

LOWCOUNTRY TENNIS ASSOCIATION

LOCAL LEAGUE REGULATIONS

FOR THE 2026 USTA ADULT LEAGUE
TENNIS PROGRAM
DECEMBER 30, 2025

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INTRODUCTION

The following are the regulations for the 2026 USTA League Tennis Program in the Lowcountry Tennis Association of the South Carolina State of the Southern Section, and they apply to the Adult 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over, 65 & Over, 70 & Over and 75 & Over Leagues. These regulations augment the USTA League Tennis 2026 Regulations, the USTA Southern Sectional Regulations for USTA League Tennis for League Year 2026, the USTA South Carolina State Regulations for USTA League Tennis for League Year 2026, the Lowcountry Tennis Association and the Lowcountry Tennis Association By-Laws. For the most part, Local League Regulations do not repeat rules and regulations found in the other documents. In those instances, where a regulation is repeated, it is repeated verbatim. For a person to understand the full set of regulations that apply to the Lowcountry Tennis Association, it is necessary to have copies of the Regulations mentioned above. These regulations can be found on the Lowcountry Tennis Association website www.lctatennis.org

National and Southern League and USTA South Carolina League 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 South Carolina State regulations.

1.00 GENERAL

1.07 TENNIS BALLS

The home team must furnish one can of unopened yellow balls for each of the individual matches to be played. In USTA League matches, a standard Type 2 USTA approved ball shall be used. The use of any USTA “transition” ball is prohibited. 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 (SLC)

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.

1.20 USTA SC DISTRICT LEAGUE COORDINATOR (DLC)

The following person has been appointed to implement and administer the South Carolina State USTA League Tennis Program as well as implement and administer the USTA/South Carolina Adult 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over, 65 & Over, 70 & Over and 75 & Over USTA League Tennis Program:

Patricia "PJ" Fulmer
18 Woodcross Drive
Columbia, SC 29212
fulmer@sctennis.com
803-781-2574 ext. 113
803-393-2227 cell

1.21 LOCAL LEAGUE COORDINATOR (LLC)

The following person has been appointed to implement and, along with the Low Country Adult League Tennis Local League Committee, administer the Lowcountry Tennis Association USTA League Tennis Program, and to interpret the Lowcountry Tennis Association Local League Regulations:

Nancy Pitcairn
680 Pawley Road
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464
ncpit2@gmail.com
843-270-6865

The local league coordinator also has the authority to change the dates for registering a team and/or adding players to a team after those dates are published.

1.22 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 Adult 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over, 65 & Over, 70 & Over or 75 & Over team at the same level of play. An individual could be the captain of multiple teams in the same age division at different levels of play. 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 Local Spring League shall be from January **26, 2026** to **April 11, 2026**.

1.25 ASSIGNED TEAMS

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

Replaced by State Regulation:

1.04D(5)a Singleton teams: If any Adult Division ***in the 18 & Over, 40 & Over, or 55 & Over*** consists of only one team in a level of play, (singleton team), and that level must play a local league in order to advance, the Local League Coordinator has the option to:

- (1) Contact the **SC** League Coordinator who can transfer an individual team with no local league play to another area's league tree only if it is agreed upon by both local league coordinators and accomplished before that recipient area's deadline.
 - Complete teams that are moved to play in a local league area other than their home local league must secure home courts in that local league they choose to participate unless both local league coordinators agree on something different.
 - If an individual team is transferred into an already existing league of at least 2 teams, then that team must secure home courts in that host local league where they have been moved and if that transferred team wins that league, they will represent that host league at the State Championship.
 - The transferred team must follow all rules and regulations of the host league.
 - The host league is responsible for all awards, state championship fees (if applicable) and state championship registration.
 - If Local League coordinators agree to combine individual teams from more than one area to form a league for those teams to qualify, the winning team from that individual league will be allowed to represent the Local League where they initially registered.
 - Rules and regulation issues that occur during league play for these individual teams will be handled by the District League

Coordinator in consultation with the Local League coordinators that are involved.

- 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.

(2) Offer to move that team to another age division offered in that area in that level, if applicable.

(3) 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.

(4) Refund or credit all or a portion of the registration fee in accordance with the LCTA Refund Policy.

