



**2026 USTA Charlotte Metro League Regulations**  
**USTA Adult League, USTA Mixed Doubles League, USTA NC Singles League,**  
**USTA Southern Tri-Level League, USTA Southern Combo Doubles League**

Play is governed by The Rules of Tennis and The Code in Friend at Court; USTA League National Regulations and addendums set forth by USTA Southern, USTA North Carolina and Charlotte Tennis Association.

The Charlotte Tennis Association Local League Coordinator is responsible for administering the USTA League Tennis Program in accordance with the National, Southern, North Carolina and Charlotte Metro League Regulations. Only the Charlotte Tennis Association Local League Coordinator, in conjunction with members of the Charlotte Tennis Association Adult League Committee, has the authority to interpret or amend the Regulations that are specific to the Charlotte Metro League.

Captains have access to contact information in TennisLink for other captains in their same division/flight; and this contact information shall only be used for the purpose of communicating about head-to-head matches.

- Please refer to pages 2 of the USTA League National, Southern and NC Regulations to review a summary of the major regulation changes for 2026.
- Changes highlighted in yellow in these regulations are changes made at the state, section and national levels.
- Changes highlighted in green in these regulations are changes made at the local level.

**1. League Fee**

- A. The required Metro League fee for players playing out of a private facility is \$30.15, which includes the \$3.15 TennisLink fee.
- B. The required Metro League fee for players playing out of a public park facility is \$44.72, which includes the \$3.72 TennisLink fee and \$14 public facility use fee.

**2. Public Facility Use Fees**

- A. Players on teams playing out of public facilities pay an additional fee of \$14.00 (not including TennisLink charges) as part of the USTA League registration process through TennisLink.
- B. Players who register for teams playing out of the public facilities after the team registration deadline must register using a pre-assigned team number which will be provided to team captains and listed on the CTA website. Players who register using the pre-assigned designated team number must then send an email notification to the USTA Local League Coordinator at [USTALeague@CharlotteTennisAssociation.com](mailto:USTALeague@CharlotteTennisAssociation.com) to provide their actual team number in order to be moved to the appropriate team.
- C. Players who register for public park teams after the team registration deadline must follow the procedure to pay public facility use fees online. Players who do not pay electronically through TennisLink will be notified and required to complete the payment within 7 days.
- D. Registration is incomplete until the public park fee is paid. Players are ineligible to play matches until all fees are paid, and any matches played without fee payment may be disqualified. Players may also face disqualification from the team and suspension from further play until all fees are fully paid.

**3. Refunds - [Click here](#) for the Charlotte Metro League Refund Policy.**

**4. Number of Players**

League	Season	Minimum Number	Maximum Number
USTA Adult League 18 & Over (3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5)	Winter/Spring	8	15
USTA Adult League 18 & Over (2.5, 5.0, 5.5)	Winter/Spring	5	15
USTA Adult League 40 & Over (3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5)	Winter/Spring	9	17
USTA Adult League 40 & Over (2.5 women, 5.0)	Winter/Spring	6	15
USTA Adult League 55 & Over (All)	Winter/Spring	6	15
USTA Adult League 65 & Over (All)	Winter/Spring	6	15
USTA Mixed Doubles League (All)	Spring/Summer	6*	15
USTA NC Singles League (All)	Spring/Summer	3	9
USTA Southern Tri-Level League (All)	Spring/Summer	6*	15
USTA Southern Combo Doubles League (All)	Summer/Fall	6*	15

\*Those 6 players must be able to combine to form 3 eligible doubles teams.

## 5. NTRP Levels of Play\*

League	Age Group	NTRP Level Offered Locally
USTA Adult League	18 & Over	2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0, 5.5
	40 & Over	2.5 women, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0
	55 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0
	65 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0
USTA Mixed Doubles League	18 & Over	2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 10.0 combined
	40 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5
	55 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0
	65 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0
USTA NC Singles League	18 & Over	2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0
	40 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5
	55 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0
USTA Southern Tri-Level League	18 & Over	2.5/3.0/3.5 (women); 3.0/3.5/4.0; 3.5/4.0/4.5, 4.0/4.5/5.0; 4.5/5.0/5.5
	40 & Over	2.5/3.0/3.5 (women); 3.0/3.5/4.0; 3.5/4.0/4.5, 4.0/4.5/5.0
USTA Southern Combo Doubles League	18 & Over	5.0 (women), 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5, 10.5
	40 & Over	5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5
	55 & Over	6.5, 7.5, 8.5
	65 & Over	6.5, 7.5

\*When using straight NTRP levels, a player cannot have an NTRP rating higher than the NTRP level in which the player is competing.

