



ALTA Junior Challenge Ladder Kickoff

Sunday, August 23 1:00 pm



Obectives of AJCL

1. Competitive Match Play - low pressure environment, 12 weeks
2. Financial Tournament Assistance - for qualifying tournaments (National, ITF, Southern Level 2 and above)
3. Awards Program - Sportsmanship, 3 in a Row and more

THE MOST IMPORTANT EXPECTATION IS GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP!

THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THIS PROGRAM IS TO HAVE FUN!

AJCL Volunteers

Boys Upper Ladder - Dee Jones 678-683-8736 depria70@gmail.com

Boys Lower Ladder - Michelle McKinnon 404-784-0242 mckinnonm@me.com

Girls Upper Ladder - Stacey Simmons 404-788-8769 staceylags@gmail.com

Girls Lower Ladder - Trish Winfrey 770-354-9494 trishwinfrey@gmail.com

Events - Cindy Pietkiewicz - 404-405-5501 cindypiet@yahoo.com

Tennis Rungs - Anthony Swatski - 770-905-9970 swatskiad@gmail.com

VP - Brenda Maddaleni - 678-613-0532 bmaddaleni@gmail.com

AJCL Dates

August 25th - Ladder Opens

October/November - Ladder Events (generally 1 per ladder section) - Dates TBD

- Planning to have these dates and locations set by Labor Day

December 1st - Ladder Closes - no more ladder movements

December 6th - Tentative Date for End of Season Banquet

December 8th - All matches must be complete

Player Placement On Ladder

Placement for 2020 was primarily based on UTR.

New players cannot be added to the Top 10. Those players were placed within the Top 25 places in the ladder.

If there is a misplacement and players are winning 6-0,6-0 or losing only 2 games, they will be allowed to challenge up to 10 places.

Tennis Rungs

The season is managed via Tennis Rungs. A few things about Tennis Rungs:

1. It is not perfect but it is a significant improvement from the manual system in place in 2017.
2. The email address and cell phone number listed in tennis rungs are what is used to communicate and plan matches.
3. We have to use work-arounds for certain functions
 - a. Being Placed on Hold - details in a few slides on this
 - b. Events - we will be including match credits for events in Tennis Rungs (new for 2020)

Rules and Tennis Rungs - Making it Work

an issue 2 (two) challenges at a time

can be challenged by 1 (one) player at any given time. Once
are made, they will be played no matter changes in your ladder

n challenge up to 7 (seven) rungs ahead of you.

allenge is successful, you will take the spot of the person you
and you opponent will be bumped down one rung.

Rules and Tennis Rungs - Making it Work

5. When challenged, you will have 2 (two) days to “accept” the challenge. (Please do not “deny” a challenge as that will result in a win by the person making the challenge) If there are issues in communication, contact your Ladder Manager by email. They will help resolve the conflict.

6. By accepting a challenge, you agree to play the match within 9 (nine) days of acceptance (note: we are adding two extra days for Tennis Rungs). If a player does not play the match, the match is considered a “default”. The other player will receive a win and full match credit. The defaulting player may be lowered up to five positions, and the player receiving the default will not advance.

Rules and Tennis Rungs - Making it Work

7. If a challenge is accepted but not played within 9 days, the challenge will expire. It will be deleted from the system and the challenge would need to be reissued. Note that for the beginning of the season, we will not be expiring matches.

8. If there is rain or issues that prohibit a match from being played, the challenge will be voided, but you may also contact your Ladder Manager to request an extension.

9. If a challenge has been accepted and neither player is able to play within the 9 days, you may withdraw the challenge by contacting your ladder manager. BOTH players must agree on the withdrawal.

Rules and Tennis Rungs - Making it Work

10. When a challenge has been arranged (date, time, location) you must contact your Ladder Manager (and copy your opponent) with this information. Upon completion of the match, please record the score in Tennis Rungs system.

11. Please refer to the full set of Rules on the ALTA Website which governs all the Rules of the Ladder not mentioned here.

Key Points

1. Do not Deny a challenge - if you are listed as available, you are able to play the match.
2. Accept Challenges in a timely manner to get matches set up.
3. Communicate and confirm with opponent - date of match, time of match, location of match. Failure to do this will make the match invalid.

