

Chattahoochee Area Tennis Association (CHATA)

Rules and Regulations

CHATA Mission Statement:

CHATA is dedicated to the promotion, development, growth and support of tennis in the Chattahoochee area.

CHATA Board Members 2018 (Updated 01/13/18)

President – David Barrett

Vice President – Jann Ward

Past President – Tammy Green

Secretary – Lisa Morman

Treasurer – Jim Jarzen

Marketing – Dana Davis

Juniors – **OPEN**

Women's League Coordinator – Jennifer Bogle

Men's League Coordinator – **OPEN**

Additional Non-Board Positions

Local League Coordinator – Karen Bryant – chatatennis@aol.com

**Chattahoochee Area Tennis Association
2018 Championship Year League Regulations
(as of 01/15/18)**

Introduction

The purpose of the USTA Chattahoochee Area Tennis Association is to promote team tennis for both men and women at ratings established by the Dynamic National Tennis Rating Program (DNTRP). CHATA includes Troup, Heard, Merriwether and Carroll counties in Georgia.

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 Chattahoochee Area Tennis League will be published herein, all rules and regulations not addressed in this document will follow USTA Georgia Rules and Regulations

II. Team Captain's Duties

- (A) The team captain should read and be familiar with the rules in the USTA, STA, GTA and Local League Regulations.
- (B) The team captain will maintain a minimum of eight (8) players and a maximum of twenty-four (24) players on the roster. A minimum number of players for the 2.5 and 5.0 levels shall be five (5).
- (C) The team captain must be sure that the team members are correctly registered on-line by the designated date. New players will self-rate at the time they register online for their team.
- (D) The team captain will be responsible for collecting and paying the team's court fees prior to all matches at any facility.
- (E) The team captain must exchange written lineups 10 minutes prior to the warm up period before the scheduled match time.
- (F) Upon conclusion of the match, the team captain must post (or confirm) on-line the correct match scores.
- (G) Scores must be posted on-line within 48 hours after the completion of the match. After match scores have been entered on Tennislink, they must be confirmed by the opposing team within 48 hours of the initial entry or the initial score will be automatically considered valid.
- (H) Penalties will be enforced for late score reporting.
- (I) If team captain is unable to perform duties, he/she should appoint an acting captain to fulfill duties.
- (J) Any other information specific to individual leagues will be listed under those leagues Captain's Duties.

III. Competition Format

- (A) Matches will be played on any available surfaces.
- (B) 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 Coman 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. The local league coordinator may set-up a league using an 8 game or 6 game pro set. If there are only 2 teams in any given league there must be at least 3 complete matches played to be considered a complete season. If a league consists of only 3 teams there must be at least 4 complete matches played to be considered a complete season.

- (C) The designation of "home team" only indicates which team furnishes the balls for the matches and will retain the used cans of balls.
- (D) 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) 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 a cell phone shall be used for the official default time.
- (F) No substitution may be made after the line-up has been presented by the team captains except for injury to, or illness of, a player prior to the start of the match (i.e. the first point has not been played). If a substitution is made, it must be accomplished before the FIFTEEN-minute default period has elapsed. If a substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute player is entitled to a five (5) minute warm-up. Once a player's name is removed from the line-up, that player shall not be allowed to play in that team match.
- (G) A match must begin fifteen minutes after the scheduled time; therefore, warm-ups, including service practice, must begin at the scheduled match time. A match begins when the first point is served.
- (H) Cell Phones: Turned off or on Silent during a match and no calls at anytime during a match. First time a cell phone rings during a match a warning will be given, the second time the same cell phone rings or a cell phone from the same doubles team the point is lost by the owner of the phone, the third time the cell phone rings it is a loss of the current game. If the same cell phone rings a fourth time the match is forfeited.
- (I) A Team Match shall consist of such a number of individual matches of singles, doubles, or any combination of those as determined by the local league.
- (J) A complete match consists of at least the following:

Format	Required Matches in sequential order	Minimum # of Players Required for Each Team in Valid Team Match
2 singles, 3 doubles	#1 and #2 singles, and #1 doubles (priority); #2 doubles if enough players present	4
1 singles, 4 doubles	#1 singles, #1 and #2 doubles (priority); #3 doubles if enough players present	5
2 singles, 2 doubles	#1 singles and #1 doubles (priority); #2 singles if enough players present	3
1 singles, 3 doubles	#1 singles and #1 doubles (priority); #2 doubles if enough players present	3

1 singles, 2 doubles	#1 singles and #1 doubles	3
3 doubles	#1 and #2 doubles	4
4 doubles	#1, #2 and #3 doubles	6

If it is determined that a team does not have the minimum number of players to play a complete match; the league may require a full team forfeit. This will be determined by the Local League Coordinator.

IV. Schedules

- (A) Matches will be scheduled using the TennisLink Scheduler computer program.
- (B) The schedule will be available on TennisLink and will include the dates, times and location of all matches. This schedule must be followed by all teams.
- (C) League Matches may be scheduled on days other than those originally posted, if court shortage dictates the need to change the scheduling.
- (D) 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.) Matches will be rescheduled only at the direct request of the league coordinator. Captains must notify the league coordinator of a request to reschedule a match at least 7 days prior to the originally scheduled match date. No positions may be rescheduled other than the number of players attending the said championship. Rescheduled matches must be played either prior to the originally scheduled match date, or within 10 days of the completion of the championship event.
- (E) The League Coordinator may make changes as necessary.
- (F) Excessive defaults and forfeits. Any team defaulting or forfeiting a whole match (playing less than three positions) two times during a season will be disqualified from further league play during the season. All points won or lost will be eliminated.

V. Inclement Weather

- (A) The only weather conditions which authorize the cancellation of the match scheduled are lightning, rain or severe temperatures (a temperature of 32 or colder or a temperature of 100 or more). Cancellation will be determined by the court condition at the time of each match at each scheduled site by the facility staff.
- (B) 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 that existed when play was halted.
- (C) Any matches postponed due to inclement weather must be completed within FIFTEEN DAYS of the originally scheduled match. The home team captain must notify the league coordinator of all rescheduled match dates and times within 2 days of the originally scheduled match. (Example: Saturday matches must be played by the 2nd Tuesday.)
- (D) If teams cannot agree on a rescheduled date, the League Coordinator will reschedule the match. A match scheduled by the Coordinator is not affected by the FIFTEEN DAY rule.
- (E) 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.

- (F) In the event that captains are not able to exchange line-ups prior to a rescheduled match, captains must negotiate the rescheduled match in terms of positions, not names of individuals.

VI. Addition/Deletion of Players During A Season

- (A) 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 have participated in 2 local league matches. One of these may be an individual match that the opponents defaulted.
- (B) No player may be dropped from a team roster after the deadline set by the league coordinator.
- (C) A player may request to be deleted from a roster only if he/she has not been listed in a team line-up. The request must be submitted in writing and must be signed by the player requesting to be deleted from the team roster.

VII. NTRP RATINGS AND PROCEDURES

- (A) If a local league has only 2 teams participating in local competition the ratio of on level players is 40% of the total number of registered players.
- (B) During local league competition and at every level of championship competition below National championships, dynamic ratings will be calculated for all players to determine if any players have reached the NTRP disqualification criteria using the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System Procedures. Players will be NTRP disqualified if they reach the disqualification level three (3) times based on all matches reported in the national database for USTA League Tennis Adult 18, 40 and 55 & Over Leagues.
- (C) If a self-rated player is disqualified for that particular level of play, all matches played by that individual player shall be considered losses and scored (0-6, 0-6). All players who have computer rated appeals (A) or dynamic ratings (D), who are subject to disqualification, will not be subject to match reversal if disqualified. If a player receives a third strike while playing an Early Start League (ESL) the player must immediately be promoted to the higher NTRP level but the previously played matches will not be taken away from the team. Players not disqualified by the 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. (USTA Georgia 2.04E)
- (D) If a player successfully appeals their rating after registering for their team, they must notify their LLC to have the rating adjusted on their roster. Until the appealed rating is reflected on the roster, the player must play with the rating they registered with.

