



# CHEROKEE CO. TENNIS ASSOCIATION

## TENNIS 4 LIFE

### 2026 Local Rules and Regulations

Cherokee County Tennis Association is a non-profit organization whose mission is the growth and development of tennis in Cherokee County. 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.



## Adult Local League Rules and Regulations

### 2026 Championship Year

*Updated 12/10/2025*

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

***THIS DOCUMENT MUST BE PRESENT AT ALL LEAGUE MATCHES***

The Cherokee County Tennis Association's purpose for USTA League Tennis is to promote league play, in a team format, for men and women at established ratings of the National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP).

#### **I. Regulations**

The Cherokee County Tennis Association (CTA) agrees to the league tennis rules and regulations of USTA National, USTA Southern, and USTA Georgia as published. In addition, the Cherokee County Tennis Association 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 the Cherokee County Tennis Association 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.

In situations not covered or provided for within these general rules and outside the responsibility of the leagues program, the Local League Coordinator and the Cherokee County Tennis Association board of directors shall have the authority to take the necessary actions, make the necessary rules or to impose the appropriate penalties.

**Tennislink is the official system for registering teams, obtaining schedules, reporting scores and providing standings. (<http://tennislink.usta.com/Leagues/>)**

#### **II. Eligibility - TEAMS**

- A. Teams must play out of facilities within the geographic boundaries of Cherokee County Tennis Association, namely, **within Cherokee County**.
- B. Facilities must have a minimum of two courts at one site. For leagues starting after 6:00 PM, courts must be lighted. Restroom facilities at a reasonable distance must be provided.
- C. Each team should identify and reserve its home courts. The "HOME" team must guarantee a minimum of 2 courts, with the same surface for league play. The "HOME" team pays any court fees.
- D. All teams should have at least enough players to field a line-up if everyone is available. For example, a team in a league that plays 2 singles, and 3 doubles positions should have a minimum of 8 players. A team in a league that plays 3 doubles positions should have a minimum of 6 players.
- E. Teams must register the required number of players to field a team by the initial roster deadline or they will not be included the schedule.
- F. Teams must play at the level of the highest rated player on the team.
- G. All teams in Cherokee County **must be registered in USTA Cherokee**. **Do not** register your team in USTA Atlanta. If there are not enough teams to form a league, teams will have the opportunity to play in

the USTA Atlanta leagues, with the approval of the Atlanta and Cherokee local league coordinators. This only applies to Winter and Summer leagues.

### III Eligibility – PLAYERS

- A. Players must be current USTA members in good standing through the local league season, including local play-offs. Each team member must pay local league fees, as applicable.
- B. All players shall have reached the minimum age for the league in which they wish to play prior to or during the calendar year in which such player participates in their first local league match.
- C. The National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) is the official system for rating levels of competition for USTA League.
- D. New or returning players without a current computer rating must self-rate using the self-rating form on Tennis Link, and following the guidelines set forth by the USTA. Failure to provide accurate information will subject the player and/or captain to sanctions and disqualifications.
- E. Players must play at or above their current computer rating but cannot play more than one level above their rating (3.0 rated player may play 3.0 or 3.5 but cannot play 4.0). Teams in leagues designated "+", such as 5.0+, may have two players rated at the next higher level on their roster. Teams in such "+ leagues" which play 3 lines may have one player rated at the next level in the lineup; teams playing 4 or 5 lines may have two higher rated players in the lineup.
- F. Additional players may be added throughout the regular season (round robin), up until midnight the night prior to the last scheduled match. No addition of players will be allowed for playoffs. The player's name must be listed on the team roster, as shown on TennisLink, prior to participation in any team match.
- G. In the event of matches rescheduled due to inclement weather, a player can be added prior to their participation in a match.
- H. There is no restriction to the number of players on a roster.
- I. If any Adult 18 & Over or Adult 40 & Over Division consists of only two teams in a level of play, each team must *maintain* its roster with at least 40 percent of its players at the designated NTRP level of play.
- J. Players may play on more than one team within the Cherokee Tennis Association 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
- K. Playing on teams at different NTRP levels may increase the player's risk of being disqualified.
- L. If a player successfully appeals to 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.

