

2009 AIKEN AREA TENNIS LEAGUE (AATL)
USTA LEAGUE TENNIS MIXED DOUBLES
ADULT AND SENIOR LOCAL LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS

USTA League Tennis National Regulations, Southern Regulations and SC Mixed Doubles Regulations shall apply to the USTA Mixed Doubles League and take precedence over AATL Mixed Doubles League Rules.

The purpose of the Rules and Regulations is to assure that fair play and good conduct is maintained at all times and to assist the tennis league in rendering equity to all teams and players. The Rules and Regulations are approved by the State prior to League Matches.

The Local League Coordinator's responsibility is to organize, coordinate and supervise all USTA League Tennis activities on the local level and report to the State Mixed Doubles League Coordinator.

The Local League Coordinator has been appointed by the SCTA to implement and administer the USTA League Tennis Program and interpret the Mixed Doubles Local League rules, regulations and procedures.

It is the responsibility of each Team Captain to familiarize all team members with the Rules and Regulations.

Format:

- A. Three eligible mixed doubles partnerships. A minimum of six (6) players (3 of each gender) per team. The team that wins at least two of the three individual matches wins the team match.
- B. Individual matches consist of the best 2 out of 3 sets with a **set** tiebreak when the score of a set is 6 games all. If opponents split sets, in lieu of a 3rd set to decide the individual match winner, a 10-point match tiebreak will be played.
- C. The partnership **must not exceed** the combined level of play that the team has entered. **The combined ratings of a partnership cannot be more than 1.0 NTRP rating apart.**
- D. Combined partnerships may enter one of the following levels of play:
ADULT LEAGUE: 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0
SENIOR LEAGUE: 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0
- E. Teams may also consist of the following **STRAIGHT LEVEL** of play:
ADULT LEAGUE: 2.5
SENIOR LEAGUE: 2.5
- F. A Mixed Doubles Super Senior Pilot League is being offered at the following combined levels:
SUPER SENIOR: 6.0, 7.0, 8.0

Eligibility:

- A. All players must have a current USTA membership which is valid through league season. (Any player applying for or renewing USTA membership may do so online when registering on TL.)
- B. ADULT – Player must reach at least 19 years of age during 2009.
- C. SENIOR – Player must reach at least 50 years of age during 2009.
- D. SUPER SENIOR – Player must reach at least 60 years of age during 2009.
- E. A player may play on multiple Adult teams in the **same** league as long as they are at **different** NTRP levels. A player may also play on multiple Senior teams in the **same** league as long as they are at **different** NTRP levels. Play on an Adult team and a Senior Team at the same level is permissible.

- F. If a player plays on two Adult teams at the **same level** or two Senior teams at the **same level** in the **same league**, all matches played will be defaulted and the player removed from both rosters.
- G. A player may play at the **same** NTRP levels in the same division (Adult or Senior) on teams in **separate** Local Leagues in South Carolina during the **same** season.
- H. A player from another state (as defined by the player's primary residence as listed in USTA records) may not participate in South Carolina without approval by the Local League Coordinator representing the area that is affected and the State Mixed Doubles League Coordinator. A player playing out of his/her home state without obtaining prior approval will be subject to sanctions, including, at a minimum, defaulting of all matches played prior to receiving approval. Sanctions may be applied to the team captain as well. **A player from another state who previously received approval to play in South Carolina and who has played in South Carolina in every year since that approval was granted need not reapply for approval to play in 2009 in the same local league in the same division (Adult or Senior) as in 2008.**
- I. Teams are limited to a maximum of 2 Out of State Players.
- J. AATL League matches must be played at facilities within boundaries of the AATL.
- K. AATL Teams must have at least 50% of players residing within boundaries of the AATL.

Computer Rating:

Any player with a valid computer rating as a result of the Adult, Senior or Mixed Doubles USTA League Tennis Program must play at that level or higher.

