



The Gates Community Association, Inc.
1515 Habersham Gate Dr, Cumming, GA 30041

Gates Community Association

Tennis Court Use Rules

Revised May 2008

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Tennis Court Use Rules
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I. DEFINITIONS

- A. Available Court - Courts are available for play that have not been reserved.
- B. Reserved Court - An “available court” that has been reserved within 48 hours of intended use.
- C. Reserved in Advance Court (RIA) - Courts allowed to be reserved or scheduled prior to 48 hours before intended use. Courts may be RIA for the following purposes:
 - 1. Schedule team practices and matches.
 - 2. Make-up matches relative to team play whether it is a “Team” (Dual Meet) or “Individual Position”.
 - 3. Any other advance sign-up approved by the Tennis Committee (round robins, Community Championships, etc.)
- D. Member - A Gates Community Association Member and Family in good standing; i.e. homeowner dues paid for the current year.
- E. Non-Member - a person residing outside the Gates.
- F. Tennis Committee - A committee appointed by the Board of Directors each calendar year to assist the Tennis Chairman in the care and operation of The Gates Tennis Courts. Normally the Tennis committee will consist of five members. The Tennis Chair, two tennis team Captains or tennis team players and two non-team tennis players.

II. GENERAL

- A. Members may make reservations for Available Courts within 48 hours prior to the time of the intended use by using the sign-up sheet on the Tennis Bulletin Board adjacent to the courts.

- B. Each family member may reserve one Available Court for one and one-half (1 ½) hour each day. Play may continue on an Available Court, but not on a reserved basis after the reserved time has expired.
- C. Reservations are forfeited when players are not at the court within ten (10) minutes after the time for which the court was reserved.
- D. If after reserving an Available Court, a member finds they cannot play during the scheduled time, the reserving member(s) name(s) should be removed from the sign-up sheet so others may schedule court time.
- E. **ANY MEMBER PLAYING ON ANY COURT MUST SIGN UP BEFORE PLAY BEGINS.** This does not apply to team play, team practice, and special functions. This will enable the Tennis Committee and Association Members to verify that those playing on the courts are actually members.
- F. Any member not signing in to play must surrender the court if another member comes to the court and signs in to play. No exceptions. If you do not sign in, you have no standing for court time.

III.GUESTS

- A. Guests are permitted to use courts under the following conditions:
- B. At least one player on each court must be a member.
- C. The guest cannot be a Gates Community Resident not in good standing.

IV.TEAM PLAY

- A. Eligibility
 1. Members may participate on teams approved by the Tennis Committee. Members may not be deprived of the right to play on Gates approved teams. Participation issues will be resolved by the Tennis Committee.
 2. Captains should strive to form teams consisting of members only. However, in order to field teams and prevent forfeitures, non-member participation is sometimes needed.
 3. The number of non-members allowed to participate on any team is limited to 40% of an approved Gates Team at any given time. The Tennis Committee may approve a participation rate of 50%, if circumstances warrant.

4. The long-standing reciprocal agreement with Habersham remains in effect players from Habersham are considered “members” for inclusion on a Gates roster only. They are not considered members for other court usage.
5. In order for an approved non-member to participate on a team, the following requirements must be met:
 - a) The non-member must not be a Gates Community Association Member not in good standing.
 - b) The non-member’s name, telephone number, and a \$25 fee (payable for each season) must be submitted to the Tennis Committee prior to the beginning of the season.
 - c) If the non-member is an “add-on”, the items described above are required before participation is allowed.

B. Rosters

1. Each Captain must provide a copy of the team roster for league play to the Tennis Committee prior to the beginning of the season.
2. Any “add-ons” to the team roster must be submitted to the Tennis Committee as they occur.

C. Practice

1. Teams are permitted to have one scheduled team practice per week on two courts for two hours.
2. Team practice periods are from 6 P.M.-8 P.M. or from 8 P.M. - 10 P.M, as determined by team Captains in coordination with the Tennis Committee. To ensure that courts are available for members not on teams, only one team practice per night is permitted.
3. Each team must submit to the Tennis Committee the day an time desired for their weekly practice prior to the courts being officially reserved for practice. A schedule of all team practices will be posted by the Tennis Committee on the Tennis Court Bulletin Board. The posted schedule automatically “Reserves-In-Advance” the courts to be used. Courts can be RIA three (3) weeks prior to the first schedule match.

