



USTA/SOUTH CAROLINA MIXED DOUBLES REGULATIONS

USTA League Tennis – League Year 2008

0.00 INTRODUCTION

- 0.01** The South Carolina Mixed Doubles League Program is team competition for Adult men and women with combined levels of 5.0 – 10.0. Local winning teams have the opportunity to advance to State competition. The League also offers Senior league competition at the 5.0 – 9.0 combined levels. Local winning Senior teams may advance to State competition. All State rules as outlined apply to Senior Mixed Doubles League unless otherwise noted. A player may compete in both Senior and Adult Mixed Doubles League in accordance with the appropriate rules.
- 0.02** All players, teams and Local Leagues must abide by USTA League Tennis, USTA Southern Tennis and USTA South Carolina Mixed Doubles Rules and Regulations.
- 0.03** Local Leagues may write regulations to govern local play. USTA League Regulations, USTA Southern Tennis Regulations and USTA South Carolina Mixed Doubles Regulations take precedence over Local League Rules and Regulations.
- 0.04** Local League Rules and Regulations must be approved by the State Mixed Doubles League Coordinator prior to the start of the Local League Season.
- 0.05** Local League Rules and Regulations must be distributed to Team Captains, along with USTA League Regulations, USTA Southern Tennis Regulations, and USTA South Carolina Mixed Doubles Rules and Regulations before League Season begins.
- 0.06** Paragraph numbering for the following sections is done in accordance with the paragraph numbering format of the USTA League Tennis Regulations and USTA Southern Regulations. Topics addressed in specific paragraphs of the USTA South Carolina Mixed Doubles Regulations relate to the same topics in the same paragraphs of the aforesaid regulations. National and Southern regulations have separate sections for Adult and Senior programs. Sections 1.00, 2.00 and 5.00 relate to the Mixed Doubles program. The State Mixed Doubles League Coordinator has authority to interpret the SC Mixed Doubles regulations.
- 0.07** All participants must be a current member of the USTA and reach 19 years of age prior to or during the calendar year in which they play their first local league match.
- 0.08** All Senior players must reach 50 years of age prior to or during the calendar year in which they play their first local league match.
- 0.09** New regulations or changes in regulations are underlined.

1.00 GENERAL

1.05 OFFICIAL SCORE REPORTING AND STANDINGS SYSTEM. Scores must be reported in TennisLink within 48 hours of the completed team match. TennisLink will automatically confirm scores 48 hours after the team match is initially reported in TennisLink if not confirmed by opposing captain.

1.11 Membership

1.11B All local leagues must be current members of USTA. All players must be current members of USTA and USTA South Carolina through the Local League season, including local playoffs and **(C)** any player who progresses to championship level in the USTA League Tennis Program must be a current member through each championship progression.

USTA South Carolina's fee is \$6.00 per player and is paid through Local League dues.

1.14 Registration.

(a) Rosters must be entered in TennisLink before League play begins. Players may not move to a different team once match play has begun for that level, unless approved by the State Mixed Doubles League Coordinator. Local Leagues will set deadlines for registering teams and for adding players to rosters. Players may not be added to the team roster during local league flight playoffs or at any championship.

(b) Teams that will be playing their Local League during the Mixed Doubles Championships must be entered into TennisLink with a minimum of three eligible partnerships by **June 30, 2008**.

(d) Player add-on deadline date for levels playing Local League at Mixed Doubles Championships is **August 25, 2008**.

2.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES.

2.01 Committees. The State League Coordinator has the authority to appoint the persons who shall serve on Grievance and Grievance Appeals Committees in the place of those persons listed below in the case of conflict, absence or other inability to serve. Substitute appointments will come from members of the League Council.

2.01A Grievance Committees. Grievances will be handled by the appropriate Grievance Committee. See USTA Regulations 2.01A, Grievance Committee.

SC Mixed Doubles Grievance Committee:
Bob Peiffer, Chairman
Sandra Grooms, Member
Stephen Demosthenes, Member

2.01B Grievance Appeals Committee. Grievance appeals will be handled by the appropriate Grievance Appeals Committee. See USTA Regulations 2.01B, Grievance Appeals Committee.

SC Mixed Doubles Grievance Appeals Committee:
Sam Hicks, Chairman
Michael Martin, Member
Joyce Harrison, Member

2.02 GRIEVANCE COMPLAINTS.

2.02B Self-Rate NTRP Grievances. Self-Rate NTRP grievances shall come under the jurisdiction of the Section Grievance and Grievance Appeals Committees. Grievance Complaints will be sent to the State Mixed Doubles League Coordinator to be forwarded to the Section Grievance Committee.

5.00 MIXED DOUBLES LEAGUE REGULATIONS

All USTA League Tennis Regulations in 1.00 GENERAL, 2.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES and 5.00 MIXED DOUBLES LEAGUE REGULATIONS shall apply to the USTA League Tennis – Mixed Doubles Division.

5.01 LOCAL LEAGUE

5.01A Number of Teams. When a Local League does not have the required number of teams (two teams) to constitute a level, the State Mixed Doubles Coordinator, in consultation with affected Local Mixed Doubles Coordinators, shall either:

- (1) Assign the singleton team to another Local League, in which case, (a) the assigned team will register on TennisLink in the Local (host) League to which it is assigned and pay the fees and abide by the rules of the host league; (b) the host league will make the rule regarding travel for matches.
- (2) Group the singleton team with other singleton teams in the state and schedule a playoff among those teams to determine advancement to the State Championships. The State Mixed Doubles Coordinator will decide on the date(s), playoff structure, and designate the site and Local (host) League.

5.01B Team. Local Leagues may limit the number of players that appear on a team roster and/or the number of players that appear on that roster that are at a specific NTRP level.

5.01D ENTRY.

5.01D(2) Players who do not have a computer rating on file in TennisLink shall self-rate in accordance with the National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) Guidelines and complete the self-rating process on TennisLink when registering for a team. Failure to do so or omission of information regarding a player's tennis history will subject the player, the captain and/or others who condoned inaccurate self-rating to sanctions and disqualification.

5.01E LEVELS OF PLAY.

The levels offered will be combined (5.0, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0 Adults and 5.0,6.0,7.0, 8.0, 9.0 Seniors) where each individual player's NTRP rating may be no more than 1.0 apart (i.e. a 3.0 player and a 4.0 player may play 7.0).

- 5.0 (example of combinations 2.5 & 2.5 or 2.0 & 3.0)
- 6.0 (example of combinations 3.0 & 3.0 or 2.5 & 3.5)
- 7.0 (example of combinations 3.5 & 3.5 or 3.0 & 4.0)
- 8.0 (example of combinations 4.0 & 4.0 or 3.5 & 4.5)
- 9.0 (example of combinations 4.5 & 4.5 or 4.0 & 5.0)
- 10.0 (example of combinations 5.0 & 5.0 or 4.5 & 5.5)

If a partnership desires to play together and do not equal an above level, they may play up, i.e. 3.0 and 3.5 may play 7.0 together because they are not more than one point apart.

SENIOR MIXED DOUBLES LEVELS

The Senior Mixed Doubles Levels **5.0, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0** are not a part of the national program. The USTA Southern Section has authorized the following waivers for Senior Mixed Doubles Levels:

Players must play in at least one local or state championships match (including defaults received) in order to advance to the Southern Senior Mixed Doubles Sectional Championships. If there is no local or state competition offered, a team may advance directly to the Sectional Championships.

All other Mixed Doubles rules shall apply for Senior Mixed Doubles.

5.01G Scoring and Rest

Local leagues have the option to use or not to use the Match Tiebreak (first to 10 by a margin of 2), in lieu of a third set in Local League play, including playoffs.

5.01H COMPETITION FORMAT

5.01H(2) Team Match and Scoring.

- (a) Local Leagues may make a rule regarding the maximum number of defaults allowed teams during the Local League Season.
- (b) A Local League may set their policy for players' presence on court to receive a default.
- (c) All matches played by a team that drops out of the League during the League Season will be used as defaults to qualify players for Championship play.
- (d) Retirements will be used to qualify all players involved in the retired match for Championship play.

5.01H(4) Team Lineups. An individual match is started when the first ball is put into play. After the start of an individual match, if injury to, illness of, or disqualification of a player occurs, the opponents will be awarded a default for that individual match only. The default principles in **5.03L**, shall be applicable, with the Sectional modifications that:

- a. In the event of illness, injury, disqualification, or no-show of a player prior to the start of an individual match (once the lineup has been exchanged), a team may substitute a player in the affected position within the 15-minute default time, using a player not already listed on the lineup. If no such substitution can be made, the affected position only will be defaulted in local leagues.
- b. In the event that a team match must be re-scheduled and starting times are staggered, where opponents are not available and ready to play, defaults will be awarded in the affected position only.
- c. Local Leagues may make a rule regarding rescheduling of matches due to inclement weather.
- d. Two players will play together in the higher position when both of their partners do not show in order to avoid two defaults.

5.01H(5) Player Participation

5.01H(5)b During the South Carolina Mixed Doubles Local League Season, a player may play on more than one NTRP level in Adult and/or Senior divisions in the **same** Local League during the **same** season.

5.01H(5)c

- (1) A player may not play at the **same** NTRP level in the same division (Adult or Senior) on teams in separate Local Leagues in South Carolina during the **same** season.
- (2) A player may play at **different** NTRP levels in the same division (Adult or Senior) on teams in **separate** Local Leagues in South Carolina during the **same** season. *The player must obtain prior approval to play out of his/her area of primary residence in accordance with Regulation 5.01H(5)c(3).*
- (3) A player may not play out of his/her Local League Area (as defined by the player's primary residence as listed in USTA records) 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. Each Local League has the authority to accept or deny participation. The Local Leagues also have the option of setting rules to govern their own approval process. A player playing out of his/her Local League Area without obtaining prior 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 who received approval, in 2007 or before, to play out of his/her area MUST reapply if he/she desires to play out of his/her area in 2008.
- (4) A player from another state (as defined by the player's primary residence as listed in USTA records) may not participate in South Carolina without approval by the Local League Coordinator representing the area that is affected and the State Mixed Doubles League Coordinator. A player playing out of his/her home state without obtaining prior approval will be subject to sanctions, including, at a minimum, defaulting of all matches played prior to receiving approval. Sanctions may be applied to the team captain as well. A player from another state who previously received approval to play in South Carolina and who has played in South Carolina in every year since that approval was granted, need not reapply for approval to play in 2008 in the same local league and the same division (adult or senior) and same level as in 2007.

5.01H(5)d

- (1) Players who qualify for South Carolina Mixed Doubles State Championships may advance on more than one Adult and/or Senior team in the 2008 season. Scheduling WILL NOT accommodate players who compete in one or more Adult/Senior levels.
- (2) Players who qualify for Sectional Championships may advance on one adult and one senior team but may not advance on two adult or two senior teams. If eligible players do not participate at the State Championships, they may participate in the Sectional and/or National Championships.
- (3) A default will not count for advancing to National Championships. Three matches are required for advancement.

5.02 PROGRESSION.

5.02A Local League Competition. Each Local League MUST complete their Local League Season prior to the South Carolina State Mixed Doubles League Championships. The required team entry fees and information must be submitted to the State Mixed Doubles Coordinator by **August 25, 2008**.

5.02B State Championships.

