

NO OREGON - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Below are items that have come up several times last year. National and PNW rules do not always address these issues but you can find them in the **FRIEND AT COURT Rules and Regulations Handbook** and **The Code** (which begins on page 45 of Friend at Court. Go to www.usta.com, select the link to Tournaments and League, link to Officials and then click on the Friend at Court and click on pdf version of Friend at Court or you can buy a book through the USTA office in Beaverton, OR for **\$7.00**

Playing on Multiple Teams:

- Nationals authorize players to compete at more than one NTRP level within a specific league. The PNW allows league players to play on more than one team at the same NTRP level in the same season provided it is in separate areas of the PNW (i.e. on both a No. Oregon team and a So. Oregon team)
- When local leagues are divided into flights, players may not play in more than one flight at the same level. (See PNW 3.4)
- Players who qualify on more than one team at the same level must select one team to play on at Sectional Championships. They are not allowed to play on both teams.

50% Rule:

The PNW limits the number of players that appear on a team roster at a specific NTRP level. At the time of the first local league match and all subsequent matches 50% of the players on the roster must be rated "in level". Teams that have advanced to National Championships are exempt from complying with the 50% rule for one year. In that following year there can be no additions or deletions to the roster. (See PNW 3.3) The 50% rule does not apply to "combo" leagues (6.0, 7.0, etc. – mixed, senior mixed or super senior)

Inability to Field a Full Team:

Always approach a scheduled match expecting your full team to play. If an opposing captain calls to tell you about an expected default, the default does not take effect until the time of the actual match. The opponent may still bring a full team to play the match, so be prepared.

Although you are not required to let your opponent know when you cannot field a full team for a match, we recommend that you notify your opponent if you are absolutely certain one or more of your players will not be able to play. You and your opponent may be able to cancel the court and avoid fees for any courts you do not use (some facilities charge for the courts). Always play as many matches as you can.

Remember to default from the bottom (i.e. the third doubles position or second singles position). For example if you have a first doubles team that does not show up you move the 2nd and 3rd doubles teams to 1st and 2nd positions.

If a team defaults an entire match for any reason during the round robin play, then all matches for that team played or to be played, shall be null and void. (See PNW Rules and Regulations) This means that the team is taken out of Stats and Standings as though they never played in the league. However, if a flight has multiple round robin play, then the team default will only apply to the round robin where it occurred and the team will remain eligible to continue play in the following round robins. We encourage you not to default an entire match but try to reschedule it as it does affect the standings of both the teams and players. The results of any completed matches will stay in the system for rating purposes. (See PNW 1.5 and PNW 13.5)

Rescheduled Matches:

See the No Oregon Reschedule Guidelines on the pnw.usta.com website.

Facility Time limitations and Tie Breaks:

No. Oregon recommends that you stay on the same side of the net during each set (including tie-breaks). This is to save time since court times are limited at several facilities. It is allowed for players to take a quick drink of water and towel off on odd number of games. The exception for this rule applies to the Senior Mixed matches which are played outdoors. Any outdoors matches will continue to use the Coman procedure. (Switch at: 1, 5, 9, etc.) There is NO coaching during any break or changeover.

Making Calls:

Calls must be made after the ball has bounced, not before. During a point if a player thinks a ball is going out he/she should say **bounce it** or **watch it** before it bounces on your side of the court as you might find that the ball actually falls in. New this year in "The Code" is if a player calls a ball out and then reverses the call when he/she realizes that the ball is good, the point goes to the opponent and it is not replayed. However, when a receiver reverses a fault call on a serve that hits the net, the server is entitled to two serves

Foot Faults:

Since USTA league matches are un-officiated, the receiver or receiver's partner may call foot faults only after the server has been warned at least once and the request for an official has failed. This call should be made only when the receiver or receiver's partner is absolutely certain and the foot faulting is so flagrant as to be clearly perceptible from the receiver's side. The plea that a server should not be penalized because the server only touched the line and did not rush the net is not acceptable. Habitual foot faulting, whether intentional or careless, is just as surely cheating as is making a deliberate bad line call. In the event the foot faulting continues, the Pacific Northwest league rules allow teams up to two court monitors to stand at the net and to ONLY make calls when asked.

Cell Phones:

If the phone rings during the point, the opponent may stop the point and claim the point based on deliberate hindrance. If the cell phone rings between points, the interruption is treated as a Time Violation warning or point penalty depending on whether a previous Time Violation has been issued. In both cases the player shall turn off the cell phone. There is no penalty for a vibrating phone, but the player should immediately turn off the phone unless the Referee has specifically authorized the player to wear a cell phone in vibrate mode.

Warm up:

Warm up is not practice. (Code 3) A player should provide the opponent a warm-up. If a player refuses to warm up the opponent, the player forfeits the right to a warm-up. Some players confuse warm-up and practice. Each player should make a special effort to hit shots directly to the opponent. (If partners want to warm each other up while their opponents are warming up, they may do so).

