



2024 UPPER PIEDMONT TENNIS ASSOCIATION
CONSTITUTION, RULES AND REGULATIONS

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ARTICLE I

Name, Legal Status, and Purpose

Section 1. Name The name of this association is Upper Piedmont Tennis Association, hereinafter referred to as UPTA.

Section 2. 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.

Section 3. Affiliation UPTA shall be affiliated with the United States Tennis Association (USTA), the Southern Tennis Association (STA), and the South Carolina Tennis Association (SCTA). 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 SCTA, 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 II

Membership

Section 1. Any person interested in the purpose of UPTA is eligible for membership.

Section 2. Honorary membership may be conferred upon such worthy persons that are selected by the UPTA Board. The total number of honorary members shall not exceed five per cent (5%) of the total membership.

Section 3. 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.

Section 4. By exercising membership in UPTA, each organizational and individual member agrees to abide by the rules and regulations of USTA SC, USTA Southern, and USTA. Members agree to be bound by the grievance procedures of USTA SC, USTA Southern or USTA in any grievance against those organizations or any members, boards, employees, contractors, volunteers, or participants in activities of those organizations. Members also agree to fully exhaust the administrative remedies of those organizations before resorting to any court, agency, or other forum to resolve grievances or complaints.

ARTICLE III

Officers and UPTA Board

Section 1. The Officers of UPTA shall be the Local League Coordinator-(President), Vice President (President Elect), Recording Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2. The PRESIDENT shall be the Chief Executive Officer and Chair of the Board and Executive Committee. The President shall preside at all UPTA board Meetings, Executive Committee Meetings, special meetings, and the Annual Business Meeting, be a member ex-officio of all committees and perform such other duties as are necessarily incident to the office. The President shall also appoint all committee chairs and committee members when appointments are not otherwise specified in these Bylaws.

Section 3. The EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT shall assist the President in the performance of duties and shall exercise all powers of the President in case of absence or incapacity. The Executive Vice-President shall customarily succeed to the office of the President at the completion of a term as Executive Vice-President.

Section 4. The SECRETARY shall be responsible for keeping records, certifying voting rights, giving notice, and keeping minutes of the Annual Business, special, Board, and Executive Committee meetings. The Secretary shall also perform other duties assigned by the President, the Board, or the Executive Committee.

Section 5. The TREASURER shall be responsible for the management and oversight of UPTA funds. The treasurer shall assist in preparing a budget for the forthcoming fiscal year.

Section 6. The IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT, who has served at least eighteen months as President, shall be an officer and have the same voting rights as any other voting Board Member. If a President does not serve at least eighteen months, the Board, prior to the next regularly scheduled election, shall determine if this person shall serve as Immediate Past President. If it is determined that this person shall not serve as Immediate Past President, the Board may elect, by majority vote, another UPTA Past President to serve in that role.

Section 7. The UPTA local league will appoint a Local League Coordinator (LLC) to implement and administer the USTA League Tennis Program on the local level and, in conjunction with the Advisory Committee, have the authority to interpret the UPTA Local League's rules, regulations, and procedures.

Section 8. The UPTA Board will consist of the Officers, Flight Coordinators, Members-at-Large, and a Media/Promotions Coordinator.

Section 9. The Flight Coordinators will work with any flight other than the one in which they play. The UPTA Board will have the authority to appoint additional Flight Coordinators as needed.

Section 10. The UPTA Board will also have the authority to replace any local league official/administrator who resigns before their term of office is completed. The UPTA Board, with a two-thirds majority vote, may remove a local league official/administrator from office. The Board shall meet at the discretion of the President.

ARTICLE IV:

Committees and Sub-Committees

Section 1. There shall be committees and sub-committees as are necessary for the conduct of business. The requirement for the committees imposed by the Article shall apply to all such committees and sub-committees unless otherwise specified in the By-Laws.

Section 2. UPTA shall have the following standing committees:

A. Executive

- a. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Executive Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Immediate Past President.
- b. The Executive committee shall be empowered to act as necessary for the management of UPTA between Board meetings. The President shall notify the board of actions taken by the Executive committee no later than the next meeting of the Board.

c. The Executive committee, upon recommendation from the Grievance Committee, has the authority to extend sanctions across any or all programs administered or supported by UPTA when such sanctions are imposed due to violation of any of the following:

(1) UPTA League Rules

(2) USTA SC Articles of Incorporation

(3) Policies, Rules and Regulations and By-Laws of USTA, USTA Southern and USTA SC.

d. The Executive committee may recommend to USTA that a member be expelled.

B. Nominating

a. The Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, appointed by the Executive Committee, who may be the Incumbent President and at least three additional members.

b. The Committee shall prepare a slate of nominees for all positions subject to election at the Annual Business Meeting. Such nominations shall be filed with the UPTA Secretary at least 60 days prior to the date of the Annual Business Meeting. If a vacancy occurs prior to the Annual Business Meeting, the vacancy shall be filled by the Executive Committee and the name of such person shall be placed in nomination at the Annual Business meeting by the Nominating Committee.

c. During elections at the Annual Business meeting, nominations may not be accepted from the floor.

C. Grievance

a. The Statewide Local League Grievance Committee and Statewide Local League Grievance Appeals Committee 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.

