



USTA Georgia Championship Procedures 2019 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, Section and State regulations and Friend at Court will apply.

USTA Georgia State Championships (www.ustageorgialsc.com)

USTA Georgia offers a state championship 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. If a local league winner declines their invitation, then the local league will offer the bid to the next team in line.
- Wildcards will be issued to fill up draws at the state championships. 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. Additional wildcards may be extended under discretion of Tournament Committee.

Championship Format

- USTA Georgia State Championship format shall be round robin in all levels of competition.
- Each team shall play every other team in its flight, 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 3 matches.

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 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 eight (five for 2.5 & 5.0+ levels) team members who were on the final roster of their Adult local league team at the conclusion of local league play must be available and eligible to compete. The Championships Tournament Committee, by majority vote, can reduce that number to not less than four (three for 2.5 & 5.0+ levels), but the team would be subject to the default rule.
 - A minimum of 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 Championships Tournament Committee, by majority vote, can reduce that number to not less than four, but the team would be subject to the default rule.



- **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 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 Championships Tournament 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 (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 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 Championships Tournament 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 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 Championships Tournament 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 Championships Tournament 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 (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 Championships Tournament 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 tournament, 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 tournament, 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: \$30.00 per player (Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over (hard), Mixed, Combo, Tri-Level) \$35.00 per player (Adult 40 & Over (clay), Adult 55 & Over, Adult 65 & Over)
- Captains are required to submit a team deposit of \$250.00 (Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Mixed, Combo, Tri-Level) and \$100.00 (Adult 55 & Over 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 2019 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 tournament, the deposit will be forfeited.
- Players should be registered in both TennisLink and the state championship team information sheet.

Scheduled Matches

- The captain is responsible for checking his/her team in at the site of the match. When all players are present and ready to play, the captain will turn in their lineup at the site desk using one of the scorecards in your registration packet. It is asked that captains turn in scorecards 30 minutes prior to the start of their scheduled match. Captains should fill out scorecards according to the instructions enclosed in this packet.
- If a team has a known default, the opposing team will have the opportunity to revise their scorecard once both scorecards are turned in and the default has been announced by the site director.
- No substitution may be made in an individual match after the line-up has been presented, 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.
- 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, the affected position only will be defaulted.
- The Point Penalty System, which includes the 15-minute default time rule, will be strictly enforced. Court monitors may be used to time warm-ups and changeovers.
- All players in an individual match will take the balls and report the score immediately to the site desk.
- Captains are expected to sign each scorecard after each scheduled match is completed before leaving the tennis facility. Failure to sign the scorecard may result in scores posted online only confirmed by opposing captain.
- If a team match is postponed following the exchange of line-ups, the original line-up will stand for the make-up match UNLESS teams are released from the tournament 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.
- Tournament Referees will not be used to make line calls or call foot faults.
- In the event of significant weather challenges, the Tournament Committee may use an alternate scoring match format, in order to complete the tournament. See Alternative Scoring document located on the web site.

Scoring

- Each team will receive 1 point for each team match won. Results may be posted on the official scoreboards. To comply with national regulation 2.03H, In the event of a tie, 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, then least sets lost, then least games lost, then a coin toss. Please see national regulation 2.03H(1) for further information. All scores are final 48 hours after the conclusion of the tournament.



- Team and Individual scores and standings may be posted at the tournament headquarters each day. Results will be entered into TennisLink throughout each day and can be viewed on the website and through the App.
- All teams are 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.
- 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. 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 forfeiting 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 Tournament Committee; and may receive further 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.
- Players in early-start leagues who were promoted in the 2016 year-end ratings may continue play through the state and sectional championships, but are not permitted to advance to the national championship at the lower level.

Tournament Withdrawal Policy

- Teams that withdraw twenty-two (22) days in advance of the start of the tournament will be reimbursed their security deposit and entry fee. Teams that withdraw within twenty-one (21) days of the start of the tournament 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.



Tournament Cancellation Policy

- *During Round Robin Play*
 - Should inclement weather or other circumstances prevent the completion of all round robin play during the State Championship; the following procedures will be used to determine round robin winners:
 - 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.
 - If a round robin winner cannot be determined, 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.
 - Once a winner is determined in each round robin flight in a particular level, each team winning their round robin will be put into a drawing to determine one state champion.
- *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. Any winning team that has completed their first round match will also receive two entries into the drawing and the losing team will be excluded from the drawing.
 - 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 Tournament 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 Tournament 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 Number: 855-861-1279
- Tournament 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.
- Tournament 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 Tournament Committee's discretion.
- The Tournament Committee may release a team from the USTA Georgia State Championship.