

Local League Regulations for USTA League Tennis

Adult 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over and 65 & Over Mixed 18 & Over and 40 & Over Combo & Tri-Level 18 & Over, 40 & Over and 55 & Over

2024 Championship Year

Major Regulation Changes for 2024

National Regulations:

Southern Section Regulations:

CSRATA Local Regulations

7.03G Entry Fees to State and Sectional Championships

7.03G(1) State Entry Fees. Teams must pay their own entry fees.

7.03G(2) Sectional Entry Fees. Teams must pay their own entry fees.

1.00 REGULATIONS

The CSRATA abides by the United States Tennis Association (USTA), USTA Southern and USTA Georgia Regulations. We encourage players to read and familiarize themselves with these regulations as well as Friend at Court, the USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations.

- **1.01 Amendments.** The League Regulations may be amended by the CSRATA League Coordinator(s) only after approval by the Georgia State League Coordinator.
- **1.02** The Local League Coordinator(s) shall have the authority to interpret the CSRATA Local League Regulations.
- **1.03** Questions and Answers. At the end of this document, Questions and Answers, are interpretations or clarifications of the CSRATA Local League Regulations. All players are required to abide by these interpretations.

2.00 PLAYER ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION

2.01 Player Eligibility

- 2.01A A player's USTA membership must be valid through the end of the season to include play-offs. The player's name must be listed on the team roster, as shown on TennisLink, prior to participation in any match.
- 2.01B The Local League Coordinator establishes and publicizes the deadline for submitting an initial roster. A team will be included in the league schedule if it consists of players eligible to compete at a specific NTRP level of competition in accordance with the tables below and if it is submitted on TennisLink by the initial roster deadline.
- 2.01C If a player successfully appeals their rating after registering for a team, they must notify the Local League Coordinator to have the rating adjusted on their roster. Until the appealed rating is reflected on the roster, the player must play with the rating they registered with.

2.02 Player Participation

DIVISION	AGE GROUP	MINIMUM # PLAYERS	GENDER	PLAYER NTRP RATING LEVEL
Adult	18 & Over 2.5 & 5.0+	5	Same Gender	Current NTRP level and/or up to one level above the player's current NTRP level.
	18 & Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	8		The 18 & Over 5.0+ may have up to two players and 40 & Over 4.5+
	40 & Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	8		levels may have up to three players from the next higher NTRP level on a team roster.
	55 & Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 55 & Over 9.0 Combined 65 & Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 65 & Over 9.0 Combined	6		Combined NTRP levels of partners shall not exceed team NTRP level.
				NTRP difference between partners shall not exceed 1.0.

Mixed	18 & Over 2.5 straight NTRP levels	3 men 3 women	Men and Women	Limited to 2.0 and 2.5 NTRP rated players
	18 & Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0 straight NTRP levels	Initial rosters must consist of the minimum number of players who when partnered can play at the appropriate level.		Current NTRP level and/or up to one level above the player's current NTRP level.
	18 & Over Combined NTRP levels 40 & Over Combined NTRP levels			Combined NTRP levels of partners shall not exceed 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
Combo	Combined Levels 5.0, 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5	6 men or 6 women Initial rosters must consist of the minimum number or players who when partnered can play at the appropriate level.	Men Or Women	5.0 - Rating cannot exceed 2.5 5.5 - Rating cannot exceed 3.0 6.5 - Rating cannot exceed 3.5 7.5 - Rating cannot exceed 4.0 8.5 - Rating cannot exceed 5.0 9.5 - Rating cannot exceed 5.5 Combined NTRP rating levels of partners shall not exceed the team level

- 2.02A USTA league matches can only play at facilities within the CSRATA league boundaries, which are: Richmond, Columbia, McDuffie, Lincoln and Burke counties in Georgia; and Aiken, Edgefield and Barnwell counties in South Carolina. Players from outside league boundaries are eligible to play in CSRATA leagues.
- 2.02B Players may be added to a roster up until the date on the Match Schedule of the team's second-to-last match regardless of when the match is actually played. Exception: for Combo and Tri-Level teams, a player maybe added to a roster up until the date on the Match Schedule of the team's last match regardless of when the match is actually played.

