

2021-22 GAFL WOMEN'S TENNIS

A & B LEAGUE RULES

ELIGIBILITY

- A. Players must be 18 years old to be eligible to play in the League.
- B. College students who play varsity team tennis are not eligible to play in the League.

II. RULES

- A. USTA Rules and Code are in effect for all play unless superseded by a League Rule.

III. DUES & FEES - DEADLINE OCTOBER 31ST

- A. **League Dues** are \$20.00 PER PLAYER, which includes the cost of the year-end luncheon. All money is due by October 31st.
- B. **Make your checks payable to Janie McFarlain and give to your captain.** Captains, please collect and mail all your team's checks at one time to Janie McFarlain. (see the last page for her mailing address).

IV. MATCH FORMAT

- A. "A" League play consists of 6 doubles matches. "B" League play consists of 5 doubles matches. All individual matches count one point.
- B. All matches should be played on the scheduled date. If all 4 regular players agree to play prior to the match date, this is permissible. Then if the scheduled date is rained out, the match played early stands. If all 4 regular players agree to play after the scheduled date, this is also permissible, however the match must be completed, and scores sent to the appropriate Statistician within 4 calendar days (the same timing as results for the match are due per XI.B.). If the scheduled match is rained out and points are split, the points in this match will also be split.
- C. The home team furnishes new USTA approved balls (top quality, soft or hard court).
- D. Captains may contact each other prior to the match and should do so about any potential problems. If you use email or texts to communicate, be sure to get a reply. Do not assume the other captain has received your information.

V. MATCH TIMES

- A. Warm-up starts at 9:15 am. The home team Captain is responsible for seeing that the matches start promptly at 9:30am.
- B. Warm-up time (including practice serves) is fifteen minutes. If opponents are late arriving, players should warm-up with team members to have full warm-up time. Late players arriving after 9:30 will be penalized as follows: (Please note: Late players are entitled to a 5-minute warm-up)

9:31-9:35am - loss of toss plus one game

9:36-9:40am - loss of toss plus two games

9:41-9:45am - loss of toss plus three games

9:46am - default. (The match may still be played, scores recorded, but no point would be awarded to the late team. On-time players may decide to waive penalty if opponents have a legitimate excuse and their schedules permit.) EXCEPTION: Forest Meadows and Tom Brown due to Covid precautions. Start times are 9:45 and 10:00 am.

VI. SCORING

- A. Each individual match consists of the best two out of three sets. All matches, once started, must be played to completion or be defaulted. (Rain exception: See Sect. X, Rule C)
- B. The Coman 7-point tiebreaker will be used if the score in any set reaches six games all. The tiebreaker procedure is as follows:

The player whose turn it is to serve shall serve the first point from the deuce court; after the first point, the players shall change ends and the following two points shall be served by the opponent due to serve next, starting with the ad court; after this each team shall serve alternately for two consecutive points (starting with the ad court), changing ends after every four points until the end of the tie break game. **Thus, switch sides after points 1, 5, 9, 13, 17, etc.** The first team to reach 7 points with a margin of 2 points wins. The tie break counts for one game and is written 7-6(4), the “4” is the number of points LOST by the winning team. After the tiebreak, players change ends and the team that DID NOT start the tiebreak now starts the next set.

- C. If two teams split sets in August or September, a 10-point tie break will be played in lieu of a 3rd set, unless all four players agree to play a full 3rd set. Starting in October, a 3rd full set will be played unless all four players agree to a 3rd set 10-point tie break. The decision to play or not play a full third set can be made before or at any time during the match. The 10-point tie break is played the same as the 7-point tie break (using Coman Tie-Break procedure), the first to 10 points with a margin of 2 points wins. It should be recorded on the score sheet as the actual score (i.e. 10-6)

VII. ROSTERS

- A. All teams must submit a complete viable roster by July 31st to the League Committee (LC). (Please refer to last page for more information on the LC.) “A” League rosters should be sent to Janie McFarlain, and “B” League rosters should be sent to Katie Brennan. (See last page for email addresses.) To ensure proper placement, the LC may review and check players’ records, including any USTA records. A roster must be in descending order of strength. And a roster must be filled from the top down, meaning there cannot be a permanently empty spot at the top positions. Players must move up to fill any empty spots. The only acceptable empty spots will be at A6 or B5. Three people can fill one position on a team. Each person will have to pay the League dues (and split city court fees, if applicable). Consideration for the Excellence Award will be forfeited because they will not be playing with the same partner every game.
- B. Permanent changes in rosters must first be approved by the LC, and then the League Statistician will include the changes in the next published score sheet and the website roster will be updated. The LC’s decision on a roster may be changed at any time based on match results that shows a player is too strong to play at a position, or if a team is not in descending order of strength. If the team disagrees, a grievance may be filed following the procedure outlined in section XIV.
- C. The only time regular players may move down is in performance. Any time during the year at the discretion of the captain and with approval by the LC, a doubles pair that has lost several consecutive matches may be moved down one position to adjust the team to reflect the descending order of strength.

