

2024 USTA Colorado Flex League Guidelines

Divisions of Play

Men's divisions include: 3.0, 3.5 and 4.0/4.5 singles and doubles

Women's divisions include: 2.5/3.0, 3.0/3.5, 3.5/4.0 and 4.0/4.5 Combined NTRP levels singles and doubles. Weekday Daytime or Weekend Evening options.

Mixed Doubles divisions include: 5.0/5.5, 6.0/6.5, 7.0/7.5 and 8.0/8.5 Combined NTRP levels

Players **MUST** only register for divisions that include their NTRP rating.

Prior to having combined NTRP divisions, we found that the majority of players were consistently playing up and diluting the divisions. As a result, the divisions were not accurately reflecting players' or teams' NTRP ratings. For example, a 3.5 division would consist mostly of all 3.0 players upsetting the one or two 3.5 players that registered. Below level players were also frustrated since playing against players that were the same NTRP level as themselves defeated the purpose of playing up.

To remedy the situation, we have combined divisions. 2.5 computer rated players must play in the 2.5/3.0 division. Computer rated 3.0 players have the option to either play in the 2.5/3.0 or 3.0/3.5 division. 3.5 players can register to play in the 3.0/3.5 or 3.5/4.0 division. 4.0 computer rated players can play in the 3.5/4.0 or 4.0/4.5 division.

Players may only play on one team in each division.

Flex matches do not count toward NTRP ratings.

Waivers

Players may request a waiver to move up one level if they have won all of their matches in the season prior to the season for which they are registering. The acceptance of the waiver request to move up will be determined by the USTA Colorado League Department.

Match scheduling

We recommend contacting all of your opponents early in the season to get a match date on your calendars. You can find your opponents' contact information by logging into TennisLink: <http://tennislink.usta.com/Leagues/Common/Home.aspx> and clicking on the My Teams tab. Click on the name of your Flex League team and then on the tab that says Captain's Report.

When you view your schedule, you will see that each match is set for Saturday at midnight. This marks the beginning of the week in which we recommend you play each match. However, you can schedule each match with your opponent at any day and any time so long as the scores are entered by the score entry deadline.

If you are using a court for the first time, check it out in advance for availability, lights, parking, fees, water, restrooms, etc. and alert your opponent.

Please make it your goal to play ALL of your matches. The success of the USTA Colorado Flex League depends on players scheduling, playing and reporting their matches.

Courts

USTA Colorado offers a court locator service, which can be found [here](#). Please use this locator instead of the address provided in TennisLink.

Reserve courts for a sufficient amount of time to finish a match. Rescheduling an unfinished match can be difficult, especially for the visitor.

Matches may be played at another location other than the Home or Visiting facility. It may be more convenient to play a match in the middle of the two facilities.

Court Fees and Tennis Balls

Court costs and guest fees may apply. It should be assumed that players will split the cost of the court and guest fee. If not agreeable, players need to find an alternate site to play. It should be assumed that the match balls will be provided by the Home player.

Contacting your opponents

Communication is the most important aspect of Flex League, and an important aspect of good sportsmanship. Acknowledge your opponent's calls or emails even if you are unavailable to play. If you are leaving town, let your scheduled opponents know that you will contact them when you return.

Our philosophy is to emphasize playing the match whenever possible. This is why we give the whole season to play all of the scheduled matches and at least one extra week at the end to complete your schedule. However, things happen and sometimes opponents seem to be unreachable or unavailable. Keep a "log" of emails or phone calls made in case this match does not get played. If one player attempts contact and the other player does not, the administrator may give the player who made the attempts to play the default over the player who did not. If multiple attempts are made to contact a player with no response, please email the Flex League Coordinator with the name of the player not responding. There is also an option to record a double default where the match did not get played and neither player attempted adequate contact.

In round robin play, we score withdrawing players as 6-0, 6-0 wins for all other players in the flight since some may have already played the player and others have not. This rule attempts to give credit to players who have already played a withdrawing player without penalizing those players who did not play the withdrawing player.

You may also leave a match on your schedule un-played.

Withdraw

If you have an injury, illness, personal situation, etc. and need to withdraw from the league, please inform the Flex League Coordinator by email. If we are aware that you will not be able to play, we can inform the other players and make the appropriate score changes to the schedule.

Please do not register for a Flex League season if you know you will not be able to play all of your matches due to travel or other circumstances.

Match Scoring

A round robin format is used with one match assigned per week (unless your team has a bye). This occurs when there is an odd number of teams in a flight.

Scoring format is best 2 of 3 sets with a 10-point match tiebreaker played in lieu of a third set and scored as 1-0. If both players agree, the third set may be played out, but will still be scored as 1-0.

A full third set is not played unless both parties agree. Instead, a 10-point tie break is the default format. The score should be reported in TennisLink as 1-0, one going to the winner and zero going to the loser, regardless of whether a tie break or a full third set was played.

Score Entry

It is the responsibility of both team captains to ensure that match scores are reported promptly and accurately. Scores should always be entered into TennisLink according to the winner's perspective.

You will enter scores through TennisLink. After logging into TennisLink, it will say Welcome! With your name. Underneath Stats and Standings click the blue box that says "Enter Scores." If you do not know the match number, click on "Your Team." Under the "Match Summary" or "Match Schedule" tab hover over the match id number and click enter score.

Standings

It is important to schedule and play every match of your season. Matches count toward standings and the integrity of standings depends on matches being played. The winner of the flight or division will receive a USTA Colorado Flex League Champion award for a job well done!

Sportsmanship

Exceptional sportsmanship is expected from each player in the USTA Colorado Flex League. Please inform the Flex League Coordinator of any player that does not display great sportsmanship.