



## CFTA ADULT LEAGUE GENERAL RULES

### 1. TEAMS AND PLAYERS

- a. All team members must be paid, registered members of CFTA. Only one CFTA membership number may be issued to a member. Should a member drop out of CFTA and wish to resume play at a later date, the previously assigned membership number must be activated. A player who possesses a second CFTA membership number may be declared ineligible and subject to sanctions by the organization at the discretion of the Governance Board. No one under 18 years of age may be placed on a roster in any adult league.
- b. A player may participate in only one match per dual meet. A player may participate on only one team, per division, per season.
- c. Each team must guarantee the use of 3 courts, at the same location which is approved at the time of registration by the Governance Board.
- d. Any required court and/or guest fees for visiting participating players must be paid by the home team.
- e. Rosters must be submitted via the CFTA web site according to the instructions, dates and times posted on the web site. Each roster must have a minimum of 7 players and a maximum of 10 players.
- f. All registered players must either have an established and verifiable USTA NTRP rating or must arrange to obtain a rating by one of the pre-approved certified tennis professionals used by the CFTA (nominal fee may apply). A rating given to a player by one of the tennis professionals is valid for 1 year and that player will be responsible for obtaining an updated rating, the following year, unless they have established an NTRP rating at or above their current rating (rating may not differ more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a point) given by the professional. In cases where a player has both an active, valid NTRP rating and current rating from an approved tennis professional, their rating from the approved tennis professional will be used in CFTA league play. **All player ratings are subject to review and adjustment by the Governance Board.**
- g. Divisions of Play are as follows and utilize the NTRP ratings listed:

Masters	Open to all players 5.0+
Wimbledon	4.5 (May have max of 2 players rated 4.0 on active roster that wish to "play up")
US Open	4.0 (May have max of 2 players rated 3.5 on active roster that wish to "play up")
Australian Open	3.5 (May have max of 2 players rated 3.0 on active roster that wish to "play up")
French Open	3.0 and below
- h. Players may be added to a roster using the CFTA website as follows: (consult the CFTA calendar posted on the website for dates)
  - i. In order to be added to a roster, the player must be a paid member in good standing
  - ii. The Governance Board may approve the addition of a player to take another player's spot on the roster if deemed acceptable by the Governance Board (such as a season-ending injury, re-location for work, etc)
- i. A player must play in a least 3 of their team's dual meets during the season to be eligible for the playoffs. A win by default or forfeit counts as a time played.
- j. 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.



## 2. PLAYER RATINGS AND DIVISION PLACEMENT

- a. Final determination of player ratings and division placement will be made by the Governance Board. USTA NTRP ratings (or those assigned by pre-approved, certified tennis professionals) will be utilized to match teams with comparable abilities within each Division.

## 3. CAPTAINS

- a. Home team captains must contact visiting team captains at least 4 days before their 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 clay courts or courts with or without lights.
- b. Each team must have a captain or acting captain present at the beginning of every scheduled tennis match. 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 CFTA website immediately after the dual meet.
- c. Team captains must agree upon order of play in the case all courts are not immediately available. In the case of conflict, teams must play in the order of (#1 Doubles, #2 Doubles, #1 Singles).
- d. If there are situations that cannot be resolved by the team captains within the rules, the League Vice President or one of the coordinators should be contacted.
- e. In keeping with the spirit of fair competition, 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. Winning, losing, and strength of players is not only dictated by their NTRP or assigned rating but also by results of matches played to date, NOT just the result of the last match played.
- 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 the Governance Board before play.

## 4. DUAL MEETS

- a. All matches will be the best 2 of 3 sets. The 7-point tie break as specified by the USTA will be in effect any time the score reaches 6-all in any set. All 3<sup>rd</sup> sets will be played in full (no tie breaker) unless a 10-point tie break is agreed upon by both teams PRIOR to the start of the match.
- b. CFTA will not provide linesmen or umpires for any matches.
- c. CFTA General 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 CFTA player. "The Code", "Rules of Tennis and Cases and Decisions", should be available for consultation along with league rule 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 ineligible for that dual meet.