- In the USTA Adult League divisions, a player may play only one level above his or her current NTRP Rating (For example, a 3.5 player can play up on a 4.0 team, but cannot play up on a 4.5 team).
- In USTA Adult League 55 and 65 & Over 9.0, USTA Mixed Doubles 18 & Over 10.0, and 55 & Over 9.0, and USTA Southern Combo Doubles, the combined levels of each doubles pair cannot exceed the team level.
- In USTA Adult League 55 and 65 & Over 9.0 and USTA Mixed Doubles 18 & Over 10.0, and 55 & Over 9.0, doubles partners may not be separated by more than 1.0 NTRP point (ex. On an 9.0 team, a 4.0 and a 5.0 may play together).

Combined Level	Minimum Rating a Player May Have
USTA Adult League 55 and 65 & Over 9.0	4.0
USTA Mixed Doubles 18 & Over 10.0	4.5
USTA Mixed Doubles 55 and 65 & Over 9.0	4.0

- In the USTA Southern Tri-Level League, on each court, a player's NTRP rating may not be higher than the rating assigned to that specific court. Ex; 2.5/3.0/3.5 division;
  - Line 1 is the 3.5 court. Only a 3.0 or 3.5 may play line 1.
  - Line 2 is the 3.0 court. Only a 2.5 or 3.0 may play line 2.
  - Line 3 is the 2.5 court. Only a 2.0 or 2.5 may play line 3.
- USTA Southern Combo Doubles League, players in each level cannot exceed the maximum rating allowed for that level. See chart below:

Combo Combined Level	Highest Rating a Player May Have
5.0	2.5
5.5	3.0
6.5	3.5
7.5	4.0
8.5	5.0
9.5	5.5
10.5	6.0

## 6. Number of Teams

- A local league shall consist of a minimum of 2 teams at a specific level of competition. Advancement to State Championships is not permitted if this requirement is not met, except for the following:

League	Levels permitted to advance to State Championships if they are the only local team
USTA Adult League	18 & Over 5.5, 40 & Over 2.5 women and 5.0 and all 65 & over
USTA Mixed Doubles League	All 55 & over and 65 & over
USTA NC Singles League	All Levels
USTA Southern Tri-Level League	All Levels
USTA Southern Combo Doubles League	All 55 & over and 65 & over; 18 & over 2.5, 5.5, and 9.5, 40 & Over 5.5 and 9.5

- B. Per USTA NC Rule 2.02A(1), If a level of USTA League Adult 18 & Over, 40 & Over or 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. This rule does not apply to the Adult 55 & Over 9.0 league.

## 7. Teams Advancing Directly to State Championships

- A. Per USTA NC Rule 2.02A(1); Teams that are participating in a qualifying event must maintain their roster on TennisLink with a majority of players from within the league area that they are representing. For example, a roster of 15 players must have a minimum of 8 players residing within the league boundaries. An exception can be made if a team is formed by the State League Coordinator to qualify a team.
- B. Per USTA NC Rule II.E; Teams that are participating in a qualifying event must be added to TennisLink and have their roster finalized with the minimum eligible number of players required to form a team registered no later than the dates in the chart below. After the date below, teams cannot add players to the TennisLink roster. Teams losing a player to NTRP Promotion may be provided an exception to allow for adding a player to their roster in if it is later than the date in the chart below. The player may not be a self-rated player.

League	Deadline to add a Direct Advance team to advance to a State Championship and have roster finalized
USTA Adult League	April 15
USTA Mixed Doubles League	July 15
USTA Southern Tri-Level League	August 15
USTA NC Singles League	August 15
USTA Southern Combo Doubles League	September 15

## 8. Player Eligibility

- A. All individuals who compete in the USTA League must be current USTA Members in good standing through the entire local league season.
- B. While a local league has the authority to accept or deny participants from outside the local league area, the Charlotte Tennis Association allows players from outside our boundaries to participate on teams in the Charlotte Metro League.
- C. All players must be registered on TennisLink prior to playing their first match. If a non-registered player participates in a match, that match will be considered a default.
- D. Age requirements for the spring season are listed below. Players must reach the minimum age for those divisions by December 31, 2026

Age Group	Minimum Age
18 & Over	18*
40 & Over	40
55 & Over	55
65 & Over	65

\*Players must be 18 years of age prior to registering in any USTA League program.