### IV. Captains: Team Registration Responsibilities

- A. The captain should read and be familiar with the rules and regulations of USTA National, USTA Southern, USTA Georgia and Cherokee Tennis Association.
- B. It is the captain's responsibility to have each team member read and understand current local league regulations before they participate in a match.
- C. Team Registration – Each season captains 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.
- D. Team captains must provide a current email 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. **Email will be the predominant way of communication between the coordinator and the captain.** Captain must also provide a current phone number when creating the team in TennisLink.
- E. Once a player has played a match for a team, they cannot be removed from that TennisLink roster.
- F. To generate a computer rating, a player must have played three times during the year's rating period (usually November 1<sup>st</sup> – October 31<sup>st</sup>)

## V. Captains: Preparing Lineups and scheduling matches

- A. Any 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. Exception: a higher rated player playing on a "+" team must play in the 1 position, either doubles or singles. Two such players may play together at 1 doubles if there are four or five lines.
- B. The Home team captain should contact the visiting team captain at least **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 captains must field teams for the minimum number of courts required.
- C. 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 who will be acting captain, and provide the opposing captain with the phone number for the acting captain.
- D. If the home team cannot provide two courts at the home team facility, the visiting team has the first option of supplying courts for the match. If the visiting team is unable to provide courts, the responsibility reverts to the home team and must be within a reasonable distance. This includes playoff matches and matches re-scheduled due to inclement weather.
- E. **If both captains agree:**
  1. It is acceptable to use more than two courts at a time.
  2. The team match or individual match may be changed to an earlier or later start time on the same scheduled day. If scheduling at a later time on the same day the coordinator must be notified.
  3. The team match or individual match may be changed to an earlier day and time during the regular season schedule (coordinator must be notified).

*Once an 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.*

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

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

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

- G. 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, both singles or #3 doubles. In the case of 2.5 and 5.0 leagues, you can forfeit either the #1S or the #2D.
- H. **Once a captain notifies an opposing captain in writing via email or text that a line(s) will be defaulted in their match, the default stands even if the team finds players prior to the start of the match. The only exception to this rule is during a rainout. See VII – A – 4.**
- I. Any Cherokee team involved in a USTA League State, Sectional or National Championship, regardless of the league, may request from their opponent consideration in rescheduling their Cherokee Tennis Association (USTA League) regular season matches prior to the originally scheduled date of the match. **Please refer to VII – B.**
- J. Cherokee County Tennis Association currently offers the following Adult leagues and seasons:  
 Summer and Winter: Adult 18 & Over, Men, Weekday Women and Business Women  
 Spring and Fall: Tri-Level, Combo Doubles 18+, Mixed Doubles, and Mixed Doubles. *Adult 40 & Over and 55 & Over will be offered and added to the schedule as soon as enough teams/players are recruited.*
- K. Schedule and Days of Play (always refer to your tennislink schedule)

- Men play Saturdays at 9:00 AM in the winter and Sundays at 4:30 PM in the summer
- Business Women play Saturdays at 1:00 PM in the winter and Sundays at 12:30 PM in the summer
- 18+ Weekday Women Play Thursdays at 9:30 AM in the winter and Thursdays at 9:00 AM in the summer
- 40+ Business Women play Tuesdays at 9:30 AM in the winter at 7:00 PM in summer
- 40+ Weekday Women play Tuesdays at 9:30 AM in the winter at 9:00 AM in summer
- Mixed Doubles Play Fridays at 7:00 PM in the spring and Thursdays at 7:00 PM in the fall
- Combo Doubles Business Women Play Mondays at 7:00 PM in the spring and early fall.
- Combo Doubles Men Play Sundays at 5:30 PM in the spring and early fall.
- Combo Doubles Weekday Women play Wednesdays at 9:30 AM in the spring and fall.
- Tri-Level – Tuesdays (Men) Wednesday (Women) at 7:00 PM in spring and fall.

