



All Things Tennis

- an information packet for tennis players -

Draft – under revision and review, and not Board approved (most recent revisions 1-18-12)

Principle:
Arbor Greene's Community Tennis facilities are for the use of, and paid for by, Arbor Greene Residents.

Facilities and Hours

- 1. Arbor Greene has eight (8) lighted, Har-Tru, underground-watered, clay tennis courts.**
- 2. Courts are open from 7am to 11pm daily. Maintenance aims to have at least some courts playable by 7am on the weekends, and by 8am on weekdays.**

Arbor Greene Tennis Court Use Guidelines

7-27-11 (repl. 4-23-10)

1. Courts are for exclusive use of Arbor Greene residents and members. Courts are also open to guests playing with an Arbor Greene resident or member. Resident families and member families are limited to three (3) guests at any time. Non-resident “guest passes” are available for purchase in the Club.
2. ID tags are required of all resident and non-resident members. Children under the age of 14 are not permitted on the courts without supervision of an adult, 18 years or older.
3. Courts are to be used only for Tennis and may not be used for any other purpose. Roller blades, skateboards, scooters, bicycles, etc are strictly prohibited. Bicycles are not permitted on court surfaces. Please use the bike racks and lock your bikes.
4. All players must wear tennis shoes and appropriate tennis attire. Shirts must be worn at all times; cutoff shorts are not permitted. Ladies sports bras must be covered by tops. Clothing with “cuss” words or vulgar language or symbols are not permitted.
5. Smoking is not permitted.

6. No profanity or boisterous behavior.
7. Advance reservations for courts may be made online up to three (3) days ahead by accessing www.arborgreene.org and following the link. Same day daily sign-ups are available on the daily reservation form located at the court #1 sun shelter. Reservations start on the hour or the half hour and are VOID if not used by 10 minutes after the reservation time. Players may reserve the courts for 90 minutes only one hour and a half at a time.
8. If same day, please sign in on the reservation sheet posted on the bulletin board at court #1 before using a court and mark your time of play. Also use this procedure for the “Courts of Opportunity”, meaning sign up for the court of opportunity.
9. Lessons and tournaments, etc. require approval of Director of Tennis
10. Leagues require approval of the Club Manager.
11. If courts are very crowded, see if you can join in with someone else.
12. All instructors must be approved by the Director of Tennis and the Arbor Greene CDD Board of Supervisors.

(Original of above is posted at bulletin board nearest court #1)

(Throughout "resident" means either resident or member)

Residents desiring to play on organized teams, please contact either a captain, if known, or the newsletter editor (agnewsletter@arborgreene.org, or 991-9226 for more info.

1. Rosters

Any team captain wishing to field a league team submits a proposed roster to AG club office, and awaits review and preapproval. Preapproval is required before registering team on the website. Players may not play any matches until fees and waivers are submitted to AGCDD.

2. Non-resident

AG Non-residents playing on an AG team pre-pay a board-approved season fee of \$150/team. ALOT, long season: Sept. to June: "2X" or \$300. (7/11 AGCDD Board mtg.) This fee entitles non-residents to play on, and practice with, the team. Non-residents must always have a resident/member with them.

Residents/members may ***not*** use their "guest" privileges in lieu of non-residents paying for the team.

Captains are responsible for turning Non-resident/non-member fees in with their roster, ***before*** signing the team up on the USTA website.

3. Team membership and composition

Teams must have, and maintain, a minimum of 70% (10/11 AGCDD Board mtg) residents/non-resident members to have an AG team. **Team captain must be a resident/member.**

Residents/members, at correct skill level, have **priority** of being on the team to start, and also have "playing priority". Please allow residents advance notice to register for a team, before inviting non-residents to register. Non-residents are invited only if we do not have enough residents to fill out a team. A team is

considered to be filled out at 175% of minimum number needed to field a team each week (e.g. if you need 8 players, 14 residents is “filled out” = No NR invited. We have no intention to have “hired guns”, “ringers” or “mercenaries”. (see overriding principle)

Available residents get "playing priority" over non-residents. (Unless it's a “competitive" team) *Competitive teams (meaning that the captain picks the "x" number of best, available players) must have at least 80% of the residents on the team agree to this. (Please include the survey results showing 80% member approval.)* Captains: please assure that residents understand that this means they may not play as often as they'd like.

4. Arbor Greene League Match and Practice Scheduling Rules

- A. All privileges have responsibilities:
1. **To respect** that AG league play and players are only one component of the AG tennis community; we also have:
 - a. Tennis professional staff, who, under contract with the AGCDD Board, offer lessons, clinics, tournaments and special events.
 - b. The tennis professional staff, again by contract, is entitled to two (2) courts full-time. In recognition of how lessons/clinics are scheduled, at times, the professionals, in agreement with the Club Manager, may use more than two (2) courts. On balance, there are many, many times when two (2) courts are not used by the tennis professional staff.
 - c. Many non-league players and families also like to play tennis, and we need to work toward “balance”.
 2. Scheduling:
 - a. Captains/players agree to abide by the current scheduling guidelines. (Please see the first principle)
 - b. Court usage is reviewed to attempt to achieve some balance between league players and their matches and practices and the rest of the tennis community.
 - c. Scheduling components and their *definitions* (see 2e below)
 1. Prime time – the times that the courts are the busiest.

