

# **Etowah Valley Tennis Association 2026 Championship Year Local League Regulations**

## **Local League Regulations (2026)**

The purpose of EVTA League play is to promote USTA League Tennis for men and women at established ratings of the National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) within the counties of Bartow, Gordon, and Paulding (limited to Bentwater only).

### **I REGULATIONS**

The Etowah Valley Tennis Association (EVTA) agrees to the rules and regulations of the USTA, USTA Southern, and USTA Georgia as published. In addition, EVTA also sets forth the following rules to apply to local league matches.

This document and all references contained within constitute the general rules and regulations as defined by the Etowah Valley Tennis Association. Where not specifically covered within this document, play shall be in accordance with the current rules of play as defined by USTA National, USTA Southern and USTA Georgia. All players and teams have the responsibility of playing within the Rules of Tennis and the principles of The Code.

In situations not covered or provided for within these general rules and outside the responsibility of the leagues program, the Local League Coordinator and the Etowah Valley Tennis Association board of directors shall have the authority to take the necessary rulings or to impose the appropriate penalties.

### **II Eligibility – TEAMS**

**A.** Teams must play out of the following facilities within the geographic boundaries of EVTA : Dellinger, Hamilton Crossing, Bentwater, Waterford, Calhoun Tennis Center, Cartersville Country Club, Mountainbrook , Carter Grove and the Parkside at Mission Estates. All matches are to be played at these locations.

**B.** Facilities must have a minimum of 3 courts at one site. For leagues starting after 6:00 PM, the courts must be lighted. Should there be an issue with the lights, the visiting team has the option to move to their courts for the remainder of the match.

**C.** All teams should have at least enough players to field a line-up if everyone is available. For example, in a league that plays 2 singles and 3 doubles, the minimums should be 8 people.

**D.** Teams must register the required number of players to field a team by the initial roster deadline or they will not be included in the schedule.

### III. Eligibility – Players

- A. The captain should read and be familiar with the rules and regulations of USTA National, USTA Southern, USTA Georgia and Etowah Valley Tennis Association.
- B. It is the captain's responsibility to have each team member read and understand current local league regulations before they participate in a match.
- C. Team registration – Each season the captains must establish a team number through the LLC. The LLC has the discretion to make changes to deadlines as he/she determines necessary.
- D. Once a player has played a match for a team, they cannot be removed from that Tennislink Roster.
- E. Players must be 18 years of age prior to participating in the USTA League program. Each player over the age of 18 shall have reached the required minimum age prior to or during the calendar year in which such player participates in his or her first local league.
- F. There will be no players added with less than 2 weeks left of the season.

### IV Captains - Preparing lineups and scheduling matches

- A. Any player may play any position at any time. There is no restriction on the movement of players from position to position, week to week. EXCEPTION – a higher rated player playing on a "+" team must play in the 1 position, either doubles or singles. Two such players may play together at 1 doubles if there are four or five lines.

- B. The home team captain should contact the visiting team captain 3 days prior to a scheduled match to make the final arrangements for the match, including the number of courts. Visiting captains must field teams for the minimum number of courts available.
- C. If the captain listed on the schedule will not be present at the match, he/she should notify the opposing captain of the name and phone number of the person who will be acting captain.
- D. If the home team cannot provide 3 courts at the home facility, the visiting team has the first option of supplying EVTA sanctioned courts for the match. If the visiting team is unable to provide courts, the responsibility reverts to the home team and must be within a reasonable distance (10 miles) and be EVTA sanctioned courts.
- E. If both captains agree:
  - 1. It is acceptable to use more than 3 courts at a time.
  - 2. The team match or individual match may be changed to an earlier or later start time on the same scheduled day. **If scheduling later the same day, the coordinator must be notified.**
  - 3. The team match or individual match may be changed to an earlier day and time during the regular schedule. *Once an agreement has been made, all participants must be present at match time, or forfeit. Forfeits may not be called if additional courts become available and their use was not agreed to beforehand.*
- F. If you know you must forfeit one or more positions at the start of the match, follow the guidelines stated in USTA Regulations handbook. You must forfeit from the bottom of the line-up: either #2 singles, both singles or 3 doubles.
- G. Once a captain notifies an opposing captain, in writing, via email or text, that a line(s) will be defaulted in their match, the default stands even if the team finds players prior to the start of the match. The exception to this would be a rain out.

- H. Any EVTA team involved in a USTA League State, Sectional or National Championship, regardless of the league, may request from their opponent consideration in rescheduling their EVTA regular season match.

