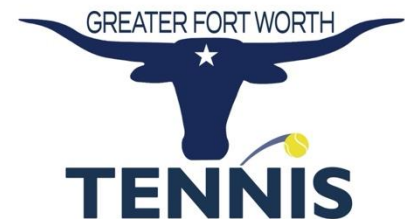
How many players can I have on my roster? As many as it takes to complete the league. Some players can only play 1-2 matches in a season, others have full availability. There is no limit on the number of players on a team. Teams should have enough players on their roster to field all lines on match day.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

Communication

Utilize digital tools on USTA Tennis-link-a great tool available to captains! Texting/Emailing-what ever works for you and your team!

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". Fall-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.

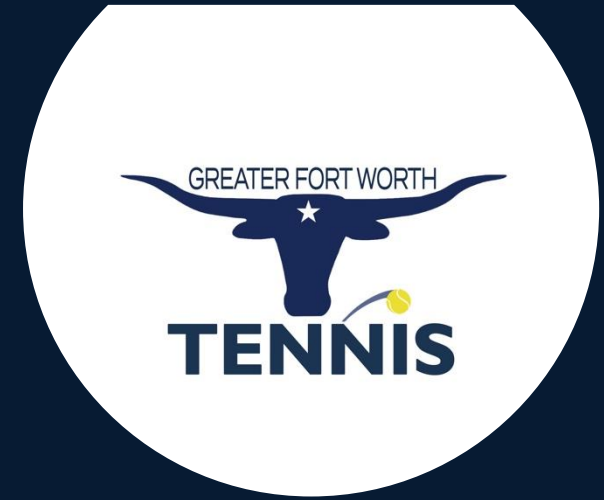


Roster Eligibility Rules

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. (The fall league is non-advancing)

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.



Weather Rules

If the wind chill is 32 or heat index of 104 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 on a cold day. On a hot day, you could move your match to earlier in the day.

It takes "teams" working together to get the match played! Patience and players/captain—answer the texts!

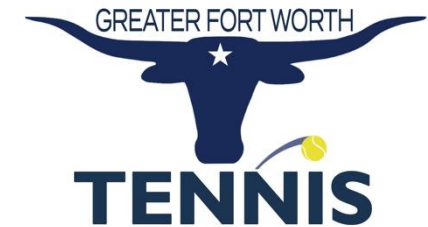
The official weather reading will be found on the GFWTC website, www.gfwtennis.com

32°

WIND CHILL

104°

HEAT INDEX



When Can a Match Be Rescheduled?

RAINOUT RESCHEDULING

Email the coordinator within 3 days, and the home team should offer at least three makeup dates. Once confirmed, the new date is locked. Complete the match within two weeks.

RAINED OUT AGAIN?

A second rainout adds one week, for three weeks total. Email the coordinator and report scores promptly. For the final match, play before the score-entry deadline—waiting until the last day may result in a default.

NO RAIN?

Matches must be played on the scheduled date unless weather requires rescheduling. Captains may agree to play earlier than scheduled, but not later.



After Rain Starts: What Happens Next

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.

It is dry across town, can we play? Yes, you can move to another site if raining in your area—if opponents agree! Can we push the match back a couple hours? Yes, you can move your match back an hour or even longer—if your opponents agree and courts are available.



Minimum Lines for a Valid Match

Minimum Number of Lines to Be Played for a Valid Match

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

Ensuring Fair Competition

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

Impact on League Standings

Playing fewer than the required number of lines can affect league standings and prevent players from qualifying. A team that defaults more than the minimum number of lines to make a valid match may be removed from the standings and unable to complete the season, particularly when advancement to sectionals or nationals is at stake. If your team cannot field enough lines, contact the coordinator before issuing a default.



Avoiding 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 playing a valid match—having a “back up” player or two can help on match day.

PLAN

FLEX

COMMUNICATE

Coverage starts before match day.

Communication-Coordinator

CHECK THE RULES FIRST

Most common situations are covered in the local league rules.

RULE QUESTIONS

Captains may email the coordinator. Players should contact their captain first; the captain can request clarification if needed.

NEED PLAYERS?