## 9. National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP)

- A. The National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) is the official system of rating levels of competition in these programs.
- B. A player under age 60 with a 2023, 2024 or 2025 computer rating must use that rating or above to participate in these leagues. A player age 60 or above with a 2024 or 2025 computer rating must use that rating or above to participate in these leagues.
- C. Players who do not have a valid NTRP rating or have never had an NTRP Rating are required to self-rate according to the NTRP Guidelines.
- D. Mixed Exclusive (M) ratings are only valid for future Mixed Doubles play. In the USTA League Mixed Division, an NTRP level will be calculated for participants who play in that division. Year-end Mixed Exclusive ratings will be based on the final dynamic rating generated from eligible local leagues and championship level competition. If a player has a valid computer (C) rating from a previous year, then a player will not receive a Mixed Exclusive rating.
- E. Matches played in these leagues may be used in the calculation of NTRP Ratings as follows:

USTA League	Age Group	Are Results Used To Calculate Rating?
USTA Adult League	18 & over, 40 & over, 55 & over, 65 & over	Always
	18 & Over 5.5 and 40 & Over 2.5 women and 5.0	Never
USTA Mixed Doubles League	18 & Over and 40 & Over	Only when player does not play USTA Adult 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over or 65 & Over, or Tri-Level AND does not have a previous year end C rating.
	55 & Over and 65 & Over	Never
USTA NC Singles League	All age groups	Never
USTA Southern Tri-Level League	All age groups	Always
USTA Southern Combo Doubles League	All age groups	Never

- F. Players may participate in more than one NTRP level within an Age Group in the same local league during the same season, however, may play on only one team in the same NTRP level within an Age Group in the same local league during the same season.

## 10. Promoted Players

- A. If a self-rated player is promoted from a level of play, all matches played by that individual player (in the level that the player is being promoted from) shall stand. All players who have computer rated appeals (A) or Dynamic or NTRP Grievance Disqualified Players (D) who are subject to promotion, will not be subject to match reversal if promoted. Players not promoted by the conclusion of local league round robin play will be eligible to compete in the entire local playoff. Dynamic ratings will be calculated at the end of the local championship (playoff) to inform any promoted players that they may not advance to the state championships. Points earned by the promoted players in the local championships (playoffs) will stand.
- B. A promoted player during local league play may request moving to another team providing there is a team available and time permits. If that team is full, the promoted player may request a waiver regarding number of players on a roster. The NC State League Coordinator must approve this waiver.
- C. Teams losing a player to NTRP Promotion may be provided an exception to allow for adding a player to their roster if registration has closed and/or the team had the maximum number of players allowed on the roster. The player may not be a self-rated player.

## 11. Captain Responsibility

- A. Each captain is responsible for reviewing and understanding not only the local regulations but also the state, sectional and national regulations. In addition, captains shall direct their players to the website where these regulations are posted online on the Player Resources page under the USTA League Tennis option at [www.CharlotteTennisAssociation.com](http://www.CharlotteTennisAssociation.com).
- B. The captain shall follow all Match Procedures as well as procedures listed under Inclement Weather.
- C. It is the responsibility of the captain to ensure there are enough committed players registered on the team to field full lineups for all schedules matches; and serve as the liaison for the team/teammates to maintain communications with the League Coordinator.
- D. It is the responsibility of the captain to confirm dates, times and match locations scheduled on TennisLink.
- E. It is the responsibility of the captain to communicate if a mixture of court surfaces will be used. See section on Court Availability and Staggering.
- F. It is the responsibility of the captain to communicate if a match will be staggered. See following section on Staggered Matches.
- G. Each team must have an acting captain present at every match.
- H. The team captain for each team shall exchange their team line-up simultaneously prior to scheduled match start time.
- I. The initial entry of match scores into TennisLink must take place within 48 hours of the completion of the match. After match scores have been entered in TennisLink, they must be confirmed by the opposing team within 48 hours of the initial entry or the initial score will automatically be considered valid.
  - 1) Although both team captains have access to enter scores, the winning team captain is responsible for entering the scores and the opposing captain must confirm. In the case of a tie where a winner cannot be determined at the time of the last match, the home team should enter scores. The Local League Coordinator will monitor score entry and will immediately notify both captains regarding any missing entries. From the date of notification, captains will have 24 hours to enter scores for completed matches. Failure to enter scores following the Local League Coordinator notification will result in double default.
  - 2) Captains/players are strongly advised to confirm scores and player names with one another at the conclusion of the match to avoid confusion with incorrect scorecard entry. Captains have until 2 weeks from the time match scores have been entered to request a correction to a scorecard. After that time, unless a scorecard exchange can be produced (via attachment in email or photos of scorecard) with both line-ups entered (done at time of match) no requests towards changes can be made. Captains must complete the [Scorecard Correction Form](#) to request scorecard changes.

