

2020 Southern Combo Doubles Georgia State Regulations

January 29, 2020

2.4 COMBO DOUBLES STATE LEAGUE REGULATIONS

All USTA League Tennis Regulations in 1.00 GENERAL and 3.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES and the following regulations in this section shall apply to the Southern Combo Doubles League Program.

2.41 LOCAL COMPETITION.

2.41A Levels of Play in Georgia. Levels of Combo 18 & Over local league play are the combined NTRP levels of 2.5, 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5 and 9.5. Levels of Combo 40 & Over local league play are the combined NTRP levels of 6.5, 7.5, and 8.5. Levels of Combo 55 & Over local league play are the combined NTRP levels of 6.5, 7.5, and 8.5.

To play in the:

2.5 level	your rating cannot exceed 2.5	5.5 level	your rating cannot exceed 3.0
6.5 level	your rating cannot exceed 3.5	7.5 level	your rating cannot exceed 4.0
8.5 level	your rating cannot exceed 5.0	9.5 level	your rating cannot exceed 5.5

2.41A(1) Using combined NTRP levels, the combined NTRP level of the doubles team cannot exceed the combined NTRP rating level in which the players are competing.

2.41A(2) Age. For the Combo 18 & Over local league, players must be 18 years of age prior to participating in the USTA League program, for the Combo 40 & Over local league, each player shall have reached the age of 40 years prior to or during the calendar year in which such player plays in his/her first local league match and for the Combo 55 & Over local league, each player shall have reached the age of 55 years prior to or during the calendar year in which such player plays in his/her first local league match

2.41A(3) Local Season. Local play, which qualifies local winners for the 2020 State Championships, will not begin play prior to the completion of the 2019 State Championships, nor conclude after **September 21, 2020. The league must also have at least two teams registered with the minimum number of players at least 30 days prior to this date.**

2.41A(4) Entry. A player without a computer rating must self-rate to enter the program. A player with a current NTRP computer rating must use that rating to enter the program.

2.41A(4)a. Any player disqualified from the Adult Division may not play at the disqualified NTRP level of play in the Southern Combo Doubles division (and any lower level of play) for the remainder of the league year and for up to three years unless a new NTRP computer rating is generated. A disqualified player becomes a benchmark. In combined leagues, the disqualified player must play with a partner that does not surpass the level entered.

2.41A(4)b. A player may not be dynamically disqualified based on match results from SOUTHERN Combo Doubles and match results are not calculated in year-end NTRP computer ratings. Players may play with the rating submitted on the roster through the Sectional Championships unless the player's year end rating is two levels above the rating on the roster. *Once rosters have been submitted for the Sectional Championships, the section will determine and notify the state if any players that were moved two levels at year end are not eligible to play at the middle level.*

2.41A(5) Number of Teams. A local league shall consist of a minimum of two teams per level in a specified registered CTA that applies local league regulations. A local league may choose to divide any or all NTRP levels into flights. Where flights are used, a playoff structure may be established to determine a champion for each NTRP level.

2.41A(6) Team. A team shall consist of a minimum of six players eligible to compete at a specific level of competition. The Local League may limit the number of players that appear on a team roster and the number of players that are at a specific NTRP level.

2.41B Men and Women. Men's and Women's leagues shall be separate at each approved level of competition. The local league shall determine which approved levels shall be available for men and women in local league competition.

2.41C Competition Format.

2.41C(1) Round Robin. Each NTRP level within a local league shall play at least one 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 that NTRP level. Any NTRP level with only two or three teams is required to play a minimum of three matches.

2.41C(2) Team Match. Each team match in a local league shall consist of such number of individual matches of doubles as determined by the local league. For each team match, a majority of the individual matches must actually be played to constitute a valid team match. Each State shall establish a procedure to determine the actions to take 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.

A local league has the authority to regulate what actions will take place 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 be not played (not a "valid" team match). If not addressed in the local regulations, then it defers to the following State regulation:

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.

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
4 doubles	#1 doubles #2 doubles #3 doubles	6
5 doubles	#1 doubles #2 doubles #3 doubles (priority); #4 doubles if enough players present	6

2.41C(3) Match Scoring and Formats. Each Local League may determine the method of scoring for Local league competition.

