



# 2023 GFWTC League Regulations

A handbook for captains and players

Greater Ft Worth Tennis Coalition  
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**Bold red underlined  
text represents updates  
since the last revision.**

Revised 12/2022



# All USTA League Regulations, including the following, shall apply to the Greater Ft Worth Tennis League(s)

## 1. Administration

- 1A.** League fee: \$27, plus Tennis Link non-refundable fee.
- 2A.** Leagues fees are non-refundable, unless the level entered does not make; however, they may be transferable, if during the current league season. (Example: Fall 2023 season—transfer league fee to the Spring 2023 league season; however, a Spring 2023 league fee cannot be transferred to the Fall 2024 season. (Tennis Link only allows a player to be moved within the current league season.) Once the schedule is complete, there are no league credits/refunds.
- 3A.** Approved league fee refunds will be issued less an administrative fee(s) and less the Tennis Link non-refundable fee. Absolutely no refunds will be issued at any time during a season for injury, relocation, or lack of play.
- 4A.** A request to transfer the league fee must be sent to the coordinator no later than two weeks after the start date of the league.

## 2. Rosters

- 2A.** All players must have a USTA membership current throughout the league and any championship progression. Please make sure your current address, phone number & last name is correct with USTA membership.
- 2B.** Players may be added to the roster as long as there are two matches remaining in a regular league season.
- 2C.** A player will be considered illegal and disqualified, if a player is not registered on Tennis Link for the current, appropriate team prior to playing a match. (Captain should notify the coordinator and opposing captain when this occurs.)
- 2D.** A team may have one player outside the 50-mile radius of a large city, Ft. Worth, Dallas, San Antonio, Austin, Houston and North Houston. All other cities can have a maximum of two players outside the 50-mile radius from the center of the city. A player is NOT considered out of area if the area where the player resides is without a league/division for the past three years .
- 2E.** *Players should be familiar with the duplicate player rule and review the rules when playing on more than one team/league.*
- 2F.** Team rosters must be made up of 60% of players residing within the Ft Worth playing area. The current Ft Worth playing area includes: 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.

### 3. 50% Rule

**3A.** 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. (A Social League, or the Fall 18+ league are exempt from this rule.)

**3B.** Teams must maintain their rosters with at least 50 percent of its players at the designated NTRP level. The 5.0 League is exempt from this rule, due to the low number of 5.0 players in the league

**3C.** Age Group divisions using combined NTRP levels do not have to comply with this regulation. (55+, 65+ leagues, etc....)

### 4. NTRP Rating

**4A.** A USTA rating is required for league play in all levels. Please visit:

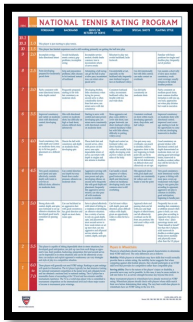
<http://assets.usta.com/assets/639/15/National%20tennis%20Rating%20Program.pdf>

**4B.** Players may play up one NTRP level (.5) above their current NTRP level.

**4C.** For combined NTRP level leagues, such as Mixed 9.0 or 65+ 7.0, the combined NTRP of each doubles line cannot exceed the NTRP rating of the level entered. The NTRP difference between teammates on a line may not exceed 1.0.

**4D.** In the event of an NTRP Dynamic Disqualification from a particular level of play, the following will apply:

- If a self-rated player(s), Medical Appeal and/or Computer Rated Appeal (A) is promoted from a particular level of play, the player shall cease play immediately from the NTRP level being promoted from and graduate to the next higher NTRP level. All prior matches shall stand in good faith.
- Captains and/or teams with TWO (2) or more promoted players within a 12-month period may be subject to an NTRP Grievance and subsequent suspension from USTA leagues.



NTRP Guideline



## 5. Multiple Team Registrations

*\*\*\*Caution to players playing in Ft Worth & Dallas leagues; understand the local rules for playing in the leagues, championship playoffs and sectionals.*

Players playing on 2 different leveled-teams will not be included within the limitations unless stated.