VIII. SUBS

- A. An official Sub List will be maintained on our web site: **GAFLTENNIS.COM**. Sub positions must be approved by the Sub Committee. Then she may play higher but not lower.

- B. A player may become a sub by submitting the official sub form. Via the website, she can either submit the form on-line or download the form and submit to the respective Sub Coordinator via email (“A” League players email Kim Miller at ALeagueSub@gmail.com; “B” League players email Margaret Mooney at BLeagueSub@gmail.com)
- C. Players who only sub, must pay a \$5 fee each year to be included on the Sub List. Please send a check payable to Janie McFarlain at the address listed at the end. Note that subs who are on both A & B League sub lists pay one \$10 fee.
- D. All subs should be on the sub list to play in a match. If a sub needs to be added quickly, submit the official form AND the captain must notify the respective Sub Coordinator (see above) **before or on the same day of the match.** The sub will be added to the official sub list after approval. If the sub committee later determines that the emergency sub was playing too low or the form was not received on time, and the team with the sub won the match, it will be treated as a forfeit. Avoid this possibility by getting approval before the match (24 hours is minimum time for committee to review).
- E. Subs must be placed where they belong in the lineup according to their strength so that the entire team is in a descending order of strength. Otherwise it is “sandbagging” and is illegal. Every effort should be made to find a sub appropriate to the position needed. If an ineligible sub plays in a match and the team wins, it will be treated as a forfeit.
- F. Regular A6 League team players will be allowed to sub at the B1 position with a B1 player or B1 sub as a partner. The A6 player must be listed on the B sub list according to section VIII. B., but does not pay the \$5 sub fee. Players on the A6 sublist may also sub at B1. However, two A6 players (regular or sub) will not be allowed to play together at the B1 position.
- G. All B League players are eligible to sub in the A League, but must be listed on the A sub list, and also do not pay the \$5 sub fee.
- H. Players needing a sub should do the phoning etc. to find the sub. Always keep your captain posted on your progress.

IX. FORFEITED MATCHES

- A. It is permissible to default an individual match in any position. The Captain must notify the other Captain by 8:00pm the night before or earlier. The only exceptions are last minute emergencies.
- B. If a match that has been forfeited in advance ends up being “rained out” and the rest of the involved teams are going to have make-up matches, the forfeit is disregarded and the player (or a sub) can play in the make-up match. If there will be no make-up match, the points will be split.
- C. Matches can only be forfeited for legitimate reasons (such as illness or travel) and when subs cannot be found. The LC can ask a team to justify their forfeits.

X. RAINED-OUT MATCHES

- A. In the event of inclement weather on the morning of the match, the home team Captain has the responsibility to determine whether it should be cancelled. She also has the responsibility to call the other team captain before 7:30am in order to cancel the match. If the home team Captain cannot guarantee that the courts will be playable at 9:15am, the captains decide to either split the points or make up the match as indicated in paragraph X.C. below. If no call is received, the visiting team captain shall assume the weather is good and the courts are playable. Violation of this rule will result in the split points being awarded to the visiting team and 0 points to the home team. It is better to call off the match if there is threatening weather than to have a wasted day.
- B. If all league matches are cancelled by the league coordinator or by all captains because of the

weather, the match date may be rescheduled to an available reserved rain make-up day, except for any individual matches which were completed in advance. If no reserved make-up days are available, points will be split.

- C. A match that has been halted by rain will be resumed on a date that is mutually agreed upon by both Captains (or by each pair of position players individually) but must be completed within 3 weeks of the original match date. The match is resumed with the same scores and same players as when the match was stopped. If a makeup date cannot be agreed upon, the points will be split.
- D. Temperature Rule: Using weather.com as our guide, if at 6pm the night before the match the temperature in Tallahassee is predicted to be 35 degrees or below (actual or including wind-chill factor) at 9am on match day, all matches will be cancelled following X.B. The League Coordinator will make the decision and notify the captains by 7pm.

XI. RESULTS

- A. The home team Captain has the responsibility of getting the score sheet to the League Statisticians:
 - A League: Steffi Bixler at bixler@rose.net
 - B League: Katie Brennan at ktbrennan358@gmail.com
- B. If the results are not received by 6pm on the fourth (4th) calendar day after the match, the home team's points are forfeited. The visiting team keeps the points the visiting team won, providing the Captain, after receiving her result sheet, sends in her score sheet within 4 days to the League Statistician.
- C. Please make sure any subs are clearly indicated on the score sheet that is turned into the statistician. All changes to rosters, sub lists or corrections to the results sheet will be published on the following week's results sheet.

