

MJCCA Adult Tennis

**Marcus Jewish Community
Center of Atlanta**

**MJCCA
ALTA - USTA
TENNIS
HANDBOOK**



Tennis Department (rev. 10/05)

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Philosophy

The philosophy of the MJCCA's Tennis Department is to provide a positive athletic experience where all players have the opportunity to improve their tennis skills and fitness level, and to play matches at an appropriate competitive level, in an atmosphere of team camaraderie and good sportsmanship.

The Tennis Program

The Tennis Department is part of the Recreation and Wellness Department of the MJCCA.

Our staff includes:

Allan E. Jensen, Tennis Director, USPTA, PTR, GPTA, AAT(Argentina), certified.

- (770) 395-2526
- E-mail: allan.jensen@atlantajcc.org

Juan Pablo Arico, Head Tennis Professional, ITF, AAT (Argentina) certified

- (770) 395-2665
- E-mail: juanpablo.arico@atlantajcc.org

Jodi Kenter, Assistant Tennis Professional

- (770) 396-3250 ext. 483

Jane Jones, PTR, Assistant Tennis Professional

- (770) 396-3250 ext. 483

Jeanne Martinez, Administrative Assistant

- (770) 395-2594
- Email: Jeanne.martinez@atlantajcc.org

The Tennis Committee

The Tennis Committee is made up of players from each team, a chairperson, and Allan and Juan. Meetings are held approximately every 2 months, and an agenda is sent out before each meeting.

The purpose of the Tennis Committee is as follows:

- To help promote the tennis program at the MJCCA; and to recommend any policy changes or rule changes.
- To help staff with ideas on improving the quality of the tennis program.
- To make recommendations regarding the tennis program to the Recreation and Wellness Committee.
- To help raise necessary funds for the program.
- To take part in the interview process of new tennis professionals.

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Members of the Tennis Committee:

A. Chair Herb Chuvén, Senior Men

- (770) 668-9534
- E-mail: hchuvén@alum.rpi.edu

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Allan Jensen, Tennis Director

Andrea Jaron

Beth Scheuer

Dianne Chimowitz

Faith Benda

Gary Schreter

Jerry Keslensky

John Spitzler

Juan Pablo Arcio, Head Tennis Pro

Karen Gadlin

Kathleen Cohen

Kelli Veit

Marilyn Porter

Mort Rodwin

Murph Buchwald

Stan Schwartz

Individual League Rules

It is strongly suggested that all players have a copy of USTA's The Code and Rules of Tennis. You can find The Code and Rules of Tennis by visiting the USTA website at <http://www.southern.usta.com/atlanta>. ALTA captain's handbook can be found at www.altatennis.org. It is also good to have them available at matches, in case a question about a rule arises. Each player is responsible for knowing the rules. Additionally, you can ask the tennis staff at practice.

Reminders for ALTA/USTA Matches:

- The first ball of the match should be served at the official match starting time, i.e., 9:30 a.m., and all warm-ups should be completed by then. Arrive at least 20 minutes earlier so you can have time for warm-ups.
- Bring a can of unopened tennis balls to each match. The winner gets the unopened can.

MJCCA ADULT TEAM TENNIS POLICIES*

1. In order to be placed on a USTA or ALTA roster, all fees must be paid for in full.
2. All tennis players must have and maintain a recreation plus or higher membership throughout the season.
3. Captains and co-captains are responsible for lineups and partnerships. Tennis professional advice can be sought.
4. If a team makes the playoffs, the strongest possible line up will be fielded.
5. It is the policy of the MJCCA that athletic teams not participate on Shabbat or on the Jewish Holidays that the center is closed. This applies to home and away matches. Please read the attached policy closely.
6. No refunds for coaching will be given after the team roster has been turned in to ALTA or USTA. Exceptions will be made if players are injured at the start of the season.
7. All practicing team members who are not alternates will be asked to play a minimum of two times during the regular season on dates that they said they would be available.
8. You must be available to play matches at any time after 9:30 on the day of play. Try not to make appointments on mandatory makeup days, for example: ALTA plays Thursday - makeup Wednesday. On match days be ready to play Thursday women's at 9:30 a.m., Business Women's Sunday at 1:00 pm, Senior Men and Women at 10:00 am and know that finishing time is uncertain.
9. TRY not to cancel at the last minute except for an emergency. Call your captain who will give you a list of team members who are available to take your place. It may be your job to find a replacement.
10. If you are not available at least **four** times during a season, you will be considered an alternate** and the captain will play you only as needed.

