

**2024 USTA MIXED DOUBLES TENNIS LEAGUE**  
**UPTA LOCAL LEAGUE RULES – 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over, and 65 & Over**

**\*\*\* USTA League Tennis National Regulations, Southern Regulations and USTA/SC Mixed Doubles Regulations shall apply to the USTA Mixed Doubles League and take precedent over UPTA Mixed Doubles League Rules.**

**FORMAT**

1. Three mixed double partnerships. A minimum of six players (3 of each gender) per team.
2. Team that wins at least 2 of the 3 individual matches is the winner of the team match.
3. Individual matches-best 2 of 3 sets with tiebreaker when score of a set is 6 games all in the first two sets. ALL South Carolina Mixed Leagues will use the Match Tiebreaker (first to 10 by a margin of 2) in lieu of a third set in local league play including playoffs. The Coman tie-break system will be used for all tiebreakers.)
4. For the Mixed division, in both the 18 & Over and 40 & Over age groups, straight level play is authorized at the Sectional Championships and below.

Conforming changes are reflected in 2.01(A)4. NTRP LEVELS OF PLAY  
DIVISION AGE GROUP LOCAL LEAGUES ALL CHAMPIONSHIPS BELOW  
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mixed 18 & Over Straight Levels 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 10.0

Mixed 40 & Over Straight Levels 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5

Mixed 55 & Over Straight Levels 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5

Mixed 65 & Over Straight Levels 3.0, 3.5, 4.0

5. For a mixed doubles pair, individual player's ratings may be no more than .5 apart (i.e., a 3.0 player and a 3.5 player may play 3.5).

**ELIGIBILITY**

1. All players must have a USTA membership valid through the end of the local league season. (thru August 2024)
2. 18 & Over –be 18 years old before registering for a team in 2024.
3. 40 & Over – Player must reach at least 40 years of age during 2024.
4. 55 & Over – Player must reach at least 55 years of age during 2024.
5. 65 & Over – Player must reach at least 65 years of age during 2024.
6. Local League Season: A player may play at the same NTRP level in the same division (18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over and 65 & Over) on teams in separate Mixed leagues in South Carolina during the same local league season.

## **COMPUTER RATING**

A player with a valid computer rating as a result of playing in Mixed USTA League Tennis program must play at that level or higher.

## **SELF-RATING**

Players who do not have a valid 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.

## **GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

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 Local League Coordinator 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.

## **GRIEVANCE COMPLAINTS.**

1. Grievance complaint forms, procedures and rules are posted on the SC Tennis Association. There are specific time limits, procedures, and rules for filing a grievance. 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 by the captain in writing and emailed to the UPTA League Coordinator 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 player is ineligible.
2. A \$100 filing fee will be required for all General/Sportsmanship, Championship and/or Administrative Grievances. The filing fee will only be returned to the grieving party if the grievance is upheld.

### **USTA SC League Grievance and Grievance Appeals Committee**

Jimmy Sain – Co Chairman (HHI)

James Teal – Co Chairman (PD)

Jeanette Hammers (AATL)

Jonathan Watkins (CCTA)

Toni Odom (CTL)

Lauren Demosthenes (FTA)  
Abby Martin (GATA)  
Susie Honeycutt (GSTL)  
Sue Cook (HHI)  
Thea Salmonson (LATA)  
Art Welling (LCTA)  
Becky Williamson (LCTA)  
Leland Greeley (MCTL)  
Stephanie Stanton (MCTL)  
Scott Zobrist (PD)  
Frank Thompson (SATL)  
Terri Errington (UPTA)

Please note that a chairman 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.

The decision of the League Grievance Committee may be appealed to the League Grievance Appeals Committee.

The decision of the League Grievance Appeals Committee is final and binding.

