



USTA SC STATE REGULATIONS
Adult 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over, 65 & Over, 70 & Over
League Year 2018 FINAL
Approved 1.4.2018

0.0 INTRODUCTION

USTA League Tennis National and Southern Regulations have full force and applicability at all levels of play in USTA League Tennis in the USTA Southern Section and there is no authorization to modify, amplify or change them by local or State League Coordinators, or Grievance or Grievance Appeals Committees

0.01 USTA SC has appointed the USTA SC Director of Leagues to serve as the USTA SC State League Coordinator to organize and coordinate all USTA League Tennis activities in the USTA SC State League and along with the USTA SC League Committee interpret the USTA SC State Regulations.

0.02 All players, teams and Local Leagues must abide by USTA League Tennis, USTA Southern Tennis and USTA SC Rules and Regulations.

0.03 Local Leagues may write regulations to govern local play. USTA League Regulations, USTA Southern Tennis Regulations and USTA SC State Regulations take precedence over Local League Rules and Regulations.

0.04 Local League Rules and Regulations must be approved by the USTA SC Director of Leagues prior to the start of the Local League Season.

0.05 Local League Rules and Regulations must be distributed to Team Captains along with USTA League Regulations, Southern Tennis Regulations and USTA SC Rules and Regulations before League Season begins.

0.06 Paragraph numbering for the following sections is done in accordance with the paragraph numbering format of USTA League Tennis Regulations and USTA Southern Regulations. Topics addressed in specific paragraphs of these USTA SC State Regulations relate to the same topics in the same paragraphs of the aforesaid regulations.

0.07 New regulations or changes in regulations are underlined.

1.00 General

1.02 GOVERNANCE. The USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS shall apply to the USTA League Program (USTA League). THE FRIEND AT COURT - *The USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations*, including Wheelchair Rules of Tennis, shall apply to all matches played in USTA League except as modified herein. In all matches played without officials, the USTA official publication, THE CODE, shall be observed. The USTA Point Penalty System shall be used at all championship levels.

1.02C Written Interpretation.

The USTA SC Director of Leagues in conjunction with the USTA SC State League Committee, shall have the authority to interpret the USTA SC State League Regulations.

1.04B Administration.

1.04B (3) b District League Coordinators. Each District shall have a State League Coordinator to implement and administer the USTA League. The District shall have such geographic boundaries as the Sectional Association may determine.

1.04B (3) c Local League Coordinators. Each Local League shall have a Local League Coordinator to implement and administer the USTA League. The USTA SC local league coordinators will be approved and/or retained on a yearly basis by the state league coordinators.

1.04B (4) Team Captain. Each team shall appoint a captain to manage team activities and to represent the team in USTA League matters.

1.04C (1) Official League Registration. TennisLink is the official system for registering teams and players for the USTA League. A player's name must be listed on the team roster, as shown on TennisLink, prior to participation in any match. This includes any player who is added to a team roster after the commencement of local league play. Each local league must establish deadlines and procedures for registering teams on TennisLink. Initial Rosters must be entered in TennisLink before League play begins

1.04C (2) Score Reporting in TennisLink. The initial entry of match scores in TennisLink must take place within 48 hours of the completion of the match. After match scores have been entered in TennisLink, they must be confirmed by the opposing team within 48 hours of the initial entry or the initial score will automatically be considered valid. Failure to comply may subject teams to a grievance and/or double default.

In South Carolina, Local Leagues may make a rule regarding team matches that are not entered in TennisLink within 48 hours of the completed match. If a Local League does not specify a procedure for teams not reporting scores in TennisLink within 48 hours, then the Southern regulation stated above will take precedent.

1.04 D (1) Geographic Areas. Local League regulations must specify geographic areas for league play.

1.04D (5) Two Team Leagues. If any Adult Division Age Group consists of only two teams, a Local League may limit the number of players that appear on a team roster and/or number of players that appear on that roster that are at a specific NTRP level. This does not apply to Adult 65 & Over and 70 & Over Age Group.

1.04D (5) b Players may not move to a different team once match play has begun for that level, unless approved by the State League Coordinator. Local Leagues will set deadlines for registering players and for adding players to rosters. Players may not be added to the team roster during local league flight playoffs or at any championship. The State League Coordinator will inform Local Leagues of add-on deadlines for the State Championships.

