



2022 Southern and Alabama Combo Doubles Regulations

As of 11.29.2021

Play is governed by the RULES OF TENNIS, "The Code" as contained in the 2022 Friend at Court, and the following Combo Doubles Southern Section Regulations. **USTA Southern will adhere to the USTA League National and/or Southern Regulations on items not mentioned in the USTA Southern Combo Doubles.** General regulations and procedures for the program are listed below and/or Championship Procedures. Each State of the USTA Southern Section may supplement these regulations as is required for play within their State. Local and/or State regulations shall not be in conflict with the Southern Combo Doubles Regulations. No Southern Combo Doubles Regulation or Procedure may be waived by a State Association or by any local, state or sectional league coordinator or Grievance or Grievance Appeal Committee. Any violation of these regulations shall be subject to such sanctions as may be imposed by League Grievance or Grievance Appeal Committee procedures outlined in the USTA League Regulations. USTA Southern is the final authority on such actions unless otherwise specified in Bylaws of the USTA or USTA Southern. The Sectional League Coordinator, in conjunction with the USTA Southern Adult League Committee Chairman and Vice-Chairman, shall have the authority to interpret the Southern Combo Doubles Regulations. **The USTA Alabama State League Coordinator, in conjunction with the USTA Alabama Adult League Committee Chairman, shall have the authority to interpret the USTA Alabama Combo Doubles Regulations.**

The following areas have been approved as Local Leagues: Albertville, Anniston, Auburn, Birmingham, Decatur, Dothan, Gulf Shores, Huntsville, Mobile, Montgomery, Selma, Shoals and Tuscaloosa. A new USTA Southern Combo Doubles League may be considered at the discretion of the State League Coordinator and the USTA Alabama Adult League Committee

1. All participants must be current members of the USTA and register through Tennis Link. **Tennislink initial team registration deadline for the combo doubles 18 & Over, 40 & Over and 55 & Over is September 1, 2022.**

2. A team shall consist of a minimum of 6 players able to combine to form 3 separate eligible teams. **Maximum number of players per team is 14. Players may play on more than one level in a local league; however, see Rule 8 regarding advancement.**

3. The format of play will be three individual men's or women's doubles matches per team match. **Local and state championship matches will be the best of two sets with a Set Tiebreak (first to 7 by 2) used at 6 all in each set. In lieu of a third set, a Match Tiebreak (first to 10 by 2) will be played. The Coman Tiebreak Procedure will be used for all Set Tiebreaks and Match Tiebreaks. There will be a two-minute set break at the end of each set. There is no coaching at any time.**

4. Levels offered are straight-level 2.5 and combined-levels 5.5-10.5 (for Combo Doubles 18 & Over), 5.5-8.5 (for Combo Doubles 40 & Over) and 6.5-8.5 (for Combo Doubles 55 & Over). The individual NTRP maximum levels for each combined NTRP division is below:

NTRP cap for Combined Levels:

NTRP Level	Max NTRP Rating	NTRP Level	Max NTRP Rating
5.5	3.0	8.5	5.0
6.5	3.5	9.5	5.5
7.5	4.0	10.5	6.0

Each individual doubles team's combined NTRP ratings may not exceed the level entered.

5. **NTRP Rating Entry:** Players who do not have a computer rating ("C") or mixed-exclusive rating ("M") on file in TennisLink shall self-rate in accordance with the National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) Guidelines and complete the self-rating process on TennisLink when registering for a team. Failure to do so or omission of information regarding a player's tennis history will subject the player, the captain and/or others who condoned inaccurate self-rating to sanctions and disqualification.

A player may not be dynamically promoted based on match results from Combo Doubles and match results are not calculated in year-end NTRP computer ratings.

6. **Appealed & Self-Ratings:** Players who submit an appeal to their self-rating through the Tennis Link system before their local league deadline for registering players will be permitted to register up to seven days after the notification of final self-rating.

