



## CARIBBEAN TENNIS ASSOCIATION USTA ADULT/SENIOR/SUPER SENIOR/MIXED LEAGUE ULES FOR 2007

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### 1) **Applicability**

These regulations and those published by the USTA, will rule all Adult, Senior, Super Senior and Mixed League events that are sanctioned by the Districts and the Caribbean Section during the 2007 calendar year.

### 2) **Definitions**

- a) **CTA** – Caribbean Tennis Association
- b) **Friends at Court** – Published once a year by the USTA where you can find the USTA Rules and Regulations for competition. The version applicable for 2007 is that which is published in that year.
- c) **NTRP**- National Tennis Rating Program
- d) **Point Penalty System** – Established system to penalize violations to the USTA Rules and Regulations and which can be found in the Friend at Court, Part 3, Section IP.
- e) **PRTA** – Asociación de Tenis de Puerto Rico
- f) **Senior** – 50 & over player
- g) **Super Senior** – 60 & over player
- h) **Tennislink** – Official system to register league teams and sponsored by the USTA.
- i) **USTA** – United States Tennis Association

### 3) **Eligibility:**

- a) **Be a USTA member.**
- b) **Age:**
  - i. **Adult and Mixed Leagues** – The player must have reached the age of nineteen before or during the calendar year in which he/she plays her first local league match.
  - ii. **Senior League** - The player must have reached the age of fifty before or during the calendar year in which he/she plays her first local league match.
  - iii. **Super Senior League** - The player must have reached the age of sixty before or during the calendar year in which he/she plays her first local league match.
- c) **Classification or NTRP level of play:**
  - i. Players entering the USA League Tennis Program are defined as having an NTRP computer rating or as new/returning players without a computer rating. Once a player is assigned a computer rating derived in accordance with USTA NTRP Computer Methodology Procedures that computer rating is valid for three years for players 59 years old and under and two (2) years for players 60 years and over, or until another rating is generated.
  - ii. Players who do not have a computer generated rating for 2003 or after shall self rate in accordance with the National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) Guidelines and declare their self-rating on Tennislink when registering for a team. When attempting to register for a team in Tennislink and you do not have an NTRP classification, the system will automatically guide you to a questionnaire to assist you in correctly classifying yourself. If the system classifies you in a higher NTRP level than the one you are declaring, you may appeal within the same system. The Section will reply to your appeal within a minimum of three weeks.
  - iii. Players who are or were good athletes and who have the intention of taking tennis lessons and practicing should be aware of the fact that their progress could be significant enough so as to improve their auto-classification at the end of the local or sectional season to avoid being NTRP disqualified, these players should enter at a higher level at the start of the local league season.

### 4) **Teams:**

#### a) **Divisions:**

- i. A team shall consist of a minimum and maximum of players of the same gender for the adult and senior league, eligible to compete at a specific NTRP level . and of the gender corresponding to the team you are participating in. If a player wishes, he/she may play in more than one NTRP category, under his/her responsibility, and if a conflict arises regarding the date that games are to be played, the player will have to choose in which team he/she will play on that occasion.
- ii. The Super Senior League is grouped based on an NTRP combination of 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, and 9.0 and by same gender. All matches in this league are doubles and the sum of the NTRP classification of each player will determine the level that team may participate in. (Example: two players with classifications of 3.0 and 2.5 are eligible to participate in the 6.0 division). A doubles team will not be allowed if there is more than one point difference between both NTRP categories. (Example: a 2.5 player and a 4.0 player cannot play in the 7.0 division). Also, all players must be of the gender corresponding to the team you are participating in. If a player wishes, he/she may play in more than one NTRP category, under his/her responsibility, and if a conflict arises regarding the date that games are to be played, the player will have to choose in which team he/she will play on that occasion.
- iii. Mixed league teams are composed of players of both genders. All matches in this league are doubles and the sum of the NTRP classification of each player will determine the level that team may participate in. A doubles team will not be allowed if there is more than one point difference between both NTRP categories. (Example: a 2.5 player and a 4.0 player cannot play in the 7.0 division). If a player wishes, he/she may play in more than one NTRP category, under his/her responsibility, and if a conflict arises regarding the date that games are to be played, the player will have to choose in which team he/she will play on that occasion. The divisions or groups in this league are:

