



**USTA/SOUTH CAROLINA SOUTHERN COMBO DOUBLES REGULATIONS
18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over, 65 & Over
League Year 2017**

INTRODUCTION

USTA South Carolina Combo Doubles League Program is team competition in **18 & Over men and women 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 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.** A 65 & Over South Carolina ONLY Age Group will be offered at the combined levels of 6.5, 7.5 and 8.5 with **no advancement past the SC State Championship.** . 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 Combo Doubles State League Coordinator to organize and coordinate all USTA Southern Combo Doubles league activities in the South Carolina State Combo League and in conjunction with STA SC Combo Doubles League Committee shall have the authority to interpret the South Carolina State Combo Doubles League Tennis Regulations.

Local Leagues may write regulations to govern local play but they may not be in 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 for the 18 & Over, 40 years of age for the 40 & Over, 55 years of age for the 55 & Over and 65 years of age for the 65 & Over Age Groups 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:

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.

Local League Rules and Regulations must be approved by the Combo Doubles 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 Rules and Regulations before League Season begins.

GENERAL

Membership

All players must be current members of USTA and USTA South Carolina through the Combo Doubles Local League season, including Championship play. USTA South Carolina dues are \$6.00 per player per League year and are paid through Local League dues. Dues must be paid for EACH LEAGUE TEAM Adult 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over and 65 & Over Age Group played in during League season.

Registration

All Local Combo Leagues (18 & Over, 40 Over, 55 & Over and 65 & Over) must end team registration on or before **July 7, 2017. Teams may continue to add players per local league regulations.**

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 State Combo Doubles League Coordinator. Players may not be added to the team roster during local league flight playoffs or at any championship.**

LOCAL LEAGUE

Number of Teams

When a Local League does not have the required number of Teams, (two teams), in either the 18 & Over Age Group, 40 & Over Age Group, 55 & Over Age Group, and 65 & Over Age Group 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.
- (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
- (4) home local league must secure home courts in that local league they choose to participate unless both local league coordinators agree on something different.
- (5) Refund all or a portion of the registration fee in accordance with the Local League policy.

Teams playing in a Local League Area other than the area that has been the designated area for their Local League must secure home courts in the Local League Area where they plan to participate and pay all applicable court fees

ENTRY

Players who do not have a computer 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 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 penalties and disqualification.

Player Participation.

During the South Carolina Combo Doubles Local League Season a player may play on more than one NTRP level in Each Age Group in the **same** Local League during the **same** season.

A player may play at the **same** NTRP level in the same Age Group on teams in **separate** Local Leagues in South Carolina during the **same** season.

Each team must maintain its roster with at least 60 percent of its players with South Carolina Residence through the South Carolina State Championships (the player's primary residence is to be defined in USTA records as South Carolina).

For District Championship competition and including local league competition play at District Championships, 60% or more of the total number of players on the USTA-SC team roster must reside in South Carolina, as indicated by the player's primary residence and is defined in USTA records as South Carolina.

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.

*Players who qualify for South Carolina Combo Doubles State Championship in 2017 may advance on more than one team within an Age Group only if they are different NTRP levels (i.e. player can play on an Adult 18 & over 6.5 team and 7.5 team) but with no schedule accommodations. **Teams are expected to provide full line-ups for all team matches.***

SCORING AND REST

Local Leagues have the option to use or not use the Match Tiebreak (first to 10 by a margin of 2) in lieu of a third set in Local League play, including playoffs.

The Coman Tiebreak will be used for all three sets at championship play when the score is 6-6. The Coman Tiebreak will also be used for the Match Tiebreak for the third set with the first to 10 by 2.

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) 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 championship procedures in the event of a tie (see above)

COMPETITION FORMAT

Team Match and Scoring

- a. Local Leagues must make a rule regarding the maximum number of defaults allowed teams during the Local League Season.
- b. Local Leagues may set their policy for players' presence on court to receive a default.
- c. 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, those matches stand as played. In either case, defaulted matches received will be used for qualifying purposes for players advancing to Championship play.
- d. 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 had played the defaulting team, those matches would stay in the system.
- e. Retirements will be used to qualify all players involved in the retired match for Championship play.

Team Lineups

An individual match is started when the first ball is put in play. After the start of an individual match, if injury to, illness of, or disqualification of a player occurs, the opponents will be awarded a default for that individual match only. The default principles shall be applicable, with the Sectional modifications that:

- 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 on the lineup. If no such substitution can be made, the affected position will be forfeited in local leagues.
- 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, forfeits will be awarded in the affected position only.
- c. 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 Championships 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 District Championships except as noted in (4) below.

- (3) Only the winner of each specific NTRP level in each Age Group 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.
- (4) The State League Coordinator along with the Director of Leagues in conjunction with the League Committee will determine the number of teams at the Combo 18 & Over 2.5 straight, 5.5, 9.5 and 10.5 levels and 40 & Over 5.5 level and 55 & Over 8.5 level that qualify to advance to the Combo State Championship to play their local league once the team rosters for these levels have been submitted. Legal team rosters for these levels must be submitted by the initial league deadline date for the area in which the team is registering.