1.04D (6) Number of Teams. When a Local League does not have the required number of Teams, (two teams) for Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over, Adult 65 & Over and Adult 70 & Over, to constitute a level, the affected Local League Coordinators, shall either:

- (1) Offer to move that team to another age division offered in that area in that particular level, if applicable.
- (2) Move individual players to another team in that area, if applicable, or move them to an “Extra Players” flight to hold for future play in other leagues, i.e. Mixed, Combo, etc.
- (3) The Director of Leagues or State League Coordinator may move a singleton team to another area’s league tree only if it is agreed upon by both local league coordinators and accomplished before that recipient area’s deadline.
- (4) Complete teams that are moved to play in a local league area other than their home local league must secure home courts in that local league they choose to participate unless both local league coordinators agree on something different.
- (5) If one singleton team is moved into an already existing league of at least 2 teams, then that singleton team must secure home courts in that host local league where they have been moved and if that singleton team wins that league, they will represent that host league at the State Championship.
 - The singleton team must follow all rules and regulations of the host league.
 - The host league is responsible for all awards, state championship fees (if applicable) and state championship registration.
- (6) If Local League coordinators agree to combine singleton teams in order to form a league for those teams to qualify, the winning team from that singleton league will be allowed to represent the Local League where they initially registered.
 - Rules and regulation issues that occur during the singleton team league play will be handled by the State League coordinator in consultation with the Local League coordinators that are involved.
 - The area that is represented by the winning team will be responsible for all awards, state championship fees (if applicable) and state championship registration for that team.
- (7) Refund all or a portion of the registration fee in accordance with the Local League policy.

1.04E Player Eligibility.

1.04E (1) South Carolina will have no residency requirements for local league play.

1.04E (2) Membership. All individuals who compete in the USTA League must be current USTA members in good standing through the local league season. Any individual who progresses to a championship level in the USTA League must be a current USTA member through each championship progression.

1.04E (2) a USTA South Carolina Local League fees for Adult, Mixed, Combo Doubles and Singles Leagues: Fees are \$6.00 per player and must be paid for EACH LEAGUE TEAM (Adult 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over, 65 & Over, 70 & Over; Mixed Doubles 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over, 65 & Over; Combo Doubles 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over, 65 & Over; and Singles 18 & Over, 40 & Over) played on during that particular league season.

1.04E (3) Age. Each player shall have reached the required minimum age prior to or during the calendar year in which such player participates in his or her first local league.

1.04G Player Participation Eligibility

1.04G (1) League players may play in the USTA League Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over, Adult 65 & Over, and Adult 70 & Over Divisions, if applicable, during the same local league season.

1.04G (2) A player may only play on one team in an NTRP level within an Age Group in the same local league during the same season. In local leagues where NTRP levels are divided into flights, a player may not play in more than one flight.

1.04G (3) A player may play on more than one team in an NTRP level within an Age Group in the same season provided it is in separate local leagues.

1.04G(3)(a) A player may play at the same NTRP level in the Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over, Adult 65 & Over, and Adult 70 & Over age divisions, if age applicable, on teams in separate Local Leagues in South Carolina during the same season.

1.04G(4)(a) During the South Carolina Local League Season a player may play on more than one NTRP level in the Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over, Adult 65 & Over and Adult 70 & Over age divisions, if age applicable, in the same Local League during the same season.

1.04G (5) A player may play up to one NTRP level above the player's current NTRP level.

1.04G (6) Players who qualify for South Carolina Adult Championships may advance on more than one team within an Age Group only if they are at different NTRP levels (i.e., a player can play on an Adult 18 & over 3.5 and 4.0 team) but with no schedule accommodations.

2.01 Local League Competition

2.01A Levels offered for Men and Women

Adult 18 & Over: 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0+

Adult 40 & Over: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5+

Adult 55 & Over: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0

Adult 65 & Over: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0

Adult 70 & Over: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0

USTA Local League Season:

Initial team registration deadlines for local play:

55 & Over no later than February 4, 2018

70 & Over no later than February 4, 2018

40 & Over no later than February 4, 2018

18 & Over no later than February 4, 2018

65 & Over no later than August 12, 2018

Local play cannot conclude after:

55 & Over no later than April 8, 2018

70 & Over no later than April 8, 2018

40 & Over no later than April 16, 2018

18 & Over no later than April 30, 2018

65 & Over no later than October 14, 2018

State League Coordinators may amend these dates if needed, including playoffs.

