USTA ATLANTA

Important Reminders/Updates for 2027 League Year

Section II.5A

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. **If Team A will not provide a written lineup within the default time, Team B may claim a default of the positions that were to start first. The remaining positions will play at the next scheduled time(s), provided a written lineup has now been exchanged.**

Section V. Inclement Weather

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 a weather app on the home team captain's phone for the zip code of the location of the match). Wind chill and heat index are not a factor in determining temperature.

11) For makeup matches scheduled on the designated makeup day and time, if the home team offers more than two courts to complete the match, the opposing team must accept and utilize the additional courts.

Section IV.4B and 4C

B. For team matches or rescheduled matches scheduled within 2.5 hours of a facility's posted closing time, the home team should notify the visiting team of the closing time prior to match day.

C. If a facility closes and such notice was not provided, the visiting team is not required to interrupt or reschedule play. 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

Comment: When scheduling a team match or rescheduled match, the home team should notify the visiting team in advance if the facility is expected to close within 2.5 hours of the scheduled start time. This notice should be provided when finalizing the match date and time. If notice has been given or if a match begins more than 2.5 hours before closing time teams should refer to rule IV.6 if the facility closes.

Section IV.5

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 (reference rule IV.4.C above), the match can be rescheduled using the makeup deadlines.

USTA ATLANTA

MIXED DOUBLES LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS
LEAGUE YEAR 2027 (Fall 2026 – Spring 2027)
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.

Director of Leagues for USTA Atlanta is the person who implements and administers all USTA League Tennis 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. 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 a minimum of SIX (6) eligible players – 3 men and 3 women.

B. Teams must play out of facilities within the geographic boundaries of USTA Atlanta, namely Cobb, DeKalb, Forsyth, Fulton, Douglas, Gwinnett and Paulding (east of Highway 61) counties. Teams whose facility resides near the USTA Atlanta boundaries and have received special permission to play in the Atlanta leagues will also be permitted.

2) **PLAYERS**

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

Comment: A 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. **Once a computer rating has been generated, it will remain valid for 3 years for players under age 60. A computer rating will remain valid for 2 years for players age 60 and over.**

C. All players must be 18 years of age prior to participating in their first league match.

D. All players must be paid members of the USTA through the respective season of play including playoffs.

E. Eligible players may be added to a roster prior to the start of the team match. In the event of matches rescheduled due to inclement weather, a player can be added prior to their participation in a match.

F. Players may be added to a roster until 11:59 p.m. the day before the last scheduled match of the regular (round robin) season.

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 and phone number to receive league information throughout the season.

3) **PREPARING LINEUPS**

A. **Any player may play any position at any time.** For a player to be eligible to progress to local playoffs, **that player must have played twice during the regular season the team qualified**; i.e. from the first match through the final regularly scheduled match of season. Receiving a default can only count as one of the matches played.

B. To generate a computer rating, a player must have played at least three times during the entire league year. Defaults do not count toward computer ratings.

C. If 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.

4) **SCHEDULING MATCHES**

A. The home team captain should contact the visiting team captain **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:
7:00 PM – 1D and 2D
8:00 PM – 3D (match to follow on either the 1D or 2D court – whichever finishes first)

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 match time, or default. Defaults may not be called if additional courts become available and their use was not agreed upon beforehand. Example: If 1D and 2D start play and one hour later a 3rd court not being used by 1D or 2D becomes available, the home team cannot force the 3D line to start on the newly available court without the agreement of the visiting team. The visiting team may choose to wait on either the 1D or 2D court to become available.

D. With the agreement of BOTH captains, and with the certainty of court availability:
a. The team match or individual match may be changed to an earlier or ***later*** start time on the same scheduled day.
b. The team match or individual match may be changed to an earlier day and time during the regular season schedule.

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. four players rather than six) they must default from the bottom. For example, a team with four players would default the #3 doubles line.

F. Any USTA Atlanta team involved in a USTA League State, Sectional or National 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 state/sectional/national 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 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. The start of the team match may be delayed until written lineups are exchanged.

Comment: If Team A will not provide a written lineup within the default time, Team B may claim a default of the positions that were to start first. The remaining positions may 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.

Comment: This means 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 support a default of the individual match if players are not on court.

C. Once the teams exchange lineups no movement of players is allowed. **WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MATCHES RESCHEDULED BY INCLEMENT WEATHER, NEVER MOVE PLAYERS ALREADY LISTED ON THE LINEUP TO ANOTHER POSITION.** (See Rule 5D regarding player substitutions). Points may be reversed for violation of this rule.

Comment: Written lineups have been exchanged. 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.

