

# LOWCOUNTRY TENNIS ASSOCIATION

## MIXED DOUBLES REGULATIONS

FOR THE **2022** USTA **MIXED**  
**DOUBLES** TENNIS PROGRAM

## INTRODUCTION

The following regulations apply to the **2022** USTA League Tennis Mixed Doubles Program in the Lowcountry Tennis Association of the South Carolina State of the Southern Section, and they apply to the Adult 18 & Over League, the Adult 40 & Over League, the Adult 55 & Over League, and the Adult 65 & Over League. These regulations augment the **2022** USTA League Tennis Regulations, the USTA Southern Section Regulations for USTA League Tennis for League Year **2022**, the USTA South Carolina Mixed Doubles Regulations for USTA League Tennis for League Year **2022**, the Lowcountry Tennis Association Regulations and the Lowcountry Tennis Association By-Laws. For the most part, Lowcountry Tennis Association Local League Regulations do not repeat rules and regulations found in the other documents. In instances where a regulation is repeated, it is repeated verbatim. For a person to read the full set of regulations that apply to the Lowcountry Tennis Association, it is necessary to obtain copies of all Regulations mentioned above. They can be downloaded from the Lowcountry Tennis Association [website](http://www.lctatennis.org) (<http://www.lctatennis.org>).

USTA League Tennis, USTA Southern Section, and USTA South Carolina regulations take precedence over the Lowcountry Tennis Association Local League Regulations. If any conflicts occur, the Local League Regulations will be overruled by the other regulations.

It may be necessary to correct or change the Local League Regulations in order to react to changes in USTA League Tennis, Southern Sectional or USTA South Carolina regulations.

Paragraph lettering and numbering in the Lowcountry Tennis Association Local League Regulations may not be consecutive.

Highlighted and italicized font indicates new or revised wording for **2022**.

## 1.0 GENERAL

### 1.07 TENNIS BALLS

The home team must furnish one can of unopened yellow or white Ball Type 1 (fast-regular felt) or Ball Type 2 (medium-heavy duty felt) tennis balls for each individual match to be played. If both players/teams agree prior to the start of an individual match, a can of unopened Ball Type 3 (slow-larger ball) may be used. The Penn pink tennis balls are not approved by the USTA and thus cannot be used for League Tennis play.

## 1.18 SECTIONAL LEAGUE COORDINATOR

The Southern Section has appointed Chris Walling as Sectional League Coordinator to implement and administer the USTA League Tennis Program in accordance with the USTA League Tennis Regulations.

## 1.19 USTA SC DIRECTOR OF ADULT PROGRAMS (DL)

- A. The following person has been appointed to implement and administer the USTA/South Carolina USTA League Tennis Program:

Jessica Harrell  
18 Woodcross Drive  
Columbia, SC 29212  
Harrell@sctennis.com  
(803) 781-2574 ext. 103

- B. **USTA SC DISTRICT LEAGUE COORDINATOR:** The following person has been appointed to implement and administer the USTA/South Carolina Adult League Tennis Program:

Susan Turner  
48 Upper Pond Rd.  
Columbia, SC 29223  
*turner@sctennis.com*  
(803)201-1016

## 1.20 LOCAL LEAGUE COORDINATORS (LLC)

- A. The following person has been appointed to implement and administer the Lowcountry Tennis Association USTA League Tennis Program and to interpret the Lowcountry Tennis Association Local League Regulations:

Doreen "Dee" Mack  
1014 Magnolia Rd.  
Charleston, SC 29407  
hotback4@gmail.com  
(843) 568-0391

- B. The following person has been appointed to implement and administer the Lowcountry Tennis Association Mixed Doubles USTA League Tennis Program and to interpret Lowcountry Tennis Association Local League Regulations for Mixed Doubles:

**Christiane "Chris" Jones**  
**4006 Crown Pointe Street**  
**Daniel Island, SC 29492**  
[chris.h.jones@gmail.com](mailto:chris.h.jones@gmail.com)  
**843-513-4718**

#### **1.21 TEAM CAPTAIN**

Each team shall appoint a team captain to handle administrative affairs and to represent the team in Lowcountry Tennis Association matters. It is recommended that the team captain be a playing member of the team but, in no circumstances, may an individual be a team captain of more than one League team at the same level of play and age group, though an individual could be the captain of one League Team at different levels of play, or age groups. The team captain, or an acting team captain, must be present at every match. Each team may also appoint a co-captain. Both the captain and co-captain (if there is one) must have an email address and telephone number in TennisLink.

#### **1.24 LOCAL LEAGUE SEASON**

The season for the Lowcountry Tennis Association Mixed Doubles Local League shall be from **April 25, 2022 to June 18, 2022.**

#### **1.25 OUT OF AREA TEAMS**

If teams are accepted and moved from other leagues and/or tennis associations to play in the Lowcountry Tennis Association, those teams will play all of their matches at Lowcountry Tennis Association sites. The Lowcountry Tennis Association geographic area is the South Carolina Counties of Charleston, Colleton, Berkeley, and Dorchester.

##### **SINGLETON TEAMS:**

**Number of Teams.** When a Local League does not have the required number of Teams (two teams), for Mixed Adult 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over, and 65 & Over, to constitute a level, the affected Local League Coordinators, shall either:

- a. Offer to move that team to another age division offered in that area in that particular level, if applicable.
- b. Move individual players to another team in that area, if applicable, or move them to an "Extra Players" flight to hold for future play in other leagues, i.e., Mixed, Combo, etc.

