



**USTA/SOUTH CAROLINA SOUTHERN COMBO DOUBLES REGULATIONS
18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over, 65 & Over
League Year 2015**

INTRODUCTION

USTA South Carolina Combo Doubles League Program is team competition in **18 & Over Age Group for Adult men and women with combined levels of 5.0, 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5 and 10.5.** (NOTE: **The maximum level of play allowed at the combined 5.0 level is 2.5.**) The League offers team competition in **40 & Over Age Group for Adult men and women with combined levels of 5.5, 6.5, 7.5 and 8.5.** The League also offers team competition in **55 & Over and 65 & Over Age Groups for Adult men and women with combined levels of 6.5, 7.5 and 8.5.** 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

All participants must be a current member of the USTA through championship play.

A team shall consist of a minimum of 6 players able to combine to form 3 eligible teams.

All participants in the 18 & Over Age Group must reach 18 years of age prior to or during the calendar year in which they play their first local league match.

All participants in the 40 & Over Age Group must reach 40 years of age prior to or during the calendar year in which they play their first local league match.

All participants in the 55 & Over Age Group must reach 55 years of age prior to or during the calendar year in which they play their first local league match.

All participants in the 65 & Over Age Group must reach 65 years of age prior to or during the calendar year in which they play their first local league match. **NOTE: This 65 & Over Age Group is a SC League only.**

The format of play will be three individual men's or women's doubles matches per team match. 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 distributed 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 State Championship. 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

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.** The Combo Doubles State League Coordinator will inform Local Leagues of add-on deadlines for State Championships.

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, the 40 & Over Age Group, the 55 & Over Age Group or the 65 & Over Age Group, to constitute a level, the State League Coordinator, in consultation with affected Local League Coordinators, shall either:

(1)Assign the singleton team to another Local League, in which case, (a) the assigned team will register on TennisLink in the Home Local League and then the State League Coordinator will drag the assigned team to the Host_League. **The assigned team will abide by the rules of the host league; (b) the host league will make the rule regarding travel for matches.**

(2)Group the singleton team with other singleton teams (of the same Age Group) in the state and schedule a playoff among those teams to determine advancement to the State Championships. The State League Coordinator will decide on the date(s), playoff structure, and designate the site and Local (host) League.

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.

Players who qualify for South Carolina Combo Doubles State Championship in 2015 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

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.

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

Local League Competition

Each Local League MUST complete their Local League Season prior to the South Carolina Combo Doubles State League Championships and submit the required team entry fees and information to the **Combo Doubles State League Coordinator by September 29, 2015**

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) The following number of teams at the 18 & Over Age Group and 40 & Over Age Group 5.5, 6.5, 7.5 and 8.5 levels per Local League will be qualified to go to the Combo Doubles League State Championships:

<u>2-19</u>	teams	<u>1 team</u>
<u>20 and over</u>	teams	<u>2 teams</u>

- (2a) The following number of teams at the 18 & Over Age Group 2.5 straight, 9.5 and 10.5 levels per Local League will be qualified to go to the Combo Doubles League State Championships:

<u>2-12</u>	teams	<u>1 team</u>
<u>13 and over</u>	teams	<u>2 teams</u>

- (2b) The following number of teams at the 55 & Over Age Group and 65 & Over Age Group 6.5, 7.5 and 8.5 levels per Local League will be qualified to go to the Combo Doubles League State Championships:

<u>2-12</u>	teams	<u>1 team</u>
<u>13 and over</u>	teams	<u>2 teams</u>

- (2c) 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, 10.5 levels and 40 & Over 5.5 level that qualify for the Combo State Championships when the rosters for these levels have been submitted. Consideration will also be given for any levels in the 55 & Over and 65 & Over Age Groups that only contain a small number of teams once the rosters for these Age Groups are submitted..

- (3) One default received counts as a qualifying match for State League Championships.
- (4) For all players involved, a Retirement counts as a qualifying match for Combo Doubles League State Championships.
- (5) 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 Championships in **March (March 11-13, 2016 for 55 & Over and March 17-20, 2016 for the 18 & Over and 40 & Over)**.
(NOTE: Age Group 65 & Over is a South Carolina League only with no advancement past the SC Combo Doubles State Championship.

- (6a) *A \$250.00 Deposit (made out to USTA South Carolina) from each team advancing to the championships is required. The Deposit is to be sent to the Local League Coordinator to hold until the championship is completed. If the team completes the championship, the Local League Coordinator has the option to shred the check or destroy it. For the withdrawing team, penalties against these team members may include that all members on the submitted roster be banned from participating in any playoff (state or higher) for a period of up to 364 days.*

- (6b) 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, 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.

- (6c) 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 playoff (state or higher) for a period of up to 364 days.

- (7) Teams that withdraw from the Championships after the **roster/fee submittal deadline date** will forfeit fees. A team substituted for the withdrawing team will be responsible only for any additional championship players exceeding the number of players submitted on withdrawing team **(and a \$250 Deposit)**.

(8) CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW:

The Championship Draw is a random draw done by the championship referee before league competition is completed. Where possible, however, 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. A flight typically will 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 semifinals. The wildcard team will play a team from another flight.

(9) WILDCARD PROCEDURE:

(a) Wildcards will be chosen from a random draw based on the number of teams and positions by Area from the current Combo season. The number of teams an area has will be divided by the number of positions that area qualifies for State Championships. This number will determine the total chances the Area will have in the random draw. Levels must have a minimum of six (6) teams to be eligible for a wildcard. A Team 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.

(b) If a team drops out of the championship schedule at the last minute and there are no other teams left in the level for drawing a wildcard, the Combo Doubles State League Coordinator then has the option to replace that team with a team that received a wildcard the previous year. If this should happen, any team that has been used as a wildcard for replacement purposes will be eligible for a wildcard the following year.

(c) The State League Coordinator will draw wildcards as needed when a level doesn't have enough teams to make a full draw.

(10) 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.

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

(12) Teams that receive a default will have the option to adjust their scorecard by moving the #3 Doubles players **listed on the scorecard** to the #2 Doubles Position. Captains will not be allowed to use players that are not listed on the scorecard at the time of scorecard turn in. Defaulting teams will not be allowed to make any adjustments.

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

(14) South Carolina Combo Doubles State Championships Oct. 15-19, 2015 Location: **Hilton Head, SC**
 STA Combo Doubles Sectional Championships 55 & Over – March 11-13, 2016; 18 & Over & 40 & Over March 17-20, 2016

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES.**Committees**

Grievances will be handled by the appropriate Grievance Committee.

Committee members are subject to change as the need arises.

SC Combo Doubles Grievance Committee:

Susan Turner, Chairman

Mary Anna Scott, Member

Bonnie Sue Duncan, Member

Grievance Appeals Committee

Grievance appeals will be handled by the appropriate Grievance Appeals Committee. Committee members are subject to change as the need arises.

SC Combo Doubles Grievance Appeals Committee:

Dee Vaughan, Chairman

Sam Hicks, Member

Nancy Pitcairn, Member

GRIEVANCE COMPLAINT

General Procedures

A complaint against the Administration of the League shall be filed and heard in the same manner as any other complaint. Any complaint against the Combo State League Coordinator shall be filed in writing with the USTA Southern Section Adult Leagues Committee. A grievance decision can be appealed to a USTA Southern Section Grievance Appeal Committee. The Grievance Appeal Committee decision is final and binding.

All complaints with regard to any aspect of the Combo Doubles League Tennis Program shall be processed through the USTA Southern Section League Tennis Program Grievance and Grievance Appeal Committees at the appropriate level (i.e. local, area, sectional, regional combo doubles.). Decisions of such Grievance Appeal Committees shall be final and binding.

NTRP Grievances Complaint

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 within 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.

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.