



Hello captains!

Re: Adult 65 & Over Fall 2020 (2021 League Year)
Season: Starts October 2, 2020 – 3.5 and October 5, 2020 – 4.0

Welcome to another season of USTA League Tennis!

This introductory letter will serve as an information source throughout the entire league season. Refer to it whenever you have a question. If there is a question not listed in this information source, or if you need clarification on a topic, please do not hesitate to contact me.

RULE CHANGE REMINDERS:

- If you have registered a team out of facility that is currently closed and that facility is still closed at the time your first home match is scheduled, you must notify your opponent and give them the option to play the match at their courts. If they cannot provide courts, it goes back to the original home team to find alternate courts for the match. The courts should be within a reasonable distance of the originally listed home courts and must fall within USTA Atlanta boundaries.
- Players are expected to follow the safe play guidelines listed at usta.com/playersafety. Captains will also be provided with a condensed version of these guidelines in PDF format to share with their players. **No sharing of food or drink will be permitted this season. Every player is responsible for providing their own food and drink.** Additionally, there will be no ball exchange at the end of the match for this season.
- In order for players to be eligible to play in the local playoffs, they must play **one time during the regular season** (first match through the last regularly scheduled match of the round robin). A default may count as a match played.
- If a team forfeits 2 or 3 lines in a match, making it invalid, a warning letter will be sent to the team. If this happens a second time in the league season, the team will be removed from the league and reported to the USTA Georgia Adult League Committee for review.

Sincerely,

Bob Christmas
65 & Over Men Program Director, USTA Atlanta
404-465-7448
bobxmas@hotmail.com



Finding Phone Numbers for Opposing Captains

- Go to TennisLink (<http://tennislink.usta.com/leagues/>);
- Log in your USTA account (if you don't have one – create one);
- Go to your team's "Team Summary" page (the default page for your team)
- Click "Match Schedule" – you will see the opposing captain's phone number.

Finding E-mails for Opposing Captains

If you would like to find an e-mail for an opposing captain, you may find this information by doing the following:

- Go to TennisLink (<http://tennislink.usta.com/leagues/>);
- Log in your USTA account (if you don't have one – create one);
- Go to your team's "Team Summary" page (the default page for your team);
- Click "Captains Report"
- You will see opposing captain e-mails.

Adding or changing the co-captain

1. Go to TennisLink (<http://TennisLink.usta.com/Leagues/Common/>).
2. Login to TennisLink (Refer to the "Login to TennisLink" section of this document).
3. Click on "Team Management" under the heading "Quick Links"
4. On the page that comes up, click on your team under the heading "Team Name/Team #"
5. You are now on the team's management homepage. Cursor on "Edit" next to "Co-Captain" and make the changes via the drop-down box that appears.

Note: You must be listed on TennisLink as the captain of the team to add or change the co-captain.

Season Schedule for the Fall Season

In the 3.5 Adult 65 & Over division level, there are 14 teams split in to two groups in the local round robin. In the 4.0 Adult 65 & Over division level, there are 7 teams in the local round robin.

Local Match Dates

- Season starts Friday, October 2 for the 3.5 League and Monday, October 5 for the 4.0 League.
- See TennisLink for complete detailed schedule. Click on "Match Schedule" from your "Team Summary" page.
- Match Time: 10:00 a.m.

Playoff Structure

The following format will be used for the playoffs:

- **3.5 Division:** The top four teams from each group will advance to playoffs. Normal seeding procedures will apply (the first place teams from each group will be seeds 1 -2, the second place teams will be seeds 3 - 4, the third place teams will be seeds 5 – 6 and the fourth place teams will be seeds 7 - 8).
- **4.0 Division:** All seven teams will advance to playoffs. Normal seeding procedures apply.



