

## ADULT LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS – USTA Atlanta

LEAGUE YEAR 2024 (Summer 2023 – Spring 2024)

### THESE RULES MUST BE PRESENT AT ALL LEAGUE MATCHES

USTA Atlanta is a non-profit organization whose mission is the growth and development of tennis in the Atlanta area. We utilize the programs of the United States Tennis Association (USTA), USTA Southern, USTA Georgia and our own local programs to carry out this mission. We offer teams the opportunity to advance to the State, Sectional and National Championships.

All players participating in the USTA League Program, as a condition of their participation, agree to abide and be bound by the USTA Constitution, By-Laws and Standing Orders; the National, Sectional, District and Local USTA League Regulations; and the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship.

The USTA National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) is the official system to determine computer ratings for players who participate in the USTA League Program.

**TennisLink is the official system for registering teams, reporting scores and providing standings.**

The Local League Coordinator for USTA Atlanta is the person who implements and administers all USTA League Programs.

Competition will be played in round robin format. USTA Atlanta is permitted to add matches to a round robin to give more matches to teams in a season. Teams may play some (but not all) teams in their group twice, which is defined as a Modified Schedule. In this instance, USTA Atlanta will have TennisLink randomly assign the additional matches prior to the season starting.

### SECTION I. ELIGIBILITY

#### 1) TEAMS

- A. Teams must have sufficient players to field a full lineup if everyone is available. For example, a team in a league playing two singles and three doubles positions must have at least eight players.
- B. Teams must play out of facilities within the geographic boundaries of USTA Atlanta, namely Cobb, DeKalb, Forsyth, Fulton, Douglas, Paulding (east of Highway 61 only) and Gwinnett counties.

Hall County (NEGTA league) teams will be allowed to play out of the Hall County facilities, as authorized below, in any USTA Atlanta Adult, Mixed or Combo league that plays on either Saturday or Sunday.

If a Hall County team registers for the NEGTA Winter Mixed league and there are three or less teams at any given level, the teams at that level will be given the option of playing several round robins and then being allowed to register in the USTA Atlanta Spring Mixed league and play out of their Hall County Facility.

If NEGTA removes a team from the NEGTA Winter Mixed league and places them in the USTA Atlanta Spring Mixed league, players will be responsible for the difference in registration fees.

Authorized Hall County Facilities pursuant to this Section are:

**Alberta Banks/Bob Bailey**

5755 Jim Crow Road  
Flowery Branch, 30542

**Flowery Branch High School**

5503 Spout Springs Road  
Flowery Branch, 30542

**Stillwater**

6006 Stillwater Place  
Flowery Branch, 30542

**Hog Mountain**

4450 Hog Mountain Road  
Flowery Branch, 30542

**Reunion**

5498 Thompson Mill Rd.  
Hoschton, GA 305

**Sterling on the Lake**

7004 Lake Sterling Blvd.  
Flowery Branch, 30542

- C. Teams must play at the level of the highest rated player on the team.

#### 2) PLAYERS

- A. All players must use their current NTRP rating when registering. If the player does not have one, the player must self-rate using the NTRP guidelines. Failure to provide accurate information will subject the player and/or the captain to sanctions and disqualifications.

**Comment:** An NTRP grievance may be filed against a player and/or captain who commits or condones entering at one level when their actual skill level is at the top of the next NTRP level or higher. See *Section IX*.

- B. Players must play at or above their NTRP rating. Players are permitted to play one level above their current rating. For example, a 3.0 player may not play higher than 3.5.
- C. **Once a computer rating has been generated, it will remain valid for 3 years for players under age 60 and for 2 years for players age 60 and over.**
- D. A player may play on more than one team in the same season provided they are:
  - i) At a different level if playing in the same league, or
  - ii) In different leagues.
- E. All players shall have reached the minimum age for the league in which they wish to play prior to or during the calendar year in which such player participates in their first local league match. All players must be 18 years of age prior to participating in their first league match.
- F. All players must be paid members of the USTA through the respective season of play including play-offs.
- G. Subject to the remainder of this Section I.2.F, eligible players should be added to a roster prior to a regularly scheduled team match. Players must be added to a roster no later than 11:59 PM on the night before the last scheduled match of the regular season.  
 In the event of matches rescheduled due to inclement weather, a player may be added prior to their participation in such match. (EXCEPTION: If the last scheduled match of the season is rained out, players cannot be added after the scheduled match date).

## SECTION II. TEAM CAPTAINS' DUTIES

- 1) It is the captain's responsibility to have each team member thoroughly read and understand current Local USTA League Regulations prior to the start of league competition.
- 2) Captains must have a current email address in order to receive league information throughout the season.
- 3) **PREPARING LINEUPS**
  - A. **Any player may play any position at any time.**
  - B. In order for a player to be eligible to progress to local playoffs, **that player must have played twice during the regular season on the qualified team for 18 & Over and 40 & Over and 55 & Over leagues, and once for the 65 & Over leagues;** i.e. from the first match through the last regularly scheduled match of the local season. Receiving a default can only be counted as one of the matches played.
  - C. To generate a computer rating, a player must have played three times during that year's rating period. Defaults do not count toward computer ratings.
- 4) **SCHEDULING MATCHES**
  - A. The home team captain should contact the visiting team captain at least **three days** prior to a scheduled match to provide information and make arrangements for the match. If the captain listed on the schedule will not be present at the match, they should notify the opposing captain as to who will be acting in their stead, and give the opposing captain the phone number of that person. (We do not allow a team to rotate captains on a weekly basis)

- B. The captains may agree on the order of play. However, if no prior agreement is made, the order of play will be as follows:

Format	Start time	+1 hr	+2 hrs
2 sing, 3 dbls	1 sing, 1 dbls	2 sing*, 2 dbls	3 dbls
1 sing, 4 dbls	1 sing, 1 dbls	2 dbls, 3 dbls	4 dbls
1 sing, 2 dbls	1 sing, 1 dbls	2 dbls	
3 dbls	1 dbls, 2 dbls	3 dbls	

\*Unless agreed otherwise by both captains, #2 singles will take the first available court.

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For leagues playing 2 singles and 3 doubles; #1 singles and #1 doubles will play at the scheduled start time, #2 singles and #2 doubles must be present one hour later, #3 doubles must be present two hours after the scheduled start of the match. Unless agreed otherwise by both captains, #2 singles will take the first available court.

For leagues playing 1 singles, 4 doubles; #1 singles and #1 doubles will play at the scheduled start time, #2 doubles and #3 doubles must be present one hour later, #4 doubles must be present two hours after the scheduled start of the match.