- If a player's rating is appealed down during the Combo local season, the player should notify applicable Local League Coordinator to make update on TennisLink roster. Previous matches by the player would stand.
- If a player's rating is appealed down after the Combo local season, the player may not adjust the rating on the roster and must continue to use the rating on the roster for the remaining championship year.
- If a player's rating is appealed up during or after the Combo local season, the player should notify applicable Local League Coordinator to make update on TennisLink roster. Adjusted rating will be used for duration of Combo Doubles championship year. Previous matches by the player would stand.
- **If a player is disqualified from the USTA Southern Combo Doubles League program and that disqualification affects a team registration, then the local league deadline will be waived for the affected team(s) for one week.**

7. **Rating Used for Championship Play:** Players must play with the rating on the TennisLink roster through the Sectional Championships unless:

- The player appealed up or down during season (see above-mentioned regulation #6), and/or
- The player is dynamically promoted during any championship year.

Regardless of a player's 2022 year-end rating prior to the sectional championship, he/she must use the rating listed on TennisLink roster.

8. **State Championship:** State associations may regulate how many matches, if any, qualify a player to advance to state championship. **In order to be eligible to play at the USTA Southern Combo Doubles Alabama State Championships, a player must have played at least one match for that team during the local league season. Defaults received do count toward advancement. A retired match counts for all players. If no local league has two teams registered at the 9.5 level of play, USTA Alabama 9.5 teams will advance directly to the state championship. No more than three out of state players are allowed on the 9.5 roster or on any team playing their local league at the state championships.** State associations may determine advancement on more than one team within an age group only if they are different NTRP levels. **A player can advance on only 1 team per age group. The exception would**

be any level playing their local at state (Combo Doubles 18 & Over 9.5) where a player can play on only one team per level per age group. The championship is considered pending with Gulf Shores as the anticipated host.

9. **Southern Championship Advancement Process:** If the winning team at any level of State Championship competition is unable to compete further towards the Sectional Championships, then the State League Coordinator may select the second place team for such further competition. The Section may issue wildcards as necessary to fill the draw. If less than four teams are entered in a NTRP level draw within 21 days of event, the draw for the NTRP level may be cancelled unless otherwise authorized by the Championship Committee.

10. **State Championship Advancement Process & Deadlines:** States shall determine the progression from local league to the State Championship. States shall conclude their State League Championships to determine its State Champions by November 7, 2022 and identify to the Section their winning and/or advancing teams at each level by November 10, 2022.

A local league must have at least two teams at a single level to advance one (1) team to the USTA Southern Combo Doubles Alabama State Championships. A local league that has more than ten (10) teams at a single level will advance two (2) teams to the USTA Southern Combo Doubles Alabama State Championship. A local league with more than twenty

(20) teams at a single level will advance three (3) teams to the USTA Southern Combo Doubles Alabama State Championship. USTA Alabama Combo Doubles Championships with Gulf Shores as the anticipated host with the following tentative dates: Combo Doubles 40 & Over and Combo Doubles 55 & Over October 20-23 and Combo Doubles 18 & Over November 3-6 with the initial team registration deadline being Sept. 1. Score entry deadline for combo doubles 40 & Over and 55 & Over is Sept 25 while the score entry deadline for the 18 & Over is October 11.

11. **Southern Championship:** Players must play in at least one local or state championship match in order to advance to the Combo Doubles Sectional Championships (defaults received do count towards advancement in this program). Players who qualify for a Combo Doubles 18 & Over, Combo Doubles 40 & Over and/or Combo Doubles 55 & Over teams (s) may advance on more than one team within an age group only if they are different NTRP levels. **No accommodations for scheduling will be made at Sectional Championships for teams with players that may be competing on two or more teams during a Sectional Championship.** If matches are scheduled concurrently in the above-mentioned scenarios, then teams are expected to provide full line-ups for all team matches. Please refer to Championship Procedures for full details on the Southern Combo Doubles Championship.

2022 USTA Alabama Adult League Committee

Martie McEnerney (Chair); Ruth Anne Bendall; Jeff Burns; Jeannie Harrell; Megan Cooper; Sharon Dobbs and Tony Tumlin. Meg Edwards, liaison.