

# Raleigh Tennis Association



## 2018 RTA Winter League

### INFORMATION PACKET RULES & REGULATIONS

Tracy Debnam, Local League Coordinator [tdebnam@gmail.com](mailto:tdebnam@gmail.com)

Raleigh Tennis Association website: [www.raleightennis.com](http://www.raleightennis.com)

## **LOCAL LEAGUE RULES**

The RTA Winter League Tennis Program is a team competition at specified NTRP levels of play. The purpose of the program is to provide organized recreational play, emphasizing local competition.

All RTA Winter League matches are governed by USTA interpretations which are located in the USTA Friend at Court except for the specific rules that are listed below. The Local League Coordinators have the authority to institute any local rules or regulations to make sure that the league operates smoothly and safely as long as they aren't specifically addressed in the Rules of Tennis or the Local League Rules listed below:

### **Player Agreement**

All players participating in the Raleigh Tennis Association League, as a condition of their participation, agree to abide and be bound by the the Rules of Tennis, Capital Area Local Regulations and the standards of **good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship**. It is each player's responsibility to know the rules and to tend to problems on the court in their proper manner using The Code of Tennis, The Players' Guide for Unofficial Matches and The Friend At Court, current edition.

### **Waiver of Claims**

Players participating in the RTA League Tennis Program acknowledge the risks associated with playing competitive tennis, accept those risks voluntarily, and in consideration of their acceptance in the Program assume all risks for bodily injury, waive all claims for injury and property damage and release and hold harmless the RTA and the host facility, their officials, employees and agents with respect to any injury or loss caused by negligence or otherwise to the fullest extent permitted by law.

The RTA League Tennis Regulation states that a player may play in more than one NTRP level within the same local league during the same season. A player may play on more than on team at the same NTRP level within the same local league during the same season as long as 1 team is a weekday team and the other is a weekend team.

### **Please note:**

a) There will be no scheduling changes made to accommodate players playing on two teams.

The Local League Coordinator ([LLC](#)) is responsible for promoting, organizing, coordinating, administering and supervising the RTA League Tennis Program according to the Local Regulations. In addition, the LLC is to work with the Raleigh Tennis Association (RTA) in promoting the sport. Only the Capital Area Local League Coordinator, in conjunction with the RTA Board of Directors has the authority to interpret or amend these Regulations.

# 2018 RTA WINTER LEAGUE

## Winter League

The RTA Winter League is a team competition with NTRP levels of 2.5 to 4.5. Teams are formed for players (18 and over) using NTRP levels of 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, and 4.5.

Each match is one (1) singles court and two (2) doubles courts (4.5 has the option to play 3 doubles). Teams shall be made up of a minimum of six players. **Teams can have no more than fifteen (15) players on a roster.**

Registration and score entry is done on TennisPoint.

## What Are the Requirements?

- Players must be at least 18 years old by 12/31/2018 to compete in the League.
- Players who do not have a computer rating on file with the USTA are to self-rate in accordance with the National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) Guidelines when registering for a team.

## NTRP

If a player has a computer generated NTRP he/she must register for their rating level or no more than one level above their current rating (ie: a player rated 3.0 may play 3.0 and 3.5 but not 4.0). If at the start of the local league a player does not have a rating on file with the USTA, the RTA Winter League will accept a self-rating in accordance with the National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) Guidelines.

A player may not play on a team that is below their NTRP level.

**A player may play only one NTRP level above their current NTRP level.**

For the 2018 Winter League players should use their 2018 Spring rating.

## When Is Play?

The RTA Winter League Season will begin the first week of November and run through January.

### **Weekday Women - 10:30am**

Monday - 3.0 and 4.5  
Tuesday - 3.5  
Wednesday - No Matches  
Thursday - 4.0  
Friday - 2.5

### **Weekend Women**

**Saturday 1:00 or 3:00pm** - 2.5, 3.5 and 4.5  
**Sunday 1:00 or 3:00pm** - 3.0 and 4.0

### **Men (November) - 6:30pm**

Monday - 3.0 and 4.5  
Tuesday - 3.5  
Wednesday - 2.5  
Thursday - 4.0

### **Men (December-January) - 1:00 or 3:00 pm**

Saturday - 3.0 and 4.0  
Sunday - 3.5 and 4.5

### **CO-ED "TRY TENNIS" (2.0) DIVISION**

Sunday -1:00 or 3:00pm

## Registration and Fees

Registration begins September 21st. Captains have until October 16th to register their teams. Six players must be registered by this date. Teams may continue to register the rest of the team through January 15. Players must be registered before playing a match. A club team must notify their pro prior to registering and guarantee the use of three courts for home matches.

