

## 2017 COLUMBIA TENNIS LEAGUE MIXED DOUBLES LOCAL RULES

[www.columbiatennisleague.org](http://www.columbiatennisleague.org)

\*\*\*USTA League Tennis National Regulations, Southern Regulations and USTA/SC Mixed Doubles Regulations shall apply to the USTA Mixed Doubles League and take precedence over CTL Mixed Doubles League Rules.

### GENERAL

#### 1. USTA SC STATE DIRECTOR OF LEAGUES

- a. The following person has been appointed to implement and administer the USTA SC League Tennis Program.

Mary Goins

P. O. Box 386, Easley, SC 29641

864-855-0881 [mgoins@charter.net](mailto:mgoins@charter.net)

- b. The following person has been appointed to implement and administer the USTA SC 18 & Over/40 & Over Mixed Doubles League Tennis Program.

Susan Turner

48 Upper Pond Rd., Columbia, SC 29223

803-201-1016 [tennistogo@aol.com](mailto:tennistogo@aol.com)

- c. The following person has been appointed to implement and administer the USTA SC 55 & Over/65 & Over Mixed Doubles League Tennis Program.

Patti McVey

147 Clouds Point, Leesville, SC 29070-6904

803-318-8463 [mxdsupersrs@att.net](mailto:mxdsupersrs@att.net)

- d. The following person has been appointed to implement and administer the Columbia Tennis League Mixed Doubles Tennis Program and to interpret the Columbia Tennis League Mixed Doubles Regulations.

Susan Turner

48 Upper Pond Rd., Columbia, SC 29223

803-201-1016 [tennistogo@aol.com](mailto:tennistogo@aol.com)

2. TEAM CAPTAIN. Each team shall appoint a team captain to handle administrative affairs and to represent the team in the Columbia Tennis 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.
3. ASSIGNED TEAMS. If teams are moved from other leagues and/or tennis associations to play in the Columbia Mixed Doubles Tennis League, those teams will have home and away matches on the same basis as regular member teams of the Columbia Mixed Doubles Tennis League. Teams moved to play in the Columbia Mixed Doubles Tennis League may be required by the CTL Mixed League Coordinator to

play its home matches at a CTL facility designated by the CTL Mixed League Coordinator and to pay any associated court fees to the CTL facility for home matches.

4. COURT FACILITIES. Each team participating in the Columbia Mixed Doubles Tennis 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.
  
5. COACHING AND SPORTSMANSHIP
  - a. No coaching will be permitted once the match has begun. This includes the warm up.
  - 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. If necessary, a grievance may be filed.
  - 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 Mixed Doubles 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. The CTL Local League Coordinator appoints the members of the CTL Grievance Committee and CTL Grievance Appeals Committee with the approval of the USTA SC Director of Leagues. The CTL Local 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
- Randy Watts

(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.

**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 Mixed Doubles Coordinator, or a team captain. NTRP grievance complaints should be first delivered to the CTL Mixed Doubles League Coordinator, who will forward to the SC State Mixed Doubles League Coordinator, who will forward to the Southern Section Grievance Committee Chairman.

## CTL MIXED DOUBLES LOCAL LEAGUE REGULATIONS

### LOCAL LEAGUE

#### 1. Levels of Play

a. The CTL Mixed Doubles League has determined that for the league year 2017, the following levels shall be available if there are at least two teams for the level:

18 & Over - straight level 2.5 and combined levels of 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, and 10.0

40 & Over – combined levels of 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, and 9.0

55 & Over Mixed Doubles – combined levels of 6.0, 7.0, 8.0 and 9.0

65 & Over Mixed Doubles – combined levels of 6.0, 7.0 and 8.0

b. The combined ratings of a partnership must not exceed the level of the flight. Additionally, the difference in ratings for any on-court partnership may not exceed 1.0; for example, a 4.0 player and a 2.5 player may not play together in 7.0, even though their combined rating is less than 7.0.

#### 2. Number of Teams.

The Columbia Mixed Doubles Tennis 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 Mixed Doubles 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 Mixed Doubles League Coordinator.

#### 3. Team

A team will consist of a minimum of six players (at least three men and three women) eligible to compete at a specific level of competition.

- a. 18 & Over – Player must reach at least 18 years of age during 2017.
- b. 40 & Over – Player must reach at least 40 years of age during 2017.
- c. 55 & Over – Player must reach at least 55 years of age during 2017.
- d. 65 & Over – Player must reach at least 65 years of age during 2017.