1.26 COURT FACILITIES

Each team participating in the Lowcountry Tennis Association 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 play that day. The home team is responsible to have courts available and playable at match time. 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 following further defines the number of teams that may form at a facility:

For 3 position leagues, (Mixed, Combo, Singles, 55 & Over, 65 & Over, 70 & Over, 75 & Over, 2.5 and 5.0) a maximum for 2 teams for every 3 courts can be accommodated. If a facility will commit to the following – 3 courts - 2 teams; 6 courts - 4 teams; 9 or more courts - 6 teams at a facility can be accommodated.

For 5 position leagues, a maximum of 2 teams can be accommodated for 3-9 courts; a maximum of 4 teams can be accommodated in facilities that will commit courts. In the case of Charleston Tennis Center, more than 4 teams can be accommodated by using Bees Landing; for Maybank, additional teams can be accommodated by using Moultrie Courts.

For 3 position leagues where more than one division is scheduled to play at the same time, 6 courts must be available to accommodate the 3 position leagues.

For 5 position leagues where more than one division is scheduled to play at the same time, 8 courts must be available to accommodate a combination of 2 - 5 position leagues and 2-3 position leagues; for 1 - 5 position division and 2 - 3 position division, 8 courts must be available.

1.27 COACHING AND SPORTSMANSHIP

1. There is no coaching allowed in the LCTA Leagues.

Players shall refer to **Friend at Court and The Code – The Players' Guide to Fair Play and the Unwritten Rules of Tennis** for guidelines for match play and sportsmanship expectations.

https://www.usta.com/content/dam/usta/sections/texas/pdf/The_Code.pdf

2.00 LOCAL LEAGUE REGULATIONS

2.01A NUMBER OF TEAMS

The Lowcountry Tennis Association shall consist of a minimum of two teams in a specific level of competition or division. To accommodate scheduling considerations, the Lowcountry Tennis Association may establish two or more flights within a division. The decision to establish two or more flights will be made by the Level Coordinator for that Division in consultation with the Local League Coordinator. Assigning teams to flights will be done as follows:

1. Teams desiring to play during the day will be in separate flight(s) from teams desiring to play in the evening.
2. If there are two or more flights within the day or night groups, the make-up of a flight will be the result of either a random selection or based on geographical location, as determined by the level coordinator. When using the random selection alternative, the level coordinator may elect to split, to the maximum extent possible, the teams from a single tennis club among the flights.

2.01B TEAM – MINIMUM NUMBERS OF PLAYERS

Age Group	Level	Minimum # of players	Age requirement	# of below level players allowed	Required # of players at level
18 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0	8	18	6	6
	4.5	8	18	unlimited	4
	2.5, 5.0	5	18	6	
40 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5	9	40 by year end	6	
	4.5	9	40 by year end	unlimited	4
	2.5	5	40 by year end	6	
55 & Over	3.0, 3.5 4.0 and 9.0	6	55 by year end	unlimited	3*
65 & Over	3.0, 3.5 4.0 and 9.0	6	65 by year end	unlimited	3
70 & Over	3.0, 3.5 4.0 and 9.0	6	70 by year end	unlimited	3
75 & Over	3.0, 3.5 4.0 and 9.0	6	75 by year end	unlimited	3
					*Exception to this reg can be made with the approval of the Local League Coordinator if a registered singleton team must compete locally to advance to the state championships

2.01D ENTRY ONTO A TEAM INCLUDING SELF-RATING PROCEDURES

1. Players with a computer rating must play at that NTRP level or one NTRP level above.
2. Players without a computer rating but who self-rated within the past two years must play at that level or one NTRP level above.
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 one NTRP level above, i.e., the player may self-rate at a level lower than the level at which the player intends to play.

2.01E LEVELS OF PLAY OFFERED

The Lowcountry Tennis Association Local League has determined that for the league year of 2026, the following levels shall be available if there are at least two teams for the level.

