USTA SOUTHERN DUNLOP

# 2026 Southern Combo Doubles Regulations

**Updated: September 4, 2026**

Play is governed by the RULES OF TENNIS, "The Code" as contained in the 2026 Friend at Court, and the following Combo Doubles Southern Section Regulations. ***USTA Southern will adhere to the USTA League National and/or Southern Regulations on items not mentioned in the USTA Southern Combo Doubles.*** General regulations and procedures for the program are listed below and/or Championship Procedures. Each State of the USTA Southern Section may supplement these regulations as is required for play within their State. Local and/or State regulations shall not be in conflict with the Southern Combo Doubles Regulations. No Southern Combo Doubles Regulation or Procedure may be waived by a State Association or by any local, state or sectional league coordinator or Grievance or Grievance Appeal Committee. Any violation of these regulations shall be subject to such sanctions as may be imposed by League Grievance or Grievance Appeal Committee procedures outlined in the USTA League Regulations. USTA Southern is the final authority on such actions unless otherwise specified in Bylaws of the USTA or USTA Southern .The Sectional League Coordinator, in conjunction with the USTA Southern Adult League Committee Chairman and Vice-Chairman, shall have the authority to interpret the Southern Combo Doubles Regulations.

1. All participants must be current members of the USTA and register through Tennis Link.

2. A team shall consist of a minimum of 6 players able to combine to form 3 separate eligible teams.

3. The format of play will be three individual men's or women's doubles matches per team match.

4. Levels offered are combined-levels 5.5-10.5 (for Combo Doubles 18 & Over), 5.5-8.5 (for Combo Doubles 40 & Over) and 6.5-8.5 (for Combo Doubles 55 & Over). The individual NTRP maximum levels for each combined NTRP division is below:

**NTRP cap for Combined Levels:**

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

*Each individual doubles team's combined NTRP ratings may not exceed the level entered.*

5. **NTRP Rating Entry**: Players who do not have a computer rating ("C") or mixed-exclusive rating ("M") 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 do so or omission of information regarding a player's tennis history will subject the player, the captain and/or others who condoned inaccurate self-rating to sanctions and disqualification.

A player may not be dynamically promoted based on match results from Combo Doubles and match results are not calculated in year-end NTRP computer ratings.

6. **Appealed Ratings**: Players who submit an appeal to their self-rating through the Tennis Link system before their local league deadline for registering players will be permitted to register up to seven days after the notification of final self-rating.

If a player's rating is appealed down during or after the Combo local season, the player should notify applicable Local League Coordinator to make update on TennisLink roster. Previous matches by the player would stand.

If a player's rating is appealed up during or after the Combo local season, the player should notify applicable Local League Coordinator to make update on TennisLink roster. Adjusted rating will be used for duration of Combo Doubles championship year. Previous matches by the player would stand.

7. **Rating Used for Championship Play**: Players must play with the rating on the TennisLink roster through the Sectional Championships unless:

- The player appealed up or down during season (see above-mentioned regulation #6), and/or
- The player reaches the disqualification level three times during any championship year, per national league regulation 2.04B. This applies to players with "S," "A," "M" and/or "D" rating types on the TennisLink roster.
- The player has a Mixed, Tournament or Self-rating and receives a new self-rating that places them at a higher NTRP level at which they are competing. Said player must immediately adjust to their new NTRP level.
- The player is "double bumped" at year-end and must play at the middle level at the Southern League Championship (i.e. 2.5 rostered player is promoted to 3.5 at year-end and must play as a 3.0 in the Southern championship). This applies to all rating types on the TennisLink roster.

8. **State Championship**: State associations may regulate how many matches, if any, qualify a player to advance to state championship. State associations may determine advancement on more than one team within an age group only if they are different NTRP levels.

9. **Southern Championship Advancement Requirement**:
Players must play in at least one local or state championship match in order to advance to the Combo Doubles League Championship. The one match requirement pertains to the team and age division for which player is advancing. A default received counts towards advancement in this program.

10. **State Championship Advancement Process & Deadlines**: States shall determine the progression from local league to the State Championship. States shall conclude their State League Championships to determine its State Champions by November 16, 2026 and identify to the Section their winning and/or advancing teams at each level by December 1, 2026.

11. **Southern Championship**: Players must play in at least one local or state championship match in order to advance to the Combo Doubles Sectional Championships (defaults received do count towards advancement in this program). Players who qualify for a Combo Doubles 18 & Over, Combo Doubles 40 & Over and/or Combo Doubles 55 & Over teams (s) may advance on more than one team within an age group only if they are different NTRP levels. **No accommodations for scheduling will be made at Sectional Championships for teams with players that may be competing on two or more teams during a Sectional Championship.** If matches are scheduled concurrently in the above-mentioned scenarios, then teams are expected to provide full line-ups for all team matches. Please refer to Championship Procedures for full details on the Southern Combo Doubles Championship.