#### 4. Out of Area and Out of State Players

- a. 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 TennisLink), 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 in accordance with that area's regulations regarding Out of Area players.
- b. Each team must maintain its roster, through the state championship, 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.

## 5. Playing on Multiple Teams

- a. 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.
- b. 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.
- c. 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 6 legal players (3 eligible partnerships) must be submitted into TennisLink by April 14, 2017.
- b. Players may be added to a roster on TennisLink until midnight before the next to last match of the season for the 18 & Over and 40 & Over age divisions and until midnight before the last match of the season for the 55 & Over and 65 & Over age divisions. 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 Mixed Doubles League is \$20 for 18 & Over and 40 & Over and \$15 for 55 & Over and 65 & Over, which includes the USTA/SC head tax, local league fee and Tennis Link fee. This fee will be collected via credit card when registering on TennisLink, and is **not refundable**.
- e. USTA Regulations have established minimum NTRP rating levels to be eligible to participate in Age Groups in the Mixed Divisions that use combined NTRP team levels. The minimum NTRP Level for 6.0 is 2.5, 7.0 is 3.0, 8.0 is 3.5 and 9.0 is 4.0. (USTA regs, chart on page 13)

## 7. Rating Entry

- a. Players with a valid computer rating must play at that NTRP level or higher.
- b. Players without a valid computer rating but who have a self-rating within the past year on TennisLink, must play at that level or higher.
- c. Players who do not have a valid 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 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 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 Mixed Doubles Tennis League shall consist of three doubles 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, except: if two players in the lineup, not playing with each other, do not show, then the two partners who did show will form a partnership, if it is an otherwise valid partnership, and play together in the higher lineup position.
- b. Starting Match Play. All individual matches will begin (i.e., the first serve will be made) 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 paragraph 10(a) above. i.e., the No. 3 doubles must be defaulted first.
- 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 a position 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, 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 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.
- h. A team cannot force another team to forfeit an entire match. If the situation arises, the teams must contact the mixed 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 TennisLink**

- 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 winning 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.
- c. The captain of the losing 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. 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**

- a. 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 Mixed Doubles Coordinator
- b. The same format as above will be used to break a tie in CTL Championship Play.

#### **15. CTL City Championship Format**

- (a) Single Flight for level of play  
There is no CTL championship playoff when there is a single flight for the level of play. The flight winner is the CTL city champion. The finalist team is the CTL runner up.

(b) Two Flights for level of play:

There will be a CTL playoff as follows:

Flight 1 Winner vs. Flight 2 Winner to determine CTL Winner and runner up.

(c) Three or More Flights for a level of play:

There will be a round robin playoff between the Flight Winners only to determine the CTL winner and runner up. Team standings at the end of the round robin will determine the CTL winner. In the event of a tie, the same format used in league play to determine the winner in the event of a tie will be used. See 14a.

## **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, SECTIONAL, AND NATIONAL LEAGUE 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 18 & Over Mixed Doubles and 40 & Over Mixed Doubles leagues must have played in at least two CTL league matches, including play-off matches and retirements, in order to participate in the state or sectional level championships. One of these matches can be a default received, but defaults given do not count towards meeting this requirement. In the 55 & Over and 65 & Over Mixed Doubles leagues, only one match in local league competition, including city play-offs, retirement or a default received, is required in order to participate in state or sectional championships.
2. Players who qualify for the South Carolina Mixed Doubles Championships in 2017 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 for players playing on more than one team at the Mixed State Championships.
3. 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.

4. 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 Mixed Doubles 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 be eligible to have a wildcard at the same level the following year. 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 4 (four) teams to be eligible for the wildcard draw.
5. 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.
6. Entry fee for State Mixed Doubles Championships is \$20.00 per player listed on the state roster.
7. *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 21, 2017) 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 begins; and once the team starts playing in 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.*
8. *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.*
9. 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.

## **2017 MIXED CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE**

**2017 Mixed 18 & Over and 40 & Over State Championships – Sept. 9-11, 2017 – Florence, SC**

**2017 Mixed 18 & Over and 40 & Over Sectional Championships – October 6-9, 2017, Little Rock, AR**

**2017 Mixed 55 & Over and 65 & Over State Championships — Sept. 8-10, 2017 – Florence, SC**

**2017 Mixed 55 & Over Invitational Sectional Championship – November 3-6, 2017, Little Rock, AR**