

N GA Tennis Association (NOGTA) Local League Regulations

I. Regulations

North Georgia Tennis Association (NOGTA) agrees to the league tennis rules and regulations of USTA National, USTA Southern and USTA Georgia as published. In addition, NOGTA also sets forth the following rules to apply to local team matches. This document and all references contained within constitute the general rules and regulations as defined by NOGTA for tennis play within the membership. Where not specifically covered within this document, play shall be in accordance with the current rules of play as defined by USTA National, USTA Southern and USTA Georgia. All players and teams have the responsibility of playing within the Rules of Tennis and the principles of The Code.

- A. The Local League Coordinator with approval from the USTA Georgia Director of Leagues and the Local Rules Committee will establish all local regulations.
- B. No cell phones on the court. If a player's phone rings at any time during the match, the point is awarded to that player's opponent. For each offense thereafter one game will be awarded to that player's opponent. The same penalty will apply to players looking at their phone at any time during the match.
- C. Unsportsmanlike conduct of any manner will not be tolerated. A grievance may be filed against any player or team involved in such conduct.
- D. Only players are allowed on the court during a match. When matches are completed, players must leave the court in a timely manner.

II. Membership

- A. Players must be members of USTA through the completion of the league season.
- B. Players may play at or above their NTRP level, but cannot play more than one level above their rating (3.0 player may play 3.0 or 3.5, but may not play 4.0). Players who do not have a current rating may self-rate. Guidelines are in place on Tennis Link to clearly steer new players through the process. Any omission of information regarding a player's tennis history will subject the player, the captain and/or others who condoned inaccurate self-rating to sanctions and disqualification. Players must register on a team through Tennis Link before the player's first match.
- C. A player cannot have an NTRP rating higher than the level in which the player is competing except in the 5.0+ NTRP level of the Adult division, 18 & Over; and the 4.5+ NTRP level of the Adult division, 40 & Over (40 & Over 4.5+ may have up to 3 plus players). All plus (+) level team rosters may include up to two players from the next higher NTRP level. In plus (+) NTRP levels utilizing three individual matches within a team match, no more than one plus (+) level player shall be allowed to play in a team match and shall be required to play in the # 1 position, either singles or doubles. In plus (+) NTRP levels utilizing four or more individual matches within a team match, two plus (+) level players may play in a team match and shall be required to play in the # 1 position, either singles or doubles.

D. Players may be added to a roster as long as their team has 2 matches outstanding on the schedule.

III. Captains

A. Captains should read and be familiar with the rules and regulations of USTA National, USTA Southern, USTA Georgia and NOGTA.

B. Team Registration – Team numbers must be established through Tennis Link by the designated date. The LLC has the discretion to make changes to deadlines as he/ she determines necessary. Teams must have a minimum of 8 eligible players with the exception of 2.0, 2.5 and 5.0, which must have a minimum of 5 eligible players. Combo and Mixed Doubles must have 6 eligible players. Minimum number of players must be registered one week before the first match. The LLC will publish schedules after the deadline. 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. Teams must maintain a minimum of 60% of the players on a team roster that are at the specified DNTRP team level of play.

C. Team captains must provide a current email address and cell phone number to receive all information pertaining to the league during the season. If the captain does not utilize email, then he/ she must designate a player on the team as co-captain in order to receive email information. EMAIL AND/OR TEXT WILL BE THE PREDOMINANT MEANS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE COORDINATOR AND THE CAPTAIN.

Captain must also provide a current phone number when registering in Tennis Link. Captains must exchange cell phone numbers with all other captains in their league. If a captain has assigned another player to act as captain in his/her absence, the opposing team captain must be notified with name and cell number of the acting captain.

D. Team captains must exchange written line-ups FIVE MINUTES before the scheduled match time. 10-minute warm-up begins promptly at scheduled match time, even if all players are not present. Players arriving within the 15-minute default time are allowed a 10-minute warm-up. Home team provides tennis balls.