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11. If a player exhibits poor sportsmanship (such as rudeness, disruptive behavior, makes derogatory comments, refuses to shake hands, disrupts play on an adjacent court, etc) then this will result in a warning, penalty, or, in severe cases, suspension from play by the Tennis Program.
12. Practices missed by an individual player **CANNOT** be made up later.
13. MJCCA Weekday Women and Business Women have limits of **12** players for USTA and **15** players for ALTA.
14. Players are strongly encouraged to attend a majority of the practices. All players need to learn what the team is working on in practice and to practice playing with different partners and teammates.
15. **If it rains, call Allan's voicemail (770) 395-2526 or the front desk (770-396-3250) if you are uncertain whether or not there will be practice.** If the front desk does not have any information, this means that practice is still tentatively on. Sometimes the decision has to be made later because the coaches are still drying the courts, or it may start raining again, and they need to make a decision closer to the practice time. Please understand that every effort is being made to have practice.
16. Play must be stopped **immediately** and everyone must leave the tennis courts when the Thor Guard Warning System sounds. After a 30-minute minimum delay someone from the security, tennis, or rec and wellness staff will determine whether or not the match/practice may be completed. A decision must be made within 45 minutes.

** An alternate is a paying member for practices but who cannot play four or more matches. If you are an alternate, you cannot be guaranteed to play any matches. Each team may have a maximum of two (2) alternates.

RANK OF PRIORITIES FOR LINE-UPS

1. Captains and co-captains.
2. The captain and co-captain will consider: a player's availability, team commitment, attendance at practices, level of ability, dependability, and good sportsmanship when making the line-ups.
3. Alternates

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ADULT LEAGUE NOTES

1. The team captain and co-captain prepare line-ups. Generally this will be done well in advance, but sometimes you will be notified close to the playing date. **Please be flexible.**
2. Don't expect to be called if you are not playing. However, you should still be available to play in case there is a cancellation and your captain or team member may need to call you with little notice.
3. If you don't understand the rules (tie-break, line calls), ask the tennis staff during practice.
4. Many captains communicate via e-mail now. Please check your email regularly for important information.
5. If you don't know when the make up practice will be, please call the captain or co-captain. It's your responsibility.
6. Please let the captain and co-captain know if there are any matches you will not be able to attend.
7. Be an active member on your team. Don't wait to be called for practice matches. Go ahead and make the call yourself.

Come watch your teammates play and give them moral support even if you are not playing that day!

Tennis Etiquette

- Every MJCCA tennis player is expected to be a good sport with respect to his or her opponents and teammates.
- Use encouraging words to support your teammates, not sarcasm, put-downs, or derogatory comments during matches and practice.
- Cheer appropriately: Do not cheer when your opponent double faults or makes an easy mistake.
- Treat your opponents, as you would like to be treated. No derogatory comments about other teams.
- Support other MJCCA Teams.

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- Try to accommodate other team's requests.
- Shake hands after a match and compliment your opponent's good shots.
- **THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK!!!!**

Do's and Don'ts for Players:

- Do give 100% effort in every match
- Do make accurate and honest line calls, if in doubt the ball is considered good
- Do acknowledge your opponent's good shots
- Do be respectful of your opponent at all times
- Be a good sport – win or lose!
- Don't talk during a point when the ball is not on your side, or purposely try to distract your opponent
- Don't be a distraction to the court next to you
- Don't take the game of tennis so seriously that you lose sight of your ability to have fun!

Roster Formation and Player Movement

In order that players are fairly distributed among the teams, that individual players are on teams where they can best improve their individual tennis skills and fitness levels and play matches at the appropriate competitive level, players will occasionally be asked to move to another MJCCA tennis team. We are striving to provide a tennis community where players can move from team to team when the need arises.

The Tennis Coordination Committee will be in charge of team distribution and player movement. It will consist of a player from one of the Weekday Women's teams and a player from one of the Business Women's teams, Allan, Juan and the tennis committee chair. They will meet before each season starts to discuss team rosters and player movement.

Players can also request to move up or down individually and the Team Coordination Committee will consider these requests at their meeting.

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Communication

Issues regarding the tennis program should be directed to the Tennis Director along the appropriate channels:

- Team issues should be communicated through the captains to the Director.
- Issues of a more personal or timely nature can be communicated directly to the Tennis Director, Allan Jensen (allan.jensen@atlantajcc.org) at 770-395-2526 or the tennis committee chair, Herb Chuven (hchuven@alum.rpi.edu) at 678-481-8550.
- Items regarding Tennis Department policy, rules, and events, as well as ways to help staff with ideas to improve the quality of the program, can be added to the Tennis Committee agenda through your team representative/s or directly to the chairperson.
- Captains' meetings will be held at the beginning of each season for feedback about the season and tennis program, and to set goals for the next season.
- During the year, questionnaires will be distributed to players for their ideas and input. Allan and Juan will review these and share the information with the Tennis Committee Chair.
- Meetings with the Director and/or Tennis Committee Chair can be requested on an individual or team basis as the need arises.
- For issues that cannot be resolved in the above manner, the Recreation and Wellness Director, Howie Rosenberg, can be asked to attend a meeting or his advice can be requested. Howie Rosenberg can be reached at 770-395-2543 or Howie.Rosenberg@atlantajcc.org.

