



Hello captains!

Welcome to another season of the USTA Atlanta 18 & Over Men's League! Thank you so much for volunteering and helping to make our league so successful. Not only will you serve as the communicator and representative for your team, but also we wouldn't have our league without all of your efforts.

Important Notes about the Winter Season

- 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
- 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.
- In order for players to be eligible to play in the local playoffs, they must play **two times during the regular season** (first match through the last regularly scheduled match of the round robin). A default may count as one of the matches played.
- If a team forfeits more lines than they have played, making the match 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.
- In an effort to follow social distancing procedures, all playoffs and city finals matches will be played at the higher seeded team's home courts for the winter season.



Contacts for the Season

Each team will have a dedicated level representative who has volunteered to answer questions throughout the season. They are here to make this a great experience for you, so please utilize them.

If you are unable to contact your level representative for an immediate question, you are welcome to call another level rep.

3.0	Greg Denson	229-834-7082	denson.gregory@gmail.com
3.5	Sean Vergara	954-635-7150	vergara.sean@gmail.com
4.0 Low	Zach Moore	423-653-1289	zmooregt@gmail.com
4.0	Brandon McGirt	678-521-7903	bmcgirt@yahoo.com
4.5	Ryan Mobley	404-695-5254	rdmobley@hotmail.com
5.0+	Donato Clarke (D.C.)	678-467-3451	dcc0112@yahoo.com
Program Director	Robert Washington	678-360-6385	robwashington05@gmail.com

Season Schedule for Winter 2020/20201 (2021 League Year) Season

In most groups, teams will have 6-7 team matches in their local round robin. This does not include playoffs and/or city finals.

Local Match Dates

- Season starts Sunday, November 7, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.
- See TennisLink for complete detailed schedule. Click on "Match Schedule" from your "Team Summary" page.

Playoffs

*dates are subject to change

- Saturday, January 23, 2021 (all levels except 5.0)
- Saturday, January 30, 2021 (all levels)
- Saturday, February 6, 2021 (3.5 and 4.0 only)

City Finals

*dates are subject to change

- Saturday, February 13, 2021 (all levels) **at higher seeded team's home courts.**
- Rain date: Saturday, February 20 at higher seeded team's home courts.

Playoffs

A player must have been on the scorecard for at least two matches played during the local round robin season to be eligible for playoffs. One of these matches may be a default received, but one of the matches must have actually been played. If a player did not play twice during the



season and participates in a playoff match, the point will be reversed. It is the captain's responsibility to check his roster to ensure playoff eligibility.

The playoff tournament will be comprised of the following teams below. Normal seeding procedures will apply.

- **3.0:** All three first place teams (seeds 1-3); all three second place teams (4-6); Seeds 7-8 will be determined by taking the top two third place teams (out of all groups) with the best record based first on team losses, then on individual match wins.
- **3.5:** All six first place teams (seeds 1-6); all six second place teams (seeds 7-12); Seeds 13-16 will be determined by taking the top four third place teams (out of all groups) with the best record based first on team losses, then on individual match wins.
- **4.0 Low:** Both first place teams (seeds 1-2); both second place teams (seeds 3-4); both third place teams (seeds 5-6); and both fourth place teams (seeds 7-8).
- **4.0:** All four first place teams (seeds 1-4); all four second place teams (seeds 5-8); and all four third place teams (seeds 9-12).
- **4.5:** Both first place teams (seeds 1-2); both second place teams (seeds 3-4); both third place teams (seeds 5-6); and both fourth place teams (seeds 7-8).
- **5.0:** The top four teams will advance to playoffs.

Scheduling Matches

Default Match Start Times:

- 9:30 AM: 1S and 1D
- 10:30 AM: 2S and 2D (to follow 1S and 1D)
- 11:30 AM: 3D (to follow 2S and 2D)

Both captains must agree if start times and order of lines differ from the "default."

If you schedule your match start times/order of play differently from the default time, you must get e-mail confirmation from opposing captain. Refer to the USTA Atlanta rules and regulations for all match time scenarios.

Make-up Matches

Teams have 14 days to make up matches (with the exception of the last 2 matches of the season – see paragraph below). Please refer to the 2021 league rules and regulations for specifics.

