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Hello captains!

Welcome to the USTA Mixed Doubles 18 & Over league!

This introductory letter will serve as an information source throughout the entire league season. Refer to it whenever you have a question. If there is a question not listed in this information source, or if you need clarification on a topic, please do not hesitate to contact me or the USTA Atlanta office.

Sincerely,

Phil Kinneer

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Important Notes about the Spring Season

- In order for players to be eligible to play in the local playoffs, they must play **two times during the regular season** (first match through the last regularly scheduled match of the round robin). A default may count as one of the matches played.
- If a team forfeits more lines than they have played, making the match invalid, a warning letter will be sent to the team. If this happens a second time in the league season, the team will be removed from the league and reported to the USTA Georgia Adult League Committee for review.
- All playoffs as well as city finals will be held at the higher seeded team's home courts.

Player Ratings

Any player who successfully appeals their rating **after** registering to a team **MUST** contact the Director of Adult Leagues (maegan@ustaatlanta.com) to update the rating on the team roster.

Important Dates for Spring Season*

*All dates are subject to change

Regular Season Match Dates

- Season starts Friday, March 8, 2024
- See TennisLink for a complete detailed schedule. Click on "Match Schedule" from your "Team Summary" page.
- Match Time: Friday at 7:00 p.m.
- **There is no play Friday, April 5th or Friday, May 24th**



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Playoff Match Dates

- Friday, May 3 (3.0, 3.5, and 4.0)
- Friday, May 10 (3.0 and 3.5)
- Friday, May 17 (3.5)

City Finals

- 2.5 – Friday, April 26 (rain date Friday, May 3) **at the higher seeded team’s home courts.**
- 4.0 - Friday, May 10 (rain date Friday, May 17) **at the higher seeded team’s home courts.**
- 3.0 - Friday, May 17 (rain date Friday, May 31) **at the higher seeded team’s home courts.**
- 3.5 - Friday, May 31 (rain date Friday, June 7) **at the higher seeded team’s home courts.**

Playoffs

Players must play twice during the regular season in order to be eligible for playoffs. A default may count as one of the matches played. Playoff seeding/tiebreaks are determined first on team wins/losses, then on individual wins, then least sets lost, followed by least games lost and finally head-to-head when necessary. If all groups do not play the same number of matches in a season and teams tie on number of team losses, the next tie break becomes individual win percentage.

The playoff tournament will be comprised of:

- **2.5:** The top 2 teams will advance to a finals match.
- **3.0:** All 3 first place teams (seeds 1 – 3); all 3 second place teams (seeds 4– 6); seeds 7-8 will be filled by the top 2 best overall third place teams.
- **3.5:** All 5 first place teams (seeds 1 - 5); all 5 second place teams (seeds 6 – 10); all 5 third place teams (seeds 11 – 15).
- **4.0:** Both first place teams (seeds 1 – 2); both second place teams (seeds 3 - 4)
- **4.5:** The winner at the end of the round robin will be the city champion.
- **10.0:** The winner at the end of the round robin will be the city champion.

Scheduling Matches

Default Match Start Times:

- 7:00pm: 1D and 2D
- 8:00pm: 3D (to follow either the 1D or 2D court – whichever finishes first)

Both captains must agree if start times and order of lines differ from the “default.”

If you schedule your match start times/order of play differently from the default time, it is recommended to get e-mail confirmation from opposing captain.

Finding Phone Numbers for Opposing Captains

- Go to TennisLink (<http://tennislink.usta.com/leagues/>) and log in;
- Go to your team’s “Team Summary” page (the default page for your team)
- Click “Match Schedule” – you will see the opposing captain's phone number.



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Finding E-mails for Opposing Captains

If you would like to find an e-mail for an opposing captain, you may find this information by doing the following:

- Go to TennisLink (<http://tennislink.usta.com/leagues/>) and log in;
- Navigate to your team summary page
- Select the "Team Captains Report" Tab at the top of the team summary page
- You will see opposing captain e-mails.

Add or change the co-captain

1. Go to TennisLink (<http://TennisLink.usta.com/Leagues/Common/>).
2. Login to TennisLink (Refer to the "Login to TennisLink" section of this document).
3. Click on "Team Management" under the heading "Quick Links"
4. On the page that comes up, click on your team under the heading "Team Name/Team #"
5. You are now on the team's management homepage. Cursor on "Edit" next to "Co-Captain" and make the changes via the drop-down box that appears.

Note: You must be listed on TennisLink as the captain of the team to add or change the co-captain.

Make-up Matches

START TIMES & MAKEUP DEFAULT TIMES

Makeup Deadline* 2nd Thursday (13 days later) 7:00 PM

Example: If a match scheduled for September 16th is rained out, players have until September 29th to make the match up.

Extended makeup default times are in place only for the first five matches for teams with a seven week season or the first four matches for teams with a six week season.

If inclement weather occurs on the makeup deadline day (Thursday), the new deadline moves to Monday evening at 7:00 PM and continues weekday-to-weekday at 7:00 PM until weather permits the match to be played.

***Exception:** If inclement weather occurs on the second to last match of the regular season, the makeup default time is the following Thursday (6 days later) at 7:00 p.m. If inclement weather occurs on the last match of the regular season, the makeup deadline is Monday at 7:00 PM and continues day-to-day at 7:00 PM until weather permits the match to be played.

If inclement weather occurs during the playoffs, the makeup deadline is Monday at 7:00 PM and continues day-to-day at 7:00 PM until weather permits the match to be played.

Forfeits: If the start of any team match is cancelled due to inclement weather, any forfeits awarded in advance are voided, and all three lines may now be scheduled for make-up play. However, if any line has already started when weather stops the match, the forfeit(s) stands.