Contact the coordinator—we may be able to help

CONTACT THE COORDINATOR

Email is the preferred method

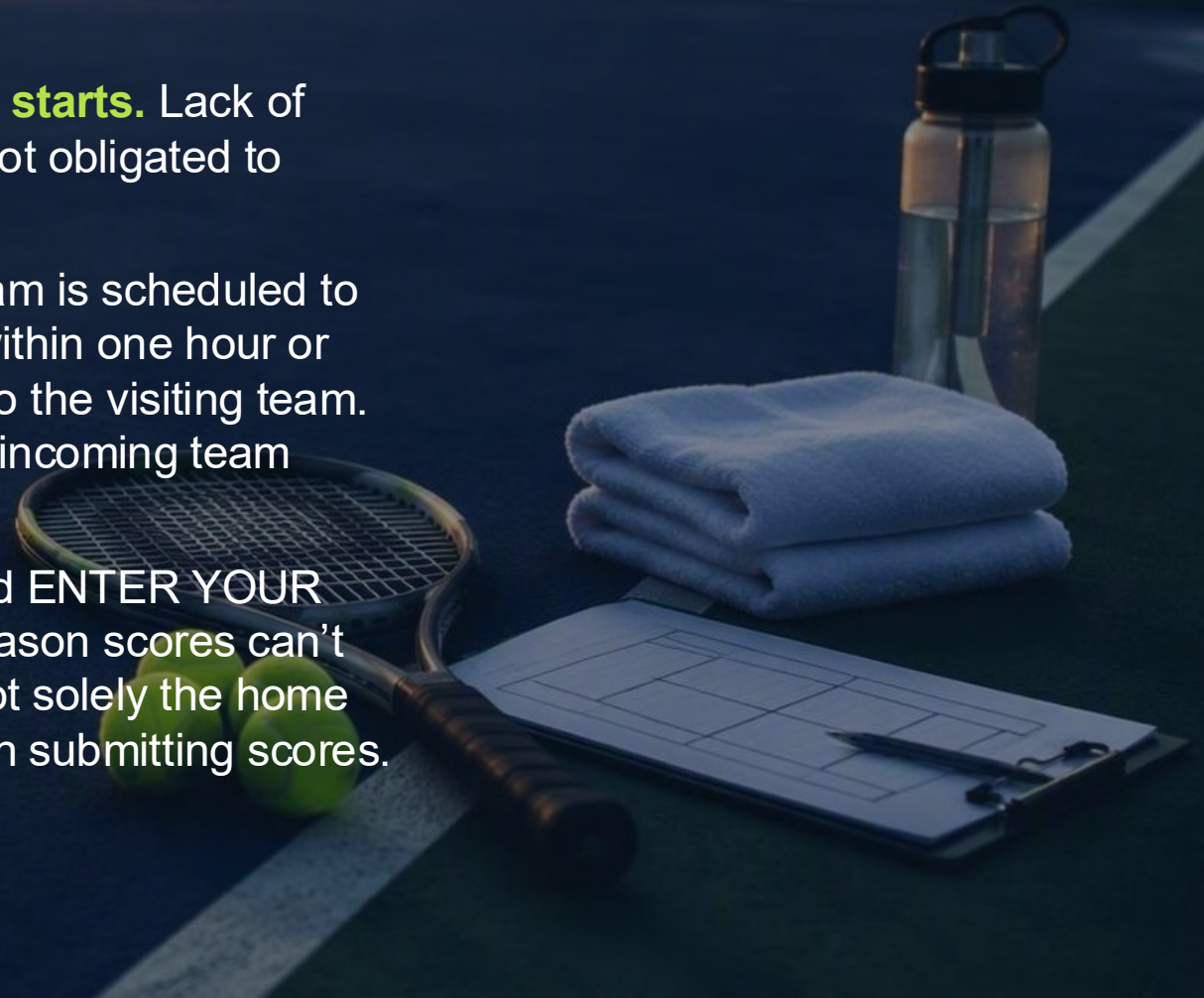
Match Day Essentials

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, 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.



2027 Rule Updates

7B • RECORDING DEVICES

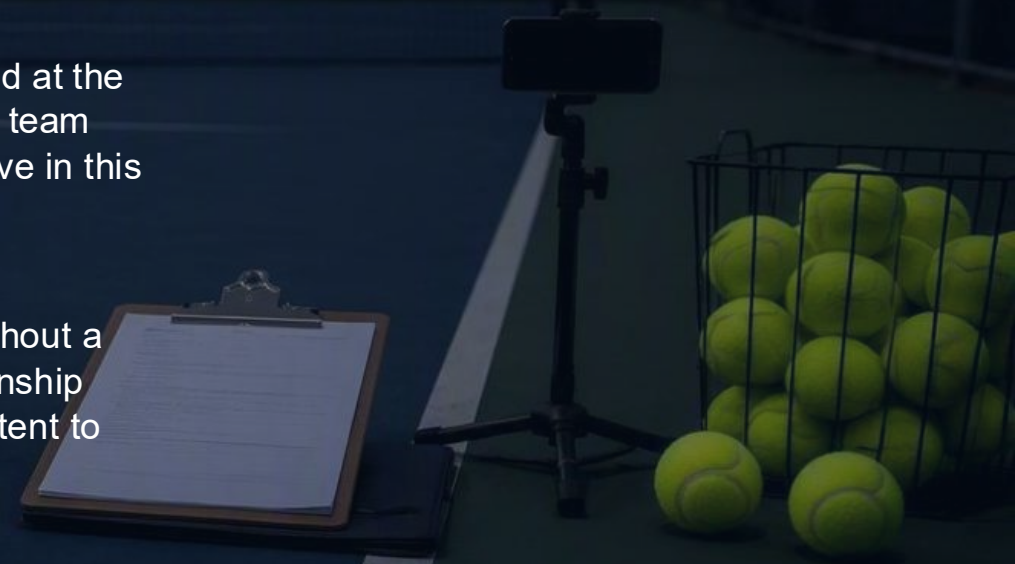
Recording devices must be approved by the facility as well as all players on the court. If one player does not want to be recorded the device must be removed/turned off from the court.

8H • LINE JUDGES

During a match, if a team requests a line judge, one player from each team may stand at the net to assist with line calls and scorekeeping when requested by the players. If no team players are available, any individual mutually agreed upon by the players may serve in this role. Once order has been restored, the line judges must leave the court.

15I • TWO-TEAM LEAGUES

Players who qualify to advance to sectionals or nationals from a two-team league without a local playoff or championship may not participate in another local league championship playoff in the same division. Winning the Fort Worth league declares the team's intent to advance. Violations are subject to grievance and the USTA Point Penalty System.



2027 Rule Updates (Continued)

8D • SCHEDULE CHANGES

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.

VALID MATCH REQUIREMENT

In a 4-line league, at least 2 lines must be played for the match to be considered valid.

2 of 4 lines

minimum for a valid match-in a 4 line league



BEST IN TEXAS • USTA LEAGUE AREA

This Recognition Belongs to All of You

Thank you to our captains, players, facilities, league committee, coordinators, and area pros. Your support strengthens the Fort Worth USTA Leagues—and made this recognition possible.

We appreciate everything you do for tennis in Fort Worth area!

GREATER FORT WORTH TENNIS COALITION



best of texas tennis 2026

**USTA League Area:
Fort Worth**