



LEXINGTON AREA TENNIS LEAGUE (LATA) LOCAL REGULATIONS

**2026 ADULT SPRING AND FALL LEAGUES
18 & OVER, 40 & OVER, 55 & OVER, 65 & OVER, 70 & OVER, 75 & OVER**

www.latasc.com

USTA League Tennis National Regulations, Southern Regulations and South Carolina State Regulations shall apply and take precedence over LATA Local Rules, if a conflict arises.

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

GENERAL

LEXINGTON AREA TENNIS ASSOCIATION LOCAL LEAGUE COORDINATOR

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The LATA Local League Coordinator (LLC) implements and administers the Lexington Area Tennis Association (LATA) tennis programs and interprets the LATA Local Regulations. The LATA LLC organizes, coordinates and supervises all USTA League tennis activities at the local league level and Reports to the SC District League Coordinator.

A Local League is defined by team competition in a specified geographic area that applies specific local league regulations and consists of NTRP level(s) with a minimum of two teams per level.

Geographic Area for the Lexington Area Tennis Association (LATA) consists of Lexington County, Columbia, Cayce, West Columbia, Gilbert, Batesburg, Leesville, Ballentine, Chapin, Prosperity, Newberry, Irmo, Bamberg, Orangeburg County with the following facilities currently utilized:

Ball Park Road
Cayce Tennis and Fitness Center
Creek at Mungo Park
Kingston Harbor
Lexington Country Club
Lexington County Tennis Complex

Melvin Park
Murraywood Tennis and Racquet Club
Quail Valley Swim and Racquet Club
Saluda Shoals Park
Topspin Racquet and Swim Club

TEAM CAPTAIN. Each team shall appoint a team captain to handle administrative affairs and to represent the team in Lexington League matters. It is recommended that the team captain be a playing member of the team, but he/she can be a non-playing captain. The team captain, or an acting team captain, must be present at every match. Each team may also appoint a co-captain. LATA Captains have a list of duties they are responsible for, as referenced and attached in the LATA “Duties of a Team Captain”, which are herein incorporated into the LATA Rules.

LOCAL LEAGUE – League Types:

18 & Over - Player must be at least 18 years of age to participate in a USTA league.

40 & Over - Player must reach at least 40 years of age during calendar year.

55 & Over - Player must reach at least 55 years of age during calendar year.

65 & Over – Player must reach at least 65 years of age during calendar year.

70 & Over – Player must reach at least 70 years of age during calendar year.

75 & Over – Player must reach at least 75 years of age during calendar year.

(**65 & Over and 75 & Over Leagues– SC State Championships in October)

LEVELS OF PLAY: LATA has the following levels available if there are at least two teams for the level:

18 & Over Men and Women – 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 – roster must have at least eight (8) players

- Team match for these levels consists of 2S and 3D courts

18 & Over Men and Women – 2.5, 5.0 – roster must have at least five (5) players

- Team match for these levels consists of 1S and 2D courts

40 & Over Men and Women – 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 – roster must have at least nine (9) players

- **Team match for these levels consists of 1S and 4D courts**

40 & Over Men and Women – 2.5 – roster must have at least five (5) players

- Team match for this level consists of 1S and 2D courts

55 & Over Men and Women – 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 9.0 Combined – roster must have six (6) players

- Team match consists of 3D courts

65 & Over Men and Women – 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, and 9.0 Combined – roster must have six (6) players

- Team match consists of 3D courts

70 & Over Men and Women – 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 – roster must have six (6) players

- Team match consists of 3D courts (SC League only – teams will progress to SC State Chps)

75 & Over Men and Women – 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 – roster must have six (6) players

- Team match consists of 3D courts (SC League only – teams progress to SC Invitational – **no**
- **local play required.**

NUMBER OF TEAMS. The Lexington Area Tennis League shall consist of a minimum of two teams in a specific level of competition or division. In order to accommodate scheduling considerations, LATA may establish two or more flights within a division, as determined by the LATA League Coordinator. If there are two or more flights within a division, the make-up of a flight will be the result of either a random selection or on a basis of geographical location. LATA Local League Coordinator, along with the Level Coordinator, may also schedule alternate match dates, as need, to accommodate scheduling conflicts.

TWO TEAM LEVELS: If any Adult Division Age Group (18 & Over, 40 & Over and 55 & Over) consists of only two teams in a level of play, each team must maintain its roster with at least **40 percent of its players at the designated NTRP level of play.**

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

The above-mentioned regulation does not apply to the Adult 65 & Over and 70 & Over Age Groups.