2.03 General

- **2.03A** If an Adult League consists of two teams in a level of play, each team must maintain its roster with at least 40 percent of its players at the designated NTRP level.
- **2.03B** All Adult teams, except combo, mixed, low 4.0, and Tri-Level teams must maintain their roster with at least 40 percent of its players at the designated NTRP level.
- 2.03C The maximum number of players allowed on any team is 14. The local league coordinator may authorize more or less players for teams with a modified match format (Teams playing 1 singles and 4 doubles lines have a maximum allowance of 16 players). Tri-Level teams may have a maximum allowance of 16 players.

3.00 FACILITIES APPROVED FOR LEAGUE PLAY

Facilities must have a minimum of three courts, a working restroom, an on-site telephone (may be cellular) and working lights.

4.00 SCHEDULES, DEFAULTED MATCHES, INVALID MATCHES & COMPETITION FORMAT

4.01 Schedules

- **4.01A** Match schedules are published prior to the start of the season on TennisLink. At the end of the season incomplete matches or lines will result in a double default.
- **4.01B** All matches must be played on the date, time and at the facility named on the Match Schedule unless otherwise approved by the Local League Coordinator. Rescheduled matches must be played at the facility named on the Match schedule unless otherwise approved by the Local League Coordinator.

EXCEPTION: Team matches or individual matches (lines) may be scheduled earlier than the originally scheduled date if both captains agree in writing regarding the earlier date, time and location. These matches must be played prior to the originally scheduled date and MUST be approved by the local league coordinator. This new date now becomes the official scheduled match date. If inclement weather occurs, the scheduled date reverts back to the original date on Tennislink. Any cost associated with scheduling the match early is the responsibility of the players involved.

4.01C General

- **4.01C(1)** The captain must designate a team member to carry out the duties of the captain if they are not present at the match.
- **4.01C(2)** The team designated as "home" shall supply an unopened can of USTA approved balls.

- **4.01C(3)** The facility designates the courts available for matches. The home captain decides which lines play on which courts.
- **4.01C(4)** Players shall provide their opponents a 5 to 10 minute warm-up even if a player is late.

4.02 Defaulted Matches

- 4.02A As a courtesy, the team captain should call the opposing team's captain as soon as they know that any or all individual matches will be defaulted to prevent inconveniencing the opposing team's players. The home captain should then contact the home facility to release any unneeded reserved courts. All defaults occur from the bottom up as decreed in 4.02C of the USTA GA regulations. This includes Tri-Level matches.
- **4.02B** A 15 minute default clock begins at match time when a court is available and a player has not arrived on court.

4.03 Invalid Matches

- 4.03A Match Default. A match consisting of 5 lines MUST have 3 lines played to be valid. If defaults lead to only 2 lines being played, the entire match is considered to be in default. A match consisting of 3 lines MUST have 2 lines played to be valid.
- **4.03B** Excessive Defaults in a Season. If a team has an invalid match (a majority of the individual matches must actually be played to constitute a valid team match), the team may (state Adult League Committee's decision) be removed from competition and the standings.
- **4.03C** Under either of the scenarios in 4.03B, if removed, all matches that the team has played or matches to be played shall be null and void and a grievance may be filed. The defaulting team may also be placed on probationary watch or not permitted to play as a team the following season.
- 4.03D If all teams in contention for the playoffs have already played the defaulting team in good faith, the matches stand as played. In the event a team is playing a Modified Schedule and defaults all lines of the season, the team matches that the defaulting team has played during the season will stand as played

4.04 Competition Format

- 4.04A Round Robin Each NTRP level within a local league shall play at least one round robin competition wherein every team plays every other team. When any NTRP level consists of only two teams, each team is required to play a minimum of three team matches which is a triple round robin. When any NTRP level consists of only three teams, each team is required to play a minimum of four team matches which is a double round robin.
- 4.04B Random matches may be added to allow additional matches within a flight, additional randomly selected matches across flights and additional playoff rounds within a flight. To determine which teams are randomly selected the team names shall be pulled from an envelope by a disinterested third party and witnessed by another disinterested third party.
- **4.04C** Team Match Each team match shall consist of such number of individual matches of singles, doubles, or any combination thereof as determined by the local league.