## 12. Court Availability and Staggering

- A. Host facilities must be within the Charlotte Tennis Association USTA Metro League coverage area ([as determined by USTA NC](#)) with the exception of those grandfathered in: Sun City Carolina Lakes, Bridgehampton, River Hills Country Club, Tega Cay Tennis Club, Springfield POA.
- B. The home team must guarantee the use of 3 courts at one location for each team match consisting of 4 or 5 individual matches, and 2 courts at one location for each team match consisting of 3 individual matches. When teams have only 3 courts at one location for a team match consisting of 4 or 5 individual matches and 2 courts at one location for a team match consisting of 3 individual matches, and both captains agree, they may use a secondary site nearby rather than stagger.
- C. Any approved USTA surface is permissible, including indoors (if indoors, home team pays for any applicable court fees).
  - 1) When playing indoors, courts must be available for the full duration of the match. If courts are not available for the entire match, the match should be recorded as a retirement by the host team.
  - 2) The home team must communicate prior to exchanging the line up if different surfaces are being used and state which lines will play on hard, clay or indoor.
  - 3) If the home team has not communicated in advance or teams exchange lineups and the home team captain has not communicated that different surfaces are being used, the visiting team captain or acting captain can immediately take back their team lineup and make changes to accommodate player preferences/issues for surface.
  - 4) When a mix of courts surfaces are being used for staggered matches, home team captains shall notify visiting teams captains about the use of mixed surfaces when communicating about matches being staggered. At the time the home team communicates about staggering matches but does not also communicate regarding the use of mixed surfaces, the visiting team will determine the court assignments before line ups are exchanged.
- D. Tennis courts eligible for USTA Southern sanctioned competition, including, junior and adult tournaments and league must contain only lines prescribed by the ITF Rules of Tennis, as set out in the USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations (i.e. courts with Pickleball lines may not be used).

- E. In accordance with staggering regulations, up to 2 individual matches may be staggered for team matches requiring 5 courts and 1 individual match may be staggered for team matches requiring 3 or 4 courts.
- 1) It is the responsibility of the home team captain to notify the visiting team captain no less than 48 hours in advance regarding any staggered matches. If the visiting team has not received notice about staggered matches within 48 hours of the match, the visiting team has the option to choose which lines will stagger, provided there are enough players on site, or follow the order of staggering, or arrange to make up the staggered lines following the order of staggering and in accordance with rain make-up rules.
  - 2) In the event of staggering due to unexpected conditions that render courts unplayable, teams will follow the order of staggering or mutually agree which courts to stagger; or arrange to make up the staggered lines following the order of staggering in accordance with rain make-up rules.
  - 3) Players scheduled for the staggered line(s) must be present one hour after the match start time. The default time for the staggered line is 1 hour and 15 minutes after the scheduled match start time.
  - 4) Unless captains mutually agree to change order of play, staggered matches are to be played as follows:

Match Format	First Time Slot	Second Time Slot
2 Singles, 3 Doubles	#1 and #2 Singles and #1 Doubles	#2 Doubles and #3 Doubles
1 Singles, 3 Doubles	#1 Singles and #1 & #2 Doubles	#3 Doubles
1 Singles, 2 Doubles	#1 Singles and #1 Doubles	#2 Doubles
3 Doubles/3 Singles	#1 and #2 Doubles/Singles	#3 Doubles/Singles

### 13. Team Match Format

- A. In accordance with Nation/Sectional regulations (2.01C(1)a), the Charlotte Metro league will play at least one full round robin and may schedule additional matches. The top team from each flight in a division advances to participate in the local championships, or directly to states in the event of just one flight. In the case of flights that play a complete round robin plus additional matches, the top two teams advance to the local championships. Refer to the Charlotte Tennis Association Championship Guidelines for championship formats.