2.01C Competition Format

2.01C (3) USTA South Carolina - For Local League Competition and State Championships all matches will be the best of two tiebreak sets with a match tiebreak in lieu of a third set.

Procedures in the Event of a Tie for Local Play (If a Local League has a playoff, it will defer to championship procedures in the event of a tie). Please refer to national regulation 2.03H.

- (1) **Team Wins**
- (2) **Individual Wins**
- (3) **Head to Head. Winner of the head-to-head match.**
- (4) **Sets. Loser of the fewest number of sets.**
- (5) **Games. Loser of the fewest number of games.**

Local leagues have the option to choose the procedure with Head-to-Head after Individual Wins in their local league play.

2.01C(5) If a team defaults an entire match. A 'team default' occurs when a team defaults 3 or more individual matches in a 5-court team match, or a team defaults 2 or more individual matches in a 3-court team match. If a team commits a 'team default for any reason during round robin play, all matches for the defaulting team already played or to be played shall be null and void when determining standings but will be used for ratings and advancement purposes. If all teams with a mathematical chance to advance have played the defaulting team in good faith, those matches shall stand as played when determining standings. Teams that default an entire match are expected to play the remainder of their schedule. A grievance will be filed against a team that is assessed a team default.

2.01C(5)(a) Team Lineups

- a. Local Leagues may make a rule regarding rescheduling of matches due to inclement weather.
- b. Local Leagues may make a rule regarding the maximum number of defaults allowed teams during the Local League Season.
- c. Local Leagues may set their policy for players' presence on court to receive a default.

2.02 Progression

2.02A Local League

2.02A (1) Local League Competition Each team that wins a specific level of local league competition shall be entitled to advance to the next level of competition if otherwise eligible.

2.02A (2) Local League Champions At the conclusion of local league competition, the Local League Coordinator shall certify to the USTA SC State League Coordinator the results of the local league competition and the name(s) of the team captain(s). Local league competition must be concluded prior to the deadline set by the State League Coordinator.

2.02A (3) Local Leagues cannot extend their deadline date past their Local League Season, unless approved by the USTA SC State League Coordinator.

2.02B Championships

2.02B(a) All NTRP levels in the Adult 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over, 65 & Over and 70 & Over divisions must play a local league to advance to District Championships except as noted in 2.02B(c).

2.02B(b) The winner of each specific NTRP level in each age division in local league competition shall be entitled to advance to the State Championship. If the winning team is unable to attend, an alternate team, preferably the 2nd place team, can be asked to advance. Should the second-place team not be available to attend then, a 3rd place team from the Local League affected, will be invited to advance to State Championships. If the 3rd place team from the affected Local League is unable to attend, then the wild card procedure will be utilized to complete the draw.

2.02B(c) The State League Coordinator will determine the number of teams in the 18 & Over Men's 2.5 and Men's and Women's 5.0+ levels, the 40 & Over Men's and Women's 4.5+ level, the 55 & Over Men's and Women's 9.0 level, the 65 & Over Men's and Women's 9.0 level and the 70 & Over Men's and Women's 4.0 level to qualify to advance to the State Championships to play their local league once the team rosters for these levels have been submitted. Legal team rosters for these levels must be submitted by the initial league deadline date for the area in which the team is registering.

2.02B(d) South Carolina Adult Championship Dates for 2018

April 26-28 Adult 70 & Over, Hilton Head - Levels 3.0, 3.5, 4.0
April 28-30 Adult 55 & Over, Hilton Head - Levels 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0
May 5-7 Adult 40 & Over, Florence - Levels 3.0 3.5, 4.0, 4.5+
May 18-21 Adult 18 & Over, Aiken - Levels 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0+.
Sept.7-9 Mixed Doubles 55 & Over and 65 & Over, Florence – Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0
Sept. 8-10 Mixed Doubles 18 & Over, 40 & Over, Florence – Levels 2.5, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0
October 18-20 Combo Doubles 55 & Over and 65 & Over, Hilton Head – Levels 6.5, 7.5, 8.5
October 19-21 Combo Doubles 40 & Over, Hilton Head – Levels 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5
October 20-22 Combo Doubles 18 & Over, Hilton Head – Levels 2.5, 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5
Nov. 3-5 Adult 75 & Over Invitational, Hilton Head – Levels 3.0, 3.5, 4.0
Nov. 3-5 Adult 65 & Over, Hilton Head – Levels 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0
Nov. 10-12 Singles League 18 & Over and 40 & Over, Aiken – Levels 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5

2.02B (1) District/Area Championships.

