

Waiver of Claims

Players participating in the CITA 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 CITA 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.

Player Eligibility

- A. All players must be current members of the club for which they are playing.
- B. All players in the adult traveling leagues must be at least 19 years old. NCM Open and Men’s 4.5 will allow (2) High School Junior or Senior players to play in the Men’s Open and 4.5 leagues. The Juniors and Seniors players may not play together on a court. All other high school players may play in the High School leagues. *(changed 8/1/22)*

C.1. CITA Traveling Leagues consists of two Divisions: The North/Central Division and the Northwest Division. Within each division there are several leagues which are played on various days of the week, and which contain several levels from a novice “3.0” level on up to advanced “Open” levels. When applicable there have been instances within some of the levels having 2 flights: a red flight level is the stronger (higher) flight level, and the green flight level is considered the weaker (lower) flight level. Most leagues are doubles leagues except for the Women’s Singles leagues and the Men’s Singles leagues.

C.2. **The North/Central Division and the Northwest Division are separate Divisions**, regardless of the day of the week. A player may play for one club in the North/Central Division and a different club in the Northwest Division provided the player is a member of both clubs (see Player Eligibility Rule A).

Players who play in the Northwest Division may play at one club in the Friday league and at a different club in the Saturday league provided they are members of both clubs (see Player Eligibility Rule A). A Wed. NW 4.0 women’s doubles player can play on the Fri. NW 4.5 team **but** if she plays above court 3 on the Fri. 4.5 team, she is no longer eligible for the Wed. NW 4.0 team. *(updated 9/26/2022)* Also see F.1.

C.4. The North/Central Division Adult doubles leagues:

Wednesday League	<i>Level</i>	<i>Flight</i>
	Women’s 3.5 & Under	
	Women’s 4.0 & Under	

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Thursday League	<i>Level</i>	<i>Flight</i>
	Women's 3.0 & Under	

Friday League	<i>Level</i>	<i>Flight</i>
	Women's 4.0 & Under	
	Women's 4.5 & Under	
	Women's Open	

Saturday League	<i>Level</i>	<i>Flight</i>
	Men's 3.5 & Under	
	Men's 4.0 & Under	
	Men's 4.5 & Under	
	Men's Open	

C.5. The North/Central Division Adult Singles leagues are as follows:

Thursday League	<i>Level</i>	<i>Flight</i>
	Women's 3.0-3.5	
	Women's 4.0-4.5	
	Women's 4.5-Open	

Sunday League	<i>Level</i>	<i>Flight</i>
	Men's 4.0	
	Men's 4.5	

C.6. The Northwest Division Adult doubles leagues are as follows:

Wednesday League	<i>Level</i>	<i>Flight</i>
	Women's 3.5 & Under	
	Women's 4.0 & Under	

Friday League	<i>Level</i>	<i>Flight</i>
	Women's 4.5 & Under	
	Women's Open	

Saturday League	<i>Level</i>	<i>Flight</i>
	Women's Multi-level (3.5 – Open)	

C.7. Juniors – The North/Central Division Junior Doubles leagues are as follows:

Saturday League	<i>Level</i>	<i>Flight</i>
	Boys High School	
	Girls High School	

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C.8. The **North/Central Division** leagues will have playoffs at the end of the season to determine the first and second place teams. At the end of the season, the 1st place team

will play the 4th place team and the 2nd place team will play the 3rd place team in the playoffs. The winners of each playoff match will play each other in the Finals. Players must have played 3 times on a team during the regular season to be eligible to play on that team for the playoffs and finals.

C.9. The **Northwest Division** will have a mini-playoff in the last week of the regular season for that league. To vie for first place, the first and second place teams will play against each other. To vie for third place, the third and fourth place teams will play against each other, etc. If there are an odd number of teams, the last place team will receive a Bye. Players must have played 3 times on a team during the regular season to be eligible to play on that team for the playoffs and finals.

D.1. Players will be allowed to play for another club if their original team drops out of the division.