USTA League	Individual Courts Played Locally
USTA Adult League: 18 & Over; 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5	2 Singles, 3 Doubles
USTA Adult League 40 & Over; 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5	1 Singles, 3 Doubles
USTA Adult League 40 & Over 2.5 women and 5.0	3 Doubles
USTA Adult League 18 & Over; 2.5, 5.0 and 5.5	1 Singles, 2 Doubles
USTA Adult League 55 & Over and 65 & Over	3 Doubles
USTA Mixed Doubles League	3 Doubles
USTA NC Singles League	3 Singles
USTA Southern Tri-Level League	3 Doubles
USTA Southern Combo Doubles League	3 Doubles

### 14. Rescheduling

- A. In support of play opportunity, and to avoid team defaults, if both captains agree in advance, they may reschedule a match that is in conflict with a holiday or for any other reason, provided the match is completed and scores are entered in TennisLink before or by the original match date. In the case of conflicts during the first week of the league season, teams shall follow the procedure outlined for inclement weather and arrange to play within two weeks following the scheduled match date. Once a time, day, location and court surface for the makeup match has been agreed upon by the parties involved, that match may not be postponed, for any reason other than inclement weather. Before denying a request, captains should make teammates aware of the conflict to see if they would like to play versus take a default and lose a play occasion. Captains are responsible for canceling the originally scheduled courts and for reserving courts for the rescheduled time. Public facility captains should fill out a rain make-up request form to reserve courts for rescheduled matches.

### 15. Match Procedures

- A. Match schedules are posted online at [TennisLink](https://www.tennislink.com).
- B. The home team will supply [USTA approved](#) new balls.
- C. Warm-ups begin at the match start time and are limited to 10 minutes including serves. However, if all players are present and match courts are available, the warm-up may start sooner. If a player arrives after the match start time but before the 15-minute default time, the player(s) is entitled to 5 minutes for warm-up.
- D. The default time is 15 minutes after the scheduled start time.
- E. Default time is determined by player(s) being present on court.
- F. For matches starting at 8:00pm, if a court is not available by 8:30pm, and players mutually agree, they may reschedule following the Inclement Weather regulation on making up matches within 14 days.
- G. Except for the Tri-Level League, a team's lineup does not have to be listed in order of strength.
- H. The team captain for each team shall exchange their team line-up simultaneously, at the scheduled match start time, or any time prior to the default time. At the scheduled match time, if a player is not on site, the captains have 3 options to proceed with the scorecard lineup exchange:

- 1) Wait until the missing player is on site and ready to play (prior to the 15-minute default time), exchange scorecards, and play the match. At the default time, if the player is still not on site and ready to play, the missing player would be moved to a defaultable court (see Default section on page 7), exchange scorecards, and play would begin. Or,
  - 2) Captains can agree to exchange lineups and begin play. If the missing player arrives prior to the default time, he/she will take the court assigned and begin. If the missing player arrives after the default time, the default will be entered on the scorecard as it occurred and matches will be entered as played. Or,
  - 3) Substitute a missing player with an eligible player that is on site and ready to play, but is not listed on the original lineup. Substitutions must be made prior to the 15-minute default time and can only be exchanged for the missing player in the original lineup.
- I. 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, prior to the start of such match. In the event of illness, injury, disqualification, or no-show of a player (after the lineup has been exchanged and prior to start of affected match) 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. The substitute player is entitled to a five-minute warm-up. If no substitution can be made, the affected position will be defaulted. The substitution shall affect only the position for which the substitution has been made. The remaining lineup positions will remain the same.
  - J. Captains/players are strongly advised to confirm scores with one another at the conclusion of the match to avoid confusion with incorrect score entry.
  - K. While on court or during a match, a player may not receive information via electronic devices capable of receiving communications such as cell phones and smartwatches. If a phone rings during a point, the opponent may stop the point and claim the point based on deliberate hindrance. If a phone rings between points, the interruption is treated as a warning. In both cases the player shall turn off the cell phone. There is no penalty for a vibrating phone, but the player should immediately turn off the phone.
  - L. Coaching is not allowed. Spectators are to watch quietly while a match is in progress and may not assist in line calls, score disputes, or any other calls. Applaud appropriately for great rallies and winning shots made by both teams!
  - M. The only time a player may leave the court is to:
    - 1) Take a bona fide restroom visit (preferably on an odd game changeover or between sets)
    - 2) Fix an item of clothing necessary to play (you may not leave the court to get a racquet)
    - 3) Get water (please plan ahead and take water with you before the match starts)
  - N. Stalling violates the continuous play principle of the ITF Rule of Tennis 29. Players should not take more than 90 seconds on the odd-game changeover or more than 2 minutes on the set break.
  - O. A toilet/change of attire break consists of a reasonable amount of time when there is genuine need. No coaching is allowed during a toilet/change of attire break.

