



**2017 Southern Combo Doubles Regulations**  
As of 01.01.2017

**Southern Combo Doubles** is the fastest growing adult league program in the South! Local men's and women's team play is available in Combo Doubles 18 & Over at the 2.5 level and combined levels of 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5 and 10.5, Combo Doubles 40 & Over combined levels 5.5, 6.5, 7.5 and 8.5, and Combo Doubles 55 & Over combined levels 6.5, 7.5 and 8.5. In 2017, each State will host a State Championship with winning teams advancing to the Section Championship from March 2-4, 2018 (55 & Over) in Auburn, AL and March 9-12 (18 & Over and 40 & Over) in Mobile, AL.

Play is governed by the RULES OF TENNIS, "The Code" as contained in the 2017 Friend at Court, and the following Combo Doubles Southern Section Regulations. USTA Southern may adhere to the USTA League National and/or Southern Regulations on items not mentioned in the USTA Southern Combo Doubles or state Combo Doubles regulations. General regulations for the program are listed below. Each State of the USTA Southern Section may supplement these regulations as is required for play within their State. Local and/or State regulations shall not be in conflict with the Southern Combo Doubles Regulations. No Southern Combo Doubles Regulation or Procedure may be waived by a State Association or by any local, state or sectional league coordinator or Grievance or Grievance Appeal Committee. Any violation of these regulations shall be subject to such sanctions as may be imposed by League Grievance or Grievance Appeal Committee procedures outlined in the USTA League Regulations. USTA Southern is the final authority on such actions unless otherwise specified in Bylaws of the USTA or USTA Southern. The Sectional League Coordinator, in conjunction with the USTA Southern Adult League Committee Chairman and Vice-Chairman, shall have the authority to interpret the Southern Combo Doubles Regulations.

1. All participants must be current members of the USTA and register through Tennis Link.
2. A team shall consist of a minimum of 6 players able to combine to form 3 separate eligible teams.
3. All participants must reach 18 years of age for 18 & Over, 40 years of age for 40 & Over, and 55 years of age for 55 & Over League Types prior to or during the calendar year in which such player participates in his or her first local league.
4. The format of play will be three individual men's or women's doubles matches per team match.

**NTRP cap for Combined Levels:**

NTRP Level	Max NTRP Rating	NTRP Level	Max NTRP Rating
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.*

5. The National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) is the official system for rating levels of competition in Combo Doubles. Players who do not have a computer rating or mixed-exclusive rating ("M")

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 do so or omission of information regarding a player's tennis history will subject the player, the captain and/or others who condoned inaccurate self-rating to sanctions and disqualification.

6. Players who submit an appeal to their self-rating through the Tennis Link system before their local league deadline for registering players will be permitted to register up to seven days after the notification of final self-rating. If a player's rating is appealed down during the Combo season, the player must adjust the rating on the roster for the duration of the season and should notify applicable Local League Coordinator to make update on TennisLink roster. Previous matches by the player would stand. If a player's rating is appealed down after the Combo season, the player may not adjust the rating on the roster and must continue to use the rating on the roster for the remaining championship year. If a player's rating is appealed up during the Combo season, he/she must use that rating for the duration of the Combo season. Previous matches by that player would stand. If a team advances directly to the sectional championships (see regulation #7) and registration has closed, a player must use the level that is listed on the roster and cannot adjust their rostered level when year-end ratings are published.

7. A player may not be dynamically promoted based on match results from Combo Doubles and match results are not calculated in year-end NTRP computer ratings. Players may play with the rating submitted on the roster through the Sectional Championships unless 1) the player appealed up or down during season (see above-mentioned regulation #6), 2) the player is dynamically promoted during any championship year, and/or 3) the player's year-end rating is two levels above the rating on the roster. If a player's year-end rating is two levels above the rating on the roster (in #3 above), the State League Coordinator will determine and notify the players before the Sectional Championships that were moved two levels at year-end and must participate at the middle level.

8. Players must play in at least one local or state championship match in order to advance to the Combo Doubles Sectional Championships (defaults received do count towards advancement in this program). State associations may regulate how many matches, if any, qualify a player to advance to state championship. Players who qualify for a Combo Doubles 18 & Over, Combo Doubles 40 & Over and/or Combo Doubles 55 & Over teams (s) may advance on more than one team within an age group only if they are different NTRP levels. No accommodations for scheduling will be made at Sectional Championships for teams with players that may be competing on two or more teams during a Sectional Championship. If matches are scheduled concurrently in the above-mentioned scenarios, then teams are expected to provide full line-ups for all team matches.

9. Players may advance to more than one State's Championships provided they have qualified to advance in each state. If eligible players do not participate at the State Championships, they may participate in the Section

Championships. A state has the authority to regulate advancement on more than one 18 & Over, 40 & Over, and/or 55 & Over team to the State Championships.

10. If the winning team at any level of State Championship competition is unable to compete further towards the Sectional Championships, then the State League Coordinator may select the second place team for such further competition. The Section may issue wildcards as necessary to fill the draw. If less than four teams are entered in a NTRP level draw within 21 days of event, the draw for the NTRP level will be cancelled unless otherwise authorized by the Tournament Committee.

