



## Captains' Meeting November 13 & 14, 2024

### Agenda with Notes

1. **Welcome!** Thanks to you, USTA SoCal is growing and achieving new milestones this year. Captains are key to the success of our leagues and you are appreciated!  
Record breaking year with 1 million adult league registrations Nationally and 60,000 in SoCal!  
San Diego had 12 teams representing SoCal at League National Championships during 2024..
2. **Best league practices**
  - New Captains - Karol's Virtual Meetings
    - Look for Karol's meeting invitation toward the beginning of winter season
  - Team Management Tool in Tennislink
    - Use this [link](#) for more info
  - Read league emails and Rules & Regulations. The most important sources of information:
    - League Details doc for each season
    - Registration email sent to captains (with captain and team registration #s)
    - Kickoff email sent to captains (sent when schedules are posted in Tennislink)
    - [Rules & Regulations](#)
    - "The Code" within [Friend at Court](#) (The Code are the yellow colored pages)
    - [Rules & Etiquette Tri-fold Pamphlet](#) (great to give to players)
    - Do not just search USTA rules- there are different rules from the various Sections of USTA and we want players to know and follow the rules that pertain to San Diego not Florida.
  - Communicate- Confirm matches; Rain/wet mornings - plan ahead
    - Home captain is responsible for reaching out to visiting captain to give relevant info about upcoming match (e.g., court #s, warm-up court info, any special parking info, etc.)
    - If rain/wet courts are anticipated, reach out to opposing captain and your players so you can plan ahead (e.g., determine go/no-go time taking into consideration travel time for all the players, which players have hard stop times, etc.)
  - Scoresheets/lineup exchanges – final alignment on scorecard
    - Print the scoresheet from Tennislink (it shows all full and correct spelling of names, all registered players and their level, etc.)
    - Tell your players their opponents' names and which court they'll be playing on
    - Have your players align on final match score before they walk off the court
    - Home and visiting captains (or their designees) stand shoulder to shoulder and align on ALL final scores and player names
  - Solve on court issues as they occur
    - Players and captains who are familiar with all the rules/regulations can speak about them calmly and confidently. This means fewer escalated issues because questions and issues will be handled on court and in the moment. Most issues arise because players/captains either don't know the rules or they think they do, but it's incorrect.
3. **Hot Topics**
  - **Defaults:**
    - Why? Sometimes necessary (no show player, last minute cancellation). If running late and in communication and if players are able to play, they should. If they are able to play, it counts.
    - When? Default time is 10 minutes after match start time when all lines are played together or for the early lines of a match with follow on lines. Follow on lines are 'not

before' times. Defaults for the later lines are 'not before 10:30AM when there is a 9AM start' AND their court must be available to start. Lines go on court in order

- Options to play: If a shortage of players is known well in advance, teams can agree to allow a line to play independently to complete the match. Captains may write in names/ contacts on line up exchange for the match. If a player is slightly later than default or is in communication but there is limited court time or a hard stop time, you can agree to use the Timed Match Procedure.

- **Reschedules**

Weather- mutually agree to a new date to reschedule

Accommodation- one team is allowing a line to be rescheduled (other lines played as scheduled); the allowing team should select 2-3 dates to offer the other team to accept.

Captains can set a date for a make up and then determine which of their players will play or they can decide on players and let them coordinate.

- **Grievances- Sportsmanship**

Our goal is to correct behavior and make a better experience for everyone. Many situations should be dealt with when they occur so matches can be completed. There is no such thing 'playing under protest'.

For serious rule violations, online form must be filed prior to the next match date for teams (weekly) For issues that might not warrant the Section Committee review, we can issue Sportsmanship Reminder or Rules Reminder emails to involved players. Please email Karol and/ or Randie.

– **LEAGUE GRIEVANCE FORM**

– **2024 USTA LEAGUE SUSPENSION POINT SYSTEM**

- **Grievances- NTRP** – Our goal is to identify misrepresented self-ratings using proof, not subjective that they are a 'really good' player. You must provide proof that someone did not include information about their experience in order to get a lower rating. (i.e. 3.5 player that can be found on a recent UCLA roster). Applies to self-rated, appeal and disqualified players. Computer rated (C and M) players are protected.

