



Northeast Georgia Tennis Association Regulations
League Year 2026
(August 2025 – July 2026)
Revised and approved July 20, 2025

The purpose of the USTA Northeast Georgia Tennis Association is to promote team tennis for men and women at established ratings of the National Tennis Rating Program.

These rules should be printed out and taken to all matches.

**ALL MATCHES PLAYED SHOULD FOLLOW THE COVID GUIDELINES PUBLISHED ON
THE USTA.COM WEBSITE**

I. Regulations

The NEGTA agrees to the rules and regulations of the USTA, USTA Southern, and USTA Georgia as published. They are posted on our website. Please refer to them. In addition, the NEGTA also sets forth the following rules to apply to NEGTA local team matches. The NEGTA Local League Coordinator, in conjunction with the NEGTA League/Rules Committee Chair, shall have the authority to interpret the USTA League NEGTA Local Regulations.

II. Membership

- A.** All players shall have reached the minimum age for the league in which they wish to play prior to or during the calendar year in which such player participates in their first local league match.
- B.** Teams must play out of facilities within the geographic boundaries of USTA NEGTA, namely Hall, Habersham, White, Banks, Lumpkin, Dawson & Stephens's counties unless permission has been granted from another CTA. The dual facility policy between NEGTA and Atlanta concerning South Hall facilities is found on our web site www.ustanegta.com under the organization tab.
- C.** Players must play at their current computer year end rating or higher. Any player without a computer rating must self-rate by answering the self-rating questions on Tennis Link. This applies to all USTA and Southern Combo leagues. If a player's rating has expired they must self-rate at the expired rating. When you do this you can then generate the ability to appeal your rating.
- D.** Players may play on more than one team within the Northeast Georgia Tennis Leagues as follows:
 - A player may play on a weekday & an evening team at the same NTRP level.
 - A player may play on a weekday & an evening team at a different NTRP level.
 - A player may play at two different NTRP levels.
 - A player may play on a combo or mixed doubles team at different NTRP levels.

- E. USTA Rule 2.01A(1) When using straight NTRP levels, a player cannot have an NTRP rating higher than the NTRP level in which the player is competing.
- F. TennisLink is the official system for registering teams, reporting scores and providing standings.
- G. The Local League Coordinator or program coordinators for USTA NEGTA are the people who implement and administer all USTA league programs.

III. Captains: Pre-Season Responsibilities

- A. The captain should read and be familiar with the rules of USTA, USTA Southern, USTA Georgia and the NEGTA Local League rules. **NEGTA rules differ in part from ALTA AND USTA ATLANTA RULES.** It is the captain's responsibility to make sure his/her players read and understand all the rules.
 - B. Team Registration: Captains of Adult, Mixed, Tri Level and USTA Southern Combo MUST establish a team number through Tennis Link by the designated date. The Captains must list the facility where they will be playing. All teams must play out of facilities in Hall, Habersham, Stephens, White, Lumpkin, Dawson or Banks counties. (The facility information can be found on the www.ustanegta.com web site.)
 - C. Captains MUST have a current email address at which they can receive league information throughout the season. Captains MUST enter a phone number in the TennisLink program when establishing a team number. This number should be the number the captains will use to communicate with each other during the season. Changes in phone numbers and emails must be forwarded to your LLC.
 - D. All teams in any NEGTA league MUST have the minimum number of players registered on the team prior to the registration closing date and all play must be within our advertised dates. Area teams must follow these regulation deadlines as well. **There are now NO maximum limits on leagues.**
- Two Team Leagues:** If any Adult league consists of only two teams in a level of play, each team must maintain its roster with at least 40% of its players at the designated NTRP level of play.

IV. Captains: Match Responsibilities

It is the captain's responsibility to have each team member thoroughly read and understand the current NEGTA USTA league regulations prior to the start of league play. If the captain or co-captain will not be present at the match, they should designate an acting captain and notify the opposing captain of that acting captain's name and contact information prior to the match day. It is **MANDATORY** that all captains abide by the 3-day rule (see rule IV.B.); this enables the teams time to contact players with the needed information.