11. Sectional Championship format shall be round robin in all levels of competition. A full draw is comprised of two flights with five teams each: the nine state champion teams and a wildcard team. Each team shall play every other team in its flight and the team with the most team points shall be champion in its flight. Levels with two flight winners will offer a single elimination finals match to determine the champion. If a state has two teams in the same level, the referee will place those teams in separate flights provided there are two flights in that level.

12. Sectional Championships Scoring: All matches will be the best of two sets and the set tiebreak shall be used at 6-all in each set. In lieu of a third set, a 10-point match tiebreak shall be played. 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:

**Individual Matches.** Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.

**Head-to-Head.** Winner of head-to-head match.

**Sets.** Loser of the fewest number of sets.

**Games.** Loser of the fewest number of games.

A method to be determined by the championships committee: procedure to be announced prior to commencement of championship competition.

**(A) Scoring of Team Defaults at Championship.** If a team defaults an entire team match for any reason during round robin play in a championship, then all matches of that team played or to be played during that championship, shall be null and void. If all teams in contention for the Championships have already played the defaulting team, the matches stand as played. The Tournament Committee may file a grievance to further impose sanctions or penalties on said team.

13. Defaults. A minimum of 6 team members (3 separate eligible pairings) who were on the final roster of their local league team at the conclusion of local league play must be available and eligible to compete at the State and Sectional Championships. The Tournament Committee may reduce that number to not less than four (2 separate eligible pairings). A team may default a maximum of one position in a match without defaulting the entire match. Said position shall be the No. 3 doubles if it's a known default.

14. Scoring of Individual Defaults: Defaults will be scored as a 6-0, 6-0 win for the player (doubles team) receiving the default and a 6-0, 6-0 loss for the player (doubles team) that defaulted the match. In the event of a default by both opposing players (teams), both sides will be given a 6-0, 6-0 loss and neither receives credit for a win.

**NOTE:** If a double default results in a tie, the tie-break procedure shall be the same as listed above in order to determine a winner of that team match.

**Retirement.** A retirement occurs when an individual match has started and a player (doubles team) is unable to continue due to injury, loss of condition or emergency.

**Scoring of Retirements.** In case of a retirement, the non-retiring player (doubles team) shall be credited with such number of additional games as would have been won if the match was completed and the non-retiring player (doubles team) won every subsequent game.

15. NTRP Grievance Complaint. The USTA Southern Section will administer NTRP Grievance Complaints. These complaints should be first delivered to the Local League Coordinator who will forward to the State League Coordinator who will forward to the Section League Coordinator who will forward to the Southern NTRP Grievance Committee Chairman. This committee will have jurisdiction over grievances filed against any player and/or captain who commits or condones entering at an NTRP level lower than their actual skill level. NTRP Grievances filed within 21 days of the start date of the player's and/or captain's Sectional 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.

#### 2017-18 Adult League Committee & Subcommittees

- Adult League Committee: Helen Martin(GA) – Chairman; Cookie Guarini(NC) – Vice Chair; Chaney Mills(AL); Jenifer Tucker(AR), Ashley Massengale(GA); Robert Washington(GA); Leony Barroso(KY); Emily Becker(LA); Jim Warren(MS); Whit Rayner(MS); Anna Martin(NC); Nan Smith(SC); Cheryl Thompson(TN); Chris Walling(Staff); John Herring(KY – Board Liaison); Deanna Garretson(AR – ED Liaison).
- Growth & Innovation SC: Nan Smith (SC) – Chair; Stacey Harris(AL); Chris Bryce(GA); Dave Dvorak(GA); Dennis Butler(MS); Charlotte Forrest(SC); Chris Walling(Staff).
- Championship Selection SC: Cookie Guarini(NC) – Chair; Chaney Mills(AL); Leony Barroso(KY); Carla Catalano(LA); Kenny Martin(NC); Elizabeth Walker(TN); Chris Walling(Staff).
- Rules & Regulations SC: Cheryl Thompson(TN) – Chair; Jenifer Tucker(AR); Marty Engle(LA); Venecia Green(MS); Anna Martin(NC); Robert Pfeiffer(SC); Pam Smead(TN); Chris Walling (Staff).
- Medical Appeals SC: Anna Martin(NC) – Chair; Joe Murphy(AR); James Gordon(GA); Leslie Shields(GA); Judy Anderson(KY); Nancy Vineyard(TN); Chris Walling(Staff).
- NTRP Grievance SC: Jim Warren(MS) – Chair; Cookie Guarini(NC); Chaney Mills(AL); Robert Washington(GA); Chris Walling (Staff).
- NTRP Grievance Appeal SC: Whit Rayner(MS) – Chair; Ashley Massengale(GA); Leony Barroso(KY); Emily Becker(LA); Chris Walling(Staff).
- League Grievance SC: Jenifer Tucker(AR) - Chair; Chaney Mills(AL); Nan Smith(SC); Cheryl Thompson(TN); Chris Walling(Staff).
- Self-Rate Appeals SC: Ashley Massengale(GA) – Chair; Mike Vandegriff(NC); Chris Walling(Staff).