

USTA LEAGUE SUSPENSION POINT SYSTEM 2023

03/23/23

1. *Application.* The USTA League Suspension Point System applies to sanctioned USTA League competition. It applies to conduct *by a player and persons associated with a player*¹:
 - a. During all League Events, which is defined as any events hosted by USTA League programs including, but not limited to, Local League Play, Championships at all levels, and Player and/or Captain gatherings for the time periods prior to and after such events;
 - b. At League Event facilities, including lodging where players stay for such Events, the locations of any off-site activities during such Events;
 - c. *All forms of communication, including online medium or otherwise; and*
 - d. By players competing in League Events, affiliated League Captains (individuals designated or recognized as managing team activities and representing the team in USTA League matters) and team members.
 - i. When a Sportsmanship violation occurs that involves a doubles team, suspension points shall normally be assessed only to the doubles player who was responsible for the violation (Exceptions may be made if both players are responsible for such violation, or for a playing Captain who was the partner of the violating party, see 5.c. below).
 - ii. Flagrant sportsmanship, self-rate and extreme circumstance violations (see USTA League Suspension Points Table) may result in assessment of suspension points on Captain(s) and team members (incl. entire team) involved in such conduct.
 - iii. *Unsportsmanlike conduct – any player participating in a USTA League match consents to being penalized under the Point Penalty System (officialized matches) and the League Suspension Point System (officialized matches, and/or unofficialized matches when suspension points are assessed under the grievance process) for any unsportsmanlike conduct, including conduct by a person associated with the player. Persons who are unsportsmanlike may be asked by any member of a Championship Committee or any official representative of the League program to desist and/or to leave the match or Championship site, and must comply.*
2. *Suspension points.* After consultation with the Sectional Associations and the USTA League Department, the USTA League Committee annually shall determine the violations that will result in suspension points and the number of suspension points for each violation, and shall publish the violations and suspension points in the USTA League Suspension Points Table. Multiple violations within the same League Event and/or multiple violations of self-rating within the NTRP system may be aggregated under the suspension points schedule.

¹ *Language in red and italicized are conforming changes to align with amendments to USTA Regulation IV. and Table 17 (pp. 103-117) of FAC, passed at the 2022 Annual Meeting.*

3. *Reporting misconduct.* Persons who observe misconduct by a player or Captain on or off the court may report it following USTA League Regulations *Section 3.00 Grievance Procedures*, including *3.02 Grievance Types*, *3.03A(1)*, *3.03A(5)* and *3.03A(6)* and *3.03E NTRP Grievances*:
 - a. During Local play see also regulations *3.03B Local League Procedures*
 - b. During Championships see also regulations *3.03C Championship Procedures*. Tournament staff and League Coordinators may report to the Head Referee or the Referee's designee and/or the Championship Committee on or off court violations that may result in suspension points but were not witnessed by any Referee, and points may be assessed per Section 5 (*Assessing and reporting suspension points*) below.
4. *Suspension Point Administration.* The USTA League Suspension Point System shall comply with Regulation *3.01 Administration*.
5. *Assessing and reporting suspension points*
 - a. Local Play
 - i. The Local League Grievance (or Local League Grievance Appeal) Committee may assess suspension points for conduct in Local play.
 - b. Sectional and District/Area
 - i. The Sectional Association League Grievance (or Sectional Association League Grievance Appeal) Committee may assess suspension points for conduct in Sectional play.
 - ii. The District/Area League Grievance (or District/Area League Grievance Appeal) Committee may assess suspension points for conduct in District/Area play.
 - c. Championships
 - i. The Head Referee or the Referee's designee may assess suspension points for conduct at a League Championship; such points will be reviewed and approved by the Head Referee (for points assessed by the Referee's designee) and/or Championship Grievance Committee. The Referee shall report points assessed.
 - ii. The Championship Grievance (or Championship Grievance Appeal) Committee may assess suspension points for conduct at a League Championship. The Championship Grievance (or Grievance Appeal) Committee shall report points assessed following Regulations *3.03C(1)*
 - iii. No **League**² Grievance will be accepted in the same matter for which the Head Referee or the Referee's designee has assessed suspension points.

² Language in red without italics are changes for 2023.

