



USTA SOUTH CAROLINA MIXED DOUBLES REGULATIONS

USTA League Tennis – League Year 2016

0.0 INTRODUCTION

USTA League Tennis National and Southern Regulations have full force and applicability at all levels of play in USTA League Tennis in the USTA Southern Section and there is no authorization to modify, amplify or change them by Local or State League Coordinators, or Grievance or Grievance Appeals Committees.

- 0.01 USTA South Carolina has appointed the USTA SC State Mixed Doubles League Coordinator to organize and coordinate all USTA SC Mixed Doubles League Tennis activities in the USTA SC State Mixed Doubles League. In conjunction with the USTA SC Leagues Committee, the USTA SC State Mixed Doubles League Coordinator shall have the authority to interpret and modify the USTA SC Mixed Doubles League Tennis Rules and Regulations. Local Leagues do not have the authority to modify the USTA SC State Mixed Doubles League Regulations.**
- 0.02 All players, teams and Local Leagues must abide by USTA League Tennis, USTA Southern Tennis and USTA SC State Mixed Doubles Rules and Regulations.**
- 0.03 Local Leagues may write regulations to govern local play. They may not be in conflict with USTA League Regulations, USTA Southern League Regulations or USTA SC State Mixed Doubles Regulations. In the event of any dispute, USTA SC State Mixed Doubles Regulations will take precedence over Local League Regulations. USTA Southern League Regulations will take precedence over USTA SC State Mixed Doubles Regulations and USTA League Regulations will take precedence over USTA Southern League Regulations.**
- 0.04 Local League Rules and Regulations must be approved by the USTA SC State Mixed Doubles League Coordinator prior to the start of the Local League Season.**
- 0.05 Local League Rules and Regulations must be distributed to Team Captains, along with USTA League Regulations, USTA Southern Tennis Regulations, and USTA SC State Mixed Doubles Rules and Regulations before League Season begins.**
- 0.06 New regulations or changes in regulations are **in red font**.**

1.00 GENERAL

1.04C USTA League Registration

1.04C(1) Initial rosters must be entered in TennisLink before League play begins.

1.04C(2) Scores must be reported in TennisLink within 48 hours of the completed team match. TennisLink will automatically confirm scores 48 hours after the team match is initially reported in TennisLink if not confirmed by the opposing captain. Local Leagues should make a rule regarding team matches that are not entered in TennisLink within 48 hours of the completed match.

1.04D(2) All Local Mixed Leagues (18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over, and 65 & Over) must end team registration on or before **June 5, 2016**. Teams may continue to add players per local league regulations.

1.04D(3) Local Mixed Leagues will set deadlines for registering players and for adding players to rosters. Team rosters with a minimum number of legal players (3 men and 3 women) must be submitted into TennisLink by the deadline date published by the Mixed Local League Coordinator. Team rosters that do not meet this deadline date will be deleted and those players who have registered on this deleted team can be moved to another team before league play begins. Teams cannot be added after the initial deadline date without approval from the USTA SC State Mixed Doubles League Coordinator.

1.04D(3)(a) Players may not be added to the team roster during local league flight playoffs or at any championship. The USTA SC State Mixed Doubles League Coordinator will inform Local Mixed Leagues of add-on deadlines for State Championships.

1.04D(4) Local Mixed Doubles Leagues may limit the number of players that appear on a team roster.

1.04D(7) The USTA SC State Mixed League Coordinator, in consultation with the USTA SC Director of Leagues, will determine the number of teams at the Mixed 18 & Over 2.5, 10.0 and 55 & Over 9.0 levels that qualify for the Mixed State Championships when the rosters for these levels have been submitted. Legal team rosters for these levels must be submitted by the initial mixed league deadline date for the area in which the team is registering.

1.04D(8) The deadline for adding players to a roster for teams advancing directly to state is August 19, 2016.

1.04D(9) Number of Teams. When a Local League does not have the required number of Teams, (two teams) for Mixed 18 & Over, Mixed 40 & Over, Mixed 55 & Over and Mixed 65 & Over to constitute a level, the affected Local League Coordinators, shall either:

- (1) Offer to move that team to another age division offered in that area in that particular level, if applicable.**
- (2) 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. Combo, etc.**
- (3) The Director of Leagues or State League Coordinator may move a singleton team 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.

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

1.04E(1) Each Mixed Local League team must maintain its roster through the Mixed State Championships with at least 60 percent of its players with South Carolina residence (the player's primary residence is to be defined in USTA records as South Carolina). This will be monitored by the Local Mixed Doubles League Coordinator.

1.04E(2) All players must be current members of USTA through the Local Mixed Doubles League season including local playoffs and any player who progresses to championship levels in the USTA Mixed League Tennis Program must be a current member through each championship progression.

1.04E(3) Player Age Requirements. Each player shall 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.