2024-2025 UPTA Representative: Terri Errington

D. Budget, Audit, By-Laws, and Policies

a. The Budget, Audit, By-Laws, and Policies Committee shall consist of a minimum of three members including the UPTA Treasurer. The Committee shall develop a proposed budget for the upcoming year and submit it to the Board for approval. During the year, the Treasurer shall monitor the organization's financial position and recommend any necessary budget revisions to the Board for approval. This Committee will liaison with the CPA contracted to conduct scheduled audits of UPTA.

b. When necessary, the Committee shall propose additions, deletions and/or changes to the By-Laws and Policies to the Board.

Section 3. The President shall appoint chairs and members to all standing committees specified in these By-Laws. The President shall have the authority to establish other committees and subcommittees, appointing chairs and members, as necessary for the conduct of business of UPTA. The President shall have authority to merge, reorganize, redefine, and/or eliminate any committee not specifically established in these By-Laws.

ARTICLE V:

Annual Business Meeting

Section 1. Annual Meeting The annual meeting of UPTA for the election of officers and for transaction of any other business shall be held during the month of August, as fixed by the Executive Committee. The place of the annual meeting shall be designated by the President. At least ten days and not more than thirty days before such an annual meeting, a written notice shall be mailed to each team captain of UPTA. Roberts Rules of Order shall be the rules of order for the meeting of UPTA. Special meetings of UPTA may be called by the President or the Executive Committee at any time as needed. At all the meetings of UPTA, those present shall constitute a quorum and a majority of those present shall constitute the action of UPTA.

Section 2. Amendments to these by-laws shall be subject to alteration, amendments, or repeal; and the new by-laws may be approved at the annual meeting provided that at least ten days before such meeting a notice of the proposed amendment be available to each UPTA Constitution, Rules, and Regulations – Page 2 of 12 team captain. Any amendment must receive two-thirds majority to pass. UPTA local rules may have to be corrected or changed annually without approval of local membership if State, Sectional, or National USTA Regulations are changed.

Article VI:

Non-Discrimination

Section 1. UPTA shall comply with all federal and state laws and regulations pertaining to non-discrimination and equal opportunity.

Section 2. UPTA welcomes all people who play, watch, support or enjoy the game of tennis into our events, programs membership and leadership and will not discriminate against any person based on age, gender, race, ethnicity, creed, sexual orientation, color, physical condition, or national origin. Moreover, we believe that the growth of tennis hinges on effective outreach to groups that have not traditionally been heavily involved in the sport and we will actively solicit and support the participation of such groups. Nonetheless, to assure fair competition, participation in tournaments, leagues and other events may be limited on the basis of gender, age, skill level or physical ability.

ARTICLE VII

Conduct of business

Section 1. The fiscal year of UPTA shall be from January 1 to December 31.

Section 2. UPTA shall conduct business in compliance with federal and state law, including laws and regulations pertaining to corporate compliance.

Section 3. The fiscal management of UPTA shall be overseen by the Board, and on its behalf, by the Treasurer and the Budget and Audit Committee. The Board shall establish policies and require reports as necessary to ensure that financial activities are conducted in a legal and efficient manner.

Section 4. The accounts of UPTA shall be audited as determined by the Board. An audited financial statement shall be made available to members on request.

Section 5. The President or the Executive Director may authorize the reasonable reimbursement of expenses incurred by any person in conjunction with the business of UPTA. Reimbursements are subject to review by the Executive Committee. Requests must be made in writing, utilizing the UPTA expense report document and submitted for approval.

Section 6. In the event of its dissolution, the assets of UPTA shall be distributed for exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code to another IRS-approved 501(c)3 organization. No profit or benefit may incur to the benefit of any Board member, staff member, USTA member or individual.

ARTICLE VIII

MAJOR REGULATION CHANGES: *National and Southern*

USTA LEAGUE

MAJOR REGULATION CHANGES FOR 2024 (USTA)

- 1. For the USTA League program organization at the National level for the Adult division, 40 & Over age group, team matches at National Championships will consist of 1 Singles and 4 Doubles matches, beginning with the 2024 National Championships.** Sectional Associations have the option, but are not required to adopt this format for the 2024 Championship Year. Conforming changes are reflected in **1.04(A)** and **2.03(E)** and the **Glossary**.

Additional conforming changes:

- **1.04(D)4** Minimum number of rostered players increases from 7 to 9 players
- **(2.03A(5))** Minimum number of rostered players required at National Championships increases from 7 to 9 players
- **(2.03K)** Minimum number of players at all championships with a 5 court match format of 1 Singles and 4 Doubles changes from 4 to 5 players

- 2. For two team leagues, Sectional Associations have the authority to require from 40–100% of the rostered players to be at level.**

1.04D(5) Two Team Leagues. If any Adult Division Age Group consists of only two teams in a level of play, each team must maintain its roster with a minimum of 40 percent of its players at the designated NTRP level of play. A Section may increase the required minimum percentage. The Adult Division 55 & Over Age Group that uses combined NTRP rating levels will not be required to comply with this Regulation.

- 3. A player may not have more than one USTA membership account/USTA Number**

1.04E(2) Membership. All individuals who compete in the USTA League must be current USTA members in good standing through the local league season. Any individual who progresses to a championship level in the USTA League must be a current USTA member through each championship progression. Individuals shall only have one USTA membership account/ USTA number. Individuals who obtain more than one USTA membership account/ USTA number may be subject to a grievance and such suspension penalties as outlined under the League Suspension Point System.