Group	Combinations
5.0	2.5 and 2.5
6.0	3.0 & 3.0, 2.5 & 3.0, 2.5 & 2.5 3.5 & 2.5
7.0	3.0 & 4.0, 3.0 & 3.5, 3.5 & 3.5
8.0	3.5 & 4.0, 4.0 & 4.0, 3.5 & 3.5 4.5 & 3.5
9.0	4.5 & 4.5, 5.0 & 4.0, 4.0 & 4.0, 4.5 & 4.0
10.0	5.0 & 5.0, 5.0 & 4.0, 5.0 & 4.5, 4.5 & 5.5

b) **Minimum Number of Players:**

The minimum number of players in a team is:

- i. Adult League:
  - a. 2.5 and 5.0 NTRP – 5 players
  - b. 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 & 4.5 – 8 players
- ii. Senior League – 6 players
- iii. Super Senior League – 6 players
- iv. Mixed League – 6 players, of which three must be male and three female.

c) **Captains:**

- i. All teams must have a captain. If a person captains more than one team, he/she must have a representative for every other team at the Captains meeting and no person may represent more than one team. These representatives must be authorized and will be responsible for doing the itinerary for the other team.
- ii. Captains will also be responsible for their players' conduct and may be penalized, without exception, as a result of any unacceptable conduct. The applicable disciplinary measures will be taken, in accordance with the seriousness of the offense. It will be the Captain's responsibility to properly identify his/her players involved in an incident.
- iii. It is the responsibility of the captain to adequately identify their players if so required by an interested party. Documents that legally support the identity of that player must be provided through the Captain.

d) **Participation:**

Without regard for their position in a flight, all teams are required to play all matches that are scheduled in the itinerary for that season. A team that losses by default on two different occasions, will be penalized for the following league year.

5) **Format, Scheduling and Scoring:**

a) **Format** – Round Robin

b) **Schedule** – Any NTRP level will be divided into flights and each team will play against all the teams in the same flight as follows: Two times if the flight consists of 5 teams or more and three (3) times if the flight consists of four (4) teams or less. When a third encounter takes place, the two captains shall reach an agreement as to where they will play and expenses will be divided equally.

c) **Scoring** - One (1) point for each encounter won. The team that has the greater amount of encounters won will go to the Sectionals as Team Number One. In the case of a tie between teams, the following format will be used to determine the winner:

- i. **Individual Matches** - Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.
- ii. **Sets** - Loser of the fewest number of sets.
- iii. **Games** - Loser of the fewest number of games.
- iv. **Head to Head** - Winner of head to head match.

6) **Encounters:**

a) **Courts**– A minimum of two courts must be available for each encounter. If the Home Team captain will use more courts for an encounter, he must notify the Visiting Team captain 24 hours in advance of how many courts will be used. The Visiting Team captain must agree even if this means that the 3 or 5 matches will take place at the same time.

b) **Encounter expenses** - The home team is responsible for all expenses, including providing a new can of balls for each match, court fees, water and refreshments. Alcoholic beverages will not be permitted during league games.

c) **Umpires** – Captains who wish to have an umpire present at an encounter should call Mr. Hector Figueroa a 787 644-3095 and reach an agreement as to the rate that will be charged. This expense shall be the sole responsibility of the captain that requests this service. As a courtesy, said captain must advise the opposing captain that an umpire will be present at their encounter.

d) **Lineup** – At the previously established match time, the captains of each team will simultaneously exchange the team match cards before the start of the match.

e) **Order of play:**

- i. Adult League
  - Singles number 1
  - Doubles number 1
  - Doubles number 2
  - Singles number 2
  - Doubles number 3
- ii. Senior, Super Senior & Mixed Leagues
  - Doubles number 1
  - Doubles number 2
  - Doubles number 3

f) **Coaching is NOT** permitted at any time except if there is a rain delay.