2.41C(4) Individual Match. An individual match is any Combo Doubles match played as part of a team match.

2.41C(5) Team Lineups. An individual match is started when the first ball is put in play. After the start of an individual match, if injury to, illness of, or disqualification of a player occurs, the opponents will be awarded a default for that individual match only.

2.41C(5)a. In the event of illness, injury, disqualification, or no-show of a player prior to the start of an individual match (once the lineup has been exchanged), a team may substitute a player in the affected position within the 15-minute default time, using a player not already listed on the lineup. If no such substitution can be made, the affected position only will be forfeited in local leagues.

2.41C(5)b. In the event that a team match must be re-scheduled and starting times are staggered, where opponents are not available and ready to play, forfeits will be awarded in the affected position only.

2.41C(5)c. Local League(s) will decide how to regulate rescheduling of team matches due to rain or inclement weather.

2.41C(5)d. Two players will play together in the higher position when both of their partners do not show in order to avoid two defaults.

2.41C(5)e. Local League(s) may decide how to score team defaults at the local level. If the local league does not have a specific rule in place to cover a full team default it must follow the national championship regulation 2.03L.

2.41C(6) Player Participation.

2.41C(6)a. A player may play on one team at an NTRP level in the same local league (CTA) during the same season. In local leagues (CTA's) where NTRP levels are divided into flights, players may not play in more than one flight.

2.41C(6)b. A local league (CTA) may authorize participation in more than one NTRP level in the same local league (CTA) during the same season.

2.41C(6)c. A player may play on more than one team within an NTRP level in the same season provided it is in separate local leagues (CTA's).

2.41C(6)d. Players may play on both, 18 & Over and 40 & Over combo teams, however if both the 18 & Over and 40 & Over teams advance to the State Championship, the player must qualify in both league types.

2.41C(6)e. Players who qualify for the Combo 18 & Over/40 & Over Georgia State Championships may advance on 2 (two) 18 & Over teams and 2 (two) 40 & Over teams, but at different levels.

2.41C(6)f. An individual may play in one doubles match within each team match.

2.41C(7) Coaching. Coaching will be permitted during the rest period ONLY if the scoring method is the best of three tiebreak sets and there is a 10-minute rest period between the second and third sets.

2.42 PROGRESSION.

2.42A Local League.

2.42A(1) Local League Competition. Each team that wins a specific level of local league (CTA) competition shall be entitled to advance to the State Championship.

2.42A(1)a Two-Team Leagues. If a local league (CTA) holds two seasons at a specific level, they must have a minimum of three teams participating in one of the two seasons at that level to receive two berths to the State Championships. Two team leagues in both seasons will only receive one berth to the State Championships. The local league will determine which team receives the berth.

2.42A(1)b Area Leagues. The State may authorize local league play for area teams (one team at any given level with no local opponents during the entire Championship Year) from which all participating teams may progress to the State Championships. An Area team MUST come from the season prior to the State Championship and the players MUST use their Year-End Rating.

2.42A(1)c Area Teams. No player may participate on an Area Team if they have participated on any team at that level, in that league type, in another local league in Georgia during that championship year. All Area Teams participating in an Area League MUST compete against each other.

2.42A(1)d Wildcards. The State may draw wildcards for the State Championships at any given level. The local league must publish its wildcard procedures in the event of the repeat winners, or if the league receives a wildcard.

2.42A(2) Local League Champions. At the conclusion of local league competition, the Local League Coordinator shall certify to the Director of Leagues; the results of the local league competition and the name(s) and email address(es) of the team captain(s) and the team #.

2.42A(3) State Championships. Each State association shall determine and announce a method or progression suitable for its registered CTA for advancement of its local league teams to State League Championships. The winning team at each level at the State Championship shall be eligible to compete in the League Sectional Championships.