### **ROSTERS and FEES**

1. Captains will register their team using TennisLink. When naming a team, the 18 & Over league will use UPTA18M/last name/facility name. 40 & Over will use UPTA40M/last name/facility name; 55 & Over will use UPTA55M/last name/facility name. 65 & Over will use UPTA65M/last name/facility name.
2. **Initial team rosters must be entered into TennisLink no later than May 1, 2024,** with a **minimum** of three (3) qualified doubles teams to play in UPTA mixed doubles league; i.e., three (3) men and three (3) women meeting the level of play. Matches may begin as early as May 15, 2024.
3. The deadline for adding additional players to the roster for 18 & Over and 40 & Over is prior to the last two matches of the regular season. The deadline for adding additional players to the roster for 55 & Over and 65 & Over is prior to the last match of the regular season.
4. **The deadline for adding players to a roster for teams advancing directly to state is August 1, 2024.**
5. Fees will be collected (via credit card) when a person is put on a roster in TennisLink. The cost to play in the UPTA 2023 Mixed Doubles League is \$23.15. This includes the non-refundable TennisLink user fee of \$3.15 USTA/SC head tax of \$7.00.

6. **Once placed on a roster through TennisLink, there will be no refunds, WHATSOEVER. However, a player may transfer from one team to another without additional fees by contacting the UPTA Mixed Doubles League Coordinator. Requests MUST be made before the season starts.**
7. There are no residency requirements for Mixed Doubles teams.

### **LOCAL PLAY**

1. Each team will play a round robin competition with at least one other team in the same flight (i.e., level). Each team in a round robin must play every other team in the round robin at least once and an equal number of times. The following guidelines will apply to determine round robin play:
  - 2-4 teams, 1 flight, each team plays each other three times.
  - 5 Teams, 1 flight, each team plays every other team in the flight twice.
  - 6-11 Teams, 1 flight, each team plays every other team in the flight once.
2. It may be necessary to divide a flight into several sub-flights if there are too many teams for a single round robin group. In that case, there will be a local league play-off to determine the UPTA champion and which team(s) advances to the State Championships. If a flight is subdivided into sub-flights, the following guidelines will apply:
  - 12 Teams**, 2 sub-flights; each team plays every other team in the sub-flight twice; the top team in each sub-flight will play off to determine goes to state.
  - 13-15 Teams**, 2 sub-flights; each team plays every other team in the sub-flight once; the top team in each sub-flight will play off to determine goes to state. If teams are still tied, the tie will be broken by the criteria stated below in section 4.
  - 16-22 teams**, 2 sub-flights; each team plays every other team in the sub-flight once; top two teams in each sub-flight play a single elimination match to determine which two teams go to state representing as the local league winner and the finalist. In the event of a tie, the tie will be broken by the head to head result in the playoff round robin. If teams are still tied, the tie will be broken by the criteria stated below in section 4.
3. Each team must play at least three (3) matches in local league to qualify for championship play.

4. Winners will be determined based on the number of team matches won. Procedures for playoffs may vary according to the flight and number of teams. In all cases, ties will be broken in the following order:

- Winner of most individual matches.
- Winner of Head to Head match
- Sets. Loser of the fewest number of sets
- Games. Loser of the fewest number of games
- Game winning percentage. Total games won divided by total games played.
- Toss of coin by Mixed Doubles Coordinator

**If a local league has a playoff, it will defer to the Championship Procedures in the event of a tie. (National regulation 2.03H).**

5. Home team is responsible for providing courts, paying court fees, and providing new balls

6. Rained out matches are to be made up within 15 days. If captains cannot agree on a date, League Coordinator will set a date. Make-up matches may be played individually (line by line) or as a team. Players must report for scheduled matches on time. "On time" is defined as the time provided by the home team captain.

\*Example: If the home team captain designates the match to start at 6:00 pm. The players are to be at the courts and ready for warm up to begin at 6:00. Warm ups will be from 6:00 to 6:15. The first match ball is to be played at or by 6:15. If either team's players are not on their assigned court by 6:15 the Point Penalty Process will be engaged. The 15-minute default rule will apply-unless prior arrangements have been made and agreed up by both captains. See Point Penalty Chart below:

### **Point Penalty Chart**

<b>Penalties for Lateness</b>	
<b>:01 – 5:00 Minutes</b>	<b>Loss of Toss Plus 1 Game</b>
<b>5:01 – 10:00 Minutes</b>	<b>Loss of Toss Plus 2 Games</b>
<b>10:01 – 15:00 Minutes</b>	<b>Loss of Toss Plus 3 Games</b>
<b>More Than 15:01 Minutes</b>	<b>Line Default</b>

7. For levels with 10, 11 or 12 teams, play may begin as early as May 15, 2024. In the event that a team is playing in the state playoffs for spring league, captains are asked to work with each other to determine a make-up date.

