

USTA SOUTHERN

USTA Southern Championship Procedures (updated May 9, 2023) 2023 Championship Year

The USTA Southern Championship Procedures will apply to all USTA Southern Championships. When not stated in the Championship Procedures, the National and Southern regulations and Friend at Court will apply. USTA Southern is comprised of the following nine states: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

Due to the possibility of championship dates and locations being modified for reasons outside of our control, we highly encourage players to secure lodging at places that allow refundable deposits.

USTA Southern League Championships + Deadlines

USTA Southern offers championships for each of the following programs: southernchampionships.com

- USTA League Adult 18 & Over (Deadline for Minimum Registered: July 5, 2023)
- USTA League Adult 40 & Over (Deadline for Minimum Registered: June 30, 2023)
- USTA League Adult 55 & Over (Deadline for Minimum Registered: August 21, 2023)
- USTA League Mixed Doubles (Deadline for Minimum Registered: September 13, 2023)
- USTA Southern League Combo Doubles (Deadline for Minimum Registered: November 10, 2023)
- ✓ Above-mentioned deadlines may be amended by USTA Southern at its discretion.

Team Qualification

- State championship teams will be allowed to advance to the USTA Southern Championships contingent on eligibility. If a state championship team declines its invitation, the state association may offer the bid to the next priority team. Southern approval is required if a state goes to its third-place team.
- Wildcards may be issued at the championships at the discretion of the Championship Committee based on need. In the final weeks prior to a Southern championship, states will be notified of such wildcard openings.

Championship Format

- USTA Southern Championship format will be round robin or partial round robin matches against randomly selected opponents in all levels of competition.
- For Round Robin Format:
 - Each team will play every other team in its flight. (Exception: Please see Championship Cancellation Policy)
 - Levels with two flight winners will have single elimination finals match to determine the champion.
 - If a state has two teams in the same level, the Referee and Championship Committee will place those teams in separate flights, provided there are two flights in that level.
 - If a division has four or less teams, each team may play every other team in its flight twice (“double round robin”).
- For Partial Round Robin Matches Against Randomly Selected Opponents:
 - Each team will play four team matches against randomly selected opponents. (Exception: Please see Championship Cancellation Policy)
 - In divisions with seven or less teams, the top two teams, based on standings and national procedures on tiebreakers, will be entered into a final playoff. The draw will be #1 vs #2.
 - In divisions with eight or more teams, the top four teams, based on standings and national procedures on tiebreakers, will be entered into a semifinal playoff to be followed by a final. For semifinals, the draw will be #1 vs #4 and #2 vs #3.
- If less than four teams are entered in an NTRP level draw within 21 days of the event, the draw for the NTRP level will be cancelled unless otherwise authorized by the Championship Committee.
- Please note that the plan will be to conclude round robin match play on Sunday morning with finals (if applicable) on Sunday afternoon. For partial round robin match play, the plan will be to conclude partial round robin matches by Saturday evening, with semifinal playoffs on Sunday morning and final on Sunday afternoon.

Registration, Entry Fee, and Deposit Requirements

- Championship Entry Fee: \$55 per player. Late fee of \$25 will apply after online registration deadline. Player entry fees covers partially the expenses that USTA Southern incurs for each championship, which may include player t-shirt or gift, bag tags, captain gift, awards, player amenity/lunches, court fees, tennis balls, photographer, referee, team supplies and materials, volunteer travel expenses, and generous host stipend to local tennis community.
- Captains are required to make an online team deposit hold of \$300 **within two weeks of the conclusion of their State Championship**. No checks via mail will be accepted.
- The deposit will be held by the USTA Southern office until the conclusion of the applicable 2023 USTA League Southern Championship. If the team successfully completes the championship (e.g., no defaults), or if a team withdraws *before* the

draw is published, the deposit hold will be removed (not forfeited). If a team withdraws *after* the draw is published, or if a team does not successfully complete the Southern championship, the deposit will be forfeited, or partially forfeited. The situations where the deposit will be forfeited, or partially forfeited, is as follows:

- If a team withdraws after the draw is published, or if a team does not successfully complete the Southern championship, the entire deposit will be forfeited.
 - If a team defaults an individual court/line during championship, an administrative fee of \$100 per individual court will be deducted up to the full amount of the deposit. Any remaining funds will be released to the captain. (For example, a team defaults an individual line during its Saturday afternoon match. Following the championship, \$100 will be charged against the deposit hold, with the remaining \$200 being released by USTA Southern.)
 - Team captains with deposit forfeiture and/or administrative fees for individual defaulted courts may submit a waiver to be exempted from paying fees. Waiver requests will be submitted to and reviewed by the Southern Adult League Committee Chair, Vice-Chair and Section League Coordinator. Only cases of “extreme” circumstances will be considered.
 - Note: Collected monies will be donated to the Southern Tennis Foundation.
- Players should be registered on both TennisLink and Match Tennis Team.

Scheduled Matches

- Schedules on the Match Tennis Team App are the official schedules.
- Per Southern Regulation 1.04G(6): A player who qualifies to advance to the Southern Sectional Championship in Adult 18 & Over or Adult 40 & Over may advance on more than one team within an age group only if the teams are different NTRP levels. No accommodations for scheduling will be made at any Championship for teams with players who may be competing on two or more teams during a championship (Adult 18 & Over and Adult 40 & Over). A player who qualifies to advance to the Southern Sectional Championship in Adult 55 & Over may not advance on more than one team and must choose which team he or she will represent. A player who qualifies to advance to the Southern League Championship on any Mixed team (Mixed Doubles 18 and/or Over or Mixed Doubles 40 & Over) may not advance on more than one team and must choose which team he or she will represent. A player who qualifies to advance to the Southern Sectional Championship on any Combo team (Combo Doubles 18 & Over, Combo Doubles 40 & Over and/or Combo Doubles 55 & Over) may not advance on more than one team and must choose which team he or she will represent at the Southern Sectional Championship.
- Captains should turn in scorecards 30 minutes prior to the start of their scheduled match, when all players are present and ready to play.
- Scorecards will be submitted online using the Match Tennis Team app. Only captains who are assigned the “captain” role in Match Tennis Team will be permitted to submit scorecard. If a second captain is needed to submit scorecards, primary captains should contact the Match Tennis Team chat box and request the designation of a secondary captain.
- If a team has a known default on the scorecard, the opposing team will have the opportunity to revise its scorecard once both scorecards are turned in and default has been announced by site director.
- 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 discretion of the Championship Committee), 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, USTA League Regulation 2.03K will be used in determining required position of default.
- 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, and except other circumstances as permitted by Championship Committee. 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.
- Site Directors will call teams when court assignments are available to confirm players are present and onsite. Players will be assigned a court (via text) as they are available. Players must have their cell phones off or on vibrate once assigned a court. If a cell phone goes off in the middle of a point, the opponent may claim the point.
- Captains are expected to approve/sign-off on scorecards after each scheduled match is completed before leaving the tennis facility. Failure to approve/sign-off on the scorecard 15 minutes after the last individual line is completed in a team match may result in final scores confirmed only by opposing captain (and no future score updates).
- If there is a rain delay, players are not permitted to leave the site unless otherwise released by the Tournament Director and/or Tournament Referee. If removed from the courts due to rain, players must report their match scores in progress in the Match Team Tennis App as delayed. Players will be prompted to enter all details of where the match stands.
- 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.

