

USTA SC/COLUMBIA TENNIS LEAGUE COMBO DOUBLES REGULATIONS
18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over, 65 & Over
League Year 2020

USTA SC State League Coordinator (SLC)

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INTRODUCTION

USTA SC/Columbia Tennis League Combo Doubles League Program is team competition in:

18 & Over Men and Women – 2.5 level & combined levels of 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5, 10.5.

40 & Over Men and Women - combined levels of 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5.

55 & Over Men and Women – combined levels of 6.5, 7.5, 8.5.

65 & Over Men and Women – combined levels of 6.5, 7.5, 8.5.

65 and Over is a South Carolina ONLY age group - no advancement past the SC State Championship.

A team shall consist of a minimum of 6 players able to combine to form 3 eligible teams.

The format of play will be three individual men's or women's doubles matches per team match.

NTRP cap for Combined Levels: (Men & Women)

2.5 – Max NTRP rating = 2.5

5.5 – Max NTRP rating = 3.0

6.5 – Max NTRP rating = 3.5

7.5 – Max NTRP rating = 4.0

8.5 – Max NTRP rating = 5.0

9.5 – Max NTRP rating = 5.5

10.5 – Max NTRP rating = 6.0

Each individual doubles team's combined NTRP rating may not exceed the level entered.

All players must abide by USTA Southern Combo Doubles Tennis Regulations, SC Combo Doubles Rules and Regulations, and Columbia Tennis League Combo Doubles Regulations. USTA Southern Combo Doubles and SC Combo Doubles Regulations take precedence over local regulations.

GENERAL

USTA Membership

All players must be current members of USTA through October 2020. Combo registration is \$20.00 per player which includes SC head tax per player of \$6.00, TennisLink fee of \$3.00 with the balance of \$11.00 paying for administration, court fees for play-offs, and prizes for Columbia Tennis League combo doubles winners.

Registration

Rosters

Players may NOT move to a different team once match play has begun for that level, unless approved by the State League Coordinator. Players may be added to local rosters until midnight, the night before the last scheduled match.

LOCAL LEAGUE

Number of Teams

When CTL does not have the required number of teams (two teams) in either the 18 & over, 40 & over, 55 & over, 65 & over age groups to constitute a level, the CTL coordinator shall either:

1. Offer to move 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 or move them to an “extra players” flight to hold for future play in other leagues.
3. The State League Coordinator 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. 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.
4. Refund all of the registration fee.

Player Participation

- A player may play on more than one NTRP level in each age group.
- A player may play at the same NTRP level in the same age group on teams in separate local leagues in South Carolina during the same season.
- **For a two team flight in any age group, each roster must have a minimum of 3 combined pairings that equal the level of that flight.**
- Two team flights must play a minimum of 3 matches.
- Players who qualify for SC Combo Doubles State Championship in 2020 may advance on more than one team within an age group ONLY if they are different NTRP levels, but with NO schedule accommodations.
- 2020 CTL Combo regular season will run from July 27 – week of September 27, 2020. Some levels may be required to play 2 regular season matches in the same week in order to complete all matches by the week of September 27, 2020.

Scoring

A Match Tiebreak (first to 10 by a margin of 2) will be used in lieu of a third set for all CTL combo league matches, including play-offs. The Coman Tiebreak will be used for all sets at local for the third set.

COMPETITION FORMAT

Team Match and Scoring

Roster Registration

- a. Once a player registers and pays fees on TennisLink, there are **no refunds**.
- b. Team roster with a minimum number of legal players must be submitted into TennisLink by the deadline date published by the CTL Combo League Coordinator. Team rosters that do not meet this requirement will be deleted with **no refunds**.
- c. Players may be added to a roster on TennisLink until midnight of the add-on deadline date published by the CTL Combo League Coordinator. However, a player may not play for a team until the player has registered on the TennisLink roster. If he/she does play a match when not on the roster, the individual match will be considered a default.
- d. Player must have a current USTA membership valid through the local season and SC combo state championships.