***The Day of play and seasons for the Adult 40 & Over league is yet to be defined and will be published on [www.cherokeetennis.org](http://www.cherokeetennis.org) before registration for the season opens.***

- L. FORMAT: Leagues in the Cherokee Tennis Association will play the following Team Match and Individual Match formats: The team that wins the majority of individual matches will receive a point.
1. Adult 18 & Over (Men, Business Women and Weekday Women) will play 2 lines of singles, 3 lines of doubles, best two of three full sets.
  2. Mixed 18 & Over will play 3 lines of doubles, best two of three sets with a 10 point match tie break in lieu of a 3<sup>rd</sup> set.
  3. Southern Combo Doubles 18 & Over will play 3 lines of doubles, best two of three sets with a 10 point match tie break in lieu of a 3<sup>rd</sup> set.
  4. Tri-Level Doubles will play 3 lines of doubles (one at each NTRP), best two of three sets with a 10 point match tie break in lieu of a 3<sup>rd</sup> set.
  5. 40+ Leagues (Men and Weekday Women) will play 1 line of singles, 4 lines of doubles, best two of three sets with a 10- point match tie break (optional) in lieu of a 3<sup>rd</sup> set. *\*Note the format will be 1 line of singles, 4 lines of doubles, best two of three full sets at the State Tournament.*
  6. 40+ League (Women Business) will play 1 line of singles and 2 lines of doubles, best two of three sets with a 10- point match tie break (optional) in lieu of a 3<sup>rd</sup> set. *\*Note the format will be 1 line of singles, 4 lines of doubles, best two of three full sets at the State Tournament.*
- M. Format and Scheduling Changes can be made at the Local League Coordinator's discretion if agreed upon by all captains in the flight.

## VI. Captains: Match Day Responsibilities

- A. Each team **must** identify and reserve its home courts. The home team must guarantee a minimum of 2 courts, with the same surface for league play.
- B. Team captains must simultaneously exchange complete line-ups **BEFORE** the scheduled *match time*. Tennislink scorecards are recommended but not mandatory. Please make sure you use the name and last name registered in tennislink when writing your line-ups.  
If a captain is missing a player, but in good faith believes the player will arrive before the 15 minute default time, the lineup must still be exchanged at the scheduled time.  
***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.***
- C. Once the Teams exchange lineups no movement of players is allowed, with the exception of matches rescheduled due to inclement weather. 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.
- D. The HOME Team must furnish one unopened can of USTA approved yellow balls for each individual match.

- E. No Ball Exchange. ***The home team provides the balls to be used for the match.***
- F. For each team match, a majority of individual matches must actually be played in order to constitute a valid team match. CCTA will follow State Regulation 2.01C(2) regarding what action will take place when the combination of individual match defaults given by the two teams in the team match results, or would result, in a situation where the majority of the individual matches would be not played (not a "valid" team match). As follows:

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:

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

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

G. Defaults:

- The 15-minute default clock begins at the scheduled match time, when a court is available and a player has not arrived. A player that is late but within the 15 minutes default time is entitled to a full 10 minute warm up.
- 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. If players agree to play the match after the default time, the match result stands. No default may be claimed after the fact.
- 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.

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

- H. 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 Regulation V.F.
- I. A team point will be awarded to the team who wins the majority of the individual matches.
- J. If a team forfeits an entire team match for any reason the team may be removed from competition immediately. If

removed, then all matches that team has played or matches to be played shall be null and void. If all teams in contention for the playoffs have already played the forfeiting team in good faith, the matches stand as played. The forfeiting team may be placed on probationary watch or not permitted to play as a team the following season.

- K. Water must be furnished for matches, but the Cherokee Tennis Association encourages the home team to provide "refreshments and snacks."
- L. If during the match it is discovered that a player is on the wrong court in an individual match during the first **game**, then the players are to go to the correct courts and begin their matches over (example: line 1 players start play with the opponent's line 2 players). All matches affected **MUST** still be in the first **game**. 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. Both scorecards should then be adjusted, leaving the names of the home team unchanged.
- M. After the first game of each set, play shall be continuous and the players shall change ends without a rest period. The rest period during all other changeovers is 90 seconds. There is no rest period during changeovers of a tiebreak. The rest period between the first and second set is 2 minutes. There is a 10- minute rest period allowed between 2nd and 3rd sets. Should the match be played using a match tiebreak instead of a third set, a 2 minute break is allowed prior to the beginning the tiebreak. 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 tiebreak.
- N. 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 7-point tiebreaker.
- O. The Cherokee Tennis Association does not provide linesmen, umpires, court monitors, etc. for matches.
- P. 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.
- Q. An individual match is started when the first ball is put in play. After the start of an individual match, if injury or illness of a player occurs, the opponents will be awarded a retirement for that individual match only.
- R. Recording of Scores - **It is the responsibility of the winning captain 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 score entry. If scores are not confirmed or disputed within 48 hours, the team will lose the right to dispute the match score. Tennis Link will automatically confirm scores after the 48 hour period has passed.
- S. TennisLink does not accept partial match results. All positions' scores must be entered at the same time.
- T. Player not on roster. If at the time you are entering scores in tennislink a player is not on the roster **DO NOT** enter the individual match score as a forfeit. Immediately notify the captain, the player and your Local League Coordinator. The player should sign up for the team and scores should be entered as played as soon as the player is registered. The player is ineligible for the individual match. Your coordinator will disqualify the match for the player that was not on the roster. In the standings, the match will count as a 6-0, 6-0 win for the opposing team. The scores will count for all players involved for ratings and number of matches played purposes.
- U. If you are disputing the scorecard that has been entered, you must dispute the match via tennislink and notify your coordinator within 48 hours. After disputing the match in tennislink you are required to send an Email to your coordinator with all the details (errors or discrepancies and corrections).