XII. PLAYOFFS

- A. The team that wins the Fall season with the most points and the team that wins the Spring season with the most points will have a playoff match to determine the League Championship. The playoff will be played at the Club or site which hosts the luncheon, or at a nearby mutually agreeable site.
- B. In case of a tie at the end of the Fall or Spring season, the results of the last head-to-head match will decide the winner. If teams are still tied, the team with the fewest sets lost in the head to head match will be the winner. If the teams are still tied, the team with the most games won in the head to head match will be the winner. If the head to head match was not played, the match will be rescheduled.
- C. Team line ups must be submitted to the appropriate League Coordinator five days prior to the playoff date. This rule must be adhered to or else the team will forfeit any grievance rights.
- D. Substitutes must have played in at least two regular matches for any team during the current league year. In order to cut down on the use of substitutes, individual teams who know that they can't play on the scheduled date will be permitted to arrange with their opponents to play prior to the playoff match. If the opposing team cannot accommodate the other team, a sub will be permitted.
- E. In case of a tie in the league playoffs, the team with the fewest sets lost will be the winner. If the teams are still tied, the team with the most games won will be the winner.

XIII. INJURY

- A. In case of injury, a five-minute suspension of play is allowed.

XIV. COACHING

- A. No coaching is allowed during the match, except between the second and third sets when a ten-minute rest period may be taken. Coaching may only occur off the court.

XV. GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

- A. Players should FIRST consult with their appropriate Grievance Representative before filing a grievance.
- B. Grievance forms are available if an alleged infraction occurs that needs to be brought before the Committee. It needs to be mailed or emailed to the Committee and the Captain of the team accused of the infraction. A response by the accused team to the grievance must be received within 10 days; otherwise, the grievance will be honored.
- C. The Grievance Committee member will be ineligible to vote if she actually plays on either team but may give guidance on whether it is a worthwhile grievance.
- D. Blatant wrongdoing by any Captain may result in a total loss of points for that match.

“B”-LEAGUE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE:

The B League Grievance Committee will consist of all team captains or their designated representative. The Committee will be chaired by the B League Coordinator.

“A”-LEAGUE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE:

Bainbridge	Joy Smith
Capital City	Janie McFarlain
Golden Eagle	Kathy Maus
Killearn	Lisa Graganella
HighlyStrung	
Thomasville & Glen Arven	Steffi Bixler
Simply Smashing & Sweet Spots	
“A” League Coordinator	Janie McFarlain

XVI. PERSONAL INFORMATION

- A. By joining the League a player is granting permission for our website to post your name, phone number and email address. This information is to be used only for League or tennis related business.

XVII. COURT COURTESY

- A. As a courtesy to all other players, please refrain from these distractions:
 1. The use of active cell telephones on the court while the match is in progress.
 2. Bringing children or pets that could be a distraction during the match.
 3. Guests or teammates accompanying players should show the proper respect for all players while the match is being played.(Cheering for a bad shot is not sportsmanlike.)

XIV. HOSPITALITY

A. The Year-End Luncheon will rotate among the teams as follows

“B” LEAGUE

2019 – City Teams
 2020 – N/A - Covid
 2021 – N/A - Covid
 2022 – Glen Arven
 2023 – Bainbridge
 2024 – Capital City
 2025 – Killlearn
 2026 - City Teams
 2027 - Maclay

“A” LEAGUE

2019 - Killlearn
 2020 - N/A - Covid
 2021 - N/A - Covid
 2022 - Glen Arven
 2023 - Bainbridge, Tally Babs & Thomasville
 2024 - CCCC
 2025 - Golden Eagle
 2026 - City Teams
 2027 - Killlearn

THE LEAGUE COMMITTEE (LC)

The mission of the League Committee is to facilitate fair and fun tennis in the GAFL Women’s Tennis Leagues. In general, the “A” League members oversee “A” League matters, and likewise for “B” League. The LC currently consists of the following members:

GAFL Tennis League Coordinator & League Treasurer:

Janie McFarlain
 1302 Betton Road, Tallahassee FL 32308
 Home: 878-3343
 E-Mail: janie@mcfarlain.com

League Website Coordinator:

Rhonda Tullos
 Cell: 850-933-8355
 Email: rhondatullos@gmail.com

“B” League Coordinator, Statistician & Excellence Award Coordinator:

Katie Brennan
 Cell: 850-445-1131
 Email: BLeagueCoord@gmail.com
 Email: KathleenLBrennan@aol.com

“B” Sub List Coordinator:

Margaret Mooney
 Cell: 850-339-6345
 Email: BLeagueSub@gmail.com

“B” City Team Coordinator:

Margaret Mooney
 Cell: 850-339-6345
 Email: margmooney@yahoo.com

“A” Statistician & Excellence Award Coordinator:

Steffi Bixler
 Cell: 229-226-0646
 Email: bixler@rose.net

“A” Sub List Coordinator:

Kim Miller
 Cell: 850-210-2325
 Email: kmiller1963@hotmail.com

“A” City Team Coordinator:

Ann Lumsden
 Cell: 850-273-0046
 Email: ann_lumsden@comcast.net