

AIKEN AREA TENNIS LEAGUE (AATL) COMBO DOUBLES REGULATIONS
ADULT, SENIOR and SUPER SENIOR
League Year 2009-Approved 6/2/2009

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 Southern League Tennis activities on the local level and report to the State COMBO Doubles League Coordinator.

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

0.00 INTRODUCTION

0.01 USTA South Carolina Combo Doubles League Program is team competition for Adult men and women with combined levels of 5.0, 5.5 – 10.5. Local winning teams have the opportunity to advance to State competition. The League also offers Senior league competition at the 5.5 – 8.5 combined levels, and Super Senior league competition at the 6.5-8.5 levels. Local winning Senior and Super Senior teams may advance to State competition. All State rules as outlined apply to Adult and Senior Combo Doubles League unless otherwise noted. Super Senior play will be governed by the Senior rules. A player may compete in Super Senior, Senior and Adult Combo Doubles League in accordance with the appropriate rules.

0.02 The AATL Local League Coordinator has been appointed by USTA-SC to implement and administer the USTA-SC League Tennis Program and interpret the COMBO Doubles Local League rules, regulations and procedures.

0.03 All participants must be a current member of the USTA and reach 19 years of age prior to or during the calendar year in which they play their first local league match.

0.04 All Senior players must reach 50, and Super Seniors 60 years of age, prior to or during the calendar year in which they play their first local league match.

0.05 All players, teams and Local Leagues must abide by USTA Southern Combo Doubles Tennis Regulations and USTA South Carolina Combo Doubles Tennis Rules and Regulations.

0.06 USTA Southern Combo Doubles Regulations and USTA South Carolina Combo Doubles Regulations take precedence over Local League Regulations.

Paragraph numbering for the following sections is done in accordance with the numbering format of the USTA Southern Regulations. Topics addressed in specific paragraphs of the USTA South Carolina Combo Doubles Regulations relate to the same topics in the same paragraphs of the aforesaid regulations

1.00 GENERAL**1.11 Membership**

1.11B All players must be current members of USTA and USTA South Carolina through the Combo Doubles Local League season, including local play-offs.

1.14 Registration.**1.14A(1) Rosters.**

Rosters must be entered in TennisLink before League play begins. Players may not move to a different team once match play has begun for that level, unless approved by the State Combo Doubles League Coordinator. Players may not be added to the team roster during local league flight playoffs or at any championship. The Combo Doubles State League Coordinator will inform Local Leagues of add-on deadlines for State Championships.

(a) Initial Roster Deadline.

Teams must have 3 legitimate doubles pairings entered in Tennislink by 7/10. Players may continue to be added to teams up until the start of the last scheduled match in Tennislink.

(b) Refunds

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 Combo 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 Combo Doubles Season.

1.14(3) General Registration.

Teams playing their Local League during Combo Doubles Championships must be entered into TennisLink by September 18, 2009.

2.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES.**2.01 Committees.**

2.01A Grievance Committees. Grievances will be handled by the appropriate Grievance Committee. Committee members are subject to change as the need arises.

AATL Combo Doubles Grievance Committee:

James Mosteller, Chair

Sandy Harris, Member

Mary Abele, Member.

2.01B Grievance Appeals Committee. Grievance appeals will be handled by the appropriate Grievance Appeals Committee. Committee members are subject to change as the need arises.

AATL Combo Doubles Grievance Appeals Committee:

Rob Lascola, Chair

Ron Dellamora, Member

Donna Schlagel, Member

GRIEVANCE COMPLAINT.**2.02A General Procedures.**

2.02A(2) A complaint against the Administration of the League shall be filed and heard in the same manner as any other complaint. Any complaint against the Local League Coordinator shall be filed in writing with the USTA South Carolina Adult Leagues Committee. A grievance decision can be appealed to a USTA South Carolina Grievance Appeal Committee. The Grievance Appeal Committee decision is final and binding.