**5A.** Players can play on multiple teams at the same level as long as they are on different days. Players can play on two teams on the same day as long as they are different levels. (For example- you can play on two 4.0 teams if one is Friday, and one is Saturday. You can play on a 4.0 and a 4.5 team on the same day.)

**5B.** Players can play in the Ft Worth, Dallas, & other area leagues at the same time provided they meet the requirements of the local rules.

**5C.** Ft Worth teams will have limitations on the number of primary/secondary players when they are playing on more than one Ft Worth team in the same level.

**5D.** If players play on a two-team league, they must designate which team is primary and play in the playoffs for that team. Players have a responsibility to the team/captain to notify the captain if playing on more than one team and which team is considered primary.

## 6. Duplicate Players

**6A.** 18+ and 40+ Ladies Leagues allow no more than 4 duplicate players on two teams in the same level. If teams violate the duplicate player rule, both teams will be ineligible for playoffs.

**6B.** 55+ Ladies League allows no more than 3 duplicate players on two teams in the same level. If teams violate the duplicate player rule, both teams will be ineligible for playoffs.

*\*\*\*See Playoff Rules for more information regarding duplicate players\*\*\*\**

## 7. Electronic Devices

**7A.** Electronic devices such as cell phones and smart watches 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**)

**7B.** A player may bring to the court written notes that were prepared before the start of the match and may read these notes during the match. While on court or during a match, a player may not receive information via electronic devices capable of receiving communications such as cell phones and smart watches (**USTA Comment 30.1**)



## 8. Match Play

**8A.** There is no coaching in a USTA match

**8B.** All lines must begin play by 15 minutes after the scheduled match time or risk default. Cell phones are the official time device for match play. Each line plays best 2 out of 3 tiebreak sets with a 10pt tiebreak in lieu of a third set. Between points, a maximum of 20 seconds is allowed. A maximum of 90 seconds is allowed on changeovers. There is a 2-minute break after each set. Tiebreaks are considered a continuous game with sitting not allowed during changeovers.

**8C.** 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.

**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 Coordinator with any questions.

**8E.** Indoor or covered courts may be used for home courts or make-up matches. If using indoor the visiting team has the choice of which line will be played indoors if an outside court is unavailable. The home team is responsible for any additional fees incurred from playing scheduled matches indoors, except when playing indoors due to the weather.

**8F.** Written lineups should be filled out and exchanged FIVE (5) minutes prior to match time. Use of cell phones to exchange lineups is not permissible.

**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)

**8H.** 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; if a line is starting or playing the 3rd set match tiebreak, the incoming team will wait until play is finished.

**8I. Defaults:** No line shall begin play before the 15-minute default time unless all players from the higher line (s) are present. Defaults must be from the bottom up, i.e. singles 2 must be defaulted before singles 1, or doubles 3 before doubles 2. Teams or individual players may only move up in a line up.

**8J. Defaults:** Captains should try to notify opposing captains of any defaults at least 48 hours in advance 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.

**8K. Defaults:** If a player fails to appear and no substitute is available, the default will start from the bottom up for singles and/or doubles. The team receiving the default cannot move players. **Exception to defaulting from the bottom include:** when match is played on different days/times, when a player becomes injured during warm up, or an ineligible player causes a default after match time.

**8L. Defaults:** If an injury occurs during warm-up or a player fails to show, then an eligible replacement may be made within the 15-minute default time. The eligible replacement must replace injured or no-show player.



## 8. Match Play (cont'd)

**8M. Entire Team Default:** A team must play a majority of the lines for a match. (USTA Reg 2.01C(3).) 4/5 Line league-must play 3; 3-line league, must play 2 lines. 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. In the case of an extenuating circumstance, the suspension may be appealed to the GFWTC Grievance Committee.