D. Matches

1. A copy of the team schedule will be given to the Tennis Committee within forty-eight (48) hours after the team Captain receives it. A schedule of all home matches will be posted by the Tennis Committee on the Tennis Court Bulletin Board. This posted schedule automatically “Reserves-In-Advance” the courts to be used.
2. Since league play requires two courts to be available at the designated starting time, any play on the courts “Reserved-In-Advance” for league play must stop in order for the courts to be available for the scheduled team match.
3. Teams may ‘Reserve-In-Advance’ courts needed for make up matches. However, previously scheduled practice times (RIAs) and courts already reserved (signed up within 48 hours of intended use) may not be used without permission from the parties who reserved the courts for their use.
4. Teams are allocated five hours for each home match (weather permitting). After five hours has elapsed, if there is only one court being used for league play, the other court may be used by members with the following provisions:
 - a) The players must be adults.
 - b) They will play a match or matches and not use buckets of balls to “practice”.
 - c) They will make every effort to keep balls from going into the court where the league match is on going.
5. If there is a weather delay causing the home match to begin past the scheduled starting time, the five-hour period for playing the match is determined from the time the first match is begun. Example: Mixed Doubles match scheduled to start at 9 AM is not begun until the courts are dry and playable at 10:15 A.M. The five-hour period for the match begins at 10:15 and ends at 3:15 P.M.
6. The Tennis Committee will RIA courts for any team who qualifies for playoffs. This will include scheduled and rain make-up times and dates.

V. COACHING

- A. Members not in good standing may not participate in independent coaching (not team coaching) on the tennis courts. Non-members may only participate in independent coaching if Gates members are also participating in the coaching.
- B. Non-members who are approved to play on a Gates team may participate in team coaching.
- C. Under no circumstances will the tennis courts be available for lesson(s)/ coaching by a member or outside instructor for the sole purpose of teaching outside students.

VI.DRESS

- A. Tennis attire, including shirts, is to be worn on the courts at all times. Tennis shoes are to be worn on the playing surfaces at all times. NO basketball shoes, running shoes, or dark sole shoes, shoes with heels or members without shoes (barefoot) are permitted on the playing surface.

VII.COURT COURTESY

- A. Sportsmanship is not an option when playing the game of tennis; it is part of the game. Arguing, boasting, screaming, throwing rackets, and using profanity are not acceptable conduct for Gates tennis players.
- B. Keep conversation on your court at a level that will not disturb players who are playing on the other court.
- C. Close the tennis gate when you exit.
- D. It is your responsibility to return all balls that roll into your court area. If you ball rolls onto the other court, it is the responsibility of that court to return the ball to you. Do not go into another person's court area to retrieve your ball.
- E. Do not walk behind a court when a point is in progress. If you need to exit or enter, wait until the point in progress is over or until players on that court have given you permission to pass.

VIII.MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Tennis courts are available for play during the period 6:00 A.M. to 11:00 P.M.
- B. Roller skates, tricycles, bicycles, skateboards, or other toys are not permitted on the courts.
- C. Night play stops at 11:00 P.M. The last person leaving the courts is responsible for turning off the lights and closing the gate(s). Schedule league play may extend the stopping time to 11:30 P.M. if necessary, but no later.
- D. Members are expected to clean up the courts used, the area outside the courts (if used), and to place all trash in trash cans provided.
- E. Children under the age of twelve (12) must be accompanied by an adult member (18 years or older) after dark (when lights are turned on to play).
- F. No one other than players may be inside the fenced tennis court area. Those waiting to play, spectators, children, and friends must stay outside the fenced tennis area.
- G. No pets, chairs, stools, furniture, baby strollers, play pens, or baby beds are permitted inside the fenced tennis area.
- H. Jumping over the nets and swinging on the nets and or fence are prohibited.
- I. For safety, tennis court gates must be kept closed unless players are entering or exiting the fenced tennis area.
- J. No use of tobacco or alcohol anywhere inside the fenced tennis area.
- K. No food or glass containers anywhere inside the fenced tennis area.
- L. During pool shut down, the Tennis Committee will be responsible for supplying the washrooms with paper and soap products, sweeping out the floor, removing any trash and ensuring that the restrooms are properly secured.

IX. CLUBHOUSE USAGE

- A. The Gates Clubhouse may be used by an ALTA/USTA team and their guests regardless of weather conditions. However, Tennis Captains or the Chairperson must check with the Gates Activities Chairperson to ensure that the clubhouse has not been rented. If so Clubhouse rental takes priority.

X. RULES APPROVAL AND REVISION

- A. These rules are effective upon approval of The Gates Homeowners Board of Directors. Certification of approval will be made by the signature of the Chairman of the Board of Directors and a date applied to the original copy, which will be retained by the Board of Directors. A copy will then be furnished to all homeowners in a method determined by the Board of Directors.
- B. Suggested changes can be submitted to the Board of Directors at any time. Changes will be made at the Board of Directors discretion.