Self-Rating:

- A. 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 **complete the self-rating process on TennisLink when registering for a team.** Failure to do so or omission of information regarding a player's tennis history will subject the player, the captain and/or others who condoned inaccurate self-rating to sanctions and disqualification.
- B. A player that self-rated in the Adult League cannot self-rate lower for Mixed Doubles.
- C. A self-rate is valid for 12 months.

Rosters:

- A. TennisLink is the official system for team registration.
- B. Team Roster with a minimum of 6 legal players must be submitted into TennisLink no later than **April 29, 2009** in order to participate in the AATL 2009 Mixed Doubles League.
- C. Teams that will be playing their Local League during the Mixed Doubles Championships must be entered into TennisLink with a minimum of three eligible pairings by **July 10, 2009**. Player add-on deadline date for levels playing Local League at Mixed Doubles Championships is **August 22, 2009**.
- D. After commencement of local league play, players may be added to the roster in accordance to the following:
 1. Player's name **must** be added to the team roster before the player's participation in a team match.
 2. Players may be added to the roster up to one day prior to the date when there are no longer enough matches on the Tennislink published schedule to qualify for championships.

Fees:

- A. Fees will be collected (via credit card) when a person is put on a roster in the TennisLink system. The cost to play in the AATL 2009 Mixed Doubles League is \$18, which includes the USTA/SC player fee, local league fee and TennisLink fee.

- B.** Once placed on a roster through TennisLink, there will be **no refunds after league play begins**. It is possible to transfer from one team to another without additional fees by contacting the Mixed Doubles League Coordinator to process the movement from one team to the next. Transferring to another team must be done **before the start of the Mixed Doubles Season**.

Local Play:

- A. Each team must have a captain or acting captain present at each match.
- B. Home Team Captain is responsible for contacting Visiting Team Captain one to three days ahead of scheduled match to confirm match and match time.
- C. Captains must exchange written line-ups prior to starting play. **Scorecards MUST be downloaded from TennisLink**. If there are multiple playing surfaces at a site, the visiting captain is entitled to know which specific match will be played on which surface before line-ups are exchanged.
- D. Each team must Round Robin with at least 2 teams of the same level. Each team in a round robin must play every team in the round robin at least once and an equal number of times.
- E. It may be necessary to divide a level into several different divisions if there are too many teams for a single round robin group. In that case, there will be a local league playoff to determine the AATL champion and which team(s) advances to the State Championship.
- F. Each player must play **at least two matches locally for Adult and 1 match locally for Senior** to qualify for further championship play (a default received will be used to qualify for advancement to Championship.)
- G. Each team must play at least three matches to qualify for further championship play.
- H. Winners will be determined based on team matches won or winning percentage of team matches. Procedures for playoffs, which will be published on the web and e-mailed to captains by the level coordinators, may vary according to the level of play and number of teams. In all cases, ties will be broken in the following order.
1. Winner of most individual matches
 2. Loser of fewest sets.
 3. Loser of fewest games.
 4. Winner of head to head.
 5. Toss of coin by LLC.
- I. Home team is responsible for providing new balls.
- J.** It is the responsibility of the home team captain to contact the visiting team captain prior to the scheduled match time if the weather will not permit play. The captains can then discuss postponement, rescheduling, etc. If weather and availability of courts at **visitor's site permits play, match should be played at visitor's courts**.
- K. If the beginning of a match is delayed by rain or wet courts, **SEE MATCHES AFFECTED BY INCLEMENT WEATHER**
- L. **If an event affects a majority of the players from either team from playing at the scheduled match day/time, See "MATCH CONFLICTS WITH OTHER EVENTS"**
- M. Players must report to scheduled matches on time. The 15-minute default rule will apply – unless prior arrangements have been made between captains.
- N.** **CELL PHONES** must be turned off. If a cell phone rings during a point, the opponent wins the point based on a hindrance. Cell phone usage or Text Messaging during a match is not permitted.
- O. Should a Spring League Team progress to the State, Sectional or National Championship playoffs, team captains shall make accommodations in team match play when the affected team cannot field the required teams to complete a scheduled Mixed Doubles Match.

Rescheduling procedure should follow inclement weather guidance and the Level Coordinator be advised.