For leagues playing 1 singles and 2 doubles; #1 singles and #1 doubles will play at the scheduled start time and #2 doubles must be present one hour later.

For leagues playing 3 doubles; #1 doubles and #2 doubles at the scheduled start time, #3 doubles must be present one hour later.

**Comment:** When heat is a factor, captains are encouraged to revise the order of play to allow singles matches to be played in the cooler part of the day.

- C. It is acceptable to use more than two courts at a time, *provided* both captains agree. Once agreement has been made, all participants must be present at the agreed upon match time, or default. Defaults may not be called if additional courts become available and their use was not agreed upon beforehand.
- D. With the agreement of BOTH captains, and with the certainty of court availability:
  - i) The team match or individual match may be changed at an earlier or **later** start time on the same scheduled day. The home captain is responsible for ensuring court availability. See Section IV.4.
  - ii) The team match or individual match may be changed to an earlier day and time during the regular season schedule.
  - iii) **During the regular winter season for Adult 18 & Over Business Women or Men and Adult 40 & Over Men spring and fall seasons (with the exception of the final match), the match should attempt to be played at the regularly scheduled match time but must be played no later than Sunday at 6:00 PM. If captains cannot agree on an alternate match time, then the match must be played at the regularly scheduled match time.** In the 55 & Over Men's Wednesday league, the match should be played at the regularly scheduled match time; however, if either team has an ALTA or alternative USTA league conflict, the match must be played by the makeup default day for the conflicted scheduled match. In the 55 & Over Men's Saturday league, the match should be played at the regularly scheduled Saturday match time; however, in the event either team has an ALTA or alternative USTA league conflict, the match must be played starting no later than Sunday at 4:00 PM.

Team matches **shall not be played after the scheduled day** for the league involved except as allowed in Section II.4.D.iii above or in the event of inclement weather as provided in Section V.

For any changes in a team or individual match start time/day or any playing order changes that deviate from the default order to be official, **BOTH** captains must agree in writing regarding the rescheduled date and time. Once a time, day and location to play early has been agreed upon in writing by the parties involved, that match **MAY NOT BE POSTPONED** for any reason other than inclement weather. USTA Atlanta strongly suggests that once both captains have agreed in writing on an "official" rescheduled date and time for the match, they notify their **Level Representative** via email.

- E. If a team knowingly begins a team match, including a match rescheduled for inclement weather, without a full complement of players for the lineup (e.g. six players rather than eight) they must default from the bottom. The captain may choose whether to default singles, doubles, or a mixture. However, in each of doubles and singles, the lowest position must be defaulted first.
- F. Once a captain advises an opposing captain in writing via email/text message that a line(s) will be defaulted in their match, that statement stands even if the team finds players prior to the start of the match. The only exception to this rule is during a rainout. Please refer to rule V.4 regarding defaults awarded in advance in a rainout situation.
- G. Any USTA Atlanta team involved in a USTA League State, Sectional or National playoffs match, regardless of the league, may request from their opponent to preschedule their USTA Atlanta (USTA League) matches prior to the scheduled day of the match. **A team with this concern must notify the affected opponents at least two weeks prior to the scheduled match date to reschedule individual matches, or as soon as the schedule is known if there is less than two weeks notice.** If the teams cannot agree to an earlier schedule, the match will be rescheduled using inclement weather rules. Any individual match rescheduled for after the regularly scheduled time under this rule must include at least one player who **played** in the conflicting playoffs, or this match may be defaulted and awarded to the other team.

## 5) MATCH DAY

- A. **In order to start the team match, complete written lineups showing all individual matches must be simultaneously exchanged.** If the captain will not be there at start time, they should send the lineup with a player who is playing in the first time slot.

**Comment:** If Team A will not provide a written lineup within the default time, Team B may claim a default of the positions

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that were to start first. The remaining positions will play at the next scheduled time(s) provided a written lineup has now been exchanged.

- B. The default time is 15 minutes after the scheduled start time of each individual match. No default may be claimed if a court has not become available. If players agree to play the match after the default time, the match result stands. No default may be claimed after the fact. Any player who arrives after the scheduled start time but prior to the expiration of the 15-minute default time will be allowed a warm-up not to exceed five minutes after expiration of the 15-minute default time.

**Example:** The scheduled start time for Line #2 doubles for the 18 & Over Women's Winter League is 10:30 AM. If a court is available at 10:30 AM., the default time for this match is 10:45 AM. However, if the court becomes available after the 10:45 a.m. default time, all players must be present and ready to step on court, else that player will be defaulted.

**Comment:** All players must be on the court, not merely at the facility preparing food, going to the bathroom, stretching, etc., no later than 15 minutes after the scheduled start time. Courtesy requires a prompt start time and a brief warm-up. League rules allow a default of the individual match if players are not on court within 15 minutes of the scheduled start time.

Once the teams exchange lineups no movement of players is allowed. **WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MATCHES RESCHEDULED BY INCLEMENT WEATHER, MOVEMENT OF PLAYERS ALREADY LISTED ON THE LINEUP TO ANOTHER POSITION IS NOT ALLOWED.** (See Rules 5F regarding player substitutions). Points may be reversed for violation of this rule.

**Example:** After written lineups have been exchanged, if one player from the line 2 doubles is over 15 minutes late and the court is available, Line 2 doubles has defaulted. All other matches are to be played as originally listed on the lineup.

- C. Two players must play together in the higher position when both of their partners do not show in order to avoid two defaults. The lower position will be defaulted.
- D. If during the match it is discovered that a player(s) is on the wrong court in an individual match before the first game of all matches affected has been completed, players are to go to the correct courts and begin the matches over. If the discovery occurs after the first game is completed, the matches will be completed as started and count as matches played in good faith.
- E. For each team match, a majority of the individual matches must actually be played to constitute a valid team match. If a majority of the individual matches cannot be played, both captains must agree on what individual matches, based on the number of players present, or to be present, can be played to constitute a valid team match. Once that is determined, both captains will re-exchange scorecards.

