

Glossary of Terms

ALTA ORGANIZATION:

All ALTA play is classified into categories known as leagues, levels, flights, and divisions, which are defined as follows:

ADULT LEAGUES - MEN, SUNDAY WOMEN, THURSDAY WOMEN, MIXED DOUBLES, SENIOR MEN, SENIOR WOMEN, SENIOR MIXED, SENIOR DAY MEN, SENIOR DAY WOMEN, WHEELCHAIR, RUN/ROLL and any other league which the ALTA Executive Committee or Board of Directors may establish as an adult league.

Level - The first category of play within each league which is graduated based on ability. Each league may be divided into levels of ability as follows: AA, A, B and C, with AA being the highest level.

Flight - The next subdivision of ALTA play whereby each level is divided into further categories having generally equal abilities for the purpose of scheduling play. For example, the MEN'S League A may be further divided into flights 1 through 8.

Division - Each flight may be further subdivided into one or more divisions in order to accommodate all teams assigned to that flight.

ALTA WEBSITE - The official website of the Atlanta Lawn Tennis Association, Inc. is altatennis.org.

APPROVED ANNEXED FACILITY - Two or more lighted tennis courts located outside the five-county metro area which have been accepted for ALTA play by the first vice president.

APPROVED NEW FACILITY - Two or more lighted tennis courts within the five-county metro area, which have met the criteria for ALTA play as set forth by the first vice president.

THE CODE - The current edition of "The Code".

CURRENT ALTA YEAR - January 1 through December 31 of each calendar year.

DEFAULT - The loss of a match or matches by failing to be present for play within twenty minutes (default time) after the scheduled starting time. When the previous match extends beyond the default time, play must begin immediately when a court becomes available. The non-defaulting team captain or acting team captain may waive a default as long as the non-defaulting team remains at court side. A "default" of a line will also include the electronic notification (email or text message) from a team captain/co-captain with the electronic acknowledgement of receipt of the default message by the opposing captain/co-captain, which will constitute the line(s) to be designated as a "default" on the scorecard. A request by a team captain/co-captain to play early in order to avoid defaulting one or more lines will not be considered a statement of default. Should inclement weather occur at the normal default time of the line being defaulted, regular inclement weather rules apply, and the default does not occur.

DUAL MEET - A series of matches between the counterpart doubles pairs of two teams scheduled by ALTA as part of ALTA's sanctioned league and tournament play.

FORFEITURE - The automatic loss of any point(s) for any violation of these rules or as otherwise imposed as a penalty deemed appropriate by the respective league vice president.

INELIGIBLE PLAYER - Any player who is ineligible to play for points under any one or more of the General Rules Adult Leagues.

MATCH - The best two of three sets shall complete a match.

PENALTY - The loss of point(s) or other action expressly imposed by these rules or by the league vice president for a violation of these rules.

PLAYER - Any regular player, additional player or substitute player who is a paid member in good standing with the ALTA office who is properly listed on the team's roster and who is not an ineligible player under the General Rules Adult Leagues. No distinction shall be made among regular, additional or substitute players.

PLAYER'S FINAL LEVEL - The player's final level is the player's last level adjusted for end-of-season team results.

RETIREMENT - Any player who is unable to continue a match in progress because of a loss of natural condition, an accidental injury or a personal emergency.

SCHEDULED MATCH - Date published on the ALTA team season schedule. In the event of inclement weather or scheduling matches early, the agreed upon time and date of the new match becomes the scheduled match.

SET - A series of not fewer than six nor more than twelve games played under the USTA Rules of Tennis, excluding the 7-point tiebreak, between opponents in which the first winner of six games by not fewer than a two-game margin or in the case of a tie, the winner of the 7-point tiebreak is the victor.

THE USTA RULES -

The current edition of the "Rules of Tennis and Cases and Decisions" and all other current USTA rules.

General Rules Adult Leagues

I. TEAMS AND PLAYERS

A. All team members must be paid members of ALTA. Only one ALTA membership number may be issued to a member. Should a member drop out of ALTA and wish to resume play at a later date, the previously assigned membership number must be declared ineligible and subject to sanctions by the organization at the discretion of the league vice president. No one under 18 years of age may be placed on a roster in any adult league. To be placed on a Senior League roster, a player must be at least 45 years of age within the calendar year. To be placed on a Senior Day League roster, a player must be at least 55 years of age within the calendar year.

