

Flint River Tennis League Rules

2017 Championship Year

Updated September 5, 2016

Important change: The USTA National Regulations no longer allow Early Start League Ratings to be published. Therefore, a player will use their most current year-end rating or their self-rating to register for any leagues in the 2016 calendar year unless they player gets disqualified or is granted an appeal. Once the 2016 year-end ratings are published (usually late November/early December), the player will use this rating if they generated one or they will continue to use their most recent year-end rating or their self-rating to register for and 2017 calendar year league.

The Flint River Tennis League agrees to the rules and regulations issued by the USTA and known as the USTA League Tennis Regulations along with those rules and regulations put forth by USTA National, USTA Southern, and USTA Georgia. In addition, the Flint River Tennis league sets forth the following that applies to local league matches:

1. Format of Play

USTA LEAGUE PROGRAM ORGANIZATION AT THE STATE OF GEORGIA LEVEL			
DIVISION	AGE GROUP	LEAGUE FORMAT	NTRP LEVELS
Adult	18 & Over	1 – Singles 2 – Doubles	2.5, <u>5.0+</u>
	18 & Over	2 – Singles 3 – Doubles	3.0, 3.5, 4.0 Low, 4.0, 4.5
	40 & Over	2 – Singles 3 – Doubles	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5+
	55 & Over	3 – Doubles	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0
	65 & Over	3 – Doubles	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5
Mixed	18 & Over	3 – Doubles	2.5, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0
	40 & Over	3 – Doubles	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0

Adjustments may be made per coordinator approval

2. Match Play

- a. New standard type 2 USTA balls are provided by home team or home facility
- b. Scoring
 - i. Best two sets of three with match tie break in lieu of third set
 - ii. Set tie break - First player(s) to reach 7 points by a margin of 2
 - iii. Match tie break - First player(s) to reach 10 points by a margin of 2
 - iv. Scores must be reported to TennisLink within 48 hours of match completion and confirmed within 48 hours of entry or score will automatically be considered valid

- v. If four matches are played and two teams tie across the tennis link scoring system, a coin toss in front of both captains will decide the winner. If time permits and both captains agree, a 5th match may be played in lieu of a coin toss.
 - vi. Individual lines played have the option of “no ad” scoring prior to the start of their match as long as all players on that line are in agreement
- c. Schedule
- i. Each flight within the local league is guaranteed at least one round robin competition.
 - ii. When a level only contains two teams, each team is guaranteed at least 3 matches (triple round robin).
 - iii. When a level contains three teams, each team is required to play a minimum of 4 matches (double round robin).
 - iv. If all captains in a flight agree, additional matches may be randomly selected by the computer to complete a 5 or 6 match season for the teams in that flight. (a partial round may be played).
3. Same Team wins both seasons
- a. Winning team chooses either fall or spring team
 - b. Second place team has option to fill second state berth
 - i. Same team placed second in both seasons
 - 1. Captain may choose either fall or spring team for state berth
 - ii. Different teams placed second in both seasons and both want to attend state
 - 1. Teams will have a playoff for the 2nd berth
 - 2. Home team is determined by best percentage of winning season
 - iii. Second place team(s) decline(s) state berth
 - 1. Same offer will extend to the 3rd place teams as listed above for the 2nd place teams
 - c. Matches required to advance to state

USTA League Division	USTA League Type	Matches to advance to State	Defaults counting to advance to state
Adult	18 & Over	2	1 default may count
Adult	40 & Over	2	1 default may count
Adult	55 & Over	2	1 default may count
Adult	65 & Over	See state regs	See state regs
Mixed	18 & Over	2	1 default may count
Mixed	40 & Over	2	1 default may count
Combo	18 & Over	1	1 default may count
Combo	40 & Over	1	1 default may count
Combo	55 & Over	See state regs	See state regs

A retired match shall count for all participants

Note: A team may advance directly to the Sectional Championships in Adult 65 & Over without any matches if they are the only team at their state at that level.

d. State Championship schedule can be viewed at www.ustageorgiaisc.com

4. Match schedules

- a. Dates and times are set by the league coordinator(s)
- b. Matches may be played before the scheduled time and date if both captains agree
 - i. If a team requests that a line be played early, the accommodating captain may inquire as to which court (ie. #1 doubles).
- c. Captains will not be able to submit blackout dates. Facilities' blackout dates will be requested each season.
- d. Match can be rescheduled due to rain out or extreme temperatures
 - i. Captain of the home team must call the captain of the visiting team no less than 2 hours before scheduled match time to discuss radar showing inclement weather in the area.
 1. Captain of the home team will determine if the match is a rain out
 2. If the captain of the visiting team does not receive a call from the captain of the home team 2 hours before the match, the visiting captain should attempt to contact the home team before traveling to the courts.
 - ii. Captain of the home team must call the captain of the visiting team by 6pm the day before if temperature at match time is going to be an issue.
 1. www.weatherchannel.com must be utilized to look at what the temperature is going to be at match time the next day
 2. If the temperature at playtime is below 36 degrees or above 98 degrees, according to the weather channel, the match may be postponed and treated as a rainout.
 - iii. Date and time for reschedule must be agreed upon by both captains
 1. Rescheduled date must be within 15 days of scheduled date or before end of that particular season, whichever comes first
 2. If rescheduled date is rained out again, match must be played within 15 days of rescheduled date or before the end of that particular season.
 3. Home captain must secure courts with appropriate facility
 4. If the home team does not comply with rule i listed above and the visiting teams travel to the venue, the rescheduled match will be played at the visitors facility
 - iv. Local coordinator will reschedule match when no agreement can be reached
 1. Coordinator will secure courts in this case
- e. Rain during match play (or other uncontrollable circumstances that affect play)
 - i. Teams must wait 30 minutes before calling the match