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– **2024 USTA LEAGUE SUSPENSION POINT SYSTEM**

- **New!! Serving Sportsmanship** Recognition Program. An email will be sent out next week about this new program. Here is the [link to the nomination form](#). Questions? Contact Karol Wong

#### **4. National Regulations Updates for 2025**

- New: Mixed Dynamic DQ for S or A players It will apply to new self-rated players competing in mixed doubles leagues exclusively.
- Reminder: Adult 40 and Over Format- 1 singles/ 4 doubles for Nationals only
- 2025 Section regulations will follow before Winter League starts

#### **5. Ratings 101**

- Year end ratings are in progress. Based on matches between 11/12/23- 11/10/24. Year end ratings will be published 12/3 (9PM 12/2 on the West Coast). Preview for players who took SafeSport training will be emailed 11/29. Appeals will be enabled as of 12/3.
- Calculation- Algorithm considers the dynamic ratings of each player and predicts an outcome for the match. If a player or pair does better than expected, their rating goes up and their opponent's goes down. If the match played out as predicted, ratings are unchanged, The system is trying to determine the correct competitive level for a player. Win/ Loss record is not a factor.
- Rating Types- Computer (C )or Mixed (M) are based on match data and assigned at year end. If a C or M player does an automatic appeal and it is granted, they have an Appeal (A) rating,

Players who have not played enough matches to generate a year end rating yet have a self-rating (S) .

- Self-rated players- initial rating is based on their reported playing history or prior USTA rating if it has expired. A S player starts with no rating and builds their dynamic rating through match play. Since a self rating is a minimum rating, they can appeal up at any time. Captains assume the risk and need to make sure their players are correctly rated or they may strike out.(3 matches where their dynamic data is significantly above level). When a player strikes out, matches played in the current/ live league will be overturned and they are promoted immediately. They need to play more matches to be eligible to advance to Sectionals and Nationals.
- Appeals- Guide your players not to 'test' it to see if they might get it; not reversible.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Party websites- Inaccurate at predicting move up/ down levels that are close. Their information does not use our algorithm and is not associated with USTA.
- NTRP FAQ's  
<https://www.usta.com/en/home/play/adult-tennis/programs/national/usta-ntrp-ratings-faqs.html>

#### 6. **Annual League Calendar (Attached at end of this document)**

7. Show what you know- breakout groups with quiz questions (questions/ answers below)

Thank you for making time to meet with us today. Looking forward to a great 2025!

Randie and Karol

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San Diego Area website: <https://www.ustasocal.com/adult/leagues/areas#san-diego>

USTA SoCal Forms/ Information: <https://www.ustasocal.com/forms-and-information/>

(Friend at Court/ Section and Local Rules, Refund form, Grievance form)

## Quiz Questions & Answers

- 1. Calling a double bounce is a self-call. What are other self-call situations?** Ball tipped the racquet, player touched the net, player broke the net plane and made contact with the ball on the opponents' side of the net. Players should always continue to play the point when a player does not make a self-call. Discuss after but if you stop the point, you lose it.
- 2. Courts Monitors - who may call them? Only one of the players playing on that court. Who can be court monitors? Anyone (another player on the team, a spectator, captain) They must remain neutral and unbiased and understand their role. When is their perspective used? Players on the court still make the calls. Court monitor speaks up only when asked for a ruling. Where do you position the court monitors and what area of the court are they responsible for? Split the court lengthwise and position a court monitor at each end post; make calls only on the side of the court closest to them.**

Court monitors can be a positive tool used in a match. Takes pressure off of players, extra set of eyes, keeps people honest/ generous, reduce the stress if a contentious match.
- 3. As a player, which line calls do you make? The ones on your side of the court. Which line calls should you make vs your partner? Whoever is closest and has the "down the line" view. If there is a dispute on a line call, do you replay the point? No.**
- 4. Rescheduled matches. What is the time period that you need to send the new date to Karol? Within SEVEN DAYS. What information do you need to include in that email? Match #, old and new date, reason for reschedule, cc opposing captain. Reschedule options: whole team all lines, lines individually. Know when your deadline is to have all matches entered.**
- 5. Reschedule requests due to unavailable players. What's the best way to handle, and what are the rules/regs associated with this scenario? Be flexible if you can, but if you can't, you may reschedule with the penalty option (one line default). If you are the one accommodating the reschedule, you offer two dates that work for you and your team. Be sure to play the majority of lines to ensure it is a valid match (e.g., 4-line league must complete at least 3 of the lines).**