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- Tournament 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 believes that line calls and/or foot faults are an issue, the player may request a Referee (if available) to assess the problem. Spectators are not permitted to request a Referee unless the players on court request it. All medical time-outs will be addressed in accordance with “Friend at Court.”
- 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 tournament. See Alternate Scoring document located on 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. No-ad scoring may be used in all matches. There will be a two-minute set break at the end of each set with no coaching. The match tiebreak shall be scored as one set and 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 (found on championship web site).
- For Combo Doubles Only: The Southern Combo Doubles League Championship will use “no-ad” scoring for the entirety of the championship.
- The Coman Tiebreak Procedure will be used for all tiebreaks (including the 10-point match tiebreak).
- 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 round robin flight winners or 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 remains through game winning percentage, the tie will be broken by the following: team with highest number of victories at #1 doubles during round robin and/or partial round robin matches, then team with highest number of victories at #1 singles during round robin and/or partial round robin matches. Please see USTA League Regulation 2.03H(1) for further information. (Exception: See below bullet on “Full Team Defaults” for “Partial Round Robin Play.)
- In the event of a full team default (i.e., team does not 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 its 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.
 - Partial Round Robin 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
- All teams are expected to play all scheduled matches. Any team not complying will be subject to grievance procedures that will include all players from the championship roster.
- If any team is released from the Southern championships due to inclement weather and certain individual matches in its team match have already started, they will be recorded in TennisLink as a “retirement” with the leading team in the individual match as the “winner.” (For example, team leading 6-4, 0-4 would be considered the leading team. If a second set is not completed, the team winning first set is considered the leading team.)

Important Items Relating to “Friend at Court” (FAC)

- Penalties for Lateness, which includes the 15-minute default rule, will apply. The Tournament Referee, in conjunction with the Championship Committee, has the authority to enforce Penalties for Lateness. If a player is :01 to 5:00 minutes late, the penalty is a loss of toss and one game for that player. If a player is 5:01 to 10:00 minutes late, the penalty is a loss of toss and two games for that player. If a player is 10:01 to 15:00 minutes late, the penalty is a loss of toss and three games for that

player. If a player is 15:01 minutes late, the penalty may be a default. The Tournament Referee may also use the Suspension Point System at his/her discretion.

- Warm-Ups: Players are limited to a five-minute warm-up prior to match play. If players exceed the five minutes, the players may be told to play regardless of where they are in warm-up.
- Changeovers: The rest time for all changeovers is 90 seconds, except between sets, which is limited to two minutes.
- Continuous Play: There is continuous play during the following situations: 1) during any tiebreaker (set or match tiebreaks), and 2) after the first game of each regular set.
- Bathroom Breaks: A player can take a bathroom break at any time but players should try to take them during changeovers or between sets.

Grievances

- Forms are available at each of the sites at the tournament desk. Completed grievance forms must be presented to the Site Director (by the captain) at the site of the match within 30 minutes of the completion of the last individual court of the team match. Filing fee is \$100 made payable to USTA Southern. Fee will be returned if the grievance is upheld.

Championship Cancellation Policy

Round Robin Format (Flighted Format)

- Should inclement weather or other circumstances prevent the completion of a Southern Championship or prevent round robin matches from starting by a specific time as determined by the Championship Committee, the level/flight winners will be determined by the first of the following procedures that does so:
 - 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 first-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 to determine the winner. 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.
- The following procedure will take place when two round robin winners (in a specific age group and NTRP level) have been determined by the above-mentioned procedures and/or cancellation occurs after the finals have begun:
 - Both teams can agree to meet at a location and time to play for the Southern championship. A deadline will be given by the Championship Committee to complete the match. If both teams cannot agree to a location and time prior to or on the deadline set forth by the Championship Committee, both teams will receive an entry into a drawing to determine the Southern champion. USTA Southern will not be responsible for providing an official or for expenses relating to this match. The Championship Committee may keep both finalist teams at the tennis center past 5 pm to see if play can continue later that evening.

Partial Round Robin Format

- Should inclement weather or other circumstances prevent the completion of a Southern Championship or prevent partial round robin matches from starting by a specific time as determined by the Championship Committee, the winners will be determined by the first of the following procedures that does so:
 - If a minimum of three full 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 partial round robin matches in fourth segment will not count.
 - In the event that only one team (after the most recent full partial round robin segment) 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 partial round robin segment, and the first-place team has already beaten the other teams with a mathematical chance of winning, the first-place team would be considered the winner as the head-to-head winner.