2.02A(3) All complaints with regard to any aspect of the Combo Doubles League Tennis Program shall be processed through the USTA Southern Section League Tennis Program Grievance and Grievance Appeal Committees at the appropriate level (i.e. local, area, sectional, regional combo doubles.). Decisions of such Grievance Appeal Committees shall be final and binding except with regard to suspensions of players or teams for a period of 12 months or more.

202B Self-Rate Grievances Complaint. Self rated players who enter the Combo Doubles Tennis league 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.

202 B(1) Self-Rate NTRP Grievances filed within two weeks of the start date of the players' and/or captain's State Championships will be administered after the event unless the state or 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.

2.02B(2) Self-Rate NTRP Grievances. Self-Rate NTRP grievances shall come under the jurisdiction of the Section Grievance and Grievance Appeals Committees. Grievance Complaints will be sent to the State League Coordinator to be forwarded to the Section Grievance Committee.

3.00 COMBO DOUBLES LEAGUE REGULATIONS**3.01 LOCAL LEAGUE**

3.01(A) Number of Teams. When a Local League does not have the required number of teams (two teams), in the Adult Division, Senior Division or Super Senior Division, to constitute a level, the State League Coordinator, in consultation with affected Local League Coordinators, shall either:

Assign the singleton team to another Local League, in which case, (a) the assigned team will register on TennisLink in the Local (host) League to which it is assigned and pay the fees and abide by the rules of the host league; (b) the host league will make the rule regarding travel for matches.

Group the singleton team with other singleton teams (Adult, Senior, Super Senior Divisions) in the state and schedule a playoff among those teams to determine advancement to the State Championships. The State League Coordinator will decide on the date(s), playoff structure, and designate the site and Local (host) League.

3.01D ENTRY.

3.01D(2) 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.

3.01E LEVELS OF PLAY.

The levels offered will be combined (5.0, 5.5, 6.5,7.5,8.5, 9.5,10.5 Adults and 5.5,6.5,7.5, 8.5, Seniors, and 6.5, 7.5,8.5, Super Seniors

*****The combined levels of each doubles pair cannot exceed the team level.*****

3.01G SCORING AND REST Local Leagues have the option to use or not use the Match Tiebreak (first to 10 by a margin of 2) in lieu of a third set in Local League play, including playoffs.

3.01H COMPETITION FORMAT

301H (1) Format of play will be three individual men's and women's doubles matches per team match.

- a. AATL League matches must be played at facilities within boundaries of the AATL..
- b. AATL Teams must have at least 50% of players residing within boundaries of the AATL.
- c. Super Senior matches must be played on Clay courts.
- d. Clay courts shall be utilized to the maximum extent possible for Senior matches (State Championship play will be on clay, weather permitting).

3.01H(2) Team Match and Scoring.

- a. The maximum number of team forfeits allowed during the Local League Season is the same as the number of teams in a flight, or 3, whichever number is smaller.
- b. Player's must be present on court to receive a default.
- c. All matches played by a team that drops out of the League during the League Season will be used as forfeits to qualify players for Championship play.
- d. Retirements will be used to qualify all players involved in the retired match for Championship play.

3.01H(3) Team Lineups. An individual match is started when the first ball is put in play. After the start of an individual match, if injury to, illness of, or disqualification of a player occurs, the opponents will be awarded a forfeit for that individual match only. The forfeit principles shall be applicable, with the Sectional modifications that:

- a. 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 forfeited in local leagues.
- b. In the event that a team match must be re-scheduled and starting times are staggered, where opponents are not available and ready to play, forfeits will be awarded in the affected position only.
- c. See Weather Affected Matches for AATL make-up procedure.

301H(5) Player Participation.

3.01H(5)b During the South Carolina Combo Doubles Local League Season a player may play on more than one combined level in Adult, Senior and/or Super Senior divisions in the **same** Local League during the same season.