- (1) Offer to move that team to another age division offered in that area in that particular level, if applicable.
- (2) Move individual players to another team in that area, if applicable, or move to Extra and hold to be moved to another league during that calendar year such as Mixed or Combo.
- (3) The USTA SC District League Coordinator may move a singleton team to another area's league tree only if it is agreed upon by both local league coordinators and accomplished before that recipient area's deadline.
- (4) 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.
- (5) If one singleton team is moved into an already existing league of at least 2 teams, then that singleton team must secure home courts in that host local league where they have been moved and if that singleton team wins that league, they will represent that host league at the State Championship.
 - The singleton team must follow all rules and regulations of the host league.
 - The host league is responsible for awards and state championship registration.
- (6) If Local League Coordinators agree to combine singleton teams in order to form a league for those teams to qualify, the winning team from that singleton league will be allowed to represent their local league where they initially registered.
 - Rules and regulation issues that occur during the singleton team league play will be handled by the USTA SC District League Coordinator, in consultation with the Local League Coordinators that are involved.
 - The area that is represented by the winning team will be responsible for awards and state championship registration for that team
- (7) Credit all or a portion of the registration fee in accordance with the Local League policy.

Singleton Teams in South Carolina Only Programs: If any area in the 65 & Over and 70 & Over Age Groups consists of only one team in a level of play (singleton team), that team may advance directly to the state championship.

Teams participating in a Local League at State (LLAS) level or participate on a straight to state team (South Carolina ONLY Singleton team) must have 60% of their roster from South Carolina. In addition to the 60% of the roster being from South Carolina, teams participating on a straight to state team must have 50% of their roster from the area the team represents. A player's residency will be determined by their address in TennisLink.

Local League At State (LLAS). Each year, USTA SC determines which Spring Adult levels and age groups will play their local season at the State Championship, regardless of the number of teams.

For 2026, the LLAS levels include 18 & Over 5.0 Men and Women and 40 & Over 2.5 Men.

OUT OF AREA TEAMS. If teams are moved from other leagues and/or tennis associations to play in the Lexington Area Tennis League, those teams will have home and away matches on the same basis as regular member teams of the Lexington Area Tennis League. Teams that are moved to play in LATA must obtain home courts at one of the LATA facilities and must pay any associated court fees to the LATA facility for its home matches.

Complete teams choosing to play in a local league area other than their home local league must secure home courts in the local league they choose to participate unless other arrangements are agreed upon by both Local League Coordinators.

COURT FACILITIES. Each team participating in the Lexington Area Tennis Association League must guarantee the use of at least three courts at one location for all LATA regularly scheduled and make-up matches that consist of four or five individual matches per team match. Each team must guarantee the use of at least two courts at one location for all LATA regularly scheduled and make-up matches that consist of three individual matches per team match. Any approved USTA surface is permissible (clay or hard). The choice of surface is the prerogative of the home team, and more than one surface may be used for a single team match. If more than one surface is available at the site of the match, the home team must identify which individual matches will be played on which surfaces prior to either team exchanging the line-up for the team match. Home team is responsible to have courts available and playable at match time.

PLAYING ON MULTIPLE TEAMS

- a. A player may play at the same NTRP level in the same division (18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over, 65 & Over, 70 & Over, 75 & Over) on teams in separate Leagues in South Carolina during the same season. If both teams in the same division advance to the State Championships, the player must choose to only play on one team at that same level at State Championship.
- b. During the SC League Season, a player may participate in more than one NTRP level in 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over, 65 & Over, 70 & Over and 75 & Over divisions in the same League during the same season.
- c. A player **may not** play at the same NTRP level in the **same** Age Group (18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over, 65 & Over, 70 & Over) on teams in the same local league.
- d. **FALL ADULT LEAGUE EXCEPTION:** Women are permitted to play on ONE Day and ONE night team at the **same** Age and NTRP level during the **Fall Adult League season**. For example, a woman could play on a 40+ 3.5 Day team and on a 40+ 3.5 Night team. This is only **allowed in Fall Adult League** because there are no advancements to State, and there will be NO CITY PLAYOFFS, even in the case of partial round robins. (NOTE: You may **NOT play** on two (2) Day teams or two (2) Night teams at the same age and NTRP level.)
- e. No accommodations will be made for scheduling conflicts during the local season or during any championships for players on multiple teams.

ROSTER REGISTRATION

- a. Once a player registers and pays fees on TennisLink, there are **no refunds**.
- b. Team roster with a minimum number of legal players must be submitted into TennisLink by the deadline date published by the LATA Local League Coordinator. Team rosters that do not meet this requirement will be deleted with **no refunds**.
- c. Players may be added to a roster on TennisLink until midnight of the add-on deadline date published by the LATA Local League Coordinator. However, a player may not play for a team until the player has registered on the TennisLink roster. If he/she does play a match when not

on the roster, the individual match will be considered a default.