B. A player may participate in only one match per dual meet. A player may, however, participate on more than one team per season, according to the following league schedule:

- **Winter** - One MIXED DOUBLES team and one SENIOR MIXED team.
- **Spring** - One MEN'S team or one SUNDAY WOMEN'S TEAM and one THURSDAY WOMEN'S team; plus, one SENIOR DAY MEN'S team or one SENIOR DAY WOMEN'S team; plus, one WHEELCHAIR team.
- **Summer** - One MIXED DOUBLES team, one SENIOR MEN'S team or one SENIOR WOMEN'S team and one RUN/ROLL team.
- **Fall** - One MEN'S team or one SUNDAY WOMEN'S team and one THURSDAY WOMEN'S team; plus one SENIOR DAY MEN'S team or one SENIOR DAY WOMEN'S team; plus one WHEELCHAIR team.

C. Each team must guarantee use of at least two courts of the same surface/type at the same address or two courts of the same surface/type not at the same address within 700 feet of each other (with the approval of the Rules Committee) as home courts in the five-county metro area (Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Gwinnett and Fulton Counties) or at an approved annexed facility. Any court surface, outdoor or indoor, is acceptable. Scheduling cannot accommodate any more than two teams per multiple of two courts. Example: two courts available, one or two teams permitted; four courts available, three or four teams permitted; six courts, five or six teams permitted etc. If league matches, either from your league or another ALTA league, are still in progress at the scheduled time of your match, your match will begin at the conclusion of the match in progress. **Regularly scheduled matches take precedence over all other ALTA league matches.** Teams may agree to play their matches at another location.

D. Any required court and/or guest fees for **visiting participating players** must be paid by the home team. (Including Rule IV., J.)

E. Rosters must be submitted via the ALTA website according to the instructions, dates and times given in the roster packet for each league. There is no maximum limit of players on a roster. **Two or more above the minimum are recommended.** The minimum number of players on a roster for each league is as follows:

MEN	All Levels	12 players
SUNDAY WOMEN	All Levels	12 players
THURSDAY WOMEN	All Levels	12 players
MIXED DOUBLES	All Levels	12 players (6 men, 6 women)
SENIOR MEN	All Levels	10 players
SENIOR WOMEN	All Levels	10 players
SENIOR MIXED	All Levels	10 players (5 men, 5 women)
SENIOR DAY MEN	All Levels	8 players
SENIOR DAY WOMEN	All Levels	8 players

F. During the current ALTA year, once a player is listed on a college or high school roster, that player must play the remainder of that year at one of the following levels: NCAA Division I college team players must play at the AA level, all other college team players must play at the A level or higher and all high school team players must play at the B level or higher. Any player that holds any ATP or WTA point(s) must play at the AA level.

G. Players may be added to a roster using the ALTA website as follows: (consult the ALTA calendar posted on the website for dates)

1. In order to be added to a roster, the player must be a paid member in good standing.
2. Captains may add players from the start of roster submission until the roster correction deadline.
3. Captains may NOT add players to the roster during the period from the correction deadline to the schedule release date.
4. No player may be removed from a roster after the roster correction deadline regardless of how they came to be on that roster.
5. After the schedules are posted, players may be added with the following restriction:
 - a maximum of six players may be added.

- i. that player's most recent final level of play (as determined by the respective league) must be at or below the current flight/level of the team.
- ii. that player has not been listed on any adult league roster for more than one year.
- iii. within a league a player who was on a team the prior season may be added back to his/her team only if the team was lowered exclusively for the needs of ALTA rather than a request for review or a change in the team's composition.

6. In order to be eligible for play, the player must be added before midnight of the day before the match is played:

H. A player must play in at least two matches during the season to be eligible for the playoffs. A win by default or forfeit counts as a time played, and all player movement rules apply.

I. Any person not listed on a roster in accordance with these general rules shall be an ineligible player. Any changes to a roster can only be made with the recommendation of the respective league vice president and with the approval of the president.

- J. A wheelchair player electing to play in an ALTA league other than the WHEELCHAIR or RUN/ROLL Leagues must abide by the "USTA Rules of Wheelchair Tennis".