Rating Entry

- a. Players with a valid computer rating must play at that NTRP level or higher.
- b. Players without a valid computer rating but who have a valid self-rating on TennisLink, must play at that level or higher.
- c. 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 provide accurate information regarding a player's tennis history will subject the player, the captain and/or others who condoned inaccurate self-rating to possible sanctions and disqualification.
- d. Players may appeal their year-end rating on line at any time during the league year. TennisLink will allow only one appeal.

Team Lineups

- a. The two team captains shall exchange their team lineups in writing simultaneously, prior to the beginning of the team match but no later than the scheduled start time of the match. No substitution may be made in an individual match after the lineup has been presented, except for injury, disqualification, or no-show of a player prior to the start of an individual match (once the lineup has been exchanged), a team may substitute a player in the affected position within the 15 minute default time, using a player not already listed in the lineup. If no substitution can be made, the affected position will be defaulted, except: if two players in the lineup, not playing with each other, do not show, then the two partners who did show will form a partnership, if it is an otherwise valid partnership, and play together in the higher lineup position.
- b. Starting Match Play. Warm-ups are 10 minutes! All individual matches will begin match play (i.e., the first serve will be made) within 15 minutes of the scheduled start time.

Defaults and Forfeits

- a. A default occurs when a team captain cannot field all positions for a team match. Defaults must be given "from the bottom" except as provided for in paragraph 8(a) above. i.e., the No. 3 doubles must be defaulted before the No. 2 doubles. 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.

- b. If a captain is advised prior to a match that the opponent must default a position 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.
- c. 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, the default is cancelled.
- d. If both teams default the same position, neither team will receive a win and the scorecard will indicate a double default.
- e. **“Team forfeits” are not permitted in CTL League.** A ‘team forfeit’ occurs when a team defaults 2 or more individual matches in a 3-court team match. If a team commits a ‘team forfeit’ for any reason during round robin play, then all matches of that team played, or to be played, shall be null and void when determining standings. However, if all teams in contention for the championships have already played the defaulting team in good faith during a round robin, the matches stand as played. Defaulted matches RECEIVED will be used for qualifying purposes for players advancing to Championship play.
- f. A team cannot force another team to default a team match. If the situation arises, the teams must contact the local league coordinator. The team that receives an entire team forfeit does **not** receive credit for the win as the match will be null and void. **It is in the best interest of both teams to work it out**, that at least the minimum number of positions can be played so as not to constitute a ‘team forfeit’.
- g. A grievance may be filed against any team that commits a ‘team forfeit’. The situation will be assessed by the Grievance Committee and sanctions imposed as appropriate. Penalties could include barring the team and/or its players from participating in future Columbia Tennis League tennis play for some specific period of time.

Entry of Match Scores into TennisLink

- a. **Match scores are to be entered into TennisLink by the home team captain within 48 hours of the completion of the match.** However, either captain may enter the scores.
- b. Captains are to sign each other’s lineup/scorecard to confirm match scores and player names at completion of the match. It is strongly recommended that the two captains compare notes and confirm scores with players at the end of the match in order to decrease the probability of an erroneous score being entered into TennisLink.

Inclement Weather during Regular Season

- a. It is the responsibility of the home team captain to determine if weather conditions warrant the postponement of a regular season team match. If teams have assembled and have started to play or are waiting to start play, they should be prepared to wait one hour to determine if the courts are playable. It is recommended the home team captain consult with the visiting team captain prior to making the “play/no play” decision, especially if match play has already begun.
- b. If match play has not begun (i.e., no individual match has started), the team captains will arrange or have their individual players arrange, within 48 hours, the mutually agreeable make-up date(s). ALSO, within 48 hours of the original match date, Home captain MUST NOTIFY the level coordinator by e-mail of the rain-out status and the make-up date(s) for completion of the team match (e-mail must also be copied to visiting captain). The make-up date(s) must be within two weeks (14 calendar days) of the original match date. This allows both teams reasonable opportunity and flexibility to complete the matches. Once the make-up date is set and the coordinator is informed, the make-up date is considered the official match date and may not be

postponed unless there is inclement weather on such date, or unless approved by the coordinator. Team lineups on the make-up day do not have to be the same as they were on the day of the postponement even if the lineups had already been exchanged, and any defaults given during or prior to the line-up exchange are cancelled.

