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USTA Georgia Championship Procedures (updated 4/27/21) 2021 Championship Year

The USTA Georgia Championship Procedures will apply to all USTA Georgia League State Championships. When not stated in the Championship Procedures, the National, Southern and Georgia regulations and Friend at Court will apply.

Notice Regarding COVID-19

USTA Georgia will take proactive measures to create a safer environment for our participating tennis players. These actions will be relayed to teams prior to the start of each championship. Such measures may include but not limited to staggered championship schedule (to make player capacity smaller); an app for scorecard submissions; online schedules, resources and materials (as opposed to print-outs); sanitizing stations, no spectators, and mask and social distancing requirements.

To ensure a smooth and non-disruptive tournament experience, we require all players to abide by guidelines given by USTA Georgia Tournament Staff. This is for the safety of everyone. Should a "state of emergency" occur leading up to our USTA Georgia League Championship, tournament staff will notify captains and players with as much advance notice as possible. Should a USTA Georgia League Championship cancellation occur due to COVID or another infection virus/disease, and the securing of another location is not possible, the championship will not be rescheduled and the "cancellation policy," as described in these Championship Procedures, will be followed.

USTA Georgia League State Championships (www.ustageorgialsc.com)

USTA Georgia offers a state championship (Dates/Locations) on last page) for each of the following programs:

- USTA League Adult 18 & Over
- USTA League Adult 40 & Over
- USTA League Adult 55 & Over
- USTA League Adult 65 & Over
- USTA League Mixed Doubles
- Southern Combo Doubles
- Southern Tri-Level

Team Qualification

- Local League winners will be allowed to advance to the USTA Georgia State Championships contingent upon eligibility. If a local league winner declines their invitation, the local league may offer the bid to the next priority team, provided Georgia approval.
- Wildcards may be issued to fill up draws at the state championships on a need-basis and at the discretion of the Championship Committee. USTA Georgia uses a random drawing to determine which local league receives the wildcard. In the final weeks prior to a state championship, a wildcard opening may be opened to all local leagues if needed to be filled immediately.

Championship Format

- State Championship format shall use round robin(s), single elimination or un-flighted matches against randomly selected opponents in all levels of competition. The use of multiple round robins, or the use of un-flighted matches, will require a playoff structure to establish a champion.
- For Round Robin Format:
 - Each team shall play every other team in its flight (Exception: Please see Championship Cancellation Policy), and the team with the most team points shall be champion in its flight. Depending on the number of flights per level, single elimination playoff will be used to determine the champion.
 - If a local league has multiple teams in the same level, the referee will attempt to place those teams in separate flights when possible.
 - All teams will be guaranteed a minimum of 4 matches, unless there are only 4 teams in the level and they will be guaranteed a minimum of 3 matches.
- For Un-Flighted Matches Against Randomly Selected Opponents:
 - Each team shall play four or five team matches (captains may be surveyed with majority being used) against randomly selected opponents. (Exception: Please see Championship Cancellation Policy)
 - The top 4 teams, based on standings and national procedures on tiebreakers, will be entered into a Semi-Final and seeded accordingly. (For semi-finals, the draw will be #1 vs #4 and #2 vs #3.)