1.04G PLAYER PARTICIPATION

1.04G(3) A player may play at the same NTRP level in the same division (18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over and 65 & Over) on teams in separate Mixed Leagues in South Carolina during the same season. If both teams in the same division advance to the Mixed State Championships, the player must choose to only play on one team at that same level.

1.04G(4) During the South Carolina Mixed League Season, a player may participate in more than one NTRP level in the Mixed 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over and 65 & Over divisions in the same Mixed League during the same season.

1.04G(6) Players who qualify for South Carolina Mixed Doubles Championships in 2016 may advance on more than one team within an Age Group only if they are at different NTRP levels. No accommodations for scheduling will be made at the Mixed State Championships.

1.04G(6)(a) Players who qualify for the Mixed Sectional Championships may advance on more than one team within an age group only if they are different NTRP levels. If eligible players do not participate at the State Championships, they may participate in the Sectional and/or National Championships. No accommodations for scheduling will be made at these Championships.

1.04G(6)(b) In the 18 & Over and 40 & Over age divisions, players must play in at least two matches through the state championships (which may include one default) in order to advance to the Southern 18 & Over and/or 40 & Over Mixed Doubles Sectional Championships. A retired match shall count toward advancing for all players involved.

1.04G(6)(c) At the 55 & Over and 65 & Over age division, players must play in at least one match (which may include one default) in order to advance to the Southern 55 & Over and 65 & Over Mixed Doubles Sectional Invitational. A retired match shall count toward advancing for all players involved.

1.04G(7) At the SC Mixed State Championships, if a player qualifies for two or more teams at the same NTRP level in the same division (18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over or 65 & Over), the individual must declare which team he or she will represent. In the absence of a declaration, the first match played will determine which team he or she will represent.

2.00 USTA LEAGUE REGISTRATION

2.01A Levels of Play

2.01A(4) The USTA SC Mixed Doubles League Program offers team competition for 18 & Over men and women with levels of straight 2.5 and combined 6.0, 7.0, 8.0 9.0 and 10.0. The League also offers team competition for 40 & Over men and women with combined levels of 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, and 9.0. A Mixed Doubles league is offered for 55 & Over men and women with combined levels of 6.0, 7.0, 8.0 and 9.0 and 65 & Over men and women in combined levels of 6.0, 7.0 and 8.0. All State rules, as outlined, apply to all USTA SC State Mixed Doubles Leagues unless otherwise noted. A player may compete in 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over and 65 & Over Mixed Doubles Leagues in accordance with the appropriate rules.

- Straight 2.5 (example of combinations 2.0 & 2.5 or 2.5 & 2.5)
- 6.0 (example of combinations 3.0 & 3.0 or 2.5 & 3.5)
- 7.0 (example of combinations 3.5 & 3.5 or 3.0 & 4.0)
- 8.0 (example of combinations 4.0 & 4.0 or 3.5 & 4.5)
- 9.0 (example of combinations 4.5 & 4.5 or 4.0 & 5.0)
- 10.0 (example of combinations 5.0 & 5.0 or 4.5 & 5.5)

If a partnership desires to play together and does not equal an above level, they may play up, i.e. 3.0 and 3.5 may play 7.0 together because they are not more than one point apart.

2.01A(4)(a) Only 2.0 and 2.5 rated players may play at the 2.5 level

2.01A(4)(b) Using combined NTRP level, the combined NTRP level of the mixed doubles team cannot exceed the combined NTRP ratings level entered.

2.01A(4)(c) The NTRP difference between members of an individual mixed doubles team may not exceed 1.0.

2.01C Competition Format

2.01C(3) All USTA SC Mixed Doubles Leagues will use the Match Tiebreak (first to 10 by a margin of 2) in lieu of a third set in Local Mixed League play including playoffs.

2.01C(3)(a) Procedures 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 the fewest number of sets.
- (4) Games. Loser of the fewest number of games.
- (5) A Method to be determined by the Local League Coordinator. Procedure to be announced prior to the commencement of local league 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**. If no rule is recorded for local league play, it will defer to the new championship procedures in the event of a tie. (see above 2.01C(3)(a))

2.01C(5) Team Lineups. An individual match is started when the first ball is put into play. After the start of an individual match, if injury to or illness of a player occurs, the opponents will be awarded a retirement for that individual match only. If a disqualification occurs, the opponents will be awarded a default.

2.01C(5)(a) 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 in the lineup. If no such substitution can be made, the affected position only will be defaulted in local mixed leagues.

2.01C(5)(b) In the event that a team match must be re-scheduled and starting times are staggered, where opponents are not available and ready to play, defaults will be awarded in the affected position only.

2.01C(5)(c) Local Mixed Leagues will make the rule regarding rescheduling of matches due to inclement weather.

2.01C(5)(d) Two players will play together in the higher position when both of their partners do not show in order to avoid two defaults (provided combined ratings do not exceed designated level of play).

