

New and Important OC USTA League Information for 2018 Season! + Year-End Ratings + SCTA Doubles LLP info (sent 11-30-17)

Hi Captains,

I hope everyone had a very Happy Thanksgiving Holiday with your family and friends and you have a great winter holiday this December. We will be ready for you with lots of leagues beginning in January to help burn off those holiday pounds. :)

2017 SCTA Doubles Playoffs for 3.5 and 4.0 Women are set between WD and WE winning teams for the following dates:

3.5 - Saturday 12/16

4.0 - Sunday 12/17

If you are one of the teams in contention please fill out the form linked below to let me know if you can host the playoffs on your day, and if so, at what time can you get the three courts.

[Form for Teams in Contention for OC Local League Playoffs to Notify of Hosting Availability](#)

I'm working on finalizing the Calendar and Rules for 2018.

The basic/tentative calendar is posted on the [2018 Master Schedule and Deadline Date Page](#). (Subject to revisions)

Please remember to always follow the dates listed on that page, as opposed to the overarching dates listed in TennisLink, because they don't always match, and the OC dates on that page is what controls.

65 & Over League is changing to be played in an interim time frame, Feb - May, which allows more time, in a time frame that's cooler. Sectionals are in the Fall and the National Invitational is in January 2018. For this league, even if we have one team, that team has been able to progress. So... if you qualify and want to put a team together at the 6.0, 7.0, 8.0 or 9.0 levels, please let me know. We can run both a WD and WE flight, but the winners of each will need to do a playoff, and players would not be able to play in both WE and WD league at the same level.

New Ratings were slated to come out either tomorrow or soon after and the link to access them will be posted on the lower left-hand side of the website: www.orangecountyusta.com

However, I'm seeing a countdown when I login saying they are expected to be out at 8:00 pm tonight.

Rules have changed, so we need to make sure you are aware of them before you start registering your teams. Procedures for obtaining team numbers has also changed. It's quite a bit of reading. Please take your time to read thoroughly and carefully and ask questions about anything you do not understand.

Major change to note:

- We will not be using online team creation this season. To request a team number, captains must read and the rules (SCTA Regulations, OC Local League Rules and 2018 Master Schedule and Deadline Date Deadlines), review the new 2017 Year-End Ratings, and fill out the Captain's Acknowledgment Form (after reading and understanding the rules). After those are completed, email me by the deadline date requesting your team number(s) and I'll send them to you after I put them online. The link to the form is posted on the Rules, Forms and Information Page of the website: www.orangecountyusta.com (upper right-hand side) [Captain's Acknowledgement Form - Part of New Procedures for Requesting a Team](#) (do not fill out until you've read and understand all the rules)
- SCTA will no longer be issuing refunds, so be careful about registering players.
- We can still move players to a subsequent season, if the request is made before the deadline date to register players.
- The deadline to register players will revert back to the way we used to have it. For 2018, you may continue to register players (or request to move a player to a future season) up until 4 weeks before the end date of the season. (I'll add specific dates to that Master Schedule and Deadline Date page linked above before the winter season begins. No exceptions will be made to extend these very generous deadlines, but I think it's a great change, that allows for new players to the community to get started playing asap.)
- This is the year we will be strictly enforcing our Team-Bye Request procedure that has been in place for many years, but not always followed by all captains. Captains MUST fill out the Team-Bye Request form and

officially list all Team-Bye Requests on the form and those are the ONLY dates for which a captain may request a reschedule with their opponents after the schedules come out. If a captain fails to list a date, and/or lists dates beyond their allowable maximum, their opposing captain is not required to reschedule that match, even if it is the first match of the season. This system is in place to reward captains who take the required time up-front to manage their schedules, and penalize those who don't. This policy may require captains to roster larger teams, but will definitely require captains to poll all their players up front regarding their availabilities, so they can know when they are short players, and request team-byes accordingly and make sure to roster enough players so they have enough for all matches.

- Regarding our WD/WE area status: There are now three leagues, where OC is considered separate areas: 40 & Over Adult (winter); 18 & Over Adult (spring); SCTA Doubles (fall). This means that players in these leagues may play on both a WD and a WE team at the same level (IF we have at least 6 teams signed up for the WD league) which allows one representative to progress to the next level from each WD and WE area.
- Many more changes. Please read all the rules carefully.
- Date for Preseason meeting will be announced soon, but I also may do a bunch of local meetings for repeat captains at your sites (to make sure you get your captain's gift) with in-person hands-on training for new captains.

After you've completed the required steps and received your team numbers, you may begin registering players.

FLEX League singles will start up after the leagues are up and running, and will be run quarterly, but managed in TennisLink instead of the FLEX league platform. Long-story-short, much better platform.

I have a new form that is going to make it much easier for me to place new players on teams and form new teams, where we have a group of players in an area. It collects specific data regarding the player and their preferences and allows me to sort accordingly. If you need players, anytime during the year, let me know and I'll sort it to match your team and send you a list of emails for all those interested in playing. Here is a link to that form, which is now posted on the Rules, Forms and Information page of the website: www.orangecountyusta.com

[Are You a Player Looking for a Team?](#)

[Click Here and We'll Find You One!](#)

I've deleted the form for captains looking for players to fill out. Simply email me and I'll get you the information on available players.

Thanks for reading to the end. I realize it's a lot, with a lot of changes, but hopefully they will all contribute to making our league better and result in getting all captains on the same page.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need help with anything.

I hope you have a great Holiday Season!!!

Heidi

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