



**USTA SOUTH CAROLINA COMBO DOUBLES REGULATIONS**  
**18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over, 65 & Over**  
**League Year 2023**

**INTRODUCTION**

USTA South Carolina Combo Doubles League Program is team competition in 18 & Over men and women combined levels of 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5 and 10.5, Combo Doubles 40 & Over men and women with combined levels of 5.5, 6.5, 7.5 and 8.5., and Combo Doubles 55 & Over men and women with combined levels of 6.5, 7.5 and 8.5. The following age groups and divisions will not advance past the SC State Championships, 18 & Over men and women 2.5 and 65 & Over men and women combined levels of 6.5, 7.5 and 8.5. The Local winning teams may advance to State competition. All State rules as outlined apply to all Age Groups unless otherwise noted. A player may compete in each Age Group in accordance with the appropriate rules.

USTA South Carolina has appointed the SC State League Coordinator to organize and coordinate all USTA Southern Combo Doubles league activities in the South Carolina Combo League and in conjunction with SC Adult League Committee shall have the authority to interpret the South Carolina Combo Doubles League Tennis Regulations.

Local Leagues may write regulations to govern local play, but they may not conflict with USTA Southern Combo Doubles Regulations or USTA South Carolina Combo Doubles Regulations

A team shall consist of a minimum of 6 players able to combine to form 3 eligible teams.

All participants must reach 18 years of age prior to participating in the league. All players registering to play in the 40 & Over, 55 & Over and 65 & Over Age Groups must 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.

The format of play will be three individual men’s or women’s doubles matches per team match.

**NTRP cap for Combined Levels:**

<b>NTRP Level</b>	<b>Max NTRP Rating</b>		<b>NTRP Level</b>	<b>Max NTRP Rating</b>
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.

Local League Rules and Regulations must be approved by the SC State League Coordinator prior to the start of the Local League Season.

Local League Rules and Regulations must be available to Team Captains, along with USTA Southern Combo Doubles Tennis Regulations, and USTA South Carolina Combo Doubles Rules and Regulations before League Season begins.

## **GENERAL**

### **Membership**

All players must be current members of USTA through the Combo Doubles Local League season, including Championship play.

### **Rosters**

Rosters must be entered in TennisLink before League play begins. Players may not move to a different team once match play has begun for that level, unless approved by the SC State League Coordinator. Players may not be added to the team roster during local league flight playoffs or at any championship.

## **LOCAL LEAGUE**

**Singleton teams:** If any Adult Division Age Group consists of only one team in a level of play, (singleton team), and that level must play a local league in order to advance, the Local League Coordinator has the option to:

- (1) Contact the SC State League Coordinator who can transfer an individual team with no local league play 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.
  - 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.
  - If an individual team is transferred into an already existing league of at least 2 teams, then that team must secure home courts in that host local league where they have been moved and if that transferred team wins that league, they will represent that host league at the State Championship.
    - The transferred 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.
  - If Local League coordinators agree to combine individual teams from more than one area to form a league for those teams to qualify, the winning team from that individual league will be allowed to represent the Local League where they initially registered.
    - Rules and regulation issues that occur during league play for these individual teams will be handled by the SC 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.
- (2) Offer to move that team to another age division offered in that area in that level, if applicable.
- (3) 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.
- (4) Refund or credit all or a portion of the registration fee in accordance with the Local League policy.

### **Player Participation**

For a two-team flight in any Age Group, each roster must have a minimum of 3 combined pairings that equal the level of that flight.

Two team flights must play a minimum of three (3) matches.

## **Scoring**

The match format will be 2 out of 3 sets with a 10-point match tiebreak in lieu of a 3<sup>rd</sup> set. The Coman Tiebreak will be used for all tie breaks.

**Procedure in the Event of a Tie for Local Play.** In the event of a tie, whether in round robin or single elimination, the state recommends that the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so (same as Championship Procedure)

- (1) Individual Matches. Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.
- (2) Head-to head. Winner of head-to-head match.
- (3) Sets. Loser of fewest number of sets.
- (4) Games. Loser of the fewest number of games.
- (5) Game Winning Percentage. Total games won divided by total games played.