#### IV. Captains: Match Day Responsibilities

- A. EVTA LLC will reserve and pay fees for the courts during regular season play, for the following facilities: Dellinger Park and Calhoun Tennis Center. Any other facilities within our sanctioned facilities are the responsibility of the home team.
- B. Team captains must simultaneously exchange complete line-ups BEFORE the scheduled match time. Please be sure the full names of players, as listed in tennis link are used. If a team will not provide a written line-up or digital line-up within the default time, the opposing team may claim a default of the positions that were to start first. If a captain is missing a player, but in good faith believes the player will arrive before the 15-minute default time, the lineup must still be exchanged at the scheduled time, with notification to the opposing team.
- C. Once the teams exchange lineups, no movement of players is allowed, except for matches rescheduled due to inclement weather (void if the line has already started play). Two players already in the lineup will play together in the higher position when both of their partners do not show in order to avoid 2 defaults.
- D. The home team must furnish one unopened can of USTA approved yellow balls for each individual match.
- E. For each team match, a majority of individual matches must actually be played in order to constitute a valid team match. EVTA will follow State Regulation 2.01C3) regarding what action will take place when the combination of individual match defaults given by the two teams in the team match results, or would result, in a situation where the majority of the individual matches would be not played (not a "valid" team match). As follows: The first course of action would be for both captains to agree on what individual matches, based on the number of players present, or to be present, can be played to constitute a valid team match. Once that is determined, both captains will re-exchange scorecards. If both captains cannot come to an agreement on what lines will be played to constitute a valid team match, based on the number of players present, or to be

present, then the following individual matches will be assigned in sequential order to be played:

FORMAT	Reqd Matches in Sequential Order	Minimum # of players Reqd for each team in valid team match
2 singles, 3 doubles	#1 and #2 Singles, and #1 doubles: #2 doubles if enough players present	4
1 Singles, 4 doubles	#1 single, #1 and #2 doubles: #3 doubles if enough players present	5
2 Singles, 2 doubles	#1 Singles and #2 singles and #1 doubles	4
1 singles, 3 doubles	#1 singles and #1 doubles #2 doubles	5
1 singles, 2 doubles	#1 singles and #1 doubles	3
3 doubles	#1 and #2 doubles	4

If a team shows up without the minimum number of players required for the team match based on the number of players present, or to be present, it will be a full team default in favor of the opponents.

F. Defaults:

1. The 15-minute default clock begins at the scheduled match time, when a court is available, and a player has not arrived. A player that is late but within the 15 minutes default time is entitled to a full 10-minute warm up.
2. When a player does not show up within the 15-minute default time, or a player becomes ill or injured during warm up and there is no substitute available, only the affected position is defaulted. Players already listed in the lineup cannot be moved to another position. However, two players already in the lineup will play together in the higher position when both of their partners do not show in order to avoid two defaults. If players agree to play the match after the default time, the match result stands. No default may be claimed after the fact.
3. If a substitute player, not already in the lineup, is available within the 15-minute default time, then that player may substitute for an absent, sick or injured player, at the affected position ONLY. If a substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute player is

entitled to a 10-minute warm up. A substitute cannot be used if a player originally listed on the line up arrives at the match and no longer wishes to play or has time to play

#### G. Disputes

1. If you are disputing the scorecard that has been entered, you must dispute the match via tennislink and notify your LLC within 48 hours. After disputing the match in tennislink, you are required to send an email to your LLC with all of the details (errors or discrepancies and correction). The opposing captain should also be copied on that the email to the LLC.
2. Ensure that restrooms closest to the facility are unlocked at least 5 minutes prior to match play and remain unlocked throughout the completion of the team match.

H. Ensure that all team members and spectators follow the rules of sportsmanship.

I. Email league coordinator if completion of the match is delayed.

J. Verify scores and make sure cards are identical at the completion of the match.

K. Winning captain -Enter scores in Tennis link within 48 hours of completion of the match.

L. Losing captain -Verify scores in Tennis link within 48 hours of completion of the match.  
(If score is not verified and there is a discrepancy, the discrepancy will not be honored).

M. If they are not entered within this timeframe, a double default may be applied to the match and no point will be awarded.

#### V. Inclement Weather

A. Inclement weather is defined as precipitation sufficient to make the courts unplayable,

lightning in the immediate area, severe weather or an actual temperature below 32 degrees F or a heat index (feels Like) 95 degrees F as determined by the zip code the match is being played.

