

CHATTANOOGA TENNIS ASSOCIATION ADULT TENNIS LEAGUE RULES

REVISED NOVEMBER 2018



CHATTANOOGA TENNIS ASSOCIATION
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www.chattanoogatennis.com

I. MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

- A. All CTA members in good standing are eligible to participate in CTA Leagues. Membership dues are \$40 per player per year. Dues may be paid online at www.chattanoogatennis.com by clicking the "JOIN CTA" tab; or mailed to P.O. Box 23383, Chattanooga, TN 37422.
- B. Non-CTA members may play as a substitute twice per calendar year. If a non-CTA member substitutes more than twice, dues must be paid within ten (10) days or the team will forfeit the affected court.

II. TEAM ROSTERS, DIVISIONS AND WOMEN'S LEAGUE FORMAT:

- A. A team will consist of a minimum of four (4) doubles teams (8 players).
- B. A team should be entered in the appropriate league level (3.0 - 4.5+) based on the skill level of players on the roster.
- C. A team winning two (2) out of three (3) seasons will have the option to move to the next higher level of play for the following season.
- D. Final determination of league placement will be the responsibility of the CTA League Coordinator and CTA League Board.
- E. Captains must register teams by the league registration deadline set by the coordinator. Completed rosters must be turned in to the coordinator 2 weeks before the first match of the season is played. A minimum of 8 players is required to qualify as a team – players may be added after play has begun.
- F. Captains must register teams each season (spring, summer, fall). A player can play on more than one league roster. Ex: Combo 3.5 (Tues morning) and 4.0 Thursday morning, Day and or Evening, and sub on any team their level or higher.
- G. If a player chooses to substitute at a higher level for one team only, his/her name should appear on the roster with "sub" noted beside the name.
- H. If a player would like to sub at a higher level without restriction to a single team, his / her name should not appear as a sub on a roster, but should be included on the CTA sub list for that level (by request of player only - please notify CTA)
- I. Combo and Adult League Play will follow guidelines below. Teams may be moved up or down between divisions based on scores or and the discretion of the CTA League Coordinator.

DIVISION	League Format	NTRP LEVELS	Minimum # players for legal roster
COMBO	4 Doubles	3.0, 3.5 combined	8
	4 Doubles	3.5, 4.0 combined	8
	4 Doubles	4.0, 4.5 combined	8
ADULT LEAGUE	4 Doubles	3	8
	4 Doubles	3.5	8
	4 Doubles	4	8

- J. **Straight N RTP** level leagues will play that leagues level on all 4 courts in descending strength. Court 1 being the strongest players.
- K. **+ Leagues**: Courts 1 and 2 will play a combo team while courts 3 and 4 will play straight N RTP. Example: 3.0+ league will play a 3.0 and a 3.5 player on courts 1 and 2, and courts 3 and 4 will play straight 3.0 players. Descending order of player's strength, court 1 being the strongest.
- L. **Combo Leagues**:
Example: 3.5/4.0 Combo league, each court will play a 3.5 player and a 4.0 player together. The Strongest combination on court 1 and descending strength combinations to court 4.

III. LINE-UPS – ALL LEAGUES

- A. Captains will determine line-ups weekly by strength according to CTA, N RTP, or self-ratings in order to make competition fair to all. **SANDBAGGING IS PROHIBITED** and bad form.
- B. The strongest and highest rated player must occupy the #1 position. The remaining positions are placed in descending order of strength.
- C. Players without an official N RTP Rating shall self-rate. Issues over self-rated players will be resolved by the CTA League Coordinator. **See self-rate chart attached.*

IV. CAPTAINS' RESPONSIBILITIES – ALL LEAGUES

- A. Provide each team member (hard copies or electronically through TopDogTennis.com) with:
 - 1. League Rules
 - 2. League Schedule
 - 3. Team Roster (including emails/phone numbers).
 - 4. Subs listed or added during the season must be listed on Top Dog with email/phone.
- B. View schedules and print scorecards from Top Dog.
- C. Contact the visiting Captain or Co-Captain in advance of scheduled matches to verify location and courts. Advise the opposing captain if a position must be forfeited before match time. Forfeit from last court first, then ascending order.
- D. Keep a record of team matches and scores. Winning captain will enter scores on **topdogtennis.com** and the opposing captain will **VERIFY**.
- E. Court fees, guest fees, and USTA approved balls are the responsibility of the "home team." Teams who choose to have Champions Club, Baylor, GPS, and McCallie as their home courts have the responsibility to collect fees from their team and pay the respective facility.
- F. Contact the League Coordinator promptly with any concerns or suggestions.
- G. Both Captains can view schedules and print a score card from Top Dog. The winning captain will be responsible for entering scores, and the opposing captain will confirm scores.