II. LEVEL PLACEMENT

Final determination of level placement will be made by the respective league vice president and overall coordinators. Team movement from one flight to another shall be based on the most recent team history during the past twelve months as well as on the addition of new players and the loss of old players. The goal is to match teams with comparable abilities within each level and flight.

III. CAPTAINS

- A. Home team captains must contact visiting team captains at least four days before dual meet in order to discuss place and order of matches. During the phone call, as a courtesy, the home team captain should inform the visiting team captain whether the dual meet will be played on hard or soft courts, indoor or outdoor courts or courts with or without lights.
- B. Each team must have a captain or acting captain present at the beginning of every dual meet. Captains or acting captains must exchange written lineups for all positions **simultaneously before the start of the dual meet**. Failure to do so may result in forfeiture of points. Scores of each match must be recorded, and captains or acting captains must sign the scorecards. Then scores of each match must be entered and reviewed on the ALTA website immediately after the dual meet. (In case of violation, refer to rule V.C.)
- C. Team captains must agree upon order of play. In case of conflict teams must play in the normal rotation of 1-5, 1-4 or 1-3, as applicable.
- D. If there are situations that cannot be resolved by the team captains within the rules, the flight coordinator should be contacted.
- E. Teams must determine lineups according to strength of players in order to make fair and competitive play for all. **"Sandbagging," scheduling stronger pairs below weaker pairs, is prohibited. It is also "sandbagging" to move a winning pair down in order to move a losing pair up.** Winning and losing shall be defined as results of matches played to date, not just the result of the last match played. During the regular season, any pair may move up or down only one position from the last legal position played together. An individual player may move up or down two positions without a partner. Example: a pair playing together at line 2 may split; one player may go to line 4, one may play at line 3. However, when the pair plays together again, they may not play lower than line 3 for that match.
- F. Any team not complying with these "sandbagging" rules shall forfeit all points from the point of infraction and below. **Any questions or conflicts with the above rules must be discussed with your flight coordinator before play.**

IV. DUAL MEETS

- A. All matches will be the best two of three sets. The 7-point tiebreak as specified by USTA (**not Coman**) will be in effect any time the score reaches 6-all in any set. With the agreement of **all** players involved, a third set 10-point tiebreak may be played in lieu of a third set to determine a split set match.
- FOR THE SENIOR LEAGUES ONLY (Senior Mixed, Senior Men/Women and Senior Day Women/Men):** A third set 10-point tiebreak is mandatory to determine a split set match during the regular season unless **all** players involved agree to play a full third set. Playoffs and City Finals will continue to be two out of three sets. (**Note: The president or league VP has the authority to make an exception to allow the third set tiebreak to be used during playoffs and City Finals.**)
- B. ALTA will not provide linesmen or umpires for matches.
- C. ALTA rules govern play. In cases not specifically covered by these rules, USTA rules govern play. Also, "Rules of Tennis and Cases and Decisions" and "The Code" as a handbook of ethics and fair play should be understood and followed by every ALTA player. "The Code", "Rules of Tennis and Cases and Decisions", should be available for consultation along with league rules at all dual meets.
- D. A player who is not listed on the original scorecard/lineup may participate in a match that has not begun. Players may not be moved downward on the scorecard/lineup. Players listed on a scorecard/lineup may be moved upward to fill a vacancy created by players absent or injured during warm up. Once a player's name is removed from the scorecard/lineup, that player shall be considered an ineligible player for that dual meet.
- E. The twenty minute default rule as defined in the glossary is in effect for all scheduled matches. A defaulted match is scored as one point for the opposing team. When a match is defaulted, it must be the lowest position. If a higher position is defaulted, any win at a lower position(s) will be forfeited. If any positions are played before the regularly scheduled time of the dual meet, the above default rules apply. Teams may not agree to schedule matches late.
- F. In each match, the home team will be responsible for providing USTA approved balls for each line of the dual meet. There is no exchange of balls at the end of each match.
- G. Warm-up is limited to ten minutes, including practice serves. A ten-minute break may be taken after the second set in all leagues. Otherwise, play must be continuous throughout the match as specified in USTA rules.
- H. **COACHING IS ILLEGAL.** Spectators (including teammates, coaches and fans) may not volunteer advice on line calls, scoring or the conduct of a match. They may not offer advice or instruction that is audible, visible or by electronic device to the players on the court. It is each captain's responsibility to control his or her spectators during match play.

