

# USTA ATLANTA

Hello Captains!

Thank you for volunteering to serve as a captain this season. Your leadership, communication, and dedication are essential to the smooth operation and success of our league.

As a captain, you are not only the primary point of contact for your team, but also a vital part of what makes this league run. We truly appreciate the time and effort you invest in organizing your players, managing match logistics, and helping uphold the spirit of fair play.

We're excited for a great season ahead—thank you again for all you do!

## **Important Updates for the Summer Season**

- The play format has changed to 3 lines of doubles. There is no singles line for the 40's Business Women's league. Please note, teams that qualify for the state tournament will play a 1 singles, 4 doubles format at the state tournament in 2026.
- Defaults awarded in advance may be revoked up until the start of the overall match. The team receiving the default should have players on site and ready to play in the event the defaulting team is able to secure players for the match.
- 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 animals, including service animals and emotional support animals, must be outside the area of play. This includes all areas inside the fence.
- There is not a bye built into the schedule for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. Please refer to the section regarding schedules below to learn more about how to handle the match that week.

# USTA ATLANTA

## Contact for the Season

Each team will have a dedicated level representative who has volunteered to answer questions throughout the season. They are here to make this a great experience for you, so please utilize them. **Elena Cosper** is the Program Director for the 40 & Over Business Women's league.

If you are unable to contact your coordinator for an immediate question, you are welcome to call another coordinator listed below.

3.0	Arrie Lugar	469-586-6565	<a href="mailto:arriellugar@yahoo.com">arriellugar@yahoo.com</a>
3.5	Diane Hamilton	510-384-8738	<a href="mailto:iamnichel@att.net">iamnichel@att.net</a>
4.0	DeAnna Emborski	850-774-0169	<a href="mailto:DeecoordinatorUSTA@myyahoo.com">DeecoordinatorUSTA@myyahoo.com</a>
4.5	Carolyn Watkins	678-468-9065	<a href="mailto:crwatkins@comcast.net">crwatkins@comcast.net</a>
League Program Director	Elena Cosper	404-375-3195	<a href="mailto:elenacosper@gmail.com">elenacosper@gmail.com</a>

## Season Schedule for Summer 2025 (League Year 2026) Season

In most groups, teams will have 6-7 team matches in their local round robin. Some groups may have more. This does not include playoffs and/or city finals.

### Local Match Dates\*

- Season starts Tuesday, June 10th at 6:45 pm
- See TennisLink for a complete schedule. Click on "Match Schedule" from your "Team Summary" page.

### July 1<sup>st</sup> Match

- This season, due to scheduling issues, we could not skip a week for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. Teams have (3) options on how to handle this match:
  - Play the match on July 1<sup>st</sup> as scheduled (if either team is unable to do this, move to the second and third bullets to follow)
  - Schedule lines to play prior to July 1<sup>st</sup>
  - If neither of the above options are feasible for either team, the July 1<sup>st</sup> match will be treated as a makeup match and teams will have until Monday, July 14th at 6:45 p.m. to play the match. If the match is treated as a makeup, teams must come to an agreement within 48 hours from the July 1<sup>st</sup> date on when makeups will be played.

### Playoffs

- Tuesday, July 22, 2025 (4.0 only)
- Tuesday, July 29, 2025 (3.0, 3.5)
- Tuesday, August 5, 2025 (3.0, 3.5)

### City Finals

- Tuesday, July 29, 2025 – 4.0 (rain date: August 5) at **higher seeded team's home courts**
- Tuesday, August 5, 2025 – 4.5 (rain date: August 12) at higher seeded team's home courts.
- Tuesday, August 12, 2025 – 3.0 and 3.5 (rain date: August 19) at **higher seeded team's home courts**

## Playoffs

Any player advancing to playoffs must have played two times during the regular season to advance and be eligible for playoffs. A default received may count as one of the matches played.

The playoff tournament will be comprised of the following teams below. Normal seeding procedures will apply.

- **3.0:** All three first place teams (seeds 1-3); all three second place teams (seeds 4-6); Seeds 7-8 will be determined by taking the top two best overall third place teams (out of all groups).
- **3.5:** All four first place teams (seeds 1 – 4); all four second place teams (seeds 5 – 8)
- **4.0:** Both first place teams (Seeds 1 – 2); both second place teams (seeds 3 – 4)
- **4.5:** Top 2 teams advance to the finals match.