- g) **Scoring and Rest** - All matches will be the best of three sets, with regular scoring and a Coman tie-break at 6-all in each set. In the event of split sets, a match tie-break shall be played in lieu of a third set. A Match Tie Break is the first player to reach 10 points, winning by two points. There is a two minute set break with NO coaching allowed. (The tie-break shall be scored as 1-0). The scoring in the event of a default, forfeit or disqualification shall be 6-0, 6-0.

Explanation of a Coman Tie Break – It is just as a regular tie break, except that players change sides of court after the first point and then after each four points played. Scoring is the same as a regular tie break or a match tie break.

- h) **Violations and Penalties** - The point penalty system will be utilized.
- i) **Cellular phones** – The use of cellular phones by players or sounds made by their phones on the court and during a match is prohibited. Players who infringe this rule will be penalized according to the Point Penalty System.
- First violation* – Player and/or team who owns the cellular will lose a point
  - Second Violation* - Player and/or team who owns the cellular will lose a game
  - Third Violation* - Player and/or team who owns the cellular will lose a set
  - Fourth violation* - Player and/or team who owns the cellular will lose the match
- j) **Reporting of Scores** - The winning team will connect with the internet, within 72 hours (after conclusion of the complete encounter), to inform the scores of the encounter. It is the responsibility of the losing Captain to confirm the results registered by the winning Captain within 48 hours after the winning Captain enters these scores. If the losing Captain does not confirm within 48 hours, he/she will not have the right to appeal.
- k) **Rain Delay** – In the event of a rain delay, the following rules shall apply:
- Only one rain delay per encounter will be allowed. If both captains agree to stay and play, they can do so. as long as this agreement is put in writing and signed by both captains. Example: An encounter is scheduled for 2:00 PM, play has started and it rains. The encounter is postponed for two hours. Play is once again initiated at 4:30 PM, but it rains again. The visiting team is not obligated to wait until the rain stops in order to continue the encounter. The same will apply for evening play when the waiting time is one (1) hour.
  - If the captains cannot reach an agreement, the League Coordinator will be notified no later than three days after the match has been suspended. The Coordinator will proceed to schedule the match and this decision will be final. The match must be scheduled to be played no later than 30 days after the suspension of this match and before the last day allowed to play league matches.**
  - The home team is responsible for drying the courts after the rain has stopped. The suspended match must be played within the following thirty (30) calendar days after its suspension. Matches will not be accepted past the last day allowed to play league matches, except for extreme weather conditions, and in this case cannot be played no later than five days after its suspension.**
- l) **Suspended matches** - Once a match in the official schedule is suspended (due to weather or for any other reason ) both captains should agree on an alternate new date, hour and site to start or continue that match. This new date should be agreed upon that same day. Both captains must sign the agreement reached and send this via fax to the attention of Brenda Rivera at the PRTA office (787-982-7783), no later than three (3) days after the suspension date. The captains must notify of the agreement reached or that they did not reach an agreement.
- If the agreement is not notified in the established timeline, a double default will be given to both teams and the League Coordinator will automatically enter this in the system.
- The date agreed to between both captains must be within the thirty day after the suspension of the match and before the last day allowed to schedule matches.
- The change in schedule submitted by both captains must be entered into the system by the League Coordinator so that all other captains are aware of these changes.
- If an agreement is reached by captains to schedule and play a match past the thirty days after the suspension and without the consent of the League Coordinator, the results of this match will be null and will count as a loss to both teams.

7. **Minimum Requirements to participate in Sectional or National Championships:**

- a) **Adult League:** In order for a player to participate in the Sectional Championships he/she must have played two or more matches in that team and one of those matches must not have been decided by a default. In order to play in the National Championships, the player must have played at least three or more matches in that team, including matches played at Sectional Championships and three of these matches must not have been decided by a default. See insert at end of page.
- Senior League:
  - In order for a player to participate in the Sectional Championships he/she must have played two or more matches in that team and one of those matches must not have been decided by a default. In order to play in the National Championships, the player must have played at least three or more matches in that team, including matches played at Sectional Championships and three of these matches must not have been decided by a default. See insert at end of page.
  - Super Senior League:
  - In order for a player to participate in the Sectional Championships he/she must have played one or more matches in that team. In order to play in the National Championships, the player must have played two or more matches in that team, including matches played at Sectional Championships and at least one of these matches must not have been decided by a default. See insert at end of page
  - Mixed League:
  - In order for a player to participate in the Sectional and National Championships he/she must have played two or more matches in that team. No restriction in regards to how many matches decided by default are permitted. See insert at end of page.