Captain's Corner

The Captain's Corner is another key resource tool for captains. You can find the Captain's Corner by going to <https://www.ustaatlanta.com/mixed18captaincorner>. Here, you will find:



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- TennisLink instructions;
- League calendar;
- USTA Atlanta local league rules and regulations;
- Friend at Court. FAC tells you everything you need to know about line calls, balls that hit scoreboards, hindrances, losing your hat during a point, yelling at your partner, etc. The section called "The Code" is a great reference for unofficiated matches.
- Grievance forms and procedures;
- Self-rating Guidelines;
- Playoff information (when available); and
- City Finals information (when available).

Adding a Player After Season Begins

You may add players at any time up until 11:59 PM on the Thursday before the last local round robin match.

Scoring

The default scoring method will be a mandatory 3rd set 10-point Coman tiebreak in lieu of a full third set.

Playing on More than One Team

A player may play on more than one team in the same season provided they are:

- At a different level if playing in the same league (example: a player may register for a 3.0 and 3.5 team since they are two separate levels).

USTA Georgia State Tournament for 2024 Championship Year

We are currently in the 2024 Championship Year. City Champions and some select finalists/semifinalists from USTA Atlanta will advance to the USTA Georgia State Tournament in Rome, GA, September 6-8.

Qualifying for State Tournament

If your team receives an invitation to the state tournament, each player (going to state) must be on the scorecard for two matches during the regular season in order to qualify for state. One of these times may be recorded as a default received, but at least one must be an actual match played.

Facilities

Bathrooms are required. Home teams must have restrooms with running water and flushable, functioning toilets that remain unlocked for the entirety of match play. Porta Potties are not approved restrooms. If restrooms are out of order, the visiting team must be given the option to provide courts. If the visiting team cannot provide courts, then it goes back to the home team to find nearby courts with acceptable restroom facilities. Make sure you have the keys to the bathrooms and that they stay open throughout the match.

If the home team facility has special requirements for guests entering their facility, such as: a specific dress code, the signing of a waiver or requiring the collection of personal information (photo ID, email address, phone number, etc.) captains must inform the visiting captain in advance.



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If your facility has time constraints for courts, please make arrangements for them to stay open and lighted to allow you to complete long-running matches. The rules regarding lights and facilities are in section IV of our rules:

- All matches must be played to completion without interruption. There is no provision for a facility that places a time limit on courts. A visiting team is not required to move to different courts or interrupt play to resume later. If this occurs, the visiting team has the option to:
 - continue play at their home courts or
 - declare a default against the home team and win the match.
- If the lights go out during an evening match and cannot be re-lit in a reasonable amount of time (10 minutes), the match can be rescheduled using the makeup deadlines.

Another important rules note regarding facilities: Once you have indicated your official home facility in TennisLink, all home matches should be played at that facility. If you cannot play at your designated home facility, the visiting team has the option of supplying courts for the match. Of course, you can always agree to play your match somewhere else if it eases the commute... but home captains may not arbitrarily choose to schedule matches at an alternate facility.

The Grievances Process (found in captain's corner)

When viewing the captain's corner, you will notice a grievance section with two types of complaints that can be filed from a captain.

NTRP Grievance

USTA National instituted a Suspension Point System. To learn more about the new point system, please click here: [USTA Suspension Point System](#)

NTRP Grievance

If you believe that you (or one of your players) have played against a player that has misrepresented their playing ability within the self-rating process (i.e., their playing level is at the top of the next level or higher), you should file a NTRP Grievance ASAP before the next match is played. However, you must have evidentiary support for your claim (i.e. college background). An opinion is not a valid back-up for a self-rate grievance.

Sportsmanship Grievance

All complaints alleging a violation of USTA League Regulations shall be filed in writing by a team captain via email (grievances@ustaatlanta.com) to the chairman of the USTA Atlanta Grievance Committee. Examples of valid grievances include but are not limited to: misrepresenting a player's identity on a scorecard or in TennisLink; falsifying scores in TennisLink; recording a score without playing the match; using ethnic slurs or obscene language; coaching; abusive behavior; or physical violence.

Grievances must be filed prior to whichever occurs first: (a) the involved team's next match in that flight whether or not the involved player participates OR (b) within 24 hours after the end



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of the local league regular season. For all grievances arising during playoffs (including city finals), Grievances must be filed within 30 minutes of the completion of the involved team's match.

There is a \$40 fee for filing a grievance under this Section VIII, which must accompany the written grievance. If the grievance is kept on file or penalties are imposed, USTA Atlanta will refund the \$40 fee. All grievance filing fees retained by USTA Atlanta will be donated to the Atlanta Youth Tennis and Education Foundation.

Important Tips

- Be sure to thoroughly read through and be well-versed with USTA Atlanta local rules and regulations.
- Ensure a proper scorecard exchange before each match. Both captains should simultaneously exchange COMPLETE scorecards before the start of the match.
- Assign a co-captain for your team! This will help for when you are out-of-town unexpectedly and can have someone take over for a team match. Once assigned, they will be able to have captain access on TennisLink.
- Contact your captain at least 3 days in advance to coordinate logistics for the team match.
- When speaking with your captain, confirm the facility address to make sure you have the correct address on file. You will also want to find out the number of courts that will be given for match and court surface.
- If both captains agree, you may play your match earlier or at a different time on match day. Keep your level rep informed if you do this!
- "Home" teams are required to provide two courts of the same surface for each team match. Unless another arrangement was made (and "agreed upon" by both captains), the first two matches to go on will be the #1 and #2 doubles. The #3 doubles should be there within one hour after the start of match time.
- Make sure your player is registered on your team before stepping foot on the court. If your player's match is started at 7:00 PM, and they registered on the team at 7:02 PM, it is an illegal match and will be disqualified and awarded to the opposing team.

Good luck – and have a great season!