E. Winning captains are responsible for entering scores into the Tennis Link system within 48 hours of the completion of the match as scheduled in TennisLink. First offense for failure to enter scores will result in a warning and a 12 hour limit to enter scores before a double default is issued for both teams. Subsequent failure to enter scores within the 48 hour time frame will result in an automatic double default for both teams. Notify the Local League Coordinator immediately if there is a delay in completing the match.

F. When matches are rescheduled by date, time or site, captain of the home team is responsible for notifying the LLC. Failure to do so may result in a default for both teams involved. The LLC will assign courts and confirm date and time with captains of both teams.

G. Once a player has played a match for a team, they cannot be removed from that team's roster.

IV. Format of Play

A. A team match will consist of 2 singles and 3 doubles matches in the Adult 18 & Over and 40 & Over division, with the exception of the 2.5 level which will consist of 1 singles and 2 doubles. Formats for any level may be changed at discretion of the LLC. In any level consisting of fewer than 5 lines per match, the LLC may reserve extra courts for practice in an effort to grow that level of play. In even line formats any tie will be decided by TennisLink in the usual manner. If there is a tie in every TennisLink category, the following will apply: The match in question will not be decided until the end of the season. At that time, the team with the most individual wins for the entire season will be awarded the match.

B. Matches for Adult 55 & Over, Mixed and Combo will consist of 3 doubles matches.

C. All match schedules will be posted on Tennis Link.

D. A rescheduled match must be played on one surface.

E. All matches will be best of 2 sets with regular scoring and a 12-point tiebreak (first to 7 by 2) at 6 all in each set. In the event of split sets, a match tiebreak (first to 10 by 2) shall be played in lieu of a third set. The Coman Tiebreak Procedure will be used for all tiebreakers. The tiebreaker shall be played according to the Rules of Tennis and Tournament Regulations with the following exceptions:

(1) In a doubles match partners may change sides of court for service return just as they would be allowed in a third set. Once the change is made, they will continue to play that side of the court for the remainder of the tiebreak.

(2) In a doubles match partners may change order of service just as they would be allowed in a third set. Once the change in order is made, they will continue to serve in that order throughout the remainder of the tiebreak.

(3) If a change of ends is appropriate at the end of the second set, the players change ends and have up to 90 seconds to begin play. If a change of ends is not appropriate, players have up to 25 seconds to begin play.

SCORING:

(1) At local or championship competition, scores should be reported in the following manner: 6-4, 3-6, 1-0 with winners' scores reported first.

(2) The winner of the third set shall be credited with a set won and a game won. The loser shall be credited with a set lost and a game lost. Should the "Procedures in the Event of a Tie" go to GAMES, only the actual number of games played will be counted. Example: With a score of 6-4, 4-6, 1-0, the winner shall be recorded with 10 games lost, and the loser shall be recorded with 11 games lost.

V. Schedules

A. The 15-minute default rule is in effect. This refers to scheduled match time. In the event of illness, injury, or no-show of a player prior to the start of an individual match (after the line-up has been exchanged), a team may substitute a player in the affected position WITHIN the default time, AS LONG AS THAT PLAYER WAS NOT

ALREADY LISTED ON THE CARD. If no substitution can be made, the affected position will be defaulted. If the No. 1 singles player gets injured or does not show on time, then that position is defaulted. A predetermined default indicates prior knowledge that a team does not have sufficient players for the match. A team with only six players might default either the No. 3 doubles or both singles, defaulting from the bottom up. A ten-minute warm-up is allowed for all players -even those arriving at default time.

B. A majority of individual matches must be played to constitute a valid match.

C. Full team defaults:

(1) If a full team default affects the outcome of the season, that team will be disqualified from the specific round in which the default occurred. (2) A grievance may be filed against the captain and team for having 2 or more full team defaults within a season, with the penalty being possible removal from the league.

D. Inclement weather:

(1) The only weather conditions which authorize cancellation of a scheduled match are rain or severe temperature (35 degrees or lower/ 96 degrees or higher at match time-- not to include wind chill or heat index. Use weather.com). Cancellation under these conditions is not mandatory. Teams are free to play under these conditions if both captains agree. Matches may NOT be canceled more than 90 minutes prior to match time.

