



**USTA SOUTH CAROLINA COMBO DOUBLES REGULATIONS  
18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over, 65 & Over  
League Year 2026**

**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, 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

**Two team leagues:** In a two-team flight in any age group, a team must have at least 3 players on roster at the level according to the chart below. This chart is different from the chart with the maximum levels approved for each combined level. For example - 7.5 roster must have at least three 4.0 players.

3		3 Players at the following:		
NTRP Level	Players at Max NTRP:		NTRP Level	
5.5	3.0		8.5	4.5 or 5.0
6.5	3.5		9.5	5.0 or 5.5
7.5	4.0		10.5	5.5 or 6.0

**Singleton teams:** If any Adult Division in the 18 & Over, 40 & Over, or 55 & Over 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 the registration deadline for that league.
  - 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, Fall, etc.

(4) Refund or credit all or a portion of the registration fee in accordance with the Local League policy.

**Singleton teams:** If any area in the 65 & Over division consists of only one team in a level of play (singleton team), that team may advance straight to the state championship.

Local League at State Levels:

18 & Over	9.5, 10.5 Women 9.5, 10.5 Men
55 & Over	8.5 Women 8.5 Men

### **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.**

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.

Local League playoffs are 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.

## **Full Team Defaults**

- 1) Ineligibility to Advance: The defaulting team is ineligible to advance beyond local league play but must continue to play the remainder of the local matches.
- 2) Recording Matches: All matches played by the defaulting team will be recorded in TennisLink for the purpose of satisfying match play requirements for opponents only.
- 3) Removal of Matches: At the end of the local season, all matches of the defaulting team will be removed from the stats and standing in TennisLink, UNLESS:
  - a) More than one full round was played in a flight. If more than one round was played, only the matches in the affected flight will be removed.
  - b) All teams with a mathematical chance to advance have already played the defaulting team in good faith; the matches shall stand as played when determining standings.
  - c) The final standings would not be impacted by the matches played against the defaulting team.
- 4) Grievance Filing: A grievance may be filed against the defaulting team.

## **Substitutions and Retirements**

- 1) An individual match starts 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.
- 2) If a player is unable to complete a match that has already started due to injury, illness, or personal reasons, the score will be written as a retirement. Scores will be entered as they were at the time of retirement.
- 3) 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 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, and 55 & Over Age Groups must play a local league in order to advance to State Championships except as noted in (4) below.
- 3) NTRP levels in the 65 & Over Age Group in each area are required to play a local league unless the level has only one team. If only one team is registered in a local area, that team may advance straight to the state championship.
- 4) 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 12-23 (12-23) teams. The top three teams will be automatically invited when a level has 24 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. 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.

- 5) The USTA SC Adult Programs Committee will determine which NTRP levels will play their local league at the State Championships. Legal team rosters for any levels playing their local league at the State Championship must be submitted by the registration deadline. Players must be registered on both the TennisLink roster and the Championship roster by the Championship Online Registration Deadline to participate in the Local League at State.
- 6) One default received counts as a qualifying match for State League Championship.
- 7) For all players involved, a retirement counts as a qualifying match for Combo Doubles League State Championship.
- 8) 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 South Carolina Local League Grievance and Grievance Appeals Committee – 2026

James Teal – Co-Chair Grievance Committee  
Scott Zobrist – Co-Chair Grievance Committee  
Debby Bosselman – Grievance Appeals Committee

#### Local League Representatives

Jonathan Watkins – BBTL  
Toni Odom – CTL  
Lauren Demosthenes – FTA  
Abby Martin – GATA  
Jessica Holmes – GSTL  
Sue Cook – HHTL  
Thea Salmonson – LATA  
Art Welling – LCTA  
Becky Williamson – LCTA  
Chris Jones – LCTA  
Stephanie Stanton – MCTA  
Linda Freeman – PD  
Frank Thompson – SATL  
Terry Kent – 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 Statewide Local League Grievance Committee may be appealed to the Statewide Local League Grievance Appeals Committee.

#### **IMPORTANT DEADLINES:**

##### Combo 18/55 & Over

- Registration opens: September 11
- Deadline for Minimum Required Registered and Online Team Deposit: October 7
- Wildcard Application turned in: October 7
- Wildcard Teams Selected: October 8
- Deadline for Minimum Required Registered for LLAS (TennisLink and Match Tennis Team) and Wildcard teams: October 9
- Deadline for Individual Registration Refunds: October 16
- Deadline for Permitted Team Withdrawal: Prior to draws being posted. Teams will be charged \$300 if they withdraw after the draws are posted.

##### Combo 40/65 & Over

- Registration opens: September 25
- Deadline for Minimum Required Registered and Online Team Deposit: October 21
- Wildcard Application turned in: October 21
- Wildcard Teams Selected: October 22
- Deadline for Minimum Required Registered for LLAS (TennisLink and Match Tennis Team) and Wildcard teams: October 23
- Deadline for Individual Registration Refunds: October 30
- Deadline for Permitted Team Withdrawal: Prior to draws being posted. Teams will be charged \$300 if they withdraw after the draws are posted.

**\*\*Combo 65 & Over Singleton Team's cannot add new players to their TennisLink roster after September 27, 2026**

#### **CHAMPIONSHIP DATES AND LOCATIONS:**

2026 Combo 55 & Over State Championship – Oct. 23-25 – Aiken

2026 Combo 18 & Over State Championship – Oct. 24-26 – Aiken

2026 Combo 40/65 & Over State Championship – Nov. 7-9 – Florence

[2026 Combo Sectional Championships](#)