- B. If teams have reported for play and the start of the match is delayed or the match is interrupted by weather, teams must wait 30 minutes to determine if courts are playable. If courts are still not playable after 30 minutes, teams are free to leave and reschedule unless both teams agree to wait longer.
- C. If matches are postponed due to weather conditions, team captains have two weeks to make up matches. Matches must be rescheduled in 48 hours. Captains must call the courts and verify court availability for makeup. If captains cannot come to an agreement the default time for matches will be played the weeknight prior to the next scheduled match. Match time will be 7:00pm. There is an exemption to the two-week rule should either of the teams be involved in a USTA State, Sectional or National Championship representing EVTA. Please contact the LLC.
- D. Once a makeup match time has been agreed upon by both parties (different positions do not have to make up at the same place and time), that makeup match may not be canceled by either party for any reason other than inclement weather.
- E. If major holidays are affecting the makeup days, contact the LLC for possible extensions.
- F. Any EVTA team involved in a USTA League State, Sectional or National Championship, regardless of the league, may request from their opponent consideration in rescheduling their EVTA (USTA League) regular season matches prior to the originally scheduled date of the match
- G. A team with this concern must notify the coordinator and affected opponents at least two weeks prior to the scheduled Championship match to reschedule individual matches, or as soon as the conflict is known if it is less than two weeks. Opponents are required to help the opposing team in the rescheduling of any matches that will conflict. No more positions may be rescheduled than the number of players attending said championship.
- H. If a rescheduled date, prior to the originally scheduled date cannot be agreed upon, the coordinator can extend the deadline and with the Local League Coordinator's authorization the match can be rescheduled using inclement weather rules.

- I. Any individual match rescheduled after the regularly scheduled time must include at least one player who played at the conflicting Championship or this match could be defaulted and awarded to the non-conflicted team.
- J. This ruling can also be used in a match that is rained out in the week prior to a USTA League State, Sectional or National Championship. Contact the LLC for an extended make-up time.

## VI. ROSTER INFORMATION

- A. For Adult 18 & Over levels 3.0 - 4.5 a roster limit of a minimum of 8 players and a maximum of 20 players per team applies.
- B. For Adult 18 & Over levels 2.0, 2.5 and 5.0+ a roster limit of a minimum of 5 players and a maximum of 15 players per team applies.
- C. For Adult 40 & over levels 3.0 - 4.5+ a roster limit of a minimum of 7 players and a maximum of 20 players per team applies (teams advancing to the state championship and beyond will play 1 singles and 4 doubles).
- D. For Adult 55 & Over, Mixed 18 & Over, Mixed 40 & Over, Combo 18 & Over, Combo 40 & Over, Tri-level and Combo 55 & Over, a roster limit of a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 15 players per team applies.
- E. Teams must have a Full roster (the minimum of players required per team) prior to schedule being published or the team is disqualified and removed from match play.
- F. In order for a player to be eligible to advance to the State Championships for Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over, Mixed 18 & Over, and Mixed 40 & Over, that player must have played twice during the season (including league division playoffs). Only one of these can be a default as shown on your player roster. For Combo 18 & Over and Tri-Level at all levels, teams must play in a league competition and each player must play once (default counts) during that league competition in order to qualify for the state championship. In the Adult 65 & Over, Combo 40 & Over and Combo 55 & Over levels, if there is a local league, each player is required to play one match (default counts) during



the season. If there is no local league, an Area Team may advance directly to the state championships if there are no local leagues during the championship year. That team is not required to play any matches.

- G. Area Leagues: The State may authorize local league play for area teams (one team at any given level with no local opponents during the entire Championship Year) from which all participating teams may progress to the state Championships. An Area team MUST come from the season prior to the State championship and the players MUST use their Year-End Rating.
- H. Area Teams: No Player may participate on an Area Team if they have participated on any team at that level, in that league type, in another local league in Georgia during that championship year. All Area Teams participating in an Area league MUST compete against each other.
- I. All team members must be registered members of the USTA with valid membership. Each player shall have reached eighteen (18) years prior to participating in the USTA League Program. Each player participating in forty (40) years or fifty-five (55) years of age prior to, or during, the calendar year in which such player plays his/her first local league match in appropriate league type. Players must play at the NTRP rating assigned to them on the date of their registration. Players may only play at their NTRP rating level or one level higher.
- J. Refunds: Players have 30 days after the season ends to ask for a refund. The Tennislink fee of \$3.15 and the USTA GA fee of \$2 is non-refundable.

## VII.. TEAM MATCH SCORING

- A. The team winning the majority of individual matches shall be awarded one team point for that team match. The team compiling the most team match points at the end of the season shall be champions. In the event of a tie, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures:

- 1) Winner of the most individual matches,
- 2) Loser of the fewest number of sets,
- 3) Loser of the fewest number of games.

B. All matches will be two out of three sets, with the third set being a 10 point COMAN tiebreak.

## VIII. TEAM MATCH PLAY

A. Matches will begin and must be played at the scheduled times as posted on the Tennis link or on an earlier date if agreed to by both team captains.