Once a match has begun, any communication, including cheering from teammates, coaches, or fans should be understood by all, or it could be considered coaching. A pair on the court may speak to each other in any language; however, they need to be able to communicate with their opponent in language that everyone understands.

- I. Good sportsmanship and conduct are expected by the players and spectators.
- J. If for any unforeseen circumstance the home team is unable to provide its home courts for any scheduled dual meet, the visiting team has the first option of providing its home courts. The host team is considered the home team. If the visiting team does not elect to provide its home courts, the responsibility reverts to the home team which must provide courts within the approved ALTA area at the scheduled time. If alternate courts cannot be found, the captains must contact their coordinator.
- K. In the event of a racquet or string breakage, a player shall have a maximum of three minutes to leave the court to obtain a replacement racquet. Violation of this time limit will result in forfeiture of the match.

V. PENALTIES AND FORFEITURES

- A. When an ineligible player is found to have participated in a match, the offending team will be penalized by forfeiting all points from the point of infraction down.
- B. Any official protest must be submitted in the form of a letter by the captain or co-captain to the flight coordinator and league vice president with a copy to the ALTA office (altasupport@altatennis.org) within five days of the scheduled match being protested. Protest letters can be submitted via email attachment or via mail.
- C. In those situations where no penalty for violations is provided in the general rules, **THE RESPECTIVE LEAGUE VICE PRESIDENT SHALL HAVE AUTHORITY AND DISCRETION TO IMPOSE APPROPRIATE PENALTIES.**
- D. A team having excessive defaults shall have all its matches to date nullified and shall be treated as a bye for the remainder of the season. Excessive defaults shall be defined as defaulting all points of any given dual meet or averaging more than one default per dual meet.
- E. If a team has excessive defaults as defined in rule V. D., the team and/or its members may be suspended for the next season. The penalty will also apply to any team withdrawing after roster deadline and may apply to any team withdrawing from the playoffs after the online playoff draw is posted.
- F. Any person playing under an assumed name, or any person having knowledge of such act and failing to report said act to ALTA in a timely manner, will be suspended for up to one year.

VI. INCLEMENT WEATHER

- A. In the event of inclement weather, completed matches will stand as played. Incomplete matches **must** be resumed by the same players at the exact set, game and point as they stood when halted. Lineups for matches not started may be changed provided they do not conflict with the player movement rules.
- B. If the match is delayed or interrupted by inclement weather, including lightning, teams should be prepared to wait one hour to determine if the courts are playable. Any one of the four players scheduled to play the match may determine that courts are not ready for safe play, but his/her partner must be at the court for the determination to be made. If courts are still not playable after one hour has elapsed, teams are free to leave and reschedule unless both teams agree to wait longer. Exception: During City Finals, league vice presidents or their designees will determine the wait time.
- C. Rained out matches must be made up within a period of time specified by the respective league vice president. (Refer to Individual League Rules.) Once teams agree on a rescheduled date, they are committed to play on that date unless rain occurs again. Failure to play on that rescheduled date will result in default of only the match or matches not played. When rained out matches are scheduled as a dual meet, normal default rules apply.
- D. If temperature is below 32 degrees or above 95 degrees (Fahrenheit) at the court and players agree, the match may be played. Teams must wait one hour to determine if the temperature at the court falls within the playable range. **Temperature to be verified by the use of a weather app for the zip code of the matches (wind chill and heat index are not a factor in determining temperature).** All players scheduled to play in an individual match must be present at the courts to delay that match because of temperature.
- E. Once an individual match has begun, it must be completed except in the case of inclement weather. There is no provision for wind.

VII. SCORING and PLAYOFFS

- A. The individual match won earns one point. Total number of points earned at the end of the season will determine division winners and runner-up teams, if applicable, that are eligible for the playoffs.
- B. In cases within a flight where divisions have unequal numbers of teams, each team's final standing will be determined by percentage of matches won to total matches scheduled to be played.
- C. All playoff lineups must be approved by the flight coordinator **BEFORE** each playoff dual meet is played. Playoff lineups must be based on relative strength of teams as determined by positions played and win-loss records established during the regular season.

INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE RULES

LEAGUE	SEASON	SCHEDULED DAY/START TIME	FOLLOWING POSITIONS	REGULAR SEASON (WEEKS 1-6) INCLEMENT WEATHER MAKEUP MATCHES MUST START NO LATER THAN
MEN	SPRING FALL	SATURDAY 9:00 AM	10:00 AM, 11:00 AM	7 DAYS, SATURDAY 3:00 PM*
SUNDAY WOMEN	SPRING FALL	SUNDAY 1:00 PM	2:00 PM, 3:00 PM	6 DAYS, SATURDAY 1:00 PM**
THURSDAY WOMEN	SPRING FALL	THURSDAY 9:30 AM	10:30 AM 11:30 AM	6 DAYS, WEDNESDAY 9:30 AM (WEEK 6-4 DAYS, MONDAY 9:30 AM)
MIXED DOUBLES	WINTER SUMMER	SUNDAY 1:00 PM SATURDAY 9:00 AM	2:00 PM, 3:00 PM 10:00 AM, 11:00 AM	6 DAYS, SATURDAY 1:00 PM 8 DAYS, SUNDAY 1:00 PM

* Or upon completion of the SUNDAY WOMEN'S League makeup matches

** Or upon completion of the MEN'S League regularly scheduled matches

Adult leagues are divided into AA, A, B, and C levels. Each level is divided into multiple flights reflecting the number of teams submitting rosters and the overall ability of each team. Flights will be added or deleted, as required, at the discretion of the league vice president.

Dual meets consist of five doubles matches.

All dual meets must be played starting no later than the SCHEDULED DAY/START TIME as indicated for the specific league, excluding matches postponed because of inclement weather. Warm-ups, including service warm-ups, must be completed before the matches begin. All following positions begin as listed above or when the court becomes available after these scheduled times.

Matches rescheduled due to inclement weather (precipitation or extreme weather) for weeks 1-6 must be started no later than the day and time listed in the chart for the specific league in accordance with ALTA rule VI.C. **Regularly scheduled matches take precedence over all other ALTA league matches.**

During playoffs and City Finals, if a dual meet ends in a tie, the winner will be decided by comparing the sets won between the two teams for all matches/lines. The team with the most sets won will be declared the winner. If both teams win the same number of sets, the winner will be decided by comparing the games won between the two teams for all matches/lines. The team with the most games won will be declared the winner. If teams are still tied after comparing both sets and games won, the players from the last completed match will play a 10-point tiebreak.

League vice presidents have the responsibility for the administration of their respective leagues. Situations not covered in these rules will be settled at the discretion of the league vice president.

END OF REGULAR SEASON (WEEK 7) INCLEMENT WEATHER MAKE-UP MATCHES

MEN - Matches rescheduled due to inclement weather occurring on the final SATURDAY of the regular season must be started no later than the following TUESDAY at 7:00 PM in accordance with ALTA rule VI.C.

SUNDAY WOMEN - Matches rescheduled due to inclement weather occurring on the final SUNDAY of the regular season must be started no later than the following WEDNESDAY at 7:00 PM in accordance with ALTA rule VI.C.

THURSDAY WOMEN - Matches rescheduled due to inclement weather occurring on the final THURSDAY of the regular season must be started no later than FRIDAY at 9:30 AM in accordance with ALTA rule VI.C. An extended inclement weather delay wait time will be at the discretion of the league vice president for the final match of the season.

MIXED DOUBLES

WINTER - Matches rescheduled due to inclement weather occurring on the final SUNDAY of the regular season must be started no later than the following WEDNESDAY at 7:00 PM in accordance with ALTA rule VI.C.

SUMMER - Matches rescheduled due to inclement weather occurring on the final SATURDAY of the regular season must be started no later than the following WEDNESDAY at 7:00 PM in accordance with ALTA rule VI.C.