3.01H(5)c

(1) A player may not play at the same combined level in the same division (Adult, Senior or Super Senior) on teams in separate Local Leagues in South Carolina Combo Doubles during the same season.

(2) A player may play at different combined levels in the same division (Adult, Senior or Super Senior) on teams in separate Local Leagues in South Carolina during the same season.

(3) 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 League Coordinator. A player playing out of his/her home state without obtaining prior approval may be subject to sanctions, which may include disqualification from further play and voiding of matches already played. 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 and the same division (Adult, Senior or Super Senior) as in 2008.

(4) AATL Teams are limited to a maximum of 2 Out of State Players.

3.01H(5)d Players who qualify for South Carolina Combo Doubles State League Championships may advance on more than one Adult, one Senior and one Super Senior team in the 2009 Combo Doubles League State Championships, but they may advance to the Sectional Championships on no more than one Adult, one Senior, and one Super Senior team.

3.01H(6) 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 team must play at least three matches to qualify for further championship play.
- g. 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.

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- h. Home team is responsible for providing new balls.
- i. 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.
- j. If the beginning of a match is delayed by rain or wet courts, SEE MATCHES AFFECTED BY INCLEMENT WEATHER
- k. 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"
- l. Players must report to scheduled matches on time. The 15-minute default rule will apply – unless prior arrangements have been made between captains.
- m. 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.
- n. 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.

PROGRESSION

3.02A Local League Competition. Each Local League MUST complete their Local League Season prior to the South Carolina Combo Doubles State League Championships and submit the required team entry fees and information to the Combo Doubles State League Coordinator by October 15, 2009.

3.02B State Championships.

- (1) All participants must be on the roster and have played at least one match locally in the Adult Division in order to be eligible to compete at Combo Doubles League State Championships and at least one match in the Senior or Super Senior Divisions in order to be eligible to compete at Combo Doubles League State Championships.
- (2) Combined Levels with 8, (cap of 8), or fewer teams around the state will play their local league at the South Carolina Combo Doubles State League Championships. Any play at the local league level will not qualify the individuals for advancement to the Sectional Championships with that team.
- (3) Play-offs may be required to determine advancement to Combo Doubles League State Championships between Local Leagues/levels that only have two teams in a level; this applies to both Adult, Senior and Super Senior Leagues.
- (4) A Default received counts as a qualifying match for Adult, Senior, and Super Senior Combo Doubles State League Championships.
- (5) For all players involved, a Retirement counts as a qualifying match for Adult, Senior, and Super Senior Combo Doubles League State Championships.
- (6) The winner of each level at the Combo Doubles League State Championships will be allowed to advance to the Sectional Championships in Mobile, Alabama, January 22-25, 2010

(7) 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”.

(8) 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 typically will have four teams and the referee may elect to add wildcard teams to balance out flights [see item (12)]. 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 semifinals. The wildcard team will play a team from another flight.

(9) WILDCARD PROCEDURE: (a) Wildcards will be chosen from a random draw based on the number of teams and positions by Area from the current Combo season. The number of teams an area has will be divided by the number of positions that area qualifies for State Championships. This number will determine the total chances the Area will have in the random draw. A Team that 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. Two-team levels will not be eligible for a wildcard.

(10) Scheduling at Combo Doubles League State Championships will not be able to accommodate players who compete in combinations of Adult, Senior, and Super Senior divisions, and who compete on multiple levels.

(11) The Combo Doubles League State Championships will be a round robin format.

(12) Entry fee for Combo Doubles League State Championships will be \$20.00 per Championship participant.

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 Championship play, 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 Combo 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 Combo Doubles Championships:

- STA League Tennis State Combo Doubles Championships (Adult, Senior and Super Senior) will be held in Charleston, SC October 23-26, 2009.
- STA League Tennis Southern Sectional Combo Doubles Championships will be held in Mobile, Alabama, January 22-25, 2010