

**USTA LEAGUE TENNIS**  
**SOUTHERN CRESCENT TENNIS LEAGUE**  
**LOCAL LEAGUE RULES**  
**CHAMPIONSHIP YEAR 2009 (REVISED 10/02/08)**

The purpose of the USTA Southern Crescent Tennis League is to promote team tennis for men and women at established ratings of the National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP). Rules apply to all Southern Crescent Leagues except where specific league applicability is identified in bold type.

I. Regulations

- A) The Southern Crescent Tennis League agrees to the rules and regulations of the USTA, Southern Tennis Association, and Georgia Tennis Association as published. In addition, the Southern Crescent Tennis League also sets forth the following rules to apply to local team matches.

II. League Team Membership

- A) Each **adult** league player shall have reached the age of 19 years of age prior to or during the calendar year in which such player plays in his/her first local league match and be current (paid) members of USTA through the completion of the season including playoffs. The same conditions apply to **senior** league team members, except the minimum age requirement is 50 rather than 19. Each member must pay a local league fee and a TennisLink computer fee each season.
- B) **Players must play at or .5 above their NTRP level** (i.e., a 3.0 player may play at 3.0 or 3.5, but not 4.0). Players without a current computer rating (good for 3 years) must self rate using the guidelines set forth by the USTA. A player self rates themselves when registering for a specific team on TennisLink.
- C) Within a specific league season, players may play on more than one team within the Southern Crescent Tennis League as follows:
- ☞ A player may play on a **women's weekday** and a **women's business team** at the same NTRP level
  - ☞ A player may play on a **women's weekday** and a **business team** at different NTRP levels
  - ☞ A player may play on a **women's weekday** and **business team** at the same NTRP level and a **business or weekday team at a different NTRP level** (i.e., 3.5 weekday, 3.5 business, 3.75 weekday)
  - ☞ A player may play on both an **adult** team and a **senior** team at either the same NTRP level or at a different NTRP level.
  - ☞ A player may play at two different NTRP levels.
- D) **Playing on teams at different NTRP levels may increase the player's risk of being promoted to the next level.**
- E) A player may not register for more than **three** teams within a specific league in the same season. Those three teams cannot conflict with C above.
- F) If a player is on more than one team that qualifies for the state championship, the player must decide which roster to play on – the player may not register for both teams.

### III. Captains

- A) The captain should read and be familiar with the rules of USTA, STA, GTA, and the Local League.
- B) Each team shall name a captain and a co-captain.
- C) Adult teams should have a minimum of 10 players. The exceptions are: **2.5 and 5.0 teams** should have a minimum of 7 players; **Senior, and Mixed Doubles** teams should have a minimum of 8 players.
- D) **Beginning with the championship year 2008 Adult Winter League, all team rosters are restricted to no more than double the players required to fill the starting line-up plus 4 (i.e., a 3.0 team requires 8 players to fill the starting line-up,  $x 2, + 4 = 20$  player limit).**

**An exception may be granted to a team to replace player(s) if all roster positions on the team have been filled. Exceptions would be limited to replacing a player that becomes unable to play for reasons beyond the control of the player/team such as a season-ending injury, player relocation to another city/state resulting in an unreasonable travel time to matches. Other exceptions could be considered and approved by each League Coordinator. The League Coordinator shall not grant exceptions to any player/team where there may be a conflict of interest; rather the exception will be presented to an impartial League Coordinator. If no such League Coordinator exists, the exception will be presented to an impartial Grievance Committee for approval.**

- E) “Home” team captains should contact the visiting team captains at least 3 days prior to a scheduled match to make final arrangements for the match. If the captain listed on the schedule will not be present at the match, he/she should notify the opposing captain with the name of the person acting in his/her stead. The captains can agree on an order of play; however, if they cannot agree, the order of play in the adult league will be #1 singles, #1 doubles, #2 singles, #2 doubles, and #3 doubles. The order of play for senior and mixed doubles will be #1 doubles, #2 doubles, and #3 doubles. Players in the second time slot (#2-S & #2-D) must be available one hour after the first time slot begins; third time slot (#3-D), two hours after the first time slot begins. Both captains must agree to play all matches simultaneously if extra courts are available.
- F) Team captains must exchange scorecards with completed line-ups prior to the scheduled match time. Scorecards are to be printed from TennisLink and either a player’s name or number will be used to identify a player.
- G) Team captains must record correct match scores on TennisLink. The winning team captain will enter the scores within 48 hours of the match completion; the losing team captain will verify/dispute scores within 48 hours of score entry into TennisLink. If the losing captain does not verify/dispute the match results within 48 hours, TennisLink will automatically confirm the match scores. Please be advised that TennisLink does not accept partial match results—all positions’ scores must be entered at the same time. In the case of a disputed match score, please contact the appropriate league coordinator so that the discrepancy can be addressed immediately.