- 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 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 Levels</u> <u>3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5</u> <u>OR</u> 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 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 Levels</u> <u>3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5</u> <u>OR</u> Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0	Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0

5. 2.05E(1)–(5) that described the eligibility criteria for players 60 and older to appeal their rating down have been removed from the 2024 USTA League Regulations. The opportunity for these players to appeal their rating has not changed. The player can appeal their rating with a few clicks, and will receive an immediate answer, based on the criteria programmed into TennisLink. As such, the specific criteria are not needed in these regulations.

MAJOR REGULATION CHANGES FOR 2024 (USTA SOUTHERN)

- Southern Regulation 3.03E(3): NTRP Grievances filed within 7 days of the start date of the players and/or captain's local league playoff and/or 14 days of the start date of the player's and/or captain's State or Section 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.
- Southern Regulation + Chart 2.01A(4)

NTRP LEVELS OF PLAY				
DIVISION	AGE GROUP	LOCAL LEAGUES	ALL CHAMPIONSHIPS BELOW NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
Mixed	18 & Over	Straight Levels 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 Levels</u> <u>2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5</u> <u>OR</u> Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, <u>10.0</u>	Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0
	40 & Over	Straight Levels 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 Levels</u> <u>3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5</u> <u>OR</u> Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0	Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0

ARTICLE IX

UPTA WOMEN'S LEAGUE RULES

GENERAL

1. The UPTA Women'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 Women's local league rules, regulations and procedures. The local league coordinator has the authority to change schedule deadline dates as needed.
2. There will be six Adult 18 & Over flights : 5.0, 4.5, 4.0, 3.5, 3.0, and 2.5. There will be 5 Adult 40 & Over flights: 4.5, 4.0, 3.5, 3.0 and 2.5. Flights may be added or deleted as needed.
3. A player may play at a higher NTRP level (one level only) but may never play on a level lower than her NTRP.
4. Each Adult 18 & Over team must have at least 8 players*. Each Adult 40 & Over team must have at least 9 players. *Exception to this rule is the 2.5 or 5.0 levels (at least 5 players). Each Adult 55 & Over, Adult 65 & Over, Adult 75 & 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 League Type, 40 & Over League Type, 55 & Over, 65 & Over, 75 & Over on teams in separate Local Leagues in South Carolina during the same season.

5. PLAYING ON MULTIPLE TEAMS

- a. A player may play at the same NTRP level in the same age division on teams in separate Leagues in South Carolina during the same season. If both teams in the same age division advance to the State Championships, the player must choose to only play on one team at that same level.
 - b. During the SC League season, a player may participate in more than one NTRP level in the (18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over, 65 & Over, 70 & Over) age divisions in the same local league during the same season.
 - c. A player **may not** play at the same NTRP level in the same age division (18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over, 65 & Over, 70 & Over) on teams in the same local league.
 - d. NO accommodation will be made for scheduling conflicts during the local season or during any championships for players on multiple teams.
6. All team members must be paid members of UPTA, South Carolina Tennis Association, and a current member of USTA in good standing, be domiciled within the boundaries of a USTA Sectional Association and have reached the age of eighteen years prior to or during the calendar year in which such player plays her first adult local league match or reached the age of forty years prior to or during the calendar year in which such player plays her first Adult 40 & Over local league match. Adult 55 & Over players must have reached the age of fifty-five years; Adult 65 & Over players must have reached the age of

sixty-five years; Adult 75 & Over players must have reached the age of seventy-five years prior to or during the calendar year. **Once a player has registered for a team and paid registration their registration fees on TennisLink, there will be no refund of any fees paid once the schedule is published.**

7. *Courts and court surfaces:*

1) *Southern Regulation 1.04D(6): The use of tennis-related blended lines is permitted on courts used for local league matches. The use of other lines for another sport, such as Pickleball, is not permitted on courts used for local league matches. Except as otherwise provided in local league regulations.*

2) *“Home teams” will have the choice of court surface for which they wish to play their home matches. Court surfaces may be any combination of hard and clay. Alternatively “lined” courts may be used with the approval of **both captains and the players** involved on that court.*

8. Each team must guarantee use of 3 courts for UPTA Adult 18 & Over and Adult 40 & Over matches (including rain make-ups). 2 courts are required for the following UPTA matches: Adult 55 & Over, 65 & Over, 75 & Over, all Adult Singles and all Combo Adult matches, including rain make-ups. Any approved USTA surface is permissible, including indoor and outdoor (soft, carpet, grass, and hard). It is the home team’s responsibility to have courts and bathrooms available at match time. Separated courts may be used but captains must designate the exact location of any separated courts prior to the match.

