

LOWCOUNTRY TENNIS
ASSOCIATION

LOCAL LEAGUE REGULATIONS

FOR THE **2026** SOUTHERN COMBO
DOUBLES PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

The following are the regulations for the USTA League Tennis Southern Combo Doubles Program in the Lowcountry Tennis Association of the South Carolina State of the Southern Section, and they apply to the 18 & Over Age Group, the 40 & Over Age Group, the 55 & Over Age Group, and the 65 & Over Age Group. These regulations augment the **2026** Southern Combo Doubles Regulations; the **2026** USTA South Carolina Southern Combo Doubles Regulations, the Lowcountry Tennis Association Constitution and the Lowcountry Tennis Association By-Laws. All of the regulations mentioned can be found on the Lowcountry Tennis Association web site (www.lctatennis.org) 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 all of the regulations mentioned above. These regulations can be found on the Lowcountry Tennis Association website (www.lctatennis.org).

0.02 USTA Southern Section, and USTA South Carolina State 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.

0.03 It may be necessary to correct or change the Local League Regulations in order to react to changes in Southern Section or South Carolina State regulations.

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. The Penn pink tennis balls are not approved by the USTA and thus cannot be used for League Tennis play.

1.18 SECTIONAL LEAGUE COORDINATORS

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 STATE LEAGUE COORDINATOR (SLC)

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

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

1.20 LOCAL LEAGUE COORDINATORS

- 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:

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

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

Stephanie Davis
15 N Basilica Ave
Hanahan, SC 29410
stephanie.lcta@gmail.com
(843) 270-6865

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 18 & Over Age Group team at the same level of play or more than one 40 & Over Age Group team at the same level of play or more than one 55 & Over Age Group team at the same level of play or more than one 65 & Over Age Group team at the same level of play, though an individual could be the captain of one 18 & Over Age Group team or one 40 &

Over Age Group team or one 55 & Over Age Group team or one 65 & Over Age Group team at the same level of play, or of multiple 18 & Over Age Group teams, and/or multiple 40 & Over Age Group teams and/or multiple 55 & Over Age Group teams and/or multiple 65 & Over Age Group teams 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 valid email addresses and telephone numbers in TennisLink.

1.24 LOCAL LEAGUE SEASON

The season for the Lowcountry Tennis Association Southern Combo Doubles Local League shall be from **July 6, 2026, to September 23, 2026.**

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

Singleton teams: If any Adult Division Age Group 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 District 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 Local League policy.

65 & Over singleton teams may advance straight to the State Championships

Two team leagues: In a two-team flight in any age group, a team must have at least 3 players on the roster at the maximum NTRP level per Combo chart. For example – 7.5 roster must have at least three 4.0 players.

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. 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 defined the number of teams that may form at a facility: 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. In the case of Charleston Tennis Center, more teams can be accommodated by using Bees Ferry; for Maybank, additional teams can be accommodated by using Alan Fleming courts.

1.27 COACHING AND SPORTSMANSHIP

No coaching is allowed in the LCTA Combo 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over or 65 & Over Age groups.

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 COMBO DOUBLES LOCAL LEAGUE REGULATIONS

2.01 LOCAL LEAGUE

Players may appeal their rating once anytime during the **2026** league year. Players who submit an appeal to their self-rating through the Tennis Link system before the deadline for registering players will be permitted to register up to seven days after the notification of final self-rating. If a player’s rating is appealed down during the Combo season, the player must adjust the rating on the roster for the duration of the season and should notify the Combo Coordinator to make the update in the TennisLink roster. Previous matches by the player would stand. **Players can only have 1 rating. If a player needs to self-rate or appeals up or down and receives a different rating from the one they had, they must play at that level. With players whose ratings have expired and they receive a higher rating when they re-rate, they can appeal, but cannot play until it is approved on their current team.**

2.01A 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 subflights within a flight. The decision to establish two or more flights will be made by the Combo Doubles Coordinator. Subflights will generally not be established where it results in a subflight of fewer than five teams and subflights will not generally exceed 13 teams. The make-up of a subflight will be the result of either a random selection or on the basis of 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 subflights.

2.01B TEAM

1. ***A team will consist of a minimum of six players of the same gender able to combine to form 3 eligible teams.***
2. All members of a team in 18 & Over Age Group must be at least 18 years of age before registering for an 18 & Over team at any level. Each player over the age of 18 shall have reached the required minimum age prior to or during the calendar year in which such player participates in his or her first local league.
3. All members of a team in 40 & Over Age Group must be at least 40 years of age by December 31, **2026**.
4. All members of a team in 55 & Over Age Group must be at least 55 years of age by December 31, **2026**.
5. All members of a team in 65 & Over Age Group must be at least 65 years of age by December 31, **2026**.