- P. Errors in entering scores in Tennislink must be corrected by the LLC. Prior to requesting the LLC to make a correction, captains should agree that the correction is required. The LLC should be notified by one of the captains, via email with CC: of the other captain, the exact details of the required correction including match number, individual match number, and the player/score correction required.

Coaching:

Once an individual match has begun, no coaching may be given a player by team captains, coaches, pros or any other spectator, except during the 10 minute rest period between the second and third sets if the scoring method is the best of three tie-break sets per USTA League Reg 5.01H (6).

Sportsmanship:

- A. No linesmen or umpires will be provided for matches.
- B. Every player is expected to call shots on his side, as he would expect his shots to be called on the other side and loud enough for his/her opponent to hear. Any out ball must be called instantaneously; otherwise, it is presumed good and in play. Avoid late calls.
- C. Balls that are not clearly out should be awarded the opponent. In the case of doubles, when the partnership is in disagreement of a call, it should be awarded the opponent.
- D. Players are advised to call the score before each point to avoid confusion. If the players cannot agree on the score, the score reverts to the score at which the players last agree.
- E. All complaints alleging a violation of fair play and unsportsmanlike conduct shall be filed in writing to the LLC who will forward the complaint to the Grievance Committee. The Grievance Committee will review the alleged grievance and determine the necessary actions that should be taken.
- F. Spectators are not permitted to assist players in any way related to scoring, coaching, or line calls during a match. If problems with a spectator are encountered during a match, the match shall be stopped, and both team captains notified of the situation with resolution attempted prior to resuming play.

Scorecards:

- A. Scorecards are to be printed by captains from TennisLink.
- B. Captains are to exchange line-ups simultaneously. No changes may be made after line-ups have been exchanged, except as indicated in the substitution rule. Please note: After scorecards have been exchanged, if a team receives a default, the receiving team **does not have the option to change their line-up!**
- C. Substitution: 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. The start of an individual match is once the ball is struck and put into play to begin the match. In event rain or inclement weather forces cancellation and rescheduling of a team match, substitution may be made in any individual match that has not begun. No player involved in a default may participate in rescheduled match.
- D. **Captains are to agree on scores and players' names (as they appear in TennisLink) on scorecard before leaving match and sign each other's scorecards.** Signed scorecard will be official.
- E. **Either** captain can report scores on TennisLink and must report within 24 hours of match. The first captain to access TennisLink enters the score; the second captain confirms the score. Each match must be entered and confirmed. If the match is not confirmed within 48 hours

after the first captain enters the score, TennisLink will automatically confirm it for you. In case of disputed score, the captain must notify the **Level** Coordinator that a match has been disputed and the basis for the disputed score. **Refer to the match number when reporting a dispute and be specific.**

Defaults:

- A.** Default – when a team knows in advance it will not be able to field all three positions. In this case, the #3 doubles position must be defaulted.
- B.** Forfeit by default – when a player who was expected to play fails to appear on time or becomes unable to play and no substitute is available. In this case, the position in which the player was scheduled to play is defaulted.
- C.** Default by disqualification – disqualification occurs when a player is ineligible to participate for any reason (i.e., not a member of USTA, under age, not on roster). The position in which the disqualified player played is defaulted.
- D.** If a team defaults an entire match (**2 of the 3 positions**) for any reason during round robin play, then all matches of that team, played or to be played, shall be null and void. Previous points awarded to their opponents will be taken away. The League will file a grievance against any team violating this rule, and the AATL Grievance Committee will determine appropriate sanctions, which may include disqualification from the remainder of the season or from the next season.
- E.** Players receiving a default must be listed on Scorecard; players giving a default must not be listed.
- F.** Defaults given are voided in the event of rainouts provided **no individual** match has started. If any match has started (first ball put in play), the default stands.
- G.** **Two players will play together in the higher position when both of their partners do not show in order to avoid two defaults, (combined ratings may not exceed designated level of play).**

Retirements:

Retirement occurs when an individual match has started and a player is unable to continue due to injury, loss of condition, or emergency.