All leagues in Georgia: Men, Women, and Business Women

a. One berth per season for a maximum of 9 teams in any given level.

b. Two berths per season for a maximum of 18 teams in any given level.

c. Over 18 teams, up to each additional 9 teams, an additional berth is given.

d. In local league(s) conducting separate playing schedules for Women's day/night or weekday/business leagues, the local league will determine which one team shall progress to the State Championships, except as noted in 2.42A(3)e.

e. If the number of teams in both the Women's day/night and weekday/business leagues should reach a minimum of five (5) teams at any given level, the local league may request additional representation at the State Championships.

2.43 USTA GEORGIA COMBO LEAGUE STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS.

2.43A Eligibility.

2.43A(1). The State has the authority to determine the progression of teams to its Championship competition by (1) determining a champion of the preceding level of competition by NTRP category or (2) the use of the Championship Wildcard Procedures. Champions of the preceding level of competition must be included in the progression.

2.43A(2) Participation. An individual player may play in only one doubles match within each team match.

2.43A(3). In the Combo 18 & Over Age Group and the Combo 40 & Over Age Group, no individual is eligible to progress to the State Championship unless he/she has played on that same team in at least one match and no team is eligible to progress unless they have played at least three team matches during the Local League season. A defaulted match shall count as a match played for the player(s) who received the default. A retired match shall count for all players involved.

The Combo 55 & Over League State Championship will be an invitational; therefore all teams will receive a berth.

2.43A(4). A minimum of six members who were on the final roster of their local league team at the conclusion of local league play must be available and eligible to compete at the State Championships.

2.43B Official League Championship Entry. The Captain's Information Sheet, the Team Information sheet, a copy of the tennislinc roster and the entry fee must be submitted by the team captain or coordinator to the State League Coordinator prior to **September 21, 2020.**

2.43C Scoring and Rest. At the USTA Georgia State Championships, all matches will be the best of two sets and the Set tiebreak shall be used at 6-all in each set. In lieu of a third set, a Match tiebreak shall be played. There will be a two minute set break at the end of each set with no coaching. The Match tiebreak shall be scored as 1 set and 1 game for tiebreak procedures in the event of a tie. All tiebreaks will be played using the Coman Tiebreak Procedure.

2.43D Competition Format. State Championship play shall be round robin in all levels of competition. Levels with two or more flights will have a single elimination playoff.

2.43E Team Match & Scoring. A team match will consist of the matches as shown below. The team winning the majority of individual matches will be awarded one team point. For each team match, a majority of the individual matches must actually be played by the two teams to constitute a valid team match. The Championship Committee has the authority to determine the actions to take when the combination of individual match defaults given by the two teams in the team match would result in a situation where the majority of the individual matches would not be played (2.01C(2) will be a point of reference).

2.43F Substitutions. No substitutions may be made in an individual match after the lineup has been presented, except for injury to, illness of, or disqualification of a player, prior to the start of such match, and if a team has an unknown default (not enough players to field a complete team), the opposing team will have the opportunity to take their scorecard back and resubmit the lineup. If the opposing team has not turned their scorecard in, they will be notified of the line the default is taking place prior to turning their scorecard in. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute player is entitled to a five (5) minute warm-up.

2.43G Coaching. No coaching is allowed during a match.

2.43H Procedures in the Event of a Tie. In the event of a tie, whether in a round robin or single elimination competition, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:

2.43H(1) Individual Matches. Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.

2.43H(2) Head-to-Head. Winner of head-to-head match.

2.43H(3) Sets. Loser of the fewest number of sets.

2.43H(4) Games. Loser of the fewest number of games.

2.43H(5) A method to be determined by the championship committee: procedures to be announced prior to commencement of championship competition.

2.43I Individual Defaults. Any team defaulting a court for any reason will be fined \$100 per court defaulted. The fine must be paid in the tournament room prior to the team's next match. If it's the team's last match of the tournament, they must pay prior to leaving. If a team does not pay the fine, a grievance will be filed against all members listed on the team information sheet, which could result in suspension from any USTA League play until the fine is paid. Any matches played during that time will be reverted to losses. The reason for this regulation is it's your team's responsibility to have players on every court at each match during a state championship. When a team defaults a line, it not only can affect the outcome of the tournament, but more importantly, it affects those players who showed up ready to play, only to find their opponents did not show.

