

Columbia Tennis League 2008 Mixed Doubles Local Rules

www.columbiatennisleague.org

Mixed League Coordinator – Sandra Grooms 781-0606

tnschick@sc.rr.com

GENERAL

1. STATE LEAGUE COORDINATOR (SLC).

- a. The following person has been appointed to implement and administer the South Carolina State USTA League Tennis Program.

Mary Goins
P. O. Box 386, Easley, SC 29641
864-855-0881; mggoins@charter.net

- b. The following person has been appointed to implement and administer the South Carolina State USTA Mixed Doubles League Tennis Program.

Patti McVey
147 Clouds Point, Leesville, SC 29070
803-604-0660; mixeddoubles@bellsouth.net

- c. LOCAL LEAGUE COORDINATOR (LLC). The following person has been appointed to implement and administer the Columbia Tennis League Mixed Doubles Program and to interpret the Columbia Tennis League Mixed Doubles Regulations.

Sandra Bell Grooms
18 Hillstone Court
Columbia, SC 29212
803-781-0606; tnschick@sc.rr.com

2. TEAM CAPTAIN. Each team shall appoint a team captain to handle administrative affairs and to represent the team in the Columbia Tennis League matters. It is recommended that the team captain be a playing member of the team. The team captain, or an acting team captain, must be present at every match. Each team may also appoint a co-captain.

3. ASSIGNED TEAMS. If teams are assigned from other leagues and/or tennis associations to play in the Columbia Mixed Doubles Tennis League, those teams will have home and away matches on the same basis as regular member teams of the Columbia Mixed Doubles Tennis League. Teams assigned to play in the Columbia Mixed Doubles League may be required by the CTL League Coordinator to play its home matches at a CTL facility designated by the CTL League Coordinator and to pay any associated court fees to the CTL facility for home matches.

4. COURT FACILITIES. Each team participating in the Columbia Tennis League must guarantee the use of two courts at one location for all CTL regularly scheduled and make-up matches. Any approved USTA surface is permissible, including indoor and outdoor (clay or hard) surfaces. The choice of surfaces is the prerogative of the home team, and more than one surface may be used for a single team match. The home team must identify which individual matches will be played on which surfaces prior to either team turning in the line-up for that day's play. The home team is responsible to have courts available and playable at match time.

5. COACHING AND SPORTSMANSHIP

- a. No coaching will be permitted once play has begun.
- b. There are no linesmen or referees for CTL matches. Players are responsible for their own calls and should abide by "The Code". If a conflict occurs during match play over line calls that cannot be resolved, the players involved may request their captains to appoint a linesperson for the remainder of the match.
- c. Players should call score after each point to avoid confusion.
- d. Spectators may not aid players in making a line call or in determining the correct score. Spectators should not participate in the match in any way and should refrain from doing so even if asked by the players.

- e. Spectators may quietly watch a match in progress. They should not sit or stand at the end of the court immediately behind the servers or receivers if it is distracting to the players. Spectators may quietly clap for points well played. It should be remembered that the well-played point should be applauded regardless of who won the point. It is poor tennis etiquette to clap for unforced errors.
- f. It is the responsibility of the team captain to control the noise and behavior of team spectators. Loud, boisterous or unsportsmanlike behavior is unacceptable. If a problem arises with a spectator, both players should ask the spectator to refrain from the offensive behavior. If the behavior persists, the team captains should be summoned to handle the situation. If necessary, a grievance should be filed.
- g. Coaches and club professionals must not interfere in discussions or negotiations between players or captains unless specifically asked by both captains for advice. Even then, it is the responsibility of the two captains, not the coach or professional, to decide on the appropriate resolution.
- h. Disputes should be settled between players as soon as they arise. All points played in good faith stand. Players should be able to resolve any dispute by themselves.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

- 6. GRIEVANCE COMPLAINTS. Grievance complaint forms, procedures and rules are posted on the SC Tennis Association website, and are incorporated herein by reference. There are specific time limits, procedures, and rules for filing a grievance. Grievance complaints may be filed not only for infractions of the regulations but also for failing to abide by good conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship. Such grievances must be filed in writing by a captain with the CTL Mixed Doubles Coordinator prior to commencement of the next team match involving such player or team, or within 24 hours after the end of local league play, whichever occurs first, except a complaint based on ineligibility may be filed at any time after learning the person is ineligible.

The CTL League Coordinator appoints the members of the CTL Grievance Committee and CTL Grievance Appeals Committee with the approval of the State League Coordinator. The CTL League Coordinator has authority to substitute or replace members of the committees named below in the case of a conflict, absence or other inability to serve.

- a. The Columbia Tennis League Grievance Committee is comprised of:
 Chairperson – Bill Brannon – 787-0315 wbrannonjr@sc.rr.com
 Colleen Freeman
 Level Coordinator

The decisions of the CTL Grievance Committee may be appealed to the CTL Grievance Appeals Committee.

- b. The Columbia Tennis League Appeals Committee
 The CTL Grievance Appeals Committee is comprised of:
 Chairperson – Nick Papadea – 787-1349 sunnymaggie80l@aol.com
 Nan Smith
 Clay Busto

The decision of the Grievance Appeals Committee is final and binding, except with regard to suspensions of individuals or team for a period of 12 months or more.

- c. Grievance Complaints concerning CTL Administration
 All grievances against the CTL administration of the USTA League Tennis Program wherein the complaint alleges that a coordinator or committee has violated National, Sectional, State or Local Regulations will be handled by the USTA Southern Section Leagues Grievance Appeals Committees. These grievances should be submitted to the SC state league coordinator.

- d. Self-rate Grievance. Self-rated players who enter the USTA League Tennis Program by misrepresenting their actual skill level are considered to have violated the standards of good conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship, and may be subject to a grievance complaint and possible disqualification. Grievances against such players may be filed by the Local Mixed Doubles Coordinator, or a team captain. Self-rate NTRP grievances shall come under the jurisdiction of the Southern Section Grievance Committee. These grievance complaints should be first delivered to the CTL Mixed Doubles League Coordinator, who will forward to the SC State Mixed Doubles Coordinator, who will forward to the Southern Section Grievance Committee Chairman.

CTL MIXED DOUBLES LOCAL LEAGUE REGULATIONS

7. LOCAL LEAGUE.

A. Levels of Play.

(1) The CTL Mixed Doubles League has determined that for the league year 2008 the following levels shall be available if there are at least two teams for the level:

Adult Mixed Doubles: 5.0, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0 and 10.0*

Senior Mixed Doubles: 5.0, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0 and 9.0*

* 10.0 Adult and 9.0 Senior teams will play their local league season at the State Championships. These levels may be required to play at a different time and/or location.

(2) The combined ratings of a partnership must not exceed the level of the flight. Additionally, the difference in ratings for any on-court partnership may not exceed 1.0. For example, a 4.0 player and a 2.5 player may not play together in 7.0, even though their combined rating is less than 7.0

B. Number of Teams.

The Columbia Mixed Doubles Tennis League shall consist of a minimum of two teams in a specific level of competition or division. In order to accommodate scheduling considerations, the CTL Mixed Doubles League may establish two or more flights within a division. If there are two or more flights within a division, the make-up of a flight will be the result of either a random selection or on the basis of geographical location, as determined by the CTL Mixed Doubles Coordinator.

C. Team.

(1) A team will consist of a minimum of six players (at least three men and three women) eligible to compete at a specific level of competition.

(2) All members of a team in Adult Mixed Doubles must be at least 19 years of age by 12-31-2008.

(3) All members of a team in Senior Mixed Doubles must be at least 50 years of age by 12-31-2008.

D. OUT OF AREA OR OUT OF STATE APPROVAL REQUIRED.

(1) A player may not play out of his/her Local League Area in SC (as defined by the player's address listed in USTA membership records on Tennis Link), without approval from the player's local league coordinator and the approval of the local league coordinator in the area the player wishes to play. If a team desires to have on its roster players who live in another state or who live in SC but outside the Columbia Tennis League area, prior approval must be obtained as described in paragraph 3.01 H (5) c of the SC State USTA League Tennis Regulations. Forms to request 'out of area' or 'out of state' approval are posted on the CTL website and SC Tennis Association website. A player who fails to obtain approval will be subject to sanctions, including, at a minimum, defaulting of all matches played prior to receiving approval as well as possible disqualification from further play. Sanctions may be applied to the team captain as well. A player whose primary residence is not in SC, who previously received 'out of state' approval to play in CTL, and who has played in CTL every year since that approval was granted need not reapply for approval to play in CTL in the same division (Adult and Senior) as played in the prior year. Be contrast, a player who lives in SC, who received 'out of area' approval to play in CTL in a prior season, and wants to play in CTL in the current league season MUST reapply.

* An exemption to this rule applies to players who reside in LATA local league area to play in CTL and players who reside in CTL local league area to play in LATA league. The CTL Coordinator and LATA Coordinator have granted automatic approval for CTL and LATA league players to playing in either league and have waived the requirement that the player complete an 'out of area' form to request approval.

E. Playing on Multiple Teams.

Individuals **may** play on multiple teams in the CTL league, or on teams in the CTL league and teams in other leagues in SC, in either the Adult Mixed Doubles League or the Senior Mixed Doubles League, as long as those teams compete at **different** levels of play. An individual may also compete on both an Adult Mixed Doubles League team and a Senior Mixed Doubles League team at the same level of play. However, no accommodations will be made in the event of scheduling conflicts. Individuals **may not** play at the **same** level on more than one team in SC in the Adult Mixed Doubles League **nor** at the **same** level on more than one team in SC in the Senior Mixed Doubles League.

F. Roster Registration.

(1) Team roster with a minimum of 6 legal players (3 eligible partnerships) must be submitted into Tennis Link by the deadline published by the CTL Coordinator on the CTL website.

(2) Players may be added to a roster on TennisLink until the deadline published by the CTL Coordinator

on the CTL website. However, a player may not play for a team until the player has registered on the TennisLink roster. If he/she does play a match when not on the roster, the individual match will be considered a default.

(3) The CTL Coordinator has the authority to change the dates for registering a team and/or adding players to a team.

(4) A player must have a current USTA membership valid through the league season.

(5) The fee for playing in the CTL Mixed Doubles League is \$17, which includes the USTA/SC head tax, local league fee and Tennis Link fee. This fee will be collected via credit card when registering on Tennis Link, and is not refundable.

G. Rating Entry.

(1) Players with a computer rating must play at that NTRP level.

(2) Players without a computer rating but who have a self-rating within the past year on TennisLink must play at that level.

(3) Players who do not have a rating on file in TennisLink shall self-rate in accordance with the National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) Guidelines and complete the self-rating process on TennisLink when registering for a team. Failure to provide accurate information regarding a player's tennis history will subject the player, the captain and/or others who condoned inaccurate self-rating to sanctions and disqualification. After a player self-rates, the player must play at that NTRP level or higher.

H. Match Format.

All team matches will be the best of three sets with a 10 point match tiebreak played in lieu of the third set. (i.e., first team to win at least 10 points and with at least a two point margin over the opponent).

I. Team Match and Scoring.

(1) Each team match in the CTL Mixed Doubles Tennis League shall consist of three doubles matches.

(2) The team winning two out of three matches in a team match shall be awarded one team point.

J. Team Lineups.

(1) The two team captains shall exchange their team lineups in writing simultaneously, prior to the beginning of the team match but no later than the scheduled start time of the match. No substitution may be made in an individual match after the lineup has been presented, except for injury to, illness of, disqualification or no-show of a player. In the event of illness, injury, disqualification, or no-show of a player prior to the start of an individual match (once the lineup as been exchanged), a team may substitute a player in the affected position within the 15 minute default time, using a player not already listed on the lineup. If no substitution can be made, the affected position will be defaulted, except: If two players in the lineup, not playing with each other, do not show, then the two partners who did show will form a partnership, if it is an otherwise valid partnership, and play together in the higher lineup position.

(2) Starting Match Play. All individual matches will begin (i.e., the first serve will be made) within 15 minutes of the scheduled start time. All warm-ups, including service warm-ups, should be concluded prior to 15 minutes after the scheduled start time. (Exception: All players will be allowed a 5 minute warm-up even if this means starting the match after the mandatory start time.)

(3) A default occurs when a team captain cannot field all positions for a team match. Defaults must be given "from the bottom" except as provided for in paragraph J (1) above. i.e. The No. 3 doubles must be defaulted before the No. 2 doubles, and the No. 2 doubles must be defaulted before the No. 1 doubles.

(4) To receive a win by default, the non-defaulting player or players must be present on court, ready to play; however, if a team captain advises his/her opponent in advance of the default, he/she, in effect, waives the requirement for the non-defaulting player(s) to be present in order to receive the default.

(5) If a captain is advised prior to the match that the opponent must default one or more positions and that captain knows that he/she would also have had to default a position, it is incumbent upon that captain to demonstrate good sportsmanship and declare a double default rather than to accept the win.

(6) If a team defaults an individual match during or prior to the line-up exchange, and inclement weather forces the match to be postponed before a point is played in any individual match, the default is cancelled.

(7) If both teams default the same position, neither team will receive a win and the scorecard will indicate a double default.

(8) Each team will be allowed one individual match default per team match. For example, if a team has 7 matches on the schedule, they will be allowed no more than 7 individual match defaults. If a team exceeds the allowed number of defaults or if the team defaults one entire match (i.e. a team defaults in one team match the number of courts that would determine the winner of the overall team match), the league may file a grievance against that team. The grievance committee shall determine what appropriate

action should be taken which may include forfeiture of all matches and/or disqualification from the next season. A captain has the right to appeal.

K. Entry of Match Scores into TennisLink.

(1) Match scores are to be entered into TennisLink within 48 hours of the end of the match. While either team may enter the score, it is recommended that the captain of the winning team enter the score.

(2) If match scores are not entered into TennisLink within 48 hours, a team will receive a warning. Any additional occurrences of not entering the score with 48 hours of match completion may result in the match being excluded when determining the division/flight standings.

(3) The captain of the losing team (or the team not entering the results in TennisLink) will verify that the scores have been entered correctly. The verifying captain will either confirm, through TennisLink, that the match score as reported is accurate, or will dispute the score if he/she believes an error has been made and that the reported score is incorrect. If disputed, the captain is to notify the level coordinator by email (and copy the opponent captain) of the basis for the dispute. Refer to the match number when reporting a dispute and provide specific information of the dispute.

(4) The verification of the match score must be completed within 48 hours of the score being entered into TennisLink. After 48 hours, the reported score will be assumed to be correct, and there will be no opportunity to correct a score even if it is wrong.

(5) Captains are to sign each other's lineup/scorecard to confirm match scores at completion of match. It is strongly recommended that the two captains compare notes and confirm scores with players at the end of the match in order to decrease the probability of an erroneous score being entered into TennisLink.

L. Inclement Weather during Regular Season

(1) It is the responsibility of the home team captain to determine whether weather conditions warrant the postponement of a regular season team match. If teams have assembled and have started play or are waiting to start play, they should be prepared to wait one hour to determine if the courts are playable. It is recommended the home team captain consult with the visiting team captain prior to making the "play/no play" decision, especially if match play has already begun.

(2) If match play has not begun (i.e., no individual match has started), the team captains will decide, within 48 hours, on a mutually agreeable make-up date and inform the level coordinator by email (copy email to the opponent captain). This make-up date must be within two weeks of the scheduled date of the postponed match. If the two captains cannot mutually agree on a make-up date or if matches have not been reported on TennisLink within two weeks, the level coordinator will establish the make-up date and time. Team lineups on the make-up day do not have to be the same as they were on the day of the postponement even if the lineups had already been exchanged, and any defaults given during or prior to the line-up exchange are cancelled.

(3) If match play has begun (i.e., at least one point played in one individual match), completed matches will stand as played, incomplete matches must be resumed by the same players at the exact set, game and point score as when play was halted, and matches not started may change the players listed on the line-up. Defaults given prior or during the line-up exchange will stand. The incomplete matches or unstarted matches do not have to be played at the same time and date, but can be arranged by the individuals involved in each of the individual matches. The decision when individual matches will be resumed must be made within 48 hours and the matches played within 2 weeks. The captains are to notify the level coordinator of the make-up dates/times by email (copy email to the opponent captain). The level coordinator will establish the make-up date and time if the players cannot agree, or if the matches have not been reported on TennisLink within two weeks.

(4) All make-up matches must be completed by the Saturday following the last scheduled match of the regular local league season for each division. If there is a city play-off, the league coordinator may require an earlier time for completing make-up matches, and will set a date/time for completion which will be binding on the teams. Any matches not completed by the league deadline may be excluded in determining division/flight standings.

M. Team Standings.

Team standings at the end of the regular season shall be in the order of the number of team points won, In the event that two or more teams in a flight have the same number of team points at the end of the season, the tie shall be broken in the following manner:

- (i) Winner of the most individual matches during the season.
- (ii) Loser of the fewest number of sets during the season.
- (iii) Loser of the fewest number of games during the season.
- (iv) Winner of head-to-head match.
- (v) Toss of coin by Mixed Doubles Coordinator.

N. CTL City Championship Format.

(1) Single Flight for level of play.

There are no CTL championship playoffs when there is a single flight for the level of play. The flight winner is the CTL city champion.

(2) Two Flights for level of play.

There will be a CTL city playoff as follows:

First Round: Flight 1 Winner vs. Flight 2 Runner-up. Flight 2 Winner vs. Flight 1 Runner-up.

Second Round: Winner v Winner from first round matches play to determine CTL City Champion and 2nd place team. If CTL is eligible to send more than 1 team to state championships, then the losers from the first round matches will also play each other for 3rd and 4th place.

(3) Three or More Flights for a level of play.

(a) When there are 3 or more flights for a level of play, the flight winners and flight runner-up teams will be ranked for city playoffs seeding format competition in order of flight winners first and then flight runner-ups.

(b) When the flights do not contain the same number of teams, the teams will be ranked by best season records, based first on number of team matches lost. Ranking and ties will then be broken by calculating winning percentage of individual matches played, sets lost and then games lost.

By way of example, a team with 7-0 record and a team with 6-0 record would be tied on team matches lost, and the tie would be broken by calculating best winning percentage of individual matches played.

(c) The format will be single elimination. If CTL is eligible to send more than 1 team to state championships, then the teams will play off to determine CTL Winner, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place teams.

O. SCHEDULING ACCOMMODATION of CTL regular season local league matches for CTL teams advancing to State, Sectional or National Championships:

Should a CTL team progress to the State, Sectional or National Tennis Championship playoffs that conflict with a CTL regular local league match, team captains shall make accommodations in CTL match play - upon request of the team advancing to championships with notification to the level coordinator. Rescheduling procedures are the same as the inclement weather guidelines and the team captains must notify the level coordinator of agreements by email (copy email to opponent captain). The level coordinator will set a date/time for completion of the match if captains do not agree or do not report scores on TennisLink within two weeks.

8. STATE, SECTIONAL, AND NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS.

(a) Eligibility. Players need not have participated in any minimum number of matches to play in CTL city play-off competition. By contrast, players in Adult Mixed Doubles must have played in at least two CTL league matches, including play-off matches and retirements, in order to participate in the state or sectional level championships. One of these matches can be a default received, but defaults given do not count towards meeting this requirement. In Senior Mixed Doubles, only one match in local league competition, including city play-offs, retirement or a default received, is required in order to participate in state or sectional championships. In order for a player to participate in the National Championships, he/she must have played in at least three matches, including the state and sectional championships (does not include defaults, but does include retirements).

(b) If a player plays on more than one team in the local league, and both teams qualify for the State Championships, the player may participate in the State Championships on both teams. However, no scheduling accommodations will be made.

(c) The following number of teams per Local League in South Carolina will be qualified to go to the State Mixed Doubles Championships: 2-15 teams = 1 team; 16 and above teams = 2 teams.

(d) Wildcards. If needed to balance the draw for state championships, wildcards will be chosen from a random draw based on the number of teams and positions by local league from the current Mixed Doubles season. The number of teams a local league has will be divided by the number of positions that local league qualifies for at the state championships. This number will determine the total chances the local league will have in the random draw. A local league that is drawn for a wildcard and used at a particular level will not be eligible to have a wildcard at the same level the following year unless there are not enough teams available to complete the draw. A local league whose team is named to replace a team that dropped out of the State Championships will remain eligible for a wildcard at that level the following year. A level must have a minimum of four teams to be eligible for the wildcard draw.

(e) State Championship Draw. The state championship draw is a random draw done by the championship referee before local league competition is completed. Where possible, however, teams from the same league will be put in separate flights. The number of flights at a given level will depend on the number of teams eligible. A flight will typically have four teams and the referee may elect to add

wildcard teams to balance out flights. In the case of three flights, a wildcard will be drawn at random (from the numbers 1, 2, 3) by the referee on the final day of round robin play to determine which flight's second place team will play in the semi-finals. The wildcard team will play a team from another flight.

(f) Entry fee for State Mixed Doubles Championships is \$20.00 per player listed on the state roster.

(g) Teams that withdraw from the Championships after the roster/fee submittal deadline will forfeit fees. A team substituted for the withdrawing team will not be responsible for championship fees other than for those players exceeding the number of players paid for by the withdrawing team.

9. CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE

STATE: The USTA/South Carolina State Mixed Doubles Championships will be held September 13-15, 2008, in Charleston, SC.

SECTIONAL: The USTA/Southern Section Mixed Doubles Championships will be held October 17-19, 2008, in New Orleans, LA.

NATIONAL EASTERN: The Mixed Doubles National Eastern Championships will be in November - TBA