A. It is the home team's responsibility to procure and reserve a minimum of 2 home courts for the season and pay any and all court fees, including the indoor court fees if the home team so designates their usage 3 days in advance. If not designated in advance and the indoor courts are offered as an option for day/night match because of inclement weather, the visiting team may decline the use of the indoor courts. If all parties agree to the use of the indoor courts, the additional court fees will be shared by all players involved.

At all facilities there must be a working bathroom and it must be available for the duration of the match and on the match site. **Lights are required for all evening matches.** If the lights go out during an evening match and cannot be re-lit in a reasonable amount of time (10 minutes), or if the facility closes, the match can be rescheduled using the makeup deadlines as stated in the rules.

Pickle Ball Lines as found in the USTA regulations states: 1.04D(6): Courts for Local League Play. "Home teams" will have the choice of court surface for which they wish to play their home matches. Court surface must be the same surface for all individual lines unless prior agreement between both captains. The use of tennis-related blended lines are permitted on courts used for local league matches. The use of other lines for another sport, such as Pickleball, is not permitted on courts used for local league matches.

B. "Home" team captains should contact the visiting team captains 3 DAYS prior to a scheduled match to make final arrangements for the match, including the number, surface type, and location of courts (or alternate courts in case of inclement weather). It is MANDATORY that all captains abide by the 3-day rule since this enables teams time to contact players with the needed information. The visiting captain must field as many courts as are presented. If both captains agree, additional courts can be used as they become available. The location of the match cannot be changed without notifying the visiting captain 3 days prior to the match. **Exception-in case of extenuating circumstances, location CAN be changed by home captain AND LLC.**

Example: Match day on Tuesday call Saturday, match day Wednesday call Sunday, etc.

C. Captains, remind your players to arrive 15 minutes prior to match time (as found on the Tennis Link schedule). Players must be on the court at the designated match start time and be prepared to start the 10 minute warm-up.

D. Warm-up should not exceed 10 minutes. The tennis code's definition of WARM-UP is: Warm-up is not practice. Each player should try to hit his /her shots directly to the opponent. Each line can decide if they want to catch and serve back or return (in which case you are not going for winners).

E. The home team provides new balls for each match.

F. The captains may agree on the order of play. However, if no prior agreement is made then the order of play will be #1 singles, #2 singles, #1 doubles, #2 doubles, #3 doubles, & or #4 doubles. Players in the second time slot must be available one hour after the first time slot begins; players in the third time slot must be available 2 hours after the first time slot begins.

G. Team captains **must simultaneously exchange printed scorecards with completed line-ups written on the score cards BEFORE the scheduled match time. Match time is stated on your Tennis Link schedule. This match time is the beginning of the 15-minute default time. Tennis Link is the official site for USTA. **If a scorecard is NOT exchanged it will become a full team default for the team without a printed lineup. However, if both teams agree to play without exchanging a lineup, all lines played will stand.****

H. Recording of Scores

The **Winning Team or designated player** should enter the scores into TennisLink within 24 hours of completion of the match. The other captain should confirm or dispute scores on Tennis Link within 48 hours of completion of the match. If scores are not confirmed or disputed within 48 hours of completion of the match, the team will lose the right to dispute the match score. If you dispute the scores for any reason on Tennis Link you must also e-mail the coordinator to tell them the reason so it can be corrected. Tennis Link will confirm scores automatically after the 48-hour period has passed.

I. Note that an individual player playing in the Adult League (18&Over, 40&Over, 55&Over and/or 65&Over), Mixed Doubles League (18&Over and/or 40&Over) or Tri-Level (18&Over, 40&Over and/or 55&Over) must calculate in a minimum of three matches between **the middle of November of the previous year and the middle of November of the current year to generate an individual year end NTRP computer rating. Combo Doubles League results do not generate computer ratings. Players playing only mixed doubles will generate a rating to be used in mixed doubles the following year. If a player with a mixed doubles rating attempts to register for an adult team the following year, the system will require them to self-rate.**

V. Format of Play

Start times are listed on your TennisLink schedules. Check your schedules as times vary depending on the league that is being played.

Continuous play times:

Between points, a maximum of twenty (20) seconds is allowed. When the players change ends at the end of a game, a maximum of ninety (90) seconds are allowed. Between the first and second sets, a two (2) minute break is allowed. However, after the first game of each set and during a tie break game, play shall be continuous, and the players shall change ends without a rest. For matches that are best two out of three sets, a ten (10) minute break between second and third sets **may** be taken. Otherwise play must continue as specified in USTA Regulations. When and if the score in a set is 6-6, the winner will be decided with a 7-point Coman style tiebreaker. A Coman 10 point tie breaker is only played when the league has been set up to play a tie break instead of a third set. See the instructions for the Coman tie break at the back of these rules.

(Note: see Tennis Link schedule page to determine if match is set up as best two out of three sets or third set tie break format.)

A. One point for each dual match won will be awarded to the winning team.

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B. State & Southern Sectional Championship Match formats are: ADULT 18 & OVER

3.0 – 4.0: 2 singles, 3 doubles

ADULT 18 & OVER 2.5 & 5.0: 1 singles, 2 doubles

ADULT 40 & OVER: 1 singles, 4 doubles

ADULT 55 & OVER: 3 doubles

ADULT 65 & OVER: 3 doubles

MIXED all ages: 3 doubles

Tri Level all ages: 3 doubles

COMBO all ages: 3 doubles

NEGTA formats may differ and they are stated on your Tennis Link schedule.

C. Individual Match Format:

1. The warm-up must be accomplished in a maximum of 10 minutes including serves.
2. Coaching is permitted ONLY during the 10-minute rest period between the second & third sets. If the match is played with a 3rd set Tiebreaker in lieu of a third set, there is NO Coaching. Please note that NO Coaching is allowed at any State Championship.

D. Defaults:

1. The 15-minute default clock begins at the scheduled match time (as stated on the TennisLink schedule or agreed upon time and that is communicated to coordinator) when a court is available, and a player has not arrived.
2. When a player does not show up within the 15-minute default time, or a player becomes ill or injured during warm-up and there is no substitute available, only the affected position is defaulted. Two players will play together in a higher position when both of their partners do not show in order to avoid two defaults. Remember defaults are given from the bottom up. Example # 5 doubles is the first to be defaulted.
3. If a substitute player, not already in the lineup, is available within the 15 minute default time (if both teams agree to a longer wait time)**, then that player may substitute for an absent, sick or injured player at the affected position ONLY. If a substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute player is entitled to a 10-minute warm-up. **should a longer wait time be agreed to, please be sure it's in writing-preferably text.

- E.** Players should be ready to take the court when the previous match is finished. For example, if a match begins at 9:30am and ends at 10:15am, the default time for the next match on that court is 10:45am, since 10:30am is the scheduled time of the next match. If the first match ends at 10:50am, then players must take the court immediately since the next time slot players must have been available at 10:30am. Captains should communicate and agree ahead of time which positions will take the court and in which order. If the captains cannot agree, refer to IV. B. (Captains: Match Responsibilities NEGTA rules).

F. NEGTA encourages playing positions by order of strength. However, a player may play any position at any time. There are no restrictions on the movement of the players from position to position, week to week.

G. If you know you must default one or more positions at the start of the match, follow the guidelines stated in the USTA Regulations handbook. You must default from the bottom of the line-up e.g. either #2 singles or #3 doubles. In the case of 2.5 and 5.0 leagues, you can default either the #1S or the #2D. **In addition, a team cannot enforce known defaults from courtesy in advance.**

H. Please note the 2024 USTA Georgia Regulation regarding an invalid match:

2.01C(6) Team Lineups

Georgia Regulation: If a team has an invalid match (a majority of the individual matches must actually be played to constitute a valid team match) the team may (state Adult League Committee's decision) be removed from competition and the standings.

I. Bathroom breaks are allowed at any time.

J. Leagues played with a four-line format: If four matches are played and two teams tie across the TennisLink scoring system, and it is known at the end of the team match, the last match completed should play a 10-point tie break in order to break the tie. If this happens, the captains need to let the coordinator know, as it will have to be noted manually. The scores will have to be entered in TennisLink as actually played but will not include the extra 10-point tie break. If the captains do not realize there is a tie until after the participants have left, a coin toss will be done by the coordinator in front of both captains to determine which team receives the team point. When this occurs, the coordinator will send out manually updated standings each week and instruct the captains that Tennis Link is not accurate.

K. NEGTA does not provide linesmen, umpires, court monitors, etc. for matches.

VI. Rescheduling

A. Inclement Weather

1. The following weather conditions authorize the cancellation of a scheduled match: rain, lightning, or severe weather 32 degrees F or below (not wind chill) or above 95 degrees (as determined by weather.com for the zip code of the location of the match at the time of the scheduled match). Captains may agree to delay the match up to one hour. Temperatures vary depending on the court locations. For the Adult 55 Over and 65 Over leagues, severe weather is 35 degrees F or below or above 90 degrees.
2. If no lineup has been exchanged, any forfeits which were agreed upon verbally are null and void.
3. If teams have reported for play and the match is delayed or interrupted by rain, teams must wait 30 minutes to determine if courts are playable. If courts are still not playable after 30 minutes, teams are free to reschedule matches and then leave unless both teams agree to wait longer.

4. In the event inclement weather occurs after the team match has begun, a 30-minute wait to resume play must be observed. If play cannot be continued:
- A. Completed individual matches stand as played.
 - B. Points awarded for forfeits given at the time the original written lineup was exchanged are considered completed matches. All players listed on the lineup who are involved in forfeits cannot participate in a rescheduled match.
 - C. Individual matches in progress must be made up and resumed by the same players at the exact set, game and point that existed when play was halted.
 - D. Any player who is not involved in a previously started match or forfeit can participate in any matches that have not begun.

5. In the spirit of good sportsmanship please schedule and get your make-up matches completed promptly.

Arrangement for make-up matches must be agreed upon within 48 hours of the original match start time. **TEAMS MUST OFFER A MINIMUM OF TWO MAKE UP DAYS EXCLUDING THE DEFAULT DAY/EVENING.** Default match date is 13 days following the regularly scheduled match (see exception below). Default match start time is the same as stated on your Tennis Link schedule, except for Monday morning leagues which would be 1pm on Sunday.

Matches that have been arranged and agreed to by both parties (different positions do not have to be made up at the same place or time) cannot be canceled by either party for any reason other than inclement weather. Default will result if one party cannot play. However, available players (not already listed on the scorecard) may be substituted into the agreed match time if necessary. Both captains **MUST** contact their coordinator via e-mail or text and cc opposing captain with the agreed upon date/dates and times to prevent problems. This is necessary in order to eliminate any disagreements. If the LLC/Level Rep. does not receive notification within the time period, the default time will be the day before the next regularly scheduled match day at the time specified in Tennis Link. (**Example:** Match rained out was Wednesday, LLC must get make up information by Friday. If information is not received the match will be made up on Tuesday, **13 days following the regularly scheduled match** at 9:30 am. The decision has been taken out of your hands.)

6. Matches needing rescheduling must follow the NEGTA rules. Rescheduled match times include evenings and weekends, as needed.

Exception to this inclement weather default times is as follows:

If inclement weather occurs on the second to last match of the regular season, the make-up default time is before the last scheduled match (6 days). If it falls on the last scheduled match date it is the following day/night and continues day to day until weather permits the match to be played. **The LLC has the authority to extend the default day for the last match IF there is time in the schedule and both captains agree.** If a default day falls on a Legal holiday a new default day will be established by the NEGTA LLC.

B. Early Scheduled Matches

Team matches or individual matches may be rescheduled early if both captains agree. The rescheduled matches must be played prior to the originally scheduled date. Notification **MUST** be e-mailed to the LLC/level representative. This new date now becomes your official scheduled match date. If inclement weather occurs, the scheduled date reverts back to the original date on TennisLink.

C. USTA League State, Sectional or National Championships

Any NEGTA* team involved in a USTA League State, Sectional or National Championship match, regardless of the league, may request their opponent to pre schedule their NEGTA (USTA League) matches prior to the scheduled day of the match. **A team with this concern must notify the affected opponents at least two weeks prior to the scheduled match date to reschedule individual matches, or as soon as the schedule is known if there is less than two weeks' notice.** If the teams cannot agree to an earlier schedule, the match will be rescheduled using inclement weather rules. Any individual match rescheduled for after the regularly scheduled time under this rule must include at least one player who played at the USTA League State, Sectional or National Championship, or this match may be defaulted and awarded to the other team. *Not a USTA Atlanta or other team that might have NEGTA players.

VII. Addition of Players during a Season

Our local league permits teams to add players after the commencement of play. A player's name must be added to the roster (using TennisLink) prior to the player's participation in a team match. Players **MAY** be added to the roster prior to the second to the last match of the scheduled season. (Example: where there are nine weeks of play the cut off will be midnight on the day prior to the 7th scheduled match.) If a self-rated player has been disqualified during the season, they can register on a higher-level team.

They will need the assistance of the LLC.

VIII. STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

A. The winner of the local league season will progress to the State Championship, unless a playoff is required. If a tie occurs USTA League Regulations for tie-breaks will be followed. The tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:

1. Most number of individual matches won in the entire season.
2. Head-to-Head: Winner of the head-to-head match. If teams played more than one time during the season, the team accumulating the greatest number of points in those matches will be declared the winner.
3. Sets: Loser of the fewest number of sets in the entire season.
4. Games: Loser of the fewest number of games in the entire season.
5. A coin toss by the league coordinator in the presence of both captains.

B. In order for a player to be eligible to progress to the State Championships for the Adult 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over and all levels of Mixed Doubles, that player must have played twice during the season. Only one of these can be a default as shown on your player roster. If there is not an Adult 65 & Over league during the championship year, a team may register on TennisLink and receive a bid for the State Championship tournament (Subject to USTA Georgia Area Team Regulation). When there is an Adult 65 & Over league, the winner will advance to the State tournament. In order to qualify for the tournament you must play one match during the season and a default counts.

Combo 18 & Over and 40 & Over teams must play in a league competition to be eligible to progress to the State Championships and team members must play once during that league competition in order to qualify for the State Championship. A defaulted match shall count. Combo 55 & over levels may advance directly to the State Championships if there are no local leagues during the championship year. That team is not required to play any matches.

C. One women's team and one men's team at each level from each season will get a berth to the State Championships. Leagues with more than 10 teams (e.g. 3.5 day women) may be divided into divisions and, if divided, will have a Divisional Playoff if necessary. The home court for playoffs will be decided by calculating the percentage of matches won. The winner of the Divisional Playoff will progress to the State Championships. **When there are only two teams in a league in BOTH seasons, the best overall team will get the berth since we will only be offered one.**

The progression for calculating berths to the State tournament for any given NTRP level can be found in the USTA Georgia regulations.

D. In the event the same team should win both seasons, that team can choose which season's roster they would like to take to the State Championships. If the same team wins first place both seasons, the league **MAY** send a second-place team from either season as a State entrant. The LLC will look to send the most competitive second place team. The LLC is responsible for the final decision as to which team, if any, will get the second bid.

If NEGTA receives a wild card it will be given to the season and NTRP level stipulated by USTA Georgia.

E. In the event that a first place team from a specific season declines advancement to the State Championships, the second place team from that same season may be chosen to represent the league for that season. The LLC is responsible for the final decision as to which team, if any, will receive the bid.

F. Players will pay player registration fees as per the state registration packet instructions. Everything is done online. NEGTA will reimburse the team captain the State competition player registration fee (less processing fee) for the minimum number of players required to field a team at the tournament as long as the team has played in a league. Any team who has not been part of a league (2 teams or more) will pay the entrance fee for themselves. NEGTA will also pay the entry fee of teams qualifying for section or national tournaments following the same rules.

G. NEGTA will pay the entry fee for any team that earns a wild card to the State or Sectional Championship. The same methodology applies as in rule VIII F.

IX. Grievances

A. All complaints alleging a violation during local league competition must be filed in writing with the chairman of the Local League Grievance Committee. Grievances must be filed by a team captain prior to the commencement of the next team match in the flight involving the individual or team against whom the grievance has been filed and within twenty-four hours after the last regular match or end of local league play, whichever occurs first. There will be a \$50 fee for filing. If grievance is upheld, the \$50 fee will be refunded.

Forms can be found on the www.ustageorgia.com web site or ask your LLC.

B. Any party to the complaint may appeal the decision of the Grievance Committee within the time stated in the ruling handed down by the Grievance Committee.

C. If unsure of procedure, contact the Local League Coordinator.

D. Grievance Committee & Grievance Appeal committees** for 2025/2026 are:

Grievance Committee

Jennifer Loggins - Chairman

Shonda Sosebee

Robin Carr

Elcira Pinkerton

Grievance Appeal Committee

Janice Johnson - Chairman

Phyllis Gailey

Jamie Floyd

X. NTRP Grievances

A. A NTRP grievance may be filed against a player and/ or a team who commits or condones entering a self-rating two levels or more below the actual skill level of the player. All grievances must be filed with your local league coordinator. The captain filing the grievance form must provide proof that the player's skill level is two levels above his/her self-rating. All grievances will be sent to the USTA Southern Fair Play Grievance Committee. Decisions may be appealed and are appealed to the USTA Southern Grievance Appeal Committee.

Adult League and Regulation Committee 2025/2026

Lisa Lancaster, LLC

Allyson Reeves

Robin Carr

Sharon Ross

Elcira Pinkerton

** Please note that anyone on the Grievance or Grievance Appeal Committee can be replaced should a committee member need to recuse themselves or someone is not available at the time of Grievance/Appeal.

Coman Tiebreak Procedure

The Coman Tiebreak procedure is identical to the regular tiebreak procedure except that the players change ends after the first point and then after every four points until the conclusion of a tiebreak.

The Coman Tiebreak procedure is used for all tiebreaks played during a match.

Set Tie Break: First to win 7 points by 2 points wins "Game" and "Set"

3rd set Match Tie Break: First to win 10 points by 2, wins match.

The player whose turn it is to serve shall serve the first point from the deuce court.

After the first point, the players shall change ends and the following two points shall be served by the opponent(s) (in doubles, the player of the opposing team due to serve next) starting from the ad court.

After this, each player/team shall serve alternately for two consecutive points (starting from the ad court); changing ends after every four points, until the completion of the tie break game.

Switch ends after points 1,5,9,13, 17..... and at the conclusion.

SUMMARY

- Switch sides after 1st point to the deuce court
- Then switch sides every 4 points thereafter
- Each player serves on the side they serve from during the set

PRINCIPLE ADVANTAGES

Fairness – By changing ends more frequently, the effects of the elements (sun, wind, differences in court surfaces etc.) are distributed more evenly between the two opponents as opposed to playing six consecutive points before changing ends.

In doubles, the server will always serve from the same end of the court as they did throughout the set.