The Local League may make a rule regarding the procedures in the event of a tie for local league play, but local league playoffs will defer to the above-mentioned procedure used in championships. This procedure must be approved by the SC State League Coordinator. If no rule is recorded for local league play, it will defer to the championship procedures in the event of a tie. (See above)

Local League playoffs will now be considered Championships, and not part of the local league. As such, players must have played 1 match (default received counts) in order to play in the local league playoffs.

## **Defaults**

- 1) If a team defaults an entire team match (2 or more individual matches) for any reason during round robin play, then all matches of the defaulting team already played, or to be played, shall be null and void when determining standings. 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. In either case, defaulted matches received will be used for qualifying purposes for players advancing to Championship play. Teams that default an entire match during local play are expected to play the remainder of their schedule. A grievance may be filed against a team that is assessed a team default.
- 2) If there is a full team default in a double or triple round robin, only the RR tier/segments that have the full team default will be impacted. Each of the Round Robin segments will be treated as whole and separate within the local league flight. If the first RR was finished and the full team default occurred during the 2nd RR then all matches for the first RR would stand. Also remember that if all teams in contention have played the defaulting team, those matches would stay in the system.
- 3) Retirements will be used to qualify all players involved in the retired match for Championship play.
- 4) An individual match is started when the first ball is put in play. In the event of illness, injury, disqualification, or no-show of a player prior to the start of an individual match (once the lineup has been exchanged), a team may substitute a player in the affected position within the 15-minute default time, using a player not already listed on the lineup. If no such substitution can be made, the affected position will be forfeited in local leagues.
- 5) If a team match must be re-scheduled and starting times are staggered, where opponents are not available and ready to play, forfeits will be awarded in the affected position only.

## **Inclement Weather**

Local Leagues may make a rule regarding rescheduling of matches due to inclement weather.

## **PROGRESSION**

### **State Championships.**

- 1) In the Combo Doubles Divisions, a player is eligible to progress to the State Championship if that player has played on the same team in at least one match at the same NTRP level in the same Age Group during its local league season and is otherwise eligible.

- 2) All NTRP levels in the 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over and 65 & Over Age Groups must play a local league in order to advance to State Championships except as noted in (4) below.
- 3) The winner of each specific NTRP level in each age division in local league competition shall be entitled to advance to the State Championship. The top two teams will be automatically invited when a level has sixteen (16) or more teams. If the winning team is unable to attend, an alternate team, preferably the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team, can be asked to advance. Should the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team not be available to attend, then the 3<sup>rd</sup> place team from the Local League affected may be invited to advance to State Championships if approved by the SC State League Coordinator. If the 3<sup>rd</sup> place team from the affected Local League is unable to attend, then the wildcard procedure will be utilized to complete the draw. The SC State League Coordinator will notify the LLC of each league if any wildcards are being offered to their area. Wildcards will not be offered to areas who automatically receive 2 berths and areas with less than 4 teams in the division are not eligible to receive a wildcard.
- 4) The SC State League Coordinator will determine which NTRP levels will play their local league at the State Championships. This will be based on the total number of teams registered in each area for each level by the initial league deadline date. Legal team rosters for any levels playing their local league at the State Championship must be submitted by the initial league deadline date for the area in which the team is registering. Players must be registered on both the TennisLink roster and the Championship roster by the Championship Online Registration Deadline in order to participate in the Local League at State.
- 5) One default received counts as a qualifying match for State League Championship.
- 6) For all players involved, a retirement counts as a qualifying match for Combo Doubles League State Championship.
- 7) The Championship Draw is a random draw done by the championship referee once local league competition is completed. 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 wildcards 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.
- 8) For all state championships, South Carolina may use round robin(s) or un-flighted matches against randomly selected opponents as their match formats. The use of multiple round robins or the use of un-flighted matches will require a playoff structure to establish a champion. Please refer to championship procedures for full details for that applicable championship.
- 9) Entry fee for State Combo League Championships will be **\$30.00** each time a player's name appears on a championship roster.
- 10) **Deposit Fee:** A \$300.00 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 \$300 per team, payable to USTA SC. **The deposit is to be submitted online at the time of team registration.** A grievance may be filed against the withdrawing team in addition to the \$300 fine.
- 11) Teams that withdraw from the championship after the online registration deadline date and before the draws are published will lose their \$300 deposit but may request a refund for registration fees. Teams that withdraw from the championship after the draws have been published will lose their \$300 deposit and their registration fees.

12) If a team defaults an individual court/line during the championship, the deposit will be collected and an administrative fee of \$100 per individual court will be deducted up to the full amount of the deposit check. Any monies owed back will be refunded to the captain. (For example: a team defaults an individual line during its Saturday afternoon match. The \$300 deposit will be collected from the online deposit, the \$100 fee will be deducted and a reimbursement check of \$200 will be sent to the captain within 30 days.

13) Scheduling at Combo Doubles League State Championships will not be able to accommodate players who compete on more than one team so players and/or teams should plan accordingly. All scheduled matches are expected to be played.

## **GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES.**

1. Grievance complaint forms, procedures and rules are posted on the SC Tennis Association website. There are specific time limits, procedures, and rules for filing a grievance. Grievance complaints may be filed not only for infractions of the regulations but also for failing to abide by good conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship. Such grievances must be filed by the captain in writing and emailed to the Local League Coordinator prior to commencement of the next team match involving such player or team or within 24 hours after the end of local league play, whichever occurs first, except a complaint based on ineligibility may be filed at any time after learning the player is ineligible.
2. A \$100 filing fee will be required for all General/Sportsmanship, Championship and/or Administrative Grievances. The filing fee will only be returned to the grieving party if the grievance is upheld.

### USTA SC League Grievance and Grievance Appeals Committee

Jimmy Sain – Co Chairman (HHI)  
James Teal – Co Chairman (PD)  
Jeanette Hammers (AATL)  
Jonathan Watkins (CCTA)  
Toni Odom (CTL)  
Lauren Demosthenes (FTA)  
Abby Martin (GATA)  
Susie Honeycutt (GSTL)  
Sue Cook (HHI)  
Thea Salmonson (LATA)  
Art Welling (LCTA)  
Becky Williamson (LCTA)  
Leland Greeley (MCTL)  
Stephanie Stanton (MCTL)  
Scott Zobrist (PD)  
Frank Thompson (SATL)  
Terri Errington (UPTA)

Please note that a chairman and 2 committee members will be assigned to handle each grievance or grievance appeal but will not be assigned to any grievance or grievance appeal from their local area.

The decision of the League Grievance Committee may be appealed to the League Grievance Appeals Committee.

The decision of the League Grievance Appeals Committee is final and binding.

## **IMPORTANT DEADLINES:**

Online Registration opens for State Championship (All Age Groups) – [September 15, 2023](#).

Last day for players whose teams are playing local at State to be added to roster on TL –

18/40 & Over – October 13, 2023

55/65 & Over – October 20, 2023

Deadline for online registration for teams advancing to State Championship –

18/40 & Over – October 13, 2023

55/65 & Over – October 20, 2023

## **CHAMPIONSHIP DATES AND LOCATIONS:**

2023 Combo 40 & Over State Championship – Oct. 27-29 – Florence

2023 Combo 18 & Over State Championship – Oct. 28-30 – Florence

2023 Combo 55/65 & Over State Championship – Nov. 4-6 – Aiken

2023 Combo Sectional Championships – December 1-4 – Mobile, AL

WEBSITE FOR COMBO STATE CHAMPIONSHIP INFORMATION AND ONLINE REGISTRATION:

[www.sctennis.com/combochamps](http://www.sctennis.com/combochamps)

[www.sctennis.com/combo55champs](http://www.sctennis.com/combo55champs)