

## **ACTA Doubles League Regulations—2017 Winter Indoor League**

Summary: The Arlington YMCA has agreed to host us for the 4th edition of the ACTA Winter Doubles league. This league ensures Arlington tennis players have year-round opportunities to compete and socialize. Although competition is spirited, it is expected that each participant exhibit good sportsmanship at all times. ACTA Leagues have a zero tolerance policy with regard to any physical altercations that occur at or in connection with any match.

Similarly, ACTA is committed to taking all steps necessary to maintain the integrity of its league programs, up to and including the initiation of grievance complaints, or where authorized direct decisions to discipline those who by their own actions (whether directly or indirectly) undermine league integrity.

Each league participant is expected to know, and is bound by these Procedures, the Rules of Tennis, and The Code: The Players' Guide for Un-officiated Matches (printed in Friend at Court, published annually by USTA). To the extent that the meaning of any League Rule or Procedure may be unclear, it will be construed in a manner to foster good sportsmanship and fair play. ACTA rules will apply when there is a conflict between the ACTA rules and USTA rules for conduct or match procedure.

Age and attire. No one below the age of 19 is eligible to play in the Arlington County Tennis Association (ACTA) Adult Doubles League. All players shall be appropriately dressed. Shirts shall be worn at all times.

Players are also subject to the Arlington Y's Code of conduct:  
[http://www.ymcadc.org/pdf/MembershipHandbook9\\_29\\_16.pdf](http://www.ymcadc.org/pdf/MembershipHandbook9_29_16.pdf).

The ACTA Winter Doubles Coordinator for 2017 is Catherine Desouza ([catherinedesouza5@gmail.com](mailto:catherinedesouza5@gmail.com)).

### **(A) Team Captains/Co-Captains**

1. Every team must have a team captain, who is the person whose name appears as (or in conjunction with) the Team Name as displayed in TopDog and who is the person that league administration shall communicate with regarding all matters affecting that team.
2. In addition, teams are encouraged to appoint one or more "co-captains" to assist with internal team functions (reallocating team fees, coordinating practices or player availability, etc.) any one of whom also may be listed on the TopDog Website.
3. No person may captain more than one team.

### **(B) Roster Information**

With respect to players added to the roster during the local season:

1. Players may be added throughout the season, up to a team's last local league match, not counting any local league playoff matches. Players can play on multiple teams and in multiple divisions; however they must be added to the roster prior to the match to be eligible.
2. Players who have not participated in a match may be deleted from a roster. Contact the local league coordinator to receive a refund.
3. The 66% Arlington residency requirement rule is waived for the ACTA Winter league.
4. Teams are encouraged to have at least 12 active players to avoid forfeits.
5. Here is the link for league signup:  
[https://www.topdogtennis.com/pages/leagues/season\\_information.asp?seasonid=761](https://www.topdogtennis.com/pages/leagues/season_information.asp?seasonid=761)

### **(C) League Fees**

1. The cost of the Winter league is \$62/player. The ACTA Annual Membership of \$15 is waived for the Winter league. This Winter league fee includes all court fees, tennis ball fees, and prizes.

2. After 14 players have been added to a team roster, additional players can be added to the roster at no cost. Contact the local league coordinator to add these extra players.

### **(D) Scheduling**

1. There are two divisions, A/B (4.0-5.0) and C (3.5). Each division has six teams. Each team will have 8 team matches during the regular Winter season, plus a potential playoff match.
2. Each team will play the other teams in the division once (5 matches), and three additional matches that are randomly selected.
3. The matches will take place either on Saturday from 1PM-2:30 PM, Sunday 12:30PM-2 PM, 6PM-7:30PM, or 7:30PM-9PM.
4. On March 19th, a playoff match will occur for each Division. The date of this match could be moved if there are snow days. The standings will be calculated after the eighth match in the season:
  - a. The first place team in the standings will play the second place team in the standings for the championship.
  - b. The third place team will play with fourth place team for a consolation match.
  - c. No additional match for the fifth and sixth place teams in the standings.
5. The league coordinator will attempt to schedule around conflicts that the teams submit prior to the season. Email Catherine at [catherinedesouza5@gmail.com](mailto:catherinedesouza5@gmail.com) with any issues.
6. The league will have a “bye” Super Bowl Sunday, February 4.

### **(E) Inclement Weather**

1. In the event the of bad weather or other circumstances, the League coordinator will email the captains and co-captains at least one hour prior to the match to cancel it. Extra weeks will be added at the end of the season to complete it
2. Call the Arlington Y (703) 522-1700 if there is any doubt the club is open.

