

SUMMER 2024 USTA ATLANTA DOUBLES LADDER RULES

Season Dates: July 7th- September 8th (all scores must be entered by 11:59 PM on 9/8 to count towards standings).

Keep in mind that the ladder that you registered for may be combined with another rating level depending on the number of players registered. Once the regular season has concluded, the top FOUR doubles pairs points finishers will play in a single elimination playoff.

Activity Based Format

Players will receive points for playing in matches, win or lose. The ladder standings will be updated in real time. This ladder acts as an activity generator as the more matches a player plays, the more points that player can earn.

Proposing Matches

Players may play multiple challenges in one day for up to 2 matches (**there is a 2 match per day limit**). Players may either propose an open challenge to all players in their ladder or challenge a specific team in the ladder. When proposing an open challenge, players will need to set the match date, time and location. Once an open challenge is accepted, that match is locked in. When proposing a challenge to a specific team, once the match is accepted the match needs to be played within 7 days otherwise it will be removed from the system. Back-to-Back matches against the same player are not allowed. Both players must play a match against a different opponent before you can challenge them again-unless a two-week window has passed.

Courts must be in good condition. Players risk forfeiting the match if their designated court is not up to adequate playing standards. The League Administrator reserves the right to determine outcomes of certain matches depending on the conditions of the courts.

Match Play

All matches shall be 2 out of 3 full sets. A maximum of 15 minutes shall be allowed for warm ups. Scores should be reported by the winning team by no later than 11:59 PM on the scheduled match date. If both teams agree, a 10 point match tiebreak may be played in lieu of a third set. If both teams do not agree then a full third set is played.

The team who proposed the match is responsible for providing balls for the match and paying any associated court/guest fees. Please make sure courts are reserved for the match. If your match is to be played at a facility with no court reservation system you are at risk for a default if the courts are full and you can't get on a court (wait time is 15 minutes before a default can be made).

Defaults/Retirements

If a player does not show up within 15 minutes of the agreed upon match time (or does not show up at all), the match can either be rescheduled (see Rescheduling Matches below) OR a default may be taken. In the event of a default, the team available to play will be issued 5 points. No points will be issued to the forfeiting player.

If the player fails to provide at least 48 hours notice of cancellation then the match can be recorded as a forfeit (or rescheduled).

Excessive Forfeits: A player having excessive forfeits may be disqualified from playoffs and/or suspended for the next season. This penalty also applies to any player excessively withdrawing after the 48 hour cancellation deadline and to players that forfeit playoff matches. Teams who have more than *4* forfeits in a given season will be disqualified from the next subsequent

season- forfeits will be evaluated by the league administrator before making final disqualifications.

In the event of retirement (this means stopping the match due to injury or illness, scores should be entered as played at the time of retirement (i.e. 6-4, 2-1).

Any questions on entering match results can be directed to the ladder

administrator:canter@ustaatlanta.com

This is a fun and friendly league, designed to give everyone as many doubles play opportunities as possible. All matches are encouraged to be played, even if rescheduling is necessary.

Rescheduling Matches

It is strongly encouraged that all matches be played on the scheduled match day and time. If the match is rescheduled, it must be played within 7 days of the original match date. If the rescheduled match does not take place within 7 days, the challenge will be removed from the system. Once a direct challenge or a Proposed Match is accepted then it is an agreed upon match. If the team fails to provide *at least* 48 hours notice of cancellation a forfeit can be recorded. If a match is cancelled prior to 48 hours then the challenge is simply withdrawn (and it is encouraged to try to reschedule).

Ratings

Players must only play AT OR BELOW the rating of the ladder- neither player in the team shall be allowed to be at an NTRP rating above the ladder rating.

Players must register using their most recent USTA year-end rating or self-rating. If you do not have a USTA rating, please go to the link below to create a USTA account and complete the self-rating process (no costs involved.)

https://activesupport.secure.force.com/usta/articles/en_US/Article/Leagues-Self-Rate

In order to be eligible for end of season awards, players must be playing at their posted NTRP level in TennisLink. Flight champions will be required to move up to the next highest level for the following season. Ladder Administrator reserves the right to move a ladder participant to a higher or lower flight during the season or deem a player ineligible due to participating in a ladder that does not coincide with their rating level (you can always play up, but never below your rating level). Please login to your TennisLink account to confirm your latest rating:

Tennislink.usta.com

Playoffs

The top FOUR teams from each flight will advance to a single elimination playoff. Standard seeding procedures will apply. The first-round matches must be completed within one week of the ladder admin announcing match ups! Player ratings will be confirmed and checked prior to sending out playoff information. We ask that teams work together to figure out a time/day/location that works for each of you, just like in the regular season. If some type of mutual agreement cannot be made, then the match will be played at the higher seeded team's choice of courts. In the case of a tie in points at the end of the ladder regular season the tiebreak criteria are points accumulated, win/loss record, head to head results, number of matches played. Champions of the ladder receive a \$100 Tennis Warehouse gift card and then Finalists receive a \$50 gift cards. Bag tags are awarded to players who finish in the Top 5 team point finishers. Teams who forfeit in the playoffs will be given a one season playoff ban from the next subsequent season. Teams who forfeit in the playoffs for a second time will be given a season-long participation ban.

Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather, matches should be played within 7 days of the originally scheduled match. If scores are not reported within 7 days, the challenge will be removed from the system.

Ladder Activity

Teams may join the ladder at any time. New teams will be placed at the bottom of the ladder.

Refunds/Credits

Refunds will not be issued once payment is received. A one-time credit for the following season may be requested if a player becomes injured or is unable to participate in the ladder prior to playing any matches in the ladder.

Code of Conduct

The Code by USTA should be followed for all match play. USTA Atlanta reserves the right to ban/remove any player from the ladder for an indefinite time period in the event of unsportsmanlike conduct. Too many forfeits will be considered an unsportsmanlike penalty and subject for removal from ladder. Ladder Administrator reserves the right to suspend or remove players from ladder play for entering false score reports or unexcused, multiple forfeits or for playing in a ladder at the incorrect rating level. Spectators should be outside of the fence and not interfere with the match. Coaching is not permitted during matches.

Players must be at least 18 years of age to participate. Ladder play does not affect NTRP ratings.

The Ladder Admin reserves the right to make determinations on rules interpretations and other unforeseen circumstances.

Any questions or concerns reach out to:

Ladder Admin: Chris Canter, canter@ustaatlanta.com