- d. A Captain may be assessed suspension points as a Captain for conduct of their player(s) if there is a finding that the Captain was a party to such conduct, or reasonably could have (or should have) intervened and failed to do so (e.g. their doubles partner is smashing rackets or making repeated, clearly intentional bad line calls and the Captain ignores the situation).
 - e. A Captain who is also a player will be assessed suspension points as a player for their own conduct.
 - f. Suspension points assessed to a playing Captain as either, or both, a player or Captain will be aggregated toward the suspension level (i.e., 5 suspension points as a player, and 5 as a Captain in the same 12-month period would reach the first suspension level of 10 points in a 12-month period).
 - g. If a Captain is also a League player and accumulates suspension points resulting in a suspension, that suspension will apply to their participation in all League Events, as a player or Captain.
 - h. Points shall be assessed pursuant to USTA League Suspension Points Table. Failure to report shall not invalidate any penalties imposed or suspension points assessed.
- 6. *Notification of points assessed.*** The person filing the suspension point report or that person's designee shall notify the player (and their Captain), or Captain (for suspension points accumulated by that Captain, including those as a player) of the suspension points assessed following Regulation 3.03D(3) and shall record the method of notification (see Regulation 3.05B). Failure by the player or Captain to receive the notification or by the responsible party to record the method of notification shall not invalidate any penalties imposed or suspension points assessed.
- 7. *Appeal of suspension points.*** Under Regulations 3.01B, 3.04 and 3.05 assessment of suspension points may be appealed. Points removed from the player or Captain's record as a result of an appeal process shall not count toward a suspension.
- 8. *Written notice of suspension.*** After a player or Captain has accumulated points resulting in suspension, notice shall be sent to the player (and their Captain), or Captain (for suspension points accumulated by that Captain, including those as a player), pursuant to Regulations 3.03D(3), 3.03E(6), 3.04B(4), 3.04C(3) and 3.05B. The notice shall set forth:
- That the Player and/or Captain is being suspended;
 - When the suspension shall begin;
 - The length of the suspension;
 - The Player or Captain's right to appeal the suspension; and
 - The procedure for appealing the suspension.
- 9. *Effective date of suspension.*** The suspension begins on the date indicated in the written notice made to the player or Captain that a grievance has been upheld and the suspension points assessed have reached the threshold for suspension.

| USTA League Suspension Points Table | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Type | Violation | Suspension Points Player | Suspension Points Captain |
| General | Changing the line-up after it has been presented/exchanged | 2 – 4 | 2 – 4 |
| | Failing to comply with a USTA League Regulation or Guideline or Championship Procedure | 2 – 24 | 2 – 24 |
| Sportsmanship (Player) | Equipment Abuse (e.g., throwing racket, hitting balls out of the court) | 2 | 2 |
| | Unsportsmanlike Conduct/Violations of The Code or inappropriate conduct (e.g., intentional/retaliatory bad line calls, refusing to call out the score, "quick" serving, stalling, feinting, grunting, tanking/not using best efforts to win; obscene/profane language or gestures) | 2 – 4 | 2 – 4 |
| | Unsportsmanlike conduct or inappropriate conduct by a player while the player is still in the playing area but not during a match, if the conduct would have resulted in a code violation had it occurred during the match | 2 – 4 | 2 – 4 |
| | Unsportsmanlike conduct or inappropriate conduct off court by a player regardless of location or medium. This includes, but is not limited to, conduct at League match sites, League activities, hotels or other housing, and all forms of communication, including online medium or otherwise. | 2 – 4 | 2 – 4 |
| | Flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant inappropriate conduct (e.g., hitting balls at opponent or spectators, threat of physical violence, destruction of property) regardless of location or medium. This includes, but is not limited to, conduct at League match sites, League activities, hotels or other housing, and all forms of communication, including online medium or otherwise. | 8 – 10 | 8 – 10 |
| | Physical violence against another person on or off court | 10 | 10 |
| Sportsmanship (Associated with Player) | Unsportsmanlike conduct or inappropriate conduct by a person associated with a player/team, incl. non-playing Captains and teammates not playing in that match (e.g., cheering opponent's errors, service faults, obscene/profane language or gestures, etc.) | 2 | 2 |
| | Unsportsmanlike conduct or inappropriate conduct by a person associated with a player/team while the player/team is still in the playing area but not during a match, if the conduct would have resulted in a code violation had it occurred during the match. | 2 | 2 |
| | Unsportsmanlike conduct or inappropriate conduct off court by a person associated with a player/team regardless of location or medium. This includes, but is not limited to, conduct at League match sites, League activities, hotels or other housing, and all forms of communication, including online medium or otherwise. | 2 – 4 | 2 – 4 |
| | Flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant inappropriate conduct by a person associated with a player/team, incl. non-playing Captains, and teammates not playing in that match (e.g., threat of physical violence, destruction of property, etc.) regardless of location or medium. This includes, but is not limited to, conduct at League match sites, League activities, hotels or other housing, and all forms of communication, including online medium or otherwise. | 8 – 10 | 8 – 10 |
| | Physical violence against another person on or off court | 10 | 10 |