2.01D ENTRY

1. Players with a computer rating must play based on that NTRP level.
2. Players with a Mixed, Tournament, Computer, Self-Rating, or Appealed rating 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.

2.01E LEVELS OF PLAY

2.01E(1) The Lowcountry Tennis Association Local League has determined that for the league year of **2026** the following levels shall be available if at least two teams register for the level.

18 & Over Combo Doubles: 2.5, 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5, and 10.5

40 & Over Combo Doubles: 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, and 8.5

55 & Over Combo Doubles: 6.5, 7.5, and 8.5

65 & Over Combo Doubles: 6.5, 7.5 and 8.5

NOTE: 65 & Over is a SC League only – no further advancement past SC State Championships. **18 & Over 2.5 is a Lowcountry Tennis Association local league only.**

2.01E(2) The combined ratings of an on-court partnership must not exceed the level of the flight.

NTRP cap for Combined Levels:

Level	Max Rating
5.5	3.0
6.5	3.5
7.5	4.0
8.5	5.0
9.5	5.5
10.5	6.0

2.01G SCORING AND REST

2.01G(1) All matches in the 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over and 65 & Over Combo League, 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 a set tie break (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.

2.01G (2) A 2-minute break may be taken at the end of each set.

2.01G (3) There will be a changeover, but no break, at the end of the first game of each set.

2.01H COMPETITION FORMAT

2.01H (1) SCHEDULE FORMAT

(a) Regular Season.

- i. Each level of play shall consist of one flight or two or more subflights as discussed in paragraph 2.01A above.
- ii. Each flight/subflight 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 three matches.

- iii. 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 particular season.

(b) **Local Championships.** To participate in local championships, a player must have played in 1 regular season matches or have 1 default received.

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.

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 lineup 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

See Addendum 1 for Local Championship Procedures

Local Championship Sites. The selection of the play-off site(s) is the responsibility of the Combo Coordinator. All matches will be played at one or more central sites.

Local Championship Dates. For all flights/subflights having play-offs, the play-offs will be held **September 8-13, 2026** at Mt. Pleasant Recreation Dept. If it becomes necessary to change these dates, all captains will be notified

2.01H(2) 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/subflight have the same number of team points at the end of the season, the tie shall be broken in the following manner:
 - 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.
- 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.
- e. Recording and Reporting Scores
 - 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 will receive one warning. Any additional occurrences of not entering the score within 48 hours of match completion will 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 scores at the end of the match to decrease the potential of an erroneous score being entered in TennisLink.

2.01H(4) TEAM LINEUPS

- a. Strength sheets will not be used by the Lowcountry Tennis Association.
- 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 except as noted in paragraph 2.01(4)(c) below. 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. If two players in the lineup, not playing with each other, do not show, then the two partners who did show will form a partnership, if it is an otherwise valid partnership, and play together in the higher lineup position.
- d. **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 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 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.

e. **Defaults.**

- i. A team default occurs when a team captain cannot field at least two of the three positions for a team match.
- ii. Defaults must be given "from the bottom" except as provided for in paragraph 2.01H(4)(b) above, i.e., the No. 3 doubles must be defaulted before the No. 2 doubles, and the No. 2 doubles must be defaulted before the No. 1 doubles may be defaulted.
- iii. 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.
- iv. 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.
- v. 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.
- vi. If both teams default the same position, neither team will receive a win and the scorecard will indicate a double default.
- vii. If a team defaults an excessive number of matches, i.e., more than 20% of its scheduled individual matches, during the season, none of that team's individual matches for the entire season--both those matches already played and those matches yet to be played--will count in the league results. (Example: If there are ten scheduled matches for a team, there will be thirty 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.)

viii. By joining the Lowcountry Tennis Association, a team is making a commitment to play every match. If, however, circumstances dictate that a team cannot field at least two positions, then the entire match must be defaulted.

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.

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

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. Teams that default an entire

match are expected to play the remainder of their schedule. A grievance may be filed against a team that is assessed a team default.

- ii. 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 some specific period.