5.00 SCORECARDS, ORDER OF PLAY & SUBSTITUTIONS

5.01 Scorecards

- **5.01A** Scorecards should be printed from TennisLink and lineups exchanged 10 minutes before the scheduled match time.
- **5.01B** Generally, the home team captain will enter the scores in TennisLink, however; either Captain may enter the scores. The opposing Captain will verify the match scores in TennisLink.
- 5.01C Match scores MUST be reported within 48 hours of the completed team match. Failure to comply may subject teams to grievance and/or double default. TennisLink will automatically confirm scores 48 hours after the team match is initially reported if not confirmed by the opposing captain. Once the scores are automatically confirmed in TennisLink the opposing team loses all rights to contest any score discrepancies.

5.02 Order of Play

When the number of available courts is less than the number of team matches and the order of play sequence is optional, the home team captain will choose the order of play. For example: with 3 courts available the home team captain may choose to start #1 singles, #1 doubles and #2 doubles, or #1 singles, #2 singles and #1 doubles.

5.03 Substitutions

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 line up. If no such substitution can be made, the affected position only will be defaulted. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute player is entitled to an up to ten-minute warm-up.

6.00 MATCH RESCHEDULING

All make-up matches may be scheduled individually and do not have to be made-up as a team.

6.01 Valid reasons to reschedule a match.

- **6.01A** Weather-related conditions
- Players who have conflicts by participating in tournaments held within the CSRATA boundaries as defined in the Bylaws and entry is open to all CSRATA members including tournaments that are a progression from qualifier tournaments (e.g., The Banana Open).
- **6.01C** Players who have conflicts by participating in USTA League Tennis Championships: State, Sectional and National.
- **6.01D** A Captain has received pre-approval from the Local League Coordinator due to extreme and/or extraordinary circumstances.
- **6.01E** Players who are USTA Officials and have conflicts when officiating sanctioned tournaments held within CSRATA boundaries.

6.02 Tournament related match rescheduling

- 6.02A Approval to reschedule will be granted only for the number of players competing at the approved event. No more positions will be rescheduled than the number of players competing at the event. Rescheduled matches must be played by the players attending the event (e.g. All singles lines to be played by a player who competed at the event, doubles lines must have at least one player who competed at the event).
- **6.02B** Captains MUST notify the opposing Captain prior to the scheduled match of the number of players involved and the specific lines that that will require rescheduling.
- 6.02C The time and place of the lines to be rescheduled must be established prior to the original match date. Once the make-up date and time has been established, the make-up match cannot be rescheduled for any reason other than inclement weather. Captains must clearly state their agreement to the postponed match date for example; "I agree to Sunday December 25 at 4:00 pm" and the Captain requesting the reschedule must send an email, prior to the original match date, to the LLC and copy the opposing captain of the agreed upon date and time. If captains cannot successfully agree to a rescheduled match date, the League Coordinator specifies the time and place for the affected lines to be rescheduled. Defaults will be recorded for individual matches not completed at the specified time and date.
- 6.02D Matches must be played prior to the originally scheduled match or within15 days of the original match date. If the make-up match is scheduled on day 15 and it is rained out, then the make-up will roll to day16 and so forth until the match is completed.