D.2. **One Match Exception:** If it has been determined a player is better served playing for a different team at the same club or for a different club, that player may be allowed a one (1) match exception, i.e., they can make the switch if they have only played 1 match for the original team. A written notification must be sent to Michelle Granger to notify her of the possible exception. The points played will remain in effect. If no notification is given, the points will be forfeited to the opposing team. The one match exception rule does not allow players who have subbed for one team to sub for the other team. For example, if Player A from Club X plays on the Men's 3.5 team and subs for the Men's 4.0 (1) team, they will not be allowed to use the one match exception rule to sub for the Men's 4.0 (2) team. Loss of points will result.

E. A player can only play one position per match.

F.1. A player may play up an unlimited number of times in the next available higher level league at their club for leagues played on a particular day (see examples below for clarification). Players who are rostered on the top courts of the lower level league may play on the bottom courts of the higher level league. If a player in a lower level league plays on the upper courts of the higher level league, that player will no longer be eligible to play in the lower level for the rest of the season and the playoffs.

Exception: Players from the Men's 4.5 league may play an unlimited number of times on courts 2-4 of the Men's Open league. Players who play on court 1 of the Men's Open are restricted to ONLY playing on the Men's Open

Top/Higher courts are defined as courts 1 and 2 in both the 4 and 6 court leagues.

Bottom/Lower courts are defined as courts 3 and 4 in a 4 court league or courts 3, 4, 5 and 6 in a 6 court league.

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- If a club has a 4.0 Friday team and has a 4.5 Friday Red team but no 4.5 Fri Green team, the 4.0 Fri player may play on the bottom courts of the 4.5 Fri Red team **4 times** but may not play on the higher courts of the 4.5 Fri Red team. If the 4.0 Fri player plays a **5th time** on the 4.5 Fri Red team, she will no longer be eligible to play for the 4.0 Fri team. *(Does not apply to 2022-2023 Season)*
- If a club has a 3.0 Thursday team and has a 3.5 Wednesday team, the 3.0 Thurs player may play on the bottom courts of the 3.5 Wed team an **unlimited** number of times. Note: Lineup Rule B.2 - once a player has played on the bottom courts of the 3.5 Wed team, the player can no longer play on court 4 of the 3.0 team.
- If a club has a 3.0 Thursday team and has a 4.0 Wed team but no 3.5 Wed team, the 3.0 Thurs player may play on the bottom courts of the 4.0 Wed team an **unlimited** number of times. Note: Lineup Rule B.2 - once a player has played on the bottom courts of the 4.0 Wed team, the player can no longer play on court 4 of the 3.0 team. **Limit the use of this scenario.**
- If a club has a Men's 4.5 team and a Men's Open team, the men's 4.5 player may play on courts 2-4 of the Men's Open team an **unlimited** number of times. If the men's 4.5 player should play on court 1 of the Men's Open, the player will no longer be eligible to play on the Men's 4.5 team.
- If a club has a Women's 4.5 team and a Women's Open team, the women's 4.5 players can only sub up on positions 3-6 of the Women's Open team an **unlimited** number of times. If the women's 4.5 player should play on court 1 of the Women's Open, the player will no longer be eligible to play on the Women's 4.5 team. *(unlimited number change made 8/1/22)*

F.2. **Playoffs:** To be eligible to play in the playoffs/finals, a player must have played at least 3 times on the team during the regular season. If a player plays on a team in 2 different leagues, the player must have played 3 times on each of those teams.

A player will be eligible to play in the higher level league playoffs/finals and the lower level league playoffs/finals if that player has only played on the bottom courts of the higher level league.

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If a player has played in a higher level league and played on the higher courts in the higher level league, then that player will NOT be eligible for the lower level league playoff/finals.

Schedules

A. All deposits, league fees, and membership dues must be sent to Michelle Granger at the address provided to guarantee the clubs' participation in the traveling leagues.

B. A schedule of participating clubs is provided which includes the starting times for matches as well as where teams are scheduled to play. Please make sure to send the teams to the correct club. The club that sends the incorrect team positions will forfeit the total team points and may be subject to no show fees. The club winning by forfeit may fill out a "no show" report. If there is a default by the club that had the correct team positions, those 3 points would be awarded to the club that had the incorrect team positions.