18 & Over Men: 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0
18 & Over Women: 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0
40 & Over Men: 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5
40 & Over Women: 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5
55 & Over Men: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0
55 & Over Women: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0
65 & Over Men: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0
65 & Over Women: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0
70 & Over Men: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0
70 & Over Women: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0
75 & Over Men: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0
75 & Over Women: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0

2.01F SCORING AND REST – 10 POINT MATCH TB IN LIEU OF A THIRD SET

1. All matches in the 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over, 65 & Over, 70 & Over and 75 & Over 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-all in the first two sets. If either a set tiebreak or match tiebreak is needed the LCTA will use the Coman Tiebreak Procedure.
 - a. During local championships in the LCTA, all matches in the 18 & Over, 40 & Over, and 55 & Over League will be the best of three sets with a match tie break used in lieu of a third set.
2. Players are allowed a 2-minute break at the end of each set

2.01G COMPETITION

2.01G(1) SCHEDULE FORMAT

1. **Regular Season**
 - a. Each division shall consist of one or more flights as discussed in paragraph 2.01A above.
 - b. 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 two teams, the teams must play a minimum of three matches. In a flight with three teams, each team must play a minimum of four

matches. The number of HOME matches are determined by several factors, including facility blackout dates to determine court availability. An equal number of HOME matches will be assigned whenever possible. However, there are no guarantees that an equal number of HOME matches will be assigned to any team during any season.

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 format to be played in the number of weeks allocated or available for play in any season.

d. Each NTRP level within a local league may play a partial round robin competition wherein every team plays the same number of matches against randomly selected opponents. A minimum of the top two teams shall progress to a single elimination local championship to establish a local league champion for that NTRP level.

2. **Local Championships:** To participate in either Spring or Fall local championships, a player must have played in 2 regular season matches or have 1 default received and 1 match played.

a. During local championships, players may advance on more than one team and/or at different NTRP levels, however, no accommodations will be made regarding local championship match schedules.

b. During local championships, team captains are required to submit their line-ups at or before the scheduled match time with all players present. Once both team line-ups have been turned in and if courts are available; all players will be assigned a court and given a can of tennis balls. If the team line-up is not turned in by the scheduled match time, the lateness penalties will be assessed against the entire team.

Penalties For Lateness

:01 – 5 Minutes	Loss of Toss Plus 1 Game
5:01 – 10 Minutes	Loss of Toss Plus 2 Games
10:01 – 15 Minutes	Loss of Toss Plus 3 Games
More Than 15 Minutes	Default

c. Local Championship Dates. For all divisions having local championships, the local championship dates will be determined prior to the start of the season and the playoff dates will be posted on the LCTA website.

See Addendum 1 for Local Championship Procedures

3. Tentative Local Championships Dates for 2026

Tentative Local Championships Dates for the 2026 Spring will be published on the LCTA website.

*****All Local dates, times and locations are subject to change. *****

4. South Carolina Adult Championship Dates for 2026

May 14th – 16th - Adult 70 & Over, **Hilton Head**, Levels 3, 3.5, 4

May 16th – 18th - Adult 55 & Over, **Hilton Head**, Levels 3, 3.5, 4, 9

May 30st – June 1st - Adult 40 & Over, **Florence** Levels 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4, 4.5

June 12th – 14th - Adult 18 & Over, **Aiken, Levels 4.0 - 5.0**

June 13th-15th - Adult 18 & Over, **Aiken, Levels 2.5 - 3.5**

Aug. 21nd – 23rd - **Adult 18 & 40** and Over, Mixed Doubles, **Lexington**, All Levels

Aug. 22nd – 24th - **Adult 55 & 65** and Over, Mixed Doubles, **Lexington**, All Levels

Sept. 18^t 20th - **Tri-Level, Sumter, All Levels**

Oct. 9th – 11th - Adult 75 & Over Invitational, **Hilton Head**, All Levels

Oct. 10th – 12th - Adult 65 & Over, **Hilton Head**, All Levels

Oct. 24th – 26th - Adult **18 & Over** Combo Doubles, **Aiken**, All Levels

Oct. 23th – 25th - Adult **55 & Over** Combo Doubles, **Aiken**, All Levels

Nov. 7th – 9th - Adult **40 & Over** and **65 & Over** Combo Doubles, **Florence**, All Levels

Dec. 4th – 6th - **Adult 18, 40 & 50 and Over** Singles League, **Greenwood**, All Levels

A player must play in at least 2 Local League matches to qualify to play at USTA SC Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over and Adult 55 & Over State Championship (a default received counts towards advancement). Local Playoffs are championships, not part of the local season.