## VII. Rescheduling

### A. Inclement Weather

1. The following weather conditions authorize the cancellation of a Cherokee County Tennis Association 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 weather channel or

[www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com) at the time of the match and at the location 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 when the original line-up was exchanged will stand. All players involved in such defaults cannot participate in the rescheduled match.**
4. **Defaults offered verbally or via email or text prior to the original match date are nullified when the full match is rescheduled due to rain or inclement weather.**
5. Arrangements for make-up matches must be agreed upon within 48 hours of the original match start time. 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 cancelled 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 or received a default in that match can be substituted **into the agreed match time** if necessary.
6. Try not to schedule your makeup matches on the last day to give yourself more chances to play the match.  
*\* If your match is the last match of the season, please contact the local league coordinator to confirm the 'play by' date to be the day before your regular match during the season.*

***Default make up times:***

***\* USTA Cherokee's make up schedule is NOT the same as USTA Atlanta.  
Please read the make up times below carefully.***

***For the Weekday women (summer):*** The day before the next scheduled match, at the same time. If it rains Wednesday, it becomes Friday at 9:00 am and continues weekday to weekday at 9:00 am until completed.

***For the Weekday women (winter):*** The day before the next scheduled match, at the same time. If it rains Wednesday, it becomes Friday at 9:30 am and continues weekday to weekday at 9:30 am until completed.

***For the Business Women and Men (summer):*** The make-up default time is Saturday at 1:00 pm. If it rains Saturday, it becomes Monday at 7:00 pm and continues weeknight to weeknight 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, it becomes Monday at 7:00 pm and continues weeknight to weeknight at 7:00 pm until completed.

***For Mixed:*** The make-up default time is Thursday at 7:00 PM. If it rains Thursday night, it becomes Monday at 7:00 pm and continues weeknight to weeknight at 7:00 pm until completed.

***For Tri-Level:*** The make-up default time is Tuesday at 7:00 PM. If it rains Tuesday night, it becomes Wednesday at 7:00 pm and continues weeknight to weeknight at 7:00 pm until completed.

***For Combo Men:*** The make-up default time is the following Tuesday (two days after your next match) at 7:00 PM. If it rains Tuesday night, it becomes Wednesday at 7:00 pm and continues weeknight to weeknight at 7:00 pm until completed.

***For Combo Business Women:*** The make-up default time is the following Tuesday (the day after your next match) at 7:00 PM. If it rains Tuesday night, it becomes Wednesday at 7:00 pm and continues weeknight to weeknight at 7:00 pm until completed.



***For Combo Weekday Women:*** 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, it becomes Friday at 9:30 AM and continues weekday to weekday at 9:30 am until completed.

***For 40+ Weekday women (summer):*** The regularly scheduled match is on Tuesdays at 9:00 am. The rain makeup will be the day before your next scheduled match, so it will be next Monday at 9:00 am. If it rains Monday, it becomes Wednesday at 9:00 am and continues weekday to weekday at 9:00 am until completed.

***For 40+ Business women (summer):*** The regularly scheduled match is on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm. The rain makeup will be the day before your next scheduled match, so it will be next Monday at 7:00 pm. If it rains Monday, it becomes Wednesday at 7:00 pm and continues weekday to weekday at 9:00 am until completed.