9. A player must play in at least two Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over and Adult 55 & Over matches during the local league season to be eligible for state and sectional championships. (USTA League Regulations booklet, page 20, #2.03A(3)a). A default may count as a qualifying match played if the player receiving the default is present, on court, to receive the default. It will not be counted as a match played for the player who is giving the default. To generate a year end NTRP computer rating a player must play 3 qualifying matches. **Qualifying leagues include Adult League and Tri-Level League.**

MATCHES REQUIRED TO ADVANCE TO CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR ADULT AND MIXED DIVISIONS			
SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AND BELOW		NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	
LOCAL MATCHES REQUIRED	DEFAULTS THAT COUNT	TOTAL MATCHES REQUIRED THROUGH SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP	DEFAULTS THAT COUNT
To advance to any championship level through Sectional Championship	To advance to any championship level through Sectional Championship	To advance to National Championship	To advance to National Championship
2 matches on the same team	1 default received shall count	All players other than self-rated and computer-rated appealed players: 3 matches on the same team	1 default received shall count
Section Option to require Self-rated and computer- rated appealed players to play up to 4 matches on the same team	Section Option to declare if 1 default received shall or shall not count	Self-rated and computer-rated appealed players 4 matches on the same team	No default received shall count
RETIRED matches shall count for all players.			

10. 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 starts 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 for 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 rescheduling of a match that has already begun, substitutions may be made in any individual lines that have not begun; i.e. staggered lines. The substituting player can not be in the original lineup and players may not be moved within the match lineup card. Substituting players must be on the roster at the time of line assignment and prior to the beginning of match play. Verbal or written defaults received during the original lineup exchange will stand.

- To receive a win by default, the non-defaulting player or players must be present on court, ready to play. However, if a team captain advises his/her opponent in advance of the default, he/she, in effect, waives the requirement for the non-defaulting player(s) to be present in order to receive the default.

- If a captain is advised prior to the match that the opponent must default one or more positions and that captain knows that he/she would also have had to default a position, it is incumbent upon that captain to demonstrate good sportsmanship and declare a double default rather than to accept the win.
- If a team defaults on an individual match during or prior to the line-up exchange, and inclement weather forces the match to be postponed before a point is played in any individual match, then the default is cancelled.
- If both teams default on the same position, neither team will receive a win and the scorecard will indicate a double default.

There are situations that delays in starting play MAY be accommodated:

An unexpected, verifiable public situation (major accident, road closed, traffic re-routed) if the player communicates with their captain and the captain is able to communicate the situation to the other captain by scheduled start time. The late player is to stay in communication in transit. The delay will be considered for that position(s) only. All other matches shall start at the scheduled start time. The maximum waiting time before default is 20 minutes after scheduled match time.

11. **“HOME”** captains are to enter score results into TennisLink on match day or within 24 hours. If the **“HOME captain”** fails to enter the match score **within 24 hours**, the **“visiting”** captain may enter the match score. The non-reporting captain is to confirm or dispute the score entry within 24 hours. If the match score is disputed, the Flight Coordinator is to be notified IMMEDIATELY with the details of the dispute including the match number. Failure to comply may subject teams to a grievance and/or double default. All players from disputed positions are to be contacted and must agree. If they do not agree the match score will stand as recorded.

12. No electronic devices of any type will be allowed on the court. **This includes cell phones and smart watches.** Any infraction during the point (**while the ball is in play**) will result in the loss of a point for the offending player. The player may be asked to remove the watch or cover for the duration of the match.

13. **Self-Rated player regulations:** 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 regarding a player’s tennis history will subject the player, the captain and/or others who condoned inaccurate self-rating to sanctions and disqualification. Players with expired ratings will not be allowed to self-rate at a lower level than their last valid NTRP rating.

14. Bathroom breaks may be taken at any time, but every effort should be made to take them on a changeover. No coaching is allowed during bathroom breaks. To avoid the appearance of possible coaching, players are asked to go with their partner, their opponents, or alone. Bathroom breaks are not a rest period. If a player is found guilty of receiving coaching or utilizing a bathroom break as a rest period a loss of game may be awarded to the opposing team.

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

SCHEDULE

1. Spring play will begin in February. The number of matches will be determined by the number of teams in each flight.

2. Home team captains are to contact visiting captains or co-captains at least 3 days prior to the match to discuss place, time, court surface, and order of matches. If matches are to be staggered, the visiting team shall have first, third, and fifth choices determining who plays early or late with the home team having second and fourth choices. If five courts are not available at the beginning of play, those positions not starting at 9:30 have the option of arriving no later than 10. If matches are staggered, those positions waiting to play will begin their match when the first court is available-regardless of the surface. Home team captains are to inform visiting captains of court surfaces to be used at each position prior to the lineup exchange. The home team may provide some form of refreshment (discuss this between the 2 captains at time of contact). Please communicate the necessity of providing their own beverage/water if not available on site.

3. The **scheduled match time** for all in town matches in UPTA is **9:30AM**. The **scheduled match time** for **ALL** out-of-town matches in UPTA are determined by captains' communications but no later than 10:00AM. **Players are to arrive by 9:00 am – this is 30 minutes prior to the scheduled match start time.** Line ups are **to be exchanged no later than 9:15 am** so players may warm up 15 minutes prior to the scheduled match time. A player is NOT considered late until the scheduled match time has been reached. Players arriving after the scheduled match time are subject to the point penalty system (PPS) chart included in your UPTA RULE BOOK (*page 18 of the UPTA Constitution, Rules and Regulations). Players under the Point Penalty System are to be given a 5 minute warm up regardless of their arrival time. If a total of 15 minutes has elapsed and the player is still not on the court, that line is recorded as a default. However, the line may be played "for fun" after the late players arrive if they agree to do so. Staggered matches are also subject to this rule if players are not on the court 15 minutes after they become aware that a court is available. No player is considered late until the scheduled match time has been reached. Out of town matches include teams from Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties. No team can demand that a visiting team arrive earlier (9:00 for in town matches and 9:30 for out-of-town matches) in order to accommodate court or player availability. If both captains agree to arrive earlier, that is a convenience and should be an option.