C. All matches must be played on the scheduled date and time. Matches are not to be postponed or canceled unless there is inclement weather or by mutual consent of the clubs involved (see Miscellaneous Rule P). Player issues (e.g., not available, cannot play at that time) should not be the basis for rescheduling a match. **Clubs are not allowed to choose location over court position when defaulting a court.** See Lineups page 6. *(updated 9/26/22)*

D. A copy of the schedule can be accessed by going to www.citatennis.net and clicking on North/Central League or Northwest League. Click on the league you need the schedule for and click on schedules. Score sheets, directions, and the rules can also be accessed at this web site.

Adding or Dropping a Team

Points played against a team that subsequently drops out of the league will not be counted.

Teams may drop out of the league at any point in time, within reason, **IF** defaults are the primary reason for dropping out. If a team wants to drop down a level, they must ask for the approval of the other teams in the lower level league to move down. Depending on the timing of the request or how many teams there are in the league, adding a team can be disruptive and may not be possible.

Any team that falls below 25% during the season will come under review and may either be dropped from the league or moved down if that is a possibility.

Lineups - Be courteous and respectful of Captains/Clubs time!

A. **Lineups**: A full line up (i.e., first and last names of all six teams) of all traveling teams must be made available to the host club by 8am on the day of the match. **A full lineup of the Men's Singles must be made available to the host club by 5pm on the Saturday before the match**. The only change that can be made after the scheduled start time is to insert a last minute substitute(s) for a no-show. *Regardless, a substitute has no impact on the lineup for the other positions – default provision listed below. See Match Rules and Miscellaneous Rules I, pg.7. (updated 9/1/22)*

B.1. Teams must be placed in **order of strength** (example: court #1 team is the strongest in team strength; court #6 team is the lowest in team strength). If there is an infraction, there is a possibility of losing all three sets. A player should only move 2 spots from match to match. There may be exceptions to this rule such as the case of stronger players pushing a player down more than 2 spots in a lineup.

Choosing location over court position is not a reason for defaulting a court. Courts must still be in order of strength. Traveling to Chicagoland Indoor Tennis Clubs is the root of the program. Encourage players to travel and play other teams to improve their game. **(updated 9/26/22)**

B.2. **NC Women's 3.0 Doubles** – A 3.0 player who subs up on the lower courts of the NC Women's 3.5 league will no longer be eligible to play on court 4 of the NC Women's 3.0 league. Loss of points will result in any subsequent match where the player plays on court 4 of the NC Women's 3.0 league.

C. **Falsifying lineups** will result in a 9-point default at the site along with the attendant default fees. Falsifying lineups may result in up to an 18-point penalty. Examples of falsification of lineups:

Example A: Two teams who play in the same league are supposed to play against each other. Instead of playing the match, a false lineup and scores are inputted. In this case, the penalty will be 18 points if it is a 6 court league or 12 points if it is a 4 court league. If the two teams who were supposed to play each other are from the same club, an 18 point penalty will be assessed against each team.

Example B: In order to avoid a default, an ineligible player is placed in the lineup. The ineligible player may be a player who has played the top courts in a higher league. If the ineligible player is a higher level player playing down, all points from the match the player played in as well as the points from the matches below will be awarded to the opponent.

Court Rules

A. **Wilson U.S. Open balls** will be used for all CITA Traveling League matches as Wilson is the official sponsor of CITA Leagues. The first time Wilson U.S. Open balls are not used, a warning letter will be sent. Thereafter, the team will lose their matches by default (9-0).

B. **Refreshments**: The league prefers light snacks and water bottles be served following matches to encourage social activity amongst players however, it is not a necessity and clubs may choose to NOT provide anything. Please do not provide lunch for host team members OR provide anything above and beyond the recommended refreshments.
(updated 9/1/22)

C. **Electronic Devices**: Players must turn off all cell phones, pagers and other electronic devices when on the courts.

D. **Court Curtains**: Each hosting club may make their own determination as to whether the court curtains should remain open or closed during match play.

E. **A club professional or league coordinator must be present during all matches**. If the home club does not have such a person present and there is a dispute, the home club will automatically lose the dispute.

F. **Audible Devices**: All clubs must provide an audible device (buzzer, timed alarm) to indicate the end of the 2 hour time limit. The players must be notified of the device being used to signify the end of the match.