## 16. Inclement Weather

- A. In accordance with Metro USTA League Regulations, teams are expected to play if the courts are playable. In cases of extreme weather conditions—such as high winds, below-freezing temperatures, or extreme heat—matches may be rescheduled at match time if both captains/players agree, and the reschedule must follow the rain makeup policy.
  - 1) While players may begin communication earlier, the decision to reschedule should not be based on forecasts or the anticipation of extreme conditions. Players are expected to report to the match site to assess conditions, potentially warm up, and then make a decision about play. Each line should determine for themselves whether they feel comfortable playing.
  - 2) If players on individual lines are willing to play and the others are not, standard default procedures apply.
- B. The home team makes the decision if courts are playable.
  - 1) When teams have assembled to play, and weather and/or courts are questionable at match start time, teams are required to wait 30 minutes past the originally scheduled match time.
  - 2) In the event inclement weather occurs after the team match has begun, players must wait 30 minutes from the point of interruption to determine if play can be resumed, unless both captains agree that play is not possible or agree to wait longer.
  - 3) When teams have assembled to play and conditions are questionable, the home team may only choose to play indoors if they are able to secure courts at the match start time and for all lines of the match. The home team cannot require the opposing team players to wait to play on an indoor court. Individual lines may agree to reschedule on an indoor court.
  - 4) If courts are questionable and captains agree to an alternate delayed start time, the default time is 15 minutes after the agreed upon start time of each individual match.
- C. Do not assume a match is cancelled. Teams must show up ready to play unless both captains of the teams have spoken in person or confirm in writing via email or text that the match is cancelled.
- D. In the event inclement weather occurs after the team match has begun (at least one service attempt in one individual match);
  - 1) Completed individual matches stand as played.
  - 2) Points awarded for defaults given at the time the original written lineup was exchanged are considered completed matches.
  - 3) Incomplete matches that were in progress (first service attempt and beyond) must be resumed by the same players in the same positions (ad and deuce), same side of net, same set, game and point score, and at the same site and court surface, (unless players have mutually agreed to play elsewhere).
  - 4) For individual matches that have not yet begun, any player who is not involved in a match that was in progress or a default may sub in for the make-up match.
- E. Teams are expected to make every effort to arrange to play rained out matches by the mandatory match default date, including matches in progress. In the unusual circumstance, where teams have not rescheduled in the 14-day period, and at least one of the teams is not prepared to play on the mandatory match default date, that match will be scored as a double default.

- F. If the start of a team match is cancelled due to inclement weather (the first service attempt of the team match has not been taken):
- 1) Any defaults awarded in advance or at the time lineups were exchanged are null and void.
  - 2) Captains must exchange at least one different point of contact for each line (not a line-up) to coordinate the make-up match date, time and location, within 48 hours of the match being cancelled. It is the responsibility of the home team captain to initiate contact with the opposing team captain.
    - a) The Local League Coordinator will not be responsible for managing the process of exchanging contact information. However, if contact names for line-ups have not been exchanged within 48 hours captains should notify the Local League Coordinator who will help facilitate the process.
    - b) There must be a different point of contact for each individual line, and the contact person must be available up to the time of the match in the event of last minutes questions or issues related to the match.
  - 3) Players must contact each other to schedule their individual matches and confirm make-up match date, time, location and court surface.
  - 4) A court must be reserved for a make-up match. If a court is not reserved and a court is not available at the match start time the team responsible for providing the courts will be defaulted. Please note: players may choose to reschedule using the home team courts or the visiting team courts. Due to limited access, public park home courts in close proximity to one another – Jeff Adams, Park Road and Queens Sports Complex – are considered interchangeable as home courts for rained out matches.
  - 5) Any player may sub in for the make-up match provided they were not listed on a line taking a default.
  - 6) Once a time, day, location and court surface (hard, clay or indoor) for the makeup match has been agreed upon by the parties involved, that match may not be postponed, for any reason other than inclement weather. If players arrive to match and the court surface has changed, the visiting team can reschedule the match again if they choose to do so.
- G. Incomplete or postponed matches must be made up within 14 days or before the season ends, whichever comes first.
- 1) If captains cannot agree on a make-up day, the 14th day will be the default mandatory match date. If there is inclement weather on the 14th day, the match will be played on the 15th day or the next subsequent day as weather and court conditions permit.
  - 2) In accordance with regulations for score entry, when matches are played on the mandatory match date scores must be entered within 48 hours of that match time. In the event that captains mutually agree for players to play the match after the mandatory match date and within the 48-hour match score entry deadline, the provision for making up rained out matches will not apply. The deadline to enter scores 48 hours after matches to be played on the mandatory match date (or the official rain date for the mandatory match date) stands.
  - 3) The default match location and time is the same as the originally scheduled match location and time. If courts cannot be reserved at the originally scheduled match facility then the match should be played at the visiting team's facility. If neither team is able to reserve courts at their facility for the default mandatory match date, captains should contact the Local League Coordinator to reserve courts at a neutral facility. Captains must contact the Local League Coordinator 48 hours prior to the match date so courts can be reserved.