D. Two players will play together in the higher position when both of their partners do not show in order to avoid two defaults, as long as the combined rating of the pairing does not exceed the division level.

E. For each team match, a majority of the individual matches must actually be played to constitute a valid team match. If a situation arises where the majority of the individual matches would not be played (not a "valid" team match), The first course of action would be for both captains to 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
3 doubles	#1 and #2 doubles	4

If a team shows up without the minimum # 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:**

1. If a player or players listed on the original lineup do not arrive within the 15-minute default time
2. If a player is injured or becomes ill prior to the start of the individual match.
3. If 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 decides they no longer wish to play or no longer 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 have a grievance filed against them and may receive suspension points in accordance with the USTA League Suspension Points System. 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 shall consist of three individual doubles matches.

B. **The team winning the majority of individual matches shall be awarded one team point in the division standings.** TennisLink stats and 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 and disqualifications shall be scored according to USTA League Regulations.

2) INDIVIDUAL MATCH FORMAT

A. The warm-up must be accomplished in a maximum of ten minutes, including serves**. Do not practice return of serve during warm-up.**

B. Matches will be best 2 out of 3 with a 3rd set 10-point Coman tiebreak in lieu of a full third set There is a 2 minute rest period between the 2nd and 3rd set and no coaching is allowed during this time.

C. Tie-breaks will use the Coman Tiebreak format in which ends are exchanged after the first point and then after every four points.

D. Home team will provide balls for the match.

E. Cell phones and any device that may receive communication 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 discontinue monitoring of the device during the match.

Comment: If a phone on your court rings once, request that the phone be turned off and replay the point. If the phone rings again you may claim the point in the game based on a deliberate hindrance

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 required for evening 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.
   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 scheduled visiting team chooses to provide courts for the team match, the visiting team is responsible for all required court/player fees due to facility.) If the visiting team is unable to provide courts, the responsibility reverts to the home team and must be within a reasonable distance (a few miles). This includes all playoff matches.

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.

   A. 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.

B. For team matches or rescheduled matches scheduled within 2.5 hours of a facility's posted closing time, the home team should notify the visiting team of the closing time prior to match day.

C. If a facility closes and such notice was not provided, the visiting team is not required to interrupt or reschedule play. 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

Comment: When scheduling a team match or rescheduled match, the home team should notify the visiting team in advance if the facility is expected to close within 2.5 hours of the scheduled start time. This notice should be provided when finalizing the match date and time. If notice has been given or if a match begins more than 2.5 hours before closing time teams should refer to rule IV.6 if the facility closes.

5) 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 (reference rule IV.4.C above), the match can be rescheduled using the makeup deadlines.

6) All animals, including service animals and emotional support animals, must be outside the area of play. This includes all areas inside the fence.

SECTION V. INCLEMENT WEATHER

See Page 9 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, as determined by a weather app on the home team captain's phone 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 is to be observed at all times in order for weather conditions to improve. This includes make up matches. If within one hour conditions improve or the temperature rises to at least 32 degrees or falls to 95 degrees or below, the match is to begin and **all positions are to play**.

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

3) Once inclement weather has caused the start of the match to be delayed by more than one hour from the regularly scheduled time, the match becomes 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 is to 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.
   C. Individual matches in progress (see exceptions in 5) 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, individual matches in progress must continue play to completion. 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 use the makeup default time located on Page 9. The exception to this rule is the final match of the season which must then be played at the regularly scheduled date and time.

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 by the parties involved in writing, that match **MAY NOT BE CANCELLED**, 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

3) Playoff draws will be seeded with the highest seed playing the lowest, the second highest playing the second lowest and so on. Seedings for playoffs when comparing teams across all groups in a level, will be based on the below criteria:

   a. Loser of the fewest team matches
   b. Winner of the most individual matches
   c. Loser of the fewest sets
   d. Loser of the fewest games
   e. Head-to-head winner

Comment: In divisions where groups have played an unequal number of team matches, and a tie remains after applying the first tiebreak (fewest team matches lost), the next tiebreak shall be determined by individual win percentage. Individual win percentage is calculated as the total number of individual matches won divided by the total number of individual matches possible. If a tie remains, the next tiebreak shall be fewest sets lost percentage (actual number of sets lost divided by total possible sets lost). The final tie break shall be fewest games lost percentage (total number of games lost divided by total possible games lost).

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

4) All playoff matches should be played to completion to generate accurate individual ratings (ratings are only generated for players who play in mixed doubles league and no other USTA League Tennis league).