Match Rules and Miscellaneous Rules

A.1. **Doubles Rules**: Each match will consist of 3 sets with 1 team point awarded for each set won. With 6 teams playing (3 home/3 away), a total of 18 points is possible. With 4 teams playing (2 home/2 away) a total of 12 points is possible. Use a 12-point set tie-breaker when the set score is tied at 6-6. Switch ends after each set. (See match rules E.1. Time Limit Scoring)

A.2. **Singles Rules**: Each match will consist of 2 out of 3 sets with a super tie-breaker played in lieu of a 3rd set. With 6 teams playing (3 home/3 away), a total of 18 points is possible. Use a 12 point set tie-breaker when the set score is tied at 6-6. Use a 10-point match tie-breaker in lieu of playing a 3rd set. Switch ends after each set. (See match rules E.2. Time Limit Scoring).

A.3. **Double Default**: *A double default is when both clubs fail to field a team at the same position and agree to split 3 points. Both teams would then lose 1.5 points. Since a complete match entails 18 possible points (or 12 points in a 4 court league), such a loss would impact both teams equally. **Example**: Team A's results on 5 of the 6 courts is 10-5 with Team B as 5-10. After the double default is included, the final score would be*

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11.5-6.5 for Team A and 6.5-11.5 for Team B. (changed 9/1/22)

B.1. **Warm-up Time for doubles matches** is limited to 15 minutes after the scheduled starting time. No practice serves after the 15-minute warm-up.

B. 2. **Warm-up Time for singles matches** is limited to 10 minutes after the scheduled starting time. No practice serves after the 10-minute warm-up.

C.1 Doubles **Default Times (on the court)**: 16-30 minutes late—5 minute warm-up and loss of 1st set; 31 minutes late—loss of match. If players from each team are 16-30 minutes late, no penalty will be assessed. If both players from each team are 16-30 minutes late, but one player is 31 minutes late, the player/team who was only 16-30 minutes will receive 3 points. If both players from each team are 31 minutes late, the match will be considered a double default,

C.2. **Singles Default Times (on the court)**: 11-20 minutes late – 5 minute warm-up and loss of 1st set; 21 minutes late – loss of match.

D. **Injury Time Out**: If a player stops after the match has begun due to an injury and cannot continue after 10 minutes, the player(s) is (are) defaulted.

E.1. **Time Limit Scoring for Doubles**

If a set is tied, the point is split. If a team is ahead by one game, the point is split. If the set hasn't started, the point is split. If a team is ahead by two games, that team wins the point. Any game point in progress ("in progress" is defined as "an attempt" at first service) at the time limit (i.e., the sound of the buzzer or timed alarm used to indicate the end of the timed match) must be played. If a point is in progress and a player should stop play mid-point at the sound of the buzzer, the point in progress will be awarded to the opponent. If the game is not completed or if the set tie-breaker is not completed, the game or the set tie-breaker does not count. An attempt at first service is defined as the motion of tossing the ball with the intention of serving. Bouncing the ball before serving does not count as an attempt at first service. **Please note**: if there should be a buzzer malfunction and the attending captain calls time, play the point out as if the buzzer sounded.

E.2. **Time Limit Scoring for Singles**

If a player wins 2 out of 3 sets, the player will be awarded 2 points plus 1 bonus point for a total of 3 points. If the players split sets and were not able to play or complete the match tie-breaker, each player will receive 1.5 points for a total of 3 points. If the players split sets, and a match tie-breaker was played and completed, the player who won the match tie-breaker will receive 2 points and the other player will receive 1 point for a total of 3 points. If the 2nd set is not completed, the remaining 2 points will be calculated as follows: if one player has won the 1st set and is ahead by 2 games s/he will receive a total of 2.5 points (1 pt. for the 1st set, 1 pt. for the 2nd set and .5 pt. for the unplayed 3rd set. The other player will only receive .5 pt. for the unplayed 3rd set. If one player has won the 1st set and the 2nd set is tied, that player will receive 2 points (.5 pt. for tied 2nd set and

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.5 pt. for an unplayed 3rd set). The other player will receive 1 point (.5 pt. for tied 2nd set and .5 for unplayed 3rd set). (See singles scoring sample under Forms).