VIII. CHATA Championships (Team Eligibility and Progression)

- (A) The Local League year begins September 15th and ends in October of the following year. The year will consist of at least one (1) or two (2) seasons, and a championship team will be determined at each level for each season. There must be at least two (2) teams at any level in order to have a league at that NTRP level unless no qualification matches are required as designated by USTA Georgia/Southern.
- (B) 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 procedure that does so:
1. *Individual Matches*...Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.
 2. *Sets Lost*... Loser of the fewest number of sets.
 3. *Games Lost*... Loser of the fewest number of games.

4. Head to Head

- (C) A player is eligible to progress to championship level competition if that player has played on that same team in which his/her team qualified for further competition in at least two matches during its local league season (requirements are different for Combo and Tri-Level see those requirements in those sections) One default received by the player during local competition shall count for advancing. A retired match shall count for all players involved
- (D) The teams representing the Local League at the State Championships shall be the winners of each season at each level of play. Should there be only two (2) teams competing at a NTRP level in both Spring and Fall seasons, then the Spring Season shall be the designated State Championship Advancement Season.
- (E) If the winner of the fall season repeats as winner of the spring season at any one level, and if you have two (2) different teams that are runner-ups then these two (2) teams will have a one (1) match playoff to determine the other Local League representative at the State Championships. The fall runner-up must use eligible players from their fall team roster and the spring runner-up must use eligible players from their spring team roster.
- (F) If the winner of the fall season repeats as the winner of the spring season at any one level, and if you have the same team as the runner up, then the runner up team may determine their choice of either their fall or spring roster to be the representative at the State Championship.
- (G) To register for Championship play, captains must submit required paperwork along with one entry fee check per team and one deposit check per team by the deadline specified by the LLC.

IX. Grievances

- (A) Complaints concerning league play must be in writing and in accordance with USTA League Regulations. Complaints are to be made to, or filed with, the grievance committee, not the local league coordinator.
- (B) 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.
- (C) Captains and or Teams with 2 or more promoted players (dynamic disqualification) during a 12 month period may be subject to an NTRP Grievance and subsequent suspension from USTA League play.

X. 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.
- (B) Friends, Coaches, Children, Parents
 1. Except in the case of medical time-outs, friends, coaches, children and 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 will be allowed only if the scoring method is the best of three sets and there is a 10 minute rest period between 2nd and 3rd sets. No coaching will be allowed during play or time-outs.
- (C) Conduct of Captains/Players

1. The highest type of sportsmanship along with courtesy and fairness is expected from every captain/player.
2. 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.

INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

ADULT 18 & OVER LEAGUE

I. Team Captain's Duties

- (A) The team captain will maintain a minimum of eight (8) players of the same gender eligible to compete at a specific level of competition on the roster.
- (B) If a local league has only 2 teams participating in local competition the ratio of on level players is 40% of the total number of registered players.

II. Schedules

- (A) Excessive defaults and forfeits. Any team defaulting or forfeiting a whole match two times during a season will be disqualified from further league play during the season. All points won or lost will be eliminated. All league play must be completed no later than April 8, 2018. 18 and Over State Championship Dates
(2.5, 3.5 and 4.5 Men and Women) Rome, May 11 - 14, 2018
(3.0, 4.0, 4.0 Low and 5.0+ Men and Women) Macon, May 4 - 7, 2018

ADULT 40 & OVER LEAGUE

I. Team Captain's Duties

- (A) The team captain will maintain a minimum of eight (8) players of the same gender eligible to compete at a specific level of competition on the roster.
- (B) If a local league has only 2 teams participating in local competition the ratio of on level players is 40% of the total number of registered players.