Competition will be offered at the USTA SC State Championships at the following levels:

Adult 18 & Over: 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0+ (men and women)
Adult 40 & Over: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5+ (men and women)
Adult 55 & Over: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0 (men and women)
Adult 65 & Over: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0 (men and women)
Adult 70 & Over: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 (men and women)

A player must play in at least 2 Local League matches to qualify to play at USTA SC Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over and Adult 55 & Over State Championship (a default received counts towards advancement).

A player must play in at least 1 Local League match to qualify to play at the USTA SC Adult 65 & Over and 70 & Over State Championship (a default received counts towards advancement).

2.03C Scoring

All matches will be the better of two tiebreak sets with a match tiebreak in lieu of third set. The tiebreak shall be scored as 1-set and 1-game for tiebreak purposes.

2.03D Competition Format

USTA South Carolina- will use a round robin format in all levels of competition.
USTA South Carolina- may issue wildcards to fill a championship draw.

2.03E (1) Championship Draw: The Championship Draw is a random draw done by the championship referee once local league competition is completed and rosters for State Championship entry are received. If possible, teams from the same local league will be put in separate flights. The number of flights at a given level will depend on the number of teams eligible. The championship referee will determine, before league competition is completed, if wildcards are needed to balance out the flights.

The wild cards will be chosen by a weighted random draw. (i.e. one entry per local league team in that local league division). A flight typically will have four teams. Local Leagues receiving a wildcard for the championships will be eligible for a wildcard at the same level/flights the following year. Flights must have a minimum of four (4) teams to be eligible for a wildcard.

2.03E(1)(a) Semifinal Wildcard for draws with 3 flights at the Championship: When a draw has three flights, a wildcard will be drawn at random (from the numbers 1, 2, 3) to determine which flight's second place team will play in the semifinals. The wildcard team will play a team from another flight.

2.03F(a) – If a team has a known default, (not enough players to field a complete team) the opposing team will have the opportunity to adjust their scorecard either in doubles by moving the third-place position to the second-place position or in singles by moving the second-place position to the first-place position. The default will not be given until both scorecards have been received by the Site Director and after consulting with the captain receiving the default, scorecards will be adjusted by the Site Director.

2.03F(b) Once championship play has begun, any team defaulting a court for any reason at the State Championships will incur a \$100 fine per scheduled court payable immediately (cash or check) for each court defaulted. That team will not be allowed to play their match until that fine is paid. If a team refuses to pay the fine, a grievance will be filed against all players on the state roster, which could result in the suspension of play from any USTA League play until the fine is paid. It is your team's responsibility to have players on every court at each match at a state championship.

2.03H Procedures in the Event of a Tie. At Championships: In the event of a tie, whether in round robin or single elimination competition, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:

2.03H(1): Individual Matches. Winner of the most individual matches.

2.01E(2): Head-to-head. Winner of head-to-head match.

2.01E(3): Sets. Loser of the fewest number of sets.

2.01E(4): Games. Loser of the fewest number of games.

2.03L Scoring of Team Defaults. A 'team default' occurs when a team defaults 3 or more individual matches in a 5-court team match, or a team defaults 2 or more individual matches in a 3-court team match. If a team commits a 'team default for any reason during round robin play, then all matches of that team played, or to be played, shall be null and void when determining standings but will be used for ratings and advancement purposes. If all teams in contention for the championships have already played the defaulting team in good faith, those matches stand as played. The defaulting team is ineligible to continue to play the remainder of their matches. The defaulting team will be responsible for the \$100 per line default penalty for all matches not played.

2.03L(b) A \$250.00 Deposit from each team advancing to the championships is required and any team withdrawing from a championship after the deadline for online registration will be subject to a fine of \$250.00 per team, payable to USTA SC. The deposit is to be sent to the Local League Coordinator. Once championship play has begun, the Local League Coordinator will destroy the check. A grievance may be filed against the withdrawing team in addition to the \$250 fine. Penalties against these team members may include that all members on the submitted roster be banned from participating in any USTA leagues for a period of up to 364 days.