B. Warm up is limited to 10 minutes.

C. Match format consists of:

Adult 18 & Over leagues: 2.0 - 2.5 & 5.0+, 1 singles and 2 doubles lines.

Adult 18 & Over leagues: 3.0 - 4.5, 2 singles and 3 doubles lines.

Adult 40 & Over leagues: 3.0 - 4.5+, 1 singles and 4 doubles lines.

Adult 55 & Over, Adult 65 & Over: 3 doubles lines.

Mixed 18 & Over, Mixed 40 & Over: 3 doubles lines.

Combo 18 & Over, Combo 40 & Over and Combo 55 & Over: 3 doubles lines.

Tri-level: 3 double lines, 1 for each level.

- D. Order of play will be 1 singles, 1 doubles, 2 singles, 2 doubles, and 3 doubles for Adult 18 & Over leagues. 1 singles, 1 doubles, 2 doubles and 3 doubles for Adult 40 & Over league. Order of play will be 1, 2, 3 doubles for Adult 55 & Over, Adult 65 & Over, Mixed 18 & Over, Mixed 40 & Over, Tri-Level, Combo 18 & Over, Combo 40 & Over and Combo 55 & Over.
- E. At match time, if only three courts are provided by the home team -1 singles, 1 doubles and 2 singles must be present for play at match time. 2 doubles and 3 doubles must be present for play 1 hour after the scheduled start time for the match.
- F. EVTA does not provide linesmen, umpires, court monitors, etc for any matches.
- G. If players on a team are participating in a state, sectional or national championship on an EVTA team, the opposing captain should work with the team to schedule matches before the start or after the completion of the championship. If there cannot be a compromise, the match will be treated as a rainout.

#### IX. Year-End NTRP Computer Ratings and Appeal Procedures

- A. Year-End computer rating is valid for 3 consecutive years or until a new NTRP level is published for players who are 59 years of age or under through the League year, except for players with a published Mixed Exclusive "M" rating who choose to participate in the Adult Division.
- B. A year end rating is valid for 2 consecutive years or until a new NTRP level is published for players 60 years of age and older prior to or during the League year, except for players with published Mixed Exclusive "M" rating who choose to participate in the Adult Division.

#### X STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

- A. EVTA reduced our rates in 2020. Therefore, we will no longer pay the registration for the first-place teams that advance to the state championship. The team is responsible for the registration fees for all players.
- B. In the event there is only 1 berth into the state tournament at a given level and there were 2 leagues season played (2 teams for each season), the winners of the two

seasons will play a playoff match to determine the overall league champion and the berth into the state tournament.

- C. Teams that advance to sectionals and nationals will be responsible for all player registration fees.
- D. Any team defaulting a court for any reason will be fined \$100 per court defaulted. The fine must be paid in the tournament room prior to the team's next match. If it's the team's last match of the tournament, they must pay prior to leaving. If a team does not pay the fine, a grievance will be filed against all members listed on the team information sheet, which could result in suspension from any USTA League play until the fine is paid. Any matches played during that time will be reverted to losses. The reason for this regulation is it's your team's responsibility to have players on every court at each match during a state championship. When a team defaults a line, it not only can affect the outcome of the tournament, but more importantly, it effects those players who showed up ready to play, only to find their opponents did not show.

#### XI. Court Usage

- A. Teams out of Hamilton will be responsible for the \$330.00 fee per team.  
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- B. EVTA will schedule all matches with Dellinger Park and Calhoun Tennis Center. Any other court schedules and fees will be the responsibility of the home teams. We will schedule Hamilton. However, the home team will need to pay the court fees directly to Bartow County Parks and Recreation.

#### XII. GRIEVANCES

- A. All complaints alleging a violation by an individual or team during local league competition shall be filed in writing with the Local or District League Coordinator or designee having jurisdiction. The complaint must be filed prior to the commencement of whichever occurs first:
  - (a) the involved team's next match in that flight, whether the involved player participates or

(b) within twenty-four hours after the end of the local league season. See National League Regulations 3.03B(1).

B. Any party to the complaint may appeal the decision of the Grievance Committee within the time fixed by the Grievance Committee in its findings.

C. If unsure of the procedure, contact the Local League Coordinator.

EVTA Local Grievance Committee:

Denise Smith

Shane Wilkes

Jeff Dittmer

Conila Wade

Cassie Brown

EVTA Local Grievance Appeal Committee:

Angie Cornett

Tia Wilkes

Lisa Still

Committee members are subject to change due to conflicts of interest or availability. New committee members may be appointed on a case-by-case basis by the Local League Coordinator. These regulations have been approved by the EVTA Board Members and USTA.