| USTA League Suspension Points Table | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Type | Violation | Suspension Points Player | Suspension Points Captain |
| Gross Misconduct | Gambling activity as defined in USTA Regulation IV.C.19. | 8 | 8 |
| Self-Rating | Self-rating lower than true playing ability | 2 - 5 | N/A |
| | Failure to self-rate in accordance with the Guidelines, or omission of information regarding player's tennis history | 8 - 10 | N/A |
| | Any USTA League player, or Captain, who knowingly assists or condones of another player's inaccurate or inappropriate self-rating (including guiding that player to omit information) | 10 | 10 |
| Extreme Circumstances | Misrepresenting scores (incl. intentionally entering inaccurate scores or representing scores without playing the match) | 18 | 18 |
| | Misrepresenting identity (incl. intentionally registering under different names or versions of the same name, playing and entering scores under someone else's name) | 24 | 24 |
| | Playing while suspended | 24 | 24 |

A League Grievance Committee may choose to issue a Warning Letter in some situations to a Player/Captain/Spectator, for which 1 Suspension Point will be assessed.

Player Suspension

The USTA shall suspend League players according to the following schedule:

- 1. First suspension.** If a player receives 10 suspension points within a rolling 12-month period, the player shall be suspended from participating in League Events for three months. Upon completion of the suspension, these 10 points shall be cleared from the player's record. All other suspension points shall remain on the player's record and count toward a second suspension.
- 2. Second suspension.** If a player receives 1 (if 7 were carried over) to 8 suspension points within the 12-month period immediately following the first suspension, the player shall be suspended from participating in League Events for six months. Upon completion of the suspension, 8 points shall be cleared from the player's record. All other suspension points shall remain on the player's record and count toward a third suspension.
- 3. Subsequent suspensions.** If a player receives 1 (if 5 were carried over) to 6 or more suspension points within the 12-month period immediately following the second suspension (and any suspensions subsequent to the second suspension), the player shall be suspended from participating in League Events for a period to be determined by the **Section Grievance Committee**. The suspension period shall **be for a period of 12 months or more**. Upon completion of the suspension, 6 points shall be cleared from the player's record. The **National League Suspension Group (Chair and Vice Chair of the USTA League Committee and Chair of the National League Regulation Subcommittee)** has the authority to clear additional points from the player's record to bring them below the threshold level for another immediate suspension. All suspension points remaining on the player's record will count toward future suspension.
- 4. Extreme Circumstances.**
 - a.** A player misrepresenting scores shall receive 18 suspension points and shall be suspended from participating in League Events for six months, for a first offense. Any subsequent offenses are subject to the same suspension as the first offense of the following.
 - b.** A player misrepresenting their identity, **or** knowingly playing while suspended shall receive 24 suspension points. The player shall be suspended from participating in League Events for a period to be determined by the **Section Grievance Committee**. The suspension period shall be for a period of 12 months or more. Upon completion of the suspension, these 24 points shall be cleared from the player's record.

- 5. Aggregation.** Multiple violations within the same League Event and/or multiple violations of self-rating within the NTRP system may be aggregated under the suspension points schedule. **Suspension points assessed for “Failing to comply with a USTA League Regulation, Guideline or Championship Procedure” of 18 or more points shall be calculated in the same manner as those aggregated under the suspension points schedule.**
- a.** First rolling 12-month period
- i. If a player receives 18 – 23 suspension points within the first rolling 12-month period, the player shall be suspended from participating in League Events for six months. Upon completion of the suspension, 18 points shall be cleared from the player’s record. All other suspension points shall remain on the player’s record and count toward future suspension.
 - ii. If a player receives 24 or more suspension points within the first rolling 12-month period, the player shall be suspended from participating in League Events for a period to be determined by the **Section Grievance Committee**. The suspension period shall **be for a period of 12 months or more**. Upon completion of the suspension, 24 points shall be cleared from the player’s record. **The National League Suspension Group (Chair and Vice Chair of the USTA League Committee and Chair of the National League Regulation Subcommittee)** has the authority to clear additional points from the player’s record to bring them below the threshold level for another immediate suspension. All suspension points remaining on the player’s record will count toward future suspension.
- b.** 12-month period immediately following first suspension
- i. If a player receives 1 (if 5 were carried over) to 6 or more suspension points within the 12-month period immediately following the first suspension, the player shall be suspended from participating in League Events for a period to be determined by the Section Grievance Committee. The suspension period shall **be for a period of 12 months or more**. Upon completion of the suspension, 6 points shall be cleared from the player’s record. **The National League Suspension Group (Chair and Vice Chair of the USTA League Committee and Chair of the National League Regulation Subcommittee)** has the authority to clear additional points from the player’s record to bring them below the threshold level for another immediate suspension. All suspension points remaining on the player’s record will count toward future suspension.