- c. The **USTA SC District 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 the **Local League Coordinator** and the **Mixed Doubles League Coordinator** agree on something different.
- d. If one singleton team is moved into an already existing league of at least 2 teams, then that singleton team must secure home courts in that host local league where they have been moved and if that singleton team wins that league, they will represent that host league at the State Championship.
  - i. The singleton team must follow all rules and regulations of the host league.
  - ii. The host league is responsible for all awards, state championship fees (if applicable), and state championship registration.
- e. If the **Local League Coordinator** and the **Mixed Doubles League Coordinator** agree to combine singleton teams in order to form a league for those teams to qualify, the winning team from that singleton league will be allowed to represent the Local League where they initially registered.
  - i. Rules and regulation issues that occur during the singleton team league play will be handled by the **USTA SC District League Coordinator** in consultation with the **Local League Coordinator** and the **Mixed Doubles League Coordinator** that are involved.
  - ii. The area that is represented by the winning team will be responsible for all awards, state championship fees (if applicable) and state championship registration for that team.
- f. Refund all or a portion of the registration fee in accordance with the Local League policy.

## 1.26 COURT FACILITIES

Each team participating in the Lowcountry Tennis Association (LCTA) must guarantee the use of three courts at one location for all LCTA regularly scheduled and make-up matches. Any approved USTA surface is permissible, including indoor and outdoor (clay or hard) surfaces. The choice of surfaces is the prerogative of the home team, and more than one surface may be used for a single team match. The home team must identify which individual matches will be played on which surfaces prior to either team turning in the line-up for that day's play. If the court surface of the home team's choice is not available but alternate court surfaces at the home team facility are available and playable, the available and playable surfaces must be used. The home team is

responsible to have courts available and playable at match time. It may be necessary to amend match times and/or HOME matches to accommodate facilities with multiple teams at the same level.

For 3 position leagues, (Mixed, Combo, Singles, 55 & Over, 65 & Over, 70 & Over, 75 & Over, 2.5 and 5.0) a maximum of 2 teams for every 3 courts can be accommodated. If a facility will commit the following - 3-5 courts - 2 teams; 6-8 courts - 4 teams; 9 or more courts - 6 teams at a facility. For 3 position leagues where more than one division is scheduled to play at the same time, 6 courts must be available to accommodate a 3-position league.

## 1.27 COACHING AND SPORTSMANSHIP

- A. Coaching is not allowed during LCTA matches.
- B. There are no linespersons or referees for LCTA matches. If a conflict occurs during match play over line calls, the players involved may request their captains to appoint a linesperson for the remainder of the match.
- C. Foot faults are illegal. Constant and blatant foot faulting giving the server a definite advantage should be politely brought to the attention of the server. If the foot-faulting continues, the players involved may request the captains to appoint a linesperson for the remainder of the match.
- D. Players should call the score after each point to avoid confusion. If there is disagreement over the score, players should go back to the last agreed upon point.
- E. Spectators may not aid players in making a line call or in determining the correct score. Spectators should not participate in the match in any way and should refrain from doing so even if asked by the players.
- F. Spectators may quietly watch a match in progress. They should not sit or stand at the end of the court immediately behind the servers or receivers if it is distracting to the players. Spectators may quietly clap for points well played. It should be remembered that the well-played point should be applauded regardless of who won the point. It is poor tennis etiquette to clap for unforced errors.
- G. It is the responsibility of the team captain to control the noise and behavior of team spectators. Loud, boisterous, or unsportsmanlike behavior is unacceptable. If a problem arises with a spectator, both players should ask the spectator to refrain from the offensive

behavior. If the behavior persists, the team captains should be summoned to handle the situation. If necessary, a grievance should be filed.

- H. Coaches and club professionals must not interfere in discussions or negotiations between players or captains unless specifically asked by both captains for advice. Even then, it is the responsibility of the two captains, not the coach or professional, to decide on the appropriate resolution.
- I. Disputes should be settled between players as soon as they arise. All points played in good faith stand. Players should be able to resolve any dispute by themselves. If, however, they cannot, they should do the following:
  - (1) The player should inform the opponent of the problem and intention to leave the court to obtain the assistance of the team captain. When leaving the court, the racket should be left on the court.
  - (2) The captain should contact the opponent's captain and they should try to resolve the dispute. If the captains are involved in playing a match, the players may have to postpone their play until the captains are available to assist them.
  - (3) If the captains and players cannot agree on a resolution to the conflict, the offended player(s) may either: (i) Continue to play the match but do so under protest. The score and who was serving at the time of the protest will be indicated on the scorecard with the annotation, "played under protest." At the conclusion of the match, the captain may file a written grievance. If no grievance is filed, the results of the match stand as completed. (ii) Stop play, ensuring both captains and the opponent know why. Indicate on the scorecard that the match was stopped in protest and indicate the score and who was serving at the time the match was stopped. The player's captain should file a grievance. If no grievance is filed within the required time frame (see 2.01A), the match will be scored as a retirement by the offended player.

## 2.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

### 2.01A GRIEVANCE COMPLAINTS

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 in writing with the **Chairperson of the Lowcountry Tennis Association Grievance Committee** 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.

