

## CAPITAL LEAGUE USTA TENNIS

# 2019 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, the 70 & Over League and the 65 & over divisions of Mixed Doubles and Combo Doubles). With the exception of Tri-Level, teams are formed in five divisions: 18 & over, 40 & over, 55 & over, 65 & over and 70 & over.

The Capital Area league will abide by (with no exceptions) the 2019 NATIONAL USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS, the 2019 SOUTHERN SECTIONAL REGULATIONS (website: [www.southernntennis.com](http://www.southernntennis.com)), the 2019 NORTH CAROLINA REGULATIONS (website: [www.nctennis.com](http://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 (SLC), 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.

For questions and further information, contact:

Local League Coordinators (LLC):

18 & Over Leagues - Lynn Goldberg 919-696-1798 [thegbergs@aol.com](mailto:thegbergs@aol.com)

40 & Over Leagues - Tracy Debnam 919-625-9679 [ttdebnam@gmail.com](mailto:ttdebnam@gmail.com)

55 & Over Leagues - Tracy Debnam 919-625-9679 [ttdebnam@gmail.com](mailto:ttdebnam@gmail.com)

65 & Over Leagues - Tracy Debnam 919-625-9679 [ttdebnam@gmail.com](mailto:ttdebnam@gmail.com)

70 & Over Leagues - Tracy Debnam 919-625-9679 [ttdebnam@gmail.com](mailto:ttdebnam@gmail.com)

State League Coordinator (SLC):

All Adult Leagues - Jenny Phelps 336-852-8577 [jenny@nctennis.com](mailto:jenny@nctennis.com)

### ADULT LEAGUE COMMITTEE

Bill Edwards                      ShaneWells

Paul-Henri Arrigoni              Mark Byrd

Beth Beam                         David Bell

Gabe Jimenez

Grievance Committees and Grievance Appeal Committees will be formed as needed.

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# I. GENERAL INFORMATION

## A. Levels Offered

Teams are formed in the following divisions: 18 & over, 40 & over, 55 & over, 65 & over and 70 & over.

To play in a certain age division, players must reach the minimum age for that division by December 31, 2019:

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

The format for the respective age divisions is as follows:

18 & over – 2 singles and 3 doubles (2.5 and 5.0 1 singles, 2 doubles)

40 & over - 2 singles and 3 doubles (2.5 women only 3 doubles)

55 & over - 3 doubles

65 & over - 3 doubles

70 & over - 3 doubles

## B. USTA Membership

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

## C. Ratings

1. The National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) is the official system of rating levels of competition in these programs. A player with a 2016, 2017 or 2018 computer rating must use that rating or above to participate in these leagues. A player age 60 or above with a 2017 or 2018 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.

2. 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 exclusively. 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.

3. 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	Yes
USTA League Mixed Doubles 18 & 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
Southern Tri-Level	Never
NCTA Singles League	Never
NCTA 70 & Over League	Never

## II. TEAM REQUIREMENTS

### :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	Spring	8	15
USTA League 40 & over 2.5	Spring	6	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
Southern Tri-Level	Summer	6	15
NCTA Singles League	Summer, Fall	3	9
NCTA 70 & over League	Spring	6	12

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## B. Plus (+) Leagues

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.

1. 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.
2. 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

<b>DIVISION</b>	<b>DIVISION</b>	<b>DIVISION</b>
Adult	18 & Over	2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0+ , 5.5
	40 & Over	2.5,3.0, 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+
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

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).

## D. Direct Advancement to a State championship

1. 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
Southern Tri-Level	All Levels

2. 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 a 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

3. Teams that are participating in 1-Team Events must have the minimum number of players registered on TennisLink no later than their league's Initial Roster Deadline. An exception can be made if a team needs to be added to provide competition for a single state team.

4. Teams that advance directly to a State Championship OR are participating in 1-Team Events must maintain their roster on TennisLink with a majority of players from within the league area that they are representing. For example, a roster of 15 players must have a minimum of 8 players residing within the league boundaries.

5. In levels where a team is advancing directly to the state championships as provided for in Rule II. D. 1., 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.

6. In the Southern Combo Doubles League, where there is no local 40 & Over 9.5, 55 & Over or 65 & Over Combo league, teams are no longer allowed to play in another age division for local play. Teams are still able to advance directly to the State Championships.

## E. Roster Rating Requirements

1. 3.0-4.0 18 & 40 & over teams will need at least six players on the level of the team.

2. 2.5, 4.5 & 5.0+ teams and all 55 & 65 & over teams will need four players on the level of the team.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. In USTA League Adult 55 & Over 9.0, Adult 65 & Over 9.0, and 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

6. In the Southern Combo Doubles League, players in each level cannot exceed the maximum rating allowed for that level.

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

7. In the NCTA 70 & Over League, players in each level cannot exceed the maximum rating allowed for that level.

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

### III. REGISTRATION AND GENERAL LEAGUE INFORMATION

#### A. Where to Register

1. TennisLink is the online support for USTA League Tennis. You may access TennisLink through the Raleigh Tennis Association Website, [www.raleightennis.com](http://www.raleightennis.com) or go directly to [www.nctennis.com](http://www.nctennis.com) and click on TennisLink. 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.

2. 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.

3. Players may not play any matches until they are registered on TennisLink. If a non-registered does play a match, that court will be defaulted.

#### B. How to Register a Team (Captain's initial registration)

1. Go to [www.usta.com](http://www.usta.com) and click on TennisLink. Then log in and click on USTA leagues on top left.

2. Log in with your USTA number and click on "online team creation."

3. Select Section: USTA Southern



4. Select Area/District: North Carolina

5. Select Sub/Area: Capital Area

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

7. Select Flight: (i.e. 4.0 Women)

8. Select Day/Time of Play (i.e. Evening)

9. Choose any sub-flight, a, b, c, or d (if applicable). You may or may not stay in this group- the LLC will randomly divide them upon conclusion of the registration period depending on the number of teams.

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

11. Associate with your facility. If it isn't listed, click on "other facility" and type in your club name.

12. Click Submit and WRITE DOWN YOUR TEAM NUMBER

13. 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 LLCs so that scheduling can be done in a timely manner. It is the LLC's decision to allow a team to register if it is past the deadline.\*\*

### C. How to Register as a Player

1. Go to [www.usta.com](http://www.usta.com) and click on TennisLink. Then log in and click on USTA leagues on top left.

2. Click on "register for a team"

3. Type in Team Number (given by Captain)

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

5. After completing the credit card information click submit

6. TennisLink will verify your credit card number and will tell you that you are registered. Keep a copy for your records.

\*\*All new players to USTA League Tennis must self-rate themselves in accordance with NTRP guidelines. All self-rated players must fill out a players' history form. If you are new to the USTA League system, you must complete this process before registering for a team.\*\*

### D. League and Court Fees

1. 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”.
2. City teams will pay a \$50 court fee for each 5 court home match and \$30 for each 3 court match.
3. City captains will receive a bill for their courts directly from Millbrook.

## **E. Schedules**

1. The Local League Coordinator will determine the schedules.
2. Teams will need enough courts to allow an equal number of home and away matches.
3. Schedules will be ready on TennisLink at least one week before match play begins. Captains are responsible for bringing their team’s schedule to their pro shop so they can reserve your courts. The LLC will give the city team schedules to Millbrook.
4. 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, you must notify the opposing team no later than one week before the scheduled match.
5. It is the captain's responsibility to check the schedule before each match while printing out a match scorecard.
6. 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.

## **F. Promoted Players**

1. 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.
  - a. Players not promoted by the conclusion of local league round robin play will be eligible to compete in the entire local playoff.
  - b. 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.
  - c. Points earned by the promoted players in the local playoffs will stand.
2. 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.
3. 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.

## **G. League Refund Policy**

1. League with Local League Play: Refund requests for Local Fees and State Head Tax charges must be made to the Local League Coordinator **prior to the team's first scheduled match.** Requests must be made in writing. The TennisLink fee is non-refundable. The Local League Coordinator will hold all requests and submit one list to the State League Coordinator by the refund deadline. One check will be sent to the LLC or CTA, who will issue individual checks to the players. Any team dropping out of a league after Initial Roster Deadline for that league will forfeit any registration fees paid and a grievance may be filed.

2. League with direct advancement to State Championships: Refund requests for Local Fees and State Head Tax charges must be made to the Local League Coordinator prior to the Deadline to Add a Team Advancing Directly to State Championship as noted in the chart in II. F. in the USTA North Carolina League Tennis Regulations. Requests must be made in writing. The TennisLink fee is non-refundable. The Local League Coordinator will hold all requests and submit one list to the State League Coordinator by the refund deadline. One check will be sent to the LLC or CTA, who will issue individual checks to the players.

3. 1-Team League Event: Refund requests for players and/or teams participating in 1-Team League Events must be made in writing to the Local League Coordinator no later than the team registration deadline for teams advancing directly to State Championship as noted in the chart on II. F. in the North Carolina State Regulations. See League with Local League Play for how and when refunds are processed.

4. State Championships: Refund requests for registrations fees to any USTA North Carolina State Championship must be made in writing prior to the first scheduled match of the tournament, whether the level in question has begun play or not. Requests should be sent to Jenny Phelps at Jenny@nctennis.com. All refunds will be credited to the credit card used to pay the registration fee. Refunds will be credited the week after the conclusion of the tournament.

5. Local refunds may take up to 6 weeks to process.

## **H. Player Waiver, Agreement, and Grievances**

1. 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.

2. By way of registration and participation in the USTA Capital Area League, players 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.

3. There is a \$100.00 Filing Fee for any grievance (not including NTRP grievances) filed by a captain in the Capital Area 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.

4. Grievance forms and information can be found at <https://www.usta.com/Adult-Tennis/USTA-League/resources/>.

## IV. LEAGUE PLAY

### General Rules and Format for League Play •

1. 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. A league schedule may only consist of full round.

2. Scoring format:

a. Winner is determined by 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 State League Coordinator prior to the beginning of league play for approval.

b. If either of the first two sets reaches 6 games all, a set tie-breaker (first to 7, win by 2) will be used in all sets.

c. 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 (only in doubles).

3. Coaching is not permitted at any point during a match.

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

5. 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 team of the owner of the phone may not claim a let.

6. Players will act as their own line judges and scorekeepers.

7. 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:

- a. The team with the fewest sets lost
- b. The team with the fewest games lost.
- c. Toss of coin.

8. 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. For example, a player may not play on a 3.0 18+

weekday team and a 3.0 18+ weekend team.

9. 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 II. B. 1. and 2.) and in the Tri-Level Leagues, where the highest NTRP level must play on the #1 court, the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## B. Captain's Match Responsibilities

1. 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. **If the home Captain has not called or emailed, the visiting Captain must initiate contact.**

2. Home team provides approved USTA balls.

3. Scorecard exchange (see IV.C.3. and 4.)

a. Each Captain must bring a copy of the scorecard. Scorecards must be printed for each match off of TennisLink by clicking on the match number on the schedule.

b. Captains should have their lineups written on their own scorecard and simultaneously exchange cards, writing their lineup on the opponent's card.

c. See Section IV.C. entitled "Defaults and Valid Team Matches" for procedures regarding the timing of scorecard exchange and players not present when scorecards are to be exchanged.

4. After completion of the match captains should sign each other's score sheet to avoid disputes in the score entry.

5. Captains should have a copy of the Local League Rules for the Capital Area as well as a copy of *Friend at Court*. Please seek help when in doubt about the rules.

## C. Defaults, Substitutions and Valid Team Matches

1. A default/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. The terms "default" and "forfeit" may be used interchangeably in these rules.

2. Each team, in its entirety, must show up ready to play at the designated time and forfeits will be assessed at the expiration of the default period. An exception to this rule occurs in the case where, prior to match time, the non-forfeiting captain receives an email from the forfeiting captain stating he/she is forfeiting a certain position. In the case of a double forfeit, neither team receives the points.

3. 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.

4. Player substitutions

a. No substitutions may be made after the scorecard exchange, except as stated otherwise in these rules. See the section entitled “Inclement Weather” for rules regarding substitution in matches postponed due to weather.

b. Prior to the start of a team match (a match starts when the first ball is put into play on any court) 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.

c. 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. \*\*Captains should move the player prior to the scorecard exchange\*\*

d. 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.

5. 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

6. Forfeits given in the original lineup do not stand in an inclement weather makeup match when the match is completely rained out. See the section entitled “Inclement Weather” for further clarification.

7. Full team defaults

a. 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.

b. 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):

c. 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.

d. 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

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

9. 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.

10. Full Team Defaults:

a. **1 Full Team Default:** At the end of the season, standings will be evaluated to see if the full team default had an effect on the final standings. If the final standings were affected, all of the matches of the defaulting team will be removed from the standings (only the affected round, if more than one round robin) and the final standing will be recalculated. If neither team in contention received a full team default, the final standings will stand. The defaulting team may be subject to a grievance.

b. **2 Team Defaults:** If a team defaults 2 full team matches, all of their matches played or to be played will be null and void. Matches played will count for NTRP ratings and advancement purposes, but will not be used to determine the final standings. An automatic grievance will be filed.

## D. Rescheduling Matches

**1. Regularly scheduled matches should only be rescheduled in the direst of circumstances. Four players are needed to play a valid five court match: three are needed for a valid three court match (4 players needed for a 3 court doubles match).**

2. Home captains are responsible for canceling the originally scheduled courts and for reserving courts for the rescheduled match time.

3. The only matches that may be rescheduled after the originally scheduled date are matches rescheduled because of inclement weather or a conflict with State, Section or National Championships.

4. 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. **THE CAPTAIN MUST SUBMIT THE NAMES OF THE PLAYERS GOING TO THE TOURNAMENT TO THE LLCs.**

- a. The players must be participating in the championship on a team from the Capital league.
- b. Playoffs in other leagues do not qualify for this exception.

## **E. Staggered Matches**

1. 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 9:30 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.

2. Captains should include their staggered court players on the lineup/scoresheet exchanged prior to the start of the team match.

## **F. Inclement Weather**

1. 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.

2. Before canceling matches all options should be explored and captains should make every effort to avoid postponing a match due to inclement weather. **If the opponent's courts are playable, teams are required to play a home match away.** Teams are highly encouraged, but not required, to start later or play a staggered match to get the match in. This should also be applied to makeup matches.

3. As stated above, 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.

4. It is the responsibility of the Home Team Captain whose match was postponed to get in touch with all relevant parties regarding matches.

- a. If the match is scheduled at a club, the club officials will determine if the courts are playable by their standards.
- b. In some cases this may be up to 30 minutes prior to match time.

5. If you have not been in contact with the opposing captain, do not assume the match is canceled. Your team must show up ready to play or be subject to default.

6. 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.

7. In the event that rain or inclement weather forces the cancelation and rescheduling of a



TEAM MATCH, substitutions may be made in any individual court which has not begun. When the TEAM MATCH has been rained out, forfeits given in the original lineup do not stand in the makeup match. For purposes of this rule a team match is defined as all courts played in a given format (i.e.: 0 out of 5 courts have begun for a 5 court match or 0 out of 3 courts have begun for a 3 court match).

8. 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.

9. Completed individual matches will stand as played.

10. Makeup matches should be arranged within 48 hours after the canceled match and played within two weeks of the original match date. Let us know if there is any problem rescheduling the matches.

- a. Matches can be made up as a team match or by scheduling individual courts at different times.
- b. If the players are scheduling the makeup individually, captains should exchange lineups within 24 hours of the rainout and have their players set the date/time/location of the match. Both home and away players' contact information should be given. Teams are equally responsible for getting the match rescheduled.
- c. If the captains are setting the date/time/location for individual matches they should agree on which lines are being played at what time.

11. If a date, time and location have been determined for a team match (or individual court) rescheduled due to inclement weather or another approved 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.**

12. Substitutions in makeup matches

- a. 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.
- b. If a substitution cannot be found, the match will have to be forfeited.

13. If a rescheduled match has been rained out, then the match may be rescheduled. Two more weeks will be added (matches must be played within the framework of the league season – if this is not possible with a two week extension teams will have less than two weeks to make up the match).

**\*\*\* If a match has not been played by the 4th week after the scheduled date, the LLC may record it as a double default for the entire match.**

14. 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.

## G. Score Entry, Confirmation and Request to Change a Score

1. To post the score:

- a. Go to “TennisLink” and enter your USTA number.
- b. Click on “record a score”
- c. Enter Match #
- d. Select Players in each position
  - e. Enter Scores (from the perspective of the winning team)
  - f. Click Submit
  - g. If correct, Click Finish

2. The scores must be posted within 48 hours by the winning captain (unless captains agree to have the losing captain record) and confirmed within 48 hours of the match by the losing captain (unless otherwise agreed, however, same time frame applies). After 48 hours, TennisLink will automatically confirm the scores.

3. To confirm a score:

- a. Go to “TennisLink.”
- b. Click on “record a score”
- c. Enter Match #
- d. Review the scores and click “confirm”.

4. If you record a score/player incorrectly or notice that the recording captain has recorded a score/player incorrectly

- a. Click “dispute” on the score confirmation page.
- b. Contact the other captain to discuss and agree on the score/player change
- c. Fill out the Request to Change Score form found in the Adult Tennis section on [www.raleightennis.com](http://www.raleightennis.com) or paste this link in to your browser:

18 & Over: <https://raleightennis.wufoo.com/forms/q158mfzm0qc6r0o/>

40 & Over: <https://raleightennis.wufoo.com/forms/qawaoui1licdyp/>

55, 65 and 70& Over: <https://raleightennis.wufoo.com/forms/q16g5khe15iu4bg/>

## H. Local Post Season Play

1. 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.

2. If the season ends (at the end of local league round robin play), with a tie for first place, the tie shall be broken according to the following tiebreakers:

- a. Winner of the most individual matches
- b. Winner of head-to-head match
- c. Loser of the fewest number of sets
- d. Loser of the fewest number of games
- e. Toss of coin

3. 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.

4. Local League Coordinator will determine the playoff format.

5. Players **MUST** have played their minimum number of matches, according to the chart below in #6, to be eligible for **local playoffs**.

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

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	Summer	1	1
NCTA 70 & Over League	Spring	2	1

## V. STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

### A. Number of Bids

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

1. Wildcards will be offered, if needed, to local leagues as determined by the SLC. The SLC will notify the LLC of each league after the team registration deadline if any wildcards are being offered.

2. 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 procedure if a team is needed to fill the draw.

## C. Roster and Match Requirements

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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).

- a. There will be NO special consideration in scheduling.
- b. There is the possibility of several matches in 1 day.
- c. The player is considered 2 different people, which requires separate championship fees.

4. 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. D. 1.

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	Summer	1	1
NCTA 70 & Over League	Spring	2	1

## D. Format

1. 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+ and 5.5	Spring	1 Singles, 2 Doubles
USTA League 40 & Over 2.5	Spring	3 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	Summer	3 Singles
Tri-Level	Summer	3 Doubles
NCTA 70 & Over	Spring	3 Doubles

2. 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:
  - a. Winner of the most individual matches.
  - b. Winner of the Head-to-Head match.
  - c. Loser of the fewest number of sets.
  - d. Loser of the fewest number of games.
  - e. Toss of coin.

## **E. Defaults and Withdrawals**

1. 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.

2. 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.ncleaguetennis.com](http://www.ncleaguetennis.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.

- a. Teams who accept a wildcard after the Team Registration Deadline and then later withdraw will be subject to the same penalties.
- b. 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.
- c. Teams may be subject to a grievance by the Tournament Committee.