- e. Points are awarded to the team based on the following schedule:
    - i. #1 Doubles – 4 pts. per set won
    - ii. #2 Doubles – 3 pts. per set won
    - iii. #1 Singles – 4 pts. per set won
  - f. **The 20-Minute Default** rule as defined in the glossary is in effect for all scheduled matches. A defaulted match's points are awarded to the opposing team based on the point schedule (See 4e above). 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. 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.
  - g. The home team is responsible for all court fees, guest fees, or other fees associated with the playing of the dual meet. The home team must also furnish one can of USTA approved tennis balls for each match in the dual meet.
  - h. 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.
  - i. 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/her spectators during match play.
  - j. Good sportsmanship and conduct are expected by the players and spectators.
  - k. 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 CFTA area, and agreed upon by both captains, at the scheduled time. If alternate courts cannot be found, the captains must contact the Governance Board.
  - l. 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 unless alternative arrangements have been agreed to by both captains.
5. 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 (then awarded to opposing team) from the point of the infraction down. If this is in a Singles match, then only the singles match's points are forfeited. If the ineligible player participated in #1 Doubles, then points for BOTH the #1 Doubles and #2 Doubles are awarded to the opposing team. If the ineligible player participated in #2 Doubles, the only #2 Doubles points are awarded to the opposing team.



- b. Any protest must be submitted by the Captain or Co-Captain to the League Vice President in writing (not by email) using the CFTA protest form found on the website, within 5 days of the incident being protested. All protests will be reviewed by the CFTA Governance Board and the **GOVERNANCE BOARD SHALL HAVE FINAL DECISION ON THE CORRECTIVE MEASURES TO BE TAKEN AND PENALTIES IMPOSED.**
  - c. In those situations where no penalty for violations is provided in the General Rules, **THE GOVERNANCE BOARD 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 5d, 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 CFTA in a timely manner, will be suspended for up to one year.
6. 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 rating 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 players scheduled to play each match may determine that courts are not dry enough for safe play. 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. Exceptions: During League Championships, the Governance Board will determine rain delay wait time.
  - c. Rained out matches must be made up within 2 weeks from the time of the originally scheduled match unless an alternate date is agreed upon by both captains and approved by the Governance Board. 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. Once an individual match is begun, it must be completed except in the event of rain. There are no provisions for extreme wind.
7. SCORING and PLAYOFFS
- a. Points are awarded to the team based on the following schedule:
    - i. #1 Doubles – 4 pts. per set won
    - ii. #2 Doubles – 3 pts. per set won
    - iii. #1 Singles – 4 pts. per set won
  - b. The top two teams in each division, based on total number of points earned at the end of the season, will advance to the League Championships to be held at the end of the season.
  - c. Any teams with the same number of points shall be placed in order according to the following tie-breakers, in the following order: total number of sets won, total number of games lost, head-to-head match record.



- d. All playoff line-ups must be approved by the Governance Board BEFORE each playoff dual meet is played. Playoff line-ups must follow the same rules as outlined in Rule 3e.



## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**20 MINUTE 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. Captains can mutually agree to extend the starting time of a given match. Once a match has been started past the normal 20 Minute Default time, it must be played to completion in good faith and points will be awarded according to its outcome.

**CFTA** – Central Florida Tennis Association

**CFTA Website** – The official website of the Central Florida Tennis Association is [www.centralfloridatennis.net](http://www.centralfloridatennis.net)

**THE CODE** – The current printing of “The Code”, N.E. Powell <<link to PDF>>

**DUAL MEET** – A series of matches between two teams (2 doubles lines and 1 singles line) scheduled by the CFTA as part of CFTA 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 League Vice President.

**INELIGIBLE PLAYER** – Any player who is ineligible to play for points under any one or more of the Adult League General Rules.

**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.

**PLAY UP** – Ability for players looking for an increased level of competition to play in a division no more than .5 above their current player rating (i.e. a 3.5 rated player playing in the 4.0 division)

**PLAYER** – Any regular player, additional player or substitute player who is a fully paid member in good standing with the CFTA general office who is properly listed on the team’s roster and who is not an ineligible player under the Adult League General Rules. No distinction shall be made among regular, additional, or substitute players.

**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.

**SANCTIONS** – Sanctions are imposed penalties for violation league rules and may pertain to teams and/or individual players. These penalties include but are not limited to loss of points and/or disqualification and removal from a division or the entire league.



**SCHEDULED MATCH** – Date published on the CFTA 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. <<link to “Friend at Court” pdf??>>