Warm-up serves and returns are taken before the first serve of the match. (Code 4) A player should return them at a moderate pace in a manner that does not disrupt the server. There is a **10 minute** time limit for the warm up period.

Length of Time Between Points:

We encourage continuous play and times should **NEVER** exceed.

Between points	20 seconds
Between games	90 seconds
Between sets	2 minutes

<u>Late to the Match:</u>	5 minutes or less late:	Loss of service toss plus one game
	5:01 - 10 minutes late:	Loss of service toss plus 2 games
	10 or more minutes late:	Default

If not all three or five courts are available and a second round is necessary, the late penalty is applied at the time the court is available for play not at a specified time. If any of your players are planning to arrive at a later time, make sure they arrive in plenty of time, if for some reason a match ends early.

Registration:

Your USTA membership needs to be current through the end of local league playoffs. If it is not Tennislink will prompt you renew your annual membership.

Coaching:

There is no coaching allowed at any time during a USTA league match and that includes between sets and games. Below are examples of what is and is not considered coaching.

Examples of coaching are:

- Nice shot, way to come in
- Great serve to the backhand
- Keep poaching
- Good move forward

Examples of encouragement (not coaching) are:

- Great shot
- Great game
- Way to go
- Nice playing

Medical Time Out:

If a player is injured or becomes ill prior to or during warm up, then a team may substitute a player for that injured player. This is the only time a scorecard can be changed.

If a player becomes injured or ill during play, the player may either evaluate or have someone evaluate the situation and once evaluated, will have three minutes to treat the injury. The maximum time allowed is 15 minutes but that is used in the event a player has to leave the court for the three minute treatment in order to maintain privacy. If a player cannot resume play after 15 minutes, then the player must retire.

While the injured player has every right to treat the injury, it is also important to recognize that the opponent is also at a disadvantage while waiting to resume play. Therefore, the injured player must resume play as soon as possible. Players may not leave the court without telling the opponent that they are sick and must return within the designated time frame, no coaching is allowed.

Keeping Track of the Game Score:

In order to avoid scoring issues, it is **ALWAYS** best to call out the score prior to serving and when changing the net scorecards to make sure all parties are in agreement.

Disputes over the score shall be resolved by using one of the following methods, which are listed in the order of preference.

- Count all points and games agreed upon by the players and replay only disputed points or games

- Play from a score mutually agreeable to all players
- Spin a racket or toss a coin

All points played in good faith are counted. (Code 2) For example, if after losing a point, a player discovers that the net was four inches too high, the point stands. If a point is played from the wrong court, there is no replay. If during a point, a player realizes that a mistake was made at the beginning (for example, service from the wrong court), the player shall continue playing the point. Corrective action may be taken only after a point has been completed. Shaking hands at the end of a match is an acknowledgement by the players that the match is over.

TennisLink

Any changes made on TennisLink for the quarter hour are not possible. The time will be posted at the ½ hour prior to that time. For example a 5:45 match time will be posted as 5:30

Incomplete match

At some facilities at the end of the scheduled match time, the court is reserved for the next team or member and the match cannot be completed. The procedure is for the players involved to schedule another time to complete the match. The match can be completed at any mutually agreeable location (which includes outside courts). Home teams are encouraged to book an extra court time at the end of their match if at all possible. Should this happen, please notify the league coordinator of the situation and when the match will be resumed. Scores will be entered on TennisLink at the completion of all matches played. We encourage teams to finish the match as soon as possible.

Captains Responsibilities

One week prior to any match both captains are responsible to call the other prior to the match to confirm the date, time, directions, number of courts to be used and any other pertinent information. Encourage your players to arrive 30 minutes early for the match. There could be courts available so you can start early and you want to make sure all your players are there before you exchange lineups. Meet with the opposing Captain and review the ground rules for the match. If you are the home team, make sure that you bring three or five cans of unopened USTA approved tennis balls for each match.

Exchange Line-up

Captains should wait until all players have arrived before exchanging the line-up. In the event that player(s) have not arrived at the time of the scheduled match, the captain must place the missing player(s) at either the second singles and/or third doubles positions. It is at this time the late penalty will begin. Captains are to complete their half of the line-up on their own scorecard and exchange the scorecard with the opposing captain. The captains then complete the line-up of their opponents. Both teams now have the full line-ups for recording scores at the completion of the match. If at the match start time, one captain has not exchanged his/her complete line-up, the opposing captain **can** enact the point penalty system for lateness (see Captain's letter). Once lineups are exchanged there are to be no changes to the lineups unless a player gets injured or sick during the warm up period. You are then allowed to substitute a player and they have the allowable warm up time.