#### 8. LEAGUE PLAY:

**18 & Over leagues will play on Sunday afternoons between 1:00 – 5:00.**

**40 & Over leagues will play on Tuesday evenings;**

**55 & Over will play on Thursday evenings.**

**65 & Over will play on Friday or Saturday (days and times to be coordinated by captains each week.)**

Evening matches will be scheduled between 6:00 and 8:00. If both captains agree, a different weekend night or weeknight can be chosen for their match.

8. Captains of the home team for the 18 & Over league are to contact the visiting captain no later than Wednesday preceding a Sunday match. Captains of the home team for the 40 & Over level are to contact the visiting captain by Friday preceding a Tuesday match. Captains of the home team for the 55 & Over level are to contact the visiting captain by Saturday preceding a Wednesday match. Captains of the home team for the 65 & Over seniors are to contact the visiting captain by Sunday for a Thursday match.

#### SCORECARDS and LINE-UPS

1. Captains are to print scorecards from TennisLink for each match.
2. Captains are to exchange scorecard line-ups **simultaneously** at match-time. No changes may be made after line-ups are exchanged, except as indicated in the substitution rule. Please note: After scorecards have been exchanged, if a team receives a default, the receiving team **does not have the option to change their line-up!**
3. Substitution. After scorecards have been exchanged, substitution may be made only in the case of injury, illness, disqualification or no show of a player any time **before** the match begins with an onsite player (an individual match is begun when the first ball is put into play). In the event rain or inclement weather forces cancellation and rescheduling of a team match, substitution may be made in any individual match that has not begun. Points allowed for a default during original line-up exchange will stand. Players involved in a default may not participate in rescheduled match.
4. Defaults.
  - a. Default – when a team knows in advance it will not be able to field all three positions. In this case, the # 3 doubles position must be defaulted.
  - b. Forfeit by default – when a player who was expected to play fails to appear or becomes unable to play and no substitute is available. In this case, the position in which the player was scheduled to play is defaulted.
  - c. Default by disqualification – disqualification occurs when a player is ineligible to participate for any reason (i.e., not a member of USTA, underage, doubles partners have combined NTRP rating higher than

- allowed for level of play, doubles partners are more than 1.0 NTRP rating apart). The position in which the disqualified player played is defaulted.
- d. An entire team default in Mixed Doubles is when a team defaults 2 or more individual courts in a 3-court team match. If a team commits a "team default" for any reason during round robin play, all matches for the defaulting team already played or to be played shall be null and void when determining standings but will be used for ratings and advancement purposes. If all teams with a mathematical chance to advance have played the defaulting team in good faith, those matches shall stand as played when determining standings. Teams that default an entire match will default the remainder of their scheduled matches and the opposing teams will receive a BYE for that match. A grievance may be filed against a team that is assessed a team default. **Every effort, by both captains, should be made to avoid a full team default. Please contact your Mixed League Coordinator for help when this situation arises.**
  - e. Players receiving a default must be listed on scorecard; players giving a default should not be listed. The score should be listed as 6-0, 6-0 Default.
  - f. Two players will play together in the higher position when both of their partners do not show in order to avoid two defaults.
5. Retirement. Occurs when an individual match has started and a player is unable to continue due to injury, loss of condition, or emergency. In case of retirement, the score is entered into TennisLink exactly as the score was at the time of retirement. For tiebreak purposes, the non-retiring team shall be credited the number of additional games as would have been won if the match were completed and non-retiring team won every subsequent game.