(2) If inclement weather does occur after play has begun, completed matches will stand as played. Incomplete matches must be resumed by the same players at the exact set, game and point that existed when play was halted.

(3) If teams have assembled to play and the match is interrupted by rain or wet courts, teams should be prepared to wait 1 HOUR to determine if courts are playable. If courts are still unplayable after 30 minutes have elapsed and BOTH CAPTAINS AGREE, teams are free to leave and reschedule.

(4) If scorecards have been exchanged, but no ball has been put in play, teams are free to change their line-ups before the make-up match.

(5) All make-up matches due to inclement weather will be played the second Wednesday following the original match date, except for the last match of the season which must be made up within 4 days, state schedule permitting. These matches will be treated as regular scheduled matches and may be played in advance if both captains agree. In an effort to grow the leagues, changes to rules regarding makeup matches may be implemented by the LLC at the 2.5, 3.0 and 6.0 levels.

E. Team or individual matches may be rescheduled for the sake of convenience if both captains agree. Rescheduled matches must be played prior to the date of the originally scheduled match. If the rescheduled match is canceled because of inclement weather, the match must still be played before or on the date of the regular scheduled match. Courts must be secured through the LLC.

F. Captains may reschedule individual lines to accommodate players participating in any Georgia State, Sectional or National League Championships. Such lines must be rescheduled at least 2 weeks in advance of the regular scheduled match with the exception of teams receiving a wildcard, in which case lines must be rescheduled within 2 days of receiving the wildcard. If captains cannot agree on a date, the LLC will set matches for the next Wednesday @ 6:30 p.m.

G. All matches must be played within the boundaries of NOGTA. Boundaries include

the counties of Whitfield, Murray, Catoosa and Walker. Lakeshore will be the primary location for league matches.

VI. Championship Play

- A. The league will determine championship teams. Each season is separate from the others.
- B. A level that has 3 or more teams for 2 seasons may send 2 teams to championship play. In the event the same team wins both seasons, they will be allowed to declare a roster from either season, and a team from the other season will be chosen to compete in the district tournament also.
- C. A level or league that has 2 teams every season may only send 1 team to championship play. A playoff will be necessary to determine which team advances to championship play. State deadline permitting, playoff match will be one week from the last match of the season. If state deadline does not permit, the match will be the next day after the last match of the season. If inclement weather occurs in either case, the match will be the next day or subsequent days until courts are playable.
- D. If NOGTA receives a wildcard entry into the state championships, the second place team from the same season with the best win/ loss record will be awarded the slot. If this team decides to pass, it will be offered to the other second place team. If both second place teams decide to pass, it will be offered to the best third place teams and so on.
- E. Players who qualify for the Adult 18 & Over Georgia State Championship may advance on two teams, but at different levels; players who qualify for the Adult 40 & Over Georgia State Championship may advance on two teams at different levels.
- F. Players who qualify for the Adult 55 & Over and Adult 65 & Over Georgia State Championship may advance on one Adult 55 & Over team and one Adult 65 & Over team, but will not be accommodated in scheduling of event.
- G. 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 schedule of event.
- H. 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.
- I. Any team defaulting a court for any reason at a Georgia State Championship will be fined \$100.00 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 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 payers 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 affects those players who showed up ready to play, only to find their opponents did not show.

VII. Grievances

All complaints alleging a violation during local league competition shall be filed by the captain in writing to the Local League Coordinator who will then notify the chairman of the Grievance Committee of the complaint. Grievance must be filed prior to commencement of the next team match involving such individuals or team, or within 24 hours after the end of local league play, whichever comes first. Any party to the complaint may appeal the decision of the Grievance Committee within the time fixed by the Committee in its findings.

2017- 2018 Grievance Committee

Betty Andersen, Chairman

Jill Joyce

Gary Quast

Mark Williams

2017-2018 Appeals Committee

Alicia Alderman, Chairman

Karo Hughes

Holly Williams

2017-2018 Rules Committee

Deb Wells, Chairman

Lisa Douglas

Wendy Norfleet

Jane Marie Wilson