If both captains cannot come to an agreement on what lines will be played to constitute a valid team match, based on the number of players present, or to be present, then the following individual matches will be assigned in sequential order to be played:

Format	Required Matches in sequential order	Minimum # of Players Required for Each Team in Valid Team Match
2 singles, 3 doubles	#1 and #2 singles, and #1 doubles (priority); #2 doubles if enough players present	4
1 singles, 4 doubles	#1 singles, #1 and #2 doubles (priority); #3 doubles if enough players present	5
2 singles, 2 doubles	#1 singles and #1 doubles (priority); #2 singles if enough players present	3

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1 singles, 3 doubles	#1 singles and #1 doubles (priority); #2 doubles if enough players present	3
1 singles, 2 doubles	#1 singles and #1 doubles	3
3 doubles	#1 and #2 doubles	4

If a team shows up without the minimum number of players required for the team match based on the number of players present, or to be present, it will be a full team default in favor of the opponents.

- F. A **substitute** is defined as a player not listed on the original lineup. A substitute can be used **only if**:
- i) a player listed on the original lineup does not arrive within the 15-minute default time
  - ii) a player is injured or becomes ill prior to the start of the individual match.
  - iii) a doubles pair has an ineligible rating for the league being played, e.g. a 4.0 and a 3.5 playing 7.0 mixed doubles.
  - iv) a match is rescheduled by inclement weather.

**Comment:** A substitute cannot be used if a player originally listed on the line up arrives at the match and no longer wishes to play or has time to play.

## 6) SCORECARDS

- A. Captains should print a scorecard from TennisLink before each match to use for lineup exchange. **All eligible players will be listed at the bottom of each scorecard**; therefore, if you have additions, printing the scorecards before each match will avoid confusion with the opposing team.
- B. Scores must be entered within 24 hours of the completion of a match. The winning captain is responsible for ensuring that scores are entered and the losing captain is responsible for confirming the scores. Deliberately entering or confirming incorrect scores destroys the integrity of the ratings system and any captains found doing so will be suspended from USTA league play. Score confirmation or score disputes must be made within 48 hours of score entry. **Scores for the last match of the season must be entered within two hours of the completed team match in order to confirm winners and develop playoff draws, or the match may be double-defaulted.**
- C. Captains should keep a hard copy of each of their scorecards.

## SECTION III. FORMAT OF PLAY AND SCORING

### 1) TEAM MATCH FORMAT

- A. Each team match consists of the following individual matches:
  - Adult 18 & Over:** 2 singles, 3 doubles except 2.5 and 5.0 which play 1 singles and 2 doubles.
  - Adult 40 & Over:** 1 singles, 4 doubles except Business Women, who play 1 singles and 2 doubles.
  - Adult 55 & Over:** 3 doubles
  - Adult 65 & Over:** 3 doubles
- B. **The team winning the majority of individual matches shall be awarded one team point.** TennisLink standings will determine division winners.
- C. Each division of an NTRP level shall play a round robin format in which each team will play every other team a minimum of one time.
- D. Defaults (defaults) and disqualifications shall be scored according to USTA League Regulations.

### 2) INDIVIDUAL MATCH FORMAT

- A. The warmup will take place at match start time. The warm-up must be accomplished in a maximum of ten minutes, including serves. **Do not practice returns of serve during the warm-up.** Players must catch the ball and serve it back.

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Any player who arrives after the scheduled start time but prior to the expiration of the 15-minute default time will be allowed a warmup not to exceed five minutes after expiration of the 15-minute default time.

- B. In the 18 & Over and 40 & Over leagues, matches will be best 2 out of 3 **complete** sets. In case of split sets, a 10-minute rest period is permitted. The 3<sup>rd</sup> set must then be played to completion. With the agreement of **all** players involved before starting an individual match, the players may play a 10-point tie-break in lieu of a full 3<sup>rd</sup> set. If a 10-point tiebreaker is chosen, there may be a 2-minute rest period between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> sets. If the match tiebreaker is chosen to be played, the third set will be entered as a 1-0 retirement.

In the Men's and Women's 55 & Over league, if the first two sets are split, the third set shall be played as a match tiebreaker (first team to 10, must win by 2 points). However, with the agreement of **all** players involved before starting an individual match, the players may play a full 3<sup>rd</sup> set. If the match tiebreaker is chosen to be played, the third set will be entered as 1-0 retirement.

In the Men's and Women's 65 & Over leagues, if the first two sets are split, the third set shall be played as a match tiebreaker (first team to 10, must win by 2 points).

- C. Tie-breaks will use the Coman tiebreak format in which ends are changed after the first point and then after every four points.
- D. Coaching is permitted only during the 10-minute rest period between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> sets. However, there is no coaching permitted after the 2<sup>nd</sup> set if a tiebreaker is played in lieu of a full 3<sup>rd</sup> set.

**Comment:** Coaching is considered to be communication, advice, or any instruction of any kind and by any means, which is either audible or visible to a player.

**Comment:** Communication between spectators and players should be in a language understood by all players present, or it may be considered coaching.

- E. In each individual match, the home team will be responsible for providing balls for the match.

- F. **Cell phones, pagers, fitness trackers (e.g., Fitbits), smart watches, and other electronic devices.** Cell phones and pagers should be turned off during the entirety of the match. Fitness trackers and smart watches may be worn during a match. However, if a player suspects an opponent is receiving communications of any kind (other than fitness data) via the fitness tracker or smart watch, the suspecting player may ask the opponent to remove such fitness tracker or smart watch and to discontinue monitoring of the device during the match.

**Comment:** If a player's phone rings on the court during a point, an opponent may claim the point in the game on the basis of a deliberate hindrance. Exception: first responders may receive phone calls without penalty; first responders should alert their opponents to the possibility of receiving calls prior to the match start. Any other phone calls are not permitted during the match.

## SECTION IV. MATCH REQUIREMENTS

### 1) COURTS

- A. Each team must guarantee the use of at least two playable courts (same surface, same location) as home courts. Once a team has selected its official home facility in TennisLink, all home matches shall be played at that facility.
- B. Home teams" will have the choice of court surface for which they wish to play their home matches. The use of tennis-related blended lines are permitted on courts used for local league matches. The use of other lines for another sport, such as pickleball are not permitted on courts used for local league matches.
- C. 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.
- D. Any player may deem a court unsafe for play. Once play has started, a court cannot be deemed unfit for play unless there is a change in court condition.
- E. Courts with lights are not required for daytime leagues.

**Comment:** As a courtesy to your opponents, you should advise them in advance if using clay courts.

### 2) SPECIAL FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

- A. The home team must pay required court and/or guest fees for visiting team players. This includes indoor fees. In case of a make-up match or rain on the scheduled play day, the visiting team *may* share the cost, provided it is discussed and **agreed to** before the visiting team arrives.

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- B. 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.

