Glossary of Terms

All ALTA play is classified into categories known as Leagues, Levels, Flights, and Divisions, which are defined as follows:

ADULT LEAGUES - MEN, SUNDAY WOMEN, THURSDAY WOMEN, MIXED DOUBLES, SENIOR MEN, SENIOR WOMEN, SENIOR MIXED, SENIOR DAY MEN, SENIOR DAY WOMEN, WHEELCHAIR, RUN 'N ROLL, 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: AA, A, B and C, with AA 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, 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.

The official Website of the Atlanta Lawn Tennis Association, Inc. is 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 current printing of THE CODE, N.E. Powell.

CURRENT ALTA YEAR -

January 1 through December 31 of each calendar year.

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 nondefaulting 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

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.

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.

PI AYER

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 7-point tiebreak, 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 7-point tiebreak 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

LITEAMS AND PLAYERS

- A. All team members must be paid members of ALTA. 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 possesses a second ALTA membership number may be declared ineligible and subject to sanctions by the organization at the discretion of the League Vice President. 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 League

 - Winter One MIXED DOUBLES team and one SENIOR MIXED team.
 Spring One MEN'S team or one SUNDAY WOMEN'S team and one THURSDAY WOMEN'S team; plus one SENIOR DAY MEN'S team or one

 - SENIOR DAY WOMEN'S team; plus one WHEELCHAIR team.

 Summer One MIXED DOUBLES team, one SENIOR MEN'S team or one SENIOR WOMEN'S team and one RUN "N ROLL team.

 Fall One MEN'S team or one SUNDAY WOMEN'S team and one THURSDAY WOMEN'S team; plus one SENIOR DAY MEN'S team or one SENIOR DAY WOMEN'S team. WOMEN'S team; plus one WHEELCHAIR team.
- Each team must guarantee use of at least 2 courts of the same surface/type at the same address or 2 courts of the same surface/type, 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. Regularly scheduled matches take precedence over all other ALTA league matches. Teams may agree to play their matches at another location.
- Any required court and/or guest fees for visiting participating players must be paid by the home team. (Including Rule IV., J.)
- 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:

MEN All Levels 12 players	
SUNDAY WOMEN All Levels 12 players	
THURSDAY WOMEN All Levels 12 players	
MIXED DOUBLES All Levels 12 players (6 men, 6 wo	men)
SENIOR MEN All Levels 10 players	
SENIOR WOMEN All Levels 10 players	
SENIOR MIXED All Levels 10 players (5 men, 5 wo	men)
SENIOR DAY MEN All Levels 8 players	
SENIOR DAY WOMEN All Levels 8 players	

- F.1 The following must play at the AA level: Any person who is a tennis professional and has received compensation to coach tennis within the past 12 months. A person is exempt from the day that person becomes 55 years of age.
- F.2 During the current ALTA year, once a player is listed on a college or high school roster, that player must play the remainder of that year at one of the following levels: NCAA Division I college team players must play at the AA level, all other college team players must play at the A level or higher and all high school team players must play at the B level or higher.
- G. Players may be added to a roster using the ALTA Website as follows: (consult the ALTA calendar posted on the website for dates)
 - In order to be added to a roster, the player must be a paid member in good standing.
 - Captains may add players from the start of roster submission until the roster correction deadline
 - Captains may NOT add players to the roster during the period from the correction deadline to the captains' meeting.
 - No player may be removed from a roster after the roster correction deadline, regardless of how they came to be on that roster. After the captain's meeting, players may be added with the following
 - restrictions.
 - a. A maximum of 6 players may be added. b. For a player to be eligible to be added to a team, at least one of the following criteria must be met:
 - that player's most recent final level of play (as determined by the respective league) must be at or below the current flight/level of the team;
 - that player has not been listed on any adult league roster for more than one year; or
 - within a league a player who was on a team the prior season may be added back to his/her team, only if the team was lowered exclusively for the needs of ALTA rather than a request for review or a change in the team's composition.
 - In order to be eligible for play, the player must be added before midnight of the day before the match is played.
- H. A player must play in at least 2 matches during the season to be eligible for the playoffs. A win by default or forfeit counts as a time played and all player movement rules
- 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 an ALTA League other than the WHEELCHAIR or RUN 'N ROLL Leagues must abide by the USTA Rules of Wheelchair Tennis.