SENIOR LEAGUES

LEAGUE	SEASON	SCHEDULED DAY/START TIME	FOLLOWING POSITIONS	REGULAR SEASON (WEEKS 1-6) INCLEMENT WEATHER MAKEUP MATCHES MUST START NO LATER THAN
SENIOR MEN	SUMMER	FRIDAY 6:30 PM	7:30 PM	5 DAYS, WEDNESDAY 6:30 PM
SENIOR WOMEN	SUMMER	THURSDAY 6:30 PM	7:30 PM	5 DAYS, TUESDAY 6:30 PM
SENIOR MIXED	WINTER	SATURDAY 10:00 AM	11:00 AM	6 DAYS, FRIDAY 6:30 PM
SENIOR DAY MEN	SPRING FALL	WEDNESDAY 10:00 AM	11:00 AM	5 DAYS, MONDAY 10:00 AM
SENIOR DAY WOMEN	SPRING FALL	TUESDAY 10:00 AM	11:00 AM	6 DAYS, MONDAY 10:00 AM (WEEK 6-3 DAYS, FRIDAY 10:00 AM)

Senior Leagues are divided into AA, A, B and C levels. Each level is divided into multiple flights reflecting the number of teams submitting rosters and the overall ability of each team. Levels/flights will be added or deleted, as required, at the discretion of the Senior Leagues vice president.

All dual meets must be played starting no later than the SCHEDULED DAY/START TIME as indicated for the specific league, excluding matches postponed because of inclement weather. Warm-ups, including service warm-ups, must be completed before the matches begin. All following positions begin as listed above or when the court becomes available after these scheduled times.

Matches rescheduled due to inclement weather (precipitation or extreme weather) for weeks 1-6 must be started no later than the day and time listed in the chart for the specific league in accordance with ALTA rule VI. C. **Regularly scheduled matches take precedence over all other ALTA league matches.**

Commencing during the first round of playoffs and throughout all playoff meets played through and including the City Finals meet, the format/order of play will be played in reverse order from the regular season order of play.

- **SENIOR MEN'S AND SENIOR WOMEN'S LEAGUES** (summer) – During all playoff meets including City Finals, the order of play will be as follows: line 4, line 3, line 2, ending with line 1. If the playoff dual meet ends in a 2-2 split/tie, the last line on the court will play a 10-point tiebreak to decide the winner of the dual meet.
- **SENIOR MIXED LEAGUE** (winter) – During all playoff meets including City Finals, the order of play will be as follows: line MX2, line MX1, women's doubles then men's doubles. If the playoff dual meet ends in a 2-2 split/tie, the last line on the court will play a 10-point tiebreak to decide the winner of the dual meet.
- If the meet is played as "delayed," the last line to complete their match according to date and time will play the 10-point tiebreak (in the case of a 2-2 split/tie) to decide the advancing winner of the meet.
- The tiebreak will be scored as a separate final set of the match on the scorecard by checking the tiebreak box.

SENIOR MEN'S AND SENIOR WOMEN'S LEAGUES - Dual meets consist of four doubles matches.

Participating facilities must guarantee the use of at least two lighted courts until 11:00 PM. Matches not completed by 11:00 PM may be suspended. If play is suspended, normal inclement weather rules will apply.

SENIOR MIXED LEAGUE - Dual meets consist of four doubles matches.

Matches will consist of a men's doubles, a women's doubles, and two mixed doubles in that order. Either the men's or women's doubles match may be defaulted without affecting the remaining matches. A player listed on a scorecard/lineup as a men's or women's doubles player may not be moved on a scorecard/lineup to a mixed doubles match after the match has been defaulted. Any single default of a mixed doubles match must be taken at the lowest (#2) position.

SENIOR DAY MEN'S AND SENIOR DAY WOMEN'S LEAGUES - Dual meets consist of three doubles matches.

END OF REGULAR SEASON (WEEK 7) INCLEMENT WEATHER MAKEUP MATCHES

SENIOR MEN - Matches rescheduled due to inclement weather occurring on the final FRIDAY of the regular season must be started no later than the following TUESDAY at 6:30 PM in accordance with ALTA rule VI.C.

SENIOR WOMEN - Matches rescheduled due to inclement weather occurring on the final THURSDAY of the regular season must be started no later than the following MONDAY at 6:30 PM in accordance with ALTA rule VI.C.

SENIOR MIXED- Matches rescheduled due to inclement weather occurring on the final SATURDAY of the regular season must be started no later than the following TUESDAY at 6:30 PM in accordance with ALTA rule VI.C.

SENIOR DAY WOMEN AND SENIOR DAY MEN - Matches rescheduled due to inclement weather occurring on the final TUESDAY or WEDNESDAY of the regular season must be started no later than the following FRIDAY at 10:00 AM in accordance with ALTA rule VI.C.