**8N. Medical Time Out:** 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. DETAILED INFORMATION (**Friend at Court - Part 3 USTA Regulations III.E and Table 13**).

## 9. Staggered Courts

**9A.** When facilities must stagger times due to court shortage, the home captain must contact the visiting captain the Sunday before the scheduled match to determine which lines will be played at which time. The visiting team will be given the option as to which line will be played at a later time.

## 10. Neutral Site Match

**10A.** A match may be scheduled at a neutral site when a facility is unavailable for the home-team or the geographic distance is beyond acceptable guidelines. *If due to geographical distance, teams will split the court fees and home team will provide the balls for the match. If a facility is unavailable for a home match after the schedules are printed, the home team will pay the court/ball costs at the new site.*

## 11. Score Entry

1007443976	9/13/2019	11:30 AM	TCU SELLERS
1007443980	9/20/2019	9:30 AM	SO LOFFLAND/ TROTTE
1007444	Date: 9/27/2019 Team: WAG MCCULLOUGH Opponent: TCU SELLERS Action: <a href="#">Print Blank Score</a> <a href="#">View Score</a> <a href="#">Enter Score</a>		WAG MCCULLOUGH
1007444			TCU SELLERS
1007443998	10/18/2019	11:30 AM	TCU SELLERS
1007444004	10/25/2019	9:30 AM	TCU SELLERS

Score Entry on Tennis Link

**11A.** 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 score entry.

**11B.** Notify the coordinator of any scoring dispute within 12 hours.

**11C.** Teams who receive repeated warnings of unposted scores, may be sent to Grievance.



## 12. Inclement/Extreme Weather Guidelines

**12A.** If the wind chill is 32 degrees or below or the heat index 105 degrees, at your match location, the match may be rescheduled if one captain requests it.

**12B.** The official weather reading will be found on the GFWTC website, [www.gfwtennis.com](http://www.gfwtennis.com). Click the “weather forecast” to view the “feels like”, or wind chill/heat index on the day of match only. Enter the zip code under “search locations” for accurate information. Captains should make a determination no earlier than 2 hours prior to the scheduled match time and notify their players accordingly. Once a match has started it must be completed, unless due to rain.

**12C.** In the event of rain or wet courts, all players must be ON SITE unless both captains agree that the match is a rainout.

**12D.** 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

**12E.** 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.

**12F.** 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**.

**12G.** If a minimum of one line has served the first ball, the lineup is locked in and cannot be changed, including any defaults.

**12H.** 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.

CHECK LOCAL WEATHER ← **Effect**

Currently **76°F** Clear  
 Tomorrow **High 93°F** Low **76°F**

forecast provided by **WU WEATHER UNDERGROUND**

Click for Feels Like temperature in the Fort Worth area

Current weather in Southlake Pecan  
 Plantation Mansfield Coppell

**Mens**  
 Fall Leag  
 menslea  
 It is not

Check weather @ [gfwtennis.com](http://gfwtennis.com)



## 13. Rescheduling Makeups

**13A.** If a match is not played or completed on the scheduled date due to weather, Religious Holidays, Thanksgiving Holiday (Saturday or Sunday before and weekend after), **FWUSTA League Playoffs**, FWUSTA Sectionals/Nationals, or spring break (not college spring break), the match must be made up within 2 weeks (14 days) from the match date, unless this is the last match of the season which must be completed within 1 week (7 days). An email must be sent to the coordinator by either captain the day of rain out.

**13B.** Rescheduled matches that are rained out will be allowed a one (1) week extension from the rescheduled date. All matches must be completed one week of the last match of the season or risk default. Email coordinator new date, time and site, failure to provide the new date, time may result in a default of lines not yet played.

**13C.** 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.

**13D.** 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.

**13E.** 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. **Caution to teams agreeing to play a match early—once agreed upon, the match must be played unless a rain out occurs.**

**13F.** Match **continuations** where facilities are greater than 35 miles driving distance **MAY**, by mutual agreement, be played at a neutral facility midway between the involved teams' home facilities.

