

# 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's, Sunday Women's, Thursday Women's, Mixed Doubles, Sr. Men's, Sr. Women's, Sr. Mixed Teams, Sr. Men's Day, Sr. Women's Day, Wheelchair, Up/Down, 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: AAA, AA, A, B and C, with AAA 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 Level, 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 [www.altatennis.org](http://www.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 1st 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 1st Vice President.

## 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 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 courtside.

## 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 2 of 3 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 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 General Rules of the 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 12-point tie-break, 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 12-point tie-break, is the victor.

## THE USTA RULES -

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

# General Rules Adult League

## I. TEAMS AND PLAYERS

**A.** All team members must be paid members of ALTA. All adult memberships are \$18.00 per calendar year (January 1 - December 31). 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 activated. A player who obtains a second ALTA membership number is an ineligible player and subject to sanctions by the organization. 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 schedule:

- **Winter** - One Mixed League team and one Senior Mixed League team.
- **Spring** - One Men's League team or one Thursday Women's League team or one Sunday Women's League Team; plus one wheelchair League team.
- **Summer** - One Mixed League team, one Senior League team (men or women) and one Up/Down League team.
- **Fall** - One Men's League team or one Thursday Women's League team or one Sunday Women's League team; plus one Senior Women's Day League team or one Senior Men's Day League team; plus one Wheelchair League team.

**C.** Each team must guarantee use of at least 2 courts at the same address or 2 courts, 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 2 teams per multiple of 2 courts. Example: 2 courts available, 1 or 2 teams permitted; 4 courts available, 3 or 4 teams permitted; 6 courts, 5 or 6 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. 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:

<b>Men</b>	All Levels	12 players
<b>Thursday Women</b>	All Levels	12 players
<b>Sunday Women</b>	All Levels	12 players
<b>Mixed Doubles</b>	All Levels	12 players (6 men, 6 women)
<b>Seniors</b>		
<b>Men</b>	All Levels	10 players
<b>Women</b>	All Levels	10 players
<b>Mixed</b>	All Levels	10 players (5 men, 5 women)
<b>Women's Day</b>	All Levels	8 players
<b>Men's Day</b>	All Levels	8 players

**F.1** The following must play at the AA level: a) any person who plays Division 1 college tennis, b) any person who plays in a league in which prize money is awarded and c) any person who is a tennis professional and receives money to coach tennis. This rule does not apply to any person who is age 55 or older.

**F.2** During the current ALTA year, all unranked high school team players must compete at the B level or higher.

**G.** Players may be added to the roster using the ALTA Website in accordance with the following procedures:

1. **After the captains' meeting, a maximum of 6 players may be added to a roster during the regular season. No player may be removed from a roster, after the roster correction deadline, regardless of how he/she came to be on that roster.**
2. For a player to be eligible to be added to a roster, that player must be a paid member and that player's most recent final level of play in his/her respective league must be at or below the current flight/level of the team. Players who have not been listed on a roster for more than one year may be placed at any level. All ALTA Website additions must be accepted before midnight on the last day before the scheduled match. This must be done before the added player is allowed to participate in a match.

**H.** A player must play in at least 2 matches during the season to be eligible for the play-offs. 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 made to a roster will be made at the discretion of the respective League Vice President.

- J. A wheelchair player electing to play in any ALTA league other than the Wheelchair or the Up/Down leagues must abide by the rules for that league.

## 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 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 each level and flight.

## III. CAPTAINS

- A. Home team captains must contact visiting team captains at least 4 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 line-ups for all positions **simultaneously before the start of the dual meet**. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of points. Scores of each match must be recorded, and both captains or acting captains must sign the scorecards and mail them to the appropriate coordinator **immediately after the dual meet**. Scores must be reported by phone to the division scorekeeper. (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 line-ups 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 match played together. An individual player may move up or down two positions without a partner. Example: a pair playing together at no. 2 may split; one player may go to position no. 4, one may play at no. 3. However, when the pair plays together again, they may not play lower than no. 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 2 of 3 sets. The 12-point tie-break as specified by USTA will be in effect any time the score reaches 6-all in any set.
- 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/line-up may participate in a match that has not begun. Players may not be moved downward on the scorecard/line-up. Players listed on a scorecard/line-up 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/line-up that player shall be considered an ineligible player for that dual meet.
- E. The 20-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 after the lower position has been played, the team defaulting shall also lose the points earned at the lower position(s). 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. Each doubles team must furnish one unopened can of USTA approved yellow balls for each match. The match will be played using the balls opened by the home team. Exception: Oversize balls may be used only if all four players agree prior to the start of the match. The winner receives the unopened can and the loser keeps the used balls.
- G. Warm-up is limited to 10 minutes, including practice serves. A 10-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.** Teammates, spectators, or coaches may not volunteer advice on line calls, scoring, or on the conduct of a match. It is *each captain's* responsibility to control his or her spectators' conduct during match play.