A player must play in at least 1 Local League match in order to qualify to play at the USTA SC Adult 65 & Over and 70 & Over State Championship (a default received counts towards advancement). Local playoffs are championships, not part of the local season. There is no local play requirement for the 75 & Over State Invitational.

2.01H TEAM MATCH AND SCORING

1. Team matches in the Lowcountry Tennis Association for the 18 & Over age division shall consist of: (2) individual singles matches and (3) individual doubles matches for men and women in the 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, and 4.5 flight

2. (1) individual singles match and (2) individual doubles matches for men and women in the 18 & Over 2.5, 5.0. (The format for the 5.0 level may be revised by vote of a majority of the captains of the teams participating, and if so, approved by the LCTA Local League Coordinator.)

3. Each team match in the Lowcountry Tennis Association for 40 & Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, and 4.5 women, shall consist of (1) single and (4) doubles matches. Each team match for the 40 & Over 2.5 and 5.0 levels for men and women will consist of (1) singles and (2) doubles. (The format for the 5.0 level may be revised by vote of a majority of the captains of the teams participating, and if so, approved by the LCTA Local League Coordinator). All 40 & Over teams

are required to have a minimum of (9) players on their team roster before registration ends.

4. Each team match in the Lowcountry Tennis Association for the 55 & Over, 65 & Over, 70 & Over, and 75 & Over men and women shall consist of (3) doubles for all levels.
5. The team winning the majority of the individual matches in a team match shall be awarded one team point.
6. 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. In the event that two or more teams in a flight have the same number of team points at the end of the season, the tie shall be broken in the following manner for the 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over, 65 & Over, 70 & Over, and 75 & Over.
 - i. Winner of the most individual matches during the season.
 - ii. Head to Head competition.
 - iii. Loser of the fewest number of sets during the season.
 - iv. Loser of the fewest number of games during the season.
 - v. Games won percentage (%): Total games won divided by total games played.

7. During playoff round robins when a wild card has been received, 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.

2.01H (1) SCORE REPORTING IN TENNISLINK.

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.

1. While either team may enter the score, it is recommended that the captain or co-captain of the winning team enter the score.
2. 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.
3. 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.

4. 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.
5. It is strongly recommended that the two captains compare notes at the end of the match to decrease the probability of an erroneous score being entered into TennisLink.

2.01I TEAM LINEUPS

1. Strength sheets will not be used in the Lowcountry Tennis Association.
2. 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 either in doubles by moving the third-place position to the second-place position or in singles by moving the second-place position to the first-place position.
3. Starting Match Play. All individual matches will begin (i.e., the first serve will be attempted) within fifteen minutes of the scheduled start time. All warm-ups, including service warm-ups, must be concluded prior to fifteen 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 / begin play later than 15 minutes after the posted start time are in violation of LCTA regulations 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.

4. There are two situations that delays in starting play MAY be accommodated:
 - a. An unexpected, verifiable public situation (major accident, road closed, traffic rerouted) if the player communicates with their captain and the captain can 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.

- b. Courts are not available to begin any of the matches.

5. Defaults

- a. An entire team default occurs when a team captain cannot field a majority of all positions for a team match.
- b. Defaults must be given "from the bottom" except for examples such as: #3 doubles must be defaulted before the #2 doubles, and the #2 doubles must be defaulted before the #1 doubles may be defaulted.
- c. 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 to receive the default.
- d. If a captain is advised prior to the match that the opponent must default one or more positions 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.
- e. 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.
- f. If both teams default the same position, neither team will receive a win and the scorecard will indicate a double default.
- g. If a 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over, 65 & Over, 70 & Over and 75 & Over team playing in the 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 and 9.0 flights defaults an excessive number of matches, (i.e., more than twenty percent 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. Example: If there are ten scheduled matches for a 3.5 55 & Over League team, there will be 30 scheduled individual matches. If a team were to default 6 or more individual matches, none of the team's individual matches for the entire season would count except for determining computer ratings.
- h. By joining the Lowcountry Tennis Association, a team is making a commitment to play every match. A 'team default' occurs when a team defaults 3 or more individual matches in a 5-court team match, or a team defaults 2 or more individual matches in a 3-court team match or a 4-court team match.
 - i. Ineligibility to Advance: The defaulting team is ineligible to advance beyond local league play but must continue to play the remainder of the local matches.
 - ii. Recording Matches: All matches played by the defaulting team will be recorded in TennisLink for the purpose of satisfying match play requirements for opponents only.
 - iii. Removal of Matches: At the end of the local season, all matches for the defaulting team will be removed from the stats and standing in TennisLink, UNLESS:-
 - More than one full round was played in a flight. If more than one

