

Columbus Regional Tennis Association League Regulations



CITY LEAGUE

I. REGULATIONS

The Local League shall observe USTA League Tennis National, Southern and Georgia Regulations as published. Any modifications of these rules pertaining specifically to the Columbus League will be published herein.

II. ELIGIBILITY

A. Players

1. Players may play at or above the level of their current computer rating or self-rating.
2. CORTA authorizes participation in more than one NTRP level within a division in the same local league during the same season. Where NTRP levels are divided into flights, players may not play in more than one flight.
3. Age.
 - a. Adult City League: Each player shall have reached eighteen (18) years of age prior to or during the calendar year in which such player plays in his/her first league match.
 - b. Senior City League: Each player shall have reached fifty (50) years of age prior to or during the calendar year in which such player plays in his/her first league match.

B. Teams

1. Teams must have a minimum of six (6) eligible players of the same gender to compete at a specific level of competition on the roster.
2. Teams must play at the level of the highest rated player on the team.
3. *Adult Teams* must maintain a minimum of 70% of players on a team roster that are at the specified DNTRP team level of play. Exceptions may be made for levels that do not have enough qualified players to participate in a league. *Senior Teams* must have a minimum of three players whose NTRP rating is the highest allowed for that team. (Example: on a 6.5 team, there must be a minimum of three 3.5 players.)
4. A player(s) may be added to a team roster prior to the last match of the season. However, remember that any player advancing to the State Championships and beyond must meet minimum match play eligibility requirements.
5. No player may be dropped from a team roster after the deadline set by the League Coordinator.
6. A player may request to be deleted from a roster only if he/she has not been listed in a team lineup. The request must be submitted in writing and must be signed by the player requesting to be deleted from the team roster.
7. Players dropped from a roster prior to the deadline to drop will receive a partial refund.
8. The Adult levels shall be 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, and 4.0. The Senior levels shall be 5.5, 6.5, 7.5 and 8.5.

C. Facility

1. Facilities approved for league play include those with a minimum of four courts at one site, similar surface (hard or clay).
2. Facilities must have a working restroom, and an on-site telephone (may be cellular),
3. Facilities must be located within the Columbus City limits. Levels that do not have enough local teams (2 or less) to play will be considered on an individual basis for play at other facilities.

III. TEAM CAPTAIN

- A. Duties.** The team captain shall handle the administrative affairs and represent the team in USTA League Tennis Program matters. Team captain shall be responsible for submitting all requested information by published deadlines, including all applicable fees.
- B. Eligibility.** The team captain must be a registered member of the team.
- C. Team Name.** The team captain must register the team using the captain's last name, followed by the co-captain's last name, followed by the home court abbreviation. (ex. McEnroe/Connors-CC)
- D. Rule Familiarity.** It is the captain's responsibility to have each team member thoroughly read and understand current CORTA League Regulations.
- E. Email.** The team captain will provide a current email address to the League Coordinator for correspondence.

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- F. **Court Fees.** The team captain will be responsible for collecting and paying the team's court fees prior to all matches at any facility.
- G. **Absence.** If the team captain is unable to perform duties, he/she should appoint an acting captain to fulfill duties.

IV. MATCH DAY

- A. **Captain.** Each team must have a captain or acting captain present at the beginning of each team match.
- B. **Printed Scorecard.** The team captain should print a scorecard from TennisLink before each match to use for lineup exchange. All eligible players will be listed at the bottom of each scorecard; therefore, if you have additions, printing the scorecards before each match will avoid confusion with the opposing team.
- C. **Lineup Exchange.** The team captain must exchange written lineups prior to the scheduled match time. Complete written lineups must be simultaneously exchanged. If the captain will not be present, they should send the written lineup with a designated team representative. (Comment: If Team A will not provide a written lineup within the default time, Team B may claim a default of the positions that were eligible to begin play. The remaining positions may play provided a written line up has been exchanged.)
 - 1. If a captain is missing a player, but in good faith believes the player will arrive before the 15 minute default time, the **scorecards/lineups must be exchanged at the scheduled time.**
 - 2. If a team knowingly begins a team match without a full complement of players for the lineup (e.g. six player rather than eight) they must forfeit from the bottom. For example, a team with six players could either forfeit #3 doubles or both singles.
 - 3. Once the teams exchange lineups no movement of players is allowed. **Never move players already listed on the lineup to another position except in these cases:**
 - a) Two players will play together in the higher position when both of their partners do not show in order to avoid two defaults.
 - b) In the event that inclement weather forces the cancellation and rescheduling of a team match, unrestricted substitutions from the team roster may be made in any individual matches that have not begun. This includes moving a player from one position to another. Points awarded for forfeits during the original written lineup exchange will stand. All players involved in such forfeits cannot participate in the rescheduled match. Forfeits offered verbally prior to the original written lineup exchange are nullified when the match is rescheduled due to inclement weather.
- D. **Excessive Defaults and Forfeits.** If a team forfeits a whole match (playing less than two positions) two times during a season, then all matches of that team played or to be played, shall be null and void. If all teams in contention for the Championship have already played the defaulting team in good faith, the matches stand as played.
- E. **Order of Play.** The captains may agree on the order of play. However, if no prior agreement is made, the order of play will be #1 doubles, #2 doubles, and # 3 doubles.
- F. **Scorecard Verification.** At the conclusion of the match, both scorecards must be checked for agreement. Captains should keep a hard copy of each of their scorecards.
- G. **Posting Scores.** The team captain must post (or confirm) the correct match scores online within 48 hours upon conclusion of the match. Penalties may be enforced for late score reporting.