6.03 Weather related match rescheduling

- 6.03A The decision to reschedule a match should not be made until 1½ hours before the scheduled start time in the event of rain, lightning, severe cold (<32°F including the wind chill factor), or severe heat (>102°F or heat index of >106°F). If both captains agree, the decision to reschedule a match may be made prior to one and one-half hours before match time, although temperature decisions, especially heat, need to be assessed within the 1½ hour timeframe with certainty of the weather projected match time conditions. Also, if in agreement, the match may be played during extreme temperatures. The official site for temperature verification is the Weather Channel or http://www.weather.com. Once a match begins it must be completed regardless of the temperature. Severe cold or heat temperatures cannot be enforced.
- **6.03B** If inclement weather occurs after a match begins, completed individual matches stand as played. Incomplete matches resume with the same line-up and match score that existed when play was halted.
- 6.03C In the event that inclement weather forces the cancellation and rescheduling of a team match, unrestricted substitutions from the team roster may be made in any individual matches that have not begun. This includes moving a player from one position to another. Points awarded for defaults during the original written lineup exchange will stand. All players involved in such forfeits cannot participate in the rescheduled match. Defaults offered verbally prior to the original written line up exchange are nullified when the match is rescheduled due to inclement weather.

- 6.03D The time and place of the make-up match must be established within five days of the postponed match date. Once the make-up date and time has been established, the make-up match cannot be rescheduled for any reason other than inclement weather. Captains must clearly state their agreement to the postponed match date for example; "I agree to Sunday December 25 at 4:00 p.m". If captains cannot successfully reschedule the match, the League Coordinator specifies the time and place for the make-up match. Defaults will be recorded for individual matches not completed at the specified time and date.
- 6.03E Make-up matches must be played within 15 days of the original match date. If the make-up match is scheduled on day 15 and it cannot be played due to inclement weather the Captains MUST notify the local league coordinator to request an extension. Otherwise, matches may be double defaulted.
- **6.03F** Matches not completed by the seasons' end date may be double defaulted.

6.04 Home captain responsibilities

- **6.04A** Notify the home facility prior to the original date of a match that said match needs to be rescheduled. It is unnecessary to notify the home facility when a match is postponed due to inclement weather.
- **6.04B** Reschedule the match in accordance with the make-up match policy of the facility at which the original match was scheduled.
- **6.04C** Obtain the League Coordinator's approval before changing a match location.
- 6.04D Include the match number when emailing the LLC regarding all match correspondence including scheduling and incorrect scores or player entries.

7.00 SCORING, PLAYOFFS & PROGRESSION TO STATE

7.01 Scoring

- **7.01A** The team winning the majority of individual matches is awarded one point for "Team Score Wins".
- **7.01B** When teams have the same "Team Score Wins" and "Team Score Losses" at the end of a match or season, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:
 - **7.01B(1)** Individual matches. Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.
 - **7.01B(2)** Sets. Loser of the fewest number of sets.
 - **7.01B(3)** Games. Loser of the fewest number of games.
 - **7.01B(4)** Head-to-Head. Winner of head-to-head match.
 - **7.01B(5)** Coin flip performed by the Local League Coordinator.

7.02 Playoffs

7.02A If time permits, a playoff will be held for NTRP levels with day and evening leagues between the first-place teams of each league season to determine the local league winner each year. If time constraints prevent a playoff the winner will be determined by the formula as stated in 7.01B.

7.02B The Local League Coordinator contacts the captains of the first-place teams to establish a neutral play-off location. The play-off matches must be completed within 15 days of the first-place teams' last match. For example: If there are fall day and evening leagues and spring day and evening leagues; there would be a playoff between the fall day and spring day first place teams to determine a day winner. There would be a playoff between the fall evening and spring evening first-place teams to determine an evening winner.

