

CAPITAL LEAGUE USTA TENNIS

2017 Local League Rules

USTA League programs are team competitions for men and women with NTRP levels of 2.5 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, and the 65 & over divisions of Mixed Doubles and Combo Doubles).

The Capital Area league will abide by (with no exceptions) the 2017 NATIONAL USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS, the 2017 SOUTHERN SECTIONAL REGULATIONS (website: www.southern tennis.com), the 2017 NORTH CAROLINA REGULATIONS (website: www.nctennis.com), and the Capital local league rules. Please note: It is each player's responsibility to know the rules and to tend to problems on the court in their proper manner. It is also a good idea for everyone to familiarize themselves with THE CODE, which is the rule system for unofficiated matches which the Capital Area League will follow. Friend at Court is the official handbook of tennis rules.

The Local League Coordinator (LLC) is responsible for promoting, organizing, coordinating, and administering/supervising the USTA League Tennis Programs according to USTA Southern, North Carolina and Local Regulations. **Only the Local League Coordinator (LLC) in conjunction with the state league coordinator (Jenny Phelps) can interpret the Capital Area League Rules.** Provided below are the rules that will be used to govern all USTA League Play in the Capital Area.

INFORMATION

1. Levels Offered

Teams are formed in four divisions: 18 & over, 40 & over, 55 & over and 65 & over.

18 & over - all players over 18 can play in this division (2singles and 3 doubles)

40 & over - all players over 40 can play in this division (2 singles and 3 doubles)

55 & over - all players over 55 can play in this division (3 doubles)

65 & over - all players over 65 can play in this division (3 doubles)

E.g. a 65 year player can play in all of the divisions

To play in the following divisions, players must reach the minimum age for those divisions by December 31, 2016:

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

2. USTA Membership

All players must be current members of the USTA through the league seasons. **No renewals are allowed during the local league season.**

3. Ratings 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. A player must play in at least 3 matches in order to receive a year-end rating.

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 and 55 & over	Always
USTA League 65 & over	Always
USTA League Mixed Doubles 18 & 40 & over	Only when player does not play USTA Adult 18 & over, 40 & over or 55 & over AND does not have a previous Year end C or B rating
USTA League Mixed Doubles 55 & over and 65 & over	Never
Southern Combo Doubles	Never
NCTA Singles League, and TriLevel	Never

4. 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 USTA league 55 & 65 & over	Spring	8 6	15
USTA League Mixed Doubles	Summer	6	15
Southern Combo Doubles	Fall	6	15
NCTA Singles League	Varies	4	9
Tri-Level	Summer	6	15

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. All plus (+) level team rosters may include up to two 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	5.0, 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, 9.5
	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+

D. In the USTA League Adult divisions, 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 9.5 teams
NCTA Singles League	All Levels

Tri-Level

All Levels

F. 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% of its players at the designated NTRP level of play. This rule does not apply to the Adult 55 & Over 9.0 league.

G. 3.0-4.0 18 & 40 & over teams will need at least six players on the level of the team.

2.5, 4.5 & 5.0+ teams and all 55 & 65 & over teams will need four players on the level of the team

Teams will need enough courts to allow an equal number of home and away matches.

I. In USTA League Adult 55 & Over 9.0, Adult 65 & Over 9.0, Mixed Doubles and Southern Combo Doubles, the combined levels of each doubles pair cannot exceed the team level.

J. In USTA League Adult 55 & Over 9.0, Adult 65 & Over 9.0, and Mixed Doubles, 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

5. FEES The fee for league play is \$22. This includes a \$13 local League fee, plus a \$6 NCTA Head Tax, plus a \$3 Tennislink “user fee”. City teams will pay a \$30 court fee for each 5 court home match and \$18 for each 3 court match.

6. TENNISLINK

Tennislink is the online support for USTA League Tennis. At this site, anyone can search for information regarding USTA League Programs anywhere in the country. TennisLink is a great tool that provides stats and standings for players, teams, and matches. One can register teams, record scores, view standings, print out scorecards, renew USTA memberships or join USTA for the very first time.

Each player must register via Tennislink including online payment with a credit card. It is the captain’s responsibility to make sure everyone has been registered by the deadline. Players may not play any matches until they are registered on Tennislink. If a non-registered does play a match, it will result in a forfeit for the opponent(s).

7. TENNISLINK REFUND POLICY

All players requesting a refund of their Local Fees and State Head Tax charges will be given a refund when requesting prior to their team’s first team match. The \$3 Tennislink fee is nonrefundable. Request should be submitted to the Local League Coordinator. She will hold all requests and submit one list to the State League Coordinator after the start of the local league season.

PROCEDURES

1. REGISTRATION - TEAM

- a) Registration is by team only on Tennislink (Tennislink produces rosters electronically and verifies that participants qualify to play on the team for which they registered).
- b) To register a team Captains can go to the following website: www.nctennis.com and click on Tennislink.
- c) All new players to league tennis must self-rate themselves in accordance with NTRP guidelines. All self-rated players must fill out a players’ history form.

2. TO REGISTER YOUR TEAM AND CREATE A ROSTER –(deadline is 1/19)

Captains only:

Go To www.nctennis.com

Click on Tennislink

Log in with your USTA number and click on “online team creation.”

Select Section: USTA Southern

Select Area/District: Northern Carolina

Select Sub/Area: Capital League

Select League: (i.e. 18 & over)

Select Flight: (i.e. 4.0 Women)

Choose any subflight, a,b,c, or d. This will be changed later depending on which group you are in.

Enter Team Name: (The letter I plus your first initial and then your last name.

Associate with your facility. If it isn’t listed, click on “other facility” and type in your club name.

Click Submit and **WRITE DOWN YOUR TEAM NUMBER**

******Print a copy of your confirmation with your team number to give to players. Your players must have the 10 digit team number to register.**

The registration deadline is for the coordinators so that scheduling can be done in a timely manner. It is the coordinators' decision to allow a team to register if it is past the deadline.

3. INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION

To Register:

Go to www.nctennis.com

Go to Tennislink

Click on “register for a team”

Type in Team Number (Given by Captain)

The “League Registration” Screen will come up and display your team and the fees for the league.

After completing the credit card information click submit

TennisLink will verify your credit card number and will tell you that you are registered

4.. LEAGUE PLAY

- A. A round robin format shall be played where each team will play every other team at least once.
- B. The Local League Coordinator will determine the schedules.
- C. 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.
- D. Local League Coordinator will determine the playoff format.
- E. 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.).
- F. 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.
- G. The Coman Tiebreak format will be used for all tiebreakers. Players change ends after the 1st and thereafter every four points. This method allows players to serve on the same side they were serving on during the match. Championship play is now using the Coman tiebreak also.
- H. Coaching is not permitted at any point during a match.
- I. 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
- 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 with the lineups as-is. Default rules will apply (See National Reg 2.03 K and Q&A). 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.

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

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) is deemed defaulted. This is not considered a valid match and if results are entered in Tennislink, they will be taken out.

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.

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 NC district, sectional, or national league championship 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 1 week after the scheduled match (as long as the makeup match occurs within the league season dates). The players must be participating in the championship on a team from the Capital league. The Captain of the team must notify the other team captain and LLC of the conflict before the scheduled match and work with both parties to reschedule the match within the above mentioned timeframe. THE CAPTAIN MUST SUBMIT THE NAMES OF THE PLAYERS GOING TO THE TOURNAMENT TO THE LLCS.

N. Playoffs in other leagues do not qualify for this exception.

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. If the season ends with a tie for first place, the tie shall be broken according to the following tiebreakers:

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. Players must play in a minimum number of matches to be eligible to advance to the State Championships

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

5. Schedules

Schedules will be ready on Tennislink at least one week before match play begins. **Please give your club the schedule so the matches can be marked on their calendars. I will give the city team schedules to Millbrook.** A list of staggered matches will be emailed to captains after the schedule is published. If a club finds that it is necessary to schedule a staggered match which isn't indicated on the schedule, email your local league coordinator immediately. *****It is the captain's responsibility to check the schedule before each match while printing out a match scorecard.**

A flight is not a viable flight and will not be a part of the draw unless and until there are 2 or more teams registered in that flight. Once there are 2 or more teams registered to play in a flight, that flight stands on its own and those 2 or more teams will play each other in the local league season to be followed by playoffs as determined by the LLC. If only 1 team registers for a flight, they will be given a refund minus the TennisLink fee or they will be moved to another division if they so choose. For purposes of this rule a "flight" is a sub section of a play level; for example, the women's weekday 4.5 is a flight as well as the women's weeknight 4.5.

6. MATCH PLAY

a) **Up to one week before the match, the home captain must call or email the visiting captain to confirm the date, time, and location of the match, and whether the match is staggered or not. The home captain should also inform the visiting captain whether water will be available and if there are any clothing or shoe requirements.**

Note: If the home Captain has not called or emailed, the visiting Captain must.

b) Home team provides approved USTA balls

c) **Scorecard exchange** Each Captain must bring a copy of the scorecard. Scorecards may be printed for each match off of Tennislink by clicking on the match number on the schedule. At the

appointed match time, captains will exchange scorecards and will write the lineups on each other's cards. Captains should verify scores after the match

d) If there are only three courts available for a 5 court team match, a staggered match will be scheduled. For example, #1 singles, #1 doubles, and #2 doubles will arrive at 9:25 a.m. #2 singles and #3 doubles will arrive at 11:00 a.m. The 11:00 a.m. matches will not be defaulted if there is no court available.

e) If there is rain the day or night before a scheduled match, captains should get in touch the day before or early that morning to set up tentative plans for playing the match in case of wet courts. Before canceling matches all options should be explored such as playing a home match away, starting later, or playing a staggered match. This should also be applied to makeup matches.

f) Restroom Breaks

A restroom break is permissible at any time, but preferably should take place on an odd game change-over or between sets.

7. CELL PHONES

Cell phones are not permitted to be turned on during play. A player whose phone rings while a point is in progress will be warned that if it happens again, the opponent can claim the point. It is perfectly legal to play a let if the ringing of the phone interferes with the play, however, the owner of the phone may not claim a let.

8. FORFEITS/DEFAULTS

A forfeit is the surrendering of a match based on the inability of one of the players to initiate match play. A default will be declared if a player does not appear to play by scheduled match time.

- a) There is a 15-minute default rule. For example, if a match is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m., captains should exchange scorecards at 9:25 a.m., players should begin warming up, and play will begin at 9:45 a.m.
- b) If a team has fewer than the required minimum number of players for each match, the lowest match positions are forfeited.* Each team, in its entirety, must show up ready to play at the designated time and forfeits will be assessed at that time. In the case of a double forfeit, neither team receives the points.
- c) Forfeits shall be determined in accordance with the USTA League Tennis rules
 - Singles: The #2 Singles must be forfeited before #1 Singles
 - Doubles: The #3 Doubles must be forfeited before #2 Doubles
 - Doubles: The #2 Doubles must be forfeited before #1 Doubles

*If you have six players with no singles players, 3 doubles teams may play.

- d) No substitutions may be made after the scorecard exchange, except in accordance with the following:
 - Prior to the start of a team match (a match starts when the first ball is put into play) if injury to, illness of, or disqualification of a player occurs, the affected team may substitute a player who is immediately ready to play and may adjust their line-up at the affected position only. If no substitution is made within the 15 minute default period, a default will be awarded at that position. Captains must move no-show players to the lowest position if matches have not begun. For example, if your #1 singles player does not show, you must move #2 up to the #1 position and then substitute into the #2 position, if possible.
 - After the start of a match if injury to, or illness of, or disqualification of a player occurs, the opponents will be awarded a retirement for that individual match.

e) If a team forfeits an entire team match, the LLC will determine if this forfeit has affected the local league standings in any way. If it is found that the local league standings have been affected, then the matches of that team may be declared null and void. If all teams have played the forfeiting team in good faith, the matches stand as played.

If a team forfeits two entire team matches in one season, that team is disqualified for the remainder of the League season and all matches (played and scheduled) will revert to forfeits. An automatic grievance will be filed with the local Grievance Committee. The Grievance Committee will investigate and determine what action needs to be taken. Penalties may

include denial of re-entry (as a team) into the Local League the next season and the stipulation that no more than three of the players that had played together on the disqualified team be allowed to play together on ANY level in the next season.

9. INCLEMENT WEATHER

Captains must make every effort to avoid postponing a match due to inclement weather. If the weather is borderline, **teams should attempt to play** based on the difficulty in making up matches. However, **safety** of the players is our highest priority. Captains should monitor the weather conditions up to 1 hour before the match and make the decision at that time.

- a) It is the responsibility of the Home Team Captain whose match was postponed to get in touch with all relevant parties regarding matches. If it is questionable, do not assume the match is cancelled. Your team must show up ready to play.
- b) If the match is scheduled at a club, the club officials will determine if the courts are playable by their standards. In some cases this may be up to 30 minutes prior to match time.
- c) When teams have assembled to play, and weather and/or courts conditions are questionable, or the match is interrupted by inclement weather, teams are required to wait 1/2 hour past the original scheduled time unless both teams agree to wait longer.
- d) In the event that rain or inclement weather forces the cancellation and rescheduling of a **TEAM MATCH**, substitutions may be made in any individual match which has not begun. Substitutions including moving a player from one position to another is unrestricted in matches rescheduled due to rain or inclement weather in any individual match that had not begun. Forfeits given in the original lineup do not stand in the makeup match.
- e) Incomplete matches must be resumed by the same players in the same positions (ad and deuce), same side of the net, same set, same game and point score, and at the same site unless players have mutually agreed to play elsewhere. These matches must be made up within two weeks. The time period may be extended depending on extreme weather situations at the discretion of the LLC.
- f) Completed individual matches will stand as played.
- g) Make-up matches which have not begun should be rescheduled and played within two weeks of the original match date.

*****Makeups should be arranged within 48 hours after the cancelled match. Let us know if there is any problem rescheduling the matches. Once a makeup match has been rescheduled, the date/time of the match cannot be changed. If the original player(s) cannot play, substitutions may be made using players not originally scheduled in the match. If a substitution cannot be found, the match will have to be forfeited. If a rescheduled match has been rained out, then the match may be rescheduled. Two more weeks will be added.**

Any team that doesn't show up for the agreed upon make-up date will forfeit.

10. SCORE KEEPING

- a) After completion of the match captains should sign each other's score sheet to avoid disputes in the score entry. Either captain may enter scores on the TennisLink System within 24 hours after the completion of the match. Just decide at the match who will enter the scores. (The team winning the majority of individual matches shall be awarded one team point. Scores must be reported and confirmed by the other captain on TennisLink within 48 hours of the completed team match. Otherwise TennisLink will automatically confirm scores 48 hours after the team match is initially reported on TennisLink). If the winning captain has not entered the match scores within 24 hours, the losing captain should do so.
- b) If either of the first two sets reaches 6 games all, a set tie-breaker will be used in all sets.
- c) If the score reaches one set all, a Championship tie-break (first to 10 points by 2) will be played instead of a third set.
- d) Players will act as their own line judges and scorekeepers.
- e) Captains should have a copy of the official tennis rules (Friend at Court). Please seek help when in doubt about the rules.

- f) The winner of each match should immediately report results to the home captain.
- g) Each captain must sign the official scorecard before leaving the courts. This will ensure that all match results have been properly listed. If this is not done, scores will remain as written on the scorecard.

11.SCORE ENTRY

To post the score go to “Tennislink” and enter your USTA number.

- Click on “record a score”
- Enter Match #
- Select Players in each position
- Enter Scores; Click Submit
- If correct, Click Finish

12.SCORE VERIFICATION

All scores must be entered and confirmed within 48 hours. Otherwise Tennislink will automatically confirm the scores. Then the scores will stand as originally entered.

- To verify a score go to “Tennislink.” Click on “record a score”
- Enter Match #
- Review the scores and click “dispute if not correct.” Email the other captain to discuss and then let the LLC know so she can change the scores.

IMPORTANT DATES

Date	Event
April 16	Registration begins on TennisLink
May 4	Submit your team information to the LLC
May 10	Deadline for six players on each team to register on TennisLink
May 29	Start of the local league season
July 10	Final deadline to register on TennisLink

STATE TOURNAMENTS

Tri-Level

Sept-22-14 Hickory

All

NCTA Singles League	Oct 12-15	Goldsboro	All
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STATE LEAGUE COORDINATOR

The State League Coordinator's contact information is as follows:

Jenny Phelps

Local League Coordinators

18& over

Lynn Goldberg thebergs@aol.com

919-696-1798 919-846-5108

40, 55 and 65 & over

Tracy Debnam ttdebnam@gmail.com

919-625-9679

*** Grievances

There is a \$100.00 Filing Fee for any grievance filed by a captain or LLC in the CapitalTennis Local League. This fee, in the form of a cash payment, money order or official check made payable to RTA, must be presented at the same time the Grievance Complaint is given to the Local League Coordinator. If the Grievance Complaint is upheld through the entire process (including the Appeal Process), the fee will be refunded.

Player Agreement

Agree to abide and be bound by the USTA Constitution By-Laws and Standing Orders; the USTA Tournament Regulations (unless modified by these USTA League Tennis Regulations), the USTA League Tennis Regulations and the standards of **good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship**. Anyone violating these standards will be subject to a grievance. The captain must file the grievance with the local league coordinator and submit a fee of \$100. This fee will be returned if the grievance is upheld by the grievance committee. These same conditions apply to self-rate grievances.

Waiver of Claims

Players participating in the USTA League Tennis Program acknowledge the risks associated with playing competitive tennis, accept those risks voluntarily, and in consideration of their acceptance in the Program assume all risks for bodily injury, waive all claims for injury and property damage and release and hold harmless the USTA and the host facility, their officials, employees and agents with respect to any injury or loss caused by negligence or otherwise to the fullest extent permitted by law.