4. Matches **must** be played in advance of the originally scheduled match for the following reasons:

A. The match date interferes with a league championship which includes all groups of Adult, Combo Doubles Adult, Singles Adult and Mixed Doubles Adult matches. This includes South Carolina State Championships, Sectional Championships and National Championships.

5. Matches **may be** played in advance of the originally scheduled match for the following reasons:

A. A majority of team members are affected by school holidays. However, both captains must agree to this change or else the match must be played as scheduled.

EARLY PLAY PROCEDURE: At least three weekday mornings dates are to be given to the visiting captain to play the match early. The age group/division scheduled day of play is not a viable option when presenting weekday morning options (ex: for 18 & Over makeup options Friday cannot be one of the three options). Matches may be played on an individual basis, line by line once the captains have exchanged the **entire** line-up cards. If no agreement can be reached on a date to play, the flight coordinator has the final say. If an earlier agreed-upon match date is rained out, and no other day can be agreed upon, then **the original date of the match stands**. The flight coordinator will be notified by the home team captain of any changes to the original schedule.

MATCH PLAY

1. **A local league season will consist of all local league matches played. Playoffs are no longer considered part of the local league season.** Adult 18 & Over matches will consist of 2 singles and 3 doubles, except for the 2.5, 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.

- a. **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 RATING LEVEL FOR ENTRY INTO LEAGUE PLAY		
DIVISION	AGE GROUP	PLAYER'S NTRP RATING LEVEL
ADULT	18 & Over 40 & Over 55 & Over Straight NTRP Levels	Current NTRP level and/or up to one level higher than the player's current NTRP level.
	55 & Over Combined NTRP Levels (9.0)	Combined NTRP rating levels of partners shall not exceed the team NTRP level. NTRP rating level difference between partners shall not exceed 1.0. The minimum NTRP Level for: 6.0 is 2.5; 7.0 is 3.0; 8.0 is 3.5; 9.0 is 4.0
MIXED	18 & Over 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0 40 & Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0 Straight NTRP Levels	Current NTRP level and/or up to one level above the player's current NTRP level.
	18 & Over 40 & Over Combined NTRP Levels	Combined NTRP rating levels of partners shall not exceed the team NTRP level. NTRP difference between partners shall not exceed 1.0. The minimum NTRP Level for: 6.0 is 2.5; 7.0 is 3.0; 8.0 is 3.5; 9.0 is 4.0; 10.0 is 4.5.

2. Coman tiebreak procedure (rotation) is used in all tiebreaks. "10-point **Match** tiebreak" is played in lieu of the 3rd set in all league matches. Play is continuous in a tiebreak. There is no sitting during the changeover during a tiebreak. **NOTE:** score will be listed in TennisLink for Match tiebreak scoring as (ex. 7-6, 2-6, 1-0). A match starts when the ball is put into play with the first service. Players must win games by 2 per set. If both teams tie at 6 games apiece in a set, a seven point **set** tiebreak game (first team to 7 by 2 points) as specified by USTA will be in effect. If teams split sets then a **Match** tiebreak game will be played (first team to 10 by 2).

3. The team results in Tennis Link will determine the winner.

4. In the event of a tie at the end of the season, 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 number games won divided by total number games played)
- F. Toss of coin. The coin shall be tossed by a league official.

5. If it is necessary for a flight to be divided due to 14 or more teams, a divisional playoff will determine the winning team using a single elimination format. The winning team is determined by final TennisLink results. (See Playoff Format)

6. Play is continuous after the first game of each set. Serve must begin 25 seconds after the previous point ends. A 90 Second break is allowed during changeovers. A 2-minute break is allowed between the first and second sets or before a match tiebreak.

7. **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.

8. LINE DEFAULTS:

A. The number of defaults allowed an UPTA team is determined by the number of matches played during the season.

- 1. 5-6 matches - Three defaults
- 2. 7-8 matches - Four defaults
- 3. 9-10 matches - Five defaults
- 4. 11-12 matches - Six defaults

If a team exceeds the limit of defaults any further matches will be considered a "bye".

B. Defaults start with the lowest positions first. Defaults shall be given by team captain or coordinator in accordance with the following:

- 1. Singles- the #2 singles must be defaulted before the #1 singles may be defaulted.
- 2. Doubles- the #3 doubles must be defaulted before #2 doubles; #2 doubles is defaulted before #1 doubles.

3. Examples:

- a. One player absent- Default #2 singles or #3 doubles.
- b. Two players absent Default #1 and #2 singles or #3 doubles.

4. Due to the frequency of matches being staggered, defaults at the positions other than #3 doubles and #2 singles are showing up on the scorecards. If you have a player written on your lineup card who fails to show up once the lineup card has been exchanged and the match has been called, another player on the roster, but not in the original lineup can be substituted before the 15-minute default expires.

5. Whole team defaults are not allowed. For 5 line matches at least 3 positions must be played. In 4 line matches 3 positions must be played. In 3 line matches 2 positions must be played. Any team defaulting more positions in a single match as per this paragraph will be sanctioned. Do not declare a default prior to match day.