2.03L(c) If a team defaults an entire match during a championship, a grievance may be filed against all members on the team roster that is submitted for the championship. Sanctions against the team members may include that all members on the submitted roster be banned from participating in any USTA leagues for a period of up to 364 days.

2.03L(d) Teams that withdraw from the championship after the online registration deadline date and before the draws are published will lose their \$250 deposit but may request a refund for registration fees. Teams that withdraw from the championship after the draws have been published will lose their \$250 deposit and their registration fees.

2.04 NTRP Dynamic Disqualification and Review Procedures

2.04B(2)b(a) Local play occurring at the State Championships: Players will be permitted to play in the entire event but, if a Self-Rate (S) or Medical Appeal promotion occurs when the ratings are run at the conclusion of the tournament, those matches shall be handled in the following manner: the player shall cease play immediately from the NTRP Level being promoted from and graduate to the next NTRP level. All prior matches shall stand in good faith.

2.04B (3) Following an NTRP Dynamic Disqualification, the player may not play at the disqualified NTRP level of play or any lower NTRP level of play in either singles or doubles for the remainder of the championship year and for the succeeding championship year. In any Division using combined levels, the combined NTRP rating of the disqualified player and partner may not surpass the level of competition. A player who has been moved up as a result of an NTRP Dynamic Disqualification in the Adult Division must immediately adjust his/her NTRP level of play.

2.04E(1)(a) If a self-rated (S) or Medical Appeal player is promoted or disqualified from a particular level of play, the player shall cease play immediately from the NTRP level being promoted or disqualified from and graduate to the next higher NTRP level.

2.05 YEAR-END NTRP COMPUTER RATINGS AND APPEAL PROCEDURES.

2.05C Appeal of Year-End Ratings. Year-end NTRP valid computer rating levels may be appealed or denied through TennisLink except for 2.05D *Medical Appeals*.

2.05D Medical Appeals. If an intervening, permanently disabling injury or illness indicates that a player's current NTRP computer rating level may be too high, the player may request a medical appeal of such rating level in accordance with *USTA League NTRP Medical Appeal Procedures – Questions and Answers*.

USTA SC-Medical appeals are to be Signed by the player and a written statement from the player must be sent by email to Mary Goins at goins@sctennis.com or mailed to Mary Goins at PO BOX 386, Easley, SC 29641

2.05E(2) All players age 65 or over, if promoted, will automatically be granted an appeal (A rating) of their current rating back to their previous valid year-end rating.

- If players are granted the appeal, they will be considered an “A” player which means they are subject to dynamic disqualification.

3.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES. Regulations in 3.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES shall apply to all USTA League Divisions.

The USTA SC Director of Leagues has the authority to appoint the persons who shall serve on Grievance and Grievance Appeals Committees.

Substitute appointments will come from members of the League Committee.

3.01A (1) Local. Each local league shall appoint a Local League Grievance Committee. The USTA SC Assistant State League Coordinator and/or the USTA SC State Director of Leagues will approve members for a Local League Grievance Committee.

3.02E NTRP Grievance

Any grievance contending that a player's NTRP level is lower than his/her actual skill level shall constitute an NTRP Grievance. (See Reg. 3.03E(1)(a) and 3.03E(1)(b).

3.03E(3)(a) NTRP Grievances filed within 21 days of the start date of the player's and/or captain's State Championships will be administered after the event unless the Section authorizes the administration of the grievance prior to that time. If the grievance is not administered until after the event, points won by players will stand. Disqualified players and/or captains that are suspended will not be eligible to advance to the next level of championship play.

3.03E(8)(a) USTA SC mandates that the party(ies) that files the NTRP Grievance complaint must provide the documentation to support their complaint at the time of their filing.

3.03E(8)(b) All Grievances must be filed on the appropriate Grievance Forms as mandated by the USTA Southern Section.

USTA SC State League Grievance and Grievance Appeals Committees are:

Grievance Committee:

Patti McVey, Chairman
Susie Honeycutt, Member
Mike Martin, Member

Grievance Appeals Committee:

Shawn Risher, Chairman
Dee Mack, Member
Ed Sprenger, Member

USTA SC State League Championship Committee (All Championships)

Tournament Director
Tournament Referee
Member-Chosen League Committee

Contact Information:

USTA SC Director of Leagues

USTA SC State League Coordinator
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