

2016 CTL SINGLES LEAGUE REGULATIONS

www.columbiatennisleague.org

***USTA South Carolina State Singles Regulations shall apply to the South Carolina Singles League and take precedence over CTL Singles League Rules.

USTA SC DIRECTOR OF LEAGUES

The following person has been appointed to implement and administer the South Carolina State USTA League Tennis Program.

Mary Goins
P. O. Box 386, Easley, SC 29641
864-855-0881 mgoins@charter.net

USTA SC STATE SINGLES LEAGUE COORDINATOR

The following person has been appointed to implement and administer the South Carolina State Singles League Program and to interpret the SC Singles Leagues Rules and Regulations.

Sam Hicks
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CTL SINGLES LEAGUE LOCAL LEAGUE COORDINATOR

The following person has been appointed to implement and administer the Columbia Tennis League Singles League Program and to interpret the Columbia Tennis League Singles League Regulations.

Susan Turner
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GENERAL

1. TEAM CAPTAIN

Each team shall appoint a team captain to handle administrative affairs and to represent the team in the CTL Singles League matters. It is recommended that the team captain be a playing member of the team. The team captain, or an acting team captain, must be present at every match. Each team may also appoint a co-captain.

2. ASSIGNED TEAMS

If teams are moved from other leagues and/or tennis associations to play in the CTL Singles League, those teams will have home and away matches on the same basis as regular member teams of the CTL Singles League. Teams moved to play in the CTL Singles League may be required by the CTL Singles League Coordinator to play its home matches at a CTL facility designated by the CTL Singles League Coordinator and to pay any associated court fees to the CTL facility for home matches.

3. COURT FACILITIES

Each team participating in the CTL Singles League must guarantee the use of two courts at one location for all CTL regularly scheduled and make-up matches. Any approved USTA surface is permissible, including indoor and outdoor (clay or hard) surfaces. The choice of surfaces is the prerogative of the

home team, and more than one surface may be used for a single team match. If more than one surface is available at the site of the match, the home team must identify which individual matches will be played on which surfaces prior to either team turning in the line-up for that day's play. The home team is responsible to have courts available and playable at match time.

4. COACHING AND SPORTSMANSHIP

- a. No coaching will be permitted once the match has begun. This includes the warmup.
- b. There are no linesmen or referees for CTL matches. Players are responsible for their own calls and should abide by "The Code". If a conflict occurs during match play over line calls that cannot be resolved, the players involved may request their captains to appoint a linesperson for the remainder of the match.
- c. Players should call the score after each point to avoid confusion.
- d. Spectators may not aid players in making a line call or in determining the correct score. Spectators should not participate in the match in any way and should refrain from doing so even if asked by the players.
- e. Spectators may quietly watch a match in progress. They should not sit or stand at the end of the court immediately behind the servers or receivers if it is distracting to the players. Spectators may quietly clap for points well played. It should be remembered that the well-played point should be applauded regardless of who won the point. It is poor tennis etiquette to clap for unforced errors.
- f. It is the responsibility of the team captain to control the noise and behavior of team spectators. Loud, boisterous and unsportsmanlike behavior is unacceptable. If a problem arises with a spectator, both players should ask the spectator to refrain from the offensive behavior. If the behavior persists, the team captains should be summoned to handle the situation.
- g. Coaches and club professionals must not interfere in discussions or negotiations between players or captains unless specifically asked by both captains for advice. Even then, it is the responsibility of the two captains, not the coach or professional, to decide on the appropriate resolution.
- h. Disputes should be settled between players as soon as they arise. All points played in good faith stand. Players should be able to resolve any dispute by themselves.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

1. Grievance Complaints

Grievance complaint forms, procedures and rules are posted on the SC Tennis Association website, and are incorporated herein by reference. 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 in writing by a captain with the CTL Singles 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 person is ineligible.

2. Grievance Committee and Grievance Appeals Committee

The CTL League Coordinator appoints the members of the CTL Grievance Committee and CTL Grievance Appeals Committee with the approval of the State League Coordinator. The CTL League Coordinator has the authority to substitute or replace members of the committees named below in the case of a conflict, absence or other inability to serve.

