



ALTA Junior Leagues Rules

Fall 2026

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****Highlighted text indicates rule changes.****

Last revised May 2026

I. Teams and Players

A. All team members must be paid members of ALTA. All junior memberships are \$15.00 per calendar year (January 1 – December 31).

B. Age Eligibility:

For the Spring:

Minimum age: A player must attain his/her 7th birthday during the calendar year in which he/she wishes to play.

- **10 & Under:** No player may have reached his/her 11th birthday on or before March 1st prior to the spring season.
- **12 & Under:** No player may have reached his/her 13th birthday on or before March 1st prior to the spring season.
- **15 & Under:** No player may have reached his/her 16th birthday on or before March 1st prior to the spring season.
- **18 & Under:** No player may have reached his/her 19th birthday on or before March 1st prior to the spring season.

For the Fall:

Minimum age: A player must attain his/her 7th birthday during the calendar year in which he/she wishes to play.

- **10 & Under:** No player may have reached his/her 11th birthday on or before September 1st prior to the fall season.
- **12 & Under:** No player may have reached his/her 13th birthday on or before September 1st prior to the fall season.
- **15 & Under:** No player may have reached his/her 16th birthday on or before September 1st prior to the fall season.
- **18 & Under:** No player may have reached his/her 19th birthday on or before September 1st prior to the fall season.

C. A player may play on only one team and in only one league per season. Any two players may play two lines per match. If a player is playing twice, they must play singles first followed by a doubles match. The same player may not play twice in more than two matches per season. During the postseason, a player may only play twice in either playoff round 1 or playoff round 2. A player may play twice in City Finals.

Any player 18 years of age may play in the adult leagues and participate in the Junior Challenge Ladder but may not return to the Junior Leagues.

D. Each team must guarantee use of at least 2 courts of the same surface/type at the same address, or 2 courts of the same surface/type 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 2 teams per multiple of 2 courts (e.g., 2 courts: 1–2 teams; 4 courts: 3–4 teams; 6 courts: 5–6 teams).

E. Any required court fee and/or guest fee must be paid by the home team.

F. Rosters must be submitted via the ALTA website according to the instructions, dates and times given in the roster packet for the Junior Leagues. Each roster must be submitted with a minimum of 6 players, a team manager and co-manager. There is no maximum limit of additional players, but two or more are recommended. A person may manage only one girls' team and one boys' team per season.

G. A maximum of six players may be added to a roster. All additions to the roster must be paid, at an appropriate age, with placement at a level consistent with player's ability. In order for a player to be eligible to play in a regularly scheduled dual meet, they may be added up until the scheduled start time of the dual meet. To be eligible to play in matches played early or matches delayed by inclement weather, a player must be added by 11:59 pm on the day before the match is played.

H. Any person not listed on a roster in accordance with these General Rules shall be an ineligible player. Any changes made to a team roster will be made at the discretion of the league vice president.

I. All players must play in 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.

II. Flight Placement

Final determination of flight placement will be made by the league vice president and overall coordinators. Team movement from one flight to another shall be based on the previous season's play, 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 the leagues.

III. Team Managers

A. Each team must have a team manager or acting team manager present at the beginning of every dual meet. Team managers or acting team managers must exchange lineups for all positions simultaneously before the start of the dual meet. Scores of each match must be recorded and team managers or acting team managers must sign the scorecards. Then, scores of each match must be entered and reviewed on the ALTA website immediately after the dual meet.

B. Team managers shall agree upon the order of play. In case of conflict, the default order is 1 Singles and 2 Singles followed by 1 Doubles and 2 Doubles.

C. Teams must determine lineups according to strength of players in order to make fair and competitive play for all. **"Sandbagging" — scheduling stronger player or pairs below weaker player or pairs — is prohibited.** It is also "Sandbagging" to move a winning player or pair down in order to move a losing player or pair up. This rule applies even if the player or pair has only played once. Winning and losing shall be defined as results of matches played to date, not just the result of the last match played. Any team not complying with these "sandbagging" rules shall forfeit all points from the point of infraction and below. Singles and Doubles will be tracked independently. Any questions or conflicts with the above rules must be discussed with your flight coordinator before play or refer to the team manager handbook.

D. The ALTA lineup checker must be used during regular season, playoffs and City Final play in order to avoid sandbagging.