- round was played, only the matches in the affected flight will be removed.
- All teams with a mathematical chance to advance have already played the defaulting team in good faith; the matches shall stand as played when determining standings.
- The final standings would not be impacted by the matches played against the defaulting team.

iv. Grievance Filing: A grievance may be filed against the defaulting team.

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.

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 Statewide Local League 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 a specified period.

2.01J PLAYER PARTICIPATION

1. Individuals may not play at the same NTRP level on more than one team in an age division in the same local league. Individuals, however, may play on more than one team in a NTRP level within an age division in the same season provided it is in separate local leagues. A player may play on more than one NTRP level in any age division, if age applicable, in the same local league during the season.
2. 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 2026; but if a team is assigned and chooses to play in the LCTA and LCTA accepts the visiting team, the visiting team must play its home matches at an LCTA tennis facility.
3. Regulations concerning playing on two or more teams at the USTA-SC Championships will be included in the 2026 USTA-SC Championship Procedures. Captains and Players advancing on two or more teams are strongly advised to read and understand the USTA-SC regulations and Championship Procedures.

2.01K INCLEMENT WEATHER

2.01K(1) INCLEMENT WEATHER DURING REGULAR SEASON

1. It is the responsibility of the home team captain to determine if weather conditions warrant the postponement of a regular season team match. If teams have assembled and have started 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.
2. 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 level coordinator. This make-up date must be within two weeks of the scheduled date of the postponed match. In the event a match to be made-up occurs at the end of the season and the match directly affects the flights participation in the local championships, with the Flight Coordinators assistance and direction, the match will be made-up within a 72-hour period so that local championships can proceed as planned. If the two captains cannot mutually agree on a make-up date that will be within the 14 days, the match is automatically set by the league for the first following Saturday at 2:00 PM at the Home Team courts location.

Captains are encouraged to play all individual matches at the same time, just as they would in a regularly scheduled match; however, this is not a requirement. If the individual matches are being played on different days, the line-ups will be exchanged on the day that the individual matches are being played. Team lineups on the make-up day do not have to be the same as they were on the day of the postponement even if the lineups had already been exchanged, and any defaults given during or prior to the line-up exchange are cancelled, ***however, any substitutions made to the lineup cannot be in the original lineup and players may not be moved within the match lineup card. Substituting players must be on the roster at the time of line assignment and prior to the beginning of match play.***

Once the make-up dates are established, those are the official match dates and they are not able to be postponed unless there is inclement weather on those dates. The coordinator should be informed of the makeup date in writing via email. If the match is rained out on the makeup date, the 2-week rule is reset from the date that was communicated to the coordinator. If the coordinator is not informed, the teams will be held to the 2-week makeup from the original match date. If one team shows for an individual match and the other does not, the match will be recorded as a default by the team that did not show. 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.

If match play has begun (i.e., at least one point played 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. Defaults given prior or during the line-up exchange will stand. The incomplete matches or matches that have 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. ***For matches not started, substitutions may be made, however the substituting players cannot be in the original lineup and players may not be moved within the match lineup card. Substituting players must be on the roster at the time of line assignment and prior to the beginning of match play.***