(1). If the two captains cannot mutually agree on a make-up date that will be within 14 calendar days OR **if matches have not been reported on TennisLink within 14 calendar days of the original match date, CTL league has established a standard make-up date/time that will automatically apply to any matches not completed at the end of 14 calendar days. This date/time is set by CTL league as 2:00 p.m. on the Saturday immediately following the 14-day deadline, and is binding on both teams. The Home team is responsible for obtaining courts.**

- c. If match play has begun (i.e., at least one point played in one individual match), completed matches stand as played, incomplete matches must be resumed by the same players at the exact set, game and point as when play halted, and matches not started may change the players listed on the lineup. Defaults given prior to or during the lineup exchange will stand. The incomplete matches or matches not started do not have to be played at the same time and date, but can be mutually arranged by the individuals involved in each of the individual matches. HOWEVER, the decision when to resume matches must be made and relayed to the team captain(s) within 48 hours, and the matches must be played within 14 calendar days of the original match date. ALSO, within 48 hours of the original match date, the home captain must notify the level coordinator of the rain-out status and the make-up dates/times by e-mail (e-mail must also be copied to visiting captain). Once the make-up date is set and the level coordinator is informed, the make-up date is considered the official match date and may not be postponed unless there is inclement weather on such date, or unless approved by the level coordinator.

(1). If the players or captains cannot agree on a make-up date that will be within 14 calendar days, OR **if the matches have not been reported on TennisLink within 14 calendar days of the original match date, the CTL league standard make-up date/time will automatically apply to any matches not completed at the end of 14 calendar days. This date/time is set by CTL league as 2:00 p.m. on the Saturday immediately following the 14-day deadline, and is binding on both teams. The Home team is responsible for obtaining courts.**

- d. If there is a city play-off or it is needed in determining an advancing team to state championships, the coordinator may require an earlier time for completing make-up matches, and will set a date/time for completion which will be binding on the teams. Any matches not completed by the league deadline may be excluded in determining standings. Further, all make-up matches must be completed no later than the Sunday following the last scheduled match of the regular season.

Inclement Weather During City Playoffs.

a. During playoffs, it is the responsibility of the coordinator to decide when a match must be postponed due to inclement weather. There is no maximum wait time, but it is at the discretion of the coordinator to decide when players should be released.

- b. Make-up times and dates will be determined by the Local League coordinator

Completed matches will stand as played; incomplete matches must be resumed by the same players at the exact set, game and point as when play halted, and matches not started must be played using the same players as listed on the line-up at the time of the line-up exchange. In the event that postponement begins prior to the start (playing at least one point) of an individual match, the line-ups may be changed and defaults given during or prior to the line-up exchange are cancelled. Every effort will be made to play the make-up no later than the following day,

subject to court availability, or as soon thereafter as the league can arrange for courts. (It may be necessary to shift playoff sites and court surfaces.)

Team Standings

The team winning the majority of the individual matches in a team match shall be awarded one team point. Team standings at the end of the regular season shall be in the order of the number of team points won. In the event that two or more teams in a flight have the same number of team points at the end of the season, the tie shall be broken in the following manner:

- (i) Winner of the most individual matches during the season
- (ii) Winner of head-to-head match
- (iii) Loser of the fewest number of sets during the season
- (iv) Loser of the fewest number of games during the season
- (v) Highest winning game percentage of total games played

CTL City Championship Format

Single Flight for level of play:

There are no CTL championship playoffs when there is a single flight for the level of play. The flight winner is the CTL city champion. The 2nd place team in the flight is the CTL runner-up team.