Scoring of Retirement:

In case of retirement after commencement of a match, the non-retiring player, or doubles team, shall be credited with such number of additional games as would have been won if match was completed and non-retiring player or doubles team won every subsequent game. **For NTRP computer data entry in TennisLink, mark as “retired” and submit actual scores of match at the point of retirement (i.e. 6-3, 2-1, retired).**

Progression to State Championships:

- A.** Each Player must play **at least two matches locally for Adult and one match locally for Senior** to qualify for further championship play. **One default received** can be used to qualify for advancement to the championships. A **default given** cannot. A default received will count as a qualifying match for Super Senior Mixed Doubles Championships. A **retired** match shall count toward advancing for all players involved.
- B.** If a player plays on more than one team at different levels, and both teams qualify for the State Championships, the player may participate in the State Championships on both teams. However, **no scheduling accommodations** will be made. If a player plays on teams in separate leagues at the same level and both teams advance to State Championships, the player may participate on only one team per level.

- C. The following number of teams per Local League will be qualified to go to the State Mixed Doubles Championships: 2-15 teams – 1 team; 16 and above teams - 2 teams.
- D. Championship Draw: The Championship Draw is a random draw done by the championship referee before league competition is completed. Where possible, however, teams from the same local league will be put in separate flights. The number of flights at a given level will depend on the number of teams eligible. A flight will typically have four teams and the referee may elect to add wildcard teams to balance out flights. In the case of three flights, a wildcard will be drawn at random (from the numbers 1, 2, 3 by the referee on the final day of round robin play to determine which flight's second place team will play in the semi finals. The wildcard team will play a team from another flight.
- E. Entry fee for State Mixed Doubles Championships will be \$20.00 per Championship participant.
- F. Teams that withdraw from the Championships after the roster/fee submittal deadline will default fees. A team substituted for the withdrawing team will be responsible only for any additional championship players exceeding the number of players submitted on withdrawing team. See "AATL Policy on Paying for Teams to attend SCTA Championships".

Wildcard Procedure:

Wildcards will be chosen from a random draw based on the number of teams and positions by Area from the current Mixed Doubles season. The number of teams an area has will be divided by the number of positions that area qualifies for at the State Championships. This number will determine the total chances the Area will have in the random draw. An Area whose team is drawn for a Wildcard and used at a particular level will **NOT BE ELIGIBLE** to have a wildcard at the same level the following year unless there are not enough teams available to complete the draw. An Area whose team is named to replace a team that dropped out of the State Championship will remain eligible for a wildcard at that level the following year. **Three-team levels will not be eligible for a wildcard.**

Number of Teams:

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

- (1) Assign the singleton team to another Local League, in which case, (a) the assigned team registers on TennisLink in the Local (host) League to which it is assigned and pays the fees and abides by the rules of the host league; (b) the host league will make the rule regarding travel for matches.
- (2) Group the singleton team with other singleton teams in the state and schedule a playoff among those teams to determine advancement to the State Championships. The State Mixed Doubles Coordinator will decide on the date(s), playoff structure, and designate the site and Local (host) League.

Day and Time of Play

Matches for Adult and Senior play will be scheduled during the week (Monday thru Thursday) starting no earlier than 6:00 pm. The LLC has the option to schedule other days and times if the number of teams and court availability warrants such a schedule.

Grievances:

Procedure for Filing Grievances

- A. A complaint against a player or team alleging a violation during local league competition shall be filed in writing with the LLC prior to the commencement of the next team match involving such player or team, or within twenty-four (24) hours after the end of local league play, whichever occurs first, except a complaint based on ineligibility under USTA League Regulations 2.02C (3) which may be filed after knowledge thereof. The LLC shall send a copy of such complaint to the party(s) to whom the complaint has been made and the Grievance Committee. (USTA League Reg 2.02C (2).
- B.** The grievance can be e-mailed, mailed or delivered to the LLC. **NOTE: E-mailing is preferred as this will allow the procedure to be more timely expedited.**
- C. The LLC will have the responsibility for naming a grievance committee to review the grievance and render a decision on the course of action to be taken on each incident. The procedure for handling grievances that is outlined in the USTA League Regulations shall be followed.
- D. Grievance Procedures are outlined in the USTA League Regulations 2.0 Grievance Procedures. The form for filing a grievance can be found on the Aiken web, www.aikentennis.com under "Rules".