7. If inclement weather occurs on the final day of the regular season (and there are playoffs scheduled for the league), play must be completed within the next 2 days by your normal match time on the 2nd day and continues day to day until weather permits the match to be played. Only the Local League Coordinator can adjust playoff dates if necessary.
  8. If major holidays (ie: Thanksgiving, Christmas, July 4, etc.) are affecting the makeup days, contact the Local League Coordinator for possible extensions.
- B. Any Cherokee team involved in a **USTA** League State, Sectional or National Championship, regardless of the league, may request from their opponent consideration in rescheduling their Cherokee Tennis Association (USTA League) regular season matches prior to the originally scheduled date of the match
1. A team with this concern **must** notify the coordinator and affected opponents at least two weeks prior to the scheduled Championship match to reschedule individual matches, or as soon as the conflict is known if it is less than two weeks. Opponents are required to help the opposing team in the rescheduling of any matches that will conflict. No more positions may be rescheduled than the number of players attending said championship.
  2. If a rescheduled date prior to the originally scheduled date cannot be agreed upon, the coordinator has the ability to extend the deadline and **with the Local League Coordinator's authorization** the match can be rescheduled using inclement weather rules.
  3. Any individual match rescheduled after the regularly scheduled time must include at least one player who actually played at the conflicting Championship or this match could be defaulted and awarded to the non-conflicted team.

## IX. Dynamic NTRP

- A. If a player does not have a computer rating, that player will self-rate themselves in accordance with the USTA NTRP guidelines.
- B. If a self-rated (S) or Medical Appeal player is promoted from a particular level of play, the player shall cease play immediately from the NTRP level being promoted from and graduate to the next higher NTRP level. All prior matches shall stand in good faith.
- C. Captains and/or teams with 2 or more promoted players within a 12-month period may be subject to an NTRP Grievance and subsequent suspension from USTA Leagues.
- D. All players who have computer rated appeals (A), dynamic ratings (D), or Early Start dynamic ratings (E), who are subject to promotion, shall cease play immediately from the NTRP level being promoted from and graduate to the next NTRP level. All prior matches shall stand in good faith. Players not promoted by the conclusion of local league round robin play will be eligible to compete in the entire local playoff. Dynamic ratings will be calculated at the end of the local playoff to inform any promoted players if they cannot advance to the state championships. Points earned by promoted players shall stand.
- E. Players with a Year-end computer (C) rating are not subject to dynamic NTRP disqualification.
- F. Players not disqualified by conclusion of local league round robin play will be eligible to compete in entire local playoff. Dynamic ratings will be calculated at the end of the local playoff to inform any disqualified players that they may not advance to the State Championships. Points earned by disqualified players will

stand.

1. A player's exact rating (dynamic) must reach a predetermined level THREE times to be disqualified.
  2. Ratings are calculated every day. Disqualifications are determined at the national, not at the local or state level. Players will not be notified that they are nearing the level of disqualification.
- G. To generate a computer rating, a player must have played three times during that year's rating period. Defaults do not count toward computer ratings.

## **X. Local Scheduling & Playoffs**

- A. See the "Scheduling Guidelines" below for explanation of groupings and the number of teams who make the playoffs. When there is only one flight and multiple rounds of round robin are played there are no playoffs and the team with the most team points at the end of the season will be the winner.
- B. During the finals of a playoff or during a wildcard playoff, which includes a best 2<sup>nd</sup> playoff, the home team can not use clay courts, unless both teams agree.
- C. When a league playoff occurs, the team who loses in the finals will be considered the finalist (2<sup>nd</sup> place team) when it comes to receiving a wildcard or berth(s).
- D. In order for a player to be eligible to play in a local playoff, that player must have played at least once during the local season. One default received by the player during local competition shall count for advancing to playoffs. A retired match shall count toward advancing for all players involved.