## 17. Defaults

- A. In the event of a default, the lowest positions are defaulted first. The chart below shows which courts are defaulted first, based on the number of missing players and match type. **This rule does not apply to the Tri-Level League, where any line may be defaulted.**  
**Comment:** Taking a default and then playing the match for fun can create confusion about the match's validity and sends a mixed message about the spirit of play. Everyone is present and willing to play, yet still choosing to default. It's best to avoid defaulting in these situations and simply play the match.
- B. A team must be able to field 3 courts for a 4-court or 5-court match; field 2 courts for a 3-court match. If a team fails to do so, the entire match (all courts) is deemed defaulted.
- C. When the combination of individual match defaults given by the two teams in the team match results, or would result, in a situation where the majority of the individual matches would not be played (not a "valid" team match):
- 1) The first course of action would be for both captains to agree on what individual matches, based on the number of players present, or to be present, could be played to constitute a valid team match. Once that is determined, both captains will re-exchange scorecards.
  - 2) If both captains cannot come to an agreement on what lines will be played to constitute a valid team match, based on the number of players present, or to be present, then the following individual matches will be assigned in sequential order to be played:

Match Format	Courts to be Defaulted First
2 Singles, 3 Doubles	If missing 1 player; #2 Singles or #3 Doubles
	If missing 2 players; #1 Singles and #2 Singles or #3 Doubles
	If missing 3 players; #2 Singles and #3 Doubles or #2 Doubles and #3 Doubles
	If missing 4 players; #2 Doubles and #3 Doubles
1 Singles, 3 Doubles	If missing 1 player; #1 Singles or #3 Doubles
	If missing 2 players; #3 Doubles
1 Singles, 2 Doubles	#1 Singles or #2 Doubles (if missing 1 player)
	#2 Doubles (if missing 2 players)
3 Doubles or 3 Singles	#3 Doubles (if missing 1 or 2 players) or #3 Singles



- 3) If these procedures are not followed and the resulting scorecard shows an invalid team match, both teams will be charged a full team default.
- D. By joining the USTA Charlotte Metro League, a team is making a commitment to play every match. If a team shows up without the minimum number of players required for the team match to be valid based on the number of players present, or to be present, it will be a full team default in favor of the opponents. Please refer to the National Regulation 2.01C(3) on Scoring of Team Defaults.
  - 1) 1 Team Default: At the end of the season, standings will be evaluated to see if the full team default had an effect on the final standings. If the final standings were affected, all of the matches of the defaulting team will be removed from the standings (only the effected round, if more than one round robin) and the final standing will be recalculated. If neither team in contention received a full team default, the final standings will stand. The defaulting team may be subject to a grievance. A defaulting team cannot benefit from their full team default.
  - 2) 2 Team Defaults: If a team defaults 2 full team matches, all of their matches played or to be played will be null and void. Matches played will count for NTRP ratings and player advancement purposes, but will not be used to determine the final standings. A grievance may be filed. Teams with 2 team defaults will not be eligible for advancement.
  - 3) Defaults that occur in the second round of a Partial Round Robin: Teams will not have an equal number of team matches due to a full team default. All teams in the applicable division will go through a tiebreaker procedure to determine advancing teams to playoffs. This will ensure that teams are compared against each other as fairly as possible. The tiebreaker procedure will use the first of the following procedures that does so:
    - a) Team with the least number of TEAM LOSSES.
    - b) Team with the least number of ACTUAL INDIVIDUAL LOSSES divided by the number of POSSIBLE INDIVIDUAL LOSSES.
    - c) Team with the least number of ACTUAL SETS LOST divided by the number of POSSIBLE SETS LOST.
    - d) Team with the least number of ACTUAL GAMES LOST divided by the number of POSSIBLE GAMES LOST.
    - e) Coin toss