**Comment:** The home team does not have to pay parking fees for visiting teams. As a courtesy, the captain at a facility where parking charges are imposed should inform the visiting captain in advance.

- 3) If the home team cannot provide two courts at the home team facility, the visiting team has the first option of supplying courts for the match. If the visiting team is unable to provide courts, the responsibility reverts to the home team which must provide courts within a reasonable distance (a few miles). If no courts are available, the away team may choose whether to reschedule under the inclement weather rules or to take a default of any or all lines.

**Comment:** Court unavailability: If the home team knows 24 hours in advance that its courts are likely to be unavailable, (e.g. the facility has clay courts that are waterlogged or a freeze is forecast for the night before the match, or courts are covered in ice or snow, or are out of action for maintenance), the home captain must offer the visiting team the option of providing courts and proceed as described in Section IV.3 above. If this procedure is followed and alternative courts cannot be found, the match may be rescheduled using the inclement weather rules. If the home team does not follow this procedure and the match cannot be played because of unavailable courts which were known to be such in advance, the away team may choose to claim a default or to use the inclement weather rules. This rule does not apply to anticipation of wet weather or excessive heat or cold.

- 4) 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:

- A. continue play at their home courts **or**  
B. declare a default against the home team and win the uncompleted individual matches.

**Exception:** If a makeup match or rescheduled match has not been completed by the default time for a regularly scheduled USTA league match that is booked for the same courts, the players in the makeup match must vacate the court. They may move to another court or reschedule using the inclement weather rules.

**Comment:** If a team playing a makeup match will not vacate the court and therefore the home team cannot provide 2 courts, refer back to Section IV.3.

- 5) In the summer Men's league, regularly scheduled individual matches not begun by 9:00 PM may be rescheduled using the inclement weather rules.
- 6) If the lights go out during an evening match and cannot be re-lit in a reasonable amount of time (10 minutes), or if the facility closes, the match can be rescheduled using the makeup deadlines.

## **SECTION V. INCLEMENT WEATHER** **See Section X for Makeup Default Times**

- 1) Inclement weather is defined as precipitation or severe weather (temperatures below 32 degrees or above 95 degrees for the 18 & Over and 40 & Over league, and below 35 or above 95 degrees for the 55 & Over and 65 & Over league as determined by weather.com for the zip code of the location of the match). Wind chill and heat index are not a factor in determining temperature.
- 2) A one-hour delay from the agreed upon start time for the team match must be observed at all times in order for weather conditions to improve. This includes make up matches. If within one hour conditions improve the match is to begin and **all positions are to play**. Exception: the Local League Coordinator or Program Director may postpone a City Final match without waiting for one hour.

**Comment:** Captains should stay in contact via the telephone during inclement weather. There is no requirement for the visiting team to drive to the courts in order to cancel the team match.

**Comment:** While nobody is required to dry off courts, it is requested that both teams cooperate in preparing courts for play, particularly at times when the weather forecast suggests that there may be problems in rescheduling.

- 3) Once inclement weather has caused the start of a match to be delayed by more than one hour from the regularly scheduled time, the match has become a makeup match and inclement weather rules apply.
- 4) If the start of a team match is cancelled due to inclement weather, any defaults awarded in advance may now be played.
- 5) In the event inclement weather occurs after the team match has begun, a one-hour wait to resume play must be observed. **If play cannot be continued:**
- A. Completed individual matches stand as played.  
B. Points awarded for defaults given at the time the original written lineup was exchanged are considered completed matches. All players listed on the lineup who are involved in defaults **cannot** participate in a re-scheduled match.

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- C. Individual matches in progress must be made up and resumed by the same players at the exact set, game and point that existed when play was halted.
  - D. Any player who is not involved in a previously started match or default can participate in any matches that have not yet begun.
- 6) In the event the temperature falls below 32 degrees or rises above 95 degrees after the team match has begun, any one individual may choose to postpone the match for one hour to see if conditions improve. If conditions do not improve within one hour, those matches may be rescheduled. Equally, any individual matches that have not started may be delayed for one hour waiting for conditions to improve. If conditions do not improve within one hour, those matches may be rescheduled.
  - 7) For matches delayed or rescheduled to play during darkness, the home team facility must have lights. (If the home team cannot provide courts with lights, see Section IV, Rule 3.)
  - 8) In case of inclement weather for team or individual matches whose start time or day had been **officially** rescheduled (as per Section II.4.D.iii), use the applicable makeup default time outlined in Section X.

**Comment:** If the captains failed to officially reschedule their team match in writing and the (unofficial) match is cancelled due to inclement weather, the make-up default time becomes the originally scheduled day and time for the team match.

- 9) Arrangements for make-up matches must be agreed upon within **48 hours** of the original match start time, or assumed rescheduled for the makeup default time.
- 10) Once a time, day and location for the makeup match has been agreed upon in writing by the parties involved, that match **MAY NOT BE POSTPONED**, for any reason other than inclement weather.

## SECTION VI. PLAYOFFS & PROGRESSION

- 1) All teams placed first and second in their division will advance to playoffs. Some third and fourth place teams may also be used to fill the draws at the discretion of the Program Director. The exception to this may be smaller division levels (with only one or two groups) where the Program Director will determine the playoff structure prior to the first match of the season.
- 2) **The division winner shall be the team having won the most team matches in its division competition.** In the event of a tie for division winner and/or second and third place positions, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following methods.
  - a. Winner of the most individual matches.
  - b. Loser of the fewest sets
  - c. Loser of the fewest games
  - d. Head-to-head winner

**Comment:** In the event two teams from different divisions tie all the way down to the fewest games lost, the Local League Coordinator will determine which team will advance to playoffs using a coin flip.

