

Dear WTTA Captains and Players,

Re: Day Change for Championship Flight effective Spring 2019

The WTTA Board has been discussing possible changes to better accommodate our growing league. As you know, we have a record number of teams this season at 190. Our growth over the past few years has been incredible. Unfortunately the growth of tennis facilities in our area has not kept up.

We have worked hard to find a spot for all players who want to forms teams in our league. We added the 11:30 match time to expand our capabilities to keep up with growth. Additionally we changed to a third set tiebreak in order to better control match times so that courts could be used more efficiently.

Traditionally, our most underutilized day of play has been Friday. The only Flight we have on that day is Seniors. The reason for that was our desire to avoid, as much as possible, a conflict for our players with USTA play. Many of our WTTA players are also on USTA teams and with both 3.0 and 4.0 USTA matches on Friday, it was difficult to have any flight that could play on Friday and not have a conflict.

However, CATA has just announced that the 4.0 USTA flight will be moving from Friday to Wednesday beginning with the Spring 2019 season. The Board and I have discussed possible WTTA schedule changes that might be possible as a result to help relieve some of our court crowding on Thursday.

So effective with the Spring 2019 season our Championship Flights (North and South) will be moving from Thursday to Friday.

We believe that this change will be a benefit for the league as a whole and for players at our top flights in particular.

First, of course, this will help relieve some of the court constraints on our busiest day, Thursday. We currently have 50 WTTA teams on Thursday and only 12 on Friday. Moving the Championship flights to Friday will take Thursday WTTA teams down to 30 and take Friday up to 32. A much better balance between these days. Hopefully this may reduce the number of 11:30 matches required for teams currently playing on Thursday.

Additionally, teams at the upper levels have a great deal of problems finding sufficient qualified subs for matches. With the movement of Championship to a different day, all of our top flights should benefit in this regard. Super Champ teams, which will remain on Thursday, will have access to Championship roster players as subs. And Championship teams will be able to use Flight 1 roster players as subs, since Flight 1 will remain on Thursday as well.

We do understand that individual players and teams may have an issue with this change, so we wanted to give you as much notice as possible. And for players who cannot continue as a result of this change, we do sincerely apologize. Our hope is that 4.0 players who are currently used to playing USTA on Friday will now have the opportunity to play WTTA Championship level on that day. And players who cannot play on Friday who are currently on Championship teams may have time to find a spot on a team that will be continuing to play on Thursday, either at the Super Champ or Flight 1 level.

We appreciate your understanding as we make these changes to allow our league to continue to grow. Please contact your club rep if you have any questions, and again we do hope that all of our players will find a spot that still works for them on teams for the Spring season.

Susan Cippelle

Executive Director, WTTA