

Greater Pottstown Tennis & Learning 2019 Flex Leagues Rules

Greater Pottstown Tennis & Learning (GPTL) Flex Leagues are designed to afford tennis players the opportunity and the flexibility to play matches at mutually agreeable times and locations based on the provided league schedules. The following rules and The Code should be followed by all players in the GPTL Adult and Junior Leagues.

- **USTA Part 2 – The Code** (The Players’ Guide For Matches When Officials Are Not Present) can be referenced at www.greaterpottstowntennis.com . The principles set forth in *The Code* shall apply in cases not specifically covered by the ITF Rules of Tennis and USTA Regulations.

ADULT LEAGUES: Player age is 18 years and up. *

- If more than 12 singles players or doubles teams sign up in one division, that division may be divided into two or more sections (i.e., North and South).
- **Men’s Singles League**
 - **Divisions:** Maximum playing level as indicated
 - 4.5+
 - 4.0
 - 3.5
 - 3.0
 - Senior (age 55 and up)
 - Men (age 55 and up) do not have to play in the senior Division.
 - Men (age 55 and up) can also play in any other men’s singles division.
- **Women’s Singles League**
 - **Divisions:** Maximum playing level as indicated
 - 4.0
 - 3.5
 - 3.0
- **Adult Doubles League**
 - **Divisions**
 - Men’s Doubles
 - Women’s Doubles
 - Mixed Doubles
- ***Adult Leagues Age Exceptions**
 - **Junior Age Exception:** A 17-year-old player may request permission to participate in the Adult leagues. Requests must be made to the Leagues Committee at info@gptltennis.com . Decisions will be based primarily on recommendations from a coach stating that the player is qualified to play competitively in the desired adult league and from a parent stating the player has enough maturity to follow the league rules.
 - **Parent/Child Doubles Team Exception:** A parent/child team may request permission to participate in the Adult Doubles leagues. The child must be 14 years old by September 1. Requests must be made to the Leagues Committee at info@gptltennis.com . Decisions will be based primarily on the recommendation of the parent stating that the child is qualified to play competitively in the Adult Doubles League.

JUNIOR LEAGUES: Player age is 18 years and under.

- **Boys’ and Girls’ Singles:** The Junior Leagues may be divided by age, skill level and/or gender based on the number of participants. The Leagues Committee and Executive Director may consolidate divisions and move players to appropriate divisions.

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MATCH CONTACT

- **Initiating Match Play**
 - Either player/team may initiate contact to schedule the match, however the player/team listed first (and in red) on the league schedule should initiate contact to schedule a mutually agreed upon day, time, and location for the match.
 - Both players/teams should work together to schedule the match.
 - Players should try to play the match during the scheduled week but it is not mandatory.
 - Matches may be played ahead in the schedule as long as the opponent(s) agree.

- **Times and Locations**
 - Although matches can be played at any mutually agreeable location, day or time, the GPTL Leagues are designed to be played on week nights and weekend mornings in the Greater Pottstown area (re. Recommended Courts).
 - If there is a scheduling conflict that cannot be resolved, the players should contact the Leagues Committee at info@gptltennis.com for a resolution.

- **Unable to Play When Scheduled**
 - It is up to each player/team to notify their scheduled opponent(s) if they are unable to play as scheduled.
 - Out of town conflicts should be addressed **before** leaving town.
 - **Note** – Do not post a forfeit win if the opponent is responding to contact but is unable to play when scheduled.

- **No Opponent Contact Response**
 - If a player/team contacts their scheduled opponent prior to and during the week the match is scheduled but the opponent does not respond, the non-responding player/team forfeits the match.
 - **At least one phone call and one other contact (phone, text, and/or email) must be made, with one being made during the scheduled week.**
 - If follow-up communications are needed after the initial contact but a player/team does not respond, the non-responding player/team forfeits the match.
 - **Note** – Players/teams should post forfeit wins during the final week of the regular season.

- **No Agreement in Regular Season**
 - If both players/teams make contact but cannot agree on when or where to play the match, the match will be considered not played at the end of the regular season and no points will be awarded to either player/team.