II. Schedules

- (A) Excessive defaults and forfeits. Any team defaulting or forfeiting a whole match two times during a season will be disqualified from further league play during the season. All points won or lost will be eliminated. All league play must be completed no later than May 6, 2018.
- (B) 40 and Over State Championship Dates:
(3.0 & 4.0 Men and Women) Columbus, June 1 - 4, 2018
(3.5 & 4.5+ Men and Women) Athens, June 1 - 4, 2018

ADULT 55 & OVER and 65 & OVER LEAGUES

I. Team Captain's Duties

- (A) The team captain will maintain a minimum of six (6) players of the same gender eligible to compete at a specific level of competition on the roster.
- (B) If a local league has only 2 teams participating in local competition the ratio of on level players is 40% of the total number of registered players.

II. Schedules

- (A) Excessive defaults and forfeits. Any team defaulting or forfeiting a whole match (playing less than two positions) two times during a season will be disqualified from further league play during season. All points won or lost will be eliminated. All 55 & Over league play must be completed by May 13, 2018. Any 65 & Over league must be completed by September 23, 2018
- (B) 55 and 65 and Over State Championship Dates:
55 & Over (3.0 – 4.0, 9.0 Combined Men and Women) Columbus - June 8 -11, 2018
65 & Over (3.0 - 4.0, 9.0 Combined Men and Women) Savannah - October 12 -14, 2018

MIXED 18 & OVER and 40 & Over LEAGUES

I. Team Captain's Duties

- (A) The team captain will maintain a minimum of six (6) players (three men, three women) on the roster.

II. Schedules

- (A) Excessive defaults and forfeits. Any team defaulting or forfeiting a whole match (playing less than two positions) two times during a season will be disqualified from further league play during the season. All points won or lost will be eliminated. All league play must be completed by July 15, 2018
- (B) Mixed State Championship Dates:
(18 and Over 2.5,6.0 – 10.0 Combined) Valdosta, August 10 - 13, 2018
(40 and Over 6.0- 9.0 Combined) Valdosta, August 10 - 13, 2018

III. NTRP RATINGS and PROCEDURES

- (A) Mixed Doubles results will not be part of generating a player's year-end rating except for those players who only play in the USTA League Tennis Mixed Division that year. Players who receive a Mixed exclusive Year-End rating and choose to participate in the USTA League Tennis Adult Division the following year are required to self-rate. During this process, their self-rating will be the same as their Mixed exclusive Year-End rating or higher. (USTA 1.04F(1)).
- (B) The minimum NTRP Level for each league level is as follows:
6.0 Level is 2.5, 7.0 Level is 3.0, 8.0 Level is 3.5, 9.0 Level is 4.0

COMBO 18 & Over, 40 & Over and 55 & Over LEAGUES

I. Team Captains' Duties

- (A) The team captain will maintain a minimum of six (6) and a maximum of 24 (twenty-four) players on the roster.
- (B) Each team roster 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.)
To play in the:
 - 2.5 level your rating cannot exceed 2.5
 - 5.5 level your rating cannot exceed 3.0
 - 6.5 level your rating cannot exceed 3.5
 - 7.5 level your rating cannot exceed 4.0
 - 8.5 level your rating cannot exceed 5.0
 - 9.5 level your rating cannot exceed 5.5
- (C) Using combined NTRP levels, the combined NTRP level of the doubles team cannot exceed the combined NTRP rating level in which the players are competing.

II. Schedules

- (A) Excessive defaults and forfeits. Any team defaulting or forfeiting a whole match (playing less than two positions) two times during a season may be disqualified from further league play during season. All points won or lost will be eliminated. The league season will consist of one (1) season and a championship team be determined at each level. All league play must be completed by September 23, 2018

III. Advancement to State

- (A) Each player must play a minimum of 1 (one) match and the team must play a minimum of 3 matches to advance to the state championships in the 18 & over and 40 & Over age groups
The 55 & Over age group state championships is an Invitational and therefore no league is required.
- (B) State Championship Sites and Dates
 - 18 & Over, 40 & Over (Levels and Site TBD) October 26 - 2, 2018
 - 18 & Over, 40 & Over (Levels and Site TBD) November 2 - 4, 201
 - 55 & Over (6.5, 7.5 and 8.5 Men and Women) Columbus, September 28 - 30, 2018

