



# CFTA

IN THE SPIRIT OF THE GAME

## **MEN'S ADULT LEAGUE GENERAL RULES**

### **2014 CFTA 4.5+ OPEN MASTERS DIVISION**

(Revised 9/8/2014)

#### **1. TEAMS AND PLAYERS**

- a. All team members must be paid, registered members of CFTA in good standing. 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 CFTA 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 4 functional courts, with lighting as needed for evening matches.
- d. Any required court and/or guest fees for visiting participating players must be handled by the home team.
- e. Rosters must be submitted via the CFTA League Page web site according to the instructions. Each roster must have a minimum of 7 players. ONLY players who are showing on the roster in the CFTA League Page are legal to play and allowed to be inserted into a line-up to compete. Players who are NOT showing on the roster in CFTA's League Page are illegal and ineligible to play, and should they play a match when they are not showing on the roster, that match will be forfeited with all applicable points going to the opposing team for that specific line of the Dual Meet.

f. All registered players must either have an established and verifiable NTRP rating or must arrange to obtain a rating by one of the pre-approved certified tennis professionals used by the CFTA (a 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 ½ 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 CFTA Executive Board.

g. Players may be added to a roster using the CFTA league website throughout the regular season. In order to be added to a roster, the player must first be a paid CFTA member in good standing.

h. A player must have played/participated in at least 3 of their team's dual meet matches during the regular season to be eligible to play in post-season playoffs. At minimum, 2 of these matches must have been physically played, and the third match may count if the player received a default or forfeit win, or was involved in a situation where teams agreed to split points.

i. In cases where teams agree to split points for a match that cannot be made up, players in the line-up for that match must be listed so that they receive credit accordingly.

j. Any person not listed on a roster in accordance with these General Rules shall be deemed an ineligible player.

k. Any and all potential changes as deemed fit and necessary for the benefit and general good of the league to any CFTA roster remains at the power and discretion of the CFTA Executive Board.

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## **2. PLAYER RATINGS AND DIVISION PLACEMENT**

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

b. For the 4.5+ Open Masters Division, all 4.5 or higher rated players are welcome to compete. 4.0 rated players who wish to "play up" a ½ an NTRP point are also allowed to compete.

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### **3. CAPTAINS**

- a. Each captain is expected to have thorough working knowledge of, and should exercise all aspects of the CFTA League Rules at all times.
- b. All captains should exhibit, promote, preserve, and model integrity, good sportsmanship, and fair play at all times.
- c. Home team captains should contact visiting team captains 3 days before their dual meet to confirm the match and location. During the phone call, captains should also discuss any special circumstances that may apply.
- d. 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 and within 48 hours.
- e. Team captains must agree upon order of play in the case where all courts are not immediately available. In the case of conflict, teams must play in the order of (#1 Doubles, #2 Doubles, #3 Doubles, Singles).
- f. If there are situations that cannot be resolved amicably amongst the team captains and within the rules, one of the CFTA Executive Board Officers should be contacted immediately.
- g. 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" and/or the scheduling of stronger players below weaker pairs is strictly 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. Any team not complying with these rules which specifically address the "Sandbagging" issue shall forfeit all points from the point of infraction and below. Any questions or conflicts with the above rules must be discussed with the CFTA Executive Board promptly and before play begins.

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#### 4. DUAL MEETS

- a. All matches will be best 2 out of 3 full sets, with standard scoring and standard 7-point tiebreaks, win by 2. In certain cases where a match may run unusually or excessively long, a 10-point super tiebreak may be substituted for the full third set in the interest of time and completion. Please note that this option should only be used as a last resort, and both captains and all players involved in that match of the Dual Meet must agree before starting the 10-point tiebreak. (\* Note: The Coman Method of scoring is NOT utilized in CFTA)
- b. CFTA will not provide linesmen, umpires, or match officials for any matches.
- c. CFTA General Rules govern play. In cases not specifically covered by these rules, USTA Rules will 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.
- 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. 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. 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.
- f. 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 approved tennis balls for each match in the dual meet.
- 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 sent by electronic device to the players on the court. It is each captain's responsibility to control his spectators during formal match play.

i. Good sportsmanship, professional behavior, and proper conduct are expected of all players and spectators at all times for all matches. Players who exhibit, express, or demonstrate unreasonable or unacceptable behavior related to anger or violence either physically (smashing or throwing their racquet to the ground to break it) or vocally (verbal attacks or screaming out aggressively charged unnecessary obscenities so as to cause disturbance and an inappropriate playing environment) will not be tolerated. Such actions will be subject to the defaulting of points, loss of the match, and even expulsion from the league, depending on the severity of offense, and as deemed appropriate by the CFTA Executive Board. Furthermore, unruly and defiant fans who act in a similar behavior, who cause disturbance to matches in progress or seek to intimidate the opposing team with unsportsmanlike tactics, will carry the same type of penalties, and as deemed appropriate by the CFTA Executive Board.