5) For a player to be eligible to progress to local playoffs, that player must have played twice during the regular season the team qualified; i.e. from the first match through the final regularly scheduled match of season. Receiving a default can only count as one of the matches played.

6) For a player to be eligible to progress to State Championships**, that player must have played twice during the entire season the team qualified**; i.e. from the first match through the final match of the City Finals. Receiving a default can only count as one of the matches played.

7) One State Championship berth will be awarded per season for a maximum of 15 teams in any given level, two berths per season for a maximum of 30 teams in any given level, etc. For up to each additional 15 teams, one more berth will be 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. If all group finalists decline, the place will be offered to the best losing semifinalist across the groups on the same basis. If there is a tie with percentage of individual wins in playoffs, then the team with the best overall round robin record will receive the berth. If it comes down to 1st round playoff teams, the team with the highest seed (as determined by local league round robin record) will get the invitation.

9) Players who qualify for the Mixed 18 & Over and/or Mixed 40 & over Georgia State Championship may advance on up to two teams (one 18 & Over and one 40 & Over, two 18 & Over or two 40 & Over). If the teams are both in the 18 & Over or 40 & Over, they must be at different levels. Players who participate on two teams will not be accommodated in scheduling of event.

10) 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.

11) 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) 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.

3) 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.

4) 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.

5) Once a player is registered on a specific 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 self-rating disqualification. Players who are found to have valid computer ratings, after the appeal process, that place them above the NTRP level at which they are competing may continue their participation at the lower NTRP level through the conclusion of the Southern championship. They shall not be permitted to advance to any National Championship at the lower NTRP level. Prior team matches played are valid.

6) 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.

7) A disqualified player may join a team at their new level following TennisLink procedures. No refund will be given to a disqualified player.

8) When new ratings are published, players can appeal online at http://tennislink.usta.com. All ratings appeals questions can be directed to the Director of Leagues for USTA Georgia.

9) If a player successfully appeals their rating after registering for their team, they must notify their LLC 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.

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) 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; breaking sportsmanship rules in The Code.

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 $50 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 $50 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 to each party against whom the complaint has been made.

   The USTA Atlanta Grievance Committee members are Kathy Solomon (chair), Jenni Ginepri, Carolyn Watkins, Greg Wandrick, Tim Lynn.

5) The USTA Atlanta Grievance Appeals Committee members are DeAnna Emborski (chair), Shannon Rowe, Maureen Gold and Joan Marcinko.

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 for forwarding to USTA Southern Section Grievance Committee. USTA Atlanta serves only as a pass through entity to the Southern Section.

6) A NTRP Grievance can be filed at any time. NTRP Grievances filed within 7 days of the start of the player's and/or captain's local league playoffs will be administered after the event unless the 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.

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 that must be waited before a match can be rescheduled 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.

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 the division level.

MIXED DOUBLES 18 & OVER

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

Example: If a match scheduled for September 19th is rained out, players have until October 2nd 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 the following 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.

Glossary of Terms

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

Level – NTRP skill levels offered in a league.

Division or Sub-Flight - The division of a league or 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) County.

COMPUTER RATING –
A rating that is published based on three or more matches played. .

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 100th 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.

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 3 minutes for a treatable injury or medical condition.

LEAGUE PROGRESSON -
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.

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 two minutes, with no coaching permitted, between 2nd and 3rd set when playing a 10 pt tiebreak in lieu of a complete third set.

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 number of individual singles and doubles matches played between two teams.

THE CODE -
The current printing of THE CODE, "The Players Guide for Unofficiated Matches".

USTA LEAGUE TENNIS YEAR -
The USTA League Tennis year is Jan – Dec. Atlanta is an early start league that runs June 1st to May 30th.

USTA ATLANTA WEBSITE -
The official website of USTA ATLANTA is www.ustaatlanta.com

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

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). 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, 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 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. Defaults given prior to the written line-up exchange are considered a courtesy and are not binding.

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, you must use inclement weather rules.

10. **What happens when courts are unavailable because another league hasn't completed their matches?**
    Players are to wait for courts.

11. **What happens when the 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 if players are on the wrong court?**
    If it 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.

13. **What do I do when I have a question?**
    Consult your Rules and Regulations. Refer to the document provided in the captain's packet regarding who to contact.

14. **What should I do if I think a player is not the person on the line-up?**
    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.

15. **As the home team, are we required to provide refreshments?**
    Even though it is not a requirement, it is a courtesy for the "home" team to provide some sort of light refreshments, as many of these players will be traveling to team matches directly after work and may not have a chance to eat. If a visiting team decides to provide courts for the match (with at least 24 hours notice), then it is a courtesy of the "visiting" team to provide refreshments.