Captain Suspension³

The USTA shall suspend League Captains according to the following schedule:

1. **First suspension.** If a Captain receives 10 suspension points (from conduct as a Captain, or as a player) within a rolling 12-month period, they shall be suspended from acting as a Captain for, or playing in, any League Events for three months. Upon completion of the suspension, these 10 points shall be cleared from their record. All other suspension points shall remain on their record and count toward a second suspension.
2. **Second suspension.** If a Captain receives 1 (if 7 were carried over) to 8 suspension points (from conduct as a Captain, or as a player) within the 12-month period immediately following the first suspension, they shall be suspended from acting as a Captain for, or playing in, any League Events for six months. Upon completion of the suspension, these 8 points shall be cleared from their record. All other suspension points shall remain on their record and count toward a third suspension.
3. **Subsequent suspensions.** If a Captain receives 1 (if 5 were carried over) to 6 or more suspension points (from conduct as a Captain, or as a player) within the 12-month period immediately following the second suspension (and any suspensions subsequent to the second suspension), they shall be suspended from acting as a Captain for, or playing in, any League Events for a period to be determined by [the Section Grievance Committee](#). The suspension period shall [be for a period of 12 months or more](#). Upon completion of the suspension, these 6 points shall be cleared from their record. The [National League Suspension Group \(Chair and Vice Chair of the USTA League Committee and Chair of the National League Regulation Subcommittee\)](#) has the authority to clear additional points from the Captain's record to bring them below the threshold level for another immediate suspension. All suspension points remaining on the Captain's record will count toward future suspension.
4. **Extreme Circumstances.**
 - a. A Captain misrepresenting scores (for a match in which they did not play) shall receive 18 suspension points and shall be suspended from acting as a Captain for, or playing in, any League Events for six months, for a first offense. Any subsequent offenses are subject to the same suspension as the first offense of the following.
 - b. A Captain misrepresenting their own identity or is party to such offense by a player, knowingly enters into a line-up a player under suspension, **or** acts as a Captain while under suspension, shall receive 24 points suspension points. The Captain shall be suspended from acting as a Captain for, or playing in, any League Events for a period to be determined by the Section Grievance Committee. The suspension period shall [be for a period of 12 months or more](#). Upon completion of the suspension, 24 points shall be cleared from the Captain's record.

³ Captain — manages team activities and represents the team in USTA League matters

- 5. Aggregation.** Multiple violations within the same League Event and/or multiple violations of self-rating within the NTRP system may be aggregated under the suspension points schedule. **Suspension points assessed for “Failing to comply with a USTA League Regulation, Guideline or Championship Procedure” of 18 or more points shall be calculated in the same manner as those aggregated under the suspension points schedule.**
- a.** First rolling 12-month period
 - i. If a Captain receives 18 – 23 suspension points (from conduct as a Captain, or as a player) within the first rolling 12-month period, they shall be suspended from acting as a Captain for, or participating in, League Events for six months. Upon completion of the suspension, 18 points shall be cleared from the Captain’s record. All other suspension points shall remain on the Captain’s record and count toward future suspension.
 - ii. If a Captain receives 24 or more suspension points (from conduct as a Captain, or as a player) within the first rolling 12-month period, they shall be suspended from acting as a Captain for, or participating in, League Events for a period to be determined by the **Section Grievance Committee**. The suspension period shall **be for a period of 12 months or more**. Upon completion of the suspension, 24 points shall be cleared from the Captain’s record. **The National League Suspension Group** has the authority to clear additional points from the Captain’s record to bring them below the threshold level for another immediate suspension. All suspension points remaining on the Captain’s record will count toward future suspension.
 - b.** 12-month period immediately following first suspension
 - i. If a Captain receives 1 (if 5 were carried over) to 6 or more suspension points (from conduct as a Captain, or as a player) within the 12-month period immediately following the first suspension, they shall be suspended from acting as a Captain for, or participating in, League Events for a period to be determined by **the Section Grievance Committee**. The suspension period shall **be for a period of 12 months or more**. Upon completion of the suspension, 6 points shall be cleared from the Captain’s record. **The National League Suspension Group** has the authority to clear additional points from the Captain’s record to bring them below the threshold level for another immediate suspension. All suspension points remaining on the Captain’s record will count toward future suspension.