- 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 3 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. In all dual meets in which an ineligible player participates, the guilty team will be penalized by forfeiting **all points from the point of infraction down**.
- B. Any official protest must be submitted to the Flight Coordinator and League Vice President in writing (not by email) with a copy to the ALTA office within 5 days of the scheduled match being protested.
- 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. This penalty will also apply to any team withdrawing after roster deadline.
- 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 rain, completed individual 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. Line-ups 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 rain or wet courts, 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 dry enough for safe play, but his or her partner must be at court side 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 rain delay 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 both captains 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 must be taken at the top center of the net by thermometer. No thermometer, no delaying match. 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 is begun it must be completed except in the event of rain. There are no provisions for extreme wind.

## VII. SCORING and PLAY-OFFS

- 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 play-offs.
- 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 play-off line-ups must be approved by the flight coordinator **BEFORE** each play-off dual meet is played. Play-off line-ups must be based on relative strength of teams as determined by positions played and won-loss records established during the regular season.

# INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE RULES

## MEN'S LEAGUE

1. The Men's League Vice President has the responsibility for the administration of the Men's League. Situations not covered in these rules will be settled at the discretion of the Men's League Vice President.
2. The Men's League is divided into the following levels of competition: AAA, AA, A, B, and C. 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.
3. All dual meets must be played on Saturdays, starting no later than 9:00 a.m., excluding matches postponed because of inclement weather.
4. Warm-ups, including service warm-ups, must be completed before the matches begin. All following rounds begin at 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. or when the court becomes available after these scheduled times.
5. Dual meets will consist of 5 doubles matches.
6. **Rained out matches should be completed within 6 days. If the rained out match is not completed within 6 days or by Friday evening, it will be officially scheduled on Saturday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. or upon completion of ALTA Sunday Women's League rain make-up matches. Rain-outs occurring on the final Saturday of the regular season should be made up no later than the following Tuesday evening. If the rained out match is not completed by Tuesday evening, it will be officially scheduled on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.**

## SUNDAY WOMEN'S LEAGUE

1. The Sunday Women's League Vice President has the responsibility for the administration of the Sunday Women's League. Situations not covered in these rules will be settled at the discretion of the Sunday Women's League Vice President.
2. The Sunday Women's League is divided into the following levels of competition: AAA, AA, A, B, and C. 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.
3. All dual meets must be played on Sundays, starting no later than 1:00 p.m. excluding matches postponed because of inclement weather.
4. All warm-ups, including service warm-ups, must be completed before the matches begin. All following rounds begin at 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. or when the court becomes available after these scheduled times.
5. Dual meets will consist of 5 doubles matches.
6. **Rained out matches should be completed within 5 days. If the rained out match is not completed within 5 days or by Friday, it will be officially scheduled on Saturday at 1:00 p.m. or upon completion of ALTA Men's League matches. Rain-outs occurring on the final Sunday of the regular season should be made up no later than the following Wednesday evening. If the rained out match is not completed on Wednesday evening, it will be officially scheduled on Thursday at 7:00 p.m.**

## THURSDAY WOMEN'S LEAGUE

1. The Thursday Women's League Vice President has the responsibility for the administration of the Thursday Women's League. Situations not covered in these rules will be settled at the discretion of the Thursday Women's League Vice President.
2. The Thursday Women's League is divided into the following levels of competition: AAA, AA, A, B, and C. 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.
3. All dual meets must be played on Thursdays, starting no later than 9:30 a.m. excluding matches postponed because of inclement weather.
4. All warm-ups, including service warm-ups, must be completed before the matches begin. All following rounds begin at 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. or when the court becomes available after these scheduled times.
5. Dual meets will consist of 5 doubles matches.
6. **Rained out matches should be completed within 5 days. If the rained out match is not completed within 5 days or by Tuesday, it will be officially scheduled Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. Matches rained out during week 6 must be completed within 4 days or will be officially scheduled on Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. Rain-outs occurring on the final Thursday of the regular season will be officially scheduled on Friday at 9:30 a.m.**