V. FORMAT OF PLAY

- A. **Scoring.** The scoring format for all matches will be the best of two tie-break sets, with a set tie-break at 6-all. In the event of split sets, a 10-point match tie-break shall be played in lieu of a third set. There will be a two minute break at the end of each set, with no coaching allowed.
- B. **Surfaces.** Each team shall declare its home courts as either clay and/or hard court surfaces and matches will be played according to that designation. In the event that different court surfaces are available at the home site, captains must agree on the court surface for the team positions. If captains cannot agree, court assignment will be decided upon by lottery.
- C. **Home Team.** The designation of "home team" only indicates which team furnishes the balls for the matches and will retain the used cans of balls.
- D. **Warm-up.** The warm-up must be accomplished within ten minutes, including serves. Players who arrive within the 15 minute default time are entitled to a five (5) minute warm-up.
- E. **Match Time.** A match, which includes a 10-minute warm-up, must begin at the scheduled time; a default occurs when a player fails to appear within 15 minutes of the scheduled match time.
- F. **Default Time.** A 15 minute default rule is in effect, subject to court availability. (Comment: This means all players must be on the court - not merely at the facility, going to the bathroom, stretching, etc. - no

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later than 15 minutes after the scheduled start time. Courtesy requires a prompt start time and a brief warm-up. League rules support a default of the individual match if players are not on court.)

- G. **Player Substitution.** No substitution may be made in an individual match after the lineup has been presented, except for injury, illness, disqualification, or no-show of a player prior to the start of the match (i.e. the first point has not been played). A team may substitute a player in the affected position within the 15 minute default time by using a player not already listed on the lineup. If no substitution can be made, the affected position only will be forfeited. If a substitution is made, it must be accomplished before the 15 minute default period has elapsed. If a substitution is made during the 15 minute default period, the substitute player is entitled to a five (5) minute warm-up. Once a player's name is removed from the lineup, that player shall not be allowed to play in that team match. A match begins when the first point is served.

VI. SCHEDULES

- A. **TennisLink.** Matches will be scheduled using the TennisLink Scheduler computer program.
- B. **Publication.** The schedule will be available on TennisLink and will include the dates, times and location of all matches. **This schedule should be followed by all teams.**
- C. **Time.** All matches are scheduled for EASTERN TIME.
- D. **Rescheduling.** Teams matches or individual matches may be rescheduled if both captains agree. The rescheduled matches should be played prior to the originally scheduled date. (If a team has six players available for the originally scheduled match, the match should be played as scheduled. If a team will have to forfeit a position due to lack of players, the captain may ask to reschedule.)
- E. **Days of Play.** If courts are unavailable, the League Coordinator may schedule matches on days other than those originally posted.
- F. **Requests to Reschedule.** Captains may request the rescheduling of a match due to a conflict with player(s) involved in USTA League Championship play. (State, Sectional, Regional or National Championships.)
 1. Requests must be made directly to the Local League Coordinator.
 2. Captains must notify the League Coordinator of a request to reschedule a match no later than Wednesday prior to the originally scheduled match date.
 3. No more positions may be rescheduled than the number of players attending said championship.
 4. Rescheduled matches must be played either prior to the originally scheduled match date, or within 15 days of the completion of the championship event.
- G. **Changes.** The League Coordinator may make changes as necessary.

