

Adult Other, Mixed Other, Southern Combo Doubles, **Tri-Level and NCTA Singles Leagues** **2026 USTA North Carolina Regulations**

Only the NC State League Coordinator, in conjunction with the USTA North Carolina Adult League Committee Chair and Adult League Committee, shall have the authority to interpret these Regulations.

Major Regulations Changes for 2026

Each local league will be extended one invitation per level of play for a team to go to the State Championships. The top two teams will be automatically invited when a local division has 30 teams. The top three teams will be automatically invited when a local division has 45 teams.

Removal of the following regulation: If a player is already registered for a team and the player self-rates, as required, to register for another league and receives a higher rating, they are able to continue to play at the at the lower rating for the team on which they have previously registered.

Captains may not captain multiple teams that are in the same NTRP level and age division (ex. 2 Adult 18 & Over 3.5 teams from different local leagues).

I. GENERAL

- A. The United States Tennis Association (USTA), Southern Tennis Association (STA) and/or the North Carolina Tennis Association (NCTA) are the governing bodies of these **League** programs.
- B. Play is governed by THE RULES OF TENNIS in **The Friend at Court**, **The Code**, the USTA League Tennis National Regulations, STA Regulations and these NCTA Regulations.
- C. **USTA League programs are** team competitions for men and women with NTRP levels of 2.5 to 6.0. Winning local teams advance to the NC State Championship. Winners of the NC State Championship advance to the Southern Sectional Championships (as long as it is one of the divisions that is being offered at the Southern Sectional or Southern Invitational). With the exception of the Tri-Level and Singles Leagues, teams are formed in four divisions: 18 & over, 40 & over, 55 & over and 65 & over.
- D. To play in the following divisions, players must reach the minimum age for those divisions by December 31, 2026 with the exception of the 18 & Over division, in which players must reach the minimum age prior to registration:

Age Division	Minimum Age
18 & over	18
40 & over	40
55 & over	55
65 & over	65

- E. All players must be current members of the USTA through the respective league seasons. **No renewals are allowed during the local league season.**
- F. Players participating in any USTA North Carolina League Program acknowledge the risks associated with playing competitive tennis, accept those risks voluntarily and, in consideration of their acceptance in the USTA North Carolina League Programs, assume all risks for bodily injury, waive all claims for injury and property damage and release and hold harmless the USTA and the host facility, their officials, employees and agents with respect to any injury or loss caused by negligence or otherwise to the fullest extent permitted by law.
- G. The National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) is the official system of rating levels of competition in these programs. 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. 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.
- H. 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 local league 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.

- I. Matches played in these leagues may be used in the calculation of NTRP Ratings as follows:

League	Results used to Calculate Rating?
Adult Other- 18 & 5.5, and 40 & Over 2.5 and 5.0	No
Adult Other- 65 & Over	Yes
Mixed Other	No
NCTA Singles League	No
Southern Tri-Level	Yes
Southern Combo Doubles	No

II. TEAM REQUIREMENTS

- A. Roster Requirements for each league:

League	Season	Minimum number	Maximum Number
Adult Other- (65 & Over and 40 & Over 2.5 and 5.0)	Spring	6	15
Adult Other- (18 & Over 5.5)	Spring	5	15
Mixed Other	Spring	3 Men, 3 Women	15
NCTA Singles League	Varies	3	9
Southern Tri-Level	Varies	6	15
Southern Combo Doubles	Fall	6	15

B. NTRP Levels of Play

DIVISION	LEAGUE TYPE	LOCAL LEAGUES
Adult Other	18 & Over	5.5
	40 & Over	2.5 (Women), 5.0
	65 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0
Mixed Other	55 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0
	65 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0
Combo	18 & Over	2.5, 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, 8.5
Singles	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
Tri-Level	18 & Over	3.5/3.0/2.5, 4.0/3.5/3.0, 4.5/4.0/3.5, 5.0/4.5/4.0, 5.5/5.0/4.5
	40 & Over	Men: 4.0/3.5/3.0, 4.5/4.0/3.5
		Women: 3.5/3.0/2.5, 4.0/3.5/3.0, 4.5/4.0/3.5
	55 & Over	4.0/3.5/3.0, 4.5/4.0/3.5