2. Normal time – the times the courts are not usually that busy.
- d. Use of Courts:
1. Official League Matches – scheduled behind tournaments, and special events. Matches are to be scheduled and played on their scheduled day. Changes require Club Manager preapproval. Recommend that staff schedule them at the beginning of the season.
 2. Club Manager, or his designee, schedules court usage.
 3. Courts of Opportunity – AGCDD Board Nov. 2011 – two (2) courts at all times (“ALOT” exception – only one court)
- e. Prime time hours definition:
- Monday – Thursday: 6pm – 8pm, inclusive (meaning that any practice is to be complete by 6pm, and not start until 8pm)
- Mon/Wed/Thurs, 8:30am to noon, when “ALOT” or USTA are in season
- Saturday: mornings, when League is in season
- Sunday: mornings or afternoons when leagues are in season.
- (all of the above is meant to accomplish that it's not ok for one team to schedule a match, and another team to schedule practice at the same time.)
- League team practice courts are limited to a maximum of 2 courts for practice, with a maximum of two teams practicing at any given time.***
- f. Two courts are to be left at all times for non-league players. (“ALOT” exception)
- g. League matches (4 courts are available for league play/practice, with A LOT exception for two teams at home on Wednesday mornings);
1. Weekday nights: split start: 3 teams at 6:30pm, two (2) other matches to follow;
 2. Weekday daytime: 3-4 courts.
“A LOT” exception: If more than one team is at home, split starts: 3/2, using 6 courts....(A LOT only – Wednesday mornings)
3. Weekend:

- a. Saturday: 3 courts; split start (4-6)
All matches (3 or 5 lines) : if more than one team is at home, early (8am and late as follows). Early team needs to start on time.

 - b. Sunday am/pm: 3 courts (4-6) If more than one team at home for mixed, use 4 courts, with both teams having a split start.
3. League Team Practices – scheduled only in normal times. Only one practice per week per team. **Prohibited: scheduling of “informal” practices in prime time.** League players on the same team may utilize only one court in prime time; otherwise, it really is just a league team practice. In normal times, practices may be scheduled for “longer” periods of time (meaning greater than 1.5 hours)

10/25/11

As part of the ongoing discourse amongst the Arbor Greene CDD Board, Arbor Greene staff and the ad-hoc tennis committee comprised of resident tennis players, a number of concerns have been resolved and will go into effect immediately.

The first of these changes is “Courts of Opportunity”

At the meeting held Monday, October 24th, the CDD Board unanimously voted to continually maintain 2 walk-on courts as “courts of opportunity” for residents. As such, these courts will be inaccessible through the reservation system. **The 2 walk-on courts can only be signed up for when you arrive**, not beforehand; even on the day you wish to play. For example, you can’t sign up at 10AM for a 7PM court time.

Please sign up for these courts on the sign-up sheet adjacent to court 1, just as you would for a normal walk-on for any other court. The walk-on courts can only be used for 90 minutes if others are waiting, and your cooperation will be appreciated if someone is waiting to use the court after you. The courts may also not be used to increase team member participation in a previously scheduled team/league practice. The Board expects that these courts will remain open to our resident players and families, engaging in non-organized play (not a league match, team practice, etc.)

We are reminded that we live in community where our courts can be equally enjoyed by families, recreational and league players.

The Board desires to maintain a balance within Arbor Greene!

Addendum #1:

An Intro to USTA League Play: (I developed this intro/overview to explain the basics of USTA Adult League play to someone unfamiliar with the subject. Then I thought I might pass it along to others. You are welcome to share this with others, if you find it helpful.)

Some USTA League Info:

- This is meant to be an introduction and overview, and not a comprehensive description.
- It is aimed at people with little knowledge about USTA league play, who would like to know more.
- Full info can be accessed at:

www.usta.com

www.florida.usta.com

- Mission Statement: "To Promote and Develop Tennis in Florida"

- We have several thousand USTA league players in Pinellas.
- There are also other local leagues (non-USTA): Satellite, Racketeers, PADL, etc., (mostly women's leagues), Ultimate Tennis (formerly K-Swiss)
- We have Local League Coordinators (LLC's) who get paid by USTA for their work:

- Barb Jones: senior men and senior women,
681-6643, barb_bjjones2@verizon.net,

- Sylvie Roy: mixed and combo
505-6516, sylvieroy01@gmail.com

- Alan Williams, adult men & women
610-7301, trainst@verizon.net

- There are more than 20 tennis clubs and facilities in the county that may have teams in the different leagues (private clubs, public, and private, but open to the public).