*** No players may be added to a team roster after the add-on deadline except in the case of appeal decisions or disqualifications made after this deadline.

- d. Players **may not** switch from one team to another after the **start of the league season**. Byes, late starts, etc. are not considered and do not affect this date.
- e. Player must have a USTA membership valid thru the local season and the SC State Championships.

RATING ENTRY

- a. Players with a valid computer rating on TennisLink must play at that NTRP level or higher.
- b. Players with a valid self-rating in TL must play at that level or higher.
- c. A player may play only one NTRP level above the player's current NTRP level in each Age Group (18 & Over; 40 & Over; 55 & Over; 65 & Over; 70 & Over).
- d. Players who do not have a valid computer rating or self-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 possible sanctions and disqualification.
- e. Players may appeal their year-end rating on TennisLink **once** at any time during the league year.
- f. Once a player self-rates for a league, they may not self-rate lower for another league.

APPEALS

All players are eligible to submit an appeal through the TennisLink automated appeal system. Players may appeal their year-end ratings on line at any time during the following league year. TL will allow only one granted appeal per league year. Only players within the applicable range for an appeal will be approved.

Refer to Item 2.05 YEAR-END NTRP COMPUTER RATINGS AND APPEAL PROCEDURES in National Regs. for more specific details regarding appeals of year end ratings.

USTA SC-Medical appeals must be submitted on the appropriate medical appeal form along with a physician's statement filled out by the attending physician. These forms must be sent by email to P J Fulmer, USTA SC Director of Team Play, at fulmer@sctennis.com. Medical Appeal Forms and procedures can be found on the USTA South Carolina Tennis webpage at www.sctennis.com

COMPETITION FORMAT

- a. Each division shall consist of one or more flights with a minimum of two teams per flight.
- b. Each flight in each division shall play at least one round robin competition wherein every team plays every other team.
- c. Each team must play a minimum of three team matches.
- d. All team matches will be the best of three sets with a 10-point match tiebreak played in lieu of the third set. (i.e., first team to win at least 10 points and with at least a two-point margin over the opponent). Set tiebreaks (i.e., first team to win at least 7 points and with at least a two-point margin over the opponent) are played at 6 games all in the 1st and 2nd set. The set tiebreak and the 10-point match tiebreak played in lieu of a third set, will use the Coman tiebreak system.
- e. There will be a changeover, but no break, at the end of the first game of each set.
- f. There will be a 2-minute break at the end of each set.
- g. Warm-ups should be limited to 10 minutes. All individual matches should begin match play (i.e.

the first serve will be made) within 15 minutes of the scheduled match start time. An individual match starts when the first ball in that position is put in play.

Home team is responsible for court fees and providing new balls.

If there are multiple playing surfaces at a site, the visiting captain is entitled to know which specific match will be played on which surface before line-ups are exchanged.

Each team must have a Captain or acting Captain present at every match. Each Captain should have a scorecard printed from TennisLink and exchange written line-ups

After line-ups have been exchanged, they can only be changed because of injury or illness for any individual match that has not started. If a team does change their line up for this reason, **the opposing team may not change his/her line-up**. An individual match is started when the first ball of that position is put in play. In the event of illness, 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 scorecard. If no such substitution can be made, the affected position will be defaulted. Default will be written on the score line and will count as one of the team's defaults. Players who have received a default on the lineup card may not be substituted in other positions. Players may not be changed in an individual match that has begun. After the start of an individual match, if injury to, illness of, or disqualification of a player occurs, the opponents will be awarded a retirement for that individual match only.

Cell Phones must be turned off. If a cell phone rings during a point, the opponent wins the point based on a hindrance. NOTE: Sending or Receiving texts on Cell Phones or Smart Watches during match play is also not allowed.

TEAM MATCH FORMAT

Each team match in LATA shall consist of:

1. Two (2) individual singles matches and three (3) individual doubles matches for men and women in the 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5 flights in League Type 18 & Over.
2. One (1) individual singles match and two (2) individual doubles matches for men and women in the 2.5 and 5.0 flights in League Type 18 & Over and 40 & Over
3. One (1) individual singles match and four (4) individual doubles matches for men and women in the 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5 flights in League Type 40 & Over
4. Three (3) individual doubles matches for all flights in League Type 55, 65 and 70 & Over

FULL ROUND ROBIN: Each NTRP level within a local league may play at least one full round robin competition wherein every team plays every other team. Any NTRP level may be divided into flights and each team shall play every other team in its flight. The flight winners may enter a playoff structure to establish a local league champion for the NTRP level.

PARTIAL ROUND ROBIN: 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 playoff to establish a local league champion for that level.

