

# **USTA San Diego Flex League Local Rules/ Information**

Applies to Flex Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles Leagues (4.5.24)

Flex league is a great way to play tennis on your own schedule. You'll meet great people and enjoy lots of tennis. For this league to work, it's important that you:

- **Communicate.**
  - Either player/team can reach out to schedule a match, but usually the "home" team initiates the contact. You can play your matches at any time during the season or you can try to follow the suggested weekly schedule posted in Tennislink. The home player/ team should be upfront and clear about any time limits for the court reservation (e.g., 60 minutes, 90 minutes) so players can plan accordingly.
  - Out of courtesy, please respond to schedule requests within 72 hours.
  - Confirm your match a few days before your scheduled date (time, location, court #). Make sure you can reach each other on match day by text.
- **Be on time and keep your scheduled match commitments.**
  - Be respectful of each other's time. No-shows (after matches have been confirmed between players) are defaults and will be kept on file as sportsmanship violations which may result in formal grievances at the Section level.
  - If something urgent and/or unanticipated comes up, and you can't play your scheduled match, please give as much advance notice as possible. See below regarding rescheduling matches.
- **Play as many matches as possible.**
  - Everyone in this league signed up because they want to play. Please make every effort to schedule and play as many matches as possible.
- **Follow the rules outlined in Friend at Court.** Play with courtesy and cooperation. Respect the rules and policies of any club/facility where you play.
  - Print this handy tri-fold with rule highlights for most on court situations.  
– [SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LEAGUE MATCH RULES & ETIQUETTE](#)
  - Friend at Court (The Code of Tennis pages 51-57 ) [2024 FRIEND AT COURT](#)
- **Additional Home player/team responsibilities:**
  - Initiate contact with opposing player/team to schedule the match
  - Reserve a clean and safe court with access to a bathroom
  - Pay for any court and guest fees. It is fine to mutually agree on a location if one player has access to 'free' courts or if because of distance, you decide to find a location in between.
  - Provide a new can of balls

**Ratings:** Matches entered on or before the season end date will count toward year end ratings. For players that play mixed flex, those matches will only count if they play mixed doubles exclusively. For anyone that plays gender to gender leagues, mixed doubles does not factor into year-end ratings. All gender to gender singles or doubles leagues will count toward a year end computer rating.

## **Schedule Notes:**

Any open/bye spots are held for late joiners to the league where we had an odd number of teams in a flight. In the next few weeks, these may fill in with player names and information and will be an additional match in your season.

If you would like to arrange a match with a player from another flight, please let us know and we can add it as a bonus match. The same is true if you had a great match and want to play someone again.

### **Match 'Schedules' and Contacts:**

Log into tennislink.usta.com, click on "USTA League" tab (not Flex Leagues) and then click on your team name to see your matches. Click on the bolded tabs listed below for more information.

- **Captain's Report** has all contact information for the players in the league.
- **Match Schedule** has the home/away list for each match and player contact info. The weekly schedule is a guideline to help spread out matches but opponents may be played anytime and in a different order as long as it's before the end of the season.

How to View Your Schedule | [WATCH](#)

- If you are injured or traveling and need to play matches later in the season, let your opponents know.
- Players will have roughly half home and away matches
- **Rescheduling matches:** Please make every effort to play when you commit to play. Everyone's time is valuable - please be considerate. If you have to cancel the same match a second time, it will become a defaulted match unless both players choose to play.

**Match Defaults vs Unplayed Matches:** Reasons to default a match include: matches being canceled/rescheduled multiple times or a player no-showing. Otherwise, unplayed matches should remain "not played" in Tennislink. (e.g., not able to find a mutual date to play, injured player has withdrawn from league).

### **Format of Play:**

- Best 2 of 3 sets with a 10-point match tiebreak in lieu of a 3<sup>rd</sup> set. Coman set tiebreak is used at 6-6 (first to 7 points leading by 2 points). If both players agree to play the full 3<sup>rd</sup> set out, the match score will still be entered as 1-0. If players don't agree, the 10-point match tiebreak should be played.
- Time limited matches - If you have limited court time or run out of court time, review the [Timed Match Procedure](#) before you start so you are familiar with what to do when the time is running out. It will guide you on how to finish the match based on the current score. Communicate court reservation stop time with your opponents.

**Entering Scores:** Winning player should enter the score within a day of the match being played. *Please agree on the final score before you leave the court.* From your team page in Tennislink, click on the match date between you and your opponent and click on 'enter score'.

How to Enter Your Match Scores | [WATCH](#)

- **Always input scores from the winner's perspective.** For example, I won the first set 6-3, lost the 2<sup>nd</sup> set 4-6 and won the 3<sup>rd</sup> set tiebreak 1-0. Enter 6-3, 4-6, 1-0 regardless of who is home or visitor.
- **Match type dropdown options:**
  - Completed - Most matches should fall into this category.
  - Retirement - The match began, but a player needed to stop playing (i.e. injury or time issue).
  - Default - For no-show, late arrival beyond 15 minutes without a call, or multiple cancellations. Score will be 6-0, 6-0 Default.
  - Timed Match - If you need to determine the winner using the [Timed Match Procedure](#), enter the games completed from the winner's point of view (i.e. 6-4, 4-2 or if split sets, 6-4, 2-4)

**Score Input Corrections:** If there is a mistake on an entered score, please email Karol Wong at [SanDiegoLeagueAdmin@scta.usta.com](mailto:SanDiegoLeagueAdmin@scta.usta.com) and cc your opponent to confirm. ***Include the Match ID#.***

**Withdrawing from the league:** If you cannot continue in the season (i.e. injury), please notify your opponents and League Coordinator ([SanDiegoLeagueAdmin@scta.USTA.com](mailto:SanDiegoLeagueAdmin@scta.USTA.com)).

Please make sure that you are a positive example of goodwill on the court. Wishing everyone good luck, great sportsmanship and a winning experience during USTA Flex League Season!

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