1. Once play has started, the match will be finished at the original venue unless both captains agree to move to another venue within the Flint River boundaries.
 2. Team line ups must remain the same
 3. Individual lines may be rescheduled at different times
 4. Captains must record the score, server, and which side teams were on when last point was played
 - f. Players that are involved in USTA league championships which conflict with scheduled local league match may treat the match as a rainout.
5. Line Defaults
- a. Must begin from the bottom of the line up
 - i. #2 singles and/or #3 doubles (first)
 - ii. Default of both singles is allowed
 - b. If a player is 15 or more minutes late, the opposing team will have the option to enforce a default for that line. No more than 2 lines can be defaulted in a 5 line format and no more than 1 line can be defaulted in a 3 or 4 line format.
 - c. Once a captain advises an opposing captain in writing (ie. Email not text) that a line(s) will be defaulted at their match, that statement stands even if they find players later before the match starts.
 - d. If the 1st point of any of the match lines has not been played, any previous defaults agreed upon in advance do not stand. (ie. A captain has defaulted a line in writing before the match but the match does not get played due to weather, that default can be withdrawn by that captain if they can fill that line on the new scheduled date).
6. Team Match Defaults
- a. Match Default
 - i. Occurs 15 minutes after the scheduled match start time if an entire team is not at the scheduled court site
 - b. Substitutions may be made during the 15 minute default time
 1. May only substitute at the affected position
 - c. The majority of the individual matches must be played to constitute a valid team match
 - d. Team defaults an entire match to another team
 - i. Team may be considered a bye for the season
 1. Scores from matches already played would not count in determining season champ
 - ii. Grievance may be filed by coordinator(s)
 1. Grievance committee could chose to reschedule match
 2. Ban the team or certain members from competing the following season
7. Team Composition
- a. Deadline for adding players is the next to the last match for that particular team
 - b. Adult league teams should have a minimum of 8 players registered by the roster deadline date for that season.

- c. Mixed league teams should have a minimum of 6 players registered by the roster deadline date for that season.
 - i. Minimum of 3 men and 3 women
- d. Players must be registered by the beginning of their scheduled match time.
- e. Teams not having the minimum number of players registered by the roster deadline may not be scheduled for that season.
- f. For flights with 3 or more teams, at least 40% of the team must be playing on level.
 - i. Excluding mixed
- g. For flights with 2 or fewer teams, at least 40% of the team must be playing on level.
 - i. Excluding mixed
- h. Combo players must be within .5pt of each other when they play together.

Level	Individual rating Cannot Exceed
5.0	2.5
5.5	3.0
6.5	3.5
7.5	4.0
8.5	4.5
9.5	5.0

- 8. Cell phones/pagers
 - a. Must be left on the side of the court in a tennis bag or personal container during a match and should be turned to silent if not turned off.
 - i. Each offense of a cell phone ringing will cause the loss of a point on that court only
 - b. Players can use their 90 seconds to check messages on changeovers
 - c. Any watch that can send or receive messages is not allowed to be worn on the courts.
- 9. County Boundaries/Facilities
 - a. Counties included in the Flint River Tennis Association are Early, Miller, Seminole, Decatur, Grady, Thomas, Colquitt, Mitchell, Dougherty, and Lee.
 - b. Players will not be required to travel more than a 70 mile radius from their home courts for match play. If teams' home courts are more than 70 miles apart, teams will meet at a predetermined neutral court between the two regardless of home court advantage.
 - c. Facilities currently being used for match play
 - i. Bill Reynolds Tennis facility, Bainbridge High School & Floyd Tennis Courts
 - ii. Grand Island, Doublegate, Stonebridge, & Darton College
 - iii. Mitchell County Courts

- iv. Glenn Arven & Thomas County Central Middle School
- v. Moultrie City Courts & ABAC

10. Flint River Rules & Regulations Committee

- a. Meets once a year in late July to early August to review and approve any League Rules & regulation changes
- b. Location of the meeting rotates between Albany and Bainbridge each year
- c. Prior to the annual committee meeting, an annual meeting of member of the 3 boards will be held in Camilla
- d. The committee next meeting will be in Albany in July/August 2016
- e. Voting Committee members
 - i. Presidents of all Flint River CTA's
 - ii. Vice-Presidents of all Flint River CTA's
 - iii. Secretaries of all Flint River CTA's
 - iv. Treasurers of all Flint River CTA's
- f. Non-voting Committee Members
 - i. Flint River Coordinators
 - ii. District Director

11. Grievances

- a. Committee members
 - i. Dan Bolinger, Richard Munson, and Tinsley Dozier
- b. Grievances may be filed by team captains and/or league coordinators
- c. Grievance Appeals Committee
 - i. Judi Nichols, Sam Cornwell, and Viki Curtis
- d. Committee members are subject to change based on conflicts