



PACIFIC NORTHWEST

RE: USTA Pacific Northwest sanctions for USTA League total team defaults

Dear USTA League Captain:

Total team match defaults are a violation of good sportsmanship and the Player Agreement that each player agrees to abide by when they register to play in any USTA League. This Player Agreement is an implicit commitment by the player to complete the USTA season in which they are competing and for the team to provide a match for each opponent as scheduled.

Teams default matches for a myriad of reasons. Sometimes players' schedules are such that an entire line-up cannot be put together. Sometimes teams fall to the bottom of standings and lose interest. Sometimes teams are stuck in traffic and are late to arrive. Sometimes players have to quit playing on the team.

In any event, when a team defaults an entire match it has adverse and sometimes unintended consequences for each and every other team playing in that flight.

You may not be aware that when a team defaults a match, standings may be affected. Teams may be moved up or down in the standings by no fault of their own.

Because of this adverse effect, the USTA Pacific Northwest Section has implemented sanctions to be placed on teams who default entire matches. During local league play, ***for the first total team default the captain and team will receive a warning. If this team or any other team, managed by this same captain, defaults an entire match a second time, even if in another year or season, the captain will be fined \$100.*** This hefty fine is to underscore the severity of defaulting entire matches. The fine increases to \$200 if the team default occurs at a USTA League Sectional Championship.

We would encourage you to contact your USTA Local League Coordinator if you find yourself unable to provide a full line-up. Remember, it only takes 4 players to field a complete team, 3 at the 2.5 or 5.0 levels. It may not be the best of all scenarios for your team but it is far better than defaulting the entire match and affecting all other teams in your flight.

We sincerely appreciate your cooperation and continued participation in USTA League.

Sincerely,

Linda Temple, Chair
Section Grievance Committee
USTA Pacific Northwest