The Columbia Tennis League Grievance Committee is comprised of:

- Chairperson – Jerry Odom
- Bill Brannon
- Coleen Freeman
- Christy Britt
- Michael Kenley

(Chairperson and 2 members appointed by the LLC will decide each grievance)

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

The Columbia Tennis League Appeals Committee is comprised of:

- Patti McVey – Chairperson
- Kenny Burton
- Clay Busto

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

3. NTRP Grievance

Self-rated players who enter the USTA League Tennis Program by misrepresenting their actual skill level are considered to have violated the standards of good conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship, and may be subject to a grievance complaint and possible disqualification. Grievances against such players may be filed by the Local Singles League Coordinator, or a team captain. NTRP grievance complaints should be first delivered to the CTL Singles League Coordinator, who will forward to the SC State Singles League Coordinator, who will forward to the Southern Section Grievance Committee Chairman.

CTL SINGLES LEAGUE LOCAL LEAGUE REGULATIONS

LOCAL LEAGUE

1. Levels of Play

The CTL Singles League has determined that for the league year 2016, the following levels shall be available if there are at least two teams for the level:

18 & Over Levels of Play – 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5

40 & Over Levels of Play – 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5

2. Number of Teams

The CTL Singles League shall consist of a minimum of two teams in a specific level of competition or division. In order to accommodate scheduling considerations, the CTL Singles League may establish two or more flights within a division. If there are two or more flights within a division, the make-up of a flight will be the result of either a random selection or on the basis of geographical location, as determined by the CTL Singles League Coordinator.

3. Team

A team will consist of a minimum of three players of the same gender.

- (a) 18 & Over – Player must reach at least 18 years of age during 2016.
- (b) 40 & Over – Player must reach at least 40 years of age during 2016.

4. Out of Area Players

A player may play out of his/her Local League Area in SC (as defined by the player's address listed in USTA membership records on Tennis Link), without approval from the player's local league coordinator and the approval of the local league coordinator in the area the player wishes to play.

5. Playing on Multiple Teams

- (a) A player may play on multiple 18 & Over teams and multiple 40 & Over teams in SC at the same NTRP level as long as they are in separate local leagues.
- (b) A player may play on multiple 18 & Over teams and multiple 40 & Over teams in CTL league as long as they are different NTRP levels.
- (c) Play on one 18 & Over team and one 40 & Over team at the same level in CTL league is permissible as long as the player meets the age criteria.
- (d) No accommodations will be made in the event of scheduling conflicts during the season or during championships.

6. Roster Registration

- (a) Team roster with a minimum of 3 legal players (same gender) must be submitted into TennisLink by May 7, 2016.
- (b) Players may be added to a roster on TennisLink up until the night before the last scheduled match. However, a player may not play for a team until the player has registered on the TennisLink roster. If he/she does play a match when not on the roster, the individual match will be considered a default.
- (c) A player must have a current USTA membership valid through the league season and state playoffs.
- (d) The fee for playing in the CTL Singles League is \$17, which includes the USTA/SC head tax, local league fee and TennisLink fee. This fee will be collected via credit card when registering on TennisLink, and is **not refundable**.

7. Rating Entry

- (a) Players with a computer rating must play at that NTRP level or higher.
- (b) Players without a computer rating but who have a self-rating within the past two years on TennisLink, must play at that level or higher.
- (c) Players who do not have a rating on file in TennisLink, shall self-rate in accordance with the National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) Guidelines and complete the self-rating process on TennisLink when registering for a team. Failure to provide accurate information regarding a player's tennis history will subject the player, the captain and/or others who condoned inaccurate self-rating to possible sanctions and disqualification. After a player self-rates, the player must play at that NTRP level or higher.

8. Match Format

All team matches will be the best of three sets with a 10 point match tiebreak played in lieu of the third set. (i.e., first team to win at least 10 points and with at least a two point margin over the opponent) Set tiebreaks, played at 6 games all, and the 10 point match tiebreak played in lieu of a third set, will use the Coman tiebreak system.

9. Team Match and Scoring

- (a) Each team match in the CTL Singles League shall consist of three singles matches.
- (b) The team winning two out of three matches in a team match shall be awarded one team point.

10. Team Lineups

- (a) The two team captains shall exchange their team lineups in writing simultaneously, prior to the beginning of the team match but no later than the scheduled start time of the match. No substitution may be made in an individual match after the lineup has been presented, except for 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 substitution can be made, the affected position will be defaulted.
- (b) Starting Match Play. All individual matches will begin (i.e., the first serve will be served) within 15 minutes of the scheduled start time. All warm-ups, including service warm-ups, should be concluded prior to 15 minutes after the scheduled start time.