With the approval of the **USTA SC District League Coordinator**, the Lowcountry Tennis Association Grievance Committee consists of five or more Lowcountry Tennis Association members appointed by the Lowcountry Tennis Association President/Local League Coordinator. The chairperson and at least two of the four members of the Grievance Committee will meet to decide any grievance submitted to the Committee. With the approval of the **USTA SC District League Coordinator**, members of the Lowcountry Tennis Association Mixed Doubles League Grievance Committee are:

Chairperson - Nancy Pitcairn  
Members – Lisa Deidrick, Bill Snead, Becky Williamson, and Jim Gooden

The decisions of the Lowcountry Tennis Association Grievance Committee may be appealed. With approval of the **USTA SC District League Coordinator**, the Lowcountry Tennis Association Appeal Committee consists of four Lowcountry Tennis Association members. The chairperson and at least two of the four members will meet to decide any grievance appeal submitted to the Committee. Members of the Lowcountry Tennis Association Appeal Committee are:

Chairperson – Donna Brown  
Members - Bill Ennis, Steve Speer, Rob Eppelsheimer, and Art Welling

## 2.01B GRIEVANCE COMPLAINTS DURING LCTA **LOCAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

1. **Filing a Grievance.** Grievance complaints may be filed during LCTA **Local Championships**. A complaint against an individual or team may only be filed by the team captain of the team who has competed in the match where the alleged violation occurred. These complaints must be submitted, in writing, within 30 minutes of the end of the team match to the **Local League Coordinator** (or his/her designated representative). When such a grievance is filed, the next round of play will be delayed for all teams until the grievance is decided.
2. **Playoff Grievance Committee.** Prior to the **Local Championships**, a three-person **Local Championships** Grievance Committee will be designated, and the captains participating in the playoff will be advised of its composition. Normally, the **Mixed Doubles League Coordinator** will be one of the members of the Committee. Members of the **Local Championships** Grievance Committee need not be at the site during the **Local Championships** but must be available by telephone throughout the **Local Championships**. Whenever possible, the **Local Championships** Grievance Committee should meet at the playoff site if a grievance is filed, but participation by telephone is allowed, if necessary. The decision of the **Local Championships** Grievance Committee shall be by majority vote.

3. **Filing an Appeal.** Any party to a grievance complaint may appeal the decision, in writing, within 30 minutes following the rendering of the grievance committee decision. Prior to the playoff, a three-person **Local Championships** Grievance Appeal Committee will be designated, and the captains participating in the **Local Championships** will be advised of its composition. Members of the **Local Championships** Grievance Appeal Committee need not be at the site during the Local Championships but must be available by telephone throughout the playoff competition. Whenever possible, the **Local Championships** Grievance Appeal Committee should meet at the playoff site if a grievance appeal is filed, but participation by telephone is allowed, if necessary. The decision of the **Local Championships** Grievance Appeal Committee shall be by majority vote. Play will not recommence until the Grievance Appeal is decided.

## 2.02 GRIEVANCE COMPLAINTS CONCERNING LCTA LEAGUE ADMINISTRATION

All grievances against the Lowcountry Tennis Association administration of the USTA League Tennis Program wherein the complaint alleges that a coordinator or committee has violated National, Sectional, State or Local Regulations will be handled as an Administrative Grievance filed at the next higher level with the Sectional Association being the final authority. Any grievance pertaining to administration of the League Program at any level shall constitute an Administrative Grievance. Captains and committee members are not subject to Administrative Grievances. An

Administrative Grievance shall be filed within one year of the incident leading to the grievance or it shall be barred.

## 2.03 SELF-RATE 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 complaint and possible disqualification. Grievances against such players may be filed by the Local League Coordinator, a team captain, or a tournament committee. Such grievances will be reviewed and decided by the Southern NTRP Grievance Committee appointed and convened by the Section League Coordinator. These complaints should be first delivered to the Local League Coordinator, who will forward them to the **USTA SC District League Coordinator**, who will forward them to the Section League Coordinator who, in turn, will forward them to the Southern NTRP Grievance Committee Chairman.

## 3.0 MIXED DOUBLES REGULATIONS

### 3.01 LOCAL LEAGUE

#### 3.01A APPEALS DURING LOCAL LEAGUE SEASON

Players may appeal their rating once anytime during the **2022** league year. However, if a player's rating is changed through appeal after the first match played by their Mixed Doubles league team, the player must continue to use the rating submitted on the roster for the entire Mixed season including through any championship level play. For instance, a 3.5 player signs up for a team on May 15 and their team's first match is on May 27. The player may successfully appeal his or her rating on May 28 and get re-rated down to 3.0. However, the player must play the mixed season, including **Local Championships**, as a 3.5 rated player even if the player did not play in the first match.

### 3.02 LEAGUE NTRP DISQUALIFICATION AND APPEAL PROCEDURES

#### 3.02A NTRP DISQUALIFICATION PROCEDURES

During local league competition and at every level of championship competition below national championships, computer ratings will be calculated for all players to determine if any players have reached the disqualification criteria using the USTA NTRP Computer Methodology Procedures. Players will be NTRP disqualified if they reach the disqualification level three times based on all matches reported in the national database for 18 & Over and 40 & Over Divisions. There will not, however, be any disqualification of a player with a C (year-end computer rating not including a rating resulting only from play in mixed doubles) rating.

- 1) *Local League NTRP Disqualification.* Any player that reaches the NTRP disqualification level three times shall be disqualified and will not progress to championship competition at that level of play. These players will be immediately notified and have the right to appeal in accordance with procedures in 2.04B(1) of the USTA League Tennis Regulations.
- 2) *2.04B NTRP Appeal Procedures.* If the player or the team captain of a player disqualified in the local league desires to appeal the NTRP disqualification, he/she must file an appeal, in writing, to the Southern Tennis Association within the time limit set by the NTRP Committee of notification of the disqualification.