IV. Dual Meets

A. All scheduled meets must be played by Saturday starting at 1:30 p.m. for girls, or upon completion of ALTA Men's League matches, and by Saturday at 3:30 p.m. for boys, or upon completion of ALTA Girls' League matches. The second rounds will begin at 2:30 p.m. for girls and 4:30 p.m. for boys. Matches may be played earlier than the scheduled date with coordinator notification by both teams.

B. Dual meets will consist of 2 singles and 2 doubles matches.

C. All 10U and 12U matches will be 8-game pro sets. A match is won when one team wins eight games by a margin of at least two games. If the score reaches 7-all, two games are played. If a team wins both games, the win is scored 9-7. If the score reaches 8-all, a 7-point tiebreak is played, and the win is scored 9-8.

1. 10U Boys and Girls will play on a 60' x 21' court for singles, 60' x 27' for doubles, with the orange low compression ball. It is recommended that players use a 23"-25" racket.

D. All 15U and 18U matches will be the best two of three adult sets. The 7-point tiebreak will be in effect when the score reaches 6-all in any set. In the case of split sets, a 10-point match tiebreak will be played, and will be scored as 1 additional point for the match winner.

E. Home team managers must contact visiting team managers at least 4 days before the dual meet in order to discuss place, directions and order of matches. As a courtesy, the home team manager should inform the visiting team manager whether the dual meet will be played on hard or soft courts, indoor or outdoor courts.

F. ALTA will not provide linesmen or umpires for matches.

G. ALTA rules govern play. In cases not specifically covered by these rules, USTA rules govern play. Also, "The Code" as a handbook of ethics and fair play should be understood and followed by every ALTA player. "Junior Leagues Rules" and "The Code" should be available for consultation at all dual meets.

H. A player who is not listed on the original scorecard may participate in a match that has not begun. Players listed on a scorecard 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, that player shall not be allowed to play in that dual meet.

I. The 20-minute default rule, as defined in the Glossary under "Default", is in effect for all scheduled matches. A defaulted match is scored as 9 points for the opposing team. When a match is defaulted, it must be the lower singles or doubles match, whichever is applicable. If the higher position of singles or doubles is defaulted after the respective lower position has been played, the team defaulting shall also lose the points earned at the lower position. Teams may not agree to schedule matches late.

J. Ball Requirements:

- **10 & Under:** Low compression orange balls. The home team manager will provide two new sets of balls, reused during home matches for the duration of the season.
- **12U:** Stage One (Green Dot) balls. The home team manager must provide two unopened cans of USTA-approved green dot balls per dual meet (or one can if 4 balls are packaged in one can). Opened for the first two matches and reused for subsequent matches.
- **15 & 18U:** The home team manager must provide an unopened can of USTA-approved yellow balls for each individual match.
- In all cases, the home team will retain the used balls.

K. Warm-up is limited to 10 minutes including practice serves.

L. Coaching is illegal. Teammates, spectators or coaches may not volunteer advice on line calls, scoring or on the conduct of a match. The only exceptions to this are (1) to help with the 7-point tiebreak (both team managers may explain the tiebreak procedure once, and then leave the court) or (2) during the legal monitoring of a match in the 10 & Under Group, details of which are furnished to the 10 & Under team managers. It is the team manager's responsibility to control his/her spectators' conduct during match play.

M. 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 team managers must contact their coordinator.

V. Penalties and Forfeitures

A. Upon agreement by the team managers at the dual meet, a player may be removed from the dual meet for unsportsmanlike conduct on the court. Removal from the dual meet will occur after one warning has been issued. The removed player will forfeit all points earned in the match. Any incidents of unsportsmanlike behavior must be reported to the division coordinator.

B. In all dual meets in which an ineligible player participates, the guilty team will be penalized by forfeiting the points earned by 1 Singles or 1 Doubles; any points earned at 2 Singles or 2 Doubles, respectively, will also be forfeited.

C. In those situations where no penalty is provided in the Junior Leagues Rules, THE LEAGUE VICE PRESIDENT SHALL HAVE THE 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. This penalty also applies to any team withdrawing after roster deadline.

F. If there are any conflicts that cannot be resolved by the team managers within the rules, the coordinator should be contacted. All official protests must be submitted to the league vice president in writing with a copy to the ALTA office within 5 days of the scheduled match being protested.

G. 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 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 teams have assembled to play and the match is interrupted by inclement weather, including lightning, teams should be prepared to wait one hour to determine if the courts are playable. If the courts are still not playable after one hour has elapsed, teams are free to leave and reschedule unless both teams agree to wait longer.
- C.** If a rained out match is not scheduled within 8 consecutive days, it will be officially scheduled on the 9th day, Monday at 6:00 p.m. for boys and girls. Failure to play on the 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.** Rainouts occurring on Saturday of week 6 of the regular season must be made up within five days for girls' and boys' teams. If an earlier time cannot be agreed upon by both team managers, girls' and boys' matches will be officially scheduled for Thursday at 6:00 p.m.
- E.** Rainouts occurring on Saturday of week 7 of the regular season must be made up within three days for girls' and boys' teams. If an earlier time cannot be agreed upon by both team managers, girls' and boys' matches will be officially scheduled for Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. If it rains on Tuesday, the default day, the match is made up on a day to day basis.
- F.** If temperature is above 95 degrees or below 32 degrees (Fahrenheit) before the individual match is started, and both managers agree, the match may be played. All players scheduled to play an individual match must be present to postpone the match because of temperature. If an individual match is postponed because of temperature, the above rainout rules apply to rescheduling.
- G.** Once an individual match has started, it must be complete except in the case of inclement weather. There are no provisions for wind.

VII. Scoring

A. For 10U and 12U scoring, the total number of games will be counted to determine the points awarded during a dual meet. A bonus point is awarded for each match won, except for a match won by a score of 9-7 or one in which a tiebreak is played and the win is scored 9-8. Thus, the maximum number of points possible to earn in any dual meet is 36.

	Team X	Team Y
1st Singles	8*	3
2nd Singles	9	7
1st Doubles	8	9
2nd Doubles	0	8*
Subtotal	25	27
Bonus Points*	1*	1*
Total Points	26	28

B. All 15U and 18U matches will be the best two of three adult sets. The 7-point tiebreak will be in effect when the score reaches 6-all in any set. In the case of split sets, a 10-point match tiebreak will be played, and will be scored as 1 additional point for the match winner. A bonus point is awarded for each set won with 6 games. The maximum number of points per individual match is 14; the maximum number that can be earned in any dual meet is 56.

C. A total of all points won at the end of the season will determine the final standings of each division.

D. In cases within a flight where divisions have an unequal number of teams, each team's final standing will be determined by the percentage of matches won to total matches scheduled to be played.

VIII. Administration

The Junior Leagues Vice President has the responsibility for the administration of the Junior Leagues. Situations not covered in these rules will be settled at the discretion of the Junior Leagues Vice President.

Glossary of Terms

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 1st Vice President.

ALTA WEBSITE

The official website of the Atlanta Lawn Tennis Association, Inc. is www.altatennis.org.

THE CODE

The current printing of "The Code", N.E. Powell.

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 20 minutes (default time) after the scheduled starting time. When the previous match extends beyond the default time, play must begin immediately when the court becomes available. The non-defaulting team manager may waive a default as long as the non-defaulting team remains at courtside. A "Default" of a line will also include the electronic notification (email or text message) from a team manager/co-manager, and will constitute the line(s) to be designated as a "Default" on the scorecard. Should inclement weather occur at the normal default time of the line being defaulted, regular inclement weather rules shall apply, and the default does not occur.

DUAL MEET

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

FACILITY

Two or more courts at the same address.

FORFEITURE

The automatic loss of a match and the points attendant thereto where expressly provided herein for violation of these rules or as otherwise imposed as a penalty as 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 Junior Leagues Rules.

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

PLAYER'S FINAL LEVEL

The player's final level is the last level adjusted for end of the season team results.

RETIREMENT

Any player who is unable to continue a match in progress because of 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.

SUSPENDED PLAYERS

All suspended players will be considered ineligible for all ALTA league play including the Junior Challenge Ladder.

TEAM MANAGER AND CO-MANAGER

Must be 19 years or older and is responsible for a team.

THE USTA RULES

The current printing of the Rules of Tennis and Cases and Decisions; all other current USTA Rules.