C. In Leagues that offer straight level 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).

D. A local league shall consist of a minimum of 2 teams at a specific level of competition. Advancement to a State Championship 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
Adult Other	18 & Over 5.5, 40 & Over 2.5 (Women) and 5.0
Adult Other 65 & Over	All 65 & Over teams
Mixed Other	All 55 & Over and 65 & Over teams
Southern Combo Doubles	All 55 & over and 65 & over teams, 18 & over 2.5, 5.5, 9.5 and 10.5 teams, 40 & Over 5.5 and 9.5 teams
NCTA Singles League	All Levels
Southern Tri-Level	All Levels

E. Teams that may advance directly to a State Championship 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 team advancing directly to State Championship
Adult Other- 18 & Over, 40 & Over, and 65 & Over	April 15
Mixed Other Doubles	July 15
Southern Tri-Level	August 15
USTA-NC Singles League	August 15
Southern Combo Doubles	September 15

An exception can be made if a team needs to be added to provide competition for a single state team.

- F. Teams that advance directly to a State Championship OR 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.
- G. Teams that advance directly to a State Championship OR are participating in a qualifying event must maintain their rosters with at least 40% of players at the designated NTRP level of play. Leagues (and levels) that utilize combined ratings, (for example Combo Doubles, and Tri-Level League teams) are excluded.
- H. In Southern Combo Doubles, the combined levels of each doubles pair cannot exceed the team level.
- I. In the 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
2.5	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

III. 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 Ratings (D) who are subject to promotion, will not be subject to match reversal if promoted.
- 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 Director of Adult League Tennis 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 their team had the maximum number of players allowed on the roster. The player may not be a self-rated player.

IV. LEAGUE PLAY

- A. A round robin format or partial round robin shall be played. When any NTRP level consists of only two teams, each team is required to play a minimum of three team matches which is a triple round robin. When any NTRP level consists of only three teams, each team is required to play a minimum of four team matches which is a double round robin. Any NTRP level may be divided into flights. The flight winners may enter a playoff structure to establish a local league champion for that NTRP level.

The following may be scheduled:

- 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 NTRP level.

A full round robin with:

- additional matches, selected randomly, within a flight.
- additional cross-flight matches in which each team in one flight plays an equal number of matches in the other flight, selected randomly if not a full round robin.
- top teams in a flight to play an additional round robin to determine advancement, and the teams without a mathematical chance to advance may play an additional round robin.

- B. The Local League Coordinator will determine the schedules.
- C. If multiple flights in an NTRP level exist, at least 1 team from each flight will advance to a playoff to determine the winner of that level. This rule does not prohibit a playoff for single flight leagues.
- D. The Local League Coordinator will determine the playoff format.
- E. A team's lineup **does not** have to be listed in order of strength, except in the Tri-Level Leagues, where the highest NTRP level must play on the #1 court, the 2nd highest NTRP level must play on the #2 court and the lowest NTRP level must play on the #3 court. Example: in the 3.5/3.0/2.5 leagues, the 3.5 rated players play on the #1 court, the 3.0 players on the #2 court and the 2.5 players on the #3 court.
- F. The scoring format for all leagues will be best 2 out of 3 sets with a 10-point match tiebreaker used in lieu of the third set. An exception may be requested for 2-team leagues. Exception requests must be made in writing to the NC Director of Adult Leagues prior to the beginning of league play for approval.
- G. The Coman Tiebreak format will be used for all tiebreakers.
- H. Coaching is not permitted at any point during a match.

Defaults will be “from the bottom up,” defaulting the lowest positions first. The chart below shows which courts are to be defaulted first in the different match types. For Tri-Level matches, default whichever court could not be fielded.	Courts to be Defaulted First
Adult Other- 18 & Over 5.5, 40 & Over 2.5(Women) and 5.0, and all 65 & Over	#3 Doubles
Mixed Other	#3 Doubles
Singles	#3 Singles
Combo	#3 Doubles

- I. The team captain for each team shall exchange their team line-up simultaneously prior to the beginning of the team match. No substitution may be made in an individual match after the line-up has been presented, except in the event of illness, injury, disqualification, or no-show of a player prior to the start of an individual match (first service attempt) in which case a team may substitute a player in the affected position within the 15-minute default time, using a player not already listed on the lineup. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute player is entitled to a five minute warm-up. If no such substitution can be made, the affected position only will be defaulted in local leagues.
 - a. After the start of an individual match, if injury to or illness of a player occurs, the opponents will be awarded a retirement for that individual match only. If a disqualification occurs, the opponents will be awarded a default.
 - b. Two players will play together in the higher position when both of their partners do not show in order to avoid two defaults. (Note: When dealing with combined levels, this would be permissible only if the two players together would not exceed the combined NTRP level.)