TEAM LINEUPS

- a. The two captains shall exchange their team lineups in writing simultaneously, prior to the beginning of the team match – 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, illness, 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 in the lineup. If no substitution can be made, the affected position will be defaulted, except: 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.
- b. Starting Match Play. Warm-ups are 10 minutes! All individual matches must begin match play (i.e., the first serve will be made) within 15 minutes of the scheduled match start time.
- c. There is a fifteen-minute default rule (inclusive of warm up time) in effect for all local matches. The opposing captain has the discretion to extend the default time and play the match if it is possible to do so. All late players are guaranteed a 5-minute warm up, and NO POINT PENALTY is allowed for a late player.

DEFAULTS AND FORFEITS

- a. A default occurs when a team captain cannot field all positions for a team match. Defaults must be given “From the bottom” except as provided for in paragraph (a) under Team Lineups above (i.e., the No. 3 doubles or the No. 2 singles must be defaulted before the No. 2 Doubles or No. 1 singles).
- b. To receive a win by default, the non-defaulting player(s) must be present on court, ready to play: however, if a team captain advises his/her opponent in advance of the default, he/she waives the requirement for the non-defaulting player(s) to be present in order to receive the default.
- c. If a captain is advised prior to a match that the opponent must default a position and that captain knows that he/she would also have had to default a position, it is incumbent upon that captain to demonstrate good sportsmanship and declare a double default rather than to accept the win.
- d. 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, the default is cancelled.
- e. If both teams default the same position, neither team will receive a win and the scorecard will indicate a double default.
- f. Each team will be allowed an average of one individual match default per team match. For example, if a team has 7 matches on the schedule, they will be allowed no more than 7 individual match defaults for the season. If a team exceeds the allowed number of defaults, the league may file a grievance against that team. The situation will be assessed by the League Grievance Committee and sanctions imposed as appropriate. Penalties could include barring the team and/or its players from participating in future LATA tennis play for some specific period of time.
- g. A ‘team forfeit’ occurs when a team defaults 3 or more individual matches in a 5-court team match or a team defaults 2 or more courts in a 4-court team match or 2 or more courts in a 3-court team match. If a team commits a ‘team forfeit’ for any reason during round robin play, then all matches of that team played, or to be played, shall be null and void when determining standings. However, if all teams in contention for the championships have already played the defaulting team in good faith during a round robin, the matches stand as played.

- h. A team that receives an entire team forfeit does **not** receive credit for the win as the match will be null and void. It is in the best interest of both teams to work it out to play at least the minimum number of positions.
- i. Teams are expected to play all matches on their schedule. A grievance may be filed against any team that commits a 'team forfeit'. The situation will be assessed by the League Grievance Committee and sanctions imposed as appropriate. Penalties could include barring the team and/or its players from participating in future Lexington Area Tennis League play for some specific period of time.
- j. Majority of a match must be **actually played**.
- k. A match is not considered legal when:
 - (1) One team defaults a singles court and the other team defaults the other singles court. The 2 singles players receiving the default (one from each team) should play each other in the higher position and the other singles court scored as a double default.
 - (2) One team defaults a doubles court and the other team defaults a different doubles court. The players receiving the default (2 from each team) should play each other in the higher position and the defaulted court should be scored as a double default.
- l Teams are expected to play all matches on their schedule.

COACHING AND SPORTSMANSHIP

- a. No coaching will be permitted once play has begun.
- b. There are no linesmen or referees for LATA matches. Players are responsible for their own calls and should abide by "**The Code**". Every player is expected to call shots on his side, as he would expect his shots to be called on the other side and loud enough for the opponent to hear. If conflict occurs during match play over line calls that cannot be resolved, the players involved may request their captains to appoint a linesperson for the remainder of the match.
- c. Foot faults are illegal. Constant and blatant foot faulting giving the server a definite advantage should be politely brought to the attention of the server. If the foot-faulting continues, the players involved may request the captains to appoint a linesperson for the remainder of the match.
- d. Players should call the score after each point to avoid confusion. If there is a disagreement over the score, players should go back to the last agreed upon point.
- e. Spectators may not aid players in making a line call or determining the correct score. Spectators should not participate in the match in any way and should refrain from doing so even if asked by the players.
- f. Spectators may quietly watch a match in progress. They should not sit or stand at the end of the court immediately behind the servers or receivers if it is distracting to the players. Spectators may quietly clap for points well played. It should be remembered that the well-played point should be applauded regardless of who won the point. It is poor tennis etiquette to clap for unforced errors.
- g. It is the responsibility of each team to control the noise and behavior of its spectators. Also, respect players on neighboring courts. Loud, boisterous, and unsportsmanlike behavior is unacceptable. If a problem arises with a spectator, the player(s) should confer with his/her opponent(s) and should ask the spectator to refrain from the offensive behavior. If the behavior persists, the team captains should be summoned to handle the situation.
- h. Coaches and club professionals must not interfere in discussions or negotiations between players or captains unless specifically asked by both captains for advice. Even then, it is the responsibility of the two captains, not the coach or professional, to decide the appropriate resolution.
- i. Disputes should be settled between players as soon as they arise. All points played in good faith stand. Players should be able to resolve any dispute by themselves. If, however, they cannot, they should do the following:

- (1) The player should inform the opponent of the problem and intention to leave the court to obtain the assistance of the team captain. When leaving the court, the racket should be left on court.
- (2) The captain should contact the opponent's captain and they should try to resolve the dispute. If the captains are involved in playing a match, the players may have to postpone their play until the captains are available to assist them.
- (3) If the captains and players cannot agree on a resolution to the conflict, the offended player(s) may either: (a) continue to play the match but do so under protest. The score and who was serving at the time of the protest should be indicated on the scorecard with the annotation, "played under protest." At the conclusion of the match, the captain of the offended player(s) may or may not file a grievance. If no grievance is filed, the results of the match stand as completed. (b) Stop play, ensuring both captains and the opponent know why. Indicate on the scorecard that the match was stopped in protest and indicate the score and who was serving at the time the match was stopped. The captain of the offended player(s) may file a grievance. If no grievance is filed within the required time frame, the match will be scored as a retirement by the offended player.

USTA rules govern play. Also, "The Code" as a handbook of **ethics and fair play should be understood and followed by every player.**

ENTRY OF MATCH SCORES INTO TENNISLINK

- a. **Winning Team Captain is responsible for entering match scores into TennisLink within 48 hours of the completion of the match.** However, either captain may enter the scores.
- b. If match scores are not entered into TennisLink within 48 hours, a team may receive a warning. Any additional occurrences of not entering scores within 48 hours of match completion may result in the match being excluded when determining the division/flight standings, and/or may result in the captain having a grievance filed by the Level Coordinator for violation of this rule.
- c. The captain of the team not entering the results in TennisLink must either confirm, through TennisLink, that the scores and player(s) as reported are accurate or must dispute the score if he/she believes an error has been made or that the reported score is incorrect. If disputed, the captain is to **immediately notify the Level Coordinator by e-mail (and copy the opponent captain) of the basis for the dispute. Refer to the match number when reporting a dispute and provide specific information of the dispute.**
- d. 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 score entry even if it is wrong. Entries will stand as reported unless a change is authorized by the LLC.
- e. Captains should sign each other's scorecard to confirm match scores and player names at completion of the match. Captains should compare notes and confirm scores with players at the end of the match in order to avoid incorrect scorecard information being entered into TennisLink.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

- a. It is the responsibility of the home team captain to determine if weather conditions warrant the postponement of a regular season team match. However, if teams have assembled and have started to 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 visiting team captain prior to making the "play/no-play" decision, especially if match play has already begun. No one may leave the site until both captains have agreed to reschedule the incomplete matches. If a match is suspended due to rain for more than 10 minutes, a 10-minute warm-up will be allowed once the players take the court.

New balls may be opened by any player on the court to replace damaged or wet balls.

COLD WEATHER:: Home Team Captain is **responsible for contacting** Visiting Team Captain prior to the scheduled match time if the weather will not permit play. If the weather is below 32 degrees F **and both captains agree**, the match may be postponed. It is the decision of the home team to determine if their court surface is unplayable. If home courts are not playable and weather and availability of courts at **visitor's site permits play, match should be played at visitor's courts**. If courts are unplayable at both sites, the match is treated the same as a rain match and would follow those procedures of play. It is recommended that teams wait one hour to see if the courts become playable as the temperature warms up. **If match is postponed, teams must report this to level (flight) coordinator immediately.**

- b. If match play has not begun (i.e., no individual match has started), the team captains will arrange or have their individual players arrange, within 48 hours, the mutually agreeable make-up date(s). **ALSO, within 48 hours of the original match date, Home Captain MUST NOTIFY the Level Coordinator by e-mail of the rain-out status and the make-up date(s) for completion of the Team match (e-mail must also be copied to visiting captain).** The make-up date(s) must be within two weeks (14 calendar days) of the original match date. This allows both teams reasonable opportunity and flexibility to complete the matches. Friday night is the designated make-up night if the two teams cannot come to a mutual agreement for other times. Wednesday morning is the designated make up day for Day Teams unless they come to a mutual agreement for other times. Also, the Level Coordinator can set a date if the two cannot agree. Once the make-up date is set and the Level Coordinator is informed, the make-up date is considered the official match date and may not be postponed unless there is inclement weather on such date. 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

NOTE: If the two captains cannot mutually agree on a make-up date that will be within 14 calendar days OR if matches have not been reported in TennisLink within 14 calendar days of the original match date, Captains must contact the Level Coordinator (if not already contacted) who will intervene and establish a make-up date for the match.

