

## Greater Pottstown Tennis & Learning Flex League 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. Please follow the League Rules and The Code.

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

**FOR QUESTIONS, EMAIL THE LEAGUE ADMINISTRATOR AT [MARYELLEN@GPTLTENNIS.ORG](mailto:MARYELLEN@GPTLTENNIS.ORG).**

### **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 by emailing the League Administrator. 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 by emailing the League Administrator. The child must be 14 years old by September 1. 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 11 to 18.**

- **Boys' and Girls' Singles:** The Junior Leagues may be divided by age, skill level and/or gender based on the number of participants. The 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 on the league schedule should initiate contact to schedule a mutually agreed upon day, time, and location.
  - 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. Area Courts section).
  - If there is a scheduling conflict that cannot be resolved, the players should email the League Administrator.
  
- **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.
  - Players/teams must make a reasonable effort to play a match and provide options of days and times to play. If a player appears to show no effort to play, please email the League Administrator.
  
- **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.
  - Failure to contact the opponent will result in the match being counted as a forfeit.

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## MATCH PLAY

- **Sets per Match:** Single and Doubles matches for all divisions 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.
- **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. Non-participants should not be on the court at any time and should view from outside the fenced court area.
  - Parents or others should not coach or talk to players 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 or others 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.

## SCORING

- **Reporting Scores**
  - The winner of the match is responsible to post scores within 24 hours of the match.
  - To post Scores: Go to the Flex Leagues page at [www.greaterpottstowntennis.org](http://www.greaterpottstowntennis.org). Click on Post Scores, enter all information to submit the score.
  - Players are responsible to ensure the website has recorded their scores correctly.
- **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 match winner).
- **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 match winner).

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- **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).

## 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, it may be decided 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 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 the League Administrator 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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## AREA COURTS

Below is a list of several area tennis court locations. Some locations may not be open to the general public at certain times. Please plan accordingly and follow all school rules and policies.

- Maple St. Park, 1430 Maple St., Pottstown, PA 19464
  - Courts closed during GPTL programming.
  - Need to obtain lock code to access courts.
- Pottstown High School, 724 N. Adams St., Pottstown, PA 19464
  - May need Pottstown resident key fob from the Pottstown School District for court access.
- Pottsgrove High School, 1345 Kauffman Rd., Pottstown, PA 19464
  - May need Pottsgrove School District resident key for court access.
- Owen J. Roberts High School, 981 Ridge Rd., Pottstown, PA 19465
- The Hill School, 860 Beech St., Pottstown, PA 19464
- Daniel Boone Middle School, 1845 Weavertown Rd., Douglassville, PA 19518
- Pope John Paul II High School, 181 Rittenhouse Rd., Royersford, PA 19468
- Boyertown Area High School, North Berks St., Boyertown, PA 19512
  - Some courts have lights.
- Perkiomen Valley High School, 509 Gravel Pike (Rt. 29), Collegeville, PA 19426
  - Some courts have lights.
- Phoenixville High School, 1200 Gay Street, Phoenixville, PA 19460
  - Some courts have lights.