#### 3.02B SCORING PROCEDURES

***This section, originally adopted in 2016 and posted below, states that matches will not be reversed.***

If a self-rated (S) or Medical Appeal player is promoted from a particular level of play, the player shall cease play immediately from the NTRP level being promoted from and graduate to the next higher NTRP level. All prior matches shall stand in good faith. Captains and/or teams with 2 or more promoted players within a 12-month period may be subject to an NTRP Grievance and subsequent suspension from USTA Leagues.

### 3.03A NUMBER OF TEAMS

The Lowcountry Tennis Association shall consist of a minimum of two teams in a specific level of competition or flight. In order to accommodate scheduling considerations, the Lowcountry Tennis Association may establish two or more sub-flights within a flight. The decision to establish two or more flights will be made by the **Mixed Doubles League** Coordinator or **a specific Mixed Doubles Flight** Coordinator, as appropriate. Sub-flights will generally not be established where it results in a sub-flight of fewer than five teams and sub-flights will not generally exceed 13 teams. The make-up of a sub-flight will be the result of either a random selection or on the basis of geographical location, as determined by the Mixed Doubles **League** Coordinator **or a specific Mixed Doubles Flight Coordinator**. When using the random selection alternative, the Mixed Doubles **League** Coordinator **or a specific Mixed Doubles Flight Coordinator** may elect to split, to the maximum extent possible, the teams from a single tennis club among sub-flights.

### 3.03B TEAM

1. A team will consist of a minimum of six players (at least three men and three women) eligible to compete at a specific level of competition.
2. *All members of a team in Mixed Doubles Adult 18 & Over must be at least 18 years of age in order to register for an 18 & Over team.*
3. All members of a team in Mixed Doubles Adult 40 & Over must be at least 40 years of age by December 31, **2022**.
4. All members of a team in Mixed Doubles 55 & Over must be at least 55 years of age by December 31, **2022**.
5. All members of a team in Mixed Doubles 65 & Over must be at least 65 years of age by December 31, **2022**.
6. During the South Carolina Mixed League season, players may participate at multiple levels in the Mixed Adult 18 & Over, Mixed Adult 40 & Over, Mixed 55 & Over, and Mixed 65 & Over divisions as long as a player's rating and age do not exceed the maximum for that level or

division. A player may play at the same NTRP level in the same division (18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over, and 65 & Over) on teams in separate Mixed Leagues in South Carolina during the same season. If both teams in the same division advance to the Mixed **Doubles** State Championships, the player must choose to play on only one team at that same level.

### 3.03C ENTRY

1. Players with a computer rating at the time of registration must play at that NTRP level.
2. Players without a computer rating but who self-rated within the past year must play at that level.
3. 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 provide accurate 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. Important note: After a player self-rates, the player must play at that NTRP level or higher; i.e., the player may self-rate at a level lower than the level at which the player intends to play.

### 3.03D FLIGHTS OF PLAY

3.03E(1) The Lowcountry Tennis Association Local Mixed League has determined that for the league year of **2022** the following flights shall be available if at least two teams register for the flight.

Mixed Doubles Adult 18 & Over:	2.5, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, and 10.0
Mixed Doubles Adult 40 & Over:	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, and 9.0
Mixed Doubles Adult 55 & Over:	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, and 9.0
Mixed Doubles Adult 65 & Over:	6.0, 7.0, and 8.0

The **USTA SC District League Coordinator**, in consultation with the USTA SC Director of Adult Programs, will determine which NTRP levels will play their local league at the State Championship when the rosters for these levels have been submitted. Legal team rosters for these levels must be submitted by the initial mixed league deadline date for the area in which the team is registering.

**The deadline for adding players to a roster for teams advancing directly to state is **August 27, 2022.****

3.03E(2) Except for the 2.5 flight, the combined ratings of a partnership must not exceed the level of the flight. Additionally, the difference in ratings for any on-court partnership may not exceed 1.0. For the 2.5 flight, both players in the partnership must be rated 2.5 or below. 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.

### 3.03E SCORING AND REST

3.03E(1) All matches in the Mixed Doubles 18 *& Over*, 40 *& Over*, 55 *& Over*, and 65 *& Over* Adult Leagues will be the best of three sets with a match tie break (i.e., first team to win at least 10 points and with at least a two-point margin over the opponent) in lieu of the third set, and with set tie breaks (i.e., first team to win at least 7 points and with at least a two-point margin over the opponent) at 6-games all in the first two sets. All matches will use the Coman Tiebreak Procedure if either a set tiebreak or match tiebreak is needed.

3.03E(2) A 2-minute break may be taken at the end of each set. There will be a changeover, but no break, at the end of the first game of each set.

#### 3.03E(3) Recording and Reporting Scores

Per USTA-SC regulation 1.04C (2) The initial entry of match scores in TennisLink must take place within 48 hours of the completion of the match. After match scores have been entered in TennisLink, they must be confirmed by the opposing team within 48 hours of the initial entry, or the initial score will automatically be considered valid. Failure to comply may subject teams to a grievance and/or double default.