- c. If match play has begun (i.e., at least one point played in one individual match), completed matches stand as played, incomplete matches must resume by the same players at the exact set, game, and point as when play halted, and matches not started may change the players listed on the lineup. Defaults given prior to or during the lineup exchange will stand. The matches do not have to be played at the same time and date and can be mutually arranged by the individuals involved in each match. HOWEVER, the decision when to resume matches must be made and relayed to the team captain(s) within 48 hours, and matches must be played within 14 calendar days of the original match date. **ALSO, within 48 hours of the original match date, the home captain must notify the Level Coordinator of the rain-out make-up dates/times by e-mail (e-mail must also be copied to visiting captain).** Once the make-up date is set, and the Level Coordinator is informed, the make-up date is considered the official match date and may not be postponed unless there is inclement weather on such date. If the two captains cannot mutually agree on a make-up date that will be within 14 calendar days OR if matches have not been reported in TennisLink within 14 calendar days of the original match date, Captains should contact the level coordinator who will intervene and establish a make-up date for the match.

All efforts should be made to reschedule and play any suspended or postponed matches due to rain **before the next scheduled match**

End of the season matches are to be made up within 72 hours.

- d. If there is a city play-off or if match results are needed to determine an advancing team to state championships, the Level and/or League Coordinator may require an earlier time for completing make-up matches and will set a date/time for completion which will be binding on the teams. Any matches not completed by the deadline set by the league may be excluded in determining standings.

Inclement Weather During City Playoffs

- a. During playoffs, it is the responsibility of the league coordinator to decide when a match must be postponed due to inclement weather. There is no maximum wait time, and it is at the discretion of the league coordinator to decide when players should be released.
- b. Make-up times and dates will be determined by the league coordinator. Completed matches stand as played; incomplete matches must be resumed by the same players at the exact set, game and point as when play halted. Matches not started must be played using the same players listed on the line-up at the time of the line-up exchange. If postponement begins prior (playing at least one point) to an individual match, 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 match no later than the following day, or as soon thereafter as the league can arrange for courts. (It may be necessary to shift playoff sites and court surfaces.)

TEAM STANDINGS

The team winning the majority of the individual matches in a team match shall be awarded one team point. Team standings at the end of the regular season shall be in the order of the number of team points won. Tiebreakers shall be broken in the following manner and calculated in TennisLink:

- (1) Winner of the most individual matches
- (2) Winner of head-to-head match
- (3) Loser of the fewest number of sets
- (4) Loser of the fewest number of games
- (5) Highest winning game percentage of total games played
- (6) Team winning the #1 doubles position (This is for perfect ties in a 4-court match only)

PROCEDURES IN THE EVENT OF A TIE

In an individual match If an even number of courts are played (when one court was a double default in a 5 court or 3 court match) and the same number of individual courts are won, the tie will be broken in the following manner.

1. Individual Wins
2. Loser of the fewest number of sets
3. Loser of the fewest number of games
4. Games won percentage (%). Total games won divided by total games played.
5. Team winning #1 doubles position.

In the event of a tie at the end of the season, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so.

1. Individual wins
2. Head-to-head
3. Loser of fewest number of sets
4. Loser of fewest number of games
5. Games won percentage (%): Total games won divided by total games played

NOTE: Third set tiebreakers are considered as one (1) set and one (1) game)

LATA CITY CHAMPIONSHIP FORMAT

Single Flight for level of play

- There are no LATA championship playoffs when there is a single flight for the level of play. The flight winner is the LATA city champion. The 2nd place team in the flight is the LATA Runner-up team

Two Flights for level of play: (If there are less than 12 teams total for this level including day and night teams)

- There will be a LATA city championship playoff as follows:
Flight 1 winner vs. Flight 2 winner to determine LATA winner and runner-up or
Day winner vs. Night Winner to determine LATA winner and runner-up

Two Flights for level of play: (If there are 12 or more teams total for this level including day and night teams)

- The top 2 teams in the standings for the day and night leagues will participate in a LATA city championship as follows:
1st round – Day Winner vs Night 2nd place team and Night Winner vs Day 2nd place winner
2nd round – Winner vs Winner of 1st round matches

Two Flights for level of play: (If there are 12 or more teams total for this level including day and night teams, but less than 5 teams in one of those flights)

- The top team in the flight with less than 5 teams and the top 2 teams in the flight with more than 5 teams will advance to the city playoffs. The 3 teams will play one round robin and the top team in the standings at the end of the round robin will be the winner for that level.

