



USTA/SOUTH CAROLINA MIXED DOUBLES REGULATIONS

USTA League Tennis – League Year 2011

0.0 INTRODUCTION

USTA League Tennis National and Southern Regulations have full force and applicability at all levels of play in USTA League Tennis in the USTA Southern Section and there is no authorization to modify, amplify or change them by local or State League Coordinators, or Grievance or Grievance Appeals Committees.

0.01 USTA South Carolina has appointed the SC State Mixed Doubles League Coordinator to organize and coordinate all USTA Mixed Doubles League Tennis activities in the SC State Mixed Doubles League and in conjunction with USTA South Carolina Leagues Committee, shall have the authority to interpret the SC State USTA Mixed Doubles League Tennis Rules and Regulations.

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. They may not be in conflict with either USTA League Regulations, Southern League Regulations or South Carolina Mixed Doubles State Regulations which will take precedence in the event of any dispute.

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.

0.08 New regulations or changes in regulations are underlined.

1.0 GENERAL

1.04C USTA League Registration

1.04C(1) Rosters must be entered in TennisLink before League play begins.

1.04C(2) 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 the opposing captain.

1.04C(3) 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 Mixed Leagues will set deadlines for registering players and for adding players to rosters. Players may not be added to the team roster during local league flight playoffs or at any championship. The State Mixed Doubles League Coordinator will inform Local Mixed Leagues of add-on deadlines for State Championships.

1.04D(4)(a) All Local Mixed Leagues (Adult & Senior) must end team registration on or before **July 9, 2011**. Teams may continue to add players per local league regulations.

1.04D(4)(b) All Mixed Super Senior Leagues must end team registration on or before **July 31, 2011**. Teams may continue to add players per local league regulations.

1.04D(4)(c) Teams that will be playing their Local Mixed League during the Mixed Doubles Championships must be entered into TennisLink with a minimum of three eligible partnerships by **July 9, 2011**. Player add-on deadline date for levels playing Local League at Mixed Doubles Championships is **August 31, 2011**.

1.04D(6) Local Mixed Doubles Leagues may limit the number of players that appear on a team roster.

1.04D(8) Number of Teams. When a Local Mixed League does not have the required number of teams (two teams) to constitute a level, the State Mixed Doubles League Coordinator, in consultation with the affected Local Mixed League Coordinators, shall either:

(1) Assign the singleton team to another Local League, in which case, (a) the State Mixed Doubles Coordinator will transfer the assigned team to the Local (host) League to which it is assigned and the assigned team will 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 League Coordinator will decide on the date(s), playoff structure, and designate the site and Local (host) League.

(3) Complete teams choosing to play in a local league area other than their home local league must secure home courts in the local league they choose to participate unless other arrangements are agreed upon by both Local Mixed League Coordinators.

1.04E(1) Each team must maintain its roster with at least 60 percent of its players with South Carolina residence (the player's primary residence is to be defined in USTA records as South Carolina). This will be monitored by the Local Mixed Doubles League Coordinator.

1.04E(2) All local leagues must be current members of USTA. All players must be current members of USTA through the Local Mixed Doubles League season including local playoffs and any player who progresses to championship levels in the USTA Mixed League Tennis Program must be a current member through each championship progression.

USTA SC Mixed League fees are \$6.00 per player and are paid through Mixed Doubles Local League dues.

1.04E(3) Player Age Requirements. Adult participants must be a current member of the USTA and reach 18 years of age prior to or during the calendar year in which they play their first mixed league match. Senior players must reach 50 years of age prior to or during the calendar year in which they play their first mixed league match. Super Senior players must reach 60 years of age prior to or during the calendar year in which they play their first mixed league match.

1.04F(1)b Mixed doubles results will not be part of generating a player's year-end rating, except for those players who play in the USTA League Mixed Doubles Division exclusively. Players who play exclusively in the USTA League Mixed Doubles Division and choose to participate in the USTA League Adult, Senior, and/or Super Senior divisions the next year must enter those divisions by self-rating with the minimum rating being the higher of the self-rating or mixed exclusive rating.

1.04F(1)c 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.

1.04G PLAYER PARTICIPATION

1.04G(2)(c) During the South Carolina Mixed League Season, a player may participate in more than one NTRP level in Adult, Senior, or Super Senior divisions in the **same** Mixed League during the **same** season.

1.04G(2)(d) A player may play at the **same** NTRP level in the **same** division (Adult, Senior, or Super Senior) on teams in **separate** Mixed Leagues in South Carolina during the **same** season. The Local Mixed League has the authority to accept or deny.

1.04G(2)(e) Players who qualify for South Carolina Mixed Doubles State Championships may advance on two Adult teams at different NTRP levels or two Senior teams at different NTRP levels or one Adult and one Senior team at the same or different NTRP levels. A player may not advance on more than two teams in any of those combinations. Players who qualify for Mixed Super Senior Doubles Championships may advance on two Super Senior teams at different NTRP levels.

No accommodations for scheduling will be made at the Mixed Adult, Senior or Super Senior State Championships.

2.00 USTA LEAGUE REGISTRATION

2.01A Levels of Play

2.01A(1) The South Carolina Mixed Doubles League Program is team competition for Adult men and women with Levels of straight 2.5 and combined 6.0 – 10.0. Local winning teams have the opportunity to advance to State competition. The League also offers Senior league competition at straight 2.5 and combined 6.0 – 9.0 levels. Local winning Senior teams may advance to State competition. A Mixed Doubles Super Senior league is offered in combined 6.0 – 8.0 levels. All State rules, as outlined, apply to the Senior and Super Senior Mixed Doubles League unless otherwise noted. A player may compete in Adult, Senior and Super Senior Mixed Doubles Leagues in accordance with the appropriate rules.

- Straight 2.5 (example of combinations 2.0 & 2.5 or 2.5 & 2.5)
- 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.

2.01A(2) Only 2.0 and 2.5 rated players may play at the 2.5 level.

2.01A(3) Using combined NTRP level, the combined NTRP level of the mixed doubles team cannot exceed the combined NTRP ratings level entered.

2.01A(4) The NTRP difference between members of an individual mixed doubles team may not exceed 1.0.

2.01C Competition Format

2.01C(3) All SC Mixed Adult, Senior and Super Senior Leagues will use the Match Tiebreak (first to 10 by a margin of 2) in lieu of a third set in Local Mixed League play including playoffs.

2.01C(5) 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 or illness of a player occurs, the opponents will be awarded a retirement for that individual match only. If a disqualification occurs, the opponents will be awarded a default.

2.01C(5)(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 in the lineup. If no such substitution can be made, the affected position only will be defaulted in local mixed leagues.

2.01C(5)(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.

2.01C(5)(c) Local Mixed Leagues may make a rule regarding rescheduling of matches due to inclement weather.

2.01C(5)(d) Two players will play together in the higher position when both of their partners do not show in order to avoid two defaults. (provided combined ratings do not exceed designated level of play)

2.01C(5)(e) Local Mixed Leagues must make a rule regarding maximum number of defaults allowed teams during the Local Mixed League season.

2.01C(5)(f) A Local Mixed League may set their policy for player's presence on court to receive a default.

2.01C(5)(g) All matches played by a team that drops out of the League during the Mixed League Season will be used to qualify players for Championship play.

2.01C(5)(h) Retirements will be used to qualify all players involved in a retired match for Championship play.

2.02 PROGRESSION

2.02A Local League Competition. Each Local Mixed League MUST complete their Local Mixed League Season prior to South Carolina State Mixed Doubles League Championships. **Note:** The required Mixed State Adult and Senior Championship team entry fees and information must be submitted to the State Mixed Doubles Coordinator by August 31, 2011. The required State Mixed Super Senior Championship team entry fees and information must be submitted to the State Mixed Doubles Super Senior Coordinator by September 16, 2011.

2.02B State Championships

The following number of teams per Local Mixed League will be qualified to go to the State Mixed Doubles Championships:

2-15 teams – one team advances

16 or more teams – two teams advance

2.03 AREA AND SECTION CHAMPIONSHIPS

2.03A Eligibility

2.03A(3) All participants must be on the original roster and have played at least two matches locally (one default may count) in **Adult** in order to be eligible to compete at the Mixed Doubles State Championships, and **Seniors and Super Seniors** must play at least one match (one default may count) in order to be eligible to compete at the Mixed Doubles State Championships. A retired match shall count toward advancing for all players involved.

2.03A(3)(a) All matches played by a team that drops out of league during league season will be used to qualify players for Championship play.

2.03A(3)(b) MLC will determine method of selection for teams qualifying for the State Mixed Doubles Championship if there is more than one flight in any level.

2.03A(3)(c) The winner of each level at the State Mixed Doubles Championships (Adult and Senior) will be allowed to advance to the Sectional Championships in Macon, GA, October 14-16, 2011.

2.03A(4) Players who qualify for the Mixed Section Championships may advance on one Adult Mixed Division team and one Senior Mixed Division team but may not advance on two Adult Division or two Senior Division teams. If eligible players do not participate at the State Championships, they may participate in the Section and/or National Championships. **No accommodations for scheduling will be made at these Championships.**

2.03A(4)(a) At the Adult level, players must play in at least two local or state championship matches (which may include one default) in order to advance to the Southern Adult Mixed Doubles Sectional Championships. A retired match shall count toward advancing for all players involved.

2.03A(4)(b) At the Senior level, players must play in at least one local or state championship match, (which may include one default) in order to advance to the Southern Senior Mixed Doubles Sectional Championships. A retired match shall count toward advancing for all players involved.

2.03A(4)(c) If there is no local or state competition offered for the Senior Mixed Division, one team per state per level may advance directly to the Section Championships.

2.03A(4)(d) The State Championship is the highest level of advancement for Mixed Doubles Super Senior teams.