With the approval of the State Mixed Doubles League Coordinator, the AATL Grievance Committee and the Grievance Appeal Committee are appointed by the Local League Coordinator. If a grievance is filed, and/or appealed and a Committee chair or Committee Member is close in any way to either party or the grievance, the Local League Coordinator along with the State Mixed Doubles League Coordinator may replace the chairman and/or committee member (s) to ensure maximum objectivity in the grievance procedure.

AATL Grievance Committee:

James Mosteller, Chair
Sandy Harris, Member
Mary Abele, Member.

Responsibilities are specified in USTA League Regulations.

AATL Appeals Committee:

Rob Lascola, Chair
Ron Dellamora, Member
Donna Schlagel, Member

Responsibilities are specified in USTA League Regulations.

MATCHES AFFECTED BY INCLEMENT WEATHER

General Weather Related Rules (Apply to all Inclement Weather Cases)

W1. Matches may only be postponed if courts are unplayable, as verified by both team captains, due to moisture, freezing, or the match time temperature is below 32 degrees. Matches may not be postponed due to excessive wind or heat.

W2. Matches may not be postponed more than one hour before match time.

W3: Only players on the team roster for the originally scheduled match date/time are eligible for make-up matches.

W4. If some courts are playable at match time, other individual matches, not started due to unplayable courts, may not be postponed to a later date unless courts are still unplayable 30 minutes after the original match time. Postponed individual matches are subject to rules 2A-2D below.

W5: Team Captains shall schedule all individual and team make-up matches. Since substitution applies to all matches not started, exchange of scorecards, and relying on players to arrange times to complete a make-up match is NOT permitted.

W6: Failure to follow the prescribed inclement weather make-up procedures listed for cases 1-3 will result in individual match or team defaults for the offending team, or a double-default for both teams.

Case 1: If courts are unplayable due to moisture, or temperature is below 32 degrees at match time, and both captains agree to postpone the match.

1A. Postponed matches may be made up, either as a team, or individual positions separately, within two weeks from the original match date. Exceptions may be granted by the LLC after receiving written (email) request by either captain.

1B. Within 24 hours from match postponement, the home team captain shall provide the Visiting team captain a minimum of 3 dates for each affected position, with proposed match times, (maximum of one Saturday or Sunday date, weekday times before 6pm may be given, but do not count towards the 3 date per position minimum as these times do not accommodate working players) to choose from for the make-up match(es). The AATL LLC shall be notified, via email, of the postponement and proposed make-up dates/times at the same time as the visiting team captain. Acceptable examples for a 3 position match, rained out on a Sunday, include 3 options for each doubles position,

*Monday, 2 Positions at 6pm

*Wednesday, 1 position at 7pm

*Sunday, 3 positions at 7pm

*Wednesday 2 positions at 6pm, 1 position at 8pm

Note: 4 different days are given, that include times after 6pm during the week, and any time on one weekend day. 9 doubles position times (3 for each of the three positions) are provided. This is the minimum, but captains are encouraged to provide as many options as they can.

1C. After receiving the proposed make-up dates/times, the visiting team captain may decide how many of each position (Line numbers shall be recorded on the scorecard in the chronological order they are played except in the case of defaults as described in 1D below) are played on the given dates/times and notify the Home Team Captain and League Coordinator, via email, within 24 hours **(NOTE: Based on the timing in rules 1B and 1C, the schedule for make-up matches should be established with 48 hours after original match postponement.)**

1D. After make-up scheduling, if a team must default (per GENERAL Rule #12) an individual match on any of the make-up dates, the defaults shall be recorded at the lowest positions when scores are entered in TennisLink regardless of the defaulted match position.

