



Flint River Tennis League Rules

2024 Championship Year

Updated July 23, 2023

The Flint River Tennis League agrees to the rules and regulations issued by the USTA and known as the USTA League Tennis Regulations along with those rules and regulations put forth by USTA National, USTA Southern, and USTA Georgia. In addition, the Flint River Tennis league sets forth the following that applies to local league matches:

1. Format of Play

USTA LEAGUE PROGRAM ORGANIZATION AT THE STATE OF GEORGIA LEVEL			
DIVISION	AGE GROUP	LEAGUE FORMAT	NTRP LEVELS
Adult	18 & Over	1 – Singles 2 – Doubles	2.5, <u>5.0+</u>
	18 & Over	2 – Singles 3 – Doubles	3.0, 3.5, 4.0 Low, 4.0, 4.5
	40 & Over	1 – Singles 4 – Doubles	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5+
	55 & Over	3 – Doubles	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0
	65 & Over	3 – Doubles	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5
Mixed	18 & Over	3 – Doubles	2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0
	40 & Over	3 – Doubles	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5

Adjustments may be made per coordinator approval

National Regulation 1.04E(3): Players must be 18 years of age prior to participating in the USTA League program. Starting 1/1/2020.

Flint River 2024 Championship Year Calendar

- 18 & Over Season 1 August-October 2023**
- 55 & Over October-November 2023**
- Mixed Season 1 November -December 2023**
- 40 & Over January-February 2024**
- 18 & Over Flint River Teams February-April 2024**
- Tri-Level March-April 2024**
- Combo Season 1 April-May 2024**
- Mixed Season 2 May-June 2024**
- Combo Season 2 July-August 2024**

2. Match Play

- a. New standard type 2 USTA balls are provided by home team or home facility
- b. Scoring
 - i. Best two sets of three with match tie break in lieu of third set
 - ii. Set tie break - First player(s) to reach 7 points by a margin of 2
 - iii. Match tie break - First player(s) to reach 10 points by a margin of 2
 - iv. Scores must be reported to TennisLink within 48 hours of match completion and confirmed within 48 hours of entry or score will automatically be considered valid
 - v. If four matches are played and two teams tie across the tennis link scoring system, a coin toss in front of both captains will decide the winner. If time permits and both captains agree, a 5th match may be played in lieu of a coin toss.
 - vi. Individual lines played have the option of “no ad” scoring prior to the start of their match as long as all players on that line are in agreement
- c. Schedule
 - i. Each flight within the local league is guaranteed at least 5 matches.
 - ii. If all captains in a flight agree, additional matches may be randomly selected by the computer to complete a 6 match season for the teams in that flight. (a partial round may be played).

3. Same Team wins both seasons

- a. Winning team chooses either fall or spring team
- b. Second place team has option to fill second state berth
 - i. Same team placed second in both seasons
 - 1. Captain may choose either fall or spring team for state berth
 - ii. Different teams placed second in both seasons and both want to attend state
 - 1. Teams will have a playoff for the 2nd berth
 - 2. Home team is determined by best percentage of winning season
 - iii. Second place team(s) decline(s) state berth
 - 1. Same offer will extend to the 3rd place teams as listed above for the 2nd place teams
- c. Matches required to advance to state

USTA League Division	USTA League Type	Matches to advance to State	Defaults counting to advance to state
Adult	18 & Over	2	1 default may count
Adult	40 & Over	2	1 default may count
Adult	55 & Over	2	1 default may count

Adult	65 & Over	See state regs	See state regs
Mixed	18 & Over	2	1 default may count
Mixed	40 & Over	2	1 default may count
Combo	18 & Over	1	1 default may count
Combo	40 & Over	1	1 default may count
Combo	55 & Over	See state regs	See state regs

A retired match shall count for all participants

Note: A team may advance directly to the Sectional Championships in Adult 65 & Over without any matches if they are the only team in their state at that level.

d. State Championship schedule can be viewed at www.ustageorgialsc.com

18 & Over - Rome 5/3-5/6 & Macon 5/17-5/20

40 & Over - Augusta/Columbus 5/30-6/3

55 & Over - Columbus 6/7-6/10

Tri-level - Columbus 8/2-8/4

Mixed - Rome 9/6-9/8

55 & Over Combo - Columbus 9/20-9/22

65 & Over - Savannah 10/11-10/13

4. Match schedules

a. Dates and times are set by the league coordinator(s), but this chart is used as a general guide.