7.03 Progression to State and Entry Fees

- 7.03A NTRP Levels with Day and Evening League
 - **7.03A(1)** If for fall and spring seasons two berths are received for each season (4 total berths) then each league will receive one berth for each season without playoffs. For example: Fall day and evening will each receive a berth and spring day and evening will each receive a berth.
 - **7.03A(2)** If three berths are received, one berth is awarded to the playoff winner of the day league, one berth is awarded to the playoff winner of the evening league and the third berth is awarded to team with the next best record in either the day or evening league. If a league season winner does not choose to progress to state, then no playoff will be held, and the other season winner of that league will receive the berth.
 - 7.03A(3) If both the winner and runner-up of a league decline state berths, the berth will be offered to the runner-up of the playoff of the other league or the second place team (if identical first place teams each season) of the other league.
- 7.03B All Other Leagues
 - **7.03B(1)** If the same team (that is, teams with identical rosters), wins both seasons for an NTRP level, (or that first-place team declines the berth), the second berth is awarded to the second-place team with the most Team Score Wins from either season.
 - **7.03B(2)** If the second-place teams play an unequal number of team matches, the second berth is awarded to the second-place team with the least percentage of Individual losses from either season. The formula is: The team with the least number of Actual Individual Losses divided by the number of Possible Individual Losses.
 - **7.03B(3)** If the same team without identical rosters (that is, most players are the same resulting in both teams not being able to participate at the Georgia State Championships) qualifies for a berth from both seasons, that team chooses which season's roster represents our league at the Georgia State Championships, and the second-placed team from the opposite season receives the second berth.
- 7.03C Two-Team Leagues. Two-team leagues in both seasons will only receive one berth to State Championships and the berth will be awarded to the team with the most team wins, or if an unequal number of matches were played, the berth will be determined using the formula as stated in 7.01B.
- 7.03D Area Teams. The USTA Georgia may authorize area teams at a given NTRP level with no local competition during the Championship Year if there is an opportunity to progress to a State Championship. These teams qualify for State Championships by playing against an area team from another Community Tennis Association (CTA). The 65 and Over and Combo 55 and Over may advance directly. All team's MUST come from the season prior to the State Championships, the players MUST use their Year

- End Rating and the team MUST be registered during the designated registration period and MUST meet the minimum number of player requirement.
- **7.03E** Combo State Champion Move Up/Split Up. The Southern Combo Doubles Georgia State Regulations 2.44A (1) (3) shall apply to CSRATA Combo teams.
- 7.03F Wildcards Procedures.
 - **7.03F(1)** If the League receives a wildcard and all first-place teams are progressing to State Championships, then the wildcard will be offered to the second-place team from either season with the best Individual Match Win/Loss Percentage record using the formula as stated in 7.01B.
 - **7.03F(2)** If the best second place team declines, the second-place team from the other season will be offered the wildcard.
 - **7.03F(3)** If both second-place teams decline the wildcard will be offered to the best third place team and so on.
- **7.03G** Entry Fees to State and Sectional Championships
 - **7.03G(1)** State Entry Fees. Teams must pay their own entry fees.
 - **7.03G(2)** Sectional Entry Fees. Teams must pay their own entry fees.
 - **7.03G(3)** CSRATA will not pay the State entry fees for Adult teams that register locally for Invitational Tournament levels of play (mixed 55+, mixed 65+, combo 55+, combo 65+, Adult 65+, Tri-level 40+, and Tri-level 55+) who do not play any matches locally. These teams will be able to register at a reduced rate that covers the tennis registration fees and head taxes both state and local.

8.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES, MEMBERS OF THE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE, GRIEVANCE APPEALS COMMITTEE MEMBERS & LOCAL LEAGUE RULES COMMITTEE

8.01 Grievance Procedures

- **8.01A** The USTA National Regulation Section 3.0 shall apply to the CSRATA Local Leagues.
- **8.01B** The Grievance and Grievance Appeal process is administered by the Local League Coordinator(s) as well as the appointment of the said Committee members.
- **8.01C** Grievance procedures and forms can be found at csratennis.com.

8.02 Members of the Grievance, Grievance Appeals, Rules, and Nominating Committees

- **8.02A** The Grievance Committee and Grievance Appeals Committee members are subject to change to avoid conflicts of interest and/or the appearance of conflicts.
- **8.02B** Grievance Committee. Kyle Perry (Chairperson), Pip Williams, and Andrea Mercer.
- **8.02C** Grievance Appeals Committee. Darren Meadows (Chairperson), Laurel Landon, and Karen Staten.