11. Defaults and Forfeits

- (a) A default occurs when a team captain cannot field all positions for a team match. Defaults must be given "from the bottom" except as provided for in the rule for substitution of a "no-show" player.
- (b) To receive a win by default, the non-defaulting player or players must be present on court, ready to play; however, if a team captain advises his/her opponent in advance of the default, he/she, in effect, waives the requirement for the non-defaulting player(s) to be present in order to receive the default.
- (c) If a captain is advised prior to the match that the opponent must default one or more positions and that captain knows that he/she would also have had to default a position, it is incumbent upon that captain to demonstrate good sportsmanship and declare a double default rather than to accept the win.
- (d) If a team defaults an individual match during or prior to the line-up exchange, and inclement weather forces the match to be postponed before a point is played in any individual match, the default is cancelled.
- (e) If both teams default the same position, neither team will receive a win and the scorecard will indicate a double default.
- (f) Each team will be allowed one individual match default per team match. For example, if a team has 7 matches on the schedule, they will be allowed no more than 7 individual match defaults. If a team exceeds the allowed number of defaults or if the team defaults one entire match (i.e., a team defaults in one team match the number of courts that would determine the winner of the overall team match), the league may file a grievance against that team. The grievance committee shall determine what appropriate action should be taken which may include forfeiture of all matches and/or disqualification from the next season. A captain has the right to appeal.
- (g) If a team forfeits an entire team match, 2 positions for singles league, then that team will be defaulted from the league. All remaining matches scheduled for the defaulted team shall be voided and will not be played. All matches previously played by the defaulted team will be voided and will not be counted in the team standings.
- (h) A team cannot force another team to forfeit an entire match. If the situation arises, the teams must contact the Singles League Coordinator who, in consultation with the CTL Local League Coordinator, will make the final decision regarding the situation. The team that receives an

entire team forfeit will not receive credit for the win. **It is in the best interest of both teams to work it out, therefore, that at least two positions can be played.**

- (i) A grievance may be filed against any team which defaults an entire match. The situation will be assessed by the Grievance Committee and sanctions imposed as appropriate. Penalties could include barring the team and/or its players from participating in future Columbia Tennis League tennis play for some specific period of time.

12. Entry of Match Scores into Tennis Link

- (a) Match scores are to be entered into TennisLink within 48 hours of the end of the match. While either team may enter the score, **it is recommended that the captain of the home team enter the score.**
- (b) If match scores are not entered into TennisLink within 48 hours, a team will receive a warning. Any additional occurrences of not entering the score within 48 hours of match completion may result in the match being excluded when determining the division/flight standings and/or may result in the captain having a grievance filed by the CTL Singles League Coordinator for violation of this rule.
- (c) The captain of the visiting team (or the team not entering the results in TennisLink) will verify that the scores have been entered correctly. The verifying captain will either confirm, through TennisLink, that the scores as reported are accurate, or will dispute the score if he/she believes an error has been made and that the reported score is incorrect. If disputed, the captain is to notify the league coordinator by e-mail (and copy the opponent captain) of the basis for the dispute. Refer to the match number when reporting a dispute and provide specific information of the dispute.
- (d) The verification of the match score must be completed within 48 hours of the score being entered into TennisLink. After 48 hours, the reported score will be assumed to be correct, and there will be no opportunity to correct a score even if it is wrong.
- (e) Captains are to sign each other's lineup/scorecard to confirm match scores at completion of the match. It is strongly recommended that the two captains compare notes and confirm scores with players at the end of the match in order to decrease the probability of an erroneous score being entered into TennisLink.

13. Inclement Weather during Regular Season

- (a) It is the responsibility of the home team captain to determine if weather conditions warrant the postponement of a regular season team match. If teams have assembled and have started to play or are waiting to start play, they should be prepared to wait one hour to determine if the courts are playable. It is recommended the home team captain consult with the visiting team captain prior to making the "play/no play" decision, especially if match play has already begun.
- (b) (b) If match play has not begun (i.e., no individual match has started), the team captains will decide, within 48 hours, on a mutually agreeable make-up date and inform the league coordinator by e-mail (copy e-mail to opponent captain). This make-up date must be within two weeks of the scheduled date of the postponed match. If the two captains cannot mutually agree on a make-up date or if matches have not been reported on TennisLink within two weeks, the league coordinator will establish the make-up date and time. Team lineups on the make-up day do not have to be the same as they were on the day of the postponement even if the lineups had already been exchanged, and any defaults given during or prior to the line-up exchange are cancelled.