**Registration Fee** - \$19 fee per person paid on TennisPoint. City teams will also have court fees of \$30 per home match.

**Refund Policy for 2018**

- All players requesting a refund of their League Fee (minus the fee, if any, retained by TennisPoint) will be given a refund when requesting it prior to their team's first match. No exceptions will be made.
- All requests for refunds should be sent to the Raleigh LLC, Tracy Debnam, by email stating the reason for the refund.
- Local League Coordinator will submit list to TennisPoint for refund.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
September 21, 2018	Registration on TennisPoint begins
October 16, 2018	Team registration deadline. Six players need to be registered on each team. Each team must have a captain listed on TennisPoint and their contact information must be correct on TennisPoint. After this date a team will only be added if there are an odd number of teams registered and the team requesting to get in has 6 players ready to register. The LLC has sole discretion on whether to extend the deadline.
November 1, 2018	League play for teams may begin.
January 15, 2019	Deadline for any changes to the roster on TennisPoint.
Late January-early February 2019	End of the local league season.

# 2018 RTA WINTER LEAGUE

## LOCAL LEAGUE RULES

**Captains are responsible for making their team aware of the following rules and procedures.**

### PRE-MATCH

- A. One week before a match, the home captain should e-mail or call the visiting captain to confirm the specifics about the match (i.e. date, time, location and if courts are available for pre-match warm-up). Sign-in as captain on TennisPoint to see the visiting captain's contact information.
- B. Before a match, both captains should use TennisPoint to print out a scorecard.
- C. Each team must have a captain or acting captain present at every match. Please let the other team know beforehand if an acting captain instead of the captain will be at the match.
- D. The home team is responsible for providing a new can of balls for each court. Home teams will be indicated on each team's schedule.

- E. Take water on the court with you, as some facilities may not have water on the courts. Plan ahead!
- F. No unattended (by an adult) children should be brought to the tennis courts. No children are ever allowed on the courts during play. Violation may result in default.

## **MATCH PLAY**

- A. Match start times are posted on TennisPoint for all matches. All courts begin at the same time unless staggered or court conditions dictate a different starting time. Home captains must inform the visiting team of any time changes prior to the match and have an acknowledgment from the visiting captain.
- B. If courts are not available at match time due to other tennis programming running late, teams are required to wait at least 30 minutes before declaring that the match be rescheduled. Use the rain delay rules which apply to a match that has already started. Determine lineups using only players that were present at default time. Exchange scorecards and make up the match as a team or individually.
- C. Warm-ups are limited to 15 minutes including serves. Players can start to warm-up as soon as courts are available, but facilities are NOT required to provide courts any earlier than the scheduled match time.
- D. Captains must simultaneously exchange completed scorecards 5 minutes before matches are scheduled to start.
- E. A team's lineup does not have to be listed in order of strength.
- F. Coaching is not allowed, except in the 2.0 "Try Tennis" division. Spectators may **not** assist in line calls, score disputes, or any other calls. Appropriate support is encouraged. (Applause and cheering).
- G. A bathroom break should last no longer than 5 minutes and if possible, it should be taken on an odd game change-over or between sets.
- H. Players will act as their own line judges and scorekeepers.
- I. Players must be registered and paid before playing a match. Matches played by unregistered/unpaid players will be forfeited.

- J. Once scorecards have been exchanged, no substitutions may be made except in accordance with the following rule: A team match is started when the first ball, of any of the three positions, is put into play. Prior to the start of a team match, if injury to, illness, disqualification or no-show of a player occurs, the affected team may substitute a player who is immediately ready to play and not listed on the scorecard and may adjust their lineup at the affected position only. If no substitute is made within the 15-minute default period, the default will be awarded at that position. After the start of a team match, if injury to or illness to a player occurs, the opponents will be awarded default for that match only.
  
