



**USTA SOUTH CAROLINA LEAGUE TENNIS
STATE REGULATIONS
Adult and Senior Divisions
League Year 2012**

Revised 12.12.2011-Updated-**TENTATIVE**

0.00 INTRODUCTION:

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

0.02 All players, teams and Local Leagues must abide by USTA League Tennis, USTA Southern Tennis and USTA South Carolina 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 Regulations take precedence over Local League Rules and Regulations.

0.04 Local League Rules and Regulations must be approved by the State 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, Southern Tennis Regulations and USTA South Carolina Rules and Regulations before League Season begins.

0.06 Paragraph numbering for the following sections are done in accordance with the paragraph numbering format of USTA League Tennis Regulations and USTA Southern Regulations. Topics addressed in specific paragraphs of these USTA South Carolina Regulations relate to the same topics in the same paragraphs of the aforesaid regulations.

0.07 New regulations or changes in regulations are underlined.

1.00 GENERAL.

1.04C USTA LEAGUE Registration.

1.04C (1) Official League Registration. Each local league must establish deadlines and procedures for registering teams on TennisLink. Rosters must be entered in TennisLink before League play begins.

USTA South Carolina fees are \$6.00 per player per League year, and are paid through Local League fees. Fees must be paid for EACH LEAGUE TEAM (Adult, Senior, Super Senior, Mixed Doubles, Mixed Super Seniors, Singles League and Southern Combo Doubles) played on during each League season.

1.04C (3) Players may not move to a different team once match play has begun for that level, unless approved by the State League Coordinator. Local 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 League Coordinator will inform Local Leagues of add-on deadlines for State Championships.

1.04 D (3) Local League Season. The Local League Season ends on the date published in TennisLink as the league season end date.

1.04D (6) 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.

1.04D (7) If an adult or senior division league consists of only two teams in a level of play, each team must maintain its roster with at least 60 percent of its players at the designated NTRP level of play.

1.04D (8) Number of Teams. When a Local League does not have the required number of teams (two teams) to constitute a level, the State League Coordinator, in consultation with affected Local League 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) Local Leagues receiving an assigned team from the State League Coordinator do not have the option to refuse the assigned team.
- (3) 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 League Coordinator will decide on the date(s), playoff structure, and designate the site and Local (host) League.
- (4) 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 League Coordinators

1.04E (1) Each team must maintain its roster with at least 60 percent of its players with South Carolina Residence *through the South Carolina State Championships* (the player's primary residence is to be defined in USTA records as South Carolina).

1.04 E (2) For District Championship competition and including local league competition play at District Championships, 60% or more of the total number of players on the USTA-SC team roster must reside in South Carolina, as indicated by the player's primary residence and is defined in USTA records as South Carolina.

1.04 E (3) Each team must use at least 60% South Carolina Players (Residence as defined in USTA records as South Carolina) on courts at State championships
Minimum number of SC Players required/Roster total:
3/5, 4/6, 5/7, 5/8, 6/9, 6/10, 7/11, 8/12, 8/13, 9/14 (roster-14 must have at least 9 SC players,

1.04G (2) (c) During the South Carolina 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.

1.04G (2) d A player may 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. The Local League has the authority to accept or deny participation.

1.04G (2) e Players who qualify for South Carolina Adult or Senior State Championships may advance on more than one Adult and one Senior team in the 2012 League season, but not at the same level of play.

2.01C Competition Format.

2.01C (3) Match Scoring. 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.

2.01C (5) Team Lineups.

- c. Local Leagues may make a rule regarding rescheduling of matches due to inclement weather.
- d. Local Leagues may make a rule regarding the maximum number of defaults allowed teams during the Local League Season.
- e. Local Leagues may set their policy for players' presence on court to receive a default.

2.02 Progression.

2.02A (2) Local League Competition. Each Local League MUST complete their Local League Season prior to the South Carolina State League Championships.

2.02 A (3) Local Leagues cannot extend their Deadline Date past their Local League Season. Any matches not played or completed by the Local League Deadline Date will be null and void and will not be entered in TennisLink.

2.02B State Championships.

The following number of teams per Local League will be qualified to go to the Adult State Championships at the 3.0 and 3.5 levels.

2 –27 teams 1 team
28 or more teams 2 teams

(2) The following number of teams per Local League will be qualified to go to the Adult State Championships at the 4.0 and 4.5 levels.

2 – 20 teams 1 team
21 or more teams 2 teams

(3) The State League Coordinator will determine the number of teams at the 2.5 and 5.0 levels to qualify for the Adult State championships when the adult team rosters for these levels have been submitted.

(4) The following number of teams per Local League will be qualified to go to the Senior State Championships at the 3.0 and 4.0 levels.