8.02D Members of the Local League Rules Committee: Gail Connor (Chairperson), Karen Ard, and Molly McCoy

Nominating Committee: Laurel Landon (Chairperson), Natalie Stephens, Steve Cassell, Andrea Mercer and Chris Tully

2020 Championship Year Questions, Answers & Interpretations

4.0 Schedules, Defaulted Matches, Invalid Matches and Competition Format

Why is it important that the matches be played at the time, date and facility named on the match schedule?	This is the best way to ensure that all team matches can be played on time is to follow the posted match schedule in tennis link. There are many factors that are considered when schedules are developed. For example, there are dates and times when courts may not be scheduled due to Adult and Junior tournaments as well as facility policies and activities. Also, we pay for court use and abiding by the date, time and place helps to ensure proper fiscal accountability. See Regulation 4.01B
If matches are to be played as scheduled in TennisLink, why is there now an exception that permits matches or lines to be played early (before the original date in tennis link) if both Captains agree in writing and the LLC is notified by email?	The exception to the rule was added to help teams to avoid playing an invalid match according to and defined by Georgia State Regulation 2.01C (5). If a team has an invalid match, that team may be removed from competition and the standings by the decision of the USTA Georgia Adult Rules Committee per USTA Georgia State Rules. If scores are entered into TennisLink as an invalid match it will be reviewed by the Georgia Adult League Committee automatically.
What do I do if I do not have enough players to play enough lines of the match on the scheduled date in TennisLink and run the risk of having an invalid match?	Contact the opposing Captain by email and cc the LLC in your email as soon as you are aware of the situation that you may not be able to play a valid match. The LLC can assist you with obtaining the email of the opposing Captain if needed. Note: if you need to play a match or lines of a match early, both captains must agree in writing and any cost associated with scheduling that match early is the responsibility of the players involved. These matches must be played prior to the originally scheduled date. As a Captain you need to look over your team's entire schedule for the season and be aware of your players' availability and then contact the opposing Captain as soon as you are aware you may
It is the week of my scheduled match and I don't have enough players to fill all the lines so I might have to default a line. Can I play the line early?	have the possibility of an invalid match situation. It takes time to find make up times for matches due to the high volume or teams that are playing and court availability. See Regulation 4.01B Exception Even though the exception to play a match or a line early was primarily added to prevent teams from playing an invalid match, you could still ask the other Captain if they would agree to play that line of the match early. Note that both Captains must agree in writing and the LLC must be emailed, you would need to find a court for the match and may have to pay a fee and that the match must be played prior to the original date in TennisLink. Regulation 4.01 B Exception

The facility our match was to be played	Regulation 3.00 states that facilities must have a minimum of three
at only provided us with 3 courts for our	courts, a working restroom, Therefore, facilities are only
match and we have 5 lines to play.	required to assign three courts per scheduled USTA match if
What am I supposed to do about the	additional courts are not available. All players would still report for
match?	the scheduled match time and then you would follow Regulation
	5.02 Order of Play

6.0 Match Rescheduling

I have 2 players going to State	Two lines may be rescheduled. Those may be 2 singles, 2
Championships on a weekend my team is scheduled to play locally.	doubles or a combination.
How many lines can I reschedule?	See Regulation 6.02B
Two local teams from the same	Each team may reschedule 2 lines. Those may be 2 singles,
flight are going to State and taking 2	2 doubles or a combination.
players each. How many lines can	Con Providetion C 00P
be rescheduled?	See Regulation 6.02B
A team takes 2 players to State but	No. This rule gives both teams the opportunity to play the
still can field enough players to field	player or combination of players that they want to play.
5 lines. They only field 3/5 lines. Is	Neither team is penalized because players choose to play in
this taking advantage of the rule?	Championships.
	See Regulation 6.02B
An e-mail is sent to the opposing	No. A clear statement of agreement is required. "I agree to
Captain suggesting a date to	Sunday, July 18 at 2:00 p.m." is an example of a clear
schedule a make-up match. The	statement. Some examples of unclear statements are: Looks
opponent replied. "Looks good I	good, I guess, Got it. The Captain who sent the e-mail is not
guess" but did not show for the	entitled to receive the default.
match. Did the reply adequately	
commit the opponent to the make-	
up date?	See Regulation 6.03D
A make-up match was rained out.	No, make up matches must be played within 15 days of the
Does the match now have 15 days	original match date.
to be completed?	
	See Regulation 6.03E