### **F) Match Play**

1. Each team match will consist of one line of men’s doubles, one line of women’s doubles, and one line of mixed doubles.
2. With approval of the opposing captain, you may switch up the line-up configuration to three lines of whatever combination is agreed upon for that match.
3. The A/B league NTRP level limit for each line is 9.0, unless both captains agree to a larger combined NTRP.
4. The C league is capped at NTRP 3.5 for each player. No USTA 4.0s are allowed.
5. Changeovers, or players switching sides of the court, will only take place after the completion of a set to help with conserve playing time. Water breaks can still occur after the 1<sup>st</sup> game, and every 2 games thereafter within a set.
6. Individual Match. Each individual match shall be a 90 minute timed match, and shall be 2 sets with regular scoring and a set tiebreak (first to 7 by a margin of 2) at 6-all in each set. In the event of split sets, a match tiebreak (first to 10, by a margin of 2) shall be played to decide the match. (See (7) for scoring matches that do not finish within the time limit.) A point in play at the end of the time limit will be completed even if it will affect the outcome of the match. If a match is timed out before a serve is in the court of play, the match is over.
7. If a match does not finish within the time limit, then the teams need to assess who has won the match:
  - a. If the match is in a set tiebreaker, and one team is leading by at least one point, then that team has won the set 7-6.
  - b. If the match is in a third set tiebreak, the team that is ahead by at least one point has won the match. If they are tied, they play a “Sudden Death Point” (see 6d).

- c. Otherwise count total games won by each team. If games won are tied, or the 3rd set tiebreaker is tied, play a “Sudden Death Point (see 6d).
- d. Sudden Death point procedure: For purposes of the sudden death point, players shall meet at the net, where Home team spins a racket and Visiting team “calls” to determine which team wins choice of being the server or receiver. Whichever team is the Receiver in the sudden death point shall determine the side of court to which the serve shall be delivered (deuce or ad) and for doubles, the specific player who shall be the Receiver. The player who shall be Receiver need not be designated until after the player who shall be Server is declared. The winner of the point shall win the match.
- e. If the lights turn off, or the tie-breaker is not played for some reason, the teams shall spin the racquet to determine the winner of that line.

### **(G) Warm-up Courts**

Warm-up courts may be purchased as spot time at a facility where allowed, the same as any other patron. Otherwise, players are not authorized or entitled to early access to courts except with the explicit permission of the facility; and if a facility does permit early access without payment of an additional fee, then such courts must be shared equally between the competing teams.

### **(H) Match Administration**

1. ACTA will provide balls to captains (12 cans of Penn medium-heavy duty felt) prior to the start of the season. ACTA will also provide balls for the playoff matches. Court Assignments will be either made by the Arlington YMCA or specified on the TopDog website.
2. Captains will exchange lineups prior to the match. Emailing the opposing captain is also acceptable. Players must be register on the team’s TopDog roster to be eligible.
3. Hopefully most defaults can be avoided since our rosters are flexible. However, if a player is not present 15 minutes after the match has been scheduled, the match is defaulted.
4. Official Match Time Piece and Who Calls “Time:” Where a facility uses a horn, bell or similar device to announce time, it shall be relied upon as the official timepiece for all matches. Where no such device is present and operable, then the Home Team Captain shall determine the official timepiece to be used for the match and the Visiting Team Captain shall determine the person responsible for calling “Time” using said timepiece. Individual teams may agree to use cell telephone timepieces on a case-by-case basis.
5. Match warm-ups are strictly limited to no more than 10 minutes, except that late- arriving players may have to forfeit their warm-up if they arrive 10 minutes late. The Visiting Team Captain or designee is responsible for announcing when the warm-up period has expired and it is time to “Begin Play.”
6. Bathroom Breaks: Bathroom breaks are limited to a reasonable amount of time generally not to exceed 5 minutes and are authorized only if truly necessary. No bathroom breaks may be taken within the last 15 minutes of a match unless both teams agree.
7. All players must abide by the rules, customs and procedures contained in The Code at all times. No coaching is allowed at any time during the match, including warm-up. Spectators are permitted to sit courtside only if all players in the affected match agree. In any event, spectators are permitted on adjacent courts if the matches are finished, provided that such spectators come no closer than the centerline of the court they occupy in relation to the court they are observing (in other words, maintain one-half court width distance from any match still in play). No spectator, teammate, or team captain may intervene, offer an opinion, or become involved in any way, in any match that has not yet been completed, except for the calling of “Time” by the Visiting Team Captain or designee, either to begin or end match play on all courts.

## **(I) Scoring and Standings**

1. After the team match is completed, the winning captain will enter the match scores in TopDog. The other captain will verify the scores via the TopDog system.
2. Captains may enter the matches in any order in TopDog. They are listed in TopDog as: #1 Doubles, #2 Doubles, and #3 Doubles. Enter matches within 72 hours or the matches are subject to be forfeited.
3. The standings of each Winter League division shall be calculated as:
  - a. Most number of individual matches won over the course of the league season.
  - b. Followed by fewest sets lost.
  - c. Followed by fewest games lost.
  - d. Coin toss.

## **(K) Grievances/Appeals**

For purposes of filing a Grievance arising out of ACTA League play, either the captain or co-captain must submit the grievance. Submit the grievance to the Winter Doubles League Coordinator. The grievance must be submitted no later than 7 days after the incident. ACTA will appoint a three person committee to rule on the grievance. All rulings are final.

## **(L) Review and Approval of Rules**

These local league procedures and related policies will be reviewed and amended as necessary by the ACTA League Rules Committee, which will forward its recommendations to the ACTA Board of Directors for approval at its next scheduled meeting. Captains or players with suggested amendments (whether additions or deletions) are invited to submit them in writing at any time during the year, by e-mailing: [president@actatennis.com](mailto:president@actatennis.com).