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER MAKE-UPS**

UPTA has adopted a strict make-up rule for all UPTA leagues regarding matches unable to play on day scheduled due to inclement weather. The adopted rule states:

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 a team 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.

## 2. Rain Procedure Summary

- a. 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.
- b. If the match was never begun, the line-up will be exchanged simultaneously prior to the first line making up the match.

## 3. ALL MATCHES MUST BE COMPLETED WITHIN 15 DAYS OF THE ORIGINAL MATCH DATE.

4. The home team captain must notify the League Coordinator within 24 hours regarding any make-up matches or matches not played as originally scheduled, regardless of the reason.

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 (i.e., going from hard courts to clay, or even to 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.**

\*\* In order to ensure that line-ups are exchanged simultaneously, if a rained-out match is to be made up with the three lines of doubles playing on different days, AND if the captains will not be present when the first line is played, both captains MUST send their line-ups to the league coordinator BEFORE the first line is played. The league coordinator will, once both line-ups have been received, forward the line-ups to the two captains.

## **REPORTING SCORES**

The initial entry of match scores in TennisLink must take place within 24 hours of the completion of the match. After match scores have been entered in TennisLink, they must be confirmed by the opposing team within 24 hours of the initial entry or the initial score will automatically be considered valid. **The winning captain is responsible for entering the scores, but either captain can do so.** Failure to comply may subject teams to a grievance and/or double default. (Southern Reg. 1.04C(2)) Captains must also notify the League Coordinator right away if there is a disputed score.

**If there is an issue with completing a match, it is the responsibility of both captains for notifying the Mixed Doubles Coordinator that there is an issue.**



## **NUMBER OF TEAMS**

When a Local League does not have the required number of teams (two teams) to constitute a level, the USTA SC State League Coordinator, in consultation with affected Local Mixed Doubles Coordinator, shall either:

- (1)** Offer to move that team to another age division offered in that area in that particular level, if applicable.
- (2)** Move individual players to another team in that area, if applicable, or move them to an “Extra Players” flight to hold for future play in other leagues, i.e. Mixed, Combo, etc.
- (3)** The USTA SC Director of Team Play may move a singleton team to another area’s league tree only if it is agreed upon by both local league coordinators and accomplished before that recipient area’s deadline.
- (4)** Complete teams that are moved to play in a local league area other than their home local league must secure home courts in that local league they choose to participate unless both local league coordinators agree on something different.
- (5)** If one singleton team is moved into an already existing league of at least 2 teams, then that singleton team must secure home courts in that host local league where they have been moved and if that singleton team wins that league, they will represent that host league at the State Championship.
  - The singleton team must follow all rules and regulations of the host league.
  - The host league is responsible for all awards, state championship fees (if applicable) and state championship registration.
- (6)** If Local League coordinators agree to combine singleton teams in order to form a league for those teams to qualify, the winning team from that singleton league will be allowed to represent the Local League where they initially registered.
  - Rules and regulation issues that occur during the singleton team league play will be handled by the USTA SC Director of Team Play in consultation with the Local League coordinators that are involved.
  - The area that is represented by the winning team will be responsible for all awards, state championship fees (if applicable) and state championship registration for that team.

- (7) Refund all or a portion of the registration fee in accordance with the Local League policy.