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Team Eligibility

- All players must possess current USTA memberships through the conclusion of the USTA Georgia State Championship.
- **USTA League Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over and Mixed Doubles:** Players are eligible to advance to state championship level competition if that player has played on that same team in at least 2 matches during its local league season. A maximum of 1 default received by the player during local league competition shall count for advancing to State Championships.
 - A minimum of (8) eight (five for 2.5 & 5.0 levels) team members who were on the final roster of their Adult 18 & Over local league team at the conclusion of local league play must be available and eligible to compete. The Championship Committee, by majority vote, can reduce that number to not less than (4) four (three for 2.5 & 5.0 levels), but the team would be subject to the default rule.
 - A minimum of (7) seven team members who were on the final roster of their Adult 40 & Over local league team at the conclusion of local league play must be available and eligible to compete. The Championship Committee, by majority vote, can reduce that number to not less than (5) five, but the team would be subject to the default rule.
 - A minimum of (6) six team members who were on the final roster of their Adult 55 & Over and Mixed Doubles local league team at the conclusion of local league play must be available and eligible to compete. The Championship Committee, by majority vote, can reduce that number to not less than (4) four, but the team would be subject to the default rule.
 - Additional levels offered that do not require matches played prior to advancement to the Georgia State Championships: **Adult 18 & Over "Open" (2021 year only) and Adult 40 & Over "Open" (2021 year only).**
- **Adult 65 & Over*:** Team members are eligible to advance to championship level competition if that player has played on that same team in at least 1 match (1 of which may be a default received) during its local league season. If there was no local league during the entire championship year, the team may advance directly to the state championship.
 - A minimum of six team members (three eligible pairings) who were on the final roster of their local league team at the conclusion of local league play must be available and eligible to combine and compete. The Championship Committee, by majority vote, may reduce that number to not less than four, but the team would be subject to the default rule.

**Please refer to 2021 USTA Georgia Regulations for full details on eligibility of Area Teams for Adult 65 & Over.*

- **Southern Combo Doubles (18 & Over and 40 & Over):** Players are eligible to advance to championship level competition if that player has played on that same team in at least 1 match during its local league season. A default received by the player during local league competition shall count for advancing to State Championships.
 - A minimum of six team members (three eligible pairings) who were on the final roster of their local league team at the conclusion of local league play must be available and eligible to combine and compete. The Championship Committee, by majority vote, may reduce that number to not less than four, but the team would be subject to the default rule.
- **Southern Combo Doubles (55 & Over):** Team members are eligible to advance to championship level competition if that player has played on that same team in at least 1 match (1 of which may be a default received) during its local league season. If there was no local league during the entire championship year, the team may advance directly to the state championship.
 - A minimum of six team members (three eligible pairings) who were on the final roster of their local league team at the conclusion of local league play must be available and eligible to combine and compete. The Championship Committee, by majority vote, may reduce that number to not less than four, but the team would be subject to the default rule.
- **Southern Tri Level (18 & Over):** Players are eligible to advance to championship level competition if that player has played on that same team in at least 1 match during its local league season. A default received by the player during local league competition shall count for advancing to State Championships.
 - A minimum of six team members who were on the final roster of their local league team at the conclusion of local league play must be available and eligible to combine and compete. The Championship Committee, by majority vote, may reduce that number to not less than four, but the team would be subject to the default rule.



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- **Southern Tri-Level (40 & Over and 55 & Over):** Team members are eligible to advance to championship level competition if that player has played on that same team in at least 1 match (1 of which may be a default received) during its local league season. If there was no local league during the entire championship year, the team may advance directly to the state championship.
 - A minimum of six team members who were on the final roster of their local league team at the conclusion of local league play must be available and eligible to combine and compete. The Championship Committee, by majority vote, may reduce that number to not less than four, but the team would be subject to the default rule.

Individual Defaults (Default Rule)

- Any team defaulting a court for any reason will be fined \$100 per court defaulted. The fine must be paid in the tournament room prior to the team's next match. If it's the team's last match of the championship, they must pay prior to leaving. If a team does not pay the fine, a grievance will be filed against all members listed on the team information sheet, which could result in suspension from any USTA League play until the fine is paid. Any matches played during that time will be reverted to losses. The reason for this regulation is it's your team's responsibility to have players on every court at each match during a state championship. When a team defaults a line, it not only can affect the outcome of the championship, but more importantly, it affects those players who showed up ready to play, only to find their opponents did not show. Any money collected from defaults will be given to the CTA hosting the state championship in which the defaults occurred. If a credit card is used, the service fee will be deducted from the \$100 when it's given to the CTA.