Local leagues	weeknights
3.0 women	Sunday pm
3.5 women	Saturday am
4.0 women	Sunday pm
4.0 Men	Saturday am
7.0 mixed - 3.5 mixed	Sunday pm
8.0 mixed - 4.0 mixed	Saturday am

- b. Matches may be played before the scheduled time and date if both captains agree
 - i. If a team requests that a line be played early, the accommodating captain may inquire as to which court (ie. #1 doubles).
- c. All matches must be played by Sunday at 6pm following the scheduled match date unless the match is scheduled for Sunday. (modified flexible scheduling)
- d. Captains will not be able to submit blackout dates. Facilities' blackout dates will be requested each season. Flint River has approved the following holidays as blackout dates: New Year's Day, Father's Day, July 4th, Thanksgiving, Christmas
- e. Match can be rescheduled due to rain out or extreme temperatures
 - i. Captain of the home team must call the captain of the visiting team no less than 2 hours before scheduled match time to discuss radar showing inclement weather in the area.
 - 1. Captain of the home team will determine if the match is a rain out
 - 2. If the captain of the visiting team does not receive a call from the captain of the home team 2 hours before the match, the visiting captain should attempt to contact the home team before traveling to the courts.
 - ii. Captain of the home team must call the captain of the visiting team by 6pm the day before if temperature at match time is going to be an issue.
 - 1. www.weatherchannel.com must be utilized to look at what the temperature is going to be at match time the next day
 - 2. If the temperature at playtime is below 36 degrees or above 98 degrees, according to the weather channel, the match may be postponed and treated as a rainout.
 - iii. Date and time for reschedule must be agreed upon by both captains
 - 1. Rescheduled date must be within 15 days of scheduled date or before end of that particular season, whichever comes first.
 - 2. If the rescheduled date is rained out again, the match must be played within 15 days of rescheduled date or before the end of that particular season.
 - 3. Home captain must secure courts with appropriate facility
 - 4. If the home team does not comply with rule i listed above and the visiting teams travel to the venue, the rescheduled match will be played at the visitors facility
 - iv. Local coordinator will reschedule match when no agreement can be reached
 - 1. Coordinator will secure courts in this case
- f. Rain during match play (or other uncontrollable circumstances that affect play)
 - i. Teams must wait 30 minutes before calling the match

1. Once play has started, the match will be finished at the original venue unless both captains agree to move to another venue within the Flint River boundaries.
 2. Team line ups must remain the same
 3. Individual lines may be rescheduled at different times
 4. Captains must record the score, server, and which side teams were on when last point was played
 - g. Players that are involved in USTA league championships which conflict with scheduled local league matches may treat the match as a rainout and would follow the guidelines listed above.
5. Line Defaults
- a. Must begin from the bottom of the line up
 - i. #2 singles and/or #3 doubles (first)
 - ii. Default of both singles is allowed if playing a 5 court lineup.
 - b. If a player is 15 or more minutes late, the opposing team will have the option to enforce a default for that line. No more than 2 lines can be defaulted in a 5 line format and no more than 1 line can be defaulted in a 3 or 4 line format.
 - c. Once a captain advises an opposing captain in writing (ie. Email not text) that a line(s) will be defaulted at their match, that statement stands even if they find players later before the match starts.
 - d. If the 1st point of any of the match lines has not been played, any previous defaults agreed upon in advance do not stand. (ie. A captain has defaulted a line in writing before the match but the match does not get played due to weather, that default can be withdrawn by that captain if they can fill that line on the new scheduled date).
6. Team Match Defaults
- a. Match Default
 - i. Occurs 15 minutes after the scheduled match start time if an entire team is not at the scheduled court site
 - b. Substitutions may be made during the 15 minute default time
 1. May only substitute at the affected position
 - c. The majority of the individual matches must be played to constitute a valid team match
 - d. If a team defaults an entire match (as described in USTA League Regulation 2.03K) in local play, states may decide whether to allow further play by that team and how matches played by that team should be used in determining standings. A state may not authorize a local league to make such determination. USTA Georgia will use the following regulation: If a team has an invalid match (a majority of the individual matches must actually be played to constitute a valid team match) the team may (state Adult League Committee's decision) be removed from competition and the standings.
7. Team Composition