2.43J Scoring of Individual Defaults. For the purpose of determining standings, individual defaults will be scored as a 6-0, 6-0 win for the doubles team receiving the default and a 0-6, 0-6 loss for the doubles team that defaulted the match. In the event of a default by both doubles teams, both sides will be given a 0-6, 0-6 loss and neither receives credit for a win. If a double default results in a tie, the tiebreak procedure shall be the same as in 2.43H in order to determine a winner of that team match.

2.43K Team Defaults. Each team must have at least four eligible players available for play in each team match with the correct rating combination or the entire match must be defaulted. The maximum number of positions that may be defaulted without defaulting the entire match is one. When a default is necessary, the default should be determined by the team captain and shall be at the number 3 position.

2.43L Scoring of Team Defaults. If a team defaults an entire team match (same as withdrawing from the tournament) for any reason during round robin play, that team is ineligible to continue play at that championship. All matches of the defaulting team already played shall be null and void when determining standings, but will be used for ratings and advancement purposes. If all teams with a mathematical chance to advance have already played the defaulting team in good faith, those matches shall stand as played when determining standings.

2.43L(1) Teams that withdraw once the draw is published will forfeit their deposit, entry fee and a grievance may be filed by the referee to the appropriate committee.

2.43M Retirement. A retirement occurs when an individual match has started and a player (doubles team) is unable to continue due to injury, loss of condition, emergency or refusal to play.

2.43N Scoring of Retirements. In case of a retirement, for the purpose of determining standings, the non-retiring player (doubles team) shall be credited with such number of additional games as would have been won if the match was completed and the non-retiring player (doubles team) won every subsequent game. For NTRP computer data entry, mark as retired and submit actual scores of the match at the point of retirement.

2.43P Date and Location. The 2020 Southern Combo USTA Georgia State Championships will be as follows:

September 25 – 27, 2020	Southern Combo 55 & Over USTA Georgia State Championships (55 & Over M&W 6.5, 7.5, 8.5) – Columbus, GA
October 23 – 25, 2020	Southern Combo 18 & Over and 40 & Over USTA Georgia State Championships (18 & Over M&W 5.5, 7.5, 9.5) (40 & Over M&W 6.5, 8.5) – Valdosta, GA
November 6 – 8, 2020	Southern Combo 18 & Over and 40 & Over USTA Georgia State Championships (18 & Over M&W 2.5, 6.5, 8.5) (40 & Over M&W 7.5) – Dalton, GA

2.44 State Champion Team Move Up/Split Up

2.44A(1): Teams with self-rated players in the 18 & Over, 40 & Over, and 55 & Over Combo age divisions that advanced to, or qualified for, the 2019 Combo Sectional Championship may play together as a team, in whole or in part, in any Age Group within the Combo Division in 2020 if they move up one NTRP team level or if the individuals raise their self-ratings.

2.44A(2): No more than two players who were on a Combo roster that advanced to, or qualified for the 2019 Combo Sectional Championship and are still self-rated may be on a 2020 Combo team together at the same self-rating as they were in the previous Championship year.

2.44A(3): Move up/split up requirements only apply to players who participated in one (1) or more matches (excluding all defaults) for that team during the Championship year.



2020 Southern Combo Doubles Regulations
As of 12.17.19

Play is governed by the RULES OF TENNIS, "The Code" as contained in the 2020 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 or state Combo Doubles regulations. 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 straight-level 2.5 and 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 & Self-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 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 down after the Combo local season, the player may not adjust the rating on the roster and must continue to use the rating on the roster for the remaining championship year.
- 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 is dynamically promoted during any championship year.

Regardless of a player's 2020 year-end rating prior to the sectional championship, he/she must use the rating listed on 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 Process:** If the winning team at any level of State Championship competition is unable to compete further towards the Sectional Championships, then the State League Coordinator may select the second place team for such further competition. The Section may issue wildcards as necessary to fill the draw. If less than four teams are entered in a NTRP level draw within 21 days of event, the draw for the NTRP level may be cancelled unless otherwise authorized by the Tournament Committee.

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 9, 2020 and identify to the Section their winning and/or advancing teams at each level by November 12, 2020.

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.