

United States Tennis Association (USTA)

Rules of Play

The following are a few common rules of the USTA. Please call Trish Schafer, Deb Butz or Christine Peterson for further clarification if needed or for additional rules.

1. A match will consist of the best two out of three sets. Allow sufficient warm-up time (10 minutes is normal). Players are allowed **ninety (90) seconds** for change-overs between first game and every odd game thereafter.
2. Matches may be extended to another day only if unforeseen circumstances occur, i.e., inclement weather. The match score shall resume from the point of interruption. Please schedule enough time to finish your match.
3. The winner of the toss (spin of the racquet) to start the match must choose **one** of the following **two** choices: 1) Serve **or** receive; 2) side. If she chooses side, then her opponent gets choice #1 - serve **or** receive. If the winner chooses to "serve," her opponent automatically has to receive but gets to choose "side."
4. To avoid controversy over the score, the **server** must announce the set score before starting a game and the game score prior to serving each point!
5. The receiver shall play to the reasonable pace of the server. The server is permitted twenty-five (25) seconds from the end of the previous point to serve the next point.
6. **When a player is in "doubt" about whether a ball from her opponent is in or out, the ball is considered "in" and must not be replayed. Note: if the ball hits any single's line, it's considered "in."**
7. A player (not her opponent) shall call against herself when the following occurs:
 - she or her racquet touches the net.
 - she hits a ball before it crosses the net on her side.
 - deliberate carries or double hits of the ball on the racquet.
 - double bounces
8. "Let calls" (objects and/or balls rolling on your court during a point, etc.) **must be called instantaneously** by anyone on your court and the point replayed. "Let calls" cannot be called **after** a point has been played - the point stands and cannot be replayed.
9. "Let calls" on serves - if ball hits net on the serve and falls within her opponent's service box, player is allowed another serve. If the ball hits the net and falls outside the service box, player loses that serve.