Three or More Flights for a level of play

- When there are 3 or more flights for a level of play, the winner from each flight will advance to the city playoffs. The flight winners will be ranked for city playoffs in a seeding format draw.
- When the flights do not contain the same number of teams, the teams will be ranked by best season records, based first on number of team matches lost. Ranking and ties will then be broken by calculating winning percentage of individual matches played, sets lost and then games lost. By way of example, a team with 7-0 record and a team with 6-0 record would be tied on team matches lost, and the tie would be broken by calculating best winning percentage of individual matches played.
- The format will be single elimination to determine a LATA Winner and Runner-up.

Players must participate in a minimum of two (2) LATA regular local season matches in the 18 & Over, 40 & Over and 55 & Over Age Division levels in order to qualify to play in a LATA city championship. Players must have played in at least one (1) LATA local match to play in city, state, or sectional championships in the 65 & Over and 70 & Over Age Divisions. One match can be a default received, but defaults given do not count for meeting this requirement. A retirement counts as a match for this requirement.

ADVANCEMENT TO STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The winning team from each specific NTRP level in each Age Division in LATA local league competition shall be entitled to advance to the S.C. State Championship. The top two teams will automatically be invited when a level has 12 to 23 teams and the top three teams for a level that has 24 or more teams.. If the winning team is unable to attend, an alternate team, preferably the 2nd

place team, can be asked to advance. Should the 2nd place team be unable to attend, then a 3rd place team from the affected Local League may be invited to advance to State Championships if approved by the State League Coordinator. If the 3rd place team from the affected Local League is unable to attend, then the wild card procedure will be utilized to complete the draw. Wildcards will not be offered to areas who automatically receive 2 berths, and areas with less than 4 teams in a division are not eligible to receive a wildcard.

When there are levels with only 2 teams, the 2nd place team does not automatically get asked to advance to a state championship if the 1st place team can not attend. This is decided by the State League Coordinator based on the standings in that level.

Each team must play at least three matches to qualify for championship play.

Adult 18 & Over, 40 & Over and 55 & Over, players must have played in at least **two LATA** local league matches to play in city, state, or sectional Championships. One match can be a default received, but defaults given do not count for meeting this requirement. A retirement counts as a match for this requirement.

Adult 65 & Over and 70 & Over requires one local match to advance to State Championship play with one default counting except in local areas where there is a singleton team. Singleton teams will not require local play and will go straight to state

Players who qualify for an Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over, Adult 65 & Over and/or Adult 70 & Over team may advance on more than one team within an Age Group only if they are at different NTRP levels but with no schedule accommodations.

The Championship Draw is a random draw done by the championship referee once local league competition is completed and rosters for State Championship entry are received. If possible, teams from the same local league will be put in separate flights. The number of flights at a given level will depend on the number of teams eligible. The championship referee will determine, before league competition is completed if wildcards are needed to balance out the flights. The wild cards will be chosen by a weighted random draw. (i.e., one entry per local league team in that local league division). A flight typically will have four teams. Local Leagues receiving a wildcard for the championships will be eligible for a wildcard at the same level/flights the following year. Flights must have a minimum of four (4) teams to be eligible for a wildcard

Scheduling Accommodations of LATA local match for teams at State, Sectional or National Championships

LATA will schedule through state or southern functions such as state championships or sectional Championships to minimize the interruption in LATA scheduling. However, should a LATA team Progress to a State, Sectional or National Tennis Championship that conflicts with a LATA regular local league match, team captains shall make accommodations for the affected positions in LATA match play upon request of the team captain with player(s) advancing to championships, AND with notification to the level coordinator. **The captains should make every effort to reschedule the match to a date PRIOR to the originally schedule match date.** If that is not possible and if time permits, then the rescheduling procedures are the same as the inclement weather guidelines and the team captains must notify the level coordinator of agreements by e-mail (e-mails sent to level coordinator must be copied to the opponent captain. If time does not allow for rescheduling of the match and there are enough players to play the match as scheduled, it will be played as scheduled.

Rules for Rescheduling due to Match Conflicts with Other Events

All other matches scheduled by LATA league are expected to be played as scheduled unless inclement weather forces postponement. Rescheduling of a match may be permitted at the discretion and agreement of **BOTH** team captains if it can be scheduled **and is completed PRIOR** to the scheduled match date. The team captains MUST notify the level coordinator of their agreement, specifying the details and date(s) for playing all or part of the match early.

During the season, it is quite possible that a team will have a scheduled match that conflicts with **other events that do NOT require accommodation**. These might include events such as the Capital One Charleston Open, school holidays or spring breaks, extending weekends of a holiday, etc. Requests for accommodation for such other reasons should only be made by a captain if a team has a problem fielding a complete team for a match. The team requesting to reschedule a match for such other reasons should do so at the beginning of the season and give the other team several available dates prior to the match date. **If the other team does not agree to an accommodation, the match must be played at the original scheduled time.** If both captains agree to an accommodation, the captains must reschedule the match to a date **PRIOR** to the original match date.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

- : A. GRIEVANCE COMPLAINTS. Grievance complaint forms, procedures and rules are posted on the SC Tennis Association website and are incorporated herein by reference. There are specific time limits, procedures, and rules for filing a grievance. Grievance complaints may be filed not only for infractions of regulations but also for failing to abide by good conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship. Such grievances must be filed by the captain in writing prior to the 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 eligibility may be filed at any time after learning the player is ineligible.
- B. A \$100 filing fee will be required for all General/Sportsmanship, Championship and/or Administrative Grievances. The filing fee will only be returned to the grieving party if the grievance is upheld.

USTA South Carolina Local League Grievance and Grievance Appeals Committee – 2026

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)

One of the Co-Chairs 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.

- C. NTRP 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 self-rated players may be filed by a team captain or the Local League Coordinator. NTRP grievance complaints against a self-rated player must be filed using the same grievance complaint form as is used for other grievances which can be found on the USTA SC website. There is no fee for an NTRP Grievance and the complaint form should be e-mailed to P J Fulmer, USTA SC Director of Team Play, to review and forward to the Southern Section NTRP Grievance Committee Chairman,

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

The advice and recommendations of the USTA SC District League Coordinator shall be secured by the LLC when deemed necessary.

DUTIES OF TEAM CAPTAIN

1. Secure at least eight players for 18 & Over Age Groups (five players for 2.5 and 5.0), **nine** players for 40 & Over Age Groups, and six players for 55 & Over; 65 & Over; 70 & Over; 75 & Over Age Groups, preferably more to allow for substitutes. Be sure players meet eligibility Requirements listed in regulations.
2. Secure permission from a facility for home courts and pay any court fees to facility.
3. Register your team through TennisLink. **Type you team name in TennisLink to include your team codes. (local league area & age division/captain's last name/home court code, i.e. LATA18/Harrison/LCTC).** Check your roster before registration **deadline** and be sure all members have registered or at least minimum number (see Item 1 above). Ensure you have a "legal team" roster by registration deadline.
4. Send your contact info (e-mail and cell) to your Level Coordinator. This should be done each Season for each Team you captain and sent to your Level Coordinator **no later than initial roster deadline.**
5. **Check roster printed off from TL to be sure player has registered before playing in a match.**
6. Report scores through TennisLink **immediately after the match. Winning Captain enters**

scores within 48 hours and captain not entering scores confirms scores within 48 hours. Confirm player names and match scores with opposing captain/players at time of match to avoid mistakes!!! If disputing scores on TennisLink, captain must notify level coordinator by e-mail of details/basis for dispute and copy opponent captain with e-mail. Make sure to give match #, age division and level of your team.

Score reporting is responsibility of BOTH Captains.

If the non winning captain goes to confirm scores and winning captain has not entered scores, that captain should enter scores and let the winning captain confirm .

MATCHES NOT CONFIRMED OR DISPUTED WITHIN THE 48 HOURS WILL BE CONSIDERED CORRECT AND FINAL AND CONFIRMED BY TENNISLINK

7. Be sure each team member is notified of the schedule posted on TennisLink. Copies of USTA, STA, SCTA and LATA League rules should be available to team members if requested. Rules are available on the LATA web. (latasc.com)

8. **Home captain should convey to visiting captain by e-mail, text or phone three (3) days prior to match date to confirm match time, court location and number of courts.** Home captain is responsible to confirm with home facility the number of courts given to start the match. Some facilities have multiple teams playing; some facilities give less than five courts. Home captain must communicate to the visiting captain the number of courts given at match time, and the plans to start any matches early or late.

9. **Home captain should convey to visiting team, at time of match and before exchanging lineups if he/she is using multiple surfaces and which positions are on particular surfaces.** If the home captain neglects to do so and the visiting captain desires to know the surfaces being used, he/she should make a request to the home captain prior to exchanging line-ups.

10. Team captain is responsible for representing his/her team at all League meetings. Team Captain is responsible for notification/communication to each team member all needed information from the League.

11. **Be sure you, as a captain, and your team practice good sportsmanship**

12. Contact information for the other captains in your flight can be found on your team's Home page in TennisLink. Click on the tab "Captain's Report" and you will find phone #s and e-mail addresses for every captain in your flight.