Recording Scores

Both captains are responsible for recording the score. Don't wait for the winning team or home team to do it. The first captain who logs onto TennisLink records the scores. The other captain should check to make sure the names and scores are correct and then confirm or dispute them. If there is an incorrect entry, contact your local league coordinator to get it corrected. TennisLink does not allow you to go

back in and change information once it is entered. If scores are not verified after 48 hours, it will be automatically confirmed by the computer. **Report all scores within 48 hours after your match,**

Self-Rating

If a player only played mixed doubles in 2010, that person has a "M" (Mixed Exclusive) computer rating and will be asked to complete the self-rating questionnaire prior to being able to sign up for an Adult or Senior team. The rating you will receive will be the higher of the results of the questionnaire or your last known rating from prior seasons.

Appealing a Self Rate

When a player registers for a team without a rating, the system will ask them to self rate through a series of questions. Based on the answers, the system will give them a rating. If he/she feels the rating given is too low, they can choose a higher rating using the drop down menu.

If they feel the rating given is too high, they can hit the appeal button and it will take them to the appeal form. Fill out the appeal form. The appeal will be reviewed within four days.

If the player did not appeal during the initial self-rate process:

- They can appeal **UP** anytime by going to "Find a Rating" on TennisLink and entering their USTA number.
- They can appeal **DOWN** by filling out the appeal form a second time by registering for a "dummy team". The team number for this team is 6007712017. When it tells you your rating is too high, you can hit the appeal button and fill out the appeal form and put down all the reasons why your rating is invalid. Send that in and cancel out of the rest of registration as you are not really registering for the team. You are only using it to get to the appeal button.

Self rate appeals may take several days to review. Early registration is encouraged for this reason. **IF YOUR SELF-RATE APPEAL HAS BEEN GRANTED, you must play at that rating.**

Ratings do not automatically change on the rosters. Contact ustaappeals@aol.com to update the roster. Provide your full name, USTA number, zip code and your team number, league, level and gender along with the request to change your newly appealed rating on the team roster.

If you have already played a match and you appealed up, you will need to play at the new higher rating.

Appealing a Computer Rating

You can appeal your computer rating by going to TennisLink and search under "Find an NTRP Rating". When you enter your USTA number, you will see your rating and an appeal button. Click on the appeal button. If your rating is within 0.05 for those under 60 and, .10 for those over 60 and have not played a certain number of matches, (the number is unavailable) it will automatically be granted. Once you do this you cannot go back. A player with a local benchmark can appeal. Any player who participated in either Sectionals or Nationals and received a Benchmark rating **CANNOT** appeal

If you have a computer rating and your auto-appeal down is granted prior to your first match, you can play at that lower level. Remember to send this to ustaappeals@aol.com to have the roster updated.

- **If you have a computer rating and your auto-appeal down is granted after your first match, you will remain at the original higher rating you registered at.**

- **If you have appealed down and have not played a match you will need to contact ustaappeals@aol.com so that it can be changed on the roster.**

No early start league player is protected from being DQ'd even if they have a B or C rating. Captains must be aware that any team player whose rating was elevated at year end may be subject to three strike disqualification.

Early Start Player Ratings and Year End Ratings

Those areas of the PNW that begin league play prior to January 1 of the year in which they progress to the National Championships are considered playing in an early start league. Players who are found to have higher year end ratings than when they signed up for the team may continue their participation at that level **UNLESS** their year-end rating reaches the “clearly above level mark.” If it does, they too must adjust to that new level.

Mixed vs. Computer Ratings

If you play only mixed your rating will be “M” for mixed exclusive. If you play 3 or more adult, senior or super senior matches (collectively), the results from any mixed matches that you play will not be calculated into your rating. You will receive a “C” computer rating. If you played in post-season play (Playoffs, Sectionals, Nationals) then you will receive a “B” benchmark rating. Anyone who has a National benchmark rating will not be allowed to appeal under any circumstances during the next year.

Changing membership Information

If you need to change your email address, mailing address or phone number, you can email your request to memberservices@usta.com or call 800-990-8782. If you are uncertain what is on file with USTA, print a copy of your roster. Remember to sign in as captain first with your USTA number and password so that your roster will have the names, phone numbers and addresses of all your teammates. This can also be done on line with the new TennisLink system.

Frequently Asked Links (FAL's)

2012 PNW USTA League Rules and Regulations:

[http://assets.usta.com/assets/646/15/USTA%20League PNW%20regs%20for%202012.pdf](http://assets.usta.com/assets/646/15/USTA%20League%20PNW%20regs%20for%202012.pdf)

PNW Residency Rule – page 3

PNW Refund Policy – page 1

Player Eligibility for Local League Playoffs, Sectionals and Nationals – page 4-5

Friend at Court

<http://assets.usta.com/assets/1/15/2011FAC-Kaufman.pdf>

Hindrance

Captain's Page

<http://www.pnw.usta.com/USTA-League/N-Oregon-Captains-information/>