- i Match scores are to be entered into TennisLink within 48 hours of the end of the match. While either team may enter the score, it is recommended that the captain or co-captain of the winning team enter the score.
- ii If match scores are not entered into TennisLink within 48 hours, a team may receive a warning. Any additional occurrences of not entering the score within 48 hours of match completion may result in the match being excluded when determining the division/flight standings.
- iii The captain of the losing team (or the team not entering the results in TennisLink) will verify that the scores have been entered correctly. The verifying captain will either confirm, through TennisLink, that the match score as reported is accurate, or will dispute the score if he/she believes an error has been made and that the reported score is incorrect.
- iv The verification of the match score must be completed within 48 hours of the score being entered into TennisLink. After 48 hours, the reported score will be assumed to be correct, and there will be no opportunity to correct a score even if it is wrong.
- v It is strongly recommended that the two captains compare notes at the end of the match in order to decrease the probability of an erroneous score being entered into TennisLink.

(a) **Regular Season.**

- i Each division shall consist of one or more flights as discussed in paragraph **3.03A**.
- ii To the extent possible, each flight in each division shall play at least one round robin competition wherein every team plays every other team, and each team must play a minimum of three team matches. In a flight with only two or three teams, each team must play a minimum of four matches

(b) **Local Championships.** To participate in **Local Championships**, a player must have played in 2 regular season matches or have 1 default and 1 match played.

(c) Flights will only be subdivided into sub-flights when the number of teams registered for a flight is such that it does **not** allow one full round robin to be played in the number of weeks allocated or available for play in any particular season.

***(d) 2022 Mixed Doubles Local Championships: Due to Covid-19 and to provide safe play to our membership and facility employees, we will use the single elimination format for 2022 Mixed Doubles Local Championships. Only the top team in each sub flight in flights with multiple sub flights will participate in the single elimination format.***

- I. **Single Flight.** There will be no Lowcountry Tennis Association **Local Championships** when the division consists of a single flight.
- II. **Two Flights.** When there are two flights in a division, the playoff format will depend upon the number of teams from the LCTA that will participate in the South Carolina State Championships.
  - a. If only one LCTA team will participate in the State Championships, that team will be determined during a single playoff match involving the top team in each flight.
  - b. If the Lowcountry Tennis Association qualifies for more than one automatic entry or receives a wild card for a second entry into the State Championships before the Local Championship are scheduled, the winner and finalist will be determined during a playoff in a round robin playoff, involving the top two teams in each flight/sub-flight, to determine the final placement of the teams. In the first round, the top team from each flight will play the number two team in the other flight. In the second round, the top team in each flight will play the number two team in its flight. In the third round, the top teams from each flight will play each other as will the second-place teams

from each flight. If a wild card is received after the playoff schedule is published the procedure in **3.03E(3)(d)(ii)(a)** will be followed.

- III. **Three Flights.** When there are three flights in a division, the playoff format will depend upon the number of teams from the LCTA that will participate in the South Carolina State Championships.
- a. If only one LCTA team will participate in the State Championships, a round robin playoff involving the top team in each sub-flight, will be held to determine the final placement of the teams.
  - b. If the Lowcountry Tennis Association qualifies for more than one automatic entry or receives a wild card for a second entry into the State Championships before the Local Championship are scheduled, the winner and finalist will be determined during a playoff in a single elimination, eight-draw tournament format consisting of the top two teams from each flight. The first-place team will be the winner of the playoff. The second-place team will be the losing finalist of the playoff. The third-place team will be the winner of a match between the two losing semifinalists of the playoff. The fourth-place team will be the loser of a match between the two losing semi-finalists of the playoff. The teams will be seeded in the following format.
    - Position 1 will go to the first-place finisher Flight #1, and will have a first-round bye.
    - Position 2 will be a bye position.
    - Position 3 will go to second-place finisher from Flight #2, and will play Position 4 in the first round.
    - Position 4 will go to second-place finisher from Flight #3, and will play Position 3 in the first round.
    - Position 5 will go to second-place finisher Flight #1, and will play Position 6 in the first round.
    - Position 6 will go to first-place finisher from Flight #3, and will play Position 5 in the first round.
    - Position 7 will be a bye position.
    - Position 8 will go to first-place finisher from Flight #2, and will have a first-round bye.

To determine which flights are Flights #1, #2, and #3, the level coordinator will put the names of the three flights on separate sheets of paper, put them in a container, and select one sheet from the container. That will be Flight #1. The level coordinator will then select, in turn, Flights #2 and #3 from the remaining sheets of paper.

- IV. **Four Flights.** When there are four flights in a division, the playoff format will depend upon the number of teams from the LCTA that will participate in the South Carolina State Championships.
- a. If only one LCTA team will participate in the State Championships, a round robin playoff involving the top team in each sub-flight, will be held to determine the final placement of the teams.
  - b. If the Lowcountry Tennis Association qualifies for more than one automatic entry or receives a wild card for a second entry into the State Championships before the Local Championship are scheduled, the winner and finalist will be determined during a playoff in a single elimination, eight-draw tournament format consisting of the top two teams from each flight. The first-place team will be the winner of the playoff. The second-place team will be the losing finalist of the playoff. The third-place team will be the winner of a match between the two losing semi-finalists of the playoff. The fourth-place team will be the loser of a match between the two losing semi-finalists of the playoff. The teams will be seeded in the following format.
    - Position 1 will go to the first-place finisher in Flight #1, and will play position #2 in the first round.
    - Position 2 will go to the second-place finisher in Flight #4, and will play Position #1 in the first round.
    - Position 3 will go to the second-place finisher in Flight #2, and will play Position #4 in the first round.
    - Position 4 will go to the first-place finisher in Flight #3, and will play Position #3 in the first round.
    - Position 5 will go to the first-place finisher in Flight #2, and will play Position #6 in the first round.
    - Position 6 will go to the second-place finisher in Flight #3, and will play Position #5 in the first round.
    - Position 7 will go to the second-place finisher in Flight #1, and will play Position #8 in the first round.
    - Position 8 will go to the first-place finisher in Flight #4, and will play Position #7 in the first round.