#### IV. DNTRP

- A) If a **player with a self rating (S), tournament rating (T), mixed rating (M) or a medical appeal (S)** is disqualified for that particular level of play, all matches played by that individual player shall be considered losses and scored (6-0, 6-0). **If a player with a computer rated appeal (A) or an Early Start League dynamic rating (D) is disqualified for that particular level of play, no matches will be reversed, but the player will be promoted immediately. Players with a Year-end computer (C) or benchmark (B) rating are not subject to dynamic NTRP disqualification.** Players not disqualified by conclusion of local league round robin play will be eligible to compete in entire local playoff. Dynamic ratings will be calculated at the end of the local playoff to inform any disqualified players that they may not advance to the State Championships. Points earned by disqualified players will stand. Players who do not have a computer rating on file in TennisLink shall self-rate in accordance with the National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) Guidelines and declare their self-rating on TennisLink when registering for a team. All self-rated individuals, including those who have had a national or section ranking; played college tennis; have taught tennis; or played professional tennis, must complete a brief online questionnaire when self-rating on TennisLink. 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.
1. Disqualifications are determined at the national, not local or state, level. Players will not be notified that they are nearing the level of disqualification.
- B) The late add-on deadline has been removed so that a small team will not be penalized should they lose players to disqualification. Additionally, players that have been disqualified may move to a higher-level team.

#### V. Format of Play

- A) Each team shall identify and reserve its home courts. The home team must guarantee a minimum of 2 courts for league play. The courts must have on-site bathroom facilities. The home team pays any court fees.
- B) Each singles and doubles team must furnish one unopened can of USTA approved yellow balls for each match. The match will be played using the balls opened by the home team. Exception: Oversize balls may be used only if all four players agree prior to the start of the match. The winner receives the unopened can and the loser keeps the used balls.
- C) A point will be awarded to the team winning the team match (greatest number of individual matches).
- D) A 15-minute default rule starts at the exact time the match is scheduled to begin.
- E) The Southern Crescent Tennis League encourages playing positions by order of strength; however, a player may play any position at any time. There are no restrictions on the movement of the players from position to position, week to week.
- F) In the event of illness, injury, disqualification, or no-show of a player prior to the start of an individual match (once the line-up has been exchanged), a team may substitute a player in the affected position within the 15-minute default time, using a player not already listed on the scorecard. If no such substitution can be made, the affected position will be forfeited.
- G) If you know you must forfeit one or more positions at the start of the match, follow the guidelines stated in the USTA League Tennis 2007 Regulations handbook. **Adult** league must forfeit from the bottom of the line-up, #2 singles or #3 doubles. If you must forfeit 2 positions, you have the option to forfeit #1 and #2 singles, or #2 and #3 doubles, or #2 singles and #3 doubles. **Senior and Mixed Doubles** teams forfeit line #3 doubles first and then line #2 doubles.

- H) Players must be ready to take the court when the previous match is finished (i.e. the first team match begins at 9:30 a.m. and ends at 10:10 a.m., default time for the next position would be 10:45 a.m. [10:30 a.m. being the official start time of the next time slot]). If the first team match ends at 10:45 a.m., the next players must take the court immediately, since the second and third time slot players must be available the second or third hour from start time.
- I) **OPTION** for third Set, Adult League, Senior League, Combo Daytime League: Each position may, before each individual match begins, decide on the following options for the third set:
1. Play a complete third set, OR
  2. Play a match tiebreak in lieu of a third set. A match tiebreak is won by the first team to win 10 points with a margin of 2.  
Agreement must be reached by all 4 players (2 players for singles) or the format cannot be changed and a full third set will be played. If option “b” is chosen, there will be no break taken after the second set, no coaching is allowed, and play is continuous (a 2-minute break is allowed between sets, including the second set and a match tiebreak). At the beginning of the tiebreak, the players may change the serving order and partners may change side (ad or deuce) where they receive. The “tiebreak set” will be recorded as 1-0 for the winner and “Timed Match” selected in TennisLink rather than “Completed.”
- J) **FORMAT for third Set, Mixed Doubles League, Evening Combo League: The format for any league whose regular matches are scheduled to begin at 6:30 PM or later shall be third Set Match Tiebreak. No full third set is played, rather if sets are split the teams play continuously (no 10-minute break, no coaching) a match tiebreaker (first team to 10 by 2).**
- K) **Southern Crescent regulations for forