

Upper Piedmont Tennis Association 2023 UPTA Men's League Regulations

ARTICLE I: Name

The name of this association is Upper Piedmont Tennis Association, Men. Hereinafter, referred to as UPTA.

ARTICLE II: Purpose

This association is a non-profit organization to promote interest in tennis through sponsorship of competitive play for members in the Upper Piedmont of South Carolina and to maintain the rules of play and high standards of sportsmanship.

ARTICLE III: Affiliation

UPTA shall be affiliated with the United States Tennis Association, the Southern Tennis Association, and the USTA South Carolina. By this affiliation UPTA shall abide by the rules, principles, and obligations as set out in the rules and regulations of the USTA League Tennis, STA, and USTA SC, where applicable to UPTA. National, Sectional, and State Rules and Regulations take precedence over Local League Rules and Regulations. If a conflict occurs, the Local League Rule will be overruled by the above.

ARTICLE IV: Dues

Each regular member of UPTA shall pay dues to this association. Only dues paying members in good standing may participate in league play and have the right to vote and hold office. Dues are collected via fees paid through TennisLink.

ARTICLE V: Officers and UPTA Board of Directors

The UPTA Men's League Board of Directors shall be made up of the following members: Men's League President (also known as the Local League Coordinator), Vice-President, Treasurer, Combo Doubles League Coordinator, Singles League Coordinator, Mixed League Coordinator and four members at-large.

Article VI: Men's League President

The UPTA Men's local league has elected a Men's League President to implement and administer the USTA League Tennis Program and, in conjunction with the Advisory Committee, interpret the UPTA Men's local league rules, regulations and procedures.

UPTA MEN'S LEAGUE RULES – GENERAL

The UPTA Men's local league has appointed a local league coordinator to implement and administer the USTA League Tennis Program and, in conjunction with the Advisory Committee, interpret the UPTA Men's local league rules, regulations and procedures.

The local league coordinator has the authority to change schedule deadline dates as needed.

The UPTA League includes the following geographic areas: Greenville County, Anderson County, Pickens County, Oconee County.

1. There will be six Adult 18 & Over flights: 5.0, 4.5, 4.0, 3.5, 3.0, and 2.5. There will be five Adult 40 & Over flights: 4.5, 4.0, 3.5, 3.0 and 2.5 (**2.5 advancement only as far as State championship**). Flights may be added or deleted as needed. Each Adult 18 & Over team must have at least 8 players and Adult 40 & Over team must have at least 7 players with the exception of the 2.5 levels and 18 & Over 5.0 levels (at least 5 players). Each Adult 55 & Over, Adult 65 & Over, Adult 70 & Over, Combo Adult 18 & Over, Combo Adult 40 & Over, Combo Adult 55 & Over and Combo Adult 65 & Over team must have at least 6 players. A player **may** play on more than one NTRP level in Adult divisions. A player may play at the same NTRP level in the same Adult division on teams in **separate** Local Leagues in South Carolina during the same season. A player may play at the same NTRP level

in the Adult 18 & Over Age Group, 40 & Over Age Group, 55 & Over, 65 & Over, 70 & Over_Age Group on teams in **separate** Local Leagues in South Carolina during the same season.

2. Players must be rated (computer or self-rating, if eligible) in accordance with current USTA procedures prior to participating in a local league match.
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 declare their self-rating on TennisLink when registering for a team. Failure to do so or omission of information in the self-rating process on Tennis Link regarding a player's tennis history will subject the player, the captain and/or others who condoned inaccurate self-rating information to sanctions and disqualification.
4. The UPTA Board of Directors encourages players with computer ratings to participate in league play at the level at which they are currently rated.
5. All team members must be paid members of UPTA (through the current year's state championship) and a current member of USTA in good standing prior to playing in their first match. Players must have reached the age of eighteen (18) years of age before registering for Adult 18 & Over League. Players who play in the Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over, Adult 65 & Over and the Adult 70 & Over leagues must reach the age of the age division prior to or during the calendar year in which such player registers for that league. Teams may add players up until their next-to-last match of the regularly scheduled local league season. Any player added to the roster may be added any time prior to the first match in which they are to play. Once a player registers and pays fees on Tennislink, there will be **no refunds** of any fees paid once the schedule is published.
6. Each team must guarantee the use of at least three (3) courts for Adult 18 & 40s matches and 2 courts for all other UPTA matches and that all lines are scheduled to play at the same time unless both Captains agree to play the match at different match times but on the scheduled day, if both Captains do not agree then the match must be played at the same time. All lines should start at the same scheduled time. If staggering is necessary, the holding matches follow immediately. In the case of the need to stagger matches, the home team should notify the visiting team of the lines that will play first, in the case of an only three court league then teams must play the 1 and 2 lines first and hold the third line to play on the first court available. The home team has the choice of surfaces and location and must communicate which lines will be played on which surfaces to the opposing captain prior to the exchange of line-up cards as early as possible (preferably when confirming match time). It is the home team's responsibility to have courts available and playable at match time. An exception to the start time may occur in the event a prior scheduled league match has not been completed. Separated courts (courts at multiple sites) may be used with the approval of both team captains.
7. The Coman Tiebreak procedure is to be used for all set and match tiebreaks.
8. A player must play at least two (2) matches during the Adult 18, 40, and 55 & Over spring local league season to be eligible for a championship. A default will count as a match played if the player or players (in the case of a doubles match), receiving the default is present on court to receive the default. It will not be counted as a match played for the player or players (in the case of a doubles match) giving the default. A player advancing to any local, state or sectional championship level (Adult 18, 40, 55 & Over) may receive only one default counting toward the two matches played. **Eligible matches for State cannot be counted using the divisional playoff matches.**
9. **Each team must have a captain or acting captain present at every team match.** Captains must simultaneously exchange a written line-up prior to the beginning of the team match. An individual match is started when the first ball of that position is put in play. 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 will be defaulted. **Default** will be written on the score line and will count as one of the team's

defaults. The affected team has the right to substitute a player. Persons who have received a default on the lineup card may not be substituted into another position. Players may not be changed in an individual match that has already begun. After the start of an individual match, if injury to, illness of, or disqualification of a player occurs, the opponents will be awarded a retirement for that individual match only. **NOTE:** In the event that rain or inclement weather forces the cancellation and rescheduling of a team match, substitutions may be made in any individual matches which had not begun. Points awarded for defaults during the original line-up exchange will stand. All players involved in such defaults cannot participate in the re-scheduled match.

10. The **HOME TEAM CAPTAIN MUST ENTER THE MATCH RESULTS** into TennisLink within 24 hours following the match. In the event the home team captain has not entered the results within 24 hours, the visiting team captain should enter the results. The non-reporting captain should confirm or dispute the entry within 48 hours or TennisLink will confirm it. In the event of a disputed entry, the league coordinator must be informed immediately. The names of each player listed on the scorecard should be identical to the way they are listed in TennisLink and on their USTA membership card. The scorecard will contain the appropriate “four letter code” for each team beside their signature. Any discrepancy in scoring shall be reported immediately to the flight_coordinator.
11. It is the responsibility of the team captain to maintain accurate team and individual records.
12. An annual budget and treasurer’s report will be forwarded to the Upper Piedmont Local League Coordinator and given to each team captain present at the annual captain’s meeting of the UPTA Men’s membership.
13. The home team must furnish one (1) can of unopened yellow championship quality balls for each position played.
14. **No electronic devices of any kind** are allowed to be used on court. If your opponent’s phone rings **during a point**, you may claim the point. If a spectator’s phone rings during your point, you may ask them to silence the phone, but you may NOT claim the point as spectators are not part of the match.
15. A player may play at the same NTRP level in the same division (Adult 18, 40, 55, 65, 70, 75 & Over) on teams in separate local leagues in South Carolina during the same season. *SC Reg 1.04G (3)*

SCHEDULE

1. The starting date of play will be scheduled after the number of teams in each level and league (Adult 18, 40, 55, 65, 70, 75 & Over) has been determined. The schedule will allow time for round robin play and playoffs, if necessary, to determine the UPTA Men’s representative(s) in the State Championships.
 - A. Once a player registers and pays fees on Tennislink, there will be **no refunds** of any fees paid once the schedule is made.
2. Adult 18 & Over, Adult 55 & Over League matches will be scheduled and played on Saturday, starting between 9:00AM and 5:00PM (depending on the court availability at site of play). Adult 40 & Over League matches will be scheduled and played on Sunday, starting between Noon and 6:00PM (depending on the court availability at site of play). The home team captain is responsible for setting the starting time and contacting the visiting team captain or co-captain prior to the scheduled match, advising him of the time and location of the matches. Mid-week matches may be scheduled as necessary to complete league play prior to state championship deadlines.
3. The home team captain must contact and confirm that contact with the visiting team captain no later than 7PM Wednesday of the week of the weekend match and by 7PM Sunday for scheduled mid-week matches advising them of the time and location of the matches. If using email, request

confirmation that the opposing captain has received notification of the scheduled match. If the home team is unable to secure courts to play all matches at the same time, the following order of play for the 18 and over must occur: #1 Singles, #1 Doubles, #2 Singles, #2 Doubles and #3 Doubles in the Adult 18 & Over. In the Adult 40 & Over Leagues the order is #1 singles, #1 Doubles, #2 Doubles and #3 Doubles. If matches are staggered and a default occurs at a higher position, all matches below that level must also be defaulted.

4. No matches will be scheduled during Easter weekend.
5. A team advancing to the state championships must have completed all local league matches. Any team withdrawing from a state, sectional or national championship after the draw is published must reimburse UPTA for their team entry fee. If the team entry fee is not reimbursed, players listed on the state, sectional or national roster may not play in another UPTA league until that fee has been paid.
6. State championship playoff dates take precedence over local league play. In the event a team cannot field enough players for their local league match due to team players playing at state, the teams MUST play prior to the match in conflict.
7. **Teams playing in public parks must reserve courts prior to the captain informing the opposing captain of the match time.**

MATCH PLAY

1. A local league season will consist of all local league matches played, Playoffs are NOT considered part of local play.
2. Individual matches will be best two (2) out of three (3) sets with a match tiebreak (first to 10 by 2) in lieu of the 3rd set. Seven-point (first to seven by two) tiebreakers, as specified by the USTA, will be in effect any time the set score reaches six (6) all.
3. Adult 18 & Over team matches will consist of 2 singles and 3 doubles, except for the 2.5 and 5.0 levels that play 1 singles and 2 doubles. Adult 40 & Over will consist of 1 singles and 3 doubles except for the 2.5 level which plays 1 singles and 2 doubles. All remaining age group matches will consist of 3 lines of doubles. The team that wins the majority of the individual matches will be awarded one (1) team point. The local league winner will be determined at the end of the season by the team who has won the most team match points during the local league season.

2.01A NTRP Levels of Play.

2.01A(1) When using straight NTRP levels, a player cannot have an NTRP rating higher than the NTRP level in which the player is competing.

2.01A(2) When using combined NTRP levels, the combined NTRP rating levels of the doubles team cannot exceed the combined NTRP level in which the players are competing;

2.01A(3) The NTRP difference between members of an individual doubles team may not exceed 1.0.

2.01A(4) USTA League NTRP levels in the local league and at championships are approved in accordance with the following table:

NTRP LEVELS OF PLAY

DIVISION	AGE GROUP	LOCAL LEAGUES	ALL CHAMPIONSHIPS BELOW NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
Adult	18 & Over	2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, <u>5.0</u> ,	2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, <u>5.0</u> ,	2.5 women, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, <u>5.0</u>
	40 & Over	<u>2.5</u> , 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, <u>4.5</u> ,	<u>2.5</u> , 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, <u>4.5</u> ,	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, <u>4.5</u>
	55 & Over	Straight Levels 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 OR Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0	Straight Levels 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 OR Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0	Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0
	65 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0 combined	3.0, 3.5, 4.0 9.0 combined	National Invitational 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0
Mixed	18 & Over	Straight Levels 2.5 , 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0 OR Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0	Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0	Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0
	40 & Over	Straight Levels <u>2.5</u> 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0 OR Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0	<u>Straight Level 2.5</u> Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0	Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0

DIVISION	AGE GROUP	LOCAL LEAGUES	SC STATE CHAMPIONSHIP ONLY
Adult	70 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0	3.0, 3.5, 4.0
Mixed	Mixed 55 & Over	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0
	Mixed 65 & Over	6.0, 7.0, 8.0	6.0, 7.0, 8.0
Singles	18 &	2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5

	Over		
	40 & Over		

4. In the event of a tie in a 4 line league match, the tie shall be broken by the following procedures:

A. Individual matches. Winner of most individual matches.

B. Head-to-head. Winner of head-to-head match.

C. Sets. Loser of the fewest number of sets

D. Games. Loser of the fewest number of games

E. Game Winning Percentage. Total games won divided by total games played.

E. The team with the winning Line 1 Doubles will determine the match winner.

5. If it is necessary for a level to have divisions due to the number of teams, a round robin format or partial round robin format will be played in each level and will include a playoff for each flight to determine a winning team. A playoff between the divisions, to determine UPTA Men’s representative at the State Championships, will consist of the first place teams from each of the divisions “playing off” for the highest number of team points. The format will be single elimination match play. The winning team will be declared the winner of that level. In the event of a tie in team match points, the tie will be broken using the procedure stated in Match Play, item 4. If a partial round robin format is used to determine UPTA Men’s representative at the State Championships, will consist of the first and second place team from the division “playing off” for the highest number of team points. The format will be single elimination and the team that wins the most team match points will be declared the winner of that level. In the event of a tie in team match points, the tie will be broken using the procedure stated in Match Play, item 4.