2.01C(5)(e) If a team defaults an entire team match for any reason during round robin play, then all matches of that team played, or to be played, shall be null and void when determining standings. If all teams in contention for the championships have already played the defaulting team in good faith, the matches stand as played. Every effort should be made to play the matches. Local leagues may impose further sanctions or penalties on said team.

2.01C(5)(f) A Local Mixed League will set their policy for player's presence on court to receive a default.

2.01C(5)(g) All matches played by a team that drops out of the League during the USTA SC Mixed League Season will be used to qualify opponents for Championship play.

2.01C(5)(h) Retirements will be used to qualify all players involved in a retired match for Championship play.

2.02 PROGRESSION

2.02A Local League Competition. Each Local Mixed League **MUST** complete their Local Mixed League Season prior to USTA SC State Mixed Doubles League Championships. Note: The required Mixed State 18 & Over and 40 & Over team information must be submitted to the USTA SC State Mixed Doubles Coordinator (Susan Turner) by **August 26, 2016**. The required State Mixed 55 & Over and 65 & Over Championship team information must be submitted to the USTA SC State Mixed Doubles 55 & Over and 65 & Over Coordinator (Patti McVey) by **August 26, 2016**.

2.02B State Championships

2.02B(b) Only the winner of each specific NTRP level in each age division in local league competition shall be entitled to advance to the State Championship. If the winning team is unable to attend, an alternate team, preferably the 2nd place team, can be asked to advance.

2.02B(c) Wildcard Procedure: Wildcards will be chosen from a random draw based on number of teams and positions by Area from the current Mixed Doubles season. The number of teams an Area has will be divided by the number of positions that Area qualifies for at State Championships. This number will determine the total chances the Area will have in the random

draw. An Area whose team is drawn for a Wildcard and used at a particular level **WILL BE ELIGIBLE** to have a wildcard at the same level the following year. An Area whose team is named to replace a team that dropped out of the State Championship will remain eligible for a wildcard at that level the following year. *Flights must have a minimum of six (6) teams to be eligible for a wildcard.*

2.03 DISTRICT AND SECTION CHAMPIONSHIPS

2.03A Eligibility

2.03A(3) All participants must be on the original roster and have played at least two matches locally (one default may count) in the Mixed 18 & Over division and the Mixed 40 & Over division in order to be eligible to compete at the USTA SC Mixed Doubles State Championships.

2.03A(3)(a) In the Mixed 55 & Over and 65 & Over divisions, players must play at least one match (one default may count) in order to be eligible to compete at the USTA SC Mixed Doubles State Championships. A retired match shall count toward advancing for all players involved.

2.03A(3)(b) The Local Mixed League Coordinator will determine the method of selection for teams qualifying for the USTA SC State Mixed Doubles Championship if there is more than one flight in any level.

2.03A(3)(c) The winner of each level at the USTA SC State Mixed Doubles Championships (18 & Over and 40 & Over) will be allowed to advance to the Mixed Sectional Championships, October 7-9, 2016 in Chattanooga, TN.

2.03A(3)(d) The winner of each level at the USTA SC State Mixed Doubles Championships (55 & Over and 65 & Over) will be allowed to advance to the Mixed Sectional Invitational, TBD, Little Rock, AR.

2.03A(4)(d) If there is no local or state competition offered for the Mixed 18 & Over or the Mixed 40 & Over divisions, one team per state per level may be permitted to play a local league prior to the Section Championship's beginning. If there is only one team in this situation, then a local league will not take place and that team won't be permitted to advance.

2.03A(4)(e) All teams participating in the aforesaid local league playoff will be provided wildcards to advance to the Section Championships.

2.03D Competition Format: The USTA SC State Mixed Doubles Championships will be a round robin format. The Championship Draw is a random draw done by the championship referee before state competition is completed. Where possible, however, teams from the same local league will be put in separate flights. The number of flights at a given level will depend on number of teams eligible. A flight typically will have four teams and the referee may elect to add wildcard teams to balance out flights.

2.03D(4) Draws may be comprised of two, three or four flights typically with four teams in each flight. Levels with two flights – the winner of each flight will play a finals match to determine the State winner. Levels with three flights - In the case of three flights, a wildcard will be drawn at random (from the numbers 1, 2, 3) by the referee on the final day of round-robin play to determine which flight's second place team will be the fourth team to play in the semi-finals. The wildcard team will not play a team from their original flight in the semi-finals match. The winners of the semi-finals match will play a finals match to determine the State winner. Levels with four flights – the winner of each flight will play a semi-finals match and then those winners will play a finals match to determine the State winner.

2.03H USTA SOUTH CAROLINA Procedures in the Event of a Tie: In the event of a tie, whether in round robin or single elimination competition, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:

- (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 the fewest number of sets.
- (4) Games. Loser of the fewest number of games.
- (5) A Method to be determined by the Championship Committee. Procedure to be announced prior to commencement of championship competition.