2 – 12 teams 1 team
13 or more teams 2 teams

(5) The following number teams per Local League will be qualified to go to the Senior State Championships at the 3.5 level:

2-22 teams 1 team
23 or more teams 2 teams

(6) The Senior League Coordinator will determine the number of teams at the 4.5 level to qualify for the Senior State Championships when the senior rosters for this level have been submitted.

(7) Play-offs may be required to determine advancement to State Championships between Local Leagues/levels that only have two teams in a level. This applies to both Adult and Senior Leagues.

2.03A (4) (a) Only one default will count as a qualifying match for Adult and Senior State Championships and Sectional Championships.

2.03A (4) (b) A default will not count for advancing to National Championships.

2.03A (4) (c) For all players involved, a retirement counts as a qualifying match for Adult and Senior State, Sectional and National Championships.

2.03D The winner of each level at the State Championships will be allowed to advance to the Sectional Championships in Mobile, AL, July 28- August 05, 2012.

2.03E (1) 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.

2.03E(1)(a) CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW: When the draw has 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 semifinals. The wildcard team will play a team from another flight.

2.03E (2) WILDCARD PROCEDURE: Wildcards will be chosen from a random draw based on the number of teams and positions by Area from the current spring 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. Two-team levels will *not be eligible for a wildcard*.

2.03L If an entire team defaults their match during a 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 Championships after the roster/fee submittal deadline date will forfeit fees. Championship fees must be submitted by the Championship deadline date along with the rosters for each team participating at the championships. 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.

2.03M (2) A \$250.00 Deposit from each team advancing to the championships is required and if a team withdraws from a championship after the schedule has been published, a withdrawal fee of \$250.00 is added to the championship fee for the team that is withdrawing and a grievance will be filed against all members on the team roster that is submitted for the championship. The Deposit is to be sent to the Local League Coordinator to hold until the championship is completed, if the team completes the championship the Local League Coordinator has the option to shred the check or destroy it. For the withdrawing teams 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.

2.04E (2) Local play occurring at the State Championships: Players will be permitted to play in the entire event but, if a disqualification occurs when the ratings are run at the conclusion of the tournament, those matches will be handled in the following manner: If the play is a Round Robin, matches for the DQ'd players are reversed. Matches played during a playoff, by winners advancing from multiple Round Robins are not reversed.

2.05 Year-End NTRP Computer Ratings and Appeal Procedures.

2.05C (1) Players may appeal their 2011 year-end ratings on-line at any time during the 2012 league year. TennisLink will allow only one granted appeal. 2011 State, Area, Sectional and National benchmark players cannot appeal their 2011 year-end rating for twelve (12) months, except for medical reasons. Appeals must be done on an individual basis; no group appeals will be accepted.

2.05D (2) A Medical appeal of a disabling injury or illness for a player must be accompanied by THE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN'S EVALUATION of the injury or illness, stating the extent and permanency of the injury or illness and any other substantiating information. The Southern Medical Review Committee will evaluate all medical appeals, and if the injury/illness is deemed permanently disabling; the appeal will be forwarded to the National Medical Review Committee for further review.

Medical Appeals must be submitted in writing, by fax, mail, or email and sent to Mary Goins, P.O. Box 386, Easley, SC 29641, emailed to mgoins@charter.net or faxed to 864-859-4502. Medical Appeal forms can be found on the USTA South Carolina Tennis webpage at sctennis.com. Appeals must be done on an individual basis; no group appeals will be accepted.

2.05E Players 70 and Over Promoted at Year-End.

Any player who is 70 years or older and promoted at year-end is eligible to appeal such rating based on his/her three most recent year-end ratings rather than on the three prior consecutive years

2.06 B 2012 Adult and Senior State Championship winning teams will not be required to split up to play in 2013. “unless the winning team advances to a National Championship”.

3.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES (Refer to National Regulations)

3.01 ADMINISTRATION.

3.01A Grievances. Grievances will be handled by the appropriate Grievance Committee.

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 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 Committee.

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

Grievance appeals will be handled by the appropriate Grievance Appeals Committee.

3.02 Grievance Types.

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*, and 3.02E – *National League Grievance* below.

3.02B NTRP Grievances. 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 Tennis Program 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 Grievance may be filed against the players and/or captains

3.02C Eligibility Grievance. Any complaint other than a NTRP Grievance contending that 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 come under the jurisdiction of the Section Grievance and Grievance Appeals Committees. Grievance Complaints will be sent to the Local*

3.03E (7) NTRP Grievances filed within **21 days** 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*** League Coordinator.

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

3.03E (9) All Grievances must be filed on the appropriate Grievance Forms as mandated by the USTA Southern Tennis Association.

The South Carolina State League Grievance Committee is:

Joyce Harrison, Chairperson
Mary Anna Scott, Member
Bonnie Sue Duncan, Member

The South Carolina State League Grievance Appeals Committee is:

Dee Vaughan, Chairperson
Sam Hicks, Member
Susan Turner, Member