The deadline for adding players to a roster for teams advancing directly to state is September 22, 2016.

- (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.
- (7a) **Championship Draw:** The Championship Draw is a random draw done by the championship referee once local league competition is completed and rosters for State Championship entry are received. 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.
- (b) **Semifinal Wildcard for draws with 3 flights at the Championship:** When a draw has 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 semifinals. The wildcard team will play a team from another flight.
- (8) Entry fee for State Combo League Championships will be \$20.00 each time a player's name appears on a championship roster.
- (9) Once championship play has begun, any team defaulting a court for any reason at the State Championships will incur a \$100 fine per scheduled court payable immediately (cash or check) for each court defaulted. That team will not be allowed to play their match until that fine is paid. If a team refuses to pay the fine, a grievance will 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.
- (10) **Deposit Fee:** *A \$250.00 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 \$250 per team, payable to USTA SC. **The deposit is to be sent to the Local League Coordinator.*** Once championship play has begun, 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.

(11) Teams that withdraw from the championship after the online registration deadline date and before the draws are published will lose their \$250 deposit but may request a refund for registration fees. Teams that withdraw from the championship after the draws have been published will lose their \$250 deposit and their registration fees.

(12) If an entire team defaults their match during a championship, a grievance will be filed against all members on the team roster that is submitted for the championship. Penalties 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.

(13) If a team has a known default, (not enough players to field a complete team) the opposing team will have the opportunity to adjust their scorecard by moving the third place position to the second place position. The default will not be given until both scorecards have been received by the Site Director and after consulting with the captain receiving the default. Scorecards will be adjusted by the Site Director.

(14) **Procedure in the Event of a Tie. At Championships:** 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.**
- (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.**

(15) 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.

(16) The Combo Doubles League State Championships will be a round robin format.

(17) Entry fee for Combo Doubles League State Championships will be \$20.00 per player per team.

(18) South Carolina Combo Doubles State Championship Oct19-23, 2017. Location: **Hilton Head, SC**

(19) The winner of each level at the Combo Doubles League State Championships in Age Groups 18 & Over, 40 & Over and 55 & Over will be allowed to advance to the Sectional Championship:
55 & Over – March 2-4, 2018 – Auburn, AL.
18 & Over and 40 & Over – March 9-12, 2018 – Mobile, AL.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES.

Committees

Grievance Committees. Each Local League shall appoint a Local League Grievance Committee. All Grievance Committees shall consist of no less than three persons, including the 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 Combo State League Coordinator and/or USTA SC State Director of Leagues will approve the members for a Local Grievance Committee.

The USTA SC State Combo Coordinator has the authority to appoint the persons who shall serve on the 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 the members of the League Council.

The South Carolina State Combo Doubles Grievance Committee is:

- Susan Turner, Chairman
- Mary Anna Scott, Member
- Bonnie Sue Duncan, Member

All Grievances will be handled by the appropriate Grievance Committee.

Grievance Appeals Committee. All Grievance Appeal 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 Combo Appeals Committee is:

- Dee Vaughan, Chairman
- Sam Hicks, Member
- Jackie Reynecke, Member

Grievance appeals will be handled by the appropriate Grievance Appeals Committee.

Grievances and Appeals must be filed on the appropriate forms.

NTRP Grievances

Self rated players who enter the Combo Doubles Tennis league 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.

NTRP Grievances filed 21 days of the start date of the players' 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.

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.

All Grievances must be filed on the appropriate Grievance Forms as mandated by the USTA Southern Tennis Association.

NTRP Grievances. NTRP grievances shall come under the jurisdiction of the Section Grievance and Grievance Appeals Committees. Grievance Complaints will be sent to the State League Coordinator to be forwarded to the Section Grievance Committee.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES:

Deadline for Combo Registration (All Age Divisions) for Local Play – July 7, 2017

Participation Sheets due to SLC – July 8, 2017

Online Registration open for State Championship (All Age Groups) – September 6, 2017

Last day for players whose teams are playing local at State to be added to roster on TL – September 22, 2017

Deadline for online registration for teams advancing to State Championship – September 27, 2017

LLC will submit team information to SLC – September 27, 2017

CHAMPIONSHIP DATES AND LOCATIONS:

2017 Combo 18 & Over State Championship – Oct. 21-23, 2017 – Hilton Head, SC

2017 Combo 40 & Over State Championship – Oct. 20-22, 2017 – Hilton Head, SC

2017 Combo 55 & Over and 65 & Over State Championship – Oct. 19-21, 2017 – Hilton Head, SC

2017 Combo Sectional Championships – 55 & Over March 2-4, 2018 Auburn, Al; 18 & Over and 40 & Over March 9-12, Mobile, Al.

WEBSITE FOR COMBO STATE CHAMPIONSHIP INFORMATION:

www.sctennis.com/combochamps

WEBSITE FOR COMBO STATE CHAMPIONSHIP ONLINE REGISTRATION:

www.sctennis.com/combochamps