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 own 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 CFTA Executive Board.

k. In the event of an accidental 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.

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## **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/grievance must be submitted by the Captain or Co-Captain to the League Executive Board 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 Executive Board, who will review the protest and HAVE THE FINAL DECISION ON THE CORRECTIVE MEASURES TO BE TAKEN AND PENALTIES IMPOSED.

c. In situations where no penalty for violations is provided in the General Rules, THE CFTA EXECUTIVE BOARD SHALL HAVE AUTHORITY AND FULL 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 the roster deadline and may apply to any team withdrawing from the playoffs after the playoff draw is made available.

f. Any person playing under an assumed or fictitious 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 or more, or as deemed fit by CFTA Executive Board.

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## **6. INCLEMENT WEATHER/RAIN-OUTS, & MAKE-UPS**

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 play halted. Line-ups for matches not started may be changed provided they do not conflict with any other general rules.

b. If the match is delayed or interrupted by rain, lightning, 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 CFTA Executive Board will determine rain delay wait time.

c. Rained out matches must be made up within 2 weeks (14 calendar days) from the time of the originally scheduled match unless an alternate date is agreed upon by both captains and approved by the CFTA Executive 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. All teams and players are expected to play/complete the make-up as best as possible within the allowed timeframe, and to be as flexible as possible in the scheduling of the make-up.

e. In cases where the make-up absolutely cannot be played, the last resort option for both teams is to have the captains agree to split points for the match. With a max of 30 points that can be earned per dual meet, electing to split points would result in each team receiving 15 points for that match. Players in the line-up for this match must be listed so they can receive credit for their match participation.

f. Once an individual match has begun, it must be completed except in the event of rain. There are no provisions for extreme wind.

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## **7. SCORING and PLAYOFFS**

a. Points are awarded to the team based on the following schedule:

- \* Singles – 4 points awarded per set won
- \* Line 1 Doubles – 5 points awarded per set won
- \* Line 2 Doubles – 3 points awarded per set won
- \* Line 3 Doubles – 3 points awarded per set won

b. Should the division have 5 or more teams, only the top 4 teams will advance to post-season playoffs, and then the top 2 teams advancing from playoffs will go on to play the Championship Match. Winners of all post-season matches including Finals are determined by total points.

c. Should the division have 4 or less teams, only the top 2 teams will advance to a post-season Championship Match.

d. Post regular season advancement is based on the total number of points earned at the end of the regular season.

e. Any teams with the same number of points shall be placed in order according to the following tie-breakers, in the following order: (1) total number of sets won, (2) total number of games lost, (3) head-to-head match record.

d. All post-season Playoff and Finals line-ups must comply with all rules as outlined in this document, and must only consist of players who are properly qualified.

## **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 (all rights reserved)

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

CFTA League Page – CFTA's Main League Engine and website is at [www.cfta.tenniscores.com](http://www.cfta.tenniscores.com)

THE CODE – The current printing of "The Code", N.E. Powell <<link to PDF>> (Code of Conduct)

DUAL MEET – A series of matches between two teams (3 doubles lines and 1 singles line) scheduled by the CFTA as part of CFTA sanctioned league and tournament play.

FORFEITURE/DEFAULT – 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 CFTA Adult League General Rules.

MATCH – 4 Match Lines are played per Dual Meet. Best 2 out of 3 full sets using Standard Scoring shall constitute a completed match.

NTRP – National Tennis Rating Program

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 a ½ point above their current player rating (i.e. a 3.5 rated player is allowed to compete 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, illness, 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.

“SANDBAGGING” – a term given to scheduling stronger players below weaker players. It is also a term given to a player who is obviously competing at a skill-level below their true ability.

SCHEDULED DUAL MEET 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.

“SPLITTING POINTS” – When a regularly scheduled dual-Meet match cannot be made-up within the allowed 2 week timeframe, opposing team captains can agree to “split points”.

Tenniscodes – see “CFTA League Page”

USTA – United States Tennis Association