

Columbia Tennis League Combo Doubles Local Rules

www.columbiatennisleague.org

Combo League Coordinator – Nan R. Smith 736-3488

scauburn79@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
mgoins@charter.net

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

Patsy Harrelson
16 Ardmore Drive
Taylors, SC 29687
864-244-8815
Pharrelson601@charter.net

1

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

Nan R. Smith
223 Aiken Hunt Circle
Columbia, SC 29223
803-736-3488
scauburn79@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 Combo Doubles Tennis League, those teams will have home and away matches on the same basis as regular member teams of the Columbia Combo Doubles Tennis League. Teams assigned to play in the Columbia Combo 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".
- c. 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
- d. 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
- e. 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.
- f. 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.
- g. 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 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 with the chairman of the Columbia Tennis League Grievance Committee 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.

- a. The Columbia Tennis League Grievance Committee is comprised of:

Chairperson – Bill Brannon – 787-0315 wbrannonjr@sc.rr.com
 Colleen Freeman
 Level Coordinator

- b. The Columbia Tennis League Appeals Committee

The decisions of the Columbia Tennis League Grievance Committee may be appealed to the Appeals Committee comprised of:

Chairperson – Nick Papadea – 787-1349 sunnymaggie801@aol.com
 Twanda Mickle
 Clay Busto

- 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.

- 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 Combo Doubles Coordinator, a team captain, or a tournament committee. Such grievances will be reviewed and decided by a Self-Rate Eligibility Grievance Committee appointed and convened by

the Section League Coordinator. These complaints should be first delivered to the Local Combo Doubles Coordinator, who will forward them to the State Combo Doubles Coordinator, who will forward them to the Section League Coordinator who, in turn, will forward them to the Southern Self-Rate Eligibility Grievance Committee Chairman.

CTL COMBO DOUBLES LOCAL LEAGUE REGULATIONS

7. LOCAL LEAGUE.

A. Levels of Play.

(1) The CTL Combo 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 Combo Doubles: 5.0, 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5, 10.5

Senior Combo Doubles: 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5

Super Senior Combo Doubles: 6.5, 7.5, 8.5

(2) The combined ratings of a partnership must not exceed the level of the flight. The difference in ratings for any on-court partnership MAY exceed 1.0. For example, a 4.0 player and a 2.5 player CAN play together in 6.5 or a 4.5 player and a 3.0 player CAN play together at the 7.5 level. This IS different from the CTL mixed doubles rule! NEW RULE: **The maximum level of play allowed at the combined 5.0 level would be 2.5.**

B. Number of Teams.

The Columbia Combo 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 Combo 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 determined by the CTL Combo Doubles Coordinator.

C. Team.

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

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

(3) All members of a team in Senior Combo 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 play out of his/her Local League Area in SC .

(2) Players who reside in the LATA local league area may play in CTL league without applying for 'out of area' approval. Likewise, players who reside in the CTL local league area may play in LATA league without applying for 'out of area' approval. The State League Coordinator, CTL Coordinator and LATA Coordinator have granted automatic approval for CTL and LATA league players to play in either league and have waived the requirement that the player complete an 'out of area' form to request approval.

(3) A player from another state (as defined by the player's address listed in USTA membership records on Tennis Link), may not participate in CTL Combo Doubles League without approval from the CTL Combo Doubles League Coordinator and the State Combo Doubles League Coordinator. A player playing out of his/her home state without obtaining prior approval may be subject to sanctions, which may include disqualification from further play and voiding of matches already played. Sanctions may apply 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 SC 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- as in 2007.

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 Combo Doubles League or the Senior Combo Doubles League, as long as those teams compete at **different** levels of play. An individual may also compete on both an Adult Combo Doubles League team and a Senior Combo 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 Combo Doubles League **nor** at the **same** level on more than one team in SC in the Senior Combo Doubles League.

Players may advance to the Sectional Championships on no more than ONE adult and ONE senior team.

F. Roster Registration.

- (1) Team roster with a minimum of 6 legal players (3 eligible partnerships) must be submitted into Tennis Link no later than June 26, 2009, in order to participate in the CTL 2009 Combo Doubles League.
- (2) A player must have a current USTA membership valid through October 2009.
- (3) Players may be added to a roster through August 1, 2009. A player may not play for a team until the player has been entered on the Tennis Link roster. If he/she does play a match when not on the roster, the individual match will be considered a default.
- (4) Teams that play their Local League during the Combo Doubles State Championships must be entered into TennisLink with a minimum of three eligible pairings by August 1, 2009, and players may be added to the roster until August 30, 2009.
- (5) The fee for playing in the CTL 2008 Combo Doubles League is \$17, which includes the USTA/SC head tax, local league fee and TennisLink fee. This fee will be collected via credit card when registering on Tennis Link, and is not refundable for any reason. The fee for Super Senior Combo is \$13.

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 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 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. Important note: After a player self-rates, the player must play at that NTRP level or higher. The player may self-rate at a level lower than the level at which the player intends to play.

H. Match Format.

All team matches will be the best of three sets with a 10 point match break 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 Combo 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.
- (3) Flight standings at the end of the regular season shall be in the order of the number of team points won, i.e., the winner of the flight competition shall be the team with the most team points at the end of the season, etc. 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 Combo Doubles Coordinator.
- (4) When there are two or more flights within a division level, the teams will be ranked for city play-offs in order of flight winners first and then flight runner-up. Team rankings for winners and runner-up teams will be determined based on team matches won, or highest winning percentage of team matches when the flights do not contain the same number of teams. Rankings and tie-break procedures will be done in the same manner described above in I (3) (i, ii, iii, iv and v).
- (5) 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 the captain of the winning team enter the score.**
 - (i) 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 within 48 hours of match completion may result in the match being excluded when determining the division/flight standings.
 - (ii) 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 on 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. The captain disputing the score must notify the Level Coordinator that a match has been disputed and the basis for the disputed score. **Refer to the match number when reporting a dispute and provide specific information of the dispute.**
 - (iii) 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.

(iv) It is strongly recommended that the two captains compare notes at the end of the match in order to decrease the probability of any errors being entered into TennisLink.

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 fifteen minutes of the scheduled start time. All warm-ups, including service warm-ups, should be concluded prior to fifteen minutes after the scheduled start time. (Exception: All players will be allowed a five-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 may be defaulted.

(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 and a team can be placed in the line-up when the match is rescheduled.

(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. two out of three positions in the team match), the league will 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. 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. This make-up date must be within two weeks of the scheduled date of the postponed match, except as stated below in K(4). If the two captains cannot mutually agree on a make-up date, 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 if match play has begun on the other courts. 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, except as stated below in K (4). The level coordinator will establish the make-up date and time if the players cannot agree.

(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.

L. SCHEDULING ACCOMODATION of CTL local league matches for CTL teams advancing to State, Sectional or National Championships:

Should a CTL team progress to the State or Sectional Tennis Championship playoffs, team captains shall make accommodations in CTL local league team match play when the affected team cannot field the required teams to complete a scheduled CTL Combo Doubles match. Rescheduling procedure should follow the inclement weather guidance and the Level Coordinator be advised of such.

Columbia Tennis League does NOT reschedule matches due to conflicts with other league play, such as Lexington Tennis League.