- a. Team Name Composition must be listed as the captain's last name/city of the team's home courts.
 - b. Deadline for adding players is the next to the last match for that particular team
 - c. 18 & over adult league teams should have a minimum of 8 players registered by the roster deadline date for that season.
 - d. 40 & over adult league teams should have a minimum of 7 players registered by the roster deadline date for that season.
 - e. 55 & over adult league teams should have a minimum of 6 players registered by the roster deadline date for that season.
 - f. Mixed league teams should have a minimum of 6 players registered by the roster deadline date for that season.
 - i. Minimum of 3 men and 3 women
 - g. Players must be registered by the beginning of their scheduled match time.
 - h. Teams not having the minimum number of players registered by the roster deadline may not be scheduled for that season.
 - i. For flights with 2 teams, at least 40% of the team must be playing on level.
 - i. Excluding mixed
8. Cell phones/pagers
- a. Must be left on the side of the court in a tennis bag or personal container during a match and should be turned to silent if not turned off.
 - i. Each offense of a cell phone ringing will cause the loss of a point on that court only
 - b. Players can use their 90 seconds to check messages on changeovers
 - c. Any watch that can send or receive messages is not allowed to be worn on the courts.
9. County Boundaries/Facilities
- a. Counties included in the Flint River Tennis Association are Early, Miller, Seminole, Decatur, Grady, Thomas, Colquitt, Mitchell, Dougherty, and Lee.
 - b. Players will not be required to travel more than a 70 mile radius from their home courts for match play. If teams' home courts are more than 70 miles apart, teams will meet at a predetermined neutral court between the two regardless of home court advantage.
 - c. Facilities currently being used for match play
 - i. Bill Reynolds Tennis facility, Bainbridge High School & Floyd Tennis Courts
 - ii. Doublegate, Stonebridge
 - iii. Mitchell County Courts
 - iv. Glen Arven & Thomas County Central Middle School
 - v. Moultrie City Courts & ABAC
10. Flint River Rules & Regulations Committee
- a. Meets once a year in July to review and approve any League Rules & regulation changes.
 - b. Prior to the annual committee meeting, an annual meeting of the 3 boards will be held in Camilla yearly.

- c. The committee's next meeting will be in Camilla July 25, 2024.
 - d. Voting Committee members
 - i. Presidents of all Flint River CTA's
 - ii. Vice-Presidents of all Flint River CTA's
 - iii. Secretaries of all Flint River CTA's
 - iv. Treasurers of all Flint River CTA's
 - v. Each CTA can elect an at-large voting member to attend the Annual meeting in place of one of the 4 officers mentioned above
 - e. Non-voting Committee Members
 - i. Flint River Coordinators (Tabitha Spooner & Carol Shiver)
11. Grievances
- a. Committee members
 - i. Coy Chambers, Amy Thomas, and Tinsley Dozier
 - b. Grievances may be filed by team captains and/or league coordinators
 - c. Grievance Appeals Committee
 - i. Susie Hartzog, Craig Moore, and Viki Curtis
 - d. Committee members are subject to change based on conflicts