3. If match play has begun and the home team has playable courts on a different surface, the match must be resumed with a 5-minute warm-up on the new surface. The decision when individual matches will be resumed must be made within 48 hours and the matches played within 14 days (within 72 hours if at the end of the season and it affects who will participate in the local championships) or the match will be set by the league automatically on the first following Saturday at 2:00 PM at the Home Team courts. Once the make-up dates are established and the flight coordinator is informed, those are the official match dates and are not able to be postponed unless there is inclement weather on those dates. If one or both teams in an individual match do not show to play on the agreed upon or league established make-up date, there are four possible outcomes:
 - a. If an individual match had started prior to the inclement weather and if one team shows for the make-up match and the other does not, that individual match will be recorded as a retirement by the team that did not show, with the score being entered as it was when play was interrupted.
 - b. If an individual match had not started prior to the inclement weather and if one team shows for the make-up match and the other does not, that individual position will be recorded as a default by the team that did not show.
 - c. If neither team shows for the match, the individual match will be scored as a double forfeit.
 - d. If it rains on Saturday, the match is rescheduled for the following Saturday at 2:00 pm unless the players involved agree to another day and/or time prior to that. Coordinators have the responsibility to ensure these requirements are met.

Cold/Heat Policy

A cold/heat rescheduling decision shall be made no sooner than 2 hours before the designated match start time. Each team will use <http://www.weather.com/> by entering the location of the match to determine what conditions are predicted at match start time. No other weather resources may be used to obtain the forecast.

The following weather conditions may subject a match to be rescheduled:

- (1) If the “real feel/feels like” temperature is **38** degrees or below at the time the match is scheduled to begin play, or forecast within 2 hours of match start time.

- **Example: If the match is at 6:00 PM and the predicted real feel will be 38 degrees at 8:00, the match may be postponed. For 7:30 matches if the real feel will be 38 degrees at 9:30 the match may be postponed.**

(2) If the “real feel/feels like” temperature (heat index) is **100** degrees or higher at the time the match is scheduled to begin play, or forecast within 2 hours of match start time.

- **Example: If the match is at 9:30AM and the heat index is 98F, but it will feel like 102F by 11:00AM, the match may be postponed.**

If both captains agree, players may play one or more courts in the heat/cold.

Rescheduled make-up matches due to cold/heat must follow procedures in Regulation 2.01K(1).

4. If a Flight BYE week date is included in a flight schedule, the Flight BYE week date will be initially designated as the Flight make-up date for matches that are postponed due to inclement weather in that flight schedule. Upon postponement, captains must immediately (within 48 hours) contact the flight coordinator and either:
 - a. Accept the scheduled Flight BYE week date for their make-up date, which will become the official date for the make-up match or
 - b. Re-schedule the make-up date within the allocated two-week make-up time frame allowed under LCTA make-up regulation; at which point that date will become the official date for the make-up match.
 - c. If captains do not contact their flight coordinator as above, the Flight BYE week (if still available) will be designated as the official make-up date for the postponed match. Once the date has been set, the make-up date cannot change unless there is inclement weather on that date; which would result in rescheduling the make-up match.

2.01K(1) INCLEMENT WEATHER DURING LOCAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. During local championships, it is the responsibility of the Site/Flight/Overall Coordinator to decide when a match must be postponed due to inclement weather. There is no maximum wait time, but it is at the discretion of the Site/Flight/Overall Coordinator to decide when players should be released.
2. Make-up dates and times for postponed local championship matches will be determined by the Site/Flight/Overall Coordinators. 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. **For matches not started, substitutions may be made, however the substituting players cannot be in the original lineup and players may not be moved within the match lineup card.**

3. 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.
4. If postponement begins prior to the start (playing at least one point) of an individual match, the line-ups may be changed, **however the substituting players cannot be in the original lineup and players may not be moved within the match lineup card.** Defaults given during or prior to the line-up exchange are cancelled.
5. If teams are released after individual matches have begun and players are not available when individual matches resume, the individual match will be recorded in TennisLink as a “retirement” with the leading team in the individual match as the “winner”. (For example, the team leading 6-4, 0-4 would be considered the leading team. If a 2nd set is not completed, the team winning the first set is considered the leading team.)

