

# Cherokee Tennis Association

[www.cherokeetennis.org](http://www.cherokeetennis.org)

## Local Adult League Rules – 2007 League Year

The purpose of the adult leagues of the Cherokee Tennis Association is to promote USTA team league play for men and women at established ratings of the National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP).

### I. Regulations

The Cherokee Tennis Association agrees to the rules and regulations of the USTA, Southern Tennis Association, and Georgia Tennis Association as published. In addition, the Cherokee Tennis Association also sets forth the following rules to apply to local team matches.

### II. Membership

- A. All team members must be at least 19 years of age within the calendar year. All team members must be paid members of the USTA through the current league season. Each member must pay local league fees, as applicable.
- B. Players must play at or above their current computer rating. Any player without a computer rating must self-rate using the self-rating form on Tennis Link, and following the guidelines set forth by the USTA.
- C. Players may play on more than one team within the Cherokee Tennis League as follows:
  - A player may play on a weekday and a business team at the same NTRP level
  - A player may play on a weekday and a business team at different NTRP levels
  - A player may play at two different NTRP levels
  - A player may play on a combo or mixed doubles team at different NTRP levels
- D. Playing on two teams at different NTRP levels may increase the player's risk of being Disqualified at the lower level.
- E. A player may not register for more than two teams per league season. (Example: A player may register on a 3.0 and a 3.5 Weekday women's team but not a 4.0 as well. The same player could however register for a 3.5 and a 4.0 Business women's league as these are two different leagues.)
- F. If a player is on two teams that qualify for the state championship, the player must decide which roster to play on – the player may not register for both teams.

### III. Captains Responsibilities

- A. The captain should read and be familiar with the rules of the USTA, STA, GTA, and Local League.
- B. Team Registration

Captains of *men's, women's, seniors, super seniors, combo and mixed doubles* teams MUST establish a team number through Tennis Link by the designated date. The Local League Coordinator has the discretion to make changes to deadlines as he/she determines necessary. Team captains must provide an e-mail address to receive all information pertaining to the league during the season. If the captain does not utilize e-mail then the captain must designate a player on the team as co-captain in order to receive e-mail information.
- C. Once a player's name appears on a Tennis Link roster they cannot change teams if league play has begun unless they have been DQ'd.
- D. All men's and women's teams should have a minimum of 10 players. The exception is 2.5 and 5.0 teams - they should have a minimum of 7 players. All mixed, senior, combo, and super senior teams should have a minimum of 6 players. This is only a recommendation. Teams must register the required number of players to field a team by the first match or they will be dropped from the schedule.

#### IV. Captains: Match Responsibilities

- A. "Home" team captains should contact the visiting team captains 3 days prior to a scheduled match to make final arrangements for the match, including the number, surface type, and location of courts (or alternate courts in case of inclement weather). Visiting captain must field teams for the minimum number of courts required. **If both captains agree**, additional courts can be used as they become available. 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 forfeit. Forfeits may not be called if additional courts become available and their use was not agreed upon beforehand.
- The location of the match cannot be changed without notifying the visiting captain 3 days prior to the match unless both captains agree. If the captain listed on the schedule will not be present at the match he/she should notify the opposing captain the name of the person acting in his/her stead.
- B. The captains may agree on the order of play. However, if no prior agreement is made then the order of play will be : #1 singles and #1 doubles at the scheduled start time; #2 singles and #2 doubles must be present one hour later, and #3 doubles must be present two hours after the scheduled start of the match.
- C. **Team captains must simultaneously exchange scorecards with completed line-ups BEFORE the scheduled match time.** Scorecards are to be printed from TennisLink and either a player's name or number will be used to identify a player.
- Comment: If a team will not provide a written lineup within the default time, the opposing team 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.**
- D. Recording of Scores
- It is the responsibility of the WINNING captain of men's, women's, seniors, combo and mixed doubles teams to report scores to Tennis Link within 24 hours of completion of the match. The LOSING captain should confirm or dispute scores on Tennis Link within 48 hours of completion of the match.** If scores are not confirmed or disputed within 48 hours of completion of the match, the team will lose the right to dispute the match score. Tennis Link will confirm scores after the 48-hour period has passed.
- E. TennisLink does not accept partial match results. All positions' scores must be entered at the same time. In the case of a disputed match score, please contact the Local League Coordinator so that the discrepancy can be addressed immediately.
- F. Note that an individual player playing in men's, women's, seniors, super seniors' and/or mixed doubles must play a minimum of two matches within a league year to generate an individual Dynamic NTRP (DNTRP) computer rating. Combo leagues do not generate computer ratings. Players only playing mixed doubles will generate a rating to be used in mixed doubles, men's, women's, seniors and super seniors the following year.