- **Emergencies**
 - If an emergency arises which prohibits a player/team from attending a scheduled match, that player/team is responsible for contacting the opponent to cancel the match.
 - If the player/team is unable to reach the opponent, please email info@gptltennis.com .
 - Failure to contact the opponent of the Leagues Committee will result in the match being counted as a forfeit.

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MATCH PLAY

- **Ball Supply:** The player/team listed first (and in red) on the league schedule should supply one can of new balls for the match.
- **Sets per Match:** Single and Doubles matches for all divisions except 10U (see below in “Parent Guidelines for 10U Matches’ section) will consist of:
 - The best 2 of 3 sets using Standard Scoring with a 7-point tie-break game if any set reaches a 6-6 score.
 - In the 7-point tie-break game, the first player to win 7 points or higher with a margin of 2 points wins the “Game” and “Set”.
 - **10-point Match Tie-break Option** – When the score in the match is one set all, one 10-point Match Tie-break game may be played to decide the singles or doubles match.
 - This tie-break game replaces the deciding final set.
 - The player/team who first wins 10 points or higher with a margin of 2 points wins the “Set” and the match.
 - Both players/teams must agree to play the 10-point Match Tie-break.
 - If players/teams do not agree then the match will consist of the best 2 of 3 sets with a 7-point tie-break game if any set reaches a 6-6 score.
- **Doubles Substitute Players:** Adult Doubles matches cannot use substitute players.
- **Retirement:** A retirement occurs when an individual match has started and a player/team is unable to continue due to injury or emergency and, further, that there is no agreement to continue match play at a later date.
- **Non-participants:** Before matches officially begin, all non-participants shall be removed from the enclosed playing area for the entirety of the match (exception – see below in Parent Guidelines for 10U Matches).

MATCH PLAY – PARENT GUIDELINES

- **Parent Guidelines for 18U, 16U 14U & 12U Matches**
 - Before matches officially begin, all non-participants shall be removed from the enclosed playing area for the entirety of the match. Parents should not be on the court at any time and should view from outside the fenced court area.
 - Parents should not coach or talk to their child during the match. Cheering is acceptable in between points and should be in a positive manner. Do not cheer during points. Cheer “Coaching” should not occur.
 - Parents should have no active participation at all and should allow players to keep score, call lines, determine match strategy, and handle all aspects of a match themselves.
- **Parent Guidelines for 10U Matches**
 - **Court Set-up/Equipment:** Place blue painters tape halfway between service line and baseline to become the baseline for 10U match play. If the ball is hit past the blue line, the ball is out. Alleys are out for singles. **ONLY USE BLUE PAINTERS TAPE. DO NOT USE MASKING TAPE. Please REMOVE tape from the court when the match is over.** Players must use orange balls for 10U match play.
 - **Scoring:** Each 10U match consists of best 2 out of 3 4-game short sets. Players can win a set by 4-0, 4-1, 4-2, and 4-3. A regular game should be played at 3-3. A tie-breaker will be played in lieu of a 3rd set. Use no-ad

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scoring for games. Each game is scored 15, 30, 40 and then game. At 40-40, the next point wins. Change sides when total number of games is odd.

- **Play:** Each server starts serving a new game on the right side. Two serves to get the ball into play in the opponent's service box. Overhead serve should be used for the first serve. Underhand serve or bounce and hit may be used for the second serve.
- **Parent Guidelines:** parents should stay on the court as POSITIVE role models and to guide with scoring and line calls. Let the 10U players keep track of the score, but ensure they are keeping track correctly. Let the 10U players call the balls in or out, but parents should overrule players when the ball was obviously called incorrectly. Parents should not coach their child during the match.