**13G.** Match **MUST** be rescheduled within 3 days, until midnight of the third day and **BOTH CAPTAINS** must e-mail the coordinator the date, time & site for each rescheduled line. Failure to notify the league coordinator may result in a default of any lines not yet played.

**13H.** If the match is unsuccessfully completed in time period allowed, then the match will be sent to the GFWTC Grievance Committee for a decision.

**13I.** Rescheduled matches can be played at any time; they can be played as a whole or by individual lines on different days.

**13J.** Once a match is rescheduled and confirmed by both captains, the date, time, and site cannot be changed unless it is rained out or weather is too severe. (See **EXTREME WEATHER GUIDELINES**)





## 14. Indoor Courts

**14A.** When both captains agree to play indoors, (*due to weather*) 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/warm up time and tolerant of activities on courts in close proximity to their match.

## 15. League Playoffs (Local)

**15A.** Approved USTA playoff formats will be used for local playoffs.

**15B.** Match Requirements To Qualify for Local League Playoffs, and Sectionals. All Advancing Leagues: Computer Rated Players (C) must play 2 matches on the same team at the same level in the same age group (one default received shall count) to be eligible for Local League Playoffs, and Sectionals. Self-Rated Players (S) and Computer Appealed Rated Players (A) must play 3 matches on the same team at the same level in the same age group with no defaults counting to be eligible for Local League Playoffs, City Championships and Sectionals. An "S" or "A" rated player is eligible to participate in Nationals if they have completed four matches. No defaults will count.

**15C.** Team rosters not in compliance with local league rules, are ineligible for playoffs.

**15D.** Captains will have a 24-hour deadline to accept or decline the bid for playoffs is 24 hours after the bid is made, you must email the coordinator. Captains are required to email the coordinator a list of their primary/secondary players when they are on more than 1 playoff team.

**15E.** Players will be eligible to play on more than one team at the Ft Worth Playoff Championships and at Sectionals PROVIDED that play is at different NTRP levels. However, matches for multiple NTRP levels may be scheduled on the same day and time or at a different location. Schedules will not be adjusted nor will match times be delayed due to waiting on a player that is playing in a different match at another NTRP level.

**15F.** Teams must be able to play all lines (exceptions - last minute illness, injury, or emergency situations). Notify coordinator before playoffs. **Playoff matches may not be rescheduled, unless weather related.**

**15G.** When a player's Ft Worth primary team does not qualify for Playoffs, or declines the bid for playoffs, she can play with her Ft Worth qualified secondary team. This automatically places her as a primary player for that team.

**15H. Caution to players playing in more than one league** Players cannot play on a Ft Worth playoff team if they participate in any other area playoff matches in the same division.



## 15. Playoffs (cont'd)

*Likewise, if a player has qualified for a sectional championship with a team in any other local league, they may not participate in the FW USTA local league playoff/tournament at the same NTRP level.) Violation of this rule is subject to Grievance and may be suspended from Ft Worth, USTA up to 11 months.*

**15I. Caution:** Players who played in the Ft Worth Playoff Championships/Tournament and advancing to Sectionals are primary for that team and cannot switch primary positions if registered on another area winning team in the same division. Violation of this rule is subject to Grievance and may be suspended from Ft Worth, USTA up to 11 months.

**15J.** If a player's team has qualified (Ex: Adult Spring League, Combo/Trilevel) to Sectionals in another area in U.S. before the Ft Worth league has started, they are ineligible to play in a Ft. Worth league/tournament of the same division, regardless if primary or secondary.

**15K. Duplicate Players in Playoffs:** *. If teams violate the duplicate player rule, both teams will be ineligible for playoffs.*

**15L.** 18+ and 40+ Leagues duplicate players' status when both Ft Worth teams (same level) have qualified for playoffs

- a. 2 players - both players can play for the same team.
- b. 3 players - only 2 players can play for the same team.
- c. 4 players - only 2 players can play for the same team.
- d. 5 players - team disqualified from the playoffs (even when only 1 team qualifies).