- 3) Playoff draws will be seeded with the highest seed playing the lowest, the second highest playing the second lowest and so on.
- 4) All playoff matches should be played to completion to generate accurate individual ratings.
- 5) In order for a player to be eligible to progress to the USTA Atlanta local playoffs and City Final, that player must have played twice during the entire local round robin season for that particular season for 18 & Over, 40 & Over and 55 & Over leagues and once for the 65 & Over leagues (i.e. from the first match through the last local round robin match of the season). Receiving a winning default can only be counted as one of the matches played. It is each captain's responsibility to ensure that scorecards are accurate throughout the season and all players are eligible before competing in playoffs.
- 6) In order for a player to be eligible to progress to State Championships, **that player must have played twice during the regular local league season the team qualified for 18 & Over and 40 & Over and 55 & Over leagues, and once for the 65 & Over leagues;** Receiving a default can only be counted as one of the matches played.
- 7) In the Adult 18 & Over league, one State Championship berth will be awarded per 64 teams in any level, except for men's and women's 4.5 who are awarded one berth per every 10 teams. In the Adult 40 & Over league, one State Championship berth will be awarded per 15 teams. There must be 8 teams in both the Weekday Women's league and the Business Women's league at a given level in order to receive two berths. In the Adult 55 & Over and Adult 65 & Over leagues, one State Championship berth will be awarded per season for a max of 10 teams, 2 berths per season for a max of 20 teams and up to each additional 10 teams, 1 more berth is given.
- 8) Vacancies created in the State Championship due to a repeat winner at the City Finals, extra berth, or a wild card, shall be filled using the next best team as determined by percentage of individual wins during local league playoffs. If a city champion declines their invitation, then the berth will be awarded to the losing finalist with the best playoff record, as measured by percentage of individual wins, from all group finalists in the same season in the same level and league. If all group finalists



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decline, the place will be offered to the best losing semifinalist across the groups on the same basis. If it comes down to 1<sup>st</sup> round playoff teams, the team with the highest seed (as determined by local league round robin record) will get the invitation.

**Comment:** If decisions get to 2<sup>nd</sup> round of playoffs, teams with byes during 1<sup>st</sup> round of playoffs will be counted as a 5-0 win determining percentages.

- 9) Individual Defaults at the State Tournament. Any team defaulting a court for any reason will be fined \$100 per court defaulted. The fine must be paid in the tournament room prior to the team's next match. If it's the team's last match of the tournament, they must pay prior to leaving. If a team does not pay the fine, a grievance will be filed against all members listed on the team information sheet, which could result in suspension from any USTA League play until the fine is paid. Any matches played during that time will be reverted to losses. The reason for this regulation is it's your team's responsibility to have players on every court at each match during a state championship. When a team defaults a line, it not only can affect the outcome of the tournament, but more importantly, it effects those players who showed up ready to play, only to find their opponents did not show.
- 10) **Area Teams. No player may participate on an Area Team if they have participated on any team at that level, in that league type, in another local league in Georgia during that championship year. All Area Teams participating in an Area League MUST compete against each other.**

## SECTION VII. DEFAULTS, RATINGS & DISQUALIFICATIONS

- 1) If a team has an invalid match (a majority of the individual matches must actually be played to constitute a valid team match) the team may (state ALC's decision) be removed from competition and the standings.
- 2) Any team found playing an ineligible player may be subject to a filed grievance against the ineligible player and/or team, and may result in the player and/or team being disqualified from league play.
- 3) All players must use their most current published rating at the time of registration on a team. All computer ratings are administered by USTA Georgia. Players will use either their current self-rating or their most recent published Year End rating.
- 4) Once a player is registered on a specific team roster, they may play at that level throughout all USTA state and sectional championships even if their rating increases prior to the championships unless the person has a dynamic or NTRP Grievance disqualification. If a team advances to a National championship and a player's most recently published year end rating is higher than their roster rating, that player would not be eligible to advance to a National championship with the team.
- 5) Any player who has been dynamically disqualified, or whose published rating is above the disqualification level, is no longer protected through the championships and must immediately cease participation at that level.
- 6) If a self-rated player or a player with a granted medical appeal or a computer rated appeal (A) is disqualified for that particular level of play, the player must immediately stop play at that level but their scores will not be subject to match reversal. Local play occurring at the State Championships: Players will be permitted to play in the entire event, but if a disqualification occurs when the ratings are run at the conclusion of the tournament, those matches will be handled in the following manner: If the playoff is a round robin, matches for the disqualified players are reversed. Matches played during a playoff, by winners advancing from multiple round robins are not reversed.
- 7) A disqualified player may join a team at their new higher level following TennisLink procedures. No refund will be given to a disqualified player.
- 8) When new ratings are published, players can appeal by attempting to register for their team on TennisLink. All ratings appeals notifications are immediate via TennisLink. Any questions regarding ratings appeals should be addressed with the Director of Leagues for USTA Georgia.
- 9) If a player successfully appeals their rating after registering for their team, they must notify their Local League Coordinator to have the rating adjusted on their roster. Until the appealed rating is reflected on the roster, the player must play with the rating they registered with.

# USTA ATLANTA

## SECTION VIII. LOCAL LEAGUE GRIEVANCES

- 1) Complaints alleging a violation of USTA League Regulations shall be filed in writing by a team captain via email ([grievances@ustaatlanta.com](mailto: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.
- 2) 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 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.
- 3) 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 if 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.
- 4) The USTA Atlanta office will send a copy of the complaint via email to each party against whom the complaint has been made.
- 5) The USTA Atlanta Grievance Committee members are Kathy Solomon (chair), Wayne Miller, Jenni Ginepri, Carolyn Watkins, Greg Wandrick.
- 6) The USTA Atlanta Grievance Appeals Committee members are Robert Washington (co-chair), Heather Cotton (co-chair), Shannon Rowe, Maureen Gold and Joan Marcinko.

**For full Grievance Procedures refer to Section 2.0 of the USTA League Regulations.**

## SECTION IX. NTRP GRIEVANCES

- 1) A complaint may be filed by a captain or Local League Coordinator against a player and/or captain who commits or condones entering at one level when their actual skill level is at the top of the next NTRP level or higher. If a team has multiple players disqualified during a season or league year, USTA Atlanta may raise a NTRP grievance against the captain, who may be subject to sanctions, including disqualification and suspension, as deemed appropriate by the Southern Section NTRP Grievance Committee.
- 2) The party that files the NTRP grievance must provide documentation to support their complaint at the time of their filing.
- 3) The USTA Southern Section NTRP Grievance Committee will have jurisdiction, augmented as necessary by experts in NTRP ratings, and may ask the alleged violator to complete a USTA Player Background History sheet and submit it to the committee for review. After review, and in consultation with the NTRP experts who have augmented the committee, they will take action, as they deem appropriate.
- 4) This action may include disqualification, suspension from league play or other league sanctions.
- 5) Send NTRP Grievances to [grievances@ustaatlanta.com](mailto:grievances@ustaatlanta.com) for forwarding to USTA Southern Section Grievance Committee. USTA Atlanta serves only as a pass-through entity to the Southern Section.
- 6) An NTRP Grievance can be filed at any time. NTRP Grievances filed within seven days of the start of the player's and/or captain's local league playoffs will be administered after the event unless the USTA Southern Section authorizes the administration of the grievance prior to that time. If the grievance is not administered until after the event, points won by players will stand. Disqualified players and/or captains that are suspended will not be eligible to advance to the next level of championship play.
- 7) There is no fee for filing an NTRP grievance under this Section IX.