V. MATCH RULES – ALL LEAGUES

- A. USTA Rules, Regulations and Code of Conduct will govern play as found in "Friend at Court" at www.USTA.com unless otherwise specified in these league rules.
- B. Line ups are to be exchanged simultaneously and cannot be changed once exchanged.
- C. Courts are assigned by the home team captain.
- D.
 - 1. All players must be present and matches should begin at the scheduled time:
Day: 9:30 a.m. Night: 6:30 p.m. (all Eastern Time)
**Please arrive 10 – 15 minutes early in order to begin match play.*
 - 2. If any player arrives more than fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled match time, his/her team will automatically forfeit that court.
 - 3. Do not delay warm up or alter court assignment while waiting for a late player.
- E. Play should begin following a 5-10 minute warm-up. However, if a player arrives within the 15-minute grace period, he or she will be allowed to warm-up 5 minutes without penalty.

- F. If a captain is aware of a forfeit prior to the match, the captain of the opposing team should be notified prior to filling out the scorecard so that line-ups can be altered as necessary. In the **Straight NTRP** leagues and Combo, position #4 should be forfeited first, then Position #3, etc. **In the + leagues, notify the opposing team the specific line that will be forfeited. This will ensure the level of play is consistent and fair.**
- G. In the event of a forfeit due to late arrival, players are encouraged but not required to play. However, the match should be recorded as a forfeit.
- H. Captains may prearrange time adjustments to scheduled playing times for individual players only if both captains agree.
- I. SCORING:
Matches will be the best two (2) out of three (3) sets with a 10-point match tiebreak played in lieu of a third set (Comen format). If time allows and all players agree, a full third set may be played. The third set will be scored as 1-0 regardless of the format.

VI. RAIN DELAYS AND RAINOUTS

- A. In the event of rain, captains may choose to:
 - 1. Reschedule match for the rain date provided;
 - 2. Secure indoor courts: Teams that secure indoor courts for play on the scheduled match date may ask each player to pay their own court fees. If captains do not agree, procedures outlined in a, c and d may be followed.
 - 3. Have each line play their match individually before the next scheduled match. Matches may be played one court at a time (or together) at the location of the players' choosing;
 - 4. Split the match points with the opponent 4-4. Contact CTA League Coordinator to enter points.
- B. Teams that are assembled to play and are delayed by rain or wet courts may be dismissed at the captain's discretion (opposing captains must agree). Captains may agree to reschedule within the league time frame mentioned above.
- C. If the first game has not been completed prior to rainout, players listed on the original roster may be changed for the rescheduled match.
- D. Completed match scores will stand as recorded.
- E. Incomplete matches must be completed by the players originally listed from the point of discontinuation.

VII. RULE ENFORCEMENT

The CTA League Coordinator will enforce this set of rules and regulations. Decisions and recommendations concerning major violations will be referred to the Board of Directors of the Chattanooga Tennis Association for final decision. The committee welcomes suggestions concerning league play and will meet as needed to discuss the leagues, rules, and ideas for improvement. League concerns may be addressed to CTA League Coordinator or any CTA Board Member.

Please remember that we are ambassadors in the Chattanooga community and in the CTA. As such, we need to conduct our behavior to each other and those watching in a dignified manner. As adults, we must teach our younger players fairness and court etiquette by example.