## MIXED DOUBLES LEAGUE

1. The Mixed Doubles League Vice President has the responsibility for the administration of the Mixed Doubles League. Situations not covered in these rules will be settled at the discretion of the Mixed Doubles League Vice President.
2. The Mixed Doubles League is divided into the following levels of competition: AAA, AA, A, B, and C. 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.
3. All dual meets must be played on Sundays, starting no later than 1:00 p.m., during the winter season, and on Saturdays, starting no later than 9:00 a.m. during the summer season, excluding matches postponed because of inclement weather.
4. All warm-ups, including service warm-ups, must be completed before the matches begin. All following rounds begin at 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. in the winter season, or at 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. in the summer season or when the court becomes available after these scheduled times.
5. Dual meets will consist of 5 doubles matches.
6. **Rained out matches should be played as follows:**

### Winter:

**Rained out matches should be completed within 5 days. If the rained out match is not completed within 5 days or by Friday, it will be officially scheduled on Saturday at 1:00 p.m. Rain-outs occurring on the final Sunday of the regular season should be made up no later than the following Tuesday evening. If the rained out match is not completed by Tuesday evening, it will be officially scheduled on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.**

### Summer:

**Rained out matches should be completed within 5 days. If the rained out match is not completed within 5 days or by Thursday, it will be officially scheduled on Sunday at 1:00 p.m. Rain-outs occurring on the final Saturday of the regular season should be made up no later than the following Tuesday evening. If the rained out match is not completed by Tuesday evening, it will be officially scheduled on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.**

## SENIOR LEAGUES

1. The Senior Leagues Vice President has the responsibility for the administration of the Senior Leagues. Situations not covered in these rules will be settled at the discretion of the Senior Leagues Vice President.
2. Dual meets consist of 4 doubles matches except the Senior Men's Day League and The Senior Women's Day League, each of which consists of 3 doubles matches. All warm-ups, including service warm-ups, must be completed before the matches begin.
3. Each Senior League is divided into four levels of competition: AA, A, B, and C. 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.
4. During play-offs, if a match ends in a two-two split, the last team to finish will immediately play a match tie-break (first to 10 points leading by 2 points) to determine the winner. The next player in the serving rotation will serve first in the tiebreak. If a play-off team defaults one or more positions in the play-offs, it will also default the tiebreak. If a play-off team defaults two positions, it will be deemed to have defaulted the match.
5. All other ALTA rules not specifically addressed here apply to Senior Leagues.

## WOMEN'S SENIOR LEAGUE

1. All dual meets must be played on Thursday, starting no later than 6:30 PM, during the summer season, excluding matches postponed because of inclement weather. Following rounds begin at 7:30 PM or promptly when the court becomes available after the scheduled time.
2. 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 rain out rules will apply.
3. **If a rained out match is not completed in 4 days or by Monday evening, it will be officially scheduled on Tuesday evening at 6:30 PM. Rain outs occurring on the final Thursday of the regular season must be made up no later than Monday at 6:30 PM.**

## MEN'S SENIOR LEAGUE

1. All dual meets must be played on Friday, starting no later than 6:30 PM, during the summer season, excluding matches postponed because of inclement weather. Following rounds begin at 7:30 PM or promptly when the court becomes available after the scheduled time.
2. 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 rain out rules will apply.
3. **If a rained out match is not completed in 4 days or by Tuesday evening, it will be officially scheduled on Wednesday evening at 6:30 PM. Rain outs occurring on the final Friday of the regular season must be made up no later than Wednesday at 6:30 PM.**

## SENIOR MIXED TEAM LEAGUE

1. Level placement as specified in Rule I. G, General Rules, Adult Leagues will not apply.
2. All dual meets must be played on Saturday, starting no later than 10:00 AM, during the winter season, excluding matches postponed because of inclement weather. Following rounds begin at 11:00 AM or promptly when the court becomes available after the scheduled time.
3. Dual meets will consist of 4 double matches with a total of 4 points awarded. 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/line-up as a men's or women's doubles player may not be moved on a scorecard/line-up 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.
4. **If a rained out match is not completed by Thursday evening, it will be officially scheduled on Friday evening at 6:30 PM. Rain outs occurring on the final Saturday of the regular season should be made up no later than the following Monday evening. If the rained out match is not completed by Monday evening, it will be officially scheduled on Tuesday at 6:30 PM.**

## SENIOR WOMEN'S DAY LEAGUE SENIOR MEN'S DAY LEAGUE

1. All dual meets must be played on Tuesday (Women) and Wednesday (men), starting no later than 10:00 AM during the fall season, excluding matches postponed because of inclement weather. Following round will begin at 11:00 AM or promptly when the court becomes available after the scheduled time.
2. **If a rained out match (either league) is not completed prior to the following Monday, it will be officially scheduled on Monday at 10:00 AM. Rain outs occurring on the final day of the regular season must be made up no later than Friday at 10:00 AM.**