1E. If a make-up match must be postponed due to inclement weather, it must be made up within one week, and rules 1A-1D, or 2A-2E if applicable, apply to all successive make-ups with the one week limitation applied.

Case 2: Courts become unplayable after match start time, but before the start of the first point in the match.

2A. Case 1 rules 1A-1E apply.

2B. Defaults received during scorecard exchange count.

2C. For make-up matches, substitution of players on original scorecard may include any player eligible per rule W3.

2D. In the case of defaults received at originally scheduled match time, the players listed on the scorecard at original exchange receive the default, and are not eligible for substitution at other positions for this team match.

Case 3: Courts become unplayable due to moisture after the first point has been played in an individual match.

For this case, the match must be resumed from the exact point where it was stopped (i.e, same players, score, court position, court surface but not exact court, and service rotation) completed within two weeks of the original match date using rules 1A-1E above. Matches will be completed line by line/position by position unless the team agrees to complete all matches at one time. All three positions on the team **must** complete their matches, and have them entered in Tennislink, within 15 calendar days from the day the match was originally scheduled.

MATCH CONFLICTS WITH OTHER EVENTS

Except in the event of weather, matches may not be played after the originally scheduled match date. Matches may be played up to 2 weeks in advance of the originally scheduled match for 4 reasons: (1) If the match date interferes with a league championship. (This includes Adult, Seniors, Super Seniors, Combo, and Mixed Doubles); (2) If the match date conflicts with a previously scheduled TEAM commitment to a tennis related event out-of-town, such as an adult tennis camp, or an out-of-state tennis tournament where the TEAM is competing; (3) If a majority of team members are affected by school holidays, and are not available to play (4) Special event deemed acceptable by the Local League Coordinator (i.e., tournament, tennis facility event, funeral, etc.). However, both captains must agree to this change, and permission must be granted by the Local League Coordinator, or else the match will be played as scheduled.

Three dates, minimum, with proposed match times should be given to the visiting captain to play the match early using the procedure given in rules MATCHES AFFECTED BY INCLEMENT WEATHER rules 1B-1C. If no agreement can be reached on a date to play, the Local League Coordinator has the final say. If it rains the day of the match, and no other day can be agreed upon to play, then the original date of the match stands.

AATL Policy on Paying for Teams to attend SCTA Championships

Teams qualifying for State Championships, are required to submit a check to the AATL League Coordinator for an amount that includes \$20 for each player that will attend the championships. For all teams that attend state championships, submitted checks will be destroyed promptly after championship

play is completed, as the AATL will pay player fees for all AATL teams at championships. Prior to the completion of the league season, League Coordinator will communicate the deadline by which checks must be received (typically one to two weeks prior to state deadline for receipt) to affected captains. If a team does not submit the check by the published deadline, the delinquent team will be removed from consideration for playoffs, and other AATL teams will be given the opportunity to replace the delinquent team in the Championship draw. If a team that has paid the team fee decides to not attend State Championships after the published deadline, the check will be forfeited to AATL to offset fees paid to USTA SC regardless of whether another AATL team is available to replace the team dropping out.

Other Situations:

If there is a situation that is not covered by these rules and regulations, refer to USTA Sectional and State League Rules and Regulations.

The advice and recommendations of the South Carolina Mixed Doubles League Coordinator shall be secured by the LLC when deemed necessary. Questions regarding rules interpretations, refunds, Tennislink corrections shall be addressed by the AATL Deputy LLC: Eddie Estochen (edesto@bellsouth.net, 270-4170)

2009 Mixed Doubles Championships:

- USTA League Tennis State Mixed Doubles Championships (Adult and Senior) will be held in Charleston, SC September 12 – 14, 2009.
- USTA League Tennis Southern Sectional Mixed Doubles Championships will be held in Jackson, MS October 15-18, 2009.
- National Eastern Mixed Doubles Championships – (Champions from Caribbean, Eastern, Florida, Mid-Atlantic, Middle States, Midwest, New England, and Southern Sections) – November 20-22, 2009, in Las Vegas, NV.

Approved: April 23, 2009