2.01(H)(5) Player Participation

Individuals may play at the same level on more than one team in South Carolina in the Southern 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over or 65 & Over Combo Doubles League. Individuals may play on multiple teams in the Lowcountry Tennis Association as long as those teams compete at different levels of play. An individual may also compete on an 18 & Over Combo Doubles League team, a 40 & Over Combo Doubles League team, a 55 & Over Combo Doubles League team, and/or a 65 & Over Combo Doubles League at the same level of play.

Players who qualify for South Carolina Combo Doubles State League Championships may advance on more than one 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over or 65 & Over team at different levels in the **2026** Combo Doubles League State Championships. Players who qualify for Southern Sectional Championships may advance on more than one 18 & Over, one 40 & Over, one 55 & Over team. No scheduling accommodations will be made for players playing on more than one team at Championships.

2.01J Inclement Weather

2.01J(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 that 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 level coordinator. 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 championships.) 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 positions at the same time, just as they would in a regularly scheduled match; however, this is not a requirement. 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, **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.** Any defaults given during or prior to the line-up exchange are cancelled. 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.

c. Once the make-up dates are established, those are considered to be 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 to be changed in TennisLink. 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 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 make-up date or the league set date, the match will be scored a double forfeit. If the two teams double forfeit the entire match in this manner, this will result in all matches for **both** teams being null and void as per 2.01(H)(4)(viii). If one or more individual positions are double forfeited (while others are played), it will result in both teams losing one individual match, two sets and twelve games for each double defaulted match. 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.

d. 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, 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. 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 league 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 Combo coordinator is informed, those are considered to be the official match date 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 three possible outcomes:

- i. 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;
- ii. If an individual match had not started prior to the inclement weather and if one team shows for the makeup match and the other does not, that individual match will be recorded as a default by the team that did not show;
- iii. If neither team shows for the match, the individual match will be scored as a double forfeit. This will result in **both** teams losing one individual match, two sets and twelve games.

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 2.01J(1).

2.01J(2) INCLEMENT WEATHER DURING LOCAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- a. During local championships, it is the responsibility of the Site/Flight/Overall Combo 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 local championship matches will be determined by the Site/Flight/Overall Combo Doubles Coordinator. Completed matches will stand as played and incomplete matches must be resumed by the same players at the exact set, game, and point score as when play was halted. In the event that the 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.

2.01K REGISTRATION

2.01K(1) Teams will register for play in the LCTA **2026** Southern 18 & Over Combo Doubles, 40 & Over Combo Doubles, 55 & Over Combo Doubles and 65 & Over Combo Doubles Leagues by entering their rosters in TennisLink, beginning **May 11, 2026** and no later than **June 21, 2026**.

No new teams may be established after that date unless a waiver is received from the Combo Doubles Coordinator.

2.01K(2) In order for a roster to be considered valid on **June 21, 2026**, it must have at least six players, and at least three AT LEVEL eligible partnerships registered.

Example: A 7.5 team must have at least three 3.5 players and at least three 4.0 players.

2.01K(3) A player may be added to a team roster until the date of that team's last scheduled match in the regular season.

2.01K(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 team match and plays in that match, the individual match will be considered to be a default.

2.01K(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, including State Championship (see 2.03B). 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. This fee is not refundable for any reason.

2.01L 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 three or more players (two or more players for a team with 7 or fewer players on the roster) participating in such championship level play or on a team representing the LCTA, then 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 2.01J(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.

2.03 AREA, SECTIONAL, AND NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS

2.03A(1) ELIGIBILITY

A player must play in at least 1 Local League match in order to qualify to play at USTA SC Combo 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over and 65 & Over State Championship (a default received counts towards advancement). Local championships are championships, not part of the local season.

Defaults given do not count towards meeting this requirement, but retirements, whether received or given, **do** count towards the one match requirement.

2.03B CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE

LCTA Local Championships will be held **September 8-13, 2026** at Mount Pleasant Recreation Department on Whipple Road in Mount Pleasant.

USTA/South Carolina State Southern Combo Doubles Championships:

Combo 55 & Over October 23-25, 2026 in Aiken, SC.

Combo 40/65 & Over November 7-9, 2026 in Florence, SC.

Combo 18 & Over October 24-26, 2026 in Aiken, SC.

USTA/Southern Section Combo Doubles Championships:

Combo #1 - 18 & Over 6.5, 8.5 and all 40s - March 6-9, 2026 in Mobile, AL

Combo #2 - 18 & Over 5.5, 7.5, 9.5 and all 55s - March 13-16, 2026 in Mobile, AL

3.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

3.01 GRIEVANCE COMPLAINTS

3.01A GRIEVANCE COMPLAINTS DURING LCTA REGULAR SEASON

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 Local League Coordinator 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.