Registration, Entry Fee, and Deposit Requirements

- Championship Entry Fee: \$37.00 per player (Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over (hard), Mixed, Combo 18/40 & Over)
\$42.00 per player (Adult 40 & Over (clay), Adult 55 & Over, Adult 65 & Over, Tri-Level and Combo 55 & Over)
- Captains are required to submit a team deposit of \$250.00 (Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over, Mixed, Combo, Tri-Level) and \$100.00 (and Adult 65 & Over) to your local league coordinator prior to the deadline set. Make the deposit check payable to: USTA Georgia. Please write the following on your check:
 - Captain's name
 - Gender, League, NTRP Level
- The deposit check will be held by the local league coordinator until the conclusion of the 2020 USTA Georgia League State Championships. If a team pulls out before the draw is published, the deposit will be refunded. If a team pulls after the draw is published or if a team does not successfully complete the USTA Georgia State Championship, the deposit will be forfeited.
- Players should be registered in both TennisLink and the USTA Georgia League State Championship website. In the case of administrative oversight by USTA Georgia, the Championship Committee may authorize to add a player after the deadline.

Scheduled Matches

- No accommodations for scheduling will be made at any Championship for teams with players that may be competing on two or more teams during a championship. There are no exceptions to this rule.
- For the Adult 40 & Over Age Division, 3 of 4 individual matches must be played to constitute a valid team match.
- USTA Georgia will defer to the table on 2.01C(2) of the regulations when the combination of individual defaults given by the two teams in the team match results, or would result, in a situation where the majority of the individual matches are not played.
- The captain is responsible for making sure all players playing in the match are present and ready to play. At that point, the captain will submit their digital lineup through the USTA Georgia App or the USTA Georgia League State Championship website. An email reply will immediately be sent to the email provided with a summary of the submission. It is asked that captains have the lineup submitted a minimum of 15 minutes prior to the start of their scheduled match.
- If a team has a known default (i.e. "forfeit" or "default" is written on scorecard), the opposing captain will receive a text message with the line being defaulted and will have the opportunity to revise their lineup and submit it again.



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- No substitution may be made in an individual match after the line-up has been submitted, except for injury to, illness of, ineligibility or disqualification of a player prior to the start of such match (first point played), and except other circumstances listed in procedures. If substitution is made during warm-up, the substitute player is entitled to a five minute warm-up. If no such substitution can be made, the affected position only will be defaulted.
- The following applies to the Adult 2.5 5.0 and "Open" teams at the State Championships: If a player is injured or becomes ill after the lineup has been submitted and the captain must change the lineup in order to prevent a team match default, the opposing captain may also change their lineup. This only applies to 2.5, 5.0 and "Open" levels as the lineup change will affect both singles and doubles positions.
- If a captain duplicates a name in error on a scorecard, a team may be allowed to substitute a player for the duplicate name in the lower position (at the Tournament Director or Referee's discretion), using a player not already listed on the line-up. A substitution may only be made in the lower position if the error is discovered before the match begins. **If no such substitution can be made, National Regulation 2.03K will be used in determining required position of default.**
- Penalties for Lateness, which includes the 15-minute default time rule, will be strictly enforced. The Championship Referee, in conjunction with the Championship Committee, has full authority on enforcing Penalties for Lateness. The Referee may use the Point Penalty System at their discretion. Court monitors may be used to time warm-ups and changeovers.
- One player from each team should reply to the text message with the full name(s) of the player(s) of the winning team and the scores from the winner's perspective immediately.
- Once all of the individual matches are complete and the scores have been sent in via text, they will be entered into Tennislink. Captains should confirm the scores through Tennislink or by viewing the results through the Virtual Site Desk Court Assignment Page. The captain can reply to the text they received for that individual match with an issue.
- If a team match is postponed following the submission of the line-up, the original line-up will stand for the make-up match UNLESS teams are released from the championship by the Tournament Director and/or Referee. If teams are released, the line-up would stand only for those positions that have already started (first service attempt) and all other positions (even those that were in warm-up) may be changed including defaulted courts.
- Championship Referees may assist with medical time-outs and scoring disputes, but will not be used to make line calls or call foot faults. If a player feels line calls and/or foot faults are an issue, said player may request a Referee (if available) to assess the problem.
- The Championship Committee will make all efforts to remain pro-active with weather. However, in the event of significant weather challenges, the Championship Committee may use an alternate scoring match format, in order to complete the championship. See Alternative Scoring document located on the web site and/or in captain's packet for scoring conversions.