Any game point in progress (“in progress” is defined as “an attempt” at first service) at the time limit (i.e., the sound of the buzzer or timed alarm used to indicate the end of the timed match) must be played. If a point is in progress and a player should stop play mid-point at the sound of the buzzer, the point in progress will be awarded to the opponent. If the game is not completed or if the set tie-breaker or match tie-breaker is not completed, the game or the set tie-breaker or the match tie-breaker does not count. An attempt at first service is defined as the motion of tossing the ball with the intention of serving. Bouncing the ball before serving does not count as an attempt at first service.

F.1 Time **Limit for Doubles**: Play will be limited to two (2) hours with no exceptions.

F.2. **Time Limit for Singles**: Play will be limited to one hour and 30 minutes with no exceptions.

G. **Entry of Scores on Score Sheets**: After the completion of a match, the players will record the match scores on the score sheets. Scores and players names should be verified by both teams to avoid any mix-ups or errors. The league coordinator/captain will record the scores from their matches into the website database (Login to www.citatennis.net; login and click on Scores). Input scores within 6 hours of match results. (**updated 9/26/22**)

H. **End of Regular Season Ties**: If at the end of the regular season any teams are tied, the highest place will be determined by their set scores against each other during the season. If the sets are tied, games will determine the higher team.

I. **Match Defaults**: If you must default a match, notify the opposing club no later than **6pm** the day before the match so they can notify their teams. You must default to the lowest position at that site and move all the remaining teams up. The defaulting club is responsible for their portion of the fees. The club receiving the default must fill out a no-show report. You are allowed **two** same day defaults by your team within a league. If you incur a **third** same day default, a financial penalty of \$100 will be assessed in addition to the no show fees incurred by the default. Extenuating circumstances will be taken into consideration by the CITA Board of Directors upon verification by the players involved. In the Men’s and Women’s Open league, at the discretion and agreement of the two coordinators and Executive Director, the two teams may agree to Default Court 1, however the team defaulting court 1 will lose 3 points and the opposing team will receive their 3 points. Courts 2-6 in the Women’s Open and cts 2-4 in the Men’s Open will then be played at their original positions. (**updated 9/1/22**)

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J. **End of Season Results**: If a team's win-loss percentage is below 30% or above 70% at the end of the season, a review will be conducted to determine the appropriate action. Appropriate action may include placing a low percentage team in a lower level league, placing a high percentage team in a higher level league or requesting the movement of players to a lower or higher level.

K. **Protests**: Any protests regarding a match should first be attempted to be resolved between the affected league coordinators. If no resolution is reached, a protest may be filed with the CITA League Protest Committee. Protests to the CITA League Protest Committee must be made within 48 hours of the match in question. Protests must be in the form of a written communication by email or fax to the Executive Director who will then contact the CITA League Protest Committee. Filing a protest also requires a non-refundable payment of \$100. The CITA League Committee has final judgment on all participants, and all problems which may arise. The CITA League Protest Committee consists of Jim Doessel, Manny Valesco and Donna Marks.

L. **USTA Rules**: In situations not addressed by CITA rules, USTA Rules and "The Code" will apply.

M. **Babysitting**: *Agreed that none of the clubs are required to have babysitting available to players. Players must take the responsibility to provide childcare services outside of the Club unless membership includes childcare. (updated 9/1/22)*

N. **Power Outages and other similar short term issues**: If the match has started, but the 1st set was not completed, the first set's points will be calculated by the 2 game rule. If the score is tied, the first set point will be split. If one team is up by 2 games, that team will get 1 point. The rest of the set points (sets 2 and 3) will be split. If the match is into the second set and the power goes out, the 2 game rule will apply. And the third set will be split.

Players should remain at the club for 30 minutes after the power goes out. Once the power comes back on, there may be a slight delay before the court lights are fully operational. This delay will not count towards the 30 minutes

O. **Severe Weather Warning**: In the event of a severe weather warning such as a snowstorm or blizzard, the league captains are responsible for calling the clubs they are playing to determine whether matches should be played or canceled. If rescheduling can occur, matches may be rescheduled. Otherwise, the points will not be counted.