- K. If a set reaches 6 games-all, a 7-point Set Coman Tiebreaker will be used. The winner of the set is the first player to reach 7 points by a margin of two.
  
- L. If the match score reaches 1 set-all, a 10-point Coman Match Tiebreaker will be used. The winner of the match is the first player to reach 10 points by a margin of two.
  
- M. The procedure for the Coman Tiebreaker is the same as the present procedure except that ends are changed after the first point, then after every four points until the conclusion of the tiebreak (i.e. after the 5th, 9th, 13th, 17th points, etc.).

## **STAGGERED MATCH FORMAT**

RTA Winter League matches are considered un-staggered unless otherwise directed by coordinator or the pro at the home team facility.

If the LLC/pro informs you that your match is staggered, the home captain needs to let the visiting captain know at least 7 days in advance of the match by e-mail, that the match will be played staggered. Please keep a copy of the original e-mail and a copy of the confirmation e-mail from your opponent in case there is a misunderstanding.

In a staggered match the captains must exchange the complete scorecard at least 5 minutes prior to the official start time of the match. In a staggered match if all players are present, the order the players take the court is: #1 singles, #1 doubles and lastly #2 doubles unless the captains agree otherwise.

In a staggered match the 15-minute default rule does not apply to the #2 doubles court. The players must be ready to play when a court becomes available. Home captains in staggered matches need to let the visiting captains know what time to have his/her staggered players at the courts ready to play. If the home captain fails to do so, staggered players need to be at the courts ready to play 1 hour after the designated match time (ie: be there and ready at 11:30 for a scheduled 10:30 match).

## RETIREMENTS AND DEFAULTS

A court **retirement** occurs when an individual match has started (first service attempt) and a player is unable to continue due to injury, loss of condition or an emergency. In case of a retirement, the non-retiring team is credited with the number of additional games as would have been won if the match was completed and the non-retiring team won every subsequent game. For data entry in TennisPoint, mark as “retired” and submit actual scores of match at the point of retirement.

A court **default** occurs when a player fails to appear within 15 minutes after the scheduled match time or when a player does not meet the individual player requirements (ie: an unregistered player plays the match). The default will be scored as a 6-0, 6-0 win for the team receiving the default and a 6-0, 6-0 loss for the defaulting team. For data entry in TennisPoint mark as “default”. The defaulting team does not have to provide the name of a player for the defaulted court. If both teams default the same court it is to be scored as a double default and neither team receives credit for a win on that court. For data entry in TennisPoint mark as “double default”.

- A. After exchanging scorecards, no substitutions are allowed to be made except if any of the following conditions exist:
  1. Prior to the start (first service attempt) of an individual match injury to, illness of, disqualification of, or \*no-show of, a player occurs. The affected team may substitute a player who is not already on the scorecard and who is immediately ready to play. The line-up can be adjusted at the affected position only.
  2. Rain becomes a factor prior to the start (first service attempt) of a match. See the “Rain Delay” section of this document for details.
  3. The match is being made up as individual courts and the original person(s) scheduled to play are unable to play in the match because of an unforeseen situation that did not exist when scorecards were exchanged.

\*A **no-show** player is a player who is unable to get to the match because of an unforeseen situation of which the captain is unaware of before exchanging scorecards with the opponent.

- B. Defaults will be “singles court first” (#1 Singles will be forfeited first) unless otherwise agreed upon by the captains. The only exception to this rule is when a team match is rained out and the match is rescheduled to be played as individual courts. In this case, if a lower court plays before the higher court is scheduled to be played and the higher court ends up as a default, all matches that were played will stand.
- C. A team can receive a default for a court(s) if they have a player(s) for the court(s) at the site prepared to play or if the captain has an e-mail from their opponent stating that they intend to default the court(s). Note that once a captain sends an e-mail de-

faulting a court it cannot be rescinded at a later time without the consent of the opponent.

- D. If a substitute player (i.e. player not listed on scorecard) is available and more than one player is a no-show, the substitute player must play in the highest court missing a player.