- J. Each team must have the minimum number of players available to play the majority of individual matches. If one team does not have the minimum number of players, the opposing team will be credited with a total team default and will win each individual match 6-0, 6-0. If neither team has the required minimum number of players, the match shall be scored as a double team default and neither team will receive credit for a win. In the case of a team default or double team default and individual courts have been played (for example, rain make-ups), any individual matches actually played will count only for player eligibility for advancement and cannot count for determining standings.
 - a. If both teams have the minimum number of players available to play, but the combination of individual defaults by the two teams would result in the majority of matches not being played (valid team match), the teams must follow the procedure below:
 - b. 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, can be played to constitute a valid team match. Once that is determined, both captains will re-exchange scorecards.
 - c. 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:

Format	Required Matches in sequential order	Minimum # of Players Required for Each Team in Valid Team Match
3 doubles	#1 and #2 doubles	4
2 doubles, 1 singles	#1 doubles and #1 singles	3

- d. If these procedures are not followed and the resulting scorecard shows an invalid team match, both teams will be charged a full team default.

K. Full Team Defaults:

- a. 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.
 - b. 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 player 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.
- L. Players may compete on more than one team except if the teams are on the same level, in the same age division and in the same local league.
- M. The winner of each local level will be the team having won the most team matches, unless there is a playoff within the level. In this case, the winner of the playoff would be the winner of the local level.
- N. All scorecards must be posted on TennisLink within the prescribed time listed in the local league rules. NOTE: Where there are no local league rules, the scorecards must be posted within 48 hours by the winning captain and confirmed within 48 hours of the match by the losing captain. If the scorecard has not been posted and confirmed within 48 hours after the match, the Local League Coordinator will determine if there is a winner by the information s/he has. Captains and players have until 2 weeks after scores are entered for a match to request a correction to the scorecard. Follow local league procedures to request a score change.
- O. If a scheduled match is completely rained out (play has not begun on any court), any defaults on the scorecard are reinstated and can be made up. If, however, one court has begun play (first point played) and the match is interrupted due to inclement weather, all defaults stand.
- P. Substitutions for team matches interrupted due to inclement weather: For any court that had begun play (first point played), lineups will stand. For any court that had not yet begun play (first point played), teams may substitute players as long as the substitutions are not listed on the original scorecard.

V. STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

- A. Each local league will be extended one invitation per level of play for a team to go to the State Championships.

The top two teams will be automatically invited when a local division has 30 teams. The top three teams will be automatically invited when a local division has 45 teams.

- B. Wildcards will be offered, if needed, to local leagues according to the chart in Appendix A of these State Regulations. The NC Director of Adult Leagues 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.
- C. If the first-place team from a local league cannot attend the State Championships, the second-place team will be asked to represent the local league. If the second-place team is unable to attend, the Local League Coordinator must contact the NC Director of Adult League Tennis to discuss the possibility of a lower finishing team attending in its place. The offer may go to another Local League, as determined by the Wildcard chart in Appendix A of these State Regulations, if a team is needed to fill the draw.
- For leagues sending 2 teams to the state championships based on number of teams in league (above), LLC can ask the third-place team to attend if the first or second place team cannot attend.
- D. The following is the minimum number of team members who were on the final roster of their local league team at the conclusion of local league play who must be available and eligible to compete at the State Championships:

League	Season	Minimum number
Adult Other (18 & Over 5.5)	Spring	5
USTA League Adult 40 & Over 2.5 and 5.0, 55 & Over and 65 & Over	Spring	6
USTA League Mixed Doubles*	Summer	6
Southern Combo Doubles*	Fall	6
NCTA Singles League	Varies	3
Southern Tri-Level*	Varies	6

*Those 6 players must be able to combine to form 3 eligible lines.