Playoff Dates

The following dates will be used for playoffs:

- [November 20, 2020 \(3.5\)](#)
- November 30, 2020 (4.0)
- [December 4, 2020 \(3.5\)](#)
- December 7, 2020 (4.0)

Finals Match

The city final match will be played on:

- [December 11, 2020 – 3.5 \(rain date December 18th\) at the higher seeded team's home courts](#)
- December 14, 2020– 4.0 (rain date Tuesday, December 15th) at the higher seeded team's home courts

USTA Georgia State Tournament for the 2021 Championship Year

We are currently in the 2021 Championship Year! City Champions from USTA Atlanta will advance to the USTA Georgia State Tournament to be held in October 2021. Please visit USTA Georgia's site at www.ustageorgia.com for more information on logistics.

All leagues in Georgia: Men and Women – State Berths Given

- a. One berth per season for a maximum of 10 teams in any given level.
- b. Two berths per season for a maximum of 20 teams in any given level.

Adding a Player After Season Begins

You may add players at any time up until 11:59 PM on the Thursday before the last local round robin match for the 3.5 league and 11:59 PM on the Sunday before the last local round robin match for the 4.0 league. Make sure your player is registered on your team before stepping foot on the court. If your player's match is started at 10:00 AM, and they registered on the team at 10:02 AM, it is an illegal match and will be disqualified and awarded to the opposing team.

Captain's Corner

The Captain's Corner is another key resource tool for captains. You can find the Captain's Corner by going to www.ustaatlanta.com > Captain's Corner > Adult 65 & Over Men. Here, you will find:

- TennisLink instructions;
- League calendar;
- USTA Atlanta local league rules and regulations;
- Grievance forms and procedures;
- Self-rating Guidelines;

The Grievances Process (found in captain's corner)

When viewing the captain's corner, you will notice a grievance section with two types of complaints that can be filed from a captain.



NTRP Grievance aka "Fair Play Grievance"

If you believe that you (or one of your players) have played against a player that has misrepresented their playing ability within the self-rating process (i.e., their playing level is at the top of the next level or higher), you should file a NTRP Grievance ASAP before the next match is played. You must have evidentiary support for your claim (T2 record, college background, etc). An opinion is not a valid back-up for a self-rate grievance.

USTA Atlanta does not process NTRP Grievances – this is done by the USTA Southern Section. However, you will submit your form to USTA Atlanta, who will forward your complaint to USTA Southern. You can find forms and instructions in the captain's corner.

Sportsmanship Grievance

All complaints alleging a violation of USTA League Regulations shall be filed in writing by a team captain via email (grievances@ustaatlanta.com) to the chairman of the USTA Atlanta Grievance Committee. Examples of valid grievances include but are not limited to: misrepresenting a player's identity on a scorecard or in TennisLink; falsifying scores in TennisLink; recording a score without playing the match; using ethnic slurs or obscene language; coaching; abusive behavior; or physical violence.

Grievances must be filed prior to whichever occurs first: (a) the involved team's next match in that flight (or playoff match), whether or not the involved player participates OR (b) within 24 hours after the end of the local league season

There is a \$25 fee for filing a sportsmanship grievance, which must accompany the written grievance. If the grievance is kept on file or if penalties are imposed, USTA Atlanta will refund the \$25 fee. All grievance filing fees retained by USTA Atlanta will be donated to the Atlanta Youth Tennis and Education Foundation.

Important Tips

- Be sure to thoroughly read through and be well-versed with USTA Atlanta local rules and regulations.
- If you have a question or issue, do not be afraid to contact me. I am here to help you!
- Ensure a proper scorecard exchange before each match. Both captains should simultaneously exchange COMPLETE scorecards before the start of the match.
- Contact your captain at least 3 days in advance to coordinate logistics for the team match.
- When speaking with your captain, confirm the facility address to make sure you have the correct address on file. You will also want to find out the number of courts that will be given for match and court surface.
- If both captains agree, you may play your match earlier or at a different time on match day. Keep your level rep informed if you do this! The best way to do this is to send an e-mail to the other captain while copying your Program Director. This will help to avoid confusion and resolve matters.



- “Home” teams are required to provide two courts of the same surface for each team match. Unless another arrangement was made (and “agreed upon” by both captains), the first two matches to go on will be the #1 doubles and the #2 doubles. The #3 doubles should be there within one hour after the start of match time.

Good luck – and have a great season!