

2017 USTA North Carolina League Tennis Regulations

Covering USTA Adult League, USTA Mixed Doubles, Southern Combo Doubles, Tri-Level, 70 & Over League and NCTA Singles Leagues.

Only the NC Director of Adult League Tennis, in conjunction with the USTA North Carolina Adult League Committee Chair and Vice Chair, shall have the authority to interpret these Regulations.

USTA LEAGUE MAJOR REGULATION CHANGES FOR 2017 National Regulations in Red, Southern Regulations in Green

- 1) 2.03A4 and Inside Cover: allow one (1) default to count towards eligibility for National Championships.
- 2) Early Start Ratings are eliminated.
 - 2.05B(3)a: Players moved up and are clearly above level must adjust to their new NTRP level immediately.
 - 2.05B(3)b: Players will always use their most recent valid year-end rating to register for any early start leagues. Players moved up at year-end are not allowed to advance to any National Championship at their lower NTRP level.
 - 2.05b(3)c: There is an exception for players on a 2.5 team; they may continue through National Championships unless they are clearly above level.
- 3) 2.05E(2) Ratings for players 65 & Over who are moved up will be published; automatic appeal will be granted upon request (through TennisLink auto-appeal function). Note: Players with a granted appeal will now carry an A (appeal) rating instead of a C (computer) rating. A-rated players are subject to dynamic disqualification (mid-season promotion) and NTRP Grievance.

I. GENERAL

- A. The United States Tennis Association (USTA), Southern Tennis Association (STA) or the North Carolina Tennis Association (NCTA) are the governing bodies of these **League** programs.
- B. Play is governed by THE RULES OF TENNIS in **The Friend at Court, The Code**, the USTA League Tennis National Regulations, STA Regulations and these NCTA Regulations.
- C. **USTA League programs are** team competitions for men and women with NTRP levels of 2.0 to 5.5. Winning local teams advance to the NC State Championship. Winners of the NC State Championship advance to the Southern Sectional Championships (except in the case of the Singles League, the 70 & Over League, the 55 & 65 & Over divisions of Mixed Doubles and the 65 & Over division of Combo Doubles). With the exception of the Tri-Level and 70 & Over Leagues, teams are formed in four divisions: 18 & over, 40 & over, 55 & over and 65 & over.
- D. To play in the following divisions, players must reach the minimum age for those divisions by December 31, 2017:

Age Division	Minimum Age
18 & over	18
40 & over	40
55 & over	55
65 & over	65
70 & over	70

- E. All players must be current members of the USTA through the respective league seasons. **No renewals are allowed during the local league season.**
- F. The National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) is the official system of rating levels of competition in these programs. A player with a 2014, 2015 or 2016 computer rating must use that rating or above to participate in these leagues. A player age 60 or above with a 2015 or 2016 computer rating must use that rating or above to participate in these leagues. Players who do not have a valid NTRP rating or have never had an NTRP Rating are required to self-rate according to the NTRP Guidelines.
- G. Mixed Exclusive (M) ratings are only valid for future Mixed Doubles play. In the USTA League Mixed Division, an NTRP level will be calculated for participants who play in that Division. Year-end Mixed Exclusive ratings will be based on the final dynamic rating generated from local league and championship level competition. If a player has a valid computer (C) rating from a previous year, then a player will not receive a Mixed Exclusive rating.

H. Matches played in these leagues may be used in the calculation of NTRP Ratings as follows:

League	Results used to Calculate Rating?
USTA League 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over, 65 & Over	Always
USTA League Mixed Doubles 18 & Over and 40 & Over	Only when player does not play USTA Adult 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over or 65 & Over AND does not have a previous Year end C rating.
USTA League Mixed Doubles 55 & Over and 65 & Over	Never
Southern Combo Doubles	Never
NCTA Singles League	Never
Southern Tri-Level	Never
NCTA 70 & Over League	Never