2.01L REGISTRATION

1. Teams will register for play in the LCTA 2026 Spring tennis program by entering their rosters in TennisLink no later than January **11, 2026**. No new teams may be established after that date unless a waiver is received from the LCTA Local League Coordinator. Teams will register for play in the LCTA Adult 65 & Over **beginning March 8, 2026** and Adult 75 & Over beginning **August 28, 2026**. No new teams may be established after **April 12, 2026 for LCTA Adult 65 & Over** unless a waiver is received from the USTA SC District League Coordinator (DLC).
2. A roster will be considered valid on January **11, 2026**, if it has at least nine, eight, six, or five players depending on age group and level.
3. A player may be added to a team roster until the date of that team’s last scheduled regular season match but must participate in 2 regular season matches to be eligible for local championships.
4. A player may not play for a team until the player has been entered on the roster. If a player is not on the roster at the start time of a match and plays in that match, the individual match will be considered to be a default.
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 2026 season must have their memberships paid-up through the LCTA local league season, i.e., April 30, 2026 for the Spring League and December 12, 2026 for Fall League. TennisLink will not allow a player to be added to the roster if this requirement is not met.
 - b. Pay a **\$25.15** fee through TennisLink. This fee is collected each time a player’s name appears on a roster. The entry fee consists of the following elements for Spring, Mixed and Combo: **\$9** to USTA/SC to support league tennis operations in South Carolina; **\$13** to LCTA to support league tennis operations in our local league; and **\$3.15** to support the operation and maintenance of TennisLink. **The entry fee consists of the following elements for Fall: \$4 to USTA/SC to support league operations in South Carolina; \$18 to LCTA to support league tennis operations in**

our local league; and \$3.15 to support the operation and maintenance of TennisLink.

c. Be on a team that plays at or above the player's current rating as indicated in TennisLink. A player may play at a level higher than his/her rating. Players without a rating in TennisLink must self-rate, using the National Tennis Rating Program standards, before registering for a team. Those self-ratings will be in effect for two years or until the player generates a computer-based rating.

2.01M 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., 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). The captain of the team may request that the match be rescheduled, and the request must be granted by the opposing captain in the following circumstances.

1. The team has three or more players participating in the conflicting event.
2. The team has two or more players participating in the conflicting event in 18 and Over or 40 and Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 or 4.5 team with 10 or fewer players on the roster.
3. The team has 2 or more players participating in the conflicting event in the 18 and Over 2.5 or 5.0 with 7 or fewer players on the roster.

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 2.01K(1) 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 championship 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.

2.03 AREA, SECTIONAL, AND NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS

2.03A ELIGIBILITY FOR ADVANCEMENT

Players must have participated in a minimum number of 2 matches to play in LCTA local championships, state (District), and sectional competition. Retirements, both given and received, are considered as participating in a match. One of these matches can be a default received, but defaults given do not count towards meeting this requirement. In order for a player to participate in the National Championships, he/she must have played (one default

received counts towards advancement) in at least three matches, including state and sectional championships.

A player must play in at least 1 Local League match in order to qualify to play at the USTA SC Adult 65 & Over and 70 & Over State Championship (a default received counts towards advancement). Local playoffs are championships, not part of the local season. There is no local play requirement for the 75 & Over State Invitational.

2.04 LEAGUE NTRP DYNAMIC DISQUALIFICATION AND APPEAL PROCEDURES

2.04A NTRP DYNAMIC DISQUALIFICATION PROCEDURES

During local league competition and at every level of championship competition below national championship, 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. 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 unless that "C" rating is an appealed "C" rating.

2.04B LOCAL LEAGUE NTRP DISQUALIFICATION

Players who are NTRP dynamically disqualified will be notified by the Sectional League Coordinator or designee and have the right to a review in accordance with the procedures in Reg. 2.04C – *NTRP Dynamic Disqualification Review Procedures*.

2.04C NTRP DYNAMIC DISQUALIFICATION AND APPEAL PROCEDURES

If the player or the team captain of a player disqualified in the local league desires a review of the NTRP Dynamic Disqualification, he/she must submit a written request to the Southern Tennis Association within the time limit set by the NTRP Committee of notification of the disqualification.

2.04D SCORING PROCEDURES

This section replaced by the Sectional Rule as posted below. Beginning with the 2016 season, matches shall not be reversed.

2.04E

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.

3.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

3.01 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 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.

All grievances and grievance appeals will be handled by the Statewide Local League Grievance Committee, see committee members below. A chairman and 2 members of the committee will serve on each individual grievance or grievance appeal. Local grievance committee members will not serve on any grievance or grievance appeal from their area.

A \$100 filing fee will be required for all General/Sportsmanship, Championship and/or Administrative Grievance. The filing fee will only be returned to the grieving party if the grievance is upheld.