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- 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 to determine the winner. Undefeated teams will receive a second entry into the drawing.
- The following procedures will take place when cancellation occurs after the semifinal playoffs have begun:
 - Teams that have clinched (won a majority of individual matches) their semifinal playoff will be considered the winner of their semifinal match.
 - Teams that have not clinched (not won a majority of individual matches) their semifinal will be put into a drawing to determine the winning semifinalist. For each individual line won by a team, the team will receive an additional entry into the drawing. (For example, the #2 doubles match was finished. The winning team of the #2 doubles match would receive an additional entry into the drawing.)
 - Both winning semifinalists (now finalist teams) can agree to meet at a location and time to play for the Southern championship. A deadline will be given by the Championship Committee to complete the match. If both teams cannot agree to a location and time prior to or on the deadline set forth by the Championship Committee, both teams will receive an entry into a drawing to determine the Southern champion. For each individual line won by a team, that team will receive an additional entry into the drawing. (For example, the #2 doubles match was finished. The winner of the match would receive an additional entry into the drawing.) If teams agree to meet, USTA Southern will not be responsible for providing an official or for expenses relating to this match. The Championship Committee may keep both finalist teams at the tennis center past 5 pm to see if play can continue later that evening.

Administration + Player Expectations

- **Notification Alerts:** Players should download Match Tennis Team App (available for iPhone and Android) and sign up for text and email alerts. Notification alerts will be used for weather updates, raffles and general tournament info. Any email that is sent to players may be found in a player/captain's Match Tennis Team inbox.
- Championship Committee will use proper and fair judgment regarding all Southern championship-related issues. This includes procedures and information not listed in the Championship Procedures.
- Championship Committee will consist of the Tournament Director, Tournament Referee and minimum one other person selected by the Southern Adult League Committee Chairman.
- Championship Grievance Committee: Jenifer Tucker (Chair – Southern ALC), Megan Cooper (Southern ALC Member), Cheryl Thompson (Southern ALC Member) and Kim Raley (Southern ALC Member – Alternate).
- Championship Procedures may be amended at Championship Committee's discretion.
- The Championship Committee may release a team from the Southern championship.
- **Please be nice to the site coordinators and other volunteers as they are giving up their time to provide players with an outstanding championship experience.** Players who exhibit inappropriate behavior and/or unsportsmanlike conduct towards the host, tournament staff and/or volunteers will be subject to a Championship Grievance and may receive points under the Suspension Pont System.



2023 Dates, Location & Championship Committees*

- Adult 18 & Over #1 – 3.0, 4.0, 5.0 (Rome, GA; July 21-23): Chris Walling (Tournament Director), Deanna Garretson (Championship Staff) and Adam Dalton (Tournament Referee).
- Adult 18 & Over #2 – 2.5, 3.5, 4.5 (Rome, GA; July 28-30): Tom Burnham (Tournament Director), Christine Watson (Member - Southern ALC) and Deanna Garretson (Tournament Referee).
- Adult 40 & Over #1 – 3.5, 4.5 (Auburn, AL; July 21-23): Tom Burnham (Tournament Director), Nan Smith (Vice Chair – Southern ALC) and Kenny Martin (Tournament Referee).
- Adult 40 & Over #2 – 3.0, 4.0 (Auburn, AL; July 28-30): Chris Walling (Tournament Director), Nan Smith (Vice Chair – Southern ALC) and Ron Cioffi (Tournament Referee).
- Adult 55 & Over (North Little Rock, AR; September 15-17): Tom Burnham (Tournament Director), Chris Walling (MTT) and Deanna Garretson (Tournament Referee).
- Mixed Doubles (Mobile, AL; September 29 – October 1): Tom Burnham (Tournament Director), Elizabeth Walker (Member - Southern ALC) and Hans Laub (Tournament Referee).
- Combo Doubles (Mobile, AL; December 1-4): Chris Walling (Tournament Director), Tom Burnham (MTT), Adam Dalton (Official); Nan Smith (Vice Chair – Southern ALC) and Elizabeth Walker (Southern ALC Member).

*Please note any of above-mentioned Championship Committees and/or dates may change prior to tournament start.