## **XI. State Championships**

- The team with the most team points at the end of the season will be the season league winner.
- 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. Team Wins.
    2. Most number of individual matches won in the entire season.
    3. 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.
    4. Sets: Loser of the fewest number of sets in the entire season.
    5. Games: Loser of the fewest number of games in the entire season.
    6. 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. The exception is the Southern Combo Doubles league where only one match played is required for advancing.
  - C. Adult 18 & Over and Adult 40 & Over State Championship Berths, all leagues in Georgia: Men and Women
    1. One berth per season for a maximum of 15 teams in any given level.
    2. Two berths per season for a maximum of 30 teams in any given level.
    3. Over 30 teams, up to each additional 15 teams, an additional berth is given.
    4. At a given level where there is a Weekday Women's and Business Women's league, a playoff will be necessary to determine which winning team receives the berth. Unless the conditions in IX.C.5 are met.
    5. If the total number of teams in both, the Weekday Women's and Business Women's league should reach a minimum of 16 teams and each league has a minimum of 6 teams, the local league will receive an additional berth at the State Championships. In this case there will be no playoff to determine a single winner, and both winning teams will advance.
  - D. Mixed 18 & Over and Mixed 40 & Over State Championship Berths
    1. One berth per season for a maximum of 15 teams in any given level.

2. Two berths per season for a maximum of 30 teams in any given level.
  3. Up to each additional 15 teams, one more berth is given.
- E. Combo State Championship Berths
1. One berth per season for a maximum of 9 teams in any given level.
  2. Two berths per season for a maximum of 18 teams in any given level.
  3. Up to each additional 9 teams, an additional berth is given.
  4. At a given level where there is a Weekday Women's and Business Women's league, both leagues must reach a minimum of five (5) teams in order to each receive a berth. If both leagues do not have at least five (5) teams, a playoff may be necessary to determine which team receives the berth.
- F. Tri-Level State Championship Berths
1. One berth per season for a maximum of 2 teams in any given level.
  2. Two berths per season for a maximum of 3-5 teams in any given level.
  3. Three berths per season for a maximum of 6-10 teams in any given level.
  4. Four berths per season for a maximum of 11+ teams in any given level.

If a local league holds two seasons at a specific level, they must have a minimum of three teams participating in one of the two seasons at that level to receive two berths to the State Championships. Two team leagues in both seasons will only receive one berth to the State Championships. The local league will determine which team receives the berth.

- G. There must be a minimum of three teams participating in one of the two seasons at a specific level to receive two berths to the State Championships. Two team leagues in both seasons will only receive one berth to the state Championships. In this case, unless the same team wins both seasons, the team with higher winning percentage will receive the berth.
- H. In the event the same team should win both seasons, that team may choose which season's roster they would like to take to the State Championship and the league shall send a second place team as the other state entrant. If the same team placed second both seasons, they may choose which season's roster they would like to take to the state championship as well. If the 2<sup>nd</sup> place teams in each season are different, they will playoff to determine a State entrant. The home team will be decided by the best winning percentage from their season's round robin. 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.
- I. If a berth at the State Championship becomes available unexpectedly (late wild card, team withdrawal), that berth may be filled at the Local League Coordinator's discretion as there may be insufficient time to hold a playoff match. Teams that have specifically requested a wildcard opportunity after the last season of the championship year is finished and local winners have been decided will be the first to be considered for the wild card selection. If no team has requested a wildcard the team with the best overall record from the league season preceding the state championship will be the first to be considered. Usually when there is not enough time for a playoff the first team to commit will receive the wildcard.
- J. 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 affects those players who showed up ready to play, only to find their opponents did not show.
- K. Area Leagues. The state may authorize local league play for area teams (one team at any given level with no local opponents during the entire Championship Year) from which all participating teams may

progress to the State Championships. An area team **MUST** come from the season prior to the State Championship and the players **MUST** use their Year-End Rating.

- L. 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.
- M. Once a player is registered on a specific roster they may play at that level throughout all USTA State, sectional and national championships even if their rating increases prior to the championships, as long as the player is not disqualified out of that level through a dynamic promotion or NTRP Grievance Disqualification.

## **XII. NTRP Grievances**

A NTRP grievance may be filed against a player and or a captain who commits or condones entering a self- rating **one level or more below the actual skill level of the player**. All NTRP grievances should be filed with your local league coordinator. If a NTRP grievance is filed, the player/captain needs to provide proof that this player is above two levels. All NTRP grievances are sent to the USTA Southern NTRP Grievance Committee. Decisions can be appealed to the USTA Southern NTRP Grievance Appeals Committee.