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 most recent team history during the past twelve months 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 written 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 captains or acting captains must sign the scorecards. Then, scores of each match must be entered and reviewed on the ALTA website immediately after the dual meet. (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 7-point tie break as specified by USTA will be in effect any time the score reaches 6-all in any set. During the regular summer season, Senior Men and Senior Women leagues have the option to play a third set 10-point tie break to determine a split set match. Playoffs and City Finals will continue to be two out of three sets.
- 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. Spectators (including teammates, coaches and fans), may not volunteer advice on line calls, scoring, or the conduct of a match. They may not offer advice or instruction that is audible, visible or by electronic device to the players on the court. It is each captain's responsibility to control his or her spectators during match play.
- 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. When an ineligible player is found to have participated in a match, the offending team will be penalized by forfeiting all points from the point of infraction down.
- **B.** Any official protest must be submitted by the Captain or Co-captain 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. The penalty will also apply to any team withdrawing after roster deadline and may apply to any team withdrawing from the playoffs after the on-line playoff draw is posted.
- **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 win-loss records established during the regular season.

INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE RULES

LEAGUE	SEASON	SCHEDULED DAY/START TIME	FOLLOWING POSITIONS	REGULAR SEASON (WEEKS 1 - 6) INCLEMENT WEATHER MAKE-UP MATCHES MUST BE MADE UP NO LATER THAN
MEN	SPRING FALL	SATURDAY 9:00 AM	10:00 AM, 11:00 AM	7 DAYS, SATURDAY 3:00 PM*
SUNDAY WOMEN	SPRING FALL	SUNDAY 1:00 PM	2:00 PM, 3:00 PM	6 DAYS, SATURDAY 1:00 PM**
THURSDAY WOMEN	SPRING FALL	THURSDAY 9:30 AM	10:30 AM, 11:30 AM	6 DAYS, WEDNESDAY 9:30 AM (WEEK 6 - 4 DAYS, MONDAY 9:30 AM)
MIXED DOUBLES	WINTER SUMMER	SUNDAY 1:00 PM SATURDAY 9:00 AM	2:00 PM, 3:00 PM 10:00 AM, 11:00 AM	6 DAYS, SATURDAY 1:00 PM 8 DAYS, SUNDAY 1:00 PM

^{*} Or upon completion of the SUNDAY WOMEN'S League make-up matches.

Adult Leagues are divided into AA, A, B, and C levels. 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.

Dual meets consist of 5 doubles matches.

All dual meets must be played starting no later than the SCHEDULED DAY/START TIME as indicated for the specific League, excluding matches postponed because of inclement weather. Warm ups, including service warm ups, must be completed before the matches begin. All following positions begin as listed above, or when the court becomes available after these scheduled times.

A match rescheduled due to inclement weather (precipitation or extreme temperatures) for weeks 1-6 must be made up no later than the day and time listed in the chart for the specific League. **Regularly scheduled matches take precedence over all other ALTA league matches.**

League Vice Presidents have the responsibility for the administration of their respective leagues. Situations not covered in these rules will be settled at the discretion of the League Vice President.

END OF REGULAR SEASON (WEEK 7) INCLEMENT WEATHER MAKE-UP MATCHES

MEN - Matches rescheduled due to inclement weather occurring on the final SATURDAY of the regular season must be made up no later than the following TUESDAY at 7:00 PM.

SUNDAY WOMEN - Matches rescheduled due to inclement weather occurring on the final SUNDAY of the regular season must be made up no later than the following WEDNESDAY at 7:00 PM.

THURSDAY WOMEN - Matches rescheduled due to inclement weather occurring on the final THURSDAY of the regular season will be officially scheduled the next day, FRIDAY at 9:30 AM. An extended inclement weather delay wait time will be at the discretion of the League Vice President for the final match of the season.