## TEAM FORFEITS

If a team does not have enough players to fill the courts needed to win the match, the match is a team forfeit. A team must have two (2) courts playing in order for the match to count. If these conditions are not met, the entire match becomes a forfeit, with the opponents winning all courts. A team forfeit will be scored as a 6-0, 6-0 win on all courts for the team receiving the forfeit and a 6-0, 6-0 loss on all courts for the forfeiting team.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER

If it is raining or the weather is questionable, do not assume the match is cancelled. Your team must show up ready to play unless play has been cancelled in advance by both captains who have spoken in person, by phone or have exchanged confirming emails (not a voice mail or unacknowledged email).

**\*\*Due to variations in temperature in different parts of the Capital area there is no “temperature” rule. The match will be played as scheduled unless both captains agree it is too cold and the match should be rescheduled.\*\***

Matches should not be called off any sooner than one hour prior to match time and should not be called off unless both captains are CERTAIN that the courts will be unplayable at match time.

### **Interrupted play due to inclement weather:**

- (a) Completed individual matches stand as played. Incomplete matches must be resumed by the same players in the same positions (ad and deuce), same side of net, same set, game and point score, and at the same site, unless players have mutually agreed to play elsewhere.
- (b) When teams have assembled to play, and weather and/or courts are questionable, or the match is interrupted by rain, teams are required to wait at site until courts are officially declared unplayable by club or site coordinator.

Incomplete matches should be made up within 2 weeks. Failure to agree on a time results in a double forfeit and neither team gets the point for that position. The time period may be extended depending on extreme weather situations at the discretion of the LLC. Matches may be made up individually if agreeable to both captains.

For team matches that are rained out **before** any of the individual matches started (first service attempt) the captains can either:

- a) Set one make-up date for the whole match
- b) Exchange scorecards in good faith and have the players contact each other to arrange their own matches

\*Note for option B: If one or more of the players listed on the scorecard cannot make the match, a substitute player may take his/her place. Substitutions are unrestricted in matches that have not begun.

For team matches that are rained out **after** the match is already started (first service attempt):

- a) All players involved need to provide their phone numbers and e-mail addresses to their opponents.
- b) All points played stand and play will resume exactly where it was suspended.  
Note: The reschedule does not have to take place at the same facility. The home captain may agree to play at the opponents courts to get the match in.

For matches scheduled to be made up as individual courts, a scorecard for the court(s) being played should be exchanged before the match and signed after the match.

**Captains:** Please monitor your players with these make-up situations; encourage them to work with the other player(s) to arrange this match as quickly and cooperatively as possible.

It is the responsibility of the captains to keep the LLC informed of the status of make-up matches.

If teams are having a problem coming up with a suitable make-up date, the Local League Coordinator should be contacted to set the date. This should be done within a week of the original match date. Any team that does not show up for the assigned make-up date will receive a forfeit.

## AFTER THE MATCH

- A. The winner of each match should immediately report results to their captain.
- B. After completion of the match, the captain or acting captain of each team should sign each other's scorecard to avoid disputes in the score entry. Captains should keep their own copy of the signed scorecard.
- C. Deadline for entering scores on TennisPoint

- For matches played **on** the match date posted on TennisPoint - 48 hours after the match date posted on TennisPoint.
  - For matches **after** the original scheduled date – Two weeks after the match date posted on TennisPoint.
- D. If a captain cannot post the scores within that time-frame above, he/she needs to ask the losing captain to enter the scores for her/him. Failure to enter the scores on time could result in the winning team forfeiting the entire match.
- E. The losing captain must confirm/dispute the scores within 72 hours of the match.  
Note: The initial score will be marked as valid automatically if it is not disputed within 48 hours after the match scores are entered on TennisPoint.
- F. If errors are made when entering the scores, notify the LLC as soon as possible but no later than 24 hours afterwards. Be sure to include all pertinent information such as match number, team name, player name and position and what needs to be corrected.
- G. Disputes and errors in entering the scores need to be verified by both captains before the LLC will make the correction on TennisPoint.

**MOST IMPORTANT:**

**HAVE FUN!!!! This is designed to be a fun yet competitive league so play hard and get ready for Spring season!!!!**