## SECTION X. START TIMES & MAKEUP DEFAULT TIMES

The following charts indicate the normal match times and default times. The League Program Director may modify the normal default times and the length of time which must be waited before a match can be delayed for inclement weather to accommodate circumstances such as extended periods of bad weather being forecast or the presence of a bye week in the schedule.

The makeup default time is used in the event matches have not been completed prior to the makeup default time. The order of play for the makeup default time shall be the same as a regularly scheduled match unless a prior agreement has been made.

**League matches take priority over regular season makeup default matches and will be completed first.**

### **Weekday Women – 18 & over**

**Start Time**

**Thursday**

**9:30 AM (winter)**

# USTA ATLANTA

Makeup Default Time	Thursday	9:00 AM (summer)
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday (13 days later)	9:30 AM (winter)
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday (13 days later)	9:00 AM (summer)

**Example:** If a match scheduled for Thursday, May 29, is rained out, the makeup default day will be Wednesday, June 11.

**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 default day (Wednesday), the new default time moves to the following Friday at 9:30 AM (winter) or Friday at 9:00 AM (summer) and continues weekday-to-weekday until weather permits the match to be played. If the makeup day continues to a Tuesday, and either 18 & Over team has a conflict with a 40 & Over match, the teams must declare that Tuesday as an inclement weather day and continue day-to-day afterward. The captain having the conflict on that Thursday should notify the coordinator of such conflict.

**\*Exception:** If inclement weather occurs on the second to last match of the regular season, the makeup default time is the following Wednesday (six days later) at 9:00 AM (summer) or 9:30 AM (winter). If inclement weather occurs on the last match of the regular season or during playoffs, the makeup default time is the following day (Friday) at 9:00 AM (summer) or 9:30 AM (winter), and continues business weekday-to-weekday at 9:00 AM (summer) or 9:30 AM (winter) until weather permits the match to be played. If the makeup day continues to a Tuesday, and either Adult 18 & Over team has a conflict with a 40 & Over match, teams must declare that Tuesday as an inclement weather day and continue day-to-day afterward. The captain having the conflict on that Tuesday should notify the coordinator of such conflict.

## Business Women – 18 & over

Start Time	Sunday	12:00 PM (summer)
	Saturday	1:30 PM (winter)
Makeup Default Time	2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday (13 days later)	6:00 PM (summer)
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday (14 days later)	6:00 PM (winter)

**Example:** If a match scheduled for Sunday, June 1, is rained out, the makeup default day will be Saturday, June 14.

**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 default day, the new default time is the following Monday at 6:00 PM (Or a later time but not later day with mutual agreement by all affected players) and continues day-to-day at 6:00 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 Saturday (six days later for summer and seven days later for winter) at 6:00 PM. If inclement weather occurs on the last match of the regular season or during playoffs, the makeup default time is Wednesday at 6:00 PM (or a later time but not later day with mutual agreement by all affected players) and continues day-to-day at 6:00 PM until weather permits the match to be played.

## Weekday Women – 40 & over

Start Time	Tuesday	9:30 AM (winter)
	Tuesday	9:00 AM (summer)
Makeup Default Time	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday (13 days later)	9:30 AM (winter)
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday (13 days later)	9:00 AM (summer)

**Example:** If a match scheduled for Tuesday, June 3, is rained out, the makeup default day will be Monday, June 16.

**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 default day (Monday), the new default time moves to the following Wednesday at 9:30 AM (winter) or Wednesday at 9:00 AM (summer) and continues weekday-to-weekday until weather permits the match to be played. If the makeup day continues to a Thursday, and either 40 & Over team has a conflict with an Adult 18 & Over match, the teams must declare that Thursday as an inclement weather day and continue day-to-day afterward. The captain having the conflict on that Thursday should notify the coordinator of such conflict.

**\*Exception:** If inclement weather occurs on the second to last match of the regular season, the makeup default time is the following Monday (6 days later) at 9:00 AM (summer) or 9:30 AM (winter). If inclement weather occurs on the last match of the regular season or during playoffs, the makeup default time is Wednesday, 9:00 AM (summer) or 9:30 AM (winter). If it rains on Wednesday, the default time continues weekday-to-weekday. If the makeup day continues to a Thursday, and either 40 & Over team has a conflict with an Adult 18 & Over match, teams must declare that Thursday as an inclement weather day and continue weekday-to-weekday afterward. The captain having the conflict on that Thursday should notify the coordinator of such conflict.

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## Business Women – 40 & over

<b>Start Time</b>	<b>Tuesday</b> <b>Tuesday</b>	<b>6:30 PM (Winter)</b> <b>6:45 PM (Summer)</b>
<b>Makeup Default Time*</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Monday (13 days later)</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Monday (13 days later)</b>	<b>6:30 PM (Winter)</b> <b>6:45 PM (Summer)</b>

**Example:** If a match scheduled for Tuesday, June 3, is rained out, the makeup default day will be Monday, June 16.

**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 default day, the new default time is the following Wednesday at 6:45 PM (summer) or 6:30 PM (winter) and continues day-to-day at 6:45 PM (summer) or 6:30 PM (winter) 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 Monday (6 days later) at 6:45 PM (summer) or 6:30 PM (winter). If inclement weather occurs on the last match of the regular season or during playoffs, the makeup default time is Wednesday at 6:45 PM (summer) or 6:30 PM (winter) and continues day-to-day at 6:45 PM (summer) or (6:30 PM winter) until weather permits the match to be played.

## Women – 55 & over

<b>Start Time</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>
<b>Makeup Default Time</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Monday (12 days later)</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>

**Example:** If a match scheduled for Wednesday, June 4, is rained out, the makeup default day will be Monday, June 16.

**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 default day (Monday), the new default time moves to the following Thursday at 10:00 AM and continues weekday-to-weekday until weather permits the match to be played. If the makeup day continues to a Tuesday, and either 55 & Over team has a conflict with a 40 & Over match, the teams must declare that Tuesday as an inclement weather day and continue day-to-day afterward. The captain having the conflict on that Tuesday should notify the coordinator of such conflict.

**\*Exception:** If inclement weather occurs on the second to last match of the regular season, the makeup default time is the following Monday (5 days later) at 10:00 AM. If inclement weather occurs on the last match of the regular season or during playoffs, the makeup default time is the next day at 10:00 AM and continues weekday-to-weekday at 10:00 AM until weather permits the match to be played. If there is a conflict with another USTA league (Adult 18 & Over Thursday Women), then that Thursday would be skipped as a make-up day.