C. To receive a win by default, the non-defaulting player or players must be present on the court, ready to play. However, if a team captain advises his/her opponent in advance of the default, he/she, in effect waives the requirement for the non-defaulting player(s) to be present in order to receive the default.

1. If a captain is advised prior to the match that the opponent must default one or more positions and that captain knows that he/she would also have had to default a position, it is incumbent upon that captain to demonstrate good sportsmanship and declare a double default rather than accept the win.

2. If a team defaults an individual match during or prior to the line-up exchange, and inclement weather forces the match to be postponed before a point is played in any individual match, then the default is cancelled.

3. If both teams default the same position, neither team will receive a win and the scorecard will indicate a double default.

4. A notation should be made on the scorecard to indicate that it is a default. Do not write the names of players giving the default, only the names of those receiving the default.

D. If there is a default by each team for the same position, the captain will enter the score as a double default in Tennis Link. There will be a total of 4 points considered for that match. If the teams tie 2-2, the winner will be determined in Tennis Link.

E. The UPTA Board of Directors reserves the right to examine, and, if necessary, take appropriate action, if any team advancing to post season play has received defaults which have given them a point advantage.

ALLOWABLE DEFAULTS AT ALL CHAMPIONSHIPS				
DIVISION	AGE GROUP	MINIMUM NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE PLAYERS REQUIRED TO BE AVAILABLE PER MATCH	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF POSITIONS THAT CAN BE DEFAULTED	REQUIRED POSITION(S) AND ORDER OF MATCH DEFAULTS
Adult	18 & Over 2.5 women, 2.5 men & 5.0	3	1	No. 1 Singles Or No. 2 Doubles
	18 & Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 <u>(using 5-court format of 2-Singles 3-Doubles)</u>	4	2	<u>Singles:</u> No. 2 Singles before No. 1 Singles <u>Doubles:</u> No. 3 Doubles before No. 2 Doubles, and No. 2 Doubles before No. 1 Doubles
	40 & Over 3.0, 3.5 4.0, 4.5 <u>(using 5-court format of 1-Singles 4-Doubles)</u>	<u>5</u>	2	<u>No. 1 Singles And/Or Doubles:</u> <u>No. 4 Doubles before No. 3 Doubles, No. 3 Doubles before No. 2 Doubles</u>
	40 & Over 3.0, 3.5 4.0, 4.5 (using 4-court Format of <u>1-Singles 3-Doubles</u>)	5	1	No. 1 Singles <u>Doubles:</u> No. 3 Doubles before No. 2 Doubles, and No. 2 Doubles before No. 1 Doubles
Adult	55 & Over	4 players who are eligible to combine and compete	1	No. 3 Doubles
Mixed	18 & Over 40 & Over			

9. NTRP Disqualification:

- Southern Regulation: 2.04E(1) Local. In the event of an NTRP Dynamic Disqualification from a particular level of play, the Section shall determine and publish in its regulations what matches, if any, shall be considered losses. The disqualified matches shall be considered 6-0, 6-0 wins for the opposing player or doubles team.
- Southern Regulation: If a Self-Rated (S), Self-Rated Appealed (S), Computer/Medical Appealed (A), and/or Dynamic (D) player is promoted from a particular level of play, the player shall cease play immediately from the NTRP level being promoted from and graduate to the next higher NTRP level. All prior matches shall stand in good faith. Local League occurring at the State Championships (LLAS): If any players are promoted during the LLAS, the player shall cease play immediately from the NTRP level being promoted from and graduate to the next NTRP level. All prior matches shall stand in good faith.
- If they are playing above their self-rate number level, participation and all match results will stand as completed in that level.

10. The only time a player may leave the court is to:

- Contact the captain to settle a dispute.
- Take a bonafide restroom visit (these may be taken anytime during the match).
- Fix an item of clothing necessary for play. (A player may not leave the court to fix or obtain a new racquet.)

11. No linesperson or umpire will be provided for scheduled league 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 will go to the net to recall the points and go back to the last agreed upon score. If a conflict occurs during match play over line calls, the players involved may request that the captain of each team appoint one player from each team to stand court side. They will not call the lines but may confirm the call if asked. If no one is available, the match may be suspended until 1 player from each team is available.

12. Spectators may not aid players in making a line call or in determining the correct score. Spectators may not participate in the match in any way and must refrain from doing so even if asked by the players. Spectators may quietly watch a match in progress. They will not sit or stand at the end of the court immediately behind the servers or receivers if it is distracting to the players. Spectators may quietly clap for points well played. It should be remembered that the well-played point should be applauded regardless of who won the point. It is considered to be poor tennis etiquette to clap for unforced errors. 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 her 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.

13. Foot Faults: Constant and blatant foot faulting, giving the server a definite advantage, should be politely brought to the attention of the server during the match. In non-officiated matches you may not claim the point.

14. Let: ***Any player on the court*** may call a let as soon as the player becomes aware of the ball in the playing area. The player loses the right to call a let if there is an unreasonable delay in making the call. Match balls must be secured by all players on the court. Example: If a ball is dropped on court during play due to falling out of a pocket or uniform a let cannot be called by the player.

DISPUTES ON COURT

1. In matches where there is no official, as in 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 and UPTA rules that govern play.

