

# Cherokee Tennis Association

## Local League Regulations

### 2011 Championship Year

Updated 9/26/10

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

The Cherokee 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 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 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 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 Cherokee Tennis Association board of directors shall have the authority to take the necessary actions, make the necessary rulings or to impose the appropriate penalties.

#### II. Membership

- A. All team members must be at least 18 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, but cannot play more than one level above their rating (3.0 rated player may play 3.0 or 3.5, but can not play 4.0). 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 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
- D. Playing on two teams at different NTRP levels may increase the player's risk of being disqualified.
- 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.)

#### III. Captain: 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. Team Registration - Captains of *men's, women's, senior's, super senior's, 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 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 via tennislink.
- C. Once a player has played a match for a team, they cannot be removed from that Tennis Link roster.

- D. All men's and women's teams should have a minimum of 8 players. The exception is 2.5 and 5.0 teams, which should have a minimum of 5 players. All mixed, senior, combo, and super senior teams should have a minimum of 6 players. 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.
- E. 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.

#### IV. Captain: Match Responsibilities

- A. 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.
- B. 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.
- C. Each team shall identify and reserve its home courts. The "home" team must guarantee a minimum of 2 courts, with the same surface for league play. "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 captains must field teams for the minimum number of courts required. 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.
- D. 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 start time on the same scheduled day (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.
- E. 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.
- F. Team captains must simultaneously exchange scorecards with completed line-ups BEFORE the scheduled *match time*. Scorecards are to be printed from TennisLink and a player's name or USTA 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.
- G. 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 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.
- H. TennisLink does not accept partial match results. All positions' scores must be entered at the same time. If you are disputing the scorecard that has been entered, you must dispute the match via tennislink and notify your coordinator within 48 hours. You must provide what the discrepancy is along with the corrections.

#### V. Format of Play

- A. Each team shall 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. Both teams provide new balls for each match. The home team opens balls to be used for the match. If the home team wins, they keep the un-opened can of balls and the visiting team keeps the used balls. If the visiting team wins, they keep the un-opened can of balls and the home team keeps the used 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. 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.
- F. If a team forfeits an entire team match 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.
- G. Water must be furnished for matches, but the Cherokee Tennis Association encourages the home team to provide "refreshments and snacks."
- H. If during the match it is discovered that a player is on the wrong court in an individual match during the first set, 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). Both matches MUST still be in the first set, if either match is in the second or third set, 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.
- I. 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.
- 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.

## VI. 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 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. Forfeits offered verbally prior to the original written lineup exchanged are nullified when the match is rescheduled due to rain or inclement weather.
4. 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 in that match may be substituted into the agreed match time if necessary.

Default make up times:

*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 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.

5. 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.

- C. Any team involved in a USTA League State, Sectional or National Championship, regardless of the league, must notify their coordinator and request from their opponent consideration in rescheduling their Cherokee Tennis Association (USTA League) matches prior to the originally scheduled date of the match. A team with this concern must notify the coordinator and affected opponents at least two weeks prior to the scheduled match to reschedule individual matches. Opponents are required to help the opposing team in the rescheduling of any matches that will conflict. If a rescheduled date prior to the originally scheduled date can not be agreed upon, the coordinator has the ability to extend the deadline. No more positions may be rescheduled than the number of players attending said championship.

#### VII. 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 player with a self rating (S) or a medical appeal (S) 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).
- C. All players who have computer rated appeals (A), an Early Start League dynamic ratings (D), mixed exclusive ratings (M) or tournament ratings (T) who are subject to disqualification, will not be subject to match reversal if disqualified, but the player will be promoted immediately.
- D. Players with a Year-end computer (C) or benchmark (B) rating are not subject to dynamic NTRP disqualification.
- E. 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.
- F. Note that an individual player playing in men's, women's, senior's, super senior's and/or mixed doubles must play a minimum of two matches within a league year to generate an individual year-end rating. Combo leagues do not generate computer ratings. Players only playing mixed doubles will generate a mixed exclusive rating to be used in mixed doubles, men's, women's, seniors and super seniors the following year.

#### VIII. Local Scheduling & Playoffs

- A. See the "Scheduling Guidelines" below for explanation of groupings and the number of teams who make the playoffs.
- 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.

#### 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. Adult State Championship Berths
  1. One berth per season for 2 to 15 teams in any given level.
  2. Two berths per season for 16 to 30 teams in any given level.
  3. Over 30 teams, for 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, both leagues must reach a minimum of eight (8) teams in order to each receive a berth. If both leagues do not have at least eight (8) teams, a playoff may be necessary to determine which team receives the berth.
- D. Senior State Championship Berths
  1. One berth per season for 2 to 9 teams in any given level.
  2. Two berths per season for 10 to 18 teams in any given level.
  3. Over 18 teams, for 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.
- E. Mixed State Championship Berths
  1. One berth per season for a maximum of 16 teams in any given level.
  2. Two berths per season for a maximum of 20 teams in any given level.
  3. For each additional 10 teams, one more berth is given.
- F. 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 19 teams in any given level.
  3. Over 19 teams, for each additional 10 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.
- G. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> place teams decline, the State playoff offer will be extended to the 3<sup>rd</sup> place teams. If the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.
- H. In the event Cherokee Tennis Association receives a wildcard, it will be awarded to the season and NTRP level stipulated by USTA Georgia.

#### X. Self-Rate Grievances

A self-rate 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 grievances should be filed with your local league coordinator. If a grievance is filed, the player/captain needs to provide proof that this player is above two levels. All grievances are sent to the USTA Southern Self-Rate Grievance Committee. Decisions can be appealed to the USTA Southern Grievance Appeals Committee.

#### XI. 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. If unsure of procedure, contact the Local League Coordinator.

Grievance Committee

Name #1 Kevin Martin  
Name #2 Tom Thomas  
Name #3 Glenn Gardner  
Name #4

Grievance Appeals Committee

Name #1 Pete Sanchez  
Name #2  
Name #3  
Name #4

- \* Committee members are subject to change do to a conflict of interest.  
New committee members can be appointed on a case by case basis by the local league coordinator.

## Cherokee Tennis Association Scheduling Guidelines (Updated 9/26/2010)

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) 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 Round Robins at Cherokee or a refund (see refund policy). Registration period may be extended to give time for more teams to sign up.					
3	1		3	6	9	-		
4	1		2 or 3	6 or 9	6 or 9	-		Captains will be asked to vote.
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	3	7,7,8	1	6 or 7	7	3	Top 2 teams of each flight, 2 best third place teams	
23	3	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	