## Women – 65 & over

<b>Start Time</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>
<b>Makeup Default Time</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday (13 days later)</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>

**Example:** If a match scheduled for Friday, June 6, is rained out, the makeup default day will be Thursday, June 19.

**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 default day (Thursday), the new default time moves to the next Monday at 10:00 AM and continues business weekday-to-weekday at 10:00 AM 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 10:00 AM. If inclement weather occurs on the last match of the regular season or during playoffs, the makeup default time is Monday at 10:00 AM and continues business weekday-to-weekday at 10:00 AM until weather permits the match to be played.

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## Men – 18 & over

<b>Start Time</b>	<b>Sunday</b> <b>Saturday</b>	<b>4:00 PM (summer)</b> <b>9:30 AM (winter)</b>
<b>Makeup Default Time</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday (13 days later)</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday (14 days later)</b>	<b>6:00 PM (summer)</b> <b>6:00 PM (winter)</b>

Example: If a match scheduled for Sunday, June 1, is rained out, the makeup default day will be Saturday, June 14.

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 default day, the new default time is the following Monday at 7:00 PM (or a later time but not later day with mutual agreement by all affected players) and continues day-to-day at 7:00 PM until weather permits the match to be played.

**\*Exceptions:** If inclement weather occurs on the second to last match of the regular season, the makeup default time is the following Saturday (6 days later for summer and 7 days later for winter) at 6:00 PM. If inclement weather occurs on the last match of the regular season or during playoffs, the makeup default time is Thursday at 7:00 PM (or a later time but not later day with mutual agreement by all affected players) and continues day-to-day at 7:00 PM until weather permits the match to be played.

## Men – 40 & over

<b>Start Time</b>	<b>Sunday</b> <b>Saturday</b>	<b>4:00 PM (spring)</b> <b>9:00 AM (summer/fall)</b>
<b>Makeup Default Time</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday (13 days later)</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday (14 days later)</b>	<b>6:00 PM (spring)</b> <b>6:00 PM (summer/fall)</b>

Example: If a match scheduled for Sunday, June 1, is rained out, the makeup default day will be Saturday, June 14.

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 default day (Saturday), the new default time moves to the next Monday evening at 7:00 PM (or a later time but not later day with mutual agreement by all affected players) and continues day-to-day 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 Saturday (6 days later for spring and 7 days later for summer/winter) at 6:00 PM. If inclement weather occurs on the last match of the regular season or during playoffs, the makeup default time is Tuesday at 7:00 PM (or a later time but not later day with mutual agreement by all affected players) and continues day-to-day at 7:00 PM.

## Men – 55 & over Wednesday

<b>Start Time</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>
<b>Makeup Default Time</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Monday (12 days later)</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>

Example: If a match scheduled for Wednesday, June 4, is rained out, the makeup default day will be Monday, June 16.

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 default day, the new default time is the following Thursday at 10:00 AM and continues business weekday-to-weekday at 10:00 AM 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 Monday (5 days later) at 10:00 AM. If inclement weather occurs on the last match of the regular season or during playoffs, the makeup default time is Friday at 10:00 AM (for 4.0 teams) and Monday at 10:00 AM (for 3.5 teams) and continues business weekday-to-weekday at 10:00 AM until weather permits the match to be played.

# USTA ATLANTA

## Men – 55 & over Saturday

<b>Start Time</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>3:00 PM</b>
<b>Makeup Default Time</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday (15 days later)</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b>

Example: If a match scheduled for Saturday, June 1, is rained out, the makeup default day will be Sunday, June 15.

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 default day the new default time is the following Monday at 7:00 PM (or a later time but not later day with mutual agreement by all affected players) and continues day-to-day 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 Sunday (8 days later) at 12:00 PM. If inclement weather occurs on the last match of the regular season or during playoffs, the makeup default time is Monday at 7:00 PM (or a later time but not later day with mutual agreement by all affected players) and continues day-to-day at 7:00 PM until weather permits the match to be played.

## Men – 65 & over, 3.5 League

<b>Start Time</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>
<b>Makeup Default Time</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday (13 days later)</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>

Example: If a match scheduled for Friday, June 6, is rained out, the makeup default day will be Thursday, June 19.

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 default day, the new default time is the following Monday at 10:00 AM and continues day-to-day at 10:00 AM 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 10:00 AM. If inclement weather occurs on the last match of the regular season or during playoffs, the makeup default time is Monday at 10:00 AM and continues business weekday-to-weekday at 10:00 AM until weather permits the match to be played.

## Men – 65 & over, 4.0 League

<b>Start Time</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>
<b>Makeup Default Time</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday (10 days later)</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>

Example: If a match scheduled for Monday, June 2, is rained out, the makeup default day will be Thursday, June 12.

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 default day, the new default time is the following Tuesday at 10:00 AM and continues business weekday-to-weekday at 10:00 AM 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 (3 days later) at 10:00 AM. If inclement weather occurs on the last match of the regular season or during playoffs, the makeup default time is Tuesday at 10:00 AM and continues business weekday-to-weekday at 10:00 AM until weather permits the match to be played.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**USTA League for Atlanta** is organized into leagues, levels/flights, groups and sub-flights/divisions as defined:

**Leagues** – Adult League (18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over and 65 & Over); Men, Business Women and Weekday Women, Mixed Doubles (18 & Over and 40 & Over), Combo (18 & Over and 40 & Over); Men, Business Women and Weekday Women.

**Level or Flight** – NTRP skill levels offered in a league.

**Group** – The division of a level according to the number of berths allotted by USTA Georgia for the State Championships. A level may have one or more groups. Groups are typically named after colors.

**Division or Sub-Flight** – The division of a group into teams that fit the schedule of play.

**APPEAL** – Request for reconsideration of a previous decision.

**APPROVED FACILITY** –At least two tennis courts of the same surface that have been approved for play and are located inside the USTA ATLANTA boundaries (Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton, Gwinnett, Forsyth, Douglas and Paulding [east of Hwy 61]).

**THE CODE** –The current printing of THE CODE, “The Players’ Guide for Unofficial Matches”.

**COMPUTER RATING** –A rating that is published based on three or more matches played. Used to create playing levels.

**DEFAULT** –The loss of an individual match by failing to be present for play within 15 minutes (default time) after the scheduled start time.