Scoring

- Regular scoring for matches will be the best of two tiebreak sets with a 10-point match tiebreak in lieu of a third set. All tiebreaks will be played with the Coman format. There will be a two minute set break at the end of each set with no coaching. The Match tiebreak shall be scored as (1) one set and (1) one game for tiebreak procedures. In the event of shortened formatting, matches will be converted to a compatible scoring format using the Alternative Scoring document (located on the championship website).
- Results will be entered into Tennis Link throughout each day and can be viewed on this website and/or app.
- Each team will receive (1) one point for each team match won.
- In the event of a tie:
 - For each individual team match, the tie will be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so: least sets lost, then least games lost, then highest game winning percentage, then the winning team of #1 doubles match, then the winning team of the #1 singles match.
 - For determining teams round robin and/or flight winners, and/or determining teams to advance to a semifinal and/or final, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so: winner of the most individual matches, then winner of head-to-head match (if all tied teams played one another), then least sets lost, then least games lost, then highest game winning percentage. If a tie still remains through game winning percentage, the tie will be broken by the following: Team with highest # of victories at #1 Doubles during state championship round robin and/or un-flighted matches. Then team with highest # of victories at #1 Singles during state championship round robin and/or un-flighted matches. **If there is still a tie, each team will pick two players to play doubles and they will play a 10-point tiebreaker.** Please see national regulation 2.03H(1) for further information.



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- All Teams are expected to provide full line-ups for all team matches. All teams are also expected to play all scheduled matches. Any team not complying may be subject to grievance procedures in addition to forfeiting the team deposit check. In accordance with USTA League Tennis Regulations, any team forfeiting an entire team match for any reason will result in all matches of that team previously played or to be played to be declared null and void. If all teams in contention for the Championships have already played the forfeiting team in good faith, the matches stand as played. In the event of a full team default (i.e. team does not have available players to play a majority of individual matches), the following scoring procedures will apply when determining flight winners and/or advancing teams to playoffs:
 - Round Robin (every team plays each team in their flight): All matches of the defaulting team already 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.
 - Un-Flighted Match Play: Teams will not have an equal number of team matches due to a team default. All teams in applicable division will go through a tiebreaker procedure to determine advancing teams to playoffs. This will ensure that teams are compared against each other as fairly as possible. The tiebreaker procedure will use the first of the following procedures that does so:
 - Team with the least number of TEAM LOSSES.
 - Team with the least number of ACTUAL INDIVIDUAL LOSSES divided by the number of POSSIBLE INDIVIDUAL LOSSES.
 - Team with the least number of ACTUAL SETS LOST divided by the number of POSSIBLE SETS Lost.
 - Team with the least number of ACTUAL GAMES LOST divided by the number of POSSIBLE GAMES Lost.
 - Coin Toss
- If any team is released from the USTA Georgia State Championship due to inclement weather and certain individual matches in their team match have already begun, it will be recorded in Tennislink as a “retirement” with the leading team in the individual match as the “winner.” (For example, a team leading 6-4, 0-4 would be considered the leading team. If a 2nd set is not completed, the team winning the first set is considered the leading team.)