- E. Teams must have played in a minimum of three local matches, except in cases where a team is advancing directly to the State Championships, as provided for in Rule II. E.
- F. Players must play in a minimum number of matches to be eligible to advance to the State Championships (players on teams advancing directly to the State Championships, as provided for in rule II. E., are exempt from the following):

League	Season	Minimum Required Matches Played	# of defaults that may count as a match played
Adult Other - 18 & Over 5.5, 40 & Over 2.5 (Women) and 5.0	Spring	1	1
USTA Adult League 65 & Over	Spring	1	1
USTA League Mixed 55 & over	Summer	1	1
USTA League Mixed 65 & over	Summer	1	1
Southern Combo Doubles	Fall	1	1
NCTA Singles League	Varies	1	1
Southern Tri-Level League	Varies	1	1

G. Team Matches at the State Championships will consist of:

League	Season	Individual Courts Played
Adult Other (18 & Over 5.5)	Spring	1 Singles, 2 Doubles
Adult Other (40 & Over 2.5 and 5.0 and all 65 & Over levels)	Spring	3 Doubles
USTA League Mixed Doubles	Summer	3 Doubles
Southern Combo Doubles	Fall	3 Doubles
NCTA Singles League	Varies	3 Singles
Southern Tri-Level	Varies	3 Doubles

H. There is not a limit on how many teams a player may advance on. However, a player may not advance on multiple teams that are in the same NTRP level and age division (ex. 2 Adult 18 & Over 3.5 teams from different local leagues).

- There will be NO special consideration in scheduling for players on multiple teams.
- Player registration fees will be required for each registration.

I. Captains may not captain multiple teams that are in the same NTRP level and age division at any Championship (ex. 2 Adult 18 & Over 3.5 teams from different local leagues).

J. If a round robin or partial round robin match play ends with a tie in Championship Play, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that breaks the tie:

1. Most individual matches won.
2. Head-to-head winner, only if all tied teams have played each other AND one team defeated all of the teams that are tied.
3. Fewest sets lost.
4. Fewest games lost.
5. Highest % of games won.
6. Toss of coin.

If more than 2 teams are tied: Tiebreaks noted above will be used to eliminate teams. Once a team is

eliminated, tiebreaks will continue down the list until only 1 winner is declared. For example, Teams A, B, C and D are tied at the end of the round robin. Tiebreak #2 eliminates Team D. Tiebreak #3 eliminates Team C. Tiebreak #4 and then #5 (if needed) is used to break the tie between Team A and Team B.

2026 State Championships

League State Championship	Date	Location	Levels
USTA League Adult 65 & Over	May 14-17	Greenville	3.0-4.0, 9.0
USTA League Mixed Doubles	Sept. 10-13	Greensboro	18s: 2.5-4.5, 10.0 40s: 3.0-4.5 55s: 3.0-4.0, 9.0 65s: 3.0-4.0
Southern Tri-Level	Sept. 17-20	Raleigh	18s: 3.5/3.0/2.5 4.0/3.5/3.0 4.5/4.0/3.5 5.0/4.5/4.0 5.5/5.0/4.5 40s: 3.5/3.0/2.5 (W) 4.0/3.5/3.0 4.5/4.0/3.5 55s: 4.0/3.5/3.0 4.5/4.0/3.5
NCTA Singles League	Oct. 1-4	Goldsboro	18s: 2.5-5.0 40s: 3.0-4.5 55s: 3.0-4.0
Southern Combo Doubles (Week 1)	Nov. 5-8	Wilmington	18s: 2.5(W) /6.5/8.5/10.5 40s: 6.5/8.5 55s: 6.5/8.5 65s: 6.5
Southern Combo Doubles (Week 2)	Nov. 12-15	Wilmington	18s: 5.5/7.5/9.5 40s: 5.5/7.5/9.5 55s: 7.5 65s: 7.5

2026 COMMITTEES

NC Grievance Committee*:

Jean Haas
Brenda Jones
Bobby Taylor

NC Grievance Appeals Committee*:

Dani Broadstreet
Cookie Guarini

*Additional committee members can be selected from the 2026 Local League Coordinators and/or the 2026 Adult League Committee or other USTA affiliates as needed.

2026 Local League Coordinators	2026 Adult League Committee
Michelle Benson Elizabeth Speicher Sabrina Kane Susan Brodeur Samantha Haislip Barbara Butterworth Anna Jones Iris Ham Robyn Haug Anna Martin Shannon Roley Angie McEachran Tianna Stathis Sherry Smith Bobby Taylor Lela Thompson Carol Cooke Jennifer Kersey	Dani Broadstreet, Chair Robyn Haug, Vice Chair Brenda Jones Mark Scherr Cathy Reagan Anna Jones Paul Narula Bobby Taylor Dale Benson, Board Liaison

Appendix A

2026 Wildcards

Rules Governing Wildcards

Wildcards will only be offered in a level if needed to fill a draw in the State Championship schedule. The order that wildcards are offered are posted at www.nctennis.com. Areas automatically sending their top two teams for a level, will move to the bottom of the list for that level.