2.03I(1) Any team defaulting a court for any reason at the State Championships will incur a \$100 fine payable immediately (cash or check) for each court defaulted. If a team does not pay the fine, **they will not be permitted to play their next match** and a grievance may be filed against all players on the state roster, which could result in the suspension of play from any USTA League play until the fine is paid. It is your team's responsibility to have players on every court at each match at a State championship.

2.03L USTA SOUTH CAROLINA Scoring of Team Defaults If a team defaults an entire team match for any reason during round robin play, that team is ineligible to continue play at that championship. All matches of the defaulting team already played or to be played, shall be null and void when determining standings. If all teams in contention for the championships have already played the defaulting team in good faith, those matches stand as played.

2.03L(a) *A \$250.00 deposit from each team advancing to the championships is required. A team that withdraws from a championship after the deadline for submitting paperwork to the USTA SC State Mixed Doubles League Coordinator (August 26, 2016) will be subject to a fine of \$250.00 per team, payable to USTA SC. The deposit is to be sent to the Local League Coordinator to hold until the championship is completed, if the team completes the championship, the Local League Coordinator will destroy the check. **A grievance may be filed against the withdrawing team in addition to the \$250 fine. Penalties against these team members may include that all members on the submitted roster be banned from participating in any USTA leagues for a period of up to 364 days.***

2.03L(b) If an entire team defaults their match during a championship, a grievance may be filed against all members on the team roster that is submitted for the championship. Sanctions against the team members may include that all members on the submitted roster be banned from participating in any **USTA leagues** for a period of up to 364 days.

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEES

3.01A(1) **Grievance Committees.** Each local league shall appoint a Local League Grievance Committee. All Grievance Committees shall consist of no less than three persons, including a chairman, to adjudicate grievances. The members of the Committee may be the same as or different in whole or part, from the committee first approved. The USTA SC Mixed State League Coordinator and/or the USTA SC State Director of Leagues will approve the members for a Local League Grievance Committee.

3.01A(2) The USTA SC State Mixed Doubles League Coordinator has the authority to appoint the persons who shall serve on Grievance and Grievance Appeals Committees in the place of those persons listed below in the case of conflict, absence or other inability to serve. Substitute appointments will come from members of the League Council.

The South Carolina State Mixed Doubles Grievance Committee is:

Bonnie Sue Duncan, Chairman
Susie Honeycutt, Member
Mike Martin, Member

3.01B Grievance Appeals Committee. All Grievance Committees shall consist of no less than three persons, including a chairman, to consider appeals from the Grievance Committees. No member of the Grievance Appeals Committee may be a member of the Grievance Committee. The members of the Committee may be the same as or different in whole or part, from the committee first approved.

The South Carolina State Mixed Doubles Grievance Appeals Committee is:

Kim Ozmon, Chairman
Robert Wilson, Member
Ed Sprenger, Member

3.03E NTRP GRIEVANCES

Any grievance contending that a player's NTRP level is lower than his/her actual skill level shall constitute an NTRP Grievance. (See Reg. 3.03E (1) a and 3.03E (1) b.)

3.03E(3)(a) NTRP Grievances filed **within 7 days of the start date of the player's and/or captain's local league playoff** and/or 21 days of the start date of the player's and/or captain's State Championships will be administered after the event unless the section authorizes the administration of the grievance prior to that time. If the grievance is not administered until after the event, points won by players will stand. Disqualified players and/or captains that are suspended will not be eligible to advance to the next level of championship play.

3.03E (8)(a) USTA South Carolina mandates that the party(ies) that files the NTRP Grievance complaint must provide the documentation to support their complaint at the time of their filing.

3.03E (8) (b) All Grievances must be filed on the appropriate Grievance Forms as mandated by the USTA Southern Tennis Association.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES:

LLC will submit team information to SLC – August 26, 2016
Deadline for online registration – August 26, 2016

CHAMPIONSHIP DATES AND LOCATIONS:

2016 Mixed 18 & Over and 40 & Over State Championships – Sept. 10-12, 2016 – Florence, SC
2016 Mixed 18 & Over and 40 & Over Sectional Championships – Oct. 7-9, 2016 – Chattanooga, TN
2016 Mixed 55 & Over and 65 & Over State Championships — Sept. 9-11, 2016 – Florence, SC
2016 Mixed 55 & Over and 65 & Over Sectional Invitational – TBD – Little Rock, AR

WEBSITE FOR MIXED STATE CHAMPIONSHIP INFORMATION:

www.sctennis.com/mixedchamps

WEBSITE FOR MIXED STATE CHAMPIONSHIP ONLINE REGISTRATION:

www.sctennis.com/mixedchamps

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