- (1) All participants must be on original roster and have played at least two matches locally (one default may count) in **Adult** in order to be eligible to compete at Mixed Doubles State Championships, and **Seniors** must play at least one match (one default may count) in order to be eligible to compete at Mixed Doubles State Championships.
- (2) The following number of teams per Local League will be qualified to go to the State Mixed Doubles Championships: **1 team: 2-15 teams; 2 teams: 16 and above.**
- (3) A default will count as a qualifying match for Adult and Senior State Mixed Doubles Championships and Sectional Mixed Doubles Championships.
- (4) For all players involved, a retirement counts as a qualifying match for Adult and Senior Mixed State, Sectional and National Championships.
- (5) All matches played by a team that drops out of the league during the league season will be used as defaults to qualify players for Championship play.
- (6) LLC will determine method of selection for teams qualifying for State Mixed Doubles Championship if there is more than one flight in any level.
- (7) *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. If fees were not paid by the withdrawing team, that team's Local League will pay fees. Recovery of championship fees will be up to the appropriate Local Leagues*
- (8) The winner of each level at the State Mixed Doubles Championships will be allowed to advance to the Sectional Championships in New Orleans, LA October 17-19, 2008.
- (9) **CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW:** The Championship Draw is a random draw done by the championship referee before league competition is completed. Where possible, however, teams from the same local league will be put in separate flights. The number of flights at a given level will depend on the number of teams eligible. A flight typically will have four teams and the referee may elect to add wildcard teams to balance out flights (see item (10)). 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.

- (10) **WILDCARD PROCEDURE:** Wildcards will be chosen from a random draw based on the number of teams and positions by Area from the current Mixed Doubles season. The number of teams an Area has will be divided by the number of positions that Area qualifies for at the State Championships. This number will determine the total chances the Area will have in the random draw. An Area whose team 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. An Area whose team is named to replace a team that dropped out of the State Championship will remain eligible for a wildcard at that level the following year. **Three-team levels will not be eligible for a wildcard.**
- (11) All **9.0 Senior** and **10.0 Adult** teams will play their Local League at State Championships. These levels may be required to play at a different time and/or location, and teams with a minimum of three eligible partnerships must be entered into TennisLink by **June 30, 2008**. **Player add-on deadline for these teams is August 25, 2008.**
- (12) Scheduling at State Mixed Doubles Championships will not be able to accommodate players who compete in both Adult and Senior divisions or who compete on multiple levels.
- (13) The State Mixed Doubles Championships will be a round robin format.
- (14) Entry fee for State Mixed Doubles Championships will be \$20.00 per Championship participant.

5.02C SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sectional Championships format shall be a round robin in all levels of competition. A full draw is comprised of two flights with five teams each: the nine state champion teams and a wildcard team. Each team shall play every other team in its flight and the team with the most points shall be champion in its flight. Levels with two flight winners will offer a single elimination finals match to determine the champion. If a state has two teams in the same level, the referee will place those teams in separate flights provided there are two flights in that level. The Section may issue wildcards as necessary to fill the draw. If less than four teams are entered in a NTRP level draw within 21 days of event, the draw for the NTRP level will be cancelled unless otherwise authorized by the Tournament Committee.

5.03 AREA, SECTIONAL AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS. DATE AND LOCATION.

The 2008 USTA League Tennis State Mixed Doubles Championships will be held in Charleston, SC September 13-15, 2008.

The 2008 USTA League Tennis Southern Sectional Mixed Doubles Championships will be held in New Orleans, LA, October 17-19, 2008.

The 2008 National Eastern Mixed Doubles Championships – (Champions from Caribbean, Eastern, Florida, Mid-Atlantic, Middle States, Midwest, New England, and Southern Sections) – November __ 2008 – Location TBA.

5.04 The Mixed Doubles Division is subject to Regulation 3.05 – YEAR END NTRP COMPUTER RATINGS AND APPEAL PROCEDURES where applicable.

Submitted to Southern 2/19/08

Approved by Southern 2/20/08