The make-up deadline for the second to last match of the regular season is the following Saturday, 7 days later, at 6:00 p.m. The make-up deadline for the last match of the season and playoff matches is the following Thursday, 7:00 PM. If it rains on Thursday, day-to-day, 7:00 PM.

Defaults: If the start of any team match is cancelled due to inclement weather, any defaults awarded in advance are voided, and all five lines may now be scheduled for make-up play. However, if any line has already started when weather stops the match, the default(s) stands.



Scoring

This season, we are giving teams the option to play a 10-point tiebreaker in lieu of a 3rd complete set. This does not mean teams are required to do this, but it is merely an option. Before the racket spin, the individuals on the court (involved in the match) can decide to play the 10-point tiebreaker or not. This must be decided prior to the racket spin. The **default scoring will be a complete 3rd set**, so if all players do not agree, the default scoring will be used. If a tiebreaker is elected, players should communicate this to their captain prior to starting their match. **When recording the score in TennisLink, you would record a winning 10-point tiebreaker as 1-0 retired in the 3rd set. For example, if a team wins 4-6, 7-5, 10-8, they would report the score as 4-6, 7-5, 1-0 ret.**

“Low” Levels (4.0 Low)

It is every captain’s responsibility to check low eligibility before registering a player on a roster and/or playing them. If a player is not eligible for a low level and plays a match, the match will be reversed. There is a published list of eligible players on the USTA Atlanta website.

USTA Atlanta does a weekly check every Friday to ensure eligibility of newly-added players. If there is a player not eligible, USTA Atlanta will notify you as soon as possible. USTA Atlanta is NOT responsible for a captain or player registering and/or playing someone who was not on the eligibility list and/or checked by USTA Atlanta first.

Important Tips

- Be sure to thoroughly read through and be well-versed with USTA Atlanta local rules and regulations.
- Ensure a proper scorecard exchange before each match. Both captains should simultaneously exchange COMPLETE scorecards before the start of the match.
- Assign a co-captain for your team! Contact your captain at least 3 days in advance to coordinate logistics for the team match.
- 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!
- Make sure your player is registered on your team before stepping foot on the court. If your player’s match is started at 4:00 PM, and they registered on the team at 4:01 PM, it is an illegal match and will be disqualified and awarded to the opposing team.
- Stay in the know:
 - Subscribe to the [USTA Atlanta e-newsletter](#)
 - Connect with us on [Facebook](#)
 - Connect with us on [Instagram](#)



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)
- Select "Captain Email Report;"
- You will see opposing captain e-mails.

Add or change 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.

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 > USTA Adult League > Men > Captain's Corner.

Line-ups

Avoid having matches reversed by ensuring that your players are registered on your roster (not registered as a USTA member). Players must be registered before they step foot on court to play their match. If they are not registered in time, the match will be reversed/disqualified and the point will be awarded to your opponents even if you win. No exceptions.

Adding a Player After Season Begins

You may add players at any time up until 11:59 PM on the Friday before the last local round robin match (for many of you, this would be 11:59 PM on Friday, January 15, 2021).



Georgia State Tournament for 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 May 2021. Please visit the USTA Georgia's site at www.ustageorgia.com (USTA League Tennis > State Championships) for more information on logistics.

Qualifying for the State Tournament

If your team receives an invitation to the state tournament, each player (going to state) must be on the scorecard for two matches during the regular season (including playoff matches) in order to qualify for State. One of these times may be recorded as a default received, but at least one must be an actual match played.

Facilities

Make sure you have the keys to the bathrooms and that they stay open throughout the match. If your facility has time constraints for courts, please make arrangements for them to stay open and lighted to allow you to complete long-running matches.

Another important note regarding facilities: Once you have indicated your official home facility in TennisLink, all home matches should be played at that facility. If you cannot play at your designated home facility, the visiting team has the option of supplying courts for the match. Of course, you can always agree to play your match somewhere else if it eases the commute... but home captains may not arbitrarily choose to schedule matches at an alternate facility.

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

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. However, you must have evidentiary support for your claim (i.e. college background). An opinion is not a valid back-up for a self-rate grievance.

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 grievance under this Section VIII, which must accompany the written grievance. If the grievance is kept on file or 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.

Good luck – and have a great season!