**15M.** 55+ League duplicate players' status when both Ft Worth teams (same level) have qualified for playoffs.

- a. 2 players -- only 1 player can play for the same team
- b. 3 players – only 2 players can play for the same team
- c. 4 players- team disqualified from playoffs (even when only 1 team qualifies)

**15N.** In leagues where there are fewer teams in a level on one league day (e.g. Friday 55+ League) and multiple teams in the same level on another league day (e.g. Saturday 55+ League), at the league coordinator's discretion, a pre-playoff match may be requested between the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team in the day with fewer matches and the 3<sup>rd</sup> place team in the multiple team league to determine playoff advancement.

**15O. Wildcards** are determined by calculating the highest percentage of total games won/total games played of all 2nd place teams. Defaults are not included in the calculations.

## 16. National Split Up/Move Up

**16A.** Captains and players should be familiar with USTA League National Regulation. "See Texas/National Operating Schedule"



## 17. Grievance

**17A.** Any grievance alleging a violation by an individual or team of (i.) the USTA Constitution and Bylaws; (ii.) the USTA League or Local 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/acting captain/coordinator or league committee.

**17B. The Grievance Report should be filed with the Local League Coordinator WITHIN 5 DAYS** of the alleged violation or within **24 hours** if the grievance occurs on the last match of the league season, whichever comes first. Upon receipt of the grievance, the league coordinator shall immediately email the Grievance Chair, and the party(ies) against whom the Grievance has been filed.

**17C.** The GFWTC 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.

**17D.** The GFWTC 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. **All communications regarding grievances must be in writing only. No texts/phone calls to coordinator allowed.**

Grievance Form

**17E. NTRP Grievance:** If the matter is an NTRP protest, a written protest must be submitted by a **team captain** to Todd Reed, NTRP Coordinator at USTA Texas, [treed@texas.usta.com](mailto:treed@texas.usta.com).

## 18. Know the Rules

**18A.** Captains and players should know the local league rules and be aware of all [USTA National & Texas Operating Procedures](#), [Friend at Court](#) guidelines, and [The Code](#).

**18B.** Any issues not explicitly addressed in this handbook shall be left to the discretion of the grievance committee.

**18C.** Coordinators may interpret any rule that needs clarification

## Captain's Responsibilities

1. Choose a facility for your team's home matches and obtain permission from that facility before requesting a team number. Request a new team number prior to each league season through the coordinator.
2. All matches should be played at approved facilities by the GFWTC Board.
3. Recruit enough players to meet the initial roster deadline.
4. Notify the team of league schedule, neutral site matches for the league.
5. Know the local league rules, The Code from Friend at Court, and Texas Operating Schedule.
6. Ensure that team is adhering to all regulations and requirements during league play (Rosters/Player eligibility)
7. Verify your roster on Tennis Link before allowing players to participate in league matches.
8. Make sure your contact information is up-to-date in Tennis Link.
9. Establish line-ups for league matches and inform team members. Exchange line-up at the designated match time and confirm opponents. **KNOW THE RULES FOR DEFAULTING LINES.**
10. Captains should try to advise their opposing captain of any known defaults at least 48 hours before the scheduled match. Exchange contact information for any acting captain prior to match.
11. Advise players they are responsible for their own water.
12. Email your coordinator if you are unsure of any rule or need interpretation.



## Player's Responsibilities

1. Register for your team using Tennis Link before participating in a league match. Be sure your membership is current through the entire length of the league season; otherwise, you must renew your membership to register for the team.
2. If applicable, declare your primary team with your captain, prior to the start of the season if you play on multiple teams.
3. Before match play, confirm you are on the correct court playing the correct opponents by introducing yourself to your opponent(s).
4. Silence your cell phone.
5. 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.
6. Start your match on time.