To determine which flights are Flights #1, #2, #3, and #4, the level coordinator will put the names of the four flights on separate sheets of paper, put them in a container, and select one sheet from the container. That will be Flight #1. The level coordinator will then select, in turn, Flights #2, #3, and #4 from the remaining sheets of paper.

- v. **Five Flights.** When there are five flights in a level of play, the playoff format will depend upon the number of teams from the LCTA that will participate in the South Carolina State Championships.
- a. If only one LCTA team will participate in the State Championships, a round robin playoff involving the top team in each sub-flight, will be held to determine the final placement of the teams.
  - b. If the Lowcountry Tennis Association qualifies for more than one automatic entry or receives a wild card for a second entry into the State Championships before the Local Championship are scheduled, the winner and finalist will be determined during a single elimination, sixteen team draw, tournament-format playoff involving the top two teams in each flight. The first-place team, i.e., LCTA Champion, will be the winner of the playoff. The second-place team will be the losing finalist of the playoff. The third-place team will be the winner of a match between the two losing semifinalists of the playoff. The fourth-place team will be the loser of the match between the two losing semi-finalists of the playoff. The teams will be seeded in the following format.
    - Position 1 will go to the first-place finisher in Flight #1, and will have a bye in the first round.
    - Position 2 will be a bye position.
    - Position 3 will be a bye position.
    - Position 4 will go to the second-place finisher in Flight #2, and will have a bye in the first round.
    - Position 5 will go to the second-place finisher in Flight #4, and will play Position #6 in the first round.
    - Position 6 will go to the second-place finisher in Flight #5, and will play Position #5 in the first round.
    - Position 7 will be a bye position.
    - Position 8 will go to the first-place finisher in Flight #3, and will have a bye in the first round.
    - Position 9 will go to the first-place finisher in Flight #2, and will have a bye in the first round.
    - Position 10 will be a bye position.
    - Position 11 will be the second-place finisher in flight #1, and will play position #12 in the first round.
    - Position 12 will be the second-place finisher in flight #3 and will play position #11 in the first round.

- Position 13 will be the first-place finisher in flight #5, and will have a bye in the first round.
- Position 14 will be a bye position.
- Position 15 will be a bye position.
- Position 16 will be the first-place finisher in Flight #4, and will have a bye in the first round.

To determine which flights are Flights #1, #2, #3, #4, and #5, the level coordinator will put the names of the five flights on separate sheets of paper, put them in a container, and select one sheet from the container. That will be Flight #1. The level coordinator will then select, in turn, Flights #2, #3, #4, and #5 from the remaining sheets of paper.

VI. **Local Championships Sites.**

The selection of the **Local Championships** site(s) is the responsibility of **either the** Mixed Doubles **League** Coordinator **or Mixed Doubles Flight Coordinators**. There are three possible approaches: (a) play all the **Local Championships** matches at one site; (b) play each **Local Championship** match at the home facility of the team with the higher standing in the flight competition; (c) or a combination of the two. Under (b) and (c), if the home facility of the team with the higher standing is not available to host the **Local Championship** match, the team with the lower standing will be asked to host the playoff match. If neither facility can host the match, **either** the Mixed Doubles **League** Coordinator or **Mixed Doubles Flight Coordinator** will select a neutral site for the match.

VII. **Local Championship Dates.**

The potential playoff dates for all Mixed Doubles flights/sub-flights requiring Local Championship are **June 20 - July 2..**

### 3.03F Team Match and Scoring

- a. Each team match in the Lowcountry Tennis Association shall consist of three individual doubles matches.
- b. The team winning the majority of the individual matches in a team match shall be awarded one team point.
- c. Flight standings at the end of the regular season shall be in the order of the number of team points won, i.e., the winner of the flight competition shall be the team with the most team points at the end of the season, etc. In the event that two or more teams in a flight/sub-flight have the same number of team points at the end of the season, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:

- i. Individual Matches. Winner of the most individual matches during the season.
  - ii. Head-to-Head. Winner of the head-to-head match.
  - iii. Sets. Loser of the fewest number of sets during the season.
  - iv. Games. Loser of the fewest number of games during the season.
- d. During playoff round robins, the positions of the teams at the end of the round robin shall be determined in the same manner as during flight competition except that only matches played during the playoff round robin will be used to determine team points, individual matches won, sets lost and games lost.

### 3.03G TEAM LINEUPS

- a. The Lowcountry Tennis Association will not use strength sheets.
- b. 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 to, illness of, disqualification or no-show of a player. 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 substitution can be made, the affected position will be defaulted. If a team has a default, the opposing team will have the opportunity to adjust their scorecard by moving the third-place position to the second-place position.
- c. **Starting Match Play.** All individual matches will begin (i.e., the first serve will be made) within fifteen minutes of the scheduled start time. All warm-ups, including service warm-ups, must be concluded prior to 15 minutes after the scheduled start time. (Exception: All players will be allowed a five-minute warm-up even if this means starting the match after the mandatory start time.) Captains that exchange lineups after the posted start time or begin play later than 15 minutes after the posted start time are in violation of LCTA rules and therefore subject to grievance, which can even be filed by captains of teams who play after your matches are over. We encourage Captains to exchange lineups 5 minutes before the scheduled match time so the matches can begin. There are two situations that a delay in starting play MAY be accommodated:

- i. An unexpected, verifiable public situation (major accident, road closed, traffic re-routed) if the player communicates with their captain and the captain is able to communicate the situation to the other captain by scheduled start time. The late player is to stay in communication in transit. The delay will be considered for that position(s) only. All other matches shall start within 15 minutes of the scheduled start time. The maximum waiting time before default is 30 minutes after scheduled match time.
- ii. Courts are not available to begin any of the matches.

d. **Defaults.**

- i. A team default occurs when a team captain cannot field at least two positions for a team match.
- ii. Individual defaults must be given "from the bottom" except as provided for in paragraph **3.03G(d)(ix)**, i.e., the #3 doubles must be the position defaulted.
- iii. Two players will play together in the higher position when both of their partners do not show in order to avoid two defaults if they can form an eligible partnership. For example: in a 7.0 match, a 3.5 woman scheduled to play position #2 will be able to play with a 3.5 man scheduled to play position #3 in position #2 if neither of their scheduled partners shows. Position #3 would then be defaulted. This change must be made within 15 minutes of the scheduled start time.
- iv. 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.
- v. If a captain is advised prior to the 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.
- vi. If a team defaults an individual match during or prior to the line-up exchange, and inclement weather forces the match to be postponed before a point is played in any individual match, then the default is cancelled.

- vii. If both teams default the same position, neither team will receive a win and the scorecard will indicate a double default.
- viii. If a team defaults an excessive number of matches, i.e., more than one-third of its scheduled individual matches, during the season, none of that team's individual matches for the entire season will count in the league results-both those matches already played and those matches yet to be played. (Example: If there are ten scheduled matches for a team, there will be thirty scheduled individual matches. If a team were to default 11 or more individual matches, none of the team's individual matches for the entire season would count except for determining computer *ratings*.)
- ix. By joining the Lowcountry Tennis Association, a team is making a commitment to play every match. In accordance with USTA SC **2.01K Team Defaults**. A 'team default' occurs when a team defaults 2 or more individual matches in a 3-court team match. If a team commits a 'team default for any reason during round robin play, all matches for the defaulting team already played or to be played shall be null and void when determining standings but will be used for ratings and advancement purposes. If all teams with a mathematical chance to advance have played the defaulting team in good faith, those matches shall stand as played when determining standings. Teams that default an entire match are expected to play the remainder of their schedule. A grievance will be filed against a team that is assessed a team default.

In either case, defaulted matches received will be used for qualifying purposes for players advancing to Championship play. If there is a full team default in a double or triple round robin, only the RR tier/segments that have the full team default will be impacted. Each of the Round Robin segments will be treated as whole and separate within the local league flight. If the first RR was finished and the full team default occurred during the 2nd RR then all matches for the first RR would stand. If all teams in contention had played the defaulting team, those matches would stay in the system.

- x. A grievance may be filed against any team which defaults an excessive number of its individual matches or which defaults an entire team match. The situation will be assessed by the Grievance Committee and penalties imposed as appropriate. Penalties could include barring the team and/or its players from participating in future Lowcountry Tennis Association league tennis play for some specific period of time.

### 3.03H Player Participation

- a. As per USTA-STA, there is no residency requirement for players. The team home facility must be in LCTA's geographic area – Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, and Dorchester counties. USTA-SC is not assigning teams in **2022**; but if an out of area team requests to play in the LCTA and LCTA accepts the visiting team, the visiting team must play its home matches at an LCTA tennis facility.
- b. Regulations concerning playing on two or more teams at the USTA-SC Championships will be included in the **2022 USTA and USTA Southern and South Carolina League regulations**. Captains and Players advancing on two or more teams are strongly advised to read and understand the **USTA and USTA Southern and South Carolina League** regulations.

### 3.03I Inclement Weather

#### 3.03I(1) INCLEMENT WEATHER DURING THE REGULAR SEASON

- a. It is the responsibility of the home team captain to determine if inclement weather conditions warrant the postponement of a regular season team match. If teams have assembled and have started 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 decide, within 48 hours, on a mutually agreeable make-up date and inform the Mixed Doubles Coordinator, as applicable. This make-up date must be within two weeks of the scheduled date of the postponed match. (Within 72 hours, if at the end of the season and it affects who will participate in local league Local Championship.) If the two captains cannot mutually agree on a make-up date, the make-up date will be the first Saturday, following the two-week make-up period at 2:00PM. All positions should be played at the same time and date just as in a regularly scheduled match, if possible. 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 **canceled**.

Once the make-up dates are established and the level coordinator is informed, those are considered to be the official match dates and they are not postponable unless there is inclement weather on those dates. The coordinator should be informed of the makeup

date. If one team shows for a team or an individual match and the other does not, the match will be recorded as a default by the team that did not show. If neither team shows for the agreed upon makeup date or the league set date, the match will be scored a double forfeit. If either team forfeits the entire match in this manner, this will result in full team defaults for both teams. All matches for the defaulting team already played or to be played shall be null and void when determining standings but will be used for ratings and advancement purposes. If it rains on Saturday, the match is rescheduled for the following Saturday at 2:00 pm unless both captains agree to another day and/or time prior to that. Coordinators have the responsibility to ensure these requirements are met.

An entire team default in Mixed Doubles is when a team defaults 2 or more individual courts in a 3-court team match. If a team commits a "team default" for any reason during round robin play, all matches for the defaulting team already played or to be played shall be null and void when determining standings but will be used for ratings and advancement purposes. If all teams with a mathematical chance to advance have played the defaulting team in good faith, those matches shall stand as played when determining standings. Teams that default an entire match are expected to play the remainder of their schedule. A grievance will be filed against a team that is assessed a team default.