## **XIII. General Grievances**

- A. A complaint against an individual or team **may only be filed by a team captain** of the team who has competed in the match where the alleged violation occurred or by a league coordinator. All complaints alleging a violation by an individual or a team during local league competition shall be filed in writing with the local league coordinator. The complaint must be filed prior to the commencement of the next team match in that flight involving such individuals or team, or within twenty-four hours after the end of local league play, whichever occurs first.
- 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. For full Grievance procedures refer to Section 3.0 of the USTA National League Regulations
- D. If unsure of procedure, contact the Local League Coordinator.

## **XIV. COVID-19**

All players should follow the local county/state guidelines regarding the COVID-19 virus. All players should be responsible and **not play** if experiencing any symptoms or been around others who are either tested positive or been around someone who was tested positive.

Note that the make-up rules **do not** apply to players who is experiencing symptoms or tested positive. Matches will not be rescheduled or postponed due to the quarantine period. Remember to be safe to yourself and others.

[https://www.usta.com/content/dam/usta/2020-pdfs/USTA\\_COVID19\\_PlayingTennisSafely-Flyer.pdf](https://www.usta.com/content/dam/usta/2020-pdfs/USTA_COVID19_PlayingTennisSafely-Flyer.pdf)

## COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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 30 minutes 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 CCTA 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 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.
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.

**Cherokee Tennis Association Scheduling Guidelines****(Updated 6/8/2020)**

No. of Teams	No. of Flights	Teams per Flight	No. of Round Robins	No. of Matches	Weeks of play	Rounds of playoffs	Advance to Play offs	Notes
1	1		If we have 1 team only the team will have the choice of requesting to be moved to the Atlanta league (League Atlanta would have to authorize, be considered as an area team if no other team signs up or a refund (see refund policy). Registration period may be extended to give time for more teams to sign up.					
2	1		If we have 2 teams the teams will have the option to play several (at least 3) Round Robins at Cherokee, request to be moved to Atlanta (subject to availability) or a refund (see refund policy). Registration period may be extended to give time for more teams to sign up.					
3	1		If we have 3 teams the teams will have the option to play 3 Round Robins at Cherokee, request to be moved to Atlanta (subject to availability) or a refund (see refund policy). Registration period may be extended to give time for more teams to sign up.					
4	1		2 or 3	6 or 9	6 or 9	-		Teams will stay in Cherokee. Captains will be asked to vote on how many rounds to play.
5	1		2	8	10	-		
6	1		2	10	10	-		
7	1		1	6	7	1	Top 2 teams	
8	1		1	7	7	1	Top 2 teams	
9	1		1	8	9	1	Top 2 teams	
10	1		1	9	9	1	Top 2 teams	
11 - A	1	11	1	10	10 and a Flex Date	1	Top 2 teams	Captains will be asked to vote on options A or B.  Flex Date- one of the matches will be scheduled on a non regular play day and can be played as a rain make up or exchanging line-ups. The line up exchange can be done via the coordinator.
11 - B	2	5, 6	2	8, 10	10	1	First place team of each flight	
12 - A	1	12	1	10	10 and a Flex Date	1	Top 2 teams	
12 - B	2	6	2	10	10	1	First place team of each flight	
13	2	7, 6	1	5 or 6	7	2	Top 2 teams of each flight	
14	2	7	1	6	7	2	Top 2 teams of each flight	
15	2	7, 8	1	6 or 7	7	2	Top 2 teams of each flight	
16	2	8	1	7	7	2	Top 2 teams of each flight	
17	2	9, 8	1	8,7	9	2	Top 2 teams of each flight	
18	2	9	1	8	9	2	Top 2 teams of each flight	
19	2	9, 10	1	8,9	9	2	Top 2 teams of each flight	
20	2	10	1	9	9	2	Top 2 teams of each flight	
21	3	7	1	6	7	3	Top 2 teams of each flight, 2 best third place teams	
22 or 23	3	7,7,8 or 7,8,8	1	6 or 7	7	3	Top 2 teams of each flight, 2 best third place teams	
24	3	8	1	7	7	3	Top 2 teams of each flight, 2 best third place teams	

♦ **NEW OPTION:** Whenever the number of teams make it possible, the teams will be offered the above options and one additional option of playing at least one round robin and then adding a partial round robin or enough random matches to achieve a 7 or 8 week schedule with playoffs. Teams in this situation will be notified and required to vote within one week after the registration period closes.