#### V. Dynamic NTRP

- A. If a player does not have a computer rating, that player will self rate themselves in accordance with USTA's NTRP guidelines
- B. Any player may be subject to disqualification if, during the course of a season, it is determined that the player is playing clearly below level. Any player may be subject to disqualification if, during the course of a season, it is determined that the player is playing clearly below level.
- A player must reach a predetermined level of play THREE times to be disqualified.
  - Player scores will be run every Monday. Disqualifications are determined at the national, not local or state, level. Players will not be notified that they are nearing the level of disqualification.
  - Any player that is disqualified loses the individual point that caused their disqualification (the third match in which the player reaches the predetermined disqualification level).
  - If a self-rated player is disqualified for that particular level of play, all matches played by that individual player shall be considered losses and scored (6-0, 6-0). This prevents players who self rate from clearly playing below level.
  - If a computer rated player is disqualified for that particular level of play, the individual match that produced the third disqualification dynamic NTRP rating and any subsequent match won by the player shall be considered a loss and scored (6-0, 6-0)

- C. The late add-on deadline has been removed so that a small team will not be penalized should they lose players to disqualification. Additionally, players that have been disqualified may move to a higher-level team.

## VI. Format of Play

- A. Each team shall identify and reserve its home courts. The “home” team must guarantee a minimum of 2 courts for league play. The “home” team pays any court fees. The “home” team provides new balls for each match. **Balls will be exchanged as follows: The winning team receives an unopened can of new balls; the losing team keeps the used match balls.**
- B. A point will be awarded to the team who wins the majority of the individual matches.
- C. **Defaults**
  - 1. The 15-minute default clock begins at the scheduled match time, when a court is available and a player has not arrived.
  - 2. When a player does not show up within the 15-minute default time, or a player becomes ill or injured during warm up and there is no substitute available, only the affected position is defaulted. Players already listed in the lineup cannot be moved to another position.  
**However two players already in the lineup will play together in the higher position when both of their partners do not show in order to avoid two defaults.**
  - 3. If a substitute player, not already in the lineup, is available within the 15 minute default time, then that player may substitute for an absent, sick or injured player, at the affected position ONLY. If a substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute player is entitled to a 10-minute warm up.
- D. Players should be ready to take the court when the previous match is finished. For example, if a match begins at 9.00 am and ends at 9:45 am, default time for the next match on that court is 10.15 am, since 10.00 am is the scheduled time of the next match. If the first match ends at 10.20 am, then players must take the court immediately since the next time slot players must have been available at 10.00 am. Captains should communicate and agree ahead of time which positions will take the court and in which order. If the captains cannot agree, refer to IV. B (Captains: Match Responsibilities).
- E. **The Cherokee Tennis Association encourages playing positions by order of strength, as established by fair play practice in “The Code.”** However, a player may play any position at any time. There are no restrictions on the movement of the players from position to position, week to week.
- F. If you know you must forfeit one or more positions at the start of the match, follow the guidelines stated in the *USTA Regulations* handbook. You must forfeit from the bottom of the line-up e.g. either #2 singles or #3 doubles. In the case of 2.5 and 5.0 leagues, you can forfeit either the #1S or the #2D.
- G. Cherokee Tennis Association Regulations for defaults are covered by the **USTA REGULATIONS**. A team having excessive defaults may have all of its matches nullified and may be treated as a bye for the remainder of the season. Excessive defaults shall be defined as defaulting all points of any match or averaging more than one default per dual match in a season. This may result in a grievance filed against the team.
- H. Water must be furnished for matches. Other refreshments are optional.
- I. After the first game of each set, play shall be continuous and the players shall change ends without a rest period. There is no rest period during changeovers of a tiebreak. There is a 10-minute rest period allowed between 2nd and 3rd sets Coaching is allowed ONLY during the rest period between the 2nd and 3rd set. Coaching is not allowed between 2nd and 3rd sets if the 3rd set is determined by a match tie break.
- J. Play must continue as specified in USTA Regulations. When and if the score in a set is 6-6, the winner will be decided with a 12-point tiebreaker. Leagues in the Cherokee Tennis Association will play a complete third set, unless otherwise stated.
- K. The Cherokee Tennis Association does not provide linesmen, umpires, court monitors, etc. for matches.
- L. The following statements are excerpts taken from the amended USTA Regulations regarding medical time-outs and toilet visits:

- Medical conditions include, but are not limited to injuries, illnesses, heat-related conditions and cramping.
- A medical time-out consists of evaluation time plus a maximum of three minutes treatment time.
- A player with a pre-existing condition, sustained prior to the match in progress, may receive one medical time-out if the condition is aggravated during match play.
- Only one medical time-out shall be permitted for cramping and other heat-related conditions in any match, even if the cramping occurs in different parts of a player's body.
- A player may request a suspension of play for a toilet visit at one or more times during a match.
- No coaching shall be permitted during suspension of play for either a medical condition or a toilet visit.

## VII. Rescheduling

### A. Inclement Weather

1. The following weather conditions authorize the cancellation of a scheduled match: rain, lightning, or severe weather (32 degrees F or below (not wind chill) or 95 degrees F or above (not heat index), as reported by the local weather channel at the time of the match).
2. If teams have reported for play and the match is delayed or interrupted by rain, teams must wait **30 minutes** to determine if courts are playable. If courts are still not playable after **30 minutes**, teams are free to leave and reschedule unless both teams agree to wait longer. Any player may deem a court unsafe to play.
3. If inclement weather occurs after play has begun, completed matches will stand as played and incomplete matches must be resumed by the same players at the exact point, game, and set that existed when play was halted. **Substitutions may be made in any individual matches that had not begun. Points awarded for defaults during the original line-up will stand. All players involved in such defaults cannot participate in the rescheduled match. Forfeits offered verbally prior to the original written lineup exchanged are nullified when the match is rescheduled due to rain or inclement weather.**
4. Parties have one week in which to reschedule. If no agreement can be reached, the match must be played no later than the make up default time (see below). Default will result if one party cannot play. Once a make-up match time has been agreed upon by both parties (different positions do not have to make up at the same place or time), that make-up **match may not be canceled** by either party for any reason other than inclement weather. However, available players not already listed on the scorecard and/or players that have not played in that match may be substituted **into the agreed match time** if necessary.

#### Default make up times:

**For the Weekday women (summer and winter):** The day before the next scheduled match, at the same time - if you play at 9:00 am on Thursday, you have to be available to play on or before the following Wednesday at 9:00 am ... if it rains Wednesday then it goes to Friday 9:00 AM and continues weekday to weekday at 9:00 until completed.

**For the Business Women and Men (summer):** The make-up default time is Saturday at 1:00 PM... if it rains Saturday night then it goes to Monday at 7:00 PM and continues weekday to weekday evening at 7:00 PM until completed.

**For the Business Women and Men (winter):** The make-up default time is Saturday at 6:00 PM... if it rains Saturday night then it goes to Monday at 7:00 PM and continues weekday to weekday evening at 7:00 PM until completed.

**For Mixed:** The make-up default time is Thursday at 7:00 PM... if it rains Thursday night then it goes to Monday at 7:00 PM and continues weekday to weekday evening at 7:00 PM until completed.