5 a. Play off matches do not count toward qualifying eligible matches for State. They must be gained thru local play.

6. During individual matches, play is continuous after the first game of each set. After that, 90 seconds is allowed during changeovers. A 2-minute break is allowed between the first and second sets as well as the “match” tiebreak. **No coaching** is allowed during local league matches due to the playing of a 3rd set match tiebreak. All warm-ups (15 minutes maximum), including service, must be taken before the match begins.

7. The fifteen (15) minute default rule goes into effect fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled time for the match to begin except as noted under General League Rules 6.

8. Warm-ups must be accomplished within fifteen (15) minutes, including service warm-ups.

In the event of an injury, 3 minutes are allowed to treat the injury. (Reasonable) time is allowed a player to get ice, bandages, etc. to treat the injury. Medical timeouts cannot be used for conditioning.

9. DEFAULTS

A. An UPTA Men’s team is allowed one default per team match. If a team accumulates more defaults than the sum of one per team match, that team will be disqualified for the season and their opponents will be given a “bye” for that match and the points won or lost will be disregarded. **The amount of defaults given may not lead to an automatic win for the opponents.**

B. A team may default the following number of matches without defaulting the entire match:

Adult 18 & Over and Adult 40 & Over League – Two (2)

Adult 55 & Over, Adult 65, 70, 75 & Over – One (1)

Adult 18 & Over-2.5 and 5.0+ levels – One (1)

- C. The lowest position is defaulted first. Defaults shall be determined by the team captain or coordinator in accordance with the following:

ADULT 18 & OVER AND ADULT 40 & OVER LEAGUE

1. Singles – the #2 singles must be defaulted before the #1 singles may be defaulted.
2. Doubles – the #3 doubles must be defaulted before the #2 doubles and the #2 doubles is defaulted before the #1 doubles.
3. Examples: A. One player absent – default #2 singles or #3 doubles
B. Two players – default #1 & #2 singles or #3 doubles

ADULT 55, 65, 70, 75 & OVER LEAGUE

1. Doubles – the #3 doubles must be defaulted before the #1 and #2 doubles.

- D. To receive a point for a default, the non-defaulting player or players must be present on court, ready to play. The winning captain will record a default in TennisLink by clicking on “default” and a score of 6-0, 6-0 will appear for the players receiving a default. A notation should be made on the scorecard to indicate that it is a default. Do not list the names of the players giving the default. Only list the names of the players receiving the default.

- E. If there is a default by each team for the same position, neither team will be awarded the point. The scorecard shall reflect that it is a dual default. The winner of this team match will be resolved by TennisLink under Match Play #4.

- F. In the event of a default, the non-defaulting player(s) will be credited with the appropriate number of games (i.e., recorded in TennisLink as 6-0, 6-0).

- G. If a retirement occurs after the commencement of a match, the non-retiring player(s) shall be credited with such number of additional games as would have been won if the match were completed and the non-retiring player won every subsequent game. **For all players involved, a retirement counts as a qualifying match.** NOTE: For NTRP computer data entry, actual scores are required in TennisLink and the match is recorded as 6-1, 2-4 with the indication that the match was retired).

11. If a self-rated player or a player with a granted medical appeal is disqualified for that particular level of play, all matches played by that individual player at that level shall be considered losses and scored (6-0, 6-0). Players not disqualified by conclusion of local league round robin play will be eligible to compete in entire local playoff.

12. No linesperson or umpire will be provided for scheduled season matches. Players are urged to call the score after each point to avoid confusion. If there is a conflict in the score during a match, players should try to recall the points and go back to the last agreed upon score. Total disagreement concerning the score in the game results in a spin of the racquet. If a conflict occurs during match play over line calls, players involved may request that the captain of each team appoint a linesperson for the remainder of that match.

13. SPECTATORS:

- A. 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.
- B. 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 the players.
- C. 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 considered to be poor tennis

etiquette to clap for unforced errors.