#### **18. Team Match and Scoring Format**

- A. All players will play the best of three sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak in lieu of a third set. The Coman Tiebreak will be used for the set tiebreak and the match tiebreak.
- B. To win a team match, a team must win at least a majority of the individual courts played. If the match ends in a 1-1 or 2-2 tie, it will be broken by:
  - 1) The team with the fewest sets lost (defaults are included in calculating)
  - 2) The team with the fewest games lost (defaults are included in calculating)
  - 3) The team with the highest game winning percentage (defaults are not included in calculating)
  - 4) The winner of the #1 doubles court
- C. To receive a win by default, the non-defaulting player or players must be present on court, ready to play.
- D. In the spirit of good sportsmanship and fair play, it is recommended that the opposing team(s) should be advised of a known default.
- E. 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.
- F. When entering scores on TennisLink, use the pull-down menu and select 'Default' or 'Double Default.' The system will automatically record the appropriate score.

#### **19. Determining Final Standings**

- A. Final standings are determined by the number of team wins in round robin play.
- B. The following procedure is used to break any ties in team wins in round robin play during the local season:
  - 1) Individual Matches: Winner of the most individual matches in that flight or division
  - 2) Head to Head: Winner of head-to-head match
  - 3) Sets: Loser of the fewest number of sets (defaults are included in calculating)
  - 4) Games: Loser of the fewest number of games (defaults are included in calculating)
  - 5) Game Winning Percentage: Total games won divided by total games played (defaults are not included in calculating)
  - 6) Toss of Coin
- C. Where flights are used, for any level, at least the top team from each flight will play each other to determine the winner to advance to State Championships. The specific playoff format will be posted around the time that regular season schedules are published.

#### **20. Advancing to Local Championships (Playoffs) and State Championships**

- A. If a team accepts a spot in the local championships (playoffs) and does not have enough players available to win a local playoff match, the entire match is a default and an automatic grievance will be filed.



- B. Players must play in a minimum number of regular-season matches to be eligible to advance to Local Championships (playoffs) and State Championships (players on teams advancing directly to the State Championships, are exempt from the following):

League	Season	Minimum Required Matches Played	# of defaults that may count as a match played
USTA Adult 18 & over, 40 & over, 55 & over	Winter/Spring	2	1
USTA Adult 18 & Over 5.5, 40 & Over 2.5 women and 5.0 and 65 & Over	Winter/Spring	1	1
USTA Mixed 18 & over, 40 & over	Spring/Summer	2	1
USTA Mixed 55 & over	Spring/Summer	1	1
USTA Mixed 65 & over	Spring/Summer	1	1
USTA NC Singles League	Spring/Summer	1	1
USTA Southern Tri-Level League	Spring/Summer	1	1
USTA Southern Combo Doubles	Summer/Fall	1	1

- C. The following local leagues will receive invitations to the State Championships:

- 1) USTA Adult League
- 2) USTA Mixed Doubles League
- 3) USTA NC Singles League
- 4) USTA Southern Tri-Level League
- 5) USTA Southern Combo Doubles League

- D. Number of invitations per each level of play within each age group:

- 1) 1–29 teams: One invitation
- 2) 30–44 teams: Two invitations
- 3) 45 or more teams: Three invitations

- E. Wildcards will be offered, if needed, to local leagues according to the chart on the NC Tennis website (<https://www.nctennis.com/state-championships>). The NC State League Coordinator will notify the LLC of each league after the Team Registration Deadline if any wildcards are being offered. Wildcards are not often used, but can be if a team drops out.

- F. For leagues sending 2 teams to the state championships based on number of teams in league (above), LLC will ask the 3<sup>rd</sup> place team to attend if the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> place team cannot attend. For leagues sending 3 teams to the state championships based on number of teams in league (above), LLC will ask the 4<sup>th</sup> place team to attend if the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> place team cannot attend.

- G. If a team has 4 or more players on a roster (3 for Singles League or Tri-Level matches) who are playing for the Charlotte Metro League or working at a League Championship at either the North Carolina State, Southern Section or National Levels and have a team match in conflict with these events, then the team can reschedule the match either by playing before the scheduled date or within 2 weeks after the scheduled match (as long as the makeup match occurs within the league season dates). The Captain of the team must notify the opposing team captain and LLC of the conflict no later than 1 week before the scheduled match and work with both parties to reschedule the match within the above-mentioned time frame.

## 21. Committees

- A. The Charlotte Metro League Grievance and Grievance Appeal Committees are formed as necessary using members of the Adult League Committee, Charlotte Tennis Association Board of Directors and/or the Charlotte Metro League members. The procedures for filing a grievance are outlined in the 2026 USTA League National Regulations.