2.03D Competition Format: The State Mixed Doubles Championships will be a round robin format. 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 number of teams eligible. A flight typically will 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.

2.03D(3) Wildcard Procedure: Wildcards will be chosen from a random draw based on 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 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.**

2.03D(4) All **9.0 Senior** and **10.0 Adult** teams will play their Local Mixed League at the Mixed 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 **July 9, 2011**. **Player add-on deadline for these teams is August 31, 2011.**

2.03D(5) The entry fee for the State Mixed Doubles Championships will be \$20.00 per Championship participant.

2.03D(6) 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 an NTRP level draw within 21 days of the event, the draw for the NTRP level will be cancelled unless otherwise authorized by the Tournament Committee.

2.03L If an entire team defaults their match during the State Championship, a grievance will be filed against all members on the team roster that is submitted for the championship. Sanctions against these team members may include that all members on the submitted roster be banned from participating in any playoff (state or higher) for a period of up to 11 months.

2.03M(1) Teams that withdraw from the State 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 those players exceeding the number of players paid for by withdrawing team. If fees were not paid by the withdrawing team, that team's Local League will pay the fees. Recovery of championship fees will be up to the appropriate Local Leagues.

2.03M(2) If a team withdraws from the State Championship after the draw has been published, a grievance will be

filed against all members on the team roster that is submitted for championship. Sanctions against these team members may include that all members on the submitted roster be banned from participating in any playoff (state or higher) for a period of up to 11 months.

CHAMPIONSHIP DATES AND LOCATIONS:

2011 Mixed Adult & Senior State Championships – September 10-12, 2011 – Florence, SC

2011 Mixed Super Senior State Championships – October 14-16, 2011 – Aiken, SC

2011 Mixed Adult & Senior Section Championships – October 14-16, 2011 – Macon, GA

- 2.04 League NTRP Disqualification and Review Procedures** – NTRP grievances shall come under the jurisdiction of the Southern NTRP Grievance Committee. Grievance complaints will be sent to the Mixed Doubles Local League Coordinator and then to the State Mixed Doubles League Coordinator to be forwarded to the Section Grievance Committee.

3.0 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES.

3.01A(1) Grievance Committees. All Grievance Committees shall consist of no less than three persons, including a chairman, to adjudicate grievances. The members of the Committee may be the same as or different in whole or part, from the committee first approved.

3.01A(2) The State Mixed Doubles 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.

The South Carolina State Mixed Doubles Grievance Committee is:

Bob Peiffer, Chairman
Mary Anna Scott, Member
Bonnie Sue Duncan, Member

3.01B Grievance Appeals Committee. All Grievance Committees shall consist of no less than three persons, including a chairman, to consider appeals from the Grievance Committees. No member of the Grievance Appeals Committee may be a member of the Grievance Committee. The members of the Committee may be the same as or different in whole or part, from the committee first approved.

The South Carolina State Mixed Doubles Grievance Appeals Committee is:

Dee Vaughn, Chairman
Sam Hicks, Member
Joyce Harrison, Member

3.02 GRIEVANCE COMPLAINTS.

3.02A General Grievance. General grievances are any complaints alleging a violation of the USTA Constitution and By-Laws; the USTA Regulations; the Rules of Tennis or other USTA Regulations (unless modified by these USTA League Regulations); USTA League regulations or standards of good conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship other than those defined in Sections 3.02B-NTRP Grievance, 3.02C-Eligibility Grievance, 3.02D Administrative Grievance, 3.02E-National League Grievance below.

3.02B NTRP Grievance. A grievance contending that a player's stated NTRP level is lower than the actual skill level shall constitute a NTRP Grievance. Players who enter the USTA League by inappropriately self-rating at an NTRP level lower than their actual skill level, and captains and others who condone such inappropriate self-rating, are considered to have violated the standards of good conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship. NTRP Grievances may be filed against the players and/or captains and others that assisted or otherwise condoned the inappropriate rating.

3.02C Eligibility Grievance. Any complaint other than a NTRP Grievance contending that the players have failed to meet eligibility requirements to participate in league tennis shall constitute an Eligibility Grievance.

3.02D Administrative Grievance. An administrative grievance is any complaint pertaining to administration of a league at any level below the national level.

3.03E(6) NTRP grievances shall be filed in writing with the Local Mixed League Coordinator who will then forward it to the State Mixed League Coordinator who will then forward to the Section League Grievance Committee who will make the final decision.

3.03E(7) NTRP grievances filed within two weeks of the start date of the player's and/or captain's State Championships will be administered after the event unless the section authorizes the administration of the grievance prior to that time. If the grievance is not administered until after the event, points won by players will stand. Disqualified players and/or captains that are suspended will not be eligible to advance to the next level of championship play.

3.03E(8) USTA South Carolina mandates that the party(ies) that file(s) the NTRP grievance complaint must provide the documentation to support their complaint at the time of their filing.

Approved by Southern 3/10/11