Grievances

- Forms are available at each of the sites at the tournament desk and on the state championship website. Completed grievance forms must be presented to the Site Director at the site of the match within 30 minutes of the completion of the team match.
- The committees involved will handle all Grievances as promptly as possible. Unless requested by the committee, only the captain and the player(s) involved will be permitted at any hearings.
- NTRP Grievances filed within 21 days of the state championship against anyone participating in the State Championships will be administered after the State Championships unless the USTA Georgia State Adult League Committee Chair, Vice-Chair and State League Coordinator authorize the administration of the grievance prior to that time. If the grievance is not administered until after the State Championships, points won by players will stand. Disqualified players and/or captains that are suspended will not be eligible to advance to the Sectional Championships.
- A team that withdraws from a championship after schedules are published, or a team defaulting an entire team match during championship play, will forfeit their deposit check and entry fees and will be subject to a grievance filed by the Championship Committee; and may receive further penalties imposed by the Championship Grievance Committee.
- Players who exhibit inappropriate behavior and/or unsportsmanlike conduct towards the host community, tournament staff and/or volunteers will be subject to a Championship Grievance and may receive penalties imposed by the Championship Grievance Committee.

NTRP Dynamic Disqualification

- USTA Georgia follows national regulation 2.04E(2)c in that dynamic ratings will be generated following the State Championships. It is possible for any self-rated (S), appealed (A) and/or dynamic disqualified (D) players to be dynamically promoted at his or her NTRP level. (Please see National NTRP Dynamic Disqualification table for further details.) The promoted player will not be eligible to advance to the next level of competition. Points earned by promoted players will stand.



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- Players in early-start leagues who were promoted in the 2019 year-end ratings may continue play through the state and Southern championships, but are not permitted to advance to the national championship at the lower level. The only exception is for the Adult 18 & Over Women's 2.5 league. (see National Regulation 2.05B(3)b and c)

Championship Withdrawal Policy

- Teams that withdraw twenty-two (22) days in advance of the start of the championship will be reimbursed their security deposit and entry fee. Teams that withdraw within twenty-one (21) days of the start of the championship and the posting of the draw will not be reimbursed their entry fee. Teams that withdraw once the draw is posted will forfeit their security deposit, entry fee and a grievance may be filed by the referee to the appropriate committee.

Championship Cancellation Policy

▪ *Round Robin Format (flighted format)*

- Should inclement weather or other circumstances prevent the completion of the State Championship or prevent round robin matches from starting by a specific time as determined by the Championship Committee on the final day of the championship, the level/flight winners will be determined by the first of the following procedures:
 - In the event a level or flight within a level consists of multiple round robins, the first place team will be determined by TennisLink standings at the conclusion of the most recent full round robin. If no full round robin is completed, the below-mentioned procedures would apply.
 - In the event that only one team in a round robin has a mathematical chance of finishing first, that team will be declared the winner of the round robin.
 - If more than one team has a mathematical chance of winning their round robin, and the first place team has already beaten the other teams with a mathematical chance of winning, the 1st place team would be considered the round robin winner as the head-to-head winner.
 - If a round robin winner cannot be determined, and each team in a round robin has been given the opportunity to complete a minimum of one team match, only teams with a mathematical chance of finishing first will receive an entry into a drawing. Undefeated teams will receive a second entry into the drawing.
 - If a round robin winner cannot be determined, and each team in a round robin has not been given the opportunity to complete a minimum of one team match, each team will receive one entry into a drawing to determine the round robin winner.

▪ *Un-Flighted Matches Format*

- Should inclement weather or other circumstances prevent the completion of the State Championship or prevent un-flight matches from starting by a specific time as determined by the Championship Committee on the final day of the championship, the winners will be determined by the first of the following procedures that does so:
 - If a minimum of 3 full un-flight rounds have been completed by all teams, any undefeated teams will receive an entry into a drawing to determine a winner. In this instance, unfinished un-flight rounds in fourth segment will not count.
 - In the event that only one team (after the most recent full un-flight round) has a mathematical chance of finishing first, that team will be declared the winner.
 - If more than one team has a mathematical chance of winning, after the most recent full un-flight round, and the first place team has already beaten the other teams with a mathematical chance of winning, the 1st place team would be considered the winner as the head-to-head winner.
 - If a winner cannot be determined, and each team has been given the opportunity to complete a minimum of one team match, only teams with a mathematical chance of finishing first will receive an entry into a drawing. Undefeated teams will receive a second entry into the drawing.