2. Coaches or club pros must refrain from intrusion in discussions or negotiations between players or captains. It is the responsibility of the two captains, not the pro, to decide on the resolution of the incident.

3. 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 themselves. If that is not possible, the procedure to follow is:

A. A player should inform the opponent of the problem and her intention to leave the court to obtain the assistance of her captain.

B. The captain should contact the opponent's captain, and they should try to resolve the dispute with the players. If the captains are involved in playing a match, the players may have to suspend their play until the captains are available to assist them. If a captain is not present, her representative will be responsible for team decisions.

1. **Complaint:** A complaint against a player or team alleging a violation during local league competition shall be filed in **writing** with the Local League Coordinator prior to the commencement of the next team match, or within twenty-four hours after the end of local league play, whichever occurs first.

2. **Grievance:** If the captains and players cannot agree on a resolution to the conflict, the offended player(s) may:

a. Notify the opponent that in her opinion a violation of the rules has occurred. She is going to continue to play but she is “playing under protest” and intends to **file a written grievance** with UPTA after the match is completed. Her captain would write on the lineup card “Played under Protest”.

b. Stop play, telling her opponent why, and have her captain indicate on the lineup card that the match was stopped in protest. The exact score of the match when play stopped must be recorded and signed by both captains or their representatives.

c. A grievance against a player or team alleging a violation during local league competition shall be filed utilizing the online USTA South Carolina Statewide Local League Grievance Process prior to the commencement of the next team match, or within twenty-four hours after the end of local league play, whichever occurs first. Exception: a grievance based on ineligibility under 3.03B(1) & B(3), (Southern Section Regulations) which may be filed after knowledge thereof.

4. 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.

5. The infraction of any USTA, STA, SCTA, or UPTA regulation may result in the loss of the entire match points against that particular opponent.

6. Add-on players will be accepted up to two matches prior to the end of the round robin league season.

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 utilizing the online grievance filing process located on the USTA South Carolina website 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 South Carolina Local League Grievance and Grievance Appeals Committee – 2024

James Teal – Co-Chair Grievance Committee
Scott Zobrist – Co-Chair Grievance Committee
Debby Bosselman – Chair – Grievance Appeals Committee

Local League Representatives

Jeannette Hammers (AATL)
Jonathan Watkins (BBTL)
Toni Odom (CTL)
Malinda Griffin (FTA)
Abby Martin (GATA)
Susie Honeycutt (GSTL)
Sue Cook (HHTL)

Thea Salmonson (LATA)
Art Welling (LCTA)
Becky Williamson (LCTA)
Chris Jones (LCTA)
Stephanie Stanton (MCTL)
Kim Northcutt (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 USTA SC Statewide Local League Grievance Committee may be appealed to the USTA SC Statewide Local League Grievance Appeals Committee. The decision of the USTA SC Statewide Local League Grievance Appeals Committee is final and binding.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

1. TEMPERATURES

- A. If the temperature (not wind chill) is below 32 degrees F and **both captains agree**, the match may be postponed.
- B. If the Heat Index is 100 degrees F or above and **both captains agree**, the match may be postponed.
- C. It is the responsibility/decision of the home team to determine if their court surface is unplayable. If the courts are unplayable, the match is treated the same as a rained-out match and would follow those procedures of play.

2. IN THE EVENT OF RAIN:

A. Completed individual matches will stand as played. Incomplete matches must be resumed by the same players at the exact set, game and point as they stood when play stopped. Any point played is always counted and never replayed. Matches should be resumed on the same surface (clay or hard) on which they were started. The Local League Coordinator can change the surface if time factors are involved. Matches can be moved indoors. *Teams that have indoor HOME courts need to utilize them in order to complete the match. The home team will be responsible for indoor court fees. Any player on the court may suspend play due to rain. Rescheduling is to be done immediately.*

B. If teams have assembled to play but the match is delayed or interrupted by rain, wet courts, or frozen soft courts, (it is optional to go indoors) the captains are required to exchange line-ups at that time. If a match is suspended due to rain, players may agree to wait and see if the weather improves within an hour. If the match is suspended for more than 10 minutes, a 10-minute warm-up will be allowed once the players take the court.

C. New balls may be opened by any player for any reason to replace wet or damaged balls.

3. RAIN PROCEDURES SUMMARY:

A. If teams agree to make up the match line by line: Both captains must send their line ups with players' phone number and email address to their flight coordinator by 12:00 noon the day of the rain out. The flight coordinator must exchange match lineups to match captains upon receipt of both lineups. Home team players must contact their opponents no later than 9pm the same day. **If the choice is to play the make up as a team the lineup exchange is done on the**

day agreed upon. No need to exchange information with the flight coordinator. Flight Coordinator information can be found on the UPTA website under the captain's corner tab. www.upta.usta.com

B. The home team offers the visitors at least 3 weekday dates to play anytime in the next 15 days. Players need to be aware of their facilities policies for any "black out days" pertaining to league play. The visiting team must choose from the days offered. The days offered cannot include the scheduled league play day. *For example: If 18 & Over Adult is played on Friday morning. Friday morning is not a viable day to offer as part of the three weekday/morning options. If the visitors cannot play on the dates offered, players not in the line-up may be substituted in the match. If lines cannot be completed within the 15 day extension those unplayed lines will result in a double default. There is no extension to the 15 day limit.