- c. If match play has begun (i.e., at least one attempt to serve in one individual match), completed matches will stand as played. Incomplete matches must be resumed by the same players at the exact set, game and point score as when play was halted, and matches not started will be played by the individuals listed on the line-up without any substitutions.

Defaults given prior or during the line-up 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 arranged by the individuals involved in each of the individual matches. The decision when individual matches will be resumed must be made within 48 hours and the matches played within 2 weeks, and the Mixed Doubles coordinator must be notified when the match(es) are to be played. The Mixed Doubles Coordinator will establish the make-up date on the Saturday following the two-week period at 2:00 P.M. if the players cannot agree.

### **3.031(2) INCLEMENT WEATHER DURING LOCAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- a. During *Local Championships*, it is the responsibility of the Mixed Doubles 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 those Coordinators to decide when players should be released.

- b. Make-up times and dates for postponed playoff matches will be determined by the Mixed Doubles Coordinator. Completed matches will stand as played; incomplete matches must be resumed by the same players at the exact, set, game, and point score as when play was 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. (It may be necessary to shift playoff sites and court surfaces.) All postponed individual matches whether in progress or not at the time of postponement will recommence at the same time.

### 3.03J REGISTRATION

3.03J(1) Teams will register for play in the LCTA **2022** Mixed Doubles Adult 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over and 65 & Over leagues by entering their rosters in TennisLink, beginning **March 28, 2022** and no later than **April 8, 2022**. No new teams may be established after that date unless a waiver is received from the Mixed Doubles **League** Coordinator or Local League Coordinator.

3.03J(2) In order for a roster to be considered valid on **April 8, 2022** it must have at least six players with three eligible partnerships (3 men and 3 women).

3.03J(3) A player may be added to a team roster until that team's next to last scheduled match in the regular season.

3.03J(4) A player may not play for a team until the player has been entered on the roster. If he/she should play a match when not on the roster, the individual match will be defaulted.

3.03J(5) To be listed on a roster, a player must:

- a. Be a paid-up member of the USTA. (In accordance with USTA/SC regulations, all players for the **2022** season must have their memberships paid-up through the LCTA local league season, i.e., **August 9, 2022**.) TennisLink will not allow a player to be added to the roster if this requirement is not met.
- b. Pay a **\$15** fee through TennisLink. This fee is collected each time a player's name appears on a roster. This fee is not refundable for any reason. The **\$15** fee is split with **\$3** to USTA to support TennisLink operations; **\$6** to USTA/SC to support league tennis operations in South Carolina; and **\$6** to LCTA to support local league tennis operations.

### 3.03K RESCHEDULING DUE TO CONFLICTING EVENTS

During the season, it is quite possible that a team will have a scheduled match that conflicts with championship play (i.e., LCTA *Local Championships*, State Championships, Sectional Championships, or National Championships) or play on a team that is representing the LCTA in tennis competition (such as the Southern Cities Championship). In such circumstances, if the team has two or more male players or two or more female players participating in such championship level play or on a team representing the LCTA, the captain of the team may request that the match be rescheduled and the request must be granted by the opposing captain. When that occurs, 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 must occur as indicated in paragraph 3.03J(1)(b) for a match that is totally postponed due to rain. (If a league match is scheduled to be played in the morning and the competing event is a local league playoff match to be scheduled at 5:00 p.m. or later, that does not constitute a conflict for the purposes of this rule. Neither does this rule apply to conflicts with local sanctioned or unsanctioned tournaments though captains may opt to reschedule such matches if mutually agreeable to both captains.) Players may play on more than one team during *Local Championships* but no accommodation shall be given for scheduling purposes.

### 3.04 AREA, SECTIONAL, AND NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS

#### 3.04A ELIGIBILITY

Players must have participated in at least two regular season league matches, including retirements, in order to participate in the *Local Championships*, state or sectional level championships at the adult 18 & Over, and 40 & Over level. One of these matches can be a default received, but defaults given do not count towards meeting this requirement. In order to play at the 55 & Over, and 65 & Over State Championships, players need to play in one regular season match (including a default received). In order for a player to participate in the National Championships, he/she must have played (does not include defaults received or defaults given, but does include retirements) in at least three matches, including state and sectional championships. *Local Championships* are Championships, not part of the local regular season.

#### 3.04B CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE

All USTA South Carolina State Mixed Championships will be held in *Hilton Head, SC*.

**2022 Mixed 18 & Over and 40 & Over State Championships – Sept. 9 - 11, 2022 - Hilton Head, SC.**

**2022 Mixed 18 & Over and 40 & Over Sectional Championships – Sept. 30 - Oct. 2, 2022 - Rome, Ga.**

**2022 Mixed 55 & Over and 65 & Over State Championships — Sept. 10 - 12, 2022--Hilton Head, SC.**

**2022 Southern Mixed Doubles Invitational (55 & Over and 65 & Over) – November 18 - 20, 2022 – Little Rock, AR.**

## APPROVALS

Submitted: Doreen “Dee” Mack  
Lowcountry Tennis Association  
Local League Coordinator

Date: April 12, 2022

**Christiane “Chris” Jones**  
Lowcountry Tennis Association  
Mixed Doubles League Coordinator

Date: April 12, 2022

Approved: Susan Turner  
USTA/South Carolina  
USTA SC **District League Coordinator**

Date: June 7, 2022

APPROVED