Two Flights for level of play:

There will be a CTL playoff as follows:

Flight 1 Winner vs. Flight 2 Runner-up
Flight 2 Winner vs. Flight 1 Runner-up

Winner of each match in first round will playoff for 1st and 2nd place.

Three or More Flights for a level of play:

Levels consisting of three divisions: Top 2 teams in the standings from each flight. Seeding will be based on winning percentage of team matches.

(a) First Round

No. 1 Seed - Bye

No. 2 Seed - Bye

No. 3 Seed plays No. 6 Seed

No. 4 Seed plays No. 5 Seed

(b) Second Round

No. 1 Seed plays Winner of No. 4 and 5 Seed

No. 2 Seed plays Winner of No. 3 and 6 Seed

(c) Third Round

Winners of Second Round play

Losers from second round play only if needed for wildcard.

Only the winning team from 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 2nd place team, can be asked to advance. Any NTRP level with at least 4 teams will be eligible for a state championship wildcard if one is needed for championship draws.

Scheduling Accommodation for teams Advancing to State Championships

Should a CTL team progress to the State, Sectional Tennis Championship playoffs that conflict with a CTL regular local league match, team captains shall make accommodations in CTL match play – upon request of the team advancing to championships with notification to the coordinator. **The captains should make every effort to reschedule the match to a date prior to the originally scheduled date.** If that is not possible, then the rescheduling procedures are the same as the inclement weather guidelines and the team captains must notify the coordinator of agreements by e-mail (copy e-mail to opponent captain).

Match Conflicts with other events.

All other matches scheduled by CTL league are expected to be played as scheduled, unless inclement weather forces postponement. During the season, it is quite possible that a team will have a scheduled match that conflicts with **other events that do NOT require accommodation.** These might include events such as the Sunburn Open, extending weekends of a holiday, etc. Requests for accommodation for such other reasons should only be made by a captain if a team has a problem fielding a complete team for a match. The team requesting to reschedule a match for other reasons should do so at the beginning of the season and give the other team several dates prior to the match date. **If the other team does not agree to an accommodation, the match must be played at the original scheduled time.** If both captains agree to an accommodation, the captains should make every effort to reschedule that match to a date prior to the original match date. The coordinator must be notified of any agreement, and will make the decision whether to grant or deny the request. If denied, the match must be played at the original scheduled time.

CTL Playoff Eligibility

Players must play in at least one CTL local league match in order to participate in city play-offs and/or state championship.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

1. **GRIEVANCE COMPLAINTS.** Grievance complaint forms, procedures and rules are posted on the SC Tennis Association website, and are incorporated herein by reference. 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 or delivered to the 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.

The State League Coordinator appoints the members of the CTL Grievance Committee and CTL Grievance Appeals Committee. The State League Coordinator has the authority to substitute or replace members of the committees named below in the case of a conflict, absence or other inability to serve.

CTL Grievance Committee

- Chairperson – Jerry Odom
- Bill Brannon
- Coleen Freeman
- Christy Britt
- Randy Watts

(Chairperson and 2 committee members appointed by SLC will decide each grievance)

The CTL Grievance Committee decision may be appealed to the CTL Grievance Appeals Committee.

The Columbia Tennis League Grievance Appeals Committee is comprised of:

- Chairperson – Patti McVey
- Kenny Burton
- Clay Busto

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

2. **NTRP Grievance.** Self-rated players who enter the USTA League Tennis Program by misrepresenting their actual skill level are considered to have violated the standards of good conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship, and may be subject to a grievance complaint and possible disqualification. Grievances against such self-rated players may be filed by a team captain or the Local League Coordinator. NTRP grievance complaints against a self-rated player must be filed in writing by email to the State League Coordinator, who will forward to the Southern Section NTRP Grievance Committee Chairman.