PLAYOFF PROCEDURES & RULES

- UPTA playoff format will be single elimination. The top team in each division will play the other to determine who will qualify to represent UPTA for their division at the SC State Championships.
- The playoff match schedule will be published after the league season ends.
- These rules apply to all UPTA League type playoffs.
- A letter will be sent to all captains prior to the playoffs. The letter will include court surface, start time, location, schedule, and rules for the playoffs. This does not guarantee the State Championships will be played on the same surface as that is decided by the State Championship referee when the draw is completed.
- Teams are to report to the designated playoff site(s) no later than 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time. Please encourage players to use this time to visit the restroom rather than during the 15-minute warm up time.
- UPTA will provide cans of unopened surface appropriate USTA approved yellow balls for all playoff matches. The site coordinator will hand out the balls when court assignments are given. The home team will open the balls and spin the racquet to determine side.
- All players are to bring water or sports drinks onto the court. Snacks are optional. Ice and cups will be provided by UPTA at all playoff sites.

- All players are to report to the site coordinator upon arrival. Captains will be given line up cards at that time. Rules are read aloud by the site coordinator at the designated start time. If staggering of lines is necessary due to court availability, the choices between the 2 captains will be written down by the site coordinator. After the welcome, the captains are to give the site coordinator their line up cards and all court assignments are announced. Once cards are exchanged, they cannot be given back.
- Score markers will be given to the home team to be placed on each court unless already provided.
- Players will be allowed a 15-minute warm up once they take the court. At no time prior to the match can players practice on the site courts where their match is being played.
- Coman tiebreak procedure (rotation) is used in all tiebreaks. A "10-point Match tiebreak" is played in lieu of the 3rd set in all matches. During individual matches play is continuous after the first game of each set. 90 seconds is allowed on changeovers and a 2-minute break is allowed between the first and second sets as well as the "match" tiebreak. Coaching is NOT allowed during any match 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.
- Good sportsmanship and good line calls are required at all times by all players in UPTA. Remember that a ball 99.99% out is 100% IN. Players are to call the score loudly after each point and call it often to avoid confusion.

- At no time will a spectator become part of a match being played. If a problem arises, any discussion must remain between the players on court and is to take place quietly at the net so as not to disturb those playing next to them. If there is a problem with line calls, only a player on the court may ask for the site coordinator.
- Players may sit for 90 seconds during each changeover (excluding tie break changeovers) except after the 1st game in each set when play is continuous. There is a 2-minute break in between the 1st and 2nd sets, as well as between the 2nd set and the “match” tiebreak.
- Bathroom breaks may be taken at any time. There is no time limit, but every effort should be made to take them on a changeover. To avoid the appearance of possible coaching, players are asked to go with their partner or their opponents, or alone. Bathroom breaks are not allocated for resting or conditioning.
- As soon as you complete your match, pack up your things, quietly leave the court in a timely manner and report your score to the site coordinator. Captains are responsible for checking all scores recorded with the site coordinator to ensure they are correct. Each captain must sign the score card to validate its accuracy, but the site coordinator will enter the scores in TennisLink.
- **No electronic devices of any kind** are allowed to be used on court. ***This includes smart watches and cellphones.*** 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.
- All USTA/UPTA rules will be observed during league play. Playoffs and the advancement to a State Championship is a continuation of league play. All teams must complete their playoff rotation.

2.02B(1)(b) The winner of each specific NTPR level in each age division in local league competition shall be entitled to advance to the State Championship. The top two teams will be automatically invited when a level has sixteen (16) or more teams. If the winning team is unable to attend, an alternative team, preferably the 2nd place team, can be asked to advance. Should the 2nd place team not be available to attend, then the 3rd place team from the Local League affected may be invited to advance to State Championships with approval from the State League Coordinator. If the 3rd place team from the affected Local League is unable to attend, then the wildcard procedure will be utilized to complete the draw. The USTA SC State League Coordinator will notify the LLC of each league if any wildcards are being offered to their area. Wildcards will not be offered to areas who automatically receive two berths and areas with less than four teams in the division are not eligible to receive a wildcard.

Playoff matches will be scheduled during weekdays. However, we reserve the right to change playoff match days if necessary.

Point Penalty Chart Penalties for Lateness

:01 – 5:00 Minutes	Loss of Toss Plus 1 Game
5:01 – 10:00 Minutes	Loss of Toss Plus 2 Games
10:01 – 15:00 Minutes	Loss of Toss Plus 3 Games
More Than 15:01 Minutes	Line Default

Point Penalty Chart Guidelines: Teams are requested to submit their lineups 30 minutes prior to match time with all players in the lineup present and ready to play. This policy is intended to keep the matches on schedule and when captains comply with this request all teams benefit. If courts are available before your scheduled match time and both cards have been turned in the matches will be called. The players called must be available to play or they will be put on the clock for lateness even if this is before the

scheduled match time. Please do not turn in your lineup card until you have all the players present and ready to play. Team captains are required to submit the lineup no later than the scheduled match time with all players in the lineup present and ready to play. If lineups are not turned in by the scheduled match time, the lateness penalties will be assessed against all players for that match as long as at least one court is available.

Jennifer Smith, LLC UPTA

V2 - Revised 1/9/2024.