**2007 MATCHES REQUIRED TO ADVANCE**

USTA League Division	<i>ANY CHAMPIONSHIP LEVEL</i>		<i>NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP</i>	
	MATCHES	DEFAULTS	MATCHES	DEFAULTS
	To advance to <b>any</b> championship level through Section Championship	Defaults counting to advance to any championship level through Section Championship	To advance to <b>National Championship</b>	Defaults counting to advance to National Championship
<b>Adult</b>	2 matches	1 default may count	3 matches	NO defaults
<b>Senior</b>	2 matches	1 default may count	3 matches	NO defaults
<b>Mixed</b>	2 matches	2 defaults may count	2 matches	2 defaults may count
<b>Super Senior</b>	Section option	Section option	2 matches	1 default may count

A RETIRED Match shall count for all participants

8. **Sectional Championships** - Scorecards must be handed in to the Coordinator half an hour before the time stipulated for the encounter. If not done, the encounter shall be defaulted in its entirety in favor of the other team. The Team Captain is responsible for complying with this rule. A minimum of four team members must be available and eligible to compete at these Championships.

When there is only one flight in a certain category, the team that comes in as Team number 1 will only have to defeat Team number 2 once, but the Team that comes in as Number 2, must defeat Team Number 1 twice in order to be declared the Sectional Champions.

9. **National Championships**  
The Sectional Champion is obligated to represent its category at Nationals. If the winning team decides they will not travel to National Championships, they should have a valid justification and should notify in writing to the League Coordinator no later than 30 days after the conclusion of Sectional Championships so as to give the runner up team the opportunity to travel. The USTA/Caribbean Section will provide some funds to the teams traveling to National Competitions.

10. **Disqualification**
- a) **NTRP Disqualification Procedures:** During local league competition and at every level of championship competition below national championships, computer ratings will be calculated for all players to determine if any players have reached the disqualification criteria using the USTA NTRP Computer Methodology Procedures. Players will be NTRP disqualified if they reach the disqualification **level three times** based on all matches reported in the national database for Adult and Senior Divisions. A team captain, league coordinator or member of the championships committee who feels a player is clearly above level may request a Player Review by the appropriate coordinator to determine the NTRP status of the player.
- b) Local League NTRP Disqualification:  
Any player who obtains a third strike will be disqualified and will not be able to play in the Sectional Championships.  
These Players will be notified immediately by the administrator and will have the right to appeal. The match that produced the strike and the previous and subsequent matches will be considered losses and will be awarded to the opposing team. Remember that strikes are accumulated up to and including the sectional championships.  
Players who are NTRP disqualified may be allowed to move up and participate on another team at a higher NTRP level during that same local league season.
- c) Mixed League - Any player disqualified from the adult or senior division may not play at the disqualified NTRP level of play in the USA League Tennis Mixed Doubles division (and any lower level of play) for the remainder of the league year and for up to three years unless a new NTRP

computer rating is generated. A disqualified player becomes a benchmark. A player may not be disqualified based on match results from the Mixed Doubles division. Mixed league matches will not count towards generating a final NTRP rate, except if that player has only played Mixed league in that year. Players that have only participated in Mixed League and decide to play the following year in the adult and/or senior division, must play in the computer generated NTRP category.