TRI – LEVEL LEAGUES

I. Team Captain's Duties

- (A) The team captain will maintain a minimum of six (6) and a maximum of 18 (eighteen) players on the roster of a state qualifying league. Any other Tri-Level leagues will have no maximum limits.
- (B) Each team roster must have a minimum of two players whose NTRP rating is the lowest allowed for that team. (Example: on a 2.3/3.0/3.5 team, there must be a minimum of two 2.5 players.)
- (C) Each match shall consist of three (3) lines of play with each line a different NTRP Level, players may play up a NTRP Level but not down a NTRP Level.

II. Schedules

- (A) Excessive defaults and forfeits. Any team defaulting or forfeiting a whole match (playing less than two positions) two times during a season will be disqualified from further league play during season. All points won or lost will be eliminated. Two (2) or three (3) seasons may be played with only one season designated as the Championship Advancement Season. A player must play in at least one match during the season and the team must play at least 3 matches in order to advance to State Championships. All State advancing league play must be completed by July 6, 2018
- (B) State Championship Dates:
Site TBD, August 3 - 5, 2018

MULTI - LEVEL LEAGUES (4 or more lines of doubles play)

I. Team Captain's Duties

- (A) Work with Local League Coordinator (LLC) to determine preferred method for dividing teams. You are not required to forfeit from the bottom up.
- (B) In order to keep the integrity of the lines and the competition level competitive; captains are not required to move lines up should a higher NTRP line will be forfeited, the forfeit will be entered in tennislink at the line it occurs.

II. Format of Play

- (A) A Chata specific league, non state advancing league. NTRP levels 2.5 - 4.5 allowed on each team and number of lines to be played will be determined once the ratings of the players and the total number of players wishing to play the league. The highest rating level will play line 1 and the rating levels of the remaining lines will be determined before league play begins based on the number of players at each rating level. Teams will be formed by either a random draw from the pool of players wishing to play OR by a Captain's Draft. This method will be determined by the Captains for each season with assistance from the Local League Coordinator (LLC).

FLEX LEAGUES

I. Format of Play

- (A) Players are divided into gendered and leveled flights and play a round-robin format.
- (B) Player(s) with current NTRP Ratings in Tennis Link must use that rating. A player must register at or above his or her NTRP level as determined on the day the players register. If a player's rating changes before the player registers for the Flex League, then the player must register according to the updated rating. However, if subsequent to a player's registration his or her rating changes, that player may remain at the level at which he or she registered for the duration of that season. Players without ratings must self-rate according to the NTRP guidelines.

- (C) In Doubles Flex, each team must consist of one player whose NTRP rating is the highest allowed at that level. (Ex. A 3.5 and 3.0 player will play at the 3.5 level.) Play in this league does not affect your rating.
- (D) In Singles Flex, a player who did not play singles in the previous championship year may play "down" a level below his or her current NTRP level.
- (E) Balls will be available for pickup at the tennis center after the schedule is published.
- (F) The schedule will designate one player (pair) as "Home" – the home player(s) is responsible for picking up the balls and reserving the court.
- (G) This format is not used for state advancement leagues

II. Schedules

- (A) Schedules will be created suggesting a week for matches to be played. Matches can be played any time agreed upon by both players (or all players). Players should contact each other to schedule their match. Difficulty in contacting an opponent should be reported to flex-league coordinator.
- (B) The date, time and location of the match must be agreed upon by both (all) players/teams. Once a day and time has been arranged, it is binding. Within 24 hours of the agreed match time, the player(s) unable to play will default the match.
- (C) Matches can always be played early.
- (D) Defaults can greatly impact standings in many ways but are sometimes unavoidable. Defaults will be scored as a 6-0, 6-0 win for player(s) receiving the default. Excessive defaults by player(s) who do not withdraw will be monitored for future seasons.
- (E) Each player or each pair should post or confirm scores on Tennis Link 48 hours of completing the match.