

WHAT WOULD MOTIVATE MORE PEOPLE TO BE TEAM CAPTAINS?

AATL OPINION SURVEY RESULTS (as of 11/1/09)

Total number of responses.....	28
1. Please enter your USTA player number	23 Did (5 Didn't)
2. Have you ever been a tennis team Captain?....	26 Yes 2 No
3. Which of the following incentives do you believe would prompt <u>more</u> people to be a team Captain?	
○ (Current practice) a \$20 annual gift certificate for each team Captain (HallmarkInsights.com or similar).....	2
○ A \$40 gift certificate for first-time team Captains, and \$20 certificates for repeat Captains (annual).....	2
○ Free registration for the team Captain.....	20 + 4*
○ A brief (1-2 hour) training course on how to be a Captain.....	1
○ One free racket stringing (you pay for the strings) annually.....	
○ An annual Captains appreciation banquet.....	
○ No incentives should be provided.....	1*
○ Other incentives: (see below).....	

4. What deters you from being a team Captain?

- **No time / too busy**.....

8	+	3*
---	---	----
- **I don't know tennis rules adequately / too complicated**.....

1*

- **Too much meddling by league officials / pros**.....

7

- **I don't know how to sign up to become a Captain**.....

--
- **I don't know what to do as a team Captain**.....

1

- **Too much hassle / uncooperative teammates**.....

8	+	1*
---	---	----
- **Other deterrents: (see below)**.....

7

- The league coordinator (Eddie) is hard to work with and has poor people skills. He doesn't take suggestions or criticism very well and can be quite rude and combative. He has done a great job of communicating league activities to members, but has done a poor job of dealing with individual situations.
- Namely, Eddie Estochen - he has been rude, unfair, unprofessional, used foul language, and totally poked his nose into situations that the captains should have handled themselves, but he was "special friends" with one of the captains.
- I enjoy being the Captain.
- Out of my club, there are not a lot of opportunities to captain (just not a lot of teams). I am happy to do it when it makes sense for me to do so.
- It takes a lot of time and is a lot of work
- First there are too many tennis rules. Tennis is supposed to be fun, not so darn rule oriented. The basics are needed, but there is something called overdoing it.

Secondly You league officials don't realize how hard it is to organize a team especially by a smaller club, get everyone to return e-mails or phone calls, make-up matches within a two week period when some can only play once during the week and it's not always on the designated night the league coordinator assigned it. We get ignored and have very little say in any matter. People work and raise families, too.

In addition I feel we are competing with our next door neighbor, Augusta. Too many ringers come from Augusta and make it unfair for some of the teams. The other teams don't have a chance. The 3.5 team used to be on Monday Night and is now moved to Tuesday night to

accommodate the Augusta League. People had to try to rearrange their children's' schedule and couldn't sometimes and we lost too, many ! people.

Last, but not least, when people play so many leagues at night it is hard to make-up the matches when so many days are already taken up by other leagues. Wednesdays aren't good for some who go to church. I think we need to only play 8 matches instead of 12 when there are 5 or more teams. The make-up matches some time need to be made up due to rain, snow or freezing weather. This year has been especially bad. Sometimes the captains prefer working together to get the matches played and don't need to be hassled by local officials. They only make it worse. LESS IS MORE. Life shouldn't be made more complicated. Sorry I let loose. I've held this in for far too long.

- Takes lots of time even with email, as not everyone is good about checking their emails and getting back to you. Sometimes its hard to please everyone with the decisions on pairing and who plays. Some players are too demanding or unhappy no matter what you do.

5. What motivated you to be a team Captain?

- | | |
|---|---------|
| ○ Not applicable - never been a Captain..... | 1 |
| ○ I wanted to build a team of specific players..... | 6 |
| ○ Receiving an annual gift certificate..... | 3 |
| ○ Nobody else stepped forward..... | 14 + 2* |
| ○ I like to strategize in team competition..... | 4 |
| ○ No one asked me to be on a team, so I formed my own..... | 4 |
| ○ I prefer to be in charge..... | |
| ○ Other motivations: (see below)..... | 4 |
- Originally, I was looking for people to play with and was told that the best way was to volunteer to be a captain
 - After a recent experience with dealing with Eddie, I will never captain a team while he's the league coordinator.
 - Many of the players on our team work. I am retired and that helps.
 - Stepped up to do it for the club (primary over the gift certificate).

Remarks:

- There is minimal to no flexibility by officials/local league coord. There were times during spring USTA where both captains agreed to a rescheduled date but local league coord would not allow due to "rules" and significant frustration with rescheduling matches due to no time available because of other teams playing and all the courts booked at several sites (WTC, Woodside, Houndslake).
- If the monetary remuneration is identical, I think a free registration is preferable to the gift certificate because it is directly related to the activity of playing/captaining. The actual amount (\$20) isn't a factor. On the rare occasion where the captain isn't playing, then a gift certificate would be a good alternative.
- It often seems that players sign up for the team and it's difficult to get them to play matches. Getting enough players that will play and practice regularly is most frustrating to Captains.*
- I have been really happy with the job that Eddie has done. He has been a stickler on the rules. However, it sure makes it easier to captain if we know that we are all held to the same requirements.

Note: Numbers or comments marked with an asterisk () represent responses from persons who did not provide a USTA player number. All other responses are from persons who provided a player number.