VII. INCLEMENT WEATHER

- A. **Weather Conditions.** The only weather conditions that shall authorize the cancellation of a scheduled match are lightning, rain or severe temperatures (a temperature of 32° or colder or a temperature of 100° or more). Wind chill and heat index are not a factor in determining temperature. Cancellation will be determined by the court condition at the time of each match at each scheduled site.
- B. **Match Interruption.** In the event inclement weather occurs after play has begun, completed individual matches will stand as played and incomplete matches must be resumed by the same players at the exact set, game and point when play was halted.
- C. **Deadlines.** Any matches postponed due to inclement weather must be completed within 15 days of the originally scheduled match.
- D. **Lack of Agreement.** The League Coordinator must be notified within 2 days of the originally scheduled match when a reschedule date cannot be agreed upon. If teams cannot agree on a rescheduled date, the League Coordinator will reschedule the match. A match scheduled by the League Coordinator is not affected by the 15 day rule.
- E. **Negotiation.** Delays or cancellations due to weather are common; therefore, captains are expected to use good sportsmanship as they negotiate and carry out the terms of the rescheduled matches. Captains must agree on the time and place, including court surfaces, of the rescheduled matches. In the event that captains are not able to exchange lineups prior to a rescheduled match, captains must negotiate the rescheduled match in terms of positions, not names of individuals.
- F. **Lineups.** In the event that inclement weather forces the cancellation and rescheduling of a team match, unrestricted substitutions from the team roster may be made in any individual matches that have not begun. This includes moving a player from one position to another. Points awarded for forfeits during the original written lineup exchange will stand. All players involved in such forfeits cannot participate in the rescheduled match. Forfeits offered verbally prior to the original written lineup exchange are nullified when the match is rescheduled due to inclement weather.
- G. **Rescheduled Match.** Once a time, day and location for the makeup match has been agreed upon by the parties involved, that match MAY NOT be cancelled or rescheduled, for any reason other than inclement weather.

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VIII. NTRP RATINGS & PROCEDURES

- A. **Self Rating.** The National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) is the official system for rating levels of competition in the CORTA City League. Players who do not have a computer rating on file in TennisLink shall self-rate in accordance with the NTRP Guidelines and complete the self-rating process on TennisLink when registering for a team.
- B. **Disqualification.** Players may not be dynamically disqualified based on match results from the CORTA City League and match results are not calculated in year-end NTRP computer ratings.

IX. PROGRESSION

- A. **League Year.** The Local League year begins in September and ends in August of the following year. The year will consist of two (2) seasons, a fall season and a spring season, and a championship team will be determined at each level for each season.
- B. **Scoring.** A point will be awarded to the team winning the team match. In the event of a tie at the end of the season whether in round robin or single elimination competition, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:
 - 1. **Individual Matches.** Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.
 - 2. **Sets.** Loser of the fewest number of sets.
 - 3. **Games.** Loser of the fewest number of games.
 - 4. **Head-to-head.** Winner of head-to-head match.

X. LOCAL LEAGUE GRIEVANCES

- A. **Grievances.** Complaints alleging a violation of League regulations or standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship shall be filed in writing with the chairman of the CORTA Grievance Committee and must be in accordance with USTA League Regulations. Complaints are not to be made to, or filed with the League Coordinator. For full Grievance Procedures refer to Section 2.0 of the USTA League Regulations.
- B. **Appeals.** If the complainant is not satisfied with the decision of the Grievance Committee, he/she may appeal the case to the Local Appeals Committee. The appeal must be done in writing and in accordance with USTA League Regulations.

XI. THE HONOR CODE OF ETHICS

The Honor Code of Ethics is prepared under the philosophy that "today's opponent is tomorrow's tennis friend." To assure that end, the code should be used as a guideline during league play.

- A. **Courtesy**
 - 1. The game of tennis depends upon courtesy and fairness.
 - 2. Hosting teams should extend themselves to provide pleasant conditions for their guests. Water and restroom facilities must be provided.
 - 3. The use of alcohol and/or tobacco products is prohibited on the court during league play.
 - 4. Cell phones, pages etc. should be turned off during play. (Comment: Cell phones are not allowed on the tennis courts at anytime during a match. If a cell phone goes off during the match, this is a hindrance. The owner of the cell phone will turn the phone off and a point will be assessed against the cell phone owner.)
- B. **Friends, Coaches, Children, Parents**
 - 1. Except in the case of medical time-outs; friends, coaches, children, parents are not permitted on the court at any time.
 - 2. Spectators or coaches may not volunteer advice on line calls, scoring, or the conduct of a match.
 - 3. Coaching is not allowed at any time.
- C. **Conduct of Captains and Players**
 - 1. The highest level of sportsmanship along with courtesy and fairness is expected from every captain and player.
 - a. All matches should be played in good faith and to the benefit of tennis and fair play. No manipulation of the outcome of matches will be tolerated. (i.e. Actions that affect standings to the benefit or the detriment of another team are strictly prohibited.) Teams are expected to compete to win.