## Scheduling Matches

Default Match Start Times:

- 6:45 PM: 1D and 2D
- 7:45 PM: 3D

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, you must get e-mail/text message confirmation from opposing captain. Refer to the USTA Atlanta rules and regulations for all match time scenarios.

## Make-up Matches

Teams have 13 days to make up matches (with the exception of the last 2 matches of the season – see paragraph below). Please refer to the 2026 league rules and regulations for specifics.

If inclement weather occurs on the makeup default day, the new default time is the following Wednesday at 6:45 PM and continues day-to-day at 6:45 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 Monday (6 days later) at 6:45 PM. 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 and continues day-to-day at 6:45 PM or until weather permits the match to be played.

If a group finishes a week earlier than the rest of their level (i.e. a group of 4 or 6 teams in a level with groups of 7 or 8 teams), and their last match of the season is rained out, the group of 4 or 6 will have 7 days to complete their match; therefore, finishing on the same day as the rest of the groups in their division level.

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

## Finding Phone Numbers for Opposing Captains

- Go to TennisLink (<http://tennislink.usta.com/leagues/>);
- Log in your USTA account (if you don't have one – create one);
- 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.

## 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/>);
- Log in your USTA account (if you don't have one – create one);
- Go to your team's "Team Summary" page (the default page for your team)
- Select "Captain Email Report;"
- You will see opposing captain e-mails.

## Add or change the co-captain

1. Go to TennisLink ([TennisLink](#)).
2. Login to TennisLink (Refer to the "Login to TennisLink" section of this document).
3. Click on "[New Team Management Tool](#)" under the heading "Quick Links"
4. On the Team Details section, click the pencil icon and choose a player on your team in the drop-down menu to assign as co-captain.

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

## Captain's Corner

The Captain's Corner is another key resource tool for captains. You can find the Captain's Corner by going to [40 & Over Captain's Corner](#).

## Line-ups

Avoid having matches reversed by ensuring that your players are registered on your roster (not registered as a USTA member). Players must be registered before they step foot on court to play their match. If they are not registered in time, the match will be reversed/disqualified and the point will be awarded to your opponents even if you win. No exceptions.

## Adding a Player After Season Begins

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

## Scoring

Teams have the option to play a 10-point tiebreaker in lieu of a 3<sup>rd</sup> complete set. This does not mean teams are required to do this, but it is merely an option. Before the racket spin, the individuals on the court (involved in the match) can decide to play the 10-point tiebreaker or not. This must be decided prior to the racket spin. The **default scoring will be a complete 3<sup>rd</sup> set**, so if all players do not agree, the default scoring will be used. If a tiebreaker is elected, players should communicate this to their captain prior to starting their match. If a 10-point tiebreaker is chosen, coaching is not allowed after the 2<sup>nd</sup> set and only a 2 minute rest period is allowed. **When recording the score in TennisLink, you would record a winning 10-point tiebreaker as 1-0 retired in the 3<sup>rd</sup> set. For example, if a team wins 4-6, 7-5, 10-8, they would report the score as 4-6, 7-5, 1-0 ret.**

## 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! Contact your opponent at least 3 days in advance to coordinate logistics for the team match.
- 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!
- Make sure your player is registered on your team before stepping foot on the court. If your player's match is started at 6:45 pm, and they registered on the team at 6:46 pm, it is an illegal match and will be disqualified and awarded to the opposing team.
- Stay in the know:
  - Subscribe to the [USTA Atlanta e-newsletter](#)
  - Connect with us on [Facebook](#)
  - Connect with us on [Instagram](#).

## Georgia State Tournament for 2026 Championship Year

We are currently in the 2026 Championship Year. City Champions from USTA Atlanta will advance to the USTA Georgia State Tournament to be held in June 2026. Please visit the USTA Georgia's site at [www.ustageorgia.com](http://www.ustageorgia.com) (USTA League Tennis > State Championships) for more information on logistics.

**Please note: the state format for the 40 & Over league is 1 singles and 4 doubles.**

## Qualifying for the 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 the matches 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.

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.

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 3 days in advance so traveling teams can make necessary changes if needed.

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.

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](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.

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.

There is a \$50 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 \$50 fee. All grievance filing fees retained by USTA Atlanta will be donated to the Atlanta Youth Tennis and Education Foundation.

Good luck – and have a great season!