**For Men and BW Combo:** The make-up default time is the following Tuesday (the day after your next match) at 7:00 PM... if it rains Tuesday night then it goes to Wednesday at 7:00 PM and continues weekday to weekday evening at 7:00 PM until completed.

**For Weekday Women Combo:** The day before the next scheduled match, at the same time - if you play at 9:30 am on Wednesday, you have to be available to play on or before the following Tuesday at 9:30 am ... if it rains Tuesday then it goes to Thursday 9:30 AM and continues weekday to weekday at 9:30 until completed.

5. If inclement weather occurs on the final make-up day, play must be completed within the next 2 days by 7 pm on the 2nd day, and continues day to day until weather permits the match to be played.
- B. Team matches or individual matches may be scheduled early if both captains agree. These matches must be played prior to the originally scheduled date.
- C. Any teams involved in any Local, State, Sectional, or National Championships may request that their opponents reschedule matches in order to not have a conflict with those “Championship” matches. Opponents are required to help the opposing team in the rescheduling of any matches that will conflict.

#### **VIII. Addition of Players During a Season**

- A. Additional players may be added throughout the regular season, up to the last match. No addition of players will be allowed for playoffs. In order for new players to be eligible for play, they must be registered via Tennis Link before the scheduled team match. Added players may not play in a make-up match if they were not on the roster on the scheduled match day.

#### **IX. STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- A. The winner of the local league season (playoff winner where applicable) will progress to the State Championship. Any tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures:
  1. Most number of individual matches won in the entire season.
  2. Sets: Loser of the fewest number of sets in the entire season.
  3. Games: Loser of the fewest number of games in the entire season.
  4. Head-to-Head: Winner of the head-to-head match. If teams played more than one time during the season, the team accumulating the greatest number of points in those matches will be declared the winner.
  5. A coin toss by the league coordinator in the presence of both captains.
- B. In order for a player to be eligible to progress to State Championships, that player must have played twice during the season (including league play-offs). One default received by the player during local competition shall count for advancing. A retired match shall count toward advancing for all players involved.
- C. One women’s team and one men’s team at each level from each season will progress to the State Championships. It is at the discretion of the GTA to allow both a team from Weekday women and Business women in any CTA (Community Tennis Association) to attend the State Championship.
- D. In the event the same team should win both the fall and spring seasons, that team may choose which season’s roster they would like to take to the State Championships. If the same team wins first place both seasons, the league shall send a second place team as a State entrant. If the 2nd place teams in each season are different, they will playoff to determine a State entrant. If one team declines a playoff, the other team is automatically chosen. If both 2nd place teams decline, the State playoff offer will be extended to the 3rd place teams. If the 3rd place teams in each season are different, they will playoff to determine a State entrant. Playoff teams must use the roster from their qualifying season.
- E. Players who qualify for Championship level competition must choose which team/NTRP level they will represent at the Championship’s.

#### **X. GRIEVANCES**

- A. All complaints alleging a violation during local league competition shall be filed by the captain in writing to the chairman of the Local League Grievance Committee prior to commencement of the next team match involving such individuals or team, or within twenty-four hours after the end of local league play, whichever comes first. See Nat’l League Regulation 2.02C(1).
- B. Any party to the complaint may appeal the decision of the Grievance Committee within the time fixed by the Grievance Committee in its findings.
- C. If unsure of procedure, contact the Local League Coordinator.

#### **XI. FAIR PLAY GRIEVANCES**

A fair play grievance may be filed against a player and or a team who commits or condones entering a self – rating **one level or more below the actual skill level of the player**. All grievances should be filed with your local league coordinator. If a grievance is filed, the player/ team needs to provide proof that this player is above two levels. All grievances are sent to the Southern Fair Play Grievance Committee. Decisions are appealable and are appealed to the Southern Grievance Appeal Committee.

**Grievance Committee**

2005-2007      Buzz Ahrens  
                      Susan Jarvis  
                      Mike Joseph  
                      George Gastright

**Grievance Appeals Committee**

2005-2007      Michael Clifton – Chairperson  
                      Wayne Graham  
                      Steve Carson  
                      Cheri Slatten