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THE 12-POINT TIEBREAKER

The 12-point tiebreaker takes effect when any set score reaches six all. The first player/doubles team to win seven points with margin of at least two points wins the game and the set.

The official procedure for playing the 12-point tiebreaker is as follows:

Singles:

“A” serves first point (from right court); “B” serves points 2 and 3 (left and right); “A” serves point 4 and 5 (Left and right), “B” serves point 6 (left) and after they change ends, point 7 (right); “A” serves points 8 and 9 (left and right); “B” serves points 10 and 11 (left and right), and “A” serves 12 (left). If points reach 6-all, players change ends and continue as before. “A” serves point 13 (right); “B” serves points 14 and 15 (left and right); etc, etc, etc, until one player establishes a margin of two points. Players change ends for one game to start the next set, with player “B” to serve first.

Doubles:

Follow the same pattern, with partners preserving the sequence of their serving turns.

(Assuming “A” & “B” vs. “C” & “D”) player “A” serves first point (right); “C” serves 2 and 3 (left and right); “B” serves 4 and 5 (left and right); “D” serves point

6 (left) and after teams change ends, point 7 (right)... “A” serves 8 and 9 (left and right); c serves 10 and 11 (left and right), and “B” serves point 12 (left)... If points reach 6-all, teams change ends and continue as before—B serves point 13 (right); D serves points 14 and 15 (left and right); etc, etc... until one team establishes a margin of two points. Teams change ends for one game to start the next set with team C and D to serve first.

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WHEN JEWISH HOLIDAYS/SHABBAT CONFLICT WITH ALTA/USTA MATCHES & KOSHER SNACK POLICY

The MJCCA serves the entire Jewish community and strives to make everyone feel comfortable at our programs. As a Jewish institution, the MJCCA adheres to Jewish dietary laws and follows the Jewish calendar, closing on the Sabbath/Shabbat and holidays (Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, the first two days of Sukkoth, Shemini Atzeret, Simchat Torah, the first two and last two days of Passover and Shavuot). In accordance with this policy, only Shabbat and holiday appropriate activities take place under MJCCA aegis on these holy days.

It is extremely important that all teams playing at the MJCCA have a unified way of handling the rescheduling of matches that conflict with our Jewish holidays. If even one person on a team bends this rule, it would create future problems for all teams trying to reschedule matches due to Jewish Holidays.

As a general rule, no ALTA/USTA match, either home or away, may be played on Shabbat or the Jewish holidays listed above.

There is both an exemption and a specific disciplinary action regarding ALTA/USTA play on Shabbat and Jewish holidays.

- A. The exception: For any ALTA/USTA match in which the ALTA/USTA rules prohibit re-scheduling and which is not held on MJCCA grounds, the match may be played by MJCCA team members should they so decide.
- B. The disciplinary action: For any ALTA/USTA match in which ALTA/USTA rules permit rescheduling, and the match is played anyway by an MJCCA team without rescheduling, those team members will be suspended from the MJCCA Tennis program for one year from the date of the match which has caused the policy breach.

Kosher Snack Policy

The Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta serves the entire Jewish community and strives to make everyone feel comfortable at our programs. As a Jewish institution, we adhere to the Jewish dietary laws and serve only kosher food at all on-site programs.

In accordance with this policy, only kosher snacks may be distributed at all practices and games. Only products marked with one of the authorized kosher certification symbols reproduced below are acceptable (K is not an acceptable symbol). Non-Kosher food is not to be handed out to athletes or siblings.

To make your life easier, you can order snacks ahead of time from Café Ofi. Stop by Café Ofi for more information.



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I've read and understand the information in the ALTA/USTA Tennis Handbook. In particular, I understand the Jewish Holiday/Shabbat policy, Kosher Policy, Tennis Etiquette, and the sportsmanship policy. A breach of tennis etiquette or showing poor sportsmanship may result the following: a warning, penalty, or in severe cases, suspension from play by the Tennis Program.

Signature _____ **Print Name** _____
This _____ **day of** _____ **200**__.