PLAYOFFS

- **Playoff Scheduling**
 - Playoffs may be planned for all divisions. Playoffs will occur if a division is divided into 2 or more sections (i.e. North and South).
 - If there are special circumstances, the Leagues Committee may decide to eliminate playoffs in divisions not divided into 2 or more sections.
 - Awards for divisions without playoffs will be based on regular season total points.
- **80% Rule**
 - To qualify for playoffs, players/teams must have a score posted for 80% of their regular season scheduled matches.
 - Posted scores for matches won by forfeit will be counted in the 80% rule.
 - Posted scores for matches lost by forfeit will not be counted in the 80% rule.
- **Playoff Format**
 - The top players in each section as determined by point totals may qualify for the playoffs, if scheduled.
 - If point totals are tied, then the head-to-head match result will be used for playoff qualifying.
 - No more than 8 players per division may qualify for the playoffs.
- **Playoff Availability**
 - Players must have a reasonable amount of availability to play during the designated playoff time periods noted in the schedule.
 - Players will need to forfeit if the playoff match cannot be completed in a **timely manner** by the designated deadlines or if they will not be available to play in the final.
 - Based on their availability, players may withdraw before the playoffs start.
- **No Agreement in Playoffs**
 - If both players/teams make contact but cannot agree on when or where to play the match, the players/teams must email info@gptltennis.com before the playoff deadline to explain the circumstances.
 - If the semifinal match cannot be played or decided by playoff availability, the match winner will be decided by spinning a racquet or a coin toss (USRA part 2 – The Code, #32).

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SCORING

- **Reporting Scores**
 - Within 24 hours of the conclusion of each match, the **winner** is responsible for posting the scores on the online reporting system.
 - **To Post Scores**, go to www.greaterpottstowntennis.org, select the “Adult Flex Leagues or Junior Flex Leagues” page. Click on the Post Scores link then Select Tournament/League, choose a division, click the **Post Scores** button, fill in the requested information, and click **Submit Score**.
 - The winning player/team is responsible to ensure the website has recorded the scores correctly. It is imperative that all necessary information is provided to ensure correct tabulation of match and cumulative league scores.

- **Match Points**
 - 1 point is awarded for each match that is played
 - 1 point is awarded for each set won
 - 1 point is awarded to the winner of each match

- **Forfeit Scoring**
 - When a match is forfeited, the player/team who is forfeiting receives 0 points.
 - The player/team to which the match is forfeited receives 4 points (the same as the normal winner of a match gets).

- **Retirement Scoring**
 - When a player/team retires, the retiring player/team receives 1 point for playing the match and 1 point if they have won a set prior to retiring.
 - The non-retiring player/team receives 4 points (the same as the normal winner of a match gets).

- **Suspended Match Scoring**
 - If a match is suspended due to darkness or rain and cannot be rescheduled, the winner of the match will be determined by the player/team with the most games won.
 - The winner receives 4 points.
 - The losing player/team receives 1 point for playing the match and 1 point if they have won a set prior to the match being suspended (the same as retirement scoring).
 - If the total games won are tied and the match cannot be rescheduled, the winner of the match will be decided by spinning a racquet or a coin toss (USTA Part 2 – The Code, #32).

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Disputes will be reviewed by the Leagues Committee. Any disputes between players regarding any of the above rules should be made in writing to info@gptltennis.com. Decisions regarding any concerns will ideally be issued within one week of receipt of the email notice.

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Recommended Courts

Location	Address	Number of Total Courts	Number of Available Lighted Courts	Comments
The Hill School	860 Beech St., Pottstown, PA 19464	9	0	
Pottstown High School	724 N. Adams St., Pottstown, PA 19464	6	0	May need Pottstown resident key fob from the Pottstown School District for court access.
Pottsgrove High School	1345 Kauffman Rd., Pottstown, PA 19464	6	0	May need Pottsgrove School District resident key for court access. Courts have lights on automatic timer but lighting is poor and not recommended for night play.
Owen J. Roberts High School	981 Ridge Rd., Pottstown, PA 19465	7	0	Courts have lights but lights are not available to the general public.
Daniel Boone Middle School	1845 Weavertown Rd., Douglassville, PA 19518	6	0	Courts have lights but lights are not available to the general public.
Perkiomen Valley High School	509 Gravel Pike (Rt. 29), Collegeville, PA 19426	12	4	Only the top 4 courts can be lighted by manual button. Lights off at 11 pm.
Phoenixville High School	1200 Gay Street, Phoenixville, PA 19460	7	3	Only the first 3 courts can be lighted by manual button. Lights on for 1 hour per button push.

Note: High School tennis teams may use courts from 3-5 pm Monday - Friday during September - October and March - April.