- D. It is the responsibility of each team to control the noise and behavior of its spectators. Loud, boisterous or unsportsmanlike behavior is unacceptable. If a problem exists with a spectator, the player(s) or his opponent(s) should ask the spectator to refrain from the particular behavior. If the behavior persists, team captains should be summoned to handle the situation. It is permissible to ask player(s) who have completed their matches to leave.

14. DISPUTES ON COURT

- A. In matches where there is no umpire, as in all UPTA League matches, players themselves act as umpires and must see that obvious violations of the rules do not occur. Therefore, it is imperative that players know the USTA regulations, STA regulations, SCTA regulations and UPTA rules that govern play.
- B. Coaches, club pros, club employees, UPTA league officers and members of the Board of Directors must refrain from intrusion in discussions or negotiations between players or captains unless specifically asked by both captains. Even then, it is the responsibility of the two captains, not the aforementioned, to decide on the resolution of the incident.
- C. Disputes should be settled between players before the match is finished. Remember that all points played in good faith stand. It is hoped that the players involved can resolve any dispute by themselves. If that is not possible, the procedure to follow is:
1. A player should inform their opponent of the problem and his intention to leave the court to obtain the assistance of his captain.
 2. The captain should contact the opposing captain and they should try to resolve the dispute. If the captains are involved in playing a match, the players may have to postpone their match until the captains are available to assist them.
 3. If the captains and players cannot agree on a resolution to the conflict, the offended player(s) may:
 - a. Notify the opponent(s) that in his opinion a violation of the rules has occurred, he is going to continue play but that he is “playing under protest” and intends to file a grievance after the match is completed. His captain would then indicate the protest on the scorecard.
 - b. Stop play, telling his opponent why and have his captain indicate on the scorecard that the match was stopped in protest. The exact place and score of the match when play stopped must be recorded and signed by both captains.
- D. A complaint against a player or team alleging a violation during local league competitions must be filed, in writing, and forwarded to the Local League Coordinator within 48 hours. The complaint must be filed prior to the commencement of the next team match in that flight involving such individual or team, or within twenty-four hours after the end of the local league play, whichever occurs first. It will be forwarded to the State League Grievance and Grievance Appeals Committee Chair. The League Grievance and Grievance Appeals Committee is comprised of representatives from every local league area in the state. A Chairperson and 2 committee members will be assigned to handle each grievance or grievance appeal but will not be assigned to any grievance or grievance appeal from their local area.

15. The Local League Coordinator has the right to file a grievance against any team, or team player, regarding sportsmanship, sense of fair play, defaults, rules violations, etc.

16. The infraction of any USTA, STA, USTA SC or UPTA Men’s regulation may result in the loss of the entire match against that particular opponent.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

1. In the event of rain:
 - A. Completed individual matches will stand as played. The same players must resume incomplete matches at the exact same place in the set, game and point as they stood when play stopped. Any point played is always counted and never replayed.
 - B. If teams have assembled to play and the match is delayed or interrupted by rain, wet courts or frozen courts, teams are not required to wait longer than one (1) hour past the originally scheduled time for the first match to determine if the courts are playable. If courts are not playable after one (1) hour, teams are free to leave and reschedule unless both teams agree to wait longer.
 - C. Rain Procedures Summary:
 1. The home captain must notify the visiting captain within 24 hours of 3 make up dates and times. The visiting captain must choose from the options offered. If the visitors cannot play on the dates and times offered, players not in the line-up may be substituted in the match. If needed, lines can be made up individually.
 2. If the match was never begun, the line-up will be exchanged simultaneously prior to the team match make-up, or if making up individually, prior to the first line making up the match.
2. ALL MATCHES MUST BE COMPLETED WITHIN 15 DAYS OF THE ORIGINAL MATCH DATE. If the match is NOT made up within the 15-day period, the scores will be entered as a double default for both teams.
3. The home team captain must notify the flight coordinator within 24 hours regarding any make-up matches or matches not played as originally scheduled, regardless of the reason.
4. The home captain will offer the visiting captain three alternate dates and times. If the visiting team captain does not agree to any of these alternate dates and times, play will occur as outlined in #2 above. If an individual match has not started and a player listed on the scorecard is not available to make-up their match during the time frame as outlined in number 2 above, the captain should substitute another player from their roster who can play during the designated make-up period.
5. Make-up matches do not need to be made up on the exact courts they were started on. Surfaces of courts may be changed as well according to time, weather and court availability (ie. going from hard courts to clay or even indoor courts). Make-up matches may be made on an individual basis if agreed to by both captains. In the event matches are played individually, captains must exchange the entire line-up prior to the start of any match being played.

3/1/2023