II. TEAM REQUIREMENTS

A. Roster Requirements for each league:

League	Season	Minimum number	Maximum Number
USTA League 18 & Over	Spring	8	15
USTA League 18 & Over 2.5, 5.0+ & 5.5	Spring	5	15
USTA League 40 & Over (3 doubles)	Spring	6	15
USTA League 40 & Over (2 singles/3 doubles)	Spring	8	15
USTA League 55 & Over	Spring	6	15
USTA League 65 & Over	Spring	6	15
USTA League Mixed Doubles	Summer	6	15
Southern Combo Doubles	Fall	6	15
NCTA Singles League	Varies	3	9
Southern Tri-Level	Varies	6	15
NCTA 70 & Over League	Varies	6	12

B. When using straight NTRP levels, a player cannot have an NTRP rating higher than the NTRP level in which the player is competing except in the 5.0+ NTRP level of the Adult Division, 18 & Over; and the 4.5+ NTRP level of the Adult Division, 40 & Over. 18 & Over plus (+) level team rosters may include up to two players from the next higher NTRP level. 40 & Over plus (+) level team rosters may include up to three players from the next higher NTRP level.

- In Plus (+) NTRP levels utilizing three individual matches within a team match, no more than one Plus (+) level player shall be allowed to play in a team match and shall be required to play in the #1 position, either singles or doubles.
- In Plus (+) NTRP levels utilizing four or more individual matches within a team match, two Plus (+) level players may play in a team match and shall be required to play in the #1 position, either singles or doubles.

C. NTRP Levels of Play

DIVISION	LEAGUE TYPE	LOCAL LEAGUES
Adult	18 & Over	2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0+ , 5.5
	40 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5+
	55 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0
	65 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0
Mixed	18 & Over	2.5, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0
	40 & Over	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0
	55 & Over	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0
	65 & Over	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0
Combo	18 & Over	2.5, 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5, 10.5
	40 & Over	5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5
	55 & Over	6.5, 7.5, 8.5
	65 & Over	6.5, 7.5, 8.5
Singles	18 & Over	2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0+
	40 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5+
	55 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0+
Tri-Level	18 & Over	Men 3.0/3.5/4.0, 3.5/4.0/4.5 and 4.0/4.5/5.0
		Women: 2.5/3.0/3.5; 3.0/3.5/4.0, 3.5/4.0/4.5 and 4.0/4.5/5.0
NCTA 70 & Over	70 & Over	6.0, 7.0, 8.0

D. In the USTA League Adult divisions and Tri-Level Leagues, a player may play only one level above his or her current NTRP Rating (For example, a 3.5 player can play up on a 4.0 team, but cannot play up on a 4.5 team).

- E. A local league shall consist of a minimum of 2 teams at a specific level of competition. Advancement to a State Championship is not permitted if this requirement is not met, except for the following:

League	Levels permitted to advance to State Championships if they are the only local team
USTA League Adult	18 & over 5.5 teams, all 65 & over teams
USTA League Mixed Doubles	All 55 & over and 65 & over teams
Southern Combo Doubles	All 55 & over and 65 & over teams, 18 & over 5.0, 5.5, and 9.5 teams, 40 & Over 5.5 and 9.5 teams
NCTA Singles League	All Levels
Tri-Level	All Levels
70 & Over	None

- F. Teams that may advance directly to a State Championship must be added to TennisLink and have the minimum number of players required to form a team registered no later than the dates in the chart below. If the team is not added prior to the Initial Roster Deadline of the Local League, the LLC must contact the SLC to notify that a team has been added. Failure to notify the SLC may result in the team not being added to the State Championship schedule.

League	Deadline to add a team advancing directly to State Championship
USTA League Adult	April 15
USTA League Mixed Doubles	July 15
Tri-Level	July 15
USTA-NC Singles League	August 15
Southern Combo Doubles	September 15

- G. Teams that advance directly to a State Championship must maintain their roster on TennisLink with a minimum of 25% (without rounding up) of players from within the league area that they are representing. For example, a roster of 15 players must have a minimum of 4 players residing within the league boundaries.
- H. If a level of USTA League Adult 18 & over, 40 & over or 55 & over consists of only two teams in a level of play, each team must maintain its roster with at least 40 percent of its players at the designated NTRP level of play. This rule does not apply to the Adult 55 & Over and 65 & Over 9.0 league.
- I. In levels where a team is advancing directly to the state championships as provided for in Rule II. E., additional players may be added to the TennisLink roster until 2 weeks prior to the start of that League's State Championship. After that, no changes may be made to the TennisLink roster.
- J. In the Southern Combo Doubles League, where there is no local play required to advance, teams may not play in another age division for local play.
- K. In USTA League Adult 55 & Over 9.0, Adult 65 & Over 9.0, Mixed Doubles, NCTA 70 & Over and Southern Combo Doubles, the combined levels of each doubles pair cannot exceed the team level.

- L. In USTA League Adult 55 & Over 9.0, Adult 65 & Over 9.0, Mixed Doubles and 70 & Over, on no individual team may the partners be separated by more than 1.0 NTRP point (ex. On an 8.0 team, a 4.5 and a 3.5 may play together, but a 5.0 and a 3.0 may not).

Adult & Mixed Combined Level	Minimum Rating a Player May Have
5.0	2.5
6.0	2.5
7.0	3.0
8.0	3.5
9.0	4.0
10.0	4.5

- M. In the Southern Combo Doubles League, players in each level cannot exceed the maximum rating allowed for that level. See chart below:

Combo Combined Level	Highest Rating a Player May Have
5.0	2.5
5.5	3.0
6.5	3.5
7.5	4.0
8.5	5.0
9.5	5.5
10.5	6.0

- N. In the NCTA 70 & Over League, players in each level cannot exceed the maximum rating allowed for that level. See Chart below:

70 & Over Combined Level	Highest Rating a Player May Have
6.0	3.5
7.0	4.0
8.0	4.5

III. PROMOTED PLAYERS

- A. If a self-rated player is promoted from a level of play, all matches played by that individual player (in the level that the player is being promoted from) shall stand. All players who have computer rated appeals (A) or Dynamic Ratings (D) who are subject to promotion, will not be subject to match reversal if promoted. Players not promoted by the conclusion of local league round robin play will be eligible to compete in the entire local playoff. Dynamic ratings will be calculated at the end of the local playoff to inform any promoted players that they may not advance to the state championships. Points earned by the promoted players in the local playoffs will stand.
- B. A promoted player during local league play may request moving to another team providing there is a team available and time permits. If that team is full, the promoted player may request a waiver regarding number of players on a roster. The NC Director of Adult League Tennis must approve this waiver.
- C. Teams losing a player to NTRP Promotion may be provided an exception to allow for adding a player to their roster in the following cases:
 - a. If Registration has closed
 - b. Their team had the maximum number of players allowed on the roster
 - c. The player may not be a self rated player.

IV. LEAGUE PLAY

- A. A round robin format shall be played where each team will play every other team at least once. When any NTRP level consists of only two teams, each team is required to play a minimum of three team matches which is a triple round robin. When any NTRP level consists of only three teams, each team is required to play a minimum of four team matches which is a double round robin.
- B. A league schedule may only consist of full rounds.
- C. The Local League Coordinator will determine the schedules.
- D. If multiple flights in an NTRP level exist, at least 1 team from each flight will advance to a playoff to determine the winner of that level. This rule does not prohibit a playoff for single flight leagues.
- E. The Local League Coordinator will determine the playoff format.
- F. A team's lineup **does not** have to be listed in order of strength, except in plus (+) leagues, where, by regulation, the plus (+) players are restricted to play on designated courts (see NC Regulation II.B.) and in the Tri-Level Leagues, where the highest NTRP level must play on the #1 court, the 2nd highest NTRP level must play on the #2 court and the lowest NTRP level must play on the #3 court. Example: in the 2.5/3.0/3.5 leagues, the 3.5 rated players play on the #1 court, the 3.0 players on the #2 court and the 2.5 players on the #3 court.
- G. The scoring format for all leagues will be best 2 out of 3 sets with a 10-point match tiebreaker used in lieu of the third set. An exception may be requested for 2-team leagues. Exception requests must be made in writing to the NC Director of Adult Leagues prior to the beginning of league play for approval.
- H. The Coman Tiebreak format will be used for all tiebreakers.
- I. Coaching is not permitted at any point during a match.

- J. Defaults will be “from the bottom up,” defaulting the lowest positions first. The chart below shows which courts are to be defaulted first in the different match types.

Match Type	Courts to be Defaulted First
2 Singles, 3 Doubles	#2 Singles or # 3 Doubles
1 Singles, 2 Doubles	#1 Singles or #2 Doubles
3 Doubles	#3 Doubles

- K. Scorecards are to be exchanged when all players are on site and ready to play. At the scheduled match time, if a player is not on site, the captains have 3 options to proceed with the scorecard exchange:
- a. Wait until the missing player is on site and ready to play (prior to the 15 minute default time), exchange scorecards and play the match. At the default time, if the player is still not on site and ready to play, the missing player would be moved to a defaultable court (see chart in IV. J.), scorecards would then be exchanged and play would begin. Or
 - b. Captains can agree to exchange scorecards and begin play. If the missing player arrives prior to the default time, he/she will take the court assigned and begin. If the missing player arrives after the default time, the default will be entered on the scorecard on a defaultable court (see chart in IV. J.). For example, the #1 singles player is late and captains agree to exchange scorecards and begin play. The player does not arrive prior to the 15 minute default time. The #2 singles court that was played is recorded in TennisLink as the #1 singles court and the #2 singles court is recorded as a default. OR
 - c. Substitute a missing player with an eligible player that is on site and ready to play, but is not listed on the original scorecard. Substitutions must be made prior to the 15 minute default time and can only be exchanged for the missing player in the original lineup.
- L. A team must be able to field enough courts to win the match (Field 3 courts for a 5 court match; field 2 courts for a 3 court match). If a team fails to do so, the entire match (all courts) are deemed defaulted.

When the combination of individual match defaults given by the two teams in the team match results, or would result, in a situation where the majority of the individual matches would not be played (not a “valid” team match):

The first course of action would be for both captains to agree on what individual matches, based on the number of players present, or to be present, can be played to constitute a valid team match. Once that is determined, both captains will re-exchange scorecards.

If both captains cannot come to an agreement on what lines will be played to constitute a valid team match, based on the number of players present, or to be present, then the following individual matches will be assigned in sequential order to be played:

Format	Required Matches in sequential order	Minimum # of Players Required for Each Team in Valid Team Match
2 singles, 3 doubles	#1 and #2 singles, and #1 doubles (priority); #2 doubles if enough players present	4
1 singles, 2 doubles	#1 singles and #1 doubles	3
3 doubles	#1 and #2 doubles	4

If these procedures are not followed and the resulting scorecard shows an invalid team match, both teams will be charged a full team default.

If a team shows up without the minimum # of players required for the team match based on the number of players present, or to be present, it will be a full team default in favor of the opponents. Please refer to the National Regulation 2.03L on team default procedures.

- M. Players may compete on more than one team except if the teams are on the same level, in the same age division and in the same local league.
- N. If a team has 4 or more players on a roster (3 for Singles League matches) who are playing or working at a League Championship at either the North Carolina State, Southern Section or National Levels and have a team match in conflict with these events, then the team can reschedule the match either by playing before the scheduled date or within 2 weeks after the scheduled match (as long as the makeup match occurs within the league season dates). The Captain of the team with the conflict must notify the opposing team captain and LLC of the conflict no later than 1 week before the scheduled match and work with both parties to reschedule the match within the above mentioned timeframe. Local Leagues may add a requirement that teams represent their local league to reschedule local matches and/or regarding rescheduling Local League Playoffs.
- O. To win a Team match, a team must win at least a majority of the individual courts played. If the match ends in a tie, it will be broken by:
 1. The team with the fewest sets lost.
 2. The team with the fewest Games lost.
 3. Toss of coin.
- P. The winner of each local level will be the team having won the most team matches, unless there is a playoff within the level. In this case, the winner of the playoff would be the winner of the local level.
- Q. In Local Leagues at the end of round robin play, if the season ends with a tie for first place, the tie shall be broken according to the following tiebreakers, unless otherwise specified in local league regulations:
 1. Winner of the most individual matches.
 2. Winner of head-to-head match.
 3. Loser of the fewest number of sets.
 4. Loser of the fewest number of games.
 5. Toss of coin.

- R. All scores must be posted on TennisLink within the prescribed time listed in the local league rules. NOTE: Where there are no local league rules, the scores must be posted within 48 hours by the winning captain and confirmed within 48 hours of the match by the losing captain. If the score has not been posted and confirmed within the 48 hours after the match, the Local League Coordinator will determine if there is a winner by the information s/he has.
- S. If a scheduled match is completely rained out (play has not begun on any court), any defaults on the scorecard are reinstated and can be made up. If, however, one court has begun play (first point played) and the match is interrupted due to inclement weather, all defaults stand.
- T. If a date, time and location have been determined for a team match (or individual court) rescheduled due to inclement weather or another allowed circumstance, i. e. State Championship conflict, the match can only be suspended again due to inclement weather. Any team that cannot make the rescheduled match time will default any affected courts.
- U. Substitutions for team matches interrupted due to inclement weather: For any court that had begun play (first point played), lineups will stand. For any court that had not yet begun play (first point played), teams may substitute players as long as the substitutions are not listed on the original scorecard.

V. STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

- A. Each local league will be extended one invitation per level of play for a team to go to the State Championships. The top two teams will be automatically invited when a level has the following number of teams:

League	Season	Min # of teams on a Level
USTA League Adult	Spring	30
USTA League Mixed Doubles	Summer	25
Southern Combo Doubles	Fall	30
NCTA Singles League	Varies	25
Tri-Level	Varies	25

- B. Wildcards, will be offered, if needed, to local leagues according to the chart in Appendix A of these State Regulations. The NC Director of Adult Leagues will notify the LLC of each league after the Team Registration Deadline if any wildcards are being offered.
- C. If the first place team from a local league cannot attend the State Championships, the second place team from that local league's particular NTRP level will be asked to represent the local league. If the second place team is unable to attend, the Local League Coordinator must contact the NC Director of Adult League Tennis to discuss the possibility of a lower finishing team attending in its place. The offer may go to another Local League, as determined by the Wildcard chart in Appendix A of these State Regulations, if a team is needed to fill the draw.
- D. The following is the minimum number of team members who were on the final roster of their local league team at the conclusion of local league play who must be available and eligible to compete at the State Championships:

League	Season	Minimum number
USTA League Adult 18 & over and 40 & over	Spring	8
USTA League Adult 55 & over and 65 & over	Spring	6
USTA League Adult 18 & over 2.5, 5.0+ & 5.5	Spring	5
USTA League Mixed Doubles*	Summer	6
Southern Combo Doubles*	Fall	6
NCTA Singles League	Varies	3
Tri-Level*	Varies	6
NCTA 70 & Over*	Varies	6

*Those 6 players must be able to combine to form 3 eligible teams.

- E. Teams must have played in a minimum of three local matches, except in cases where a team is advancing directly to the State Championships, as provided for in Rule II. E.

- F. Players must play in a minimum number of matches to be eligible to advance to the State Championships (players on teams advancing directly to the State Championships, as provided for in rule II. E., are exempt from the following):

League	Season	Minimum Required Matches Played	# of defaults that may count as a match played
USTA League Adult 18 & over, 40 & over, 55 & over	Spring	2	1
USTA League Adult 65 & over	Spring	1	1
USTA League Mixed 18 & over, 40 & over	Summer	2	1
USTA League Mixed 55 & over, 65 & over	Summer	1	1
Southern Combo Doubles	Fall	1	1
NCTA Singles League	Varies	1	1
NCTA 70 & Over League	Varies	2	1

- G. Team Matches at the State Championships will consist of:

League	Season	Individual Courts Played
USTA League 18 & Over and 40 & over	Spring	2 Singles, 3 Doubles
USTA League 18 & over 2.5, 5.0+ & 5.5	Spring	1 Singles, 2 Doubles
USTA League 55 & over and 65 & over	Spring	3 Doubles
USTA League Mixed Doubles	Summer	3 Doubles
Southern Combo Doubles	Fall	3 Doubles
NCTA Singles League	Varies	3 Singles
Tri-Level	Varies	3 Doubles
NCTA 70 & Over	Varies	3 Doubles

- H. Any team defaulting a court at the State Championships will incur a \$100 penalty for each court defaulted. The fine is payable prior to the team's next match or, if it is their last match, before they leave the tournament. If a team does not pay the fine, no members of that team will be allowed to play in any future league tennis until the fine is paid. Any matches played during the suspension will be defaulted.

- I. Any team withdrawing from a State Championship after the published Team Registration Deadline will incur a \$300 penalty. These dates will be published in the Captain's Information in each State Championship's Tournament information, posted at www.ncleaguetenis.com. The penalty is payable within 1 week after the team notifies either their LLC or the SLC that they will not participate in the tournament. If the penalty is not paid, all members of the team will be suspended from league play until the penalty has been paid. Any registration fees paid will not be returned.

- Teams who accept a wildcard after the Team Registration Deadline and then later withdraw will be subject to the same penalties.
- Any team that fails to show up at a State Championship will be subject to the same penalties as a team that withdraws after the Team Registration Deadline.
- Teams may be subject to a grievance by the Tournament Committee.

- J. Any player on two or more teams advancing to a North Carolina League State Championship may play for a maximum of two of those teams, unless those teams are in the same NTRP level and age division (ex. 2 Adult 18 & Over 3.5 teams from different local leagues).
- There will be NO special consideration in scheduling.
 - There is the possibility of several matches in 1 day.
 - The player is considered 2 different people, which requires separate championship fees.
- K. If a round robin ends with a tie for first place in Championship Play, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that breaks the tie:
1. Winner of the most individual matches.
 2. Winner of the Head-to-Head match.
 3. Loser of the fewest number of sets.
 4. Loser of the fewest number of games.
 5. Toss of coin.
- If more than 2 teams are tied: Tiebreaks noted above will be used to eliminate teams. Once a team is eliminated, tiebreaks will continue down the list until only 1 winner is declared. For example, Teams A, B, C and D are tied at the end of the round robin. Tiebreak #2 eliminates Team D. Tiebreak #3 eliminates Team C. Tiebreak #4 and then #5 (if needed) is used to break the tie between Team A and Team B.
- L. If a player's team wins at the State Championship but s/he did not play at the State Championships, that player is eligible to play at the Section Championship provided he or she had met the requirements to qualify for the State Championship.

2017 State Championships

League State Championship	Date	Location	Levels
USTA League Adult 65 & Over	May 19-21	Greenville	All
USTA League Adult 55 & Over	June 2-4	Greensboro	All
USTA League Adult 18 & Over	June 8-11	Lake Norman	All
USTA League Adult 40 & Over	June 22-25	Winston Salem	All
USTA League Mixed Doubles	Sept 14-17	Asheville	All
Tri-Level	Sept 21-24	Hickory	All
NCTA Singles League	Oct 13-15	Goldsboro	All
NCTA 70 & Over League	Oct 20-22	Wilson	All
Southern Combo Doubles (Part 1)	Nov 2-5	Wilmington	2.5/6.5/8.5
Southern Combo Doubles (Part 2)	Nov 9-12	Wilmington	5.5/7.5/9.5

COMMITTEES

Grievance committees for both State and Championship grievances will consist of 3 persons from the current Local League Coordinators and/or Adult League Committee. Additional committee members can be selected from other USTA affiliates, as needed.

Appendix A

2017 Wildcards

Rules Governing Wildcards

The list below will be used to determine the order that wildcards are offered, if wildcards are needed, for a particular level.

Areas automatically sending two teams for a level, will move to the bottom of the list for that level.