MIXED DOUBLES

WINTER - Matches rescheduled due to inclement weather occurring on the final SUNDAY of the regular season must be made up no later than the following WEDNESDAY at 7:00 PM.

SUMMER - Matches rescheduled due to inclement weather occurring on the final SATURDAY of the regular season must be made up no later than the following WEDNESDAY at 7:00 PM.

^{**} Or upon completion of the MEN'S League regularly scheduled matches.

SENIOR LEAGUES

LEAGUE	SEASON	SCHEDULED DAY/START TIME	FOLLOWING POSITIONS	REGULAR SEASON (WEEKS 1 - 6) INCLEMENT WEATHER MAKE-UP MATCHES MUST BE MADE UP NO LATER THAN
SENIOR MEN	SUMMER	FRIDAY 6:30 PM	7:30 PM	5 DAYS, WEDNESDAY 6:30 PM
SENIOR WOMEN	SUMMER	THURSDAY 6:30 PM	7:30 PM	5 DAYS, TUESDAY 6:30 PM
SENIOR MIXED	WINTER	SATURDAY 10:00 AM	11:00 AM	6 DAYS, FRIDAY 6:30 PM
SENIOR DAY MEN	SPRING FALL	WEDNESDAY 10:00 AM	11:00 AM	5 DAYS, MONDAY 10:00 AM
SENIOR DAY WOMEN	SPRING FALL	TUESDAY 10:00 AM	11:00 AM	6 DAYS, MONDAY 10:00 AM (WEEK 6 - 3 DAYS, FRIDAY 10:00 AM)

Senior Leagues are divided into AA, A, B and C levels. 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.

All dual meets must be played starting no later than the SCHEDULED DAY/START TIME as indicated for the specific League, excluding matches postponed because of inclement weather. Warm ups, including service warm ups, must be completed before the matches begin. All following positions begin as listed above, or when the court becomes available after these scheduled times.

A match rescheduled due to inclement weather (precipitation or extreme temperatures) for weeks 1-6 must be made up no later than the day and time listed in the chart for the specific League. **Regularly scheduled matches take precedence over all other ALTA league matches.**

During play-offs, if a match ends in a two-two split, the players from the last completed match will immediately play a match tiebreak (first to 10 points leading by 2 points) to determine the winner of the meet. The next team in the serving rotation will serve first in the tiebreak. The order of serving and receiving within the team may be altered, as in the beginning of each set. If a play-off team defaults two 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.

The Senior Leagues Vice President has the responsibility for the administration of the Senior Leagues. All other ALTA rules not specifically addressed here apply to the Senior Leagues. Situations not covered in these rules will be settled at the discretion of the Senior Leagues Vice President.

SENIOR MEN'S AND SENIOR WOMEN'S LEAGUES

Dual meets consist of 4 doubles matches.

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 inclement weather rules will apply.

SENIOR MIXED LEAGUE

Dual meets consist of 4 doubles matches.

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/lineup 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.

SENIOR DAY MEN'S AND SENIOR DAY WOMEN'S LEAGUES

Dual meets consist of 3 doubles matches.

END OF REGULAR SEASON (WEEK 7) INCLEMENT WEATHER MAKE-UP MATCHES

SENIOR MEN - Matches rescheduled due to inclement weather occurring on the final FRIDAY of the regular season must be made up no later than the following TUESDAY at 6:30 PM.

SENIOR WOMEN - Matches rescheduled due to inclement weather occurring on the final THURSDAY of the regular season must be made up no later than the following MONDAY at 6:30 PM.

SENIOR MIXED - Matches rescheduled due to inclement weather occurring on the final SATURDAY of the regular season must be made up no later than the following TUESDAY at 6:30 PM.

SENIOR DAY WOMEN AND SENIOR DAY MEN - Matches rescheduled due to inclement weather occurring on the final TUESDAY or WEDNESDAY of the regular season must be made up no later than the following FRIDAY at 10:00 AM.