**DISQUALIFICATION** – Action taken to remove a player who is deemed ineligible to participate.

**DYNAMIC RATING** –A rating to the 100<sup>th</sup> of a decimal point that is associated with a player. This rating has the potential to change with every match played by the player and is not published.

**EARLY START LEAGUE** –Leagues where play begins prior to the calendar year for participation in the following calendar year’s Championships. Includes all USTA Atlanta leagues.

**DEFAULT** –The result of a default or disqualification.

**GRIEVANCE** –Written formal complaint regarding an alleged violation of a regulation or procedure.

**INDIVIDUAL MATCH** - Any singles or doubles match played as a part of a team match.

**INJURY/MEDICAL TIMEOUT** –A timeout of up to a maximum of three minutes for a treatable injury or medical condition.

**LEAGUE PROGRESSION** –Local league winners have the opportunity to advance through state, sectional and national championships competition.

**LOCAL LEAGUE COORDINATOR** –Person appointed to implement and administer the USTA League program.

**MODIFIED SCHEDULE** – A round robin during a regular season, which may have teams play some but not all teams in their division twice. Such a schedule will be randomly determined by TennisLink.

**NTRP RATING** – The National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) is the official system for determining the levels of competition for the USTA League Program. The USTA NTRP Computer Rating System assigns ratings based on play in the local league and at championship levels.

**PENALTY** –The loss of point(s) or other action expressly imposed by these rules or by the USTA Atlanta Grievance Committee for a violation of these rules.

**RATING** – The playing level that a USTA member’s NTRP rating has been rounded up to for purposes of creating leagues of common ability. *For example:* 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0

**REST PERIOD** –A maximum of ten minutes, with coaching permitted, between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> sets when playing a best of three full sets format.

**RETIREMENT** –Occurs when an individual match has started and a player is unable to continue.

**RULES OF TENNIS** –The current printing of the “Rules of Tennis and Cases and Decisions”; all other current USTA Rules.

**SCHEDULED MATCH** –Date published on the TennisLink Schedule or agreed to by the captains in accordance with the Rules.

**SELF RATING** –An entry rating determined by a new player entering the program, in accordance with the NTRP Guidelines.

**TEAM MATCH** –The total of individual singles and doubles matches played between two teams.

**USTA LEAGUE TENNIS YEAR** –The USTA League Tennis year is Jan – Dec. Atlanta is an early start league that runs late May/June 1<sup>st</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup>.

**USTA ATLANTA WEBSITE** –The official website of USTA ATLANTA is [www.ustaatlanta.com](http://www.ustaatlanta.com).

**YEAR END RATING** –Ratings that are published each November after the annual national championships benchmark data is input.

# USTA ATLANTA

## COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Refer to USTA Atlanta Rules and Regulations:

- 1. If I have to default a point, where must I default?**  
*If you know in advance of the match that you will be short players, you must default from the bottom up (3 doubles or 2 singles). If you do not know in advance and your players don't show up, default the position they were to play, but don't move players around on the scorecard.*
- 2. What is the default time if someone is late to a match?**  
*15 minutes after the scheduled time of the individual match if a court is available.*
- 3. What do I do if my opponent wants to keep rescheduling the rainout match?**  
*Once the rained-out match has been rescheduled in writing and confirmed by both captains and/or players involved, the day and time stand. The teams are expected to play that position at that time with any eligible player(s). If a team cannot play the position on the agreed rescheduled date, they default that individual match. Both captains should contact their Level Rep with the agreed upon date and time to prevent problems.*
- 4. Can we make up matches beyond the deadline day if both teams cannot play within the time period allotted?**  
*No. The only exception to this rule will be teams with USTA League State, Sectional or National Championship conflicts as authorized by the Local League Coordinator.*
- 5. Do we have to wait an hour for rain to stop?**  
*Yes, even for makeup matches.*
- 6. Can we call the match off without showing up?**  
*Yes, if it is obviously raining the match may be rescheduled via a phone call. Captains should keep in touch with each other concerning "iffy" weather. You must still allow for a one-hour delay of official or agreed upon start time before deciding.*
- 7. If a point is defaulted to my opponent early, does a rainout allow me to play the point in a rescheduled match?**  
*Yes.*
- 8. What happens when the home team has no lights and the match must be suspended for darkness?**  
*Use inclement weather rules – no default points may be taken.*
- 9. What happens when lights go off in the middle of a match and can't be re-lit?**  
*Wait 10 minutes for lights to come back on, or if you have no control of the light switch, use inclement weather rules.*
- 10. What happens when courts are unavailable because another league hasn't completed their matches?**  
*If the matches still playing are from a regularly scheduled USTA match, players are to wait for courts. If the players are playing a rescheduled or makeup match, they may stay on the court until the default time, but then must vacate the courts*
- 11. What happens when USTA Atlanta discovers a makeup match has not been scheduled and/or played by the makeup deadline?**  
*No extension is given and no point is awarded to either team. It is recorded as a double default.*
- 12. What occurs if player(s) are on the wrong court in an individual team match?**  
*If the discovery occurs before the first game of all matches affected has been completed, players are to go to the correct courts and begin the matches over. If the discovery occurs after the first game is completed, the matches will be completed as started and count as matches played in good faith.*
- 13. What should I do if I think a player is not the person on the lineup?**  
*If you have a reasonable suspicion that a person is not who they claim to be, take a picture of them and file a local grievance.*
- 14. Who receives awards at City Finals?**  
*Everyone who has played at least one match will receive an award.*

### Refer to Friend at Court or USTA Rules of Tennis:

- 1. Can anyone on the court call a let for a ball on the court?**  
*Yes on both sides of your court. You may not call lets on adjoining courts even if your ball rolls onto another court. Exception: You may not call a let if the ball falls out of your own or your partner's pocket.*
- 2. What if an injury occurs during a match?**  
*A medical timeout shall begin when a player states the need for one. A maximum of three minutes is allowed for a medical timeout. His/her opponent(s) may begin timing the three minutes after which play must resume immediately or the match must be retired. A player may not take more than one medical timeout for the same condition.*
- 3. What if the net looks too high?**  
*If no one has a measure, the court is deemed playable.*



**4. What if there is no center strap on the net?**

*This is not a fully equipped court and therefore no one is forced to play on it. If you decide to play, no grievance may be filed.*

**5. What if there are holes, cracks, debris, ice etc. on the court?**

*If you feel a court is unsafe, you do not have to play on it. It only takes one player to deem a court unplayable. Agreement of all parties is not required.*