### **PROGRESSION TO STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

1. A player must play **at** least two (2)\* matches in the UPTA 18 & Over, and 40 & Over Mixed League to qualify to play in the State Championships. In the UPTA 55 & Over and 65 & Over Mixed League, a player must play in at least one (1) match to qualify for the State Championships. \*A DEFAULT RECEIVED can act as 1 qualifying match for advancement to the championships; a DEFAULT GIVEN will NOT qualify. Only 1 received default is allowed to act as a qualifying match. The other match must be played out.
2. Players who qualify for South Carolina Mixed Doubles Championships may advance on **ONLY 1** team. If a player is playing on more than 1 team during local league season they must choose which team they will advance on. No accommodations for scheduling will be made at the Mixed State Championships.
3. Each Local Mixed League **MUST** complete their Local Mixed League Season prior to USTA SC State Mixed Doubles League Championships. Note: The required Mixed State 18 & Over and 40 & Over, 55 & Over and 65 & Over team information must be submitted to the USTA SC State Director of Team Play, PJ Fulmer, by July 28, 2024. This information is provided and forwarded by the LLC of UPTA Adult Mixed Leagues.
4. Only the winner of each specific NTRP level in each age division in local league competition shall be entitled to advance to the State Championship. If the winning team is unable to attend, an alternate team, preferably the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team, can be asked to advance. Should the second-place team not be available to attend then a 3<sup>rd</sup> place team from the Local League affected will be invited to advance to State Championships. If the 3<sup>rd</sup> place team from the affected Local League is unable to attend, then the wild card procedure will be utilized to complete the draw.
5. *A \$250.00 deposit from each team advancing to the championships is required. A team that withdraws from a championship after the deadline for submitting paperwork via Match Tennis App, (July 28, 2024) will be subject to a fine of \$250.00 per team, payable to USTA SC. The deposit is to be made to the Match App and will be held until the championship begins; and once the team completes play as scheduled in the championship, the deposit will be released. A grievance may be filed against the withdrawing team in addition to the \$250 fine. Penalties against these team members may include that all members on the submitted roster be banned from participating in any USTA leagues for a period of up to 364 days.*
6. If an entire team defaults their match during a championship, a grievance may be filed against all members on the team roster that is submitted for the championship.

Sanctions against the team members may include that all members on the submitted roster be banned from participating in any USTA leagues for a period of up to 364 days.

**SCHEDULING ACCOMMODATION of UPTA spring teams advancing to State, Sectional or National Championships:** Should a Spring league UPTA team progress to the State, Sectional or National Tennis Championship playoffs that conflict with an UPTA mixed doubles league match, team captains shall make accommodations in UPTA match play - upon request of the team advancing to championships with notification to the Mixed League Coordinator. Rescheduling procedures are the same as the inclement weather guidelines and the team captains must notify the MLC of agreements by e-mail (copy e-mail to opponent captain). The MLC will set a date/time for completion of the match if captains do not agree or do not report scores on TennisLink within two weeks.

**Wildcards:** If needed to balance the draw for state championships, wildcards will be chosen from a random draw based on the number of teams and positions by local league from the current Mixed Doubles season. The number of teams a local league has will be divided by the number of positions that local league qualifies for at the state championships. This number will determine the total chances the local league will have in the random draw. A local league that is drawn for a wildcard and used at a particular level will be eligible to have a wildcard at the same level the following year. A local league whose team is named to replace a team that dropped out of the State Championships will remain eligible for a wildcard at that level the following year. A level must have a minimum of four teams to be eligible for the wildcard draw.

**State Championship Draw:** The state championship draw is a random draw done by the championship referee. Where possible, teams from the same 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 will typically 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) 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.

## **CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Entry fee for the State Mixed Doubles Championships will be \$35.00 per Championship participant.

Teams that withdraw from the championship after the online registration deadline date and before the draws are published will lose their \$250 deposit but may request a

refund for registration fees. Teams that withdraw from the championship after the draws have been published will lose their \$250 deposit and their registration fees. If the UPTA Mixed Doubles provides a stipend and a team withdraws after the draws have been published, that team is responsible for paying UPTA mixed doubles back for all fees forfeited.

**IMPORTANT DEADLINES:**

**Local League Coordinators will submit team information to Director Team Play – July 28, 2024  
Deadline for online registration – August 7, 2023**

**CHAMPIONSHIP DATES AND LOCATIONS:**

**2024 Mixed 18 & Over and 40 & Over State Championships – August 23-25, 2023 – Lexington SC  
2024 Mixed 55 & Over and 65 & Over State Championships — August 24-26, 2023 – Lexington SC**

**WEBSITE FOR MIXED STATE CHAMPIONSHIP INFORMATION AND ONLINE REGISTRATION:**

[www.sctennis.com/mixedchamps](http://www.sctennis.com/mixedchamps)

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**UPTA Mixed League Doubles Coordinator**

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