The decision of the Statewide Local League Grievance Committee may be appealed to the League Grievance Appeals Committee.

The decision of the League Grievance Appeals Committee is final and binding.

3.01B 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, the league coordinator, or the Playoff Director. These complaints must be submitted, in writing, within 30 minutes of the end of the team match to the Playoff 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 championships, a three-person local championship Grievance Committee will be designated, and the captains participating in the local championship 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 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 allowed, 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 local championship, a three-person Local Championship Grievance Appeal Committee will be designated, and the captains participating in the local championship will be advised of its composition. Members of the Local Championship Grievance Appeal Committee need not be at the site during the local championship, 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 allowed, if necessary. The decision of the Local Championship Grievance Appeal Committee shall be by majority vote and is final and binding. Play will not recommence until the Grievance Appeal is decided.

3.02 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 by the USTA State of South Carolina Leagues Grievance and Grievance Appeal Committees.

3.03 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 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 Self-Rate 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 State League Coordinator, who will forward them to the Section League Coordinator who, in turn, will forward them to the Southern Self-Rate Eligibility Grievance Committee Chairman.

APPROVALS

Submitted: Nancy Pitcairn

Date: May 10, 2026

Lowcountry Tennis Association
Local League Coordinator

Stephanie Davis
Lowcountry Tennis Association
Southern Combo Doubles Local League Coordinator

Date: **April 11, 2026**

Patricia PJ Fulmer
USTA/South Carolina
USTA SC District League Coordinator

Date: May 20, 2026

Addendum 1

Local Championship Procedures

- I. **Single Flight.** There will be no Lowcountry Tennis Association local championships when the division consists of a single flight.
- II. **Two Subflights.** When there are two subflights in a division, the play-off format will depend upon the number of teams from the LCTA that will participate in the South Carolina Combo Doubles State Championships.
 - aa. 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 subflight.

- bb. If the Lowcountry Tennis Association receives more than one entry to the State Championships, a round robin playoff, involving the top two teams in each subflight, will be held to determine the final placement of the teams. In the first round, the top team from each subflight will play the number two team in the other subflight. In the second round, the top team in each subflight will play the number two team in its subflight. In the third round, the top teams from each subflight will play each other as will the second-place teams from each subflight. The final placement of teams will be determined according to 3.01H(2)(c) below.
- cc. If the Lowcountry Tennis Association receives more than two entries to the State Championships, the final placement of the teams will be determined during a play-off in a single elimination, eight-draw tournament format consisting of the top three teams from each subflight. The first-place team will be the winner of the play-off. The second-place team will be the losing finalist of the play-off. The third-place team will be the winner of a match between the two losing semi-finalists of the play-off. The fourth-place team will be the loser of a match between the two losing semi-finalists of the play-off. The teams will be seeded in the following format:

- Position 1 will go to the first-place finisher from subflight #1, and will have a first-round bye.
- Position 2 will be a bye position.
- Position 3 will go to the second-place finisher from subflight #2, and will play Position 4 in the first round.
- Position 4 will go to the third-place finisher from subflight #1, and will play Position 3 in the first round.
- Position 5 will go to the third-place finisher from subflight #2, and will play Position 6 in the first round.
- Position 6 will go to the second-place finisher #2 from subflight #1, 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 from subflight #2, and will have a first-round bye.

(In order to determine which flight is Flight #1 and which is Flight #2, the level coordinator will put the names of the two flights on separate sheets of paper, put them in a container, and select one sheet from the container. That will be Flight #1.)

III. **Three Flights.** When there are three flights in a division, the play-off format will depend upon the number of teams from the LCTA that will participate in the South Carolina Combo Doubles State Championships. If only one LCTA team will participate in the State Championships, that team will be determined during a single play-off match involving the top team in each subflight. If the LCTA receives more than one entry to the State Championships, the final placement of the top four teams will be determined during a play-off 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 play-off. The second-place team will be the losing finalist of the play-off. The third-place team will be the winner of a match between the two losing semi-finalists of the play-off. The fourth-place team will be the loser of a match between the two losing semi-finalists of the play-off. 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.)

IV. **Four Flights.** When there are four flights in a division, the final placement of the top four teams will be determined during a single elimination, eight draw, tournament format play-off involving the top two teams in each flight. 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 more than one 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.