**General & Experienced Player Guidelines
Supplement to the NTRP Guidelines**

	7.0	6.5	6.0	5.5	5.0	4.5	4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5
NTRP General Characteristics	<i>You are a world-class player.</i>	<i>You are currently playing USTA circuit events in hopes of a professional tennis career.</i>	<i>You have had intensive training for national tournament competition at the junior and collegiate levels and have obtained a sectional and/or national ranking.</i>	<i>You have mastered power and/or consistency as a major weapon. You can vary strategies and styles of play in a competitive situation and hit dependable shots in a stress situation.</i>	<i>You have good shot anticipation and frequently have an outstanding shot or attribute around which a game may be structured. You can regularly hit winners or force errors off of short balls and can put away volleys. You can successfully execute lobs, drop shots, half volleys, overhead smashes, and have good depth and spin on most second serves.</i>	<i>You have developed your use of power and spin and can handle pace. You have sound footwork, can control depth of shots, and attempt to vary game plan according to your opponents. You can hit first serves with power and accuracy and place the second serve. You tend to overhit on difficult shots. Aggressive net play is common in doubles.</i>	<i>You have dependable strokes, including directional control and depth on both forehand and backhand sides on moderate-paced shots. You can use lobs, overheads, approach shots and volleys with some success and occasionally force errors when serving. Rallies may be lost due to impatience. Teamwork in doubles is evident.</i>	<i>This player has achieved improved stroke dependability with directional control on moderate shots, but still lacks depth and variety. This player exhibits more aggressive net play, has improved court coverage, and is developing teamwork in doubles.</i>	<i>This player is fairly consistent when hitting medium paced shots, but is not comfortable with all strokes and lacks execution when trying for directional control, depth, or power. Most common doubles formation is one-up, one-back.</i>	<i>This player is learning to judge where the ball is going although court coverage is weak. Can sustain a short rally of slow pace with other players of the same ability.</i>
World Class Players (top 400 in world)	Current	Age 35 and under	Age 36 to 40	Age 41 to 50	Age 51 to 60	Age 61 and over		For more details concerning specific playing characteristics, see NTRP Specific Characteristics on www.usta.com/leagues		
Satellite, Futures, Circuit Players (over # 400 in world)	Current	Age 35 and under	Age 36 to 45	Age 46 to 55	Age 56 and over			All assigned ratings may be immediately appealed electronically on TennisLink.		
Div. 1 Top 75 ranked college team or player (committed to, playing, or played)		Age 30 and under	Age 31 to 40	Age 41 to 50	Age 51 to 60	Age 61 and over		Individuals with expired NTRP ratings will be limited to no more than .5 below their last published rating.		
Div. 1 unranked college team or player; NIAA, Div. 2 & 3 top ranked college team or player (committed to, playing, or played)		Age 30 and under	Age 31 to 45	Age 46 to 55	Age 56 and over			Players in wheelchairs should use these same General Characteristics to determine their NTRP skill level. The only difference observed is mobility and power on the serve based on the severity of the injury. The very best World Class players in wheelchairs have an NTRP rating in the low 4.5 range.		
Domestic or foreign Junior 18's ranked in top 150 nationally or in a section in the top 20		Age 30 and under	Age 31 to 45	Age 46 to 55	Age 56 and over					
Domestic or foreign Adults ranked in the top 20 nationally or in a section in the top 10		Age 30 and under	Age 31 to 45	Age 46 to 55	Age 56 and over					
NIAA, Div. 2 & 3 unranked college team player (committed to, playing, or played) -program with no scholarships (not much stronger than High School tennis); Junior College player; Former Juniors who had national (foreign or domestic) rankings but did not tour or play in college		Age 35 and under	Age 36 and over							
Tennis Professionals							Minimum level			
High school tennis athlete may not self-rate below 3.0 and will be higher if they participated in post season play								Post season play in High School	High School Experience	
Players new to tennis who have had competitive experience in other sports should consider the rapid improvement anticipated and not rate below 3.0									Athletic ability	
<p>The USTA League Committee has approved these guidelines as a tool for accurate self-rating and NTRP Self-rate Grievance decisions. These guidelines will be advertised to players and captains and will be considered fair warning to players and captains who commit or condone future self rating abuses. USTA League Grievance Committees may suspend captains for condoning self rating abuses. Grievance committees have the authority to dismiss complaints or alter the application of these guidelines when they deem appropriate. The USTA League Committee asks all players, captains, coordinators, tennis professionals and volunteers to join the campaign to maintain the integrity of the NTRP Rating System! Current and former college team rankings for Div 1, Div 2, Div 3, NIAA and Junior colleges may be found at www.itatennis.com. Click on tab at top of website titled "College Tennis Online" for individual player searches.</p> <p align="right">updated December 2007</p>										