USTA SC League Grievance and Grievance Appeals Committee

James Teal – Co-Chair Grievance Committee

Scott Zobrist – Co-Chair Grievance Committee

Debby Bosselman – Chair – Grievance Appeals Committee

Local League Representatives

Jonathan Watkins (BBTL)

Toni Odom (CTL)

Lauren Demosthenes (FTA)

Abby Martin (GATA)

Jessica Holmes (GSTL)

Sue Cook (HHTL)

Thea Salmonson (LATA)

Art Welling (LCTA)

Becky Williamson (LCTA)

Chris Jones (LCTA)

Stephanie Stanton (MCTL)

Linda Freeman (PD)

Frank Thompson (SATL)

Terry Kent (UPTA)

Please note that a chairman and 2 committee members will be assigned to handle each grievance or grievance appeal but will not be assigned to any grievance or grievance appeal from their local area.

3.01A GRIEVANCE COMPLAINTS DURING LOCAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. **Filing a Grievance.** Grievance complaints may also be filed during the 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, the local league coordinator, or the Local Championship Director. These complaints must be submitted, in writing, within thirty minutes of the end of the team match to the Local Championship Director (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. **Local Championship Grievance Committee.** Prior to the local championship, a three-person Local Championship Grievance Committee will be designated, and the captains participating in the playoff will be advised of its composition. Normally, the Local Championship Director will be one of the members of the Committee. Members of the Local Championship Grievance Committee need not be at the site during the local championships but must be available by telephone throughout the local championship competition. Whenever possible, the Local Championship Grievance Committee should meet at the local championship site if a grievance is filed, but participation by telephone is allowable if necessary. The decision of the Local Championship 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 Championship Grievance Appeal Committee will be designated, and the captains participating in the playoff will be advised of its composition. Members of the Local Championship Grievance Appeal Committee need not be at the site during the local championships but must be available by telephone throughout the local championship competition. Whenever possible, the Local Championship Grievance Appeal Committee should meet at the local championship site if a grievance appeal is filed, but participation by telephone is allowable if necessary. The decision of the Local Championship Grievance Appeal Committee shall be by majority vote and the decision of the Local Championship Grievance Appeal Committee is final and binding. Play will not recommence until the Local Championship Grievance Appeal is decided.

3.01B GRIEVANCE COMPLAINTS CONCERNING LCTA LEAGUE ADMINISTRATION.

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.

3.01C NTRP ELIGIBILITY GRIEVANCE COMPLAINT

Self-rated players who enter the USTA League Tennis Program by misrepresenting their actual skill level are considered to have violated the standards of good conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship, and may be subject to a grievance complaint and possible disqualification.

Grievances against such players may be filed by the Local League Coordinator, a team captain, or a tournament committee. Such grievances will be reviewed and decided by a NTRP Eligibility 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 Eligibility Grievance Committee Chairman.

APPROVALS

Submitted: Nancy Pitcairn Date: **1/6/26**

Lowcountry Tennis Association
Local League Coordinator

Approved: Patricia "PJ" Fulmer Date: **1/13/26**

USTA/South Carolina
USTA SC District League Coordinator

APPROVED

- d. Single Flight. When the division consists of a single flight, there will be no Lowcountry Tennis Association local championships.
- e. 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 State Championships.
 - i. 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.
 - ii. If the Lowcountry Tennis Association receives **more than one entry** into the State Championships, 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 two-team procedure will be followed.
- f. 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 State Championships.
 - i. 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.
 - ii. If the Lowcountry Tennis Association receives **more than one entry** into the State Championships, 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 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. (In order 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.) Leave this in.

g. 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 State Championships.

- i. 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.
- ii. If the Lowcountry Tennis Association a second entry into the State Championships before the local championships are scheduled, the winner and finalist will be determined during a local championship 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 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.

(In order 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.)

h. 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 State Championships.

- i. 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.
- ii. If the Lowcountry Tennis Association receives a second entry into the State Championships before the local championships 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 semi-finalists 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. (In order 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.)
 - i. Local Championship Sites. The selection of the local championship site(s) is the responsibility of the Overall Flight Coordinator and/or the Flight Coordinator.