

**SINGLES SC STATE REGULATIONS**  
**Adult 18 & Over, 40 & Over**  
**League Year 2019**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

South Carolina Singles League Regulations have full force and applicability at all levels of play in SC Singles League Tennis and there is no authorization to modify, amplify or change them by Local League Coordinators, or Grievance or Grievance Appeals Committees.

- 0.01** USTA SC has appointed Sam Hicks, SC Singles State Leagues Coordinator, to organize and coordinate all Singles League activities in the SC Singles State League, and along with the USTA SC Director of Leagues, interpret the SC Singles State League Regulations.
- 0.02** The SC Singles League Program is team competition for Adult 18 & Over men and women with levels of 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5. The league also offers Adult 40 & Over men and women league competition at 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5. Local winning Adult 18 & 40 & Over teams may advance to State competition.
- 0.03** All players, teams and Local Leagues must abide by South Carolina Singles State League Regulations.
- 0.04** Local Leagues may write regulations to govern local play or use SC Singles State League Regulations for Local League. South Carolina Singles State League Regulations take precedence over Local League Rules and Regulations.
- 0.05** Local League Rules and Regulations must be approved by the SC Singles State League Coordinator prior to the start of the Local League Season.
- 0.06** Local League Rules and Regulations and/or Singles State League Regulations must be distributed to Team Captains before League season begins.
- 0.07** Adult 18 & Over participants must be a current member of USTA and reach 18 years of age prior to or during the calendar year in which they play their first local league match.
- 0.08** Adult 40 & Over participants must be a current member of USTA and reach 40 years of age prior to or during the calendar year in which they play their first local league match.
- 0.09** **Local League Coordinators must offer all levels of play in League Tree in TennisLink.**

## 1. General

**1.04B(3)c Local League Coordinators.** Each Local League shall have a Local League Coordinator to implement and administer the SC Singles League. The SC Singles local league coordinators will be approved and/or retained on a yearly basis by the State League Coordinators.

**1.04B(4) Team Captain.** Each team shall appoint a captain to manage team activities and to represent the team in USTA League matters.

**1.04C(1) Official League Registration.** TennisLink is the official system for registering teams and players for the SC Singles League. A player's name must be listed on the team roster, as shown on TennisLink, prior to participation in any match. This includes any player who is added to a team roster after the commencement of local league play. Each local league must establish deadlines and procedures for registering teams on TennisLink. Initial Rosters must be entered in TennisLink before League play begins.

**1.04C(2) Score Reporting in TennisLink.** Local Leagues may make a rule regarding team matches that are not entered in TennisLink within 48 hours of the completed match.

**1.04D(5)b** Players may not move to a different team once match play has begun for that level, unless approved by the State Singles League Coordinator. Local Leagues will set deadlines for registering players and for adding players to rosters. Players may not be added to the team roster during local league flight playoffs or at any championship. The SC Singles State League Coordinator will inform Local Leagues of add-on deadlines for the State Championships.

**1.04D (6) Number of Teams. When a Local League does not have the required number of Teams, (two teams) for Adult 18 & Over or Adult 40 & Over, to constitute a level, the affected Local League Coordinators, shall either:**

- (1) Offer to move that team to another age division offered in that area in that particular level, if applicable.
- (2) Move individual players to another team in that area, if applicable, or move them to an "Extra Players" flight to hold for future play in other leagues, i.e. Mixed, Combo, etc.
- (3) The Director of Leagues or State League Coordinator may move a singleton team to another area's league tree only if it is agreed upon by both local league coordinators and accomplished before that recipient area's deadline.
- (4) Complete teams that are moved to play in a local league area other than their home local league must secure home courts in that local league they choose to participate unless both local league coordinators agree on something different.
- (5) If one singleton team is moved into an already existing league of at least 2 teams, then that singleton team must secure home courts in that host local league where they have been moved and if that singleton team wins that league, they will represent that host league at the State Championship.
  - The singleton team must follow all rules and regulations of the host league.
  - The host league is responsible for all awards, state championship fees (if applicable) and state championship registration.

- (6) If Local League coordinators agree to combine singleton teams in order to form a league for those teams to qualify, the winning team from that singleton league will be allowed to represent the Local League where they initially registered.
- Rules and regulation issues that occur during the singleton team league play will be handled by the State League coordinator in consultation with the Local League coordinators that are involved.
  - The area that is represented by the winning team will be responsible for all awards, state championship fees (if applicable) and state championship registration for that team.
- (7) Refund all or a portion of the registration fee in accordance with the Local League policy.

#### **1.04E Player Eligibility.**

**1.04E(1)a** South Carolina will have no residency requirements for local league play.

**1.04E(2) Membership.** All individuals who compete in the SC Singles League must be current USTA members in good standing through the local league season. Any individual who progresses to a championship level in the SC Singles League must be a current USTA member through each championship progression.

**1.04E(3) Age.** Each player shall have reached the required minimum age prior to or during the calendar year in which such player participates in his or her first local league.

#### **1.04G Player Participation Eligibility**

**1.04G(1)** League players may play in the SC Singles League Adult 18 & Over and Adult 40 & Over divisions, if applicable, during the same local league season.

**1.04G(2)** A player may only play on one team in an NTRP level within an Age Group in the same local league during the same season. In local leagues where NTRP levels are divided into flights, a player may not play in more than one flight.

**1.04G(3)** A player may play on more than one team in an NTRP level within an Age Group in the same season provided it is in separate local leagues. South Carolina has the authority to accept or deny participation.

**1.04G(3)(a)** A player may play at the same NTRP level in the Adult 18 & Over and Adult 40 & Over age divisions, if age applicable, on teams in separate Local Leagues in South Carolina during the same season.

**1.04G(4)(a)** During the SC Singles Local League Season, a player may play on more than one NTRP level in the Adult 18 & Over and Adult 40 & Over, if age applicable, in the same Local League during the same season.

**1.04G(5)** A player may play up to one NTRP level above the player's current NTRP level.

**1.04G(6)** Players who qualify for SC Singles Championships may advance on more than one team within an Age Group only if they are at different NTRP levels (i.e., a player can play on an Adult 18 & over 3.5 and 4.0 team) but with no schedule accommodations.

## **2.01 Local League Competition**

### **2.01A Levels offered for Men and Women**

Adult 18 & Over: 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5

Adult 40 & Over: 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5.

### **2.01C Competition Format**

**2.01C(3) SC Singles League** - For Local League Competition and State Championships, all matches will be the best of two tiebreak sets with a match tiebreak in lieu of a third set.

**Procedures in the Event of a Tie for Local Play** (If a Local League has a playoff, it will defer to championship procedures in the event of a tie. Please refer to national regulation.

**(1) Team Wins**

**(2) Individual Wins**

**(3) Sets. Loser of the fewest number of sets.**

**(4) Games. Loser of the fewest number of games.**

**(5) Head to Head. Winner of the head-to-head match**

Local leagues have the option to choose the procedure with Head-to-head after Individual Wins in their local league play.

### **2.01C(5)(a) Team Lineups**

- a. Local Leagues may make a rule regarding rescheduling of matches due to inclement weather.
- b. Local Leagues may make a rule regarding the maximum number of defaults allowed teams during the Local League Season.
- c. Local Leagues may set their policy for players' presence on court to receive a default.

## **2.02 Progression**

### **2.02A Local League**

**2.02A(1) Local League Competition** Each team that wins a specific level of local league competition shall be entitled to advance to the next level of competition if otherwise eligible.

**2.02A(2) Local League Champions** At the conclusion of local league competition, the Local League Coordinator shall certify to the SC Singles State League Coordinator the results of the local league competition and the name(s) of the team captain(s). Local league competition must be concluded prior to the deadline set by the Singles State League Coordinator.

**2.02A(3)** Local Leagues cannot extend their deadline date past their Local League Season, unless approved by the SC Singles State League Coordinator.

### **2.02B Championships**

**2.02B(a)** All NTRP levels in the Adult 18 & Over and 40 & Over divisions must play a local league in order to advance to District Championships except as noted in 2.02B(c).

**2.02B(b)** The winner of each specific NTRP level in each age division in local league competition shall be entitled to advance to the State Championship. If the winning team is unable to attend, an alternate team, preferably the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team, can be asked to advance. Should the second-place team not be available to attend then, a 3<sup>rd</sup> place team from the Local League affected, may be invited to advance to State Championships. If the 3<sup>rd</sup> place team from the affected Local League is unable to attend, then the wild card procedure will be utilized to complete the draw.

**2.02B(c)** The Singles State League Coordinator, along with the Director of Leagues in conjunction with the League Committee, will determine the number of teams in the Singles 18 & Over and 40 & Over levels, the 2.5 Men and 2.5 Women, and the 4.5 Men and 4.5 Women's levels, that will play at State Championships when rosters for these levels have been submitted. Legal team rosters for these levels must be submitted by the initial league deadline date for the area in which the team is registering.

### **South Carolina Singles Championship Date for 2019:**

Nov. 09 - 11 Singles League, Aiken – all age divisions

### **2.02B(1) District/Area Championships.**

Competition will be offered at the SC Singles State Championships at the following levels:

Adult 18 & Over: 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 (men and women)

Adult 40 & Over: 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 (men and women)

A player must play in at least 1 Local League match in each NTRP level they participate in order to qualify to play at SC Singles Adult 18 & Over and Adult 40 & Over State Championship (a default received counts towards advancement).

### **2.03C Scoring**

All matches will be the better of two tiebreak sets with a match tiebreak in lieu of third set. The tiebreak shall be scored as 1-set and 1-game for tiebreak purposes.

### **2.03D Competition Format**

South Carolina- will use a round robin format in all levels of competition.

South Carolina- may issue wildcards to fill a championship draw.

South Carolina- will have 3 courts of men playing each other and 3 courts of ladies playing each other in individual matches as the league format.

**2.03E(1) Championship Draw:** The Championship Draw is a random draw done once local league competition is completed and rosters for State Championship entry are received. If possible, teams from the same local league will be put in separate flights. The number of flights at a given level will depend on the number of teams eligible. The championship Director will determine, before league competition is completed, if wildcards are needed to balance out the flights. Local Leagues receiving a wildcard for the championships will be eligible for a wildcard at the same level/flights the following year. If a Wildcard is needed, the LLC will be notified.

**2.03E(1)(a) Semifinal Wildcard for draws with 3 flights at the Championship:** When a draw has three flights, a wildcard will be drawn at random (from the numbers 1, 2, 3) 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.

**2.03F(a)** – If a team has a known default, (not enough players to field a complete team) the opposing team will have the opportunity to adjust their scorecard by moving the third place position to the second place position. The default will not be given until both scorecards have been received by the Site Director and after consulting with the captain receiving the default, scorecards will be adjusted by the Site Director.

**2.03F(b)**. 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.

**2.03H Procedures in the Event of a Tie. At Championships:** In the event of a tie, whether in round robin or single elimination competition, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:

**2.03H(1) Individual Matches. Winner of the most individual matches.**

**2.01H(2): Head-to-head. Winner of head-to-head match.**

**2.01H(3): Sets. Loser of the fewest number of sets.**

**2.01H(4): Games. Loser of the fewest number of games.**

**2.03L(a) Scoring of Team Defaults,** A 'team default' occurs when a team defaults 3 or more individual matches in a 5-court team match, or a team defaults 2 or more individual matches in a 3-court team match. If a team commits a 'team default' 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 but will be used for ratings and advancement purposes. If all teams in contention for the championships have already played the defaulting team in good faith, those matches stand as played. **The defaulting team is ineligible to continue to play the remainder of their matches. The defaulting team will be responsible for the \$100 per line default penalty for all matches not played.**

**2.03L(b)** A \$250.00 Deposit from each team advancing to the championships is required and any team withdrawing from a championship after the online registration deadline 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. Once championship play has begun, the Local League Coordinator will destroy the check. **A grievance may be filed against the withdrawing team in addition to the \$250 fine.** Penalties against these team members may include that all members on the submitted roster be banned from participating in any USTA leagues for a period of up to 364 days.

**2.03L(c)** If a team defaults an entire match during a championship, a grievance will be filed against all members on the team roster that is submitted for the championship. Sanctions against the team members may include that all members on the submitted roster be banned from participating in any USTA leagues for a period of up to 364 days. **Any opposing captain that was involved has 24 hours to file a grievance from the time they were notified.**

2.03L(d) 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.

**3.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES.** Regulations in 3.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES shall apply to all USTA League Divisions and Singles Divisions.

The SC Singles State League Coordinator has the authority to appoint the persons who shall serve on Grievance and Grievance Appeals Committees. Substitute appointments will come from members of the League Committee.

**3.01A(1) Local.** Each local league shall appoint a Local League Grievance Committee. The SC Singles State League Coordinator and/or the USTA SC State Director of Leagues will approve members for a Local League Grievance Committee.

**3.03E(8)(a)** USTA SC mandates that the party(ies) that files the NTRP Grievance complaint must provide the documentation to support their complaint at the time of their filing.

**3.03E(8)(b)** All Grievances must be filed on the appropriate Grievance Forms.

**SC Singles State League Grievance and Grievance Appeals Committees are:**

**Grievance Committee:**

Susan Turner, Chairperson  
Kim Ozmon, Member  
Frank Thompson, Member

**Grievance Appeals Committee:**

Sandra Grooms, Chairperson  
Shirley Cope, Member  
Susie Honeycutt, Member

**SINGLES STATE CHAMPIONSHIP DATES AND LOCATION:**

TEAM REGISTRATION- Fri, Nov 8, 2019 5 pm – 6 pm

2019 SC Singles State League Championship will be held November 09 - 11, at H.O. Weeks Tennis Center, 1700 Whiskey Rd, Aiken, SC 29803, Host Site. Play will begin Saturday, Nov 09 thru Nov 11, 2019.

**Contact Information:**

**USTA SC Director of Adult Programs**

**Jessica Harrell**

**18 Woodcross Drive**

**Columbia, SC 29212**

**803-781-2574**

**harrell@sctennis.com**

**Sam Hicks, SC Singles State League Coordinator**

**PO Box 98**

**Drayton, SC 29333-0098**

**864/415-2351 [samhicks@charter.net](mailto:samhicks@charter.net)**

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_