- (c) If match play has begun (i.e., at least one point played in one individual match), completed matches will stand as played, incomplete matches must be resumed by the same players of the exact set, game and point score as when play was halted, and matches not started may change the players listed on the lineup. Defaults given prior or during the lineup exchange will stand. The incomplete matches or unstarted matches do not have to be played at the same time and date, but can be arranged by the individuals involved in each of the individual matches. The decision when individual matches will be resumed must be made within 48 hours and the matches played within 2 weeks. The captains are to notify the league coordinator of the make-up dates/times by e-mail (copy e-mail to the opponent captain). The league coordinator will establish the make-up date and time if the players cannot agree, or if the matches have not been reported on TennisLink within two weeks.
- (d) All make-up matches must be completed by the Saturday following the last scheduled match of the regular local league season for each division. If there is a city play-off, the league coordinator may require an earlier time for completing make-up matches, and will set a date/time for completion which will be binding on the teams. Any matches not completed by the league deadline may be excluded in determining division/flight standings.

14. Team Standings

Team standings at the end of the regular season shall be in the order of the number of team points won. In the event that two or more teams in a flight have the same number of team points at the end of the season, the tie shall be broken in the following manner:

- (i) Winner of the most individual matches during the season
- (ii) Winner of head-to-head match
- (iii) Loser of the fewest number of sets during the season
- (iv) Loser of the fewest number of games during the season
- (v) Toss of coin by Singles League Coordinator

15. CTL City Championship Format

- (a) Single Flight for level of play

There are no CTL championship playoffs when there is a single flight for the level of play. The flight winner is the CTL city champion.

- (b) If a Wildcard is offered for a particular NTRP level, it will be offered to the 2nd place team according to the standings in TennisLink.

16. Regular League Scheduling Accommodation for teams advancing to State

Should a CTL team progress to Championship playoffs that conflict with a CTL regular local league match, team captains shall make accommodations in CTL match play – upon request of the team advancing to championships with notification to the league coordinator. Rescheduling procedures are the same as the inclement weather guidelines and the team captains must notify the league coordinator of agreements by e-mail (copy e-mail to opponent captain). The league coordinator will set a date/time for completion of the match if captains do not agree or do not report scores on TennisLink within two weeks.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. Eligibility

Players need not have participated in any minimum number of matches to play in CTL city play-off competition. By contrast, players in the 18 & Over and 40 & Over Singles League must have played in at least one CTL league match, including retirements, in order to participate in the state

championships. One of these matches can be a default received, but defaults given do not count towards meeting this requirement.

2. Players who qualify for SC Singles League State Championships may advance on more than one 18 & Over and 40 & Over team in the 2016 season. Scheduling will not accommodate players who compete on more than one team.

3. **Wildcards**

If needed to balance the draw for state championships, wildcards will be chosen from a random draw based on the number of teams and positions by local league from the current Singles League season. The number of teams a local league has will be divided by the number of positions that local league qualifies for at the state championships. This number will determine the total chances the local league will have in the random draw. A local league that is drawn for a wildcard and used at a particular level will not be eligible to have a wildcard at the same level the following year unless there are not enough teams available to complete the draw. A local league whose team is named to replace a team that dropped out of the State Championships will remain eligible for a wildcard at that level the following year. A level must have a minimum of four teams to be eligible for the wildcard draw.

4. **State Championship Draw**

The state championship draw is a random draw done by the championship referee before local league competition is completed. Where possible, however, teams from the same league will be put in separate flights. The number of flights at a given level will depend on the number of teams eligible. A flight will typically have four teams and the referee may elect to add wildcard teams to balance out 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 play in the semi-finals. The wildcard team will play a team from another flight.

5. Entry fee for State Singles League Championships is \$20.00 per player listed on the state roster.
6. Teams that withdraw from the Championships after the roster/fee submittal deadline will forfeit fees. A team substituted for the withdrawing team will not be responsible for championship fees other than for those players exceeding the number of players paid for by the withdrawing team.

CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE

The South Carolina State Singles League Championships will be held November 19-21, 2016.
Location: Charleston. There is no progression beyond the State level.