- There are about 330,000 USTA league players across the country.
- Leagues are organized by skill level, age, same gender, and mixed.

Adult - 18+
 Senior - 50+
 Super Senior - 60+
 Super 70's - 70+

- In 2013, there will be an age restructuring of USTA leagues.

18+
 40+
 55+
 70+ (which might change to 65+)
 The "senior" label will be eliminated; all leagues will be "adult"

- Skill Levels - there are numerical designators for the skill levels, from the NTRP, National Tennis Rating Program -- 1.5 thru 7.0 (in ".5" increments)

1.5 - an absolute beginner, no experience, maybe little knowledge
 7.0 - world-class professionals, making their living, the pro tournaments
 4.5 - 6.0 - college players

There is an extensive explanation chart of skills for the different NTRP levels.

New league players have to "self-rate", with an obligation of honesty. In addition to reading the NTRP chart, consult a tennis pro about your appropriate level, and.....play with others who have an established rating, to see where you fit in.

Most clubs in Hillsborough are predominantly 3.0 to 4.0 groups, with about 70% of the players being around 3.5, with 15% being better and 15% being less skilled.

At the end of each calendar year, USTA publishes the NTRP ratings that players will use for the next year. Some people have improved enough to get bumped up to the next level, and a few get dropped down one level (i.e., from 4.0 to 3.5). Most stay at the same level.

- The lowest NTRP level used for USTA leagues is 2.5.
- A minimum of two teams are required to have a local league.

- ▶ The 69 counties in Florida are gathered into 8 regions; Hillsborough is in Region 3, with Pasco, Hernando, and Pinellas.
- ▶ There are 17 Sections in the USTA, organized by geographic proximity and density of USTA league players. So, at the National League Championships, there are usually 17 teams, one from each Section.
- ▶ The state of Florida is one Section, by itself, with over 50,000 USTA members.
- ▶ There are local leagues, throughout the year.
- ▶ Then for the groupings with large-enough numbers, the local league winners will play in a Region event (adult leagues).
- ▶ Then the Region winners play in the Section Championship.
- ▶ The 17 Section winners play in the National Championships.

✚ Here in Florida, they have hosted the Section events at the Florida Tennis Center in Daytona Beach, since 2003. The facility is owned by the city/county. USTA Florida rents office space there and rents the courts for all the Florida Section events. So, when you hear people talking about "going to Daytona Beach", that means their team has won locally, again at Region, and will participate in the Florida Section Championships at Daytona Beach, with a chance at "going to Nationals".

✚ There have to be enough numbers to justify a National Championship, so currently there are no 70's events nationally. I think there will be in a few years, as people live longer and stay healthier.

✚ Most of the senior leagues in Hillsborough play in the Jan-Mar time period. These

would be the men's doubles and women's doubles, in the 50's, 60's, and 70's. There are not always teams in each category (gender and age) for every club. These leagues play 3 doubles in each match, so you need 3 courts for each team match; and the league winners go directly to Daytona Beach.

- ✚ The women's and men's adult leagues play in the Apr-Jun time period. This usually involves 2 singles and 3 doubles, so you need 5 courts for each team match. At the 2.5 and 5.0 levels, there is one position at singles and two doubles for a team match.
- ✚ There are mixed doubles leagues - senior mixed scheduled during the winter months, and adult mixed in the Winter and Summer months.
- ✚ Then there are "combo" leagues, both adult and senior.
- ✚ In a combo league, each pair has players of two different NTRP rating levels (i.e., a 3.5 and a 4.0, playing in a 7.5 combo match.
- ✚ The combo leagues in Hillsborough are in the Summer.
- ✚ The Flex league allows players to schedule matches at mutually convenient times, groups them by skill level, and provides opportunities for local area championships.
- ✚ USTA membership is currently \$42 per year.
- ✚ Each league registration costs \$18.
- ✚ Team captains register at \$3.

- ✚ All team registrations and reporting of match scores are done by computer through the TennisLink system. This is a fantastic system that has all league records throughout the country for the last number of years. We could go into TennisLink and find a cousin in Waco, Texas, who played a women's doubles match in April,

2009, and see who her partner was, who her opponents were, and what the score was. You get the idea. It is an outstanding system.

✚ To join USTA, call 1-800-990-USTA (8782)

✚ USTA Florida - 386-671-8949

✚ I, Wendall, have focused this info on adult league tennis. The USTA has an extensive program for Junior Team Tennis. Check the websites for more details.

This addendum originally written by: (data changed for Hillsborough County)
He also maintains the Tampa Bay Area “Big” Tennis list

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Tennis Advocate

USTA FL Leagues Council

Suncoast Tennis Foundation

USPTA Tennis Pro

(Send an email to be deleted from or added to this tennis list.)