- d) NTRP Disqualification during sectional championships in single elimination: The section may disqualify players during the sectionals. If a player is disqualified during sectionals, the last match played by that individual will be considered a loss and a victory will be awarded to the opposing player or team. For more detailed information please refer to the USA League Regulations for the current year.
- e) **PENALTIES IN ELLIGIBLE DISQUALIFICATIONS:**
  - i. If the disqualifications takes place within 24 hours before the League concludes, all the encounters in which the player participated will be eliminated.
  - ii. If the disqualifications take place 24 hours after the League concludes, the encounters will prevail but the player will not be able to participate in sectionals and/or nationals.
- f) Procedures for appeal and NTRP disqualification related to the level of play of an individual.  
You may appeal a year old NTRP National Benchmark if this rating falls within the parameters for appeal.

**11. Complaints, Appeals and Fair Play Procedure:**

- a) **Procedures:** All complaints alleging a violation during the League must be initiated, in writing, and submitted to the Committee Chairman before the start of the next match against the team with which the player under investigation plays, or within 24 hours after the League has finalized, whichever occurs first. (See articles (2.02C1)(2.02C2)(2.2C3) of the 2007 League Rules)
- b) **Appeals:** Any party affected by the decision of the Complaints and Grievance Committee shall be able to appeal the decision in writing within the period of time previously stipulated by the Complaints and Grievance Committee.
- c) **Fair Play:** Any Captain, League Coordinator, or member of the Tournament Committee will have the right to initiate a fair play complaint against any player and/or captain who condones or is an accomplice of a player who enters into an NTRP level that is inferior to the player's current level if he/she is at the top of the next level, or higher. This complaint may be initiated before the start of the League and up until the sectionals.

In order for that Fair Play complaint to be accepted, it must meet certain requirements, such as the following:

- i. It must be presented against a "Self Rate" player.
- ii. It must indicate that the player under examination auto-classified himself/herself at an inferior level while actually being at the top of the next level or higher.
- iii. The complaint must provide specific and verifiable information regarding the player's history
- iv. Shall be filed before the next match of the specific team and/or players involved.

**12. Medical Appeals** – Medical and NTRP appeals must be in writing, addressed to the League Appeals Committee and sent via mail or fax to the CTA/PRTA office. Said appeal must include the doctor's evaluation and diagnostic in charge of that particular treatment and lesion. The decision made by the League Appeals Committee will be sent to the appellant by mail and will be final. No National rating can be appealed.

**13. Consequences of being Section Champions** - Teams participating in national championships must move up one level as a team or disperse to form new teams with the following restriction:

- i. Adults - 2.5 and 5.0 - No more than two players who were on the final roster at the conclusion of local league play on any single team for the following league year. Said restriction does not apply to players that were on the final roster but did not play any match during that season. Matches decided by a default will not count as matches played for these circumstances.
- ii. Adults - 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 - No more than three players who were on the final roster at the conclusion of local league play on any single team for the following league year. Said restriction does not apply to players that were on the final roster but did not play any match during that season. Matches decided by a default will not count as matches played for these circumstances.
- iii. Seniors - No more than three players who were on the final roster at the conclusion of local league play on any single team for the following league year. Said restriction does not apply to players that were on the final roster but did not play any match during that season. Matches decided by a default will not count as matches played for these circumstances.

**14. Other Important Information:**

- a) Defaults no show – The USTA League regulations will apply as follows. The No show defaults will only affect standings. The individual matches played in good faith will stand for final calculation at the end of the year of NTRP rates.
- b) Scheduled Dates for 2007 League Year

	<b><u>League Starts</u></b>	<b><u>Last day to Post matches</u></b>	<b><u>Championships Sectional</u></b>
Senior League	January 24 <sup>th</sup>	April 8 <sup>th</sup>	April 20-21-22
Adult League	March 27 <sup>th</sup>	July 22nd	August 2-5 & 9 <sup>th</sup> – 12th
Super Senior League	August 25 <sup>th</sup>	October 21 <sup>st</sup> .	November 2-3-4
Mixed League	August 25 <sup>th</sup>	October 21 <sup>st</sup> .	November 9-10-11

c) Trophies – The USTA/Caribbean Section will provide the following trophies:

Adult League 3.0 to 4.5	10 trophies
Adult League 2.5 & 5.0	6 trophies
Senior League	8 trophies
Mixed League	8 trophies

Additional trophies will be ordered after the sectionals have been played.  
Rev.1/2/2007