▪ *During Playoffs*

- Should inclement weather or other circumstances prevent the completion of all playoff rounds during the State Championship; the following procedures will be used to determine round robin winners:
 - If cancellation occurs before or during the first round of playoffs, all group winners will receive two entries in the drawing and any best 2nd place teams will receive one entry into the drawing to determine one state champion. Team(s) that have clinched (won a majority of individual matches) in their first round of playoffs will be considered the winner of the playoff match and will also receive two entries into the drawing and the losing team(s) will be excluded from the drawing.



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- If cancellation occurs during the second round of playoffs, all teams that have not had their team match decided will receive an entry in the drawing to determine one state champion. Any winning team that has completed their second round match will also receive one entry into the drawing and the losing team will be excluded from the drawing.
- Once the finalists are determined, both teams will be told how the champion will be determined by the USTA Georgia Director of Leagues, should cancellation occur after the finals have begun play.
- If cancellation occurs once the finalists have been determined, but play has not begun, both teams can agree to meet at a mutual location and time to play for the state championship. A deadline will be given by the Championship Committee to complete the match. If both teams cannot agree to a mutual location and time prior to or on the deadline set forth by the Championship Committee, both teams will receive an entry in the drawing to determine one state champion. USTA Georgia will not be responsible for providing an official or for any expenses related to this match.

Administration

- Rain Hotline: USTA Georgia Championship App Event Messages (See App Download Instructions)
- Event Messages: Download our **USTA Georgia Championship App** (available for iPhone and Android). Once you open app, choose which championships you would like to receive Event Message. Event Messages will be used for weather updates, raffles and general tournament info.
- Championship Committee will use proper and fair judgment with regard to all state tournament-related issues. This includes, but is not limited to procedures and information not listed in the Championship Procedures or National/Southern/Georgia regulations.
- Championship Committee: To be appointed by USTA Georgia Director of Leagues.
- Championship Grievance Committee: TBD by Georgia Adult League Committee Chair
- Championship Procedures may be amended at Championship Committee's discretion.
- The Championship Committee may release a team from the USTA Georgia State Championship.



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2021 USTA Georgia League State Championship Schedule

April 30 – May 3	USTA League Tennis Adult 18 & Over State Championships <i>(2.5, 3.5, 4.5 M&W) - Rome</i>
May 7 – 10	USTA League Tennis Adult 18 & Over State Championships <i>(3.0, 4.0 Low, 4.0, 5.0+ M&W) - Macon</i>
June 4 – 7	USTA League Tennis Adult 40 & Over State Championships <i>(3.0 & 4.0 M&W) - Athens</i> <i>(3.5 & 4.5+ M&W) - Columbus</i>
June 11 – 14	USTA League Tennis Adult 55 & Over State Championships <i>(M&W 3.0-4.0, 9.0) - Columbus</i>
August 6 - 8	Southern Tri-Level State Championships <i>(18 & Over M&W 2.5- 3.5, 3.0- 4.0, 3.5-4.5)</i> <i>(40 & Over M&W 3.0- 4.0, 3.5-4.5) (55 & Over M&W 3.0- 4.0) – LaGrange</i>
September 10 - 12	USTA League Tennis Mixed State Championships <i>(18 & Over 2.5, 6.0-10.0) (40 & Over 6.0-9.0) - Macon</i>
September 24 - 26	Southern Combo Doubles State Championships <i>(55 and over M&W 6.5, 7.5, 8.5) – Columbus</i>
October 8 - 10	USTA League Tennis Adult 65 & Over State Championships <i>(M&W 3.0-4.0, 9.0) - Savannah</i>
October 22 - 24	Southern Combo Doubles State Championships <i>(18 & Over M&W 2.5, 6.5, 8.5, 10.5) (40 & Over M&W 7.5) - Valdosta</i>
November 5 - 7	Southern Combo Doubles State Championships <i>(18 & Over M&W 5.5, 7.5, 9.5) (40 & Over M&W 6.5, 8.5) - Dalton</i>