Player Availability

Players are expected to play a match every 2 weeks. This keeps the ladder active.

If you are going to be out of town or not available to play, you will request to be placed on hold. Your ladder manager will manage this request.

When you come off of being on hold, you may not initiate a challenge for 2 days. You must accept a challenge from below within 2 days. Once the 2 days have passed, you may begin issuing challenges.

Drop Option or Temporarily Leave Ladder - Please DO NOT use this option - this will remove you from tennis rungs and give your ladder manager a headache. :)

The Match Details

Location - Fulton, Dekalb, Cobb, Gwinnett Clayton Counties - players outside this area need to arrange matches in these 5 counties.

Travel Distance - when 2 players live far apart, we ask to attempt to meet in the middle (flexibility is key)

Ball Supply - the challenger provides the balls

Court Location - the person being challenged provides the court (court fees are paid by the person being challenged)

Match Format - 2 full sets and a 3rd set tiebreaker - played may agree in advance to play a full 3rd set - short sets and other formats do not count

What Counts

2 Full Sets and a 3rd Set Tiebreak

Matches against the same player as long as it is 14 days after the first match was played

USTA and UTR matches do not count - please do not attempt to ask for these matches to count

High School Matches may count if approved in advance by the ladder manager

If a player defaults a match, the opponent will receive a match credit. The defaulting player will NOT receive match credit.

Speed Bumps - What not to do

Make up a match that you played and not really played it. This will cause you to be removed from the program.

Schedule and play a match without going through tennis rungs - these matches will not be counted.

Avoid playing an opponent. We all have fears about opponents and we just need to work through this. It is part of the process. And who knows, something good may come out of the experience!

Let parents, coaches or other people intervene in your match. The intent of the program is to learn, sometimes the hard way. Parents, please let your children work through the match.

Tournament Assistance

The objective of tournament assistance is to provide support to defray the cost of tournament play. This program is not intended to be a pay to play program.

For 2019, the qualifying season is being adjusted to Sept 2019 to May 2020 for 12 matches played.

For 2020, the qualifying season is being adjusted to June 2020 to December 2020 for 9 matches played - max event credit is 2. We will be doing bonus for each match above 9.

This is a ONE TIME adjustment due to Covid-19 impact on tournaments and the need to match AJCL season to TA Assistance period.

For 2021 - the TA matches will be January 2021 to December 2021.

Tournament Assistance

Tournament Assistance is provided for National Tournaments, ITF and Southern Level Tournaments (2 and above).

This applies to 2019 and 2020 Tournament Assistance. We will make adjustments as needed to compensate for the Covid-19 impact.

The 2021 program will be realigned with the adjustment of USTA Leveling.

We will be finalizing the 2019 application program (players will be notified when application is open). Players will be required to complete and submit their application on time. The application will be automated!

Awards Program and Perks

During the season - 3 in a Row awards

Bag Tag - for completing the season with at least 9 matches

Bonus - for playing more than 9 matches (working on this now)

Ladder Manager Award - 1 per ladder section for being most representative of what the ladder is all about

VP Award - for outstanding players and contributions to the ladder program

Swag - provided to all players at events and that complete at least 9 matches

Banquet - awards program, food, fun

Atlanta Open - recognition of players, clinic, tickets (TBD)

What Makes A Successful Season - MHO

Playing an equal set of matches - half from below and half to above.

Communication with your ladder manager of what is happening during your matches.

Winning and losing gracefully.

Appreciating the experience and being thankful for your parents and coaches support.

Being kind to your ladder manager! :)

What to do next

Lookout for an email from Tennis Rungs - new players. Returning players will receive an email as well. You can keep the same password or update it.

Confirm your email and cell phone number is correct in tennis rungs.

Check your schedule for when you know you are not available.

Lookout for an email from your ladder manager - we are finalizing assignments.

Ladder Rankings on ALTA website will be updated weekly. The rankings on Tennis Rungs represent the latest ranking.

Start scheduling matches on August 25!

Why We Do This

We are volunteers - unpaid.

We have a passion for the game of tennis.

We want to support our own kids that play in the ladder - no ladder managers are managing their own kids.

We want to help kids be able to learn sportsmanship, improve their tennis game and have fun.

We are in a pandemic so we are thankful that we can make this program happen!

Q and A
