

**USTA ADULT LEAGUE PROGRAM
RULES AND REGULATIONS
CHARLESTON AREA TENNIS ASSOCIATION
2016 Championship Season**

The following rules and regulations shall govern the play of all teams and members of teams during the 2016 USTA Adult League Programs (the “2016 Programs”). The following rules and regulations are in addition to the rules, regulations or standing orders imposed by the United States Tennis Association (“USTA”), the USTA/ Midwest Section, and the Ohio Valley Tennis Association (“OVTA”) (the “Governing Rules”). If a conflict exists between the following rules and regulations and the rules, regulations or standing orders of the USTA, the USTA/Midwest Section, or the OVTA, then the provisions of the Governing Rules shall apply.

1. Team.

1.1 Eligibility. In addition to the requirements imposed by the Governing Rules, any individual who competes in the 2016 Programs must participate through a member club of the Charleston Area Tennis Association or through the Greenmont Racquet Club. If any other USTA member club wishes to sponsor players in the 2016 Programs of the Charleston Area Tennis Association (“CATA”) in a particular division, the club may be permitted to do so only upon favorable consideration of their application by the management committee of CATA. CATA’s favorable consideration of an application is a matter solely within its discretion.

1.2 Captain. Each team shall have a captain who shall handle all administrative matters for the team and who shall be the liaison for the team to the local league coordinator. Each sponsoring club shall determine the manner in which a team captain is appointed for teams that are sponsored by the club. The captain shall be required to inform the local league coordinator of his or her e-mail address. Any notice sent to the e-mail address shall be considered delivered when sent and not when received or read by the captain. Captains of teams shall deal with one another. Even if a professional or other representative of a sponsoring club is associated with a team, the captain of the team shall be the person who communicates with the other team through its captain or with the local league coordinator. The local league coordinator may choose to deal with the professional or other club representative in the circumstances of any matter.

2. Waiver of Claims.

Players, by participating in the 2016 Programs, acknowledge the risks associated with playing competitive tennis, accept those risks voluntarily, and in consideration of their eligibility for, and participation in, the 2016 Programs, assume all risks of injury or damage to their person or property. Players, by participating in the 2016 Programs, do release and hold harmless, to the fullest extent permitted by the law, the USTA, the USTA/Midwest Section, the Ohio Valley Tennis Association, the Charleston Area Tennis Association, the Charleston Area local league coordinator, the hosting facilities, other players, and the respective officials, employees and agents of each of these entities, from any and all liability for, or loss arising from, any injury or property damage that they suffer or otherwise incur during participation in the 2016 Programs, whether caused by negligence or otherwise.

3. **Player agreement.**

All Players participating in the 2016 Programs agree to abide and be bound by the 2016 USTA League Rules and Regulations; USTA/Midwest Section Standing Orders or other rules and regulations; Ohio Valley Tennis Association District Rules and Regulations; the USTA Tournament Regulations; the Code; the ITF Rules of Tennis; these rules and regulations; and the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship.

4. **Competition Format.**

4.1 Season. A double round robin will be played or, if two seasons are planned for a particular league, then a single round robin in each season may be played. A third round robin may be played if the local league coordinator determines a consensus exists for such play and the court time is available. If additional round robins are played, the additional matches shall count toward the determination of the winner of the division with the same force as matches played in the preceding round robins of play. Any NTRP level of play with only two teams must play a minimum of three matches. Any NTRP level of play with only three teams must play a minimum of four matches.

4.2 Team Match and Scoring. All matches shall be the best of two sets with regular scoring and a set tie-break at 6-all in each set. In the event of split sets, a match tie-break shall be played in lieu of a third set with a two minute set break with no coaching. The scoring in the event of a default or disqualification shall be 6-0, 6-0. Teams will be ranked based on the number of team matches won. In the event of a tie, the tie-break procedure that is to be employed at the district championships for the 2016 Programs shall be used. If the local league coordinator determines that a consensus exists, any division which generally requires two individual singles matches and three individual doubles matches may play a modified format of one singles court and two doubles courts during local league play. Notwithstanding that the modified format may be implemented, the teams shall still comply with the Governing Rules regarding the minimum number of players that are required to be registered before play begins and shall be expected to have available at the district championships a sufficient number of players to compete in the regular format.

4.3 Team Lineup. Captains are expected to bring a completed lineup to the site of the match. If after arrival at the site, a player in the lineup cannot make the match or other unanticipated circumstances arise, the captain may change the lineup. The captain is not to change a lineup simply based on observation of the opposing players who are at the site. Fifteen minutes before a team match is scheduled to begin, the team captains shall simultaneously exchange their respective written team lineup. The lineup shall be done on the form of a blank scorecard that is generated for the specific match on TennisLink. Captains are responsible upon the exchange of the lineup to verify that the players listed by the opposing team are identified on the blank scorecard generated from TennisLink as players who have registered for the team. If a match is begun with a player who was not registered, then only that individual match shall be defaulted when the error is discovered and all other matches shall continue and shall stand as completed. No substitution may be made in a team lineup after the exchange has been made, except for reason of an injury to, illness of, or disqualification of a player before the individual match starts. The

substitute must be a player on the team's roster but not a player already listed in the affected lineup. The host team shall pay for necessary balls and court time. Failure to comply with the provisions of this section shall be reported to the local league coordinator with the potential result being the defaulting of the entire match by the team at fault.

4.4 Defaults. A fifteen-minute grace period is to be provided to each player participating in the team match and this period is to be timed from the scheduled starting time of the team match, even if court time is to be staggered. If individual matches within a team match are staggered due to the number of courts, all players for each team are expected to be at the host site at the time at which the match is to commence without regard to when the player's individual match will commence, unless the teams' captains have by mutual agreement decided otherwise. At the end of the fifteen-minute period, the captain of the team that has the sufficient number of players may declare a default of the individual match. In the sole discretion of the captain of the team that has the sufficient number of players, additional time after the fifteen-minute grace period may be extended to the other team with penalties to be imposed in accord with Table 16 of the Friend at Court, which lists "Penalties for Lateness." Defaults must be taken at the #2 Singles position or #3 doubles position and then in ascending order at either the singles or doubles positions, i.e., #1 Singles, #2 Doubles, etc. Because the remaining players may have to move up to another court, play on all courts should not be started until it is certain a default will not occur.

4.4.1 A team captain must provide seventy-two (72) hours' notice to the opposing team and the hosting facility in the event that a team will default all courts for the match or cannot field a sufficient number of courts to enable a valid match to be played.

4.4.2 In the event that a team defaults all the courts for the match or cannot field a sufficient number of courts to enable a valid match to be played and fails to provide the notice as required by Section 4.4.1, then the facility or club out of which the defaulting team plays shall pay a \$100 penalty to CATA, which will remit that penalty to the facility or club out of which the defaulting team's opponent plays. The facility or club shall determine the means by which it will seek reimbursement from the members of the defaulting team. The penalty must be paid to CATA before the defaulting team's next scheduled USTA match, and if the penalty is not paid in full by the time of the defaulting team's next match, the defaulting team will take a default in that match, and all subsequent matches, until the penalty and the ensuing penalties are paid in full. The invoking of this penalty provision shall be done by grievance, except that any fee required to be paid to file the grievance shall not be assessed.

4.4.2.1 In the event that a penalty is not paid in full by the next scheduled match of the defaulting team, with the result that the defaulting team must default the subsequent match or matches, each such subsequent default will require an additional payment of a \$100 penalty.

4.4.2.2 In the event that the defaulting team defaults the last match of the season, the penalty must be paid to CATA before the next USTA League season begins. In the event that the penalty is not paid before the

next USTA League season begins, no individual on the defaulting team will be permitted to play until such penalty is fully paid. CATA will consider, in appropriate circumstances, suspending an individual player on a defaulting team in lieu of suspending an entire team if that individual has failed to pay his or her individual share of any penalty paid by a facility or club.

4.5 Effect of Defaults. The defaulting of a match is strongly discouraged. If the default cannot be avoided for reasons that are compellingly documented or reliably established, then the local league coordinator retains the right to require the match to be rescheduled, rather than a default being taken. The fact that certain players cannot be present at a match shall not be considered a compelling reason for rescheduling a match. Compelling reasons include the participation of the team or a substantial number of its members in USTA events in other sections or participation in local adult tournaments. The local league coordinator shall determine whether a reason is compelling. If a match is defaulted, then all matches played by that team shall be considered a default for the purpose of determining the winner of the division in which the team is playing. If the division is one in which more than one round robin is played, then only the matches in the round robin in which the default occurred shall be affected and all other completed round robins shall stand as played. If teams in contention have played the defaulting team an equal number of times, then the results of those matches shall not be affected.

4.6 Court defaults. If a team captain knows that his or her team will have to default a court or courts for a forthcoming match, then the team captain is to inform the captain of the opposing team of this fact at least twenty-four (24) hours before the match. If a player becomes available after notice is given, then it is entirely the discretion of the opposing team captain whether to take the default for the court or courts or to permit the default or defaults to be withdrawn. However, the opposing team captain is encouraged to only take the default if the opposing team is actually prejudiced by the previous announcement of the default, i.e., a player changed plans due to the default and is now unavailable. A team captain who fails to provide this notice to the opposing team and who has no explanation for the failure may be at risk of being barred from serving as the captain of another team in the USTA Programs for a period of time to be determined by the local area Grievance Committee.

4.7 Warm-ups. Ten minutes shall be allowed for warming-up before the beginning of an individual match. In the event of a default that requires restarting a match or delaying the beginning of a match, additional periods of warm-up are permitted, but shall not exceed a period of five minutes.

4.8 Rescheduling Team Matches. Rescheduling is discouraged. Team matches may be rescheduled, however, if the rescheduling team receives consent of the other team captain three (3) days in advance of the match, but again, the team captain must contact the site coordinator for the hosting club for the site coordinator's approval or disapproval. A new date for the match, acceptable to the site coordinator and the accommodating team, must be obtained by the Friday prior to the originally scheduled date of the match or the match will be defaulted to the accommodating team. The local league coordinator is to be contacted by the rescheduling team's captain immediately upon determination of the new date and

time of the match and the local league coordinator shall report the new date and time to the District League Coordinator for entry into TennisLink. In extreme situations, such as inclement weather, the team captains should contact the local league coordinator for a decision about rescheduling the match. If the local league coordinator cannot be reached, the President or First Vice President of CATA should be contacted.

4.9 Coaching. No coaching of any players will be permitted at any time. The term “coaching” includes comments by spectators designed to instruct a player who is presently on court or designed to influence play, calls or non-calls on the court. Any such incidents of coaching shall be reported to the local league coordinator and, if it is deemed probable that a violation occurred, the incident shall be referred by the local league coordinator to the grievance committee for resolution. No fee shall be required for the processing of such a grievance.

4.10 Spectators. Each site shall have available at a match a person who can resolve issues that might arise with spectators. The site’s representative shall have the authority to ask the spectator to cease and desist from the activity that gives rise to the issue and to have the spectator removed from the premises if the activity continues. The local league coordinator shall be informed of any such issues, and if the local league coordinator deems it to be probable that the conduct occurred, then the local league coordinator shall refer the matter to the grievance committee for resolution. No fee shall be required for the processing of such a grievance.

4.11 Reporting. Match scores must be reported by either team within forty-eight (48) hours of the completion of the match. The consequences for failure to report match scores are as follows: a) a written warning will be issued to both teams for the first offense; and b) all subsequent violations will result in mandatory remedial training to be provided to the captain of the team or teams involved. The Governing Rules provide other sanctions which may be imposed by the entity enforcing the applicable rule, regulation or standing order. Failure to verify scores with forty-eight (48) hours after the scores are reported shall result in the loss of the ability to dispute the scorecard results. However, if both captains agree to a correction in a written communication to the local league coordinator, a correction to the score may be submitted to the District Coordinator for the Ohio Valley Tennis Association who, in his or her discretion, shall act upon the requested correction.

5. Grievance Procedures.

A local grievance committee shall be formed to adjudicate grievances of players competing or clubs participating in the USTA League Programs. The grievance shall be handled in accordance with the Governing Regulations. Any issues that arise in the handling of a grievance that are not resolved by these rule or regulations or the Governing Regulations shall be resolved by the local grievance committee. Notably, the complaint must relate to violations during local league competition and must be filed with the local league coordinator prior to the commencement of whichever occurs first: (a) the involved team’s next match in that flight, whether or not the involved player participates, or (b) within twenty-four hours after the end of the local league season. If the grievance relates to eligibility, it can be filed at any time after the end of the local league season. The local grievance committee shall determine

what process and what procedure shall govern a particular grievance, including whether witnesses or testimony are necessary. A \$50.00 nonrefundable fee shall be assessed upon filing of any grievance. The fee shall be paid by check to the order of the Charleston Area Tennis Association. **For the 2016 Programs, the grievance committee shall be comprised of Doug Barker, who shall serve as the Chair; Karen Jenkins; and Gray Cochran.**

6. Appeal of Grievances.

An appeal may be taken from any decision of the local grievance committee by the adversely affected party. The appeal must be filed with the local league coordinator within 10 (ten) days after receipt of the adverse decision. The grievance appeal shall be taken to a local Grievance Appeal committee. No member of the local Grievance Appeal committee shall be required to recuse himself or herself from the consideration of any appeal, unless the member is directly impacted by the appeal, for the reason that the members of the Committee shall be selected for their fairness, impartiality and objectivity. Grievance Appeals to the local appeal committee shall be handled in accordance with the Governing Regulations. The local league coordinator shall resolve any issues that arise in the handling of a grievance that are not resolved by the Governing Regulations. **For the 2016 Programs, the Grievance Appeal Committee shall be comprised of Lonnie Simmons, who shall serve as the Chair; Mindy White; and Leighton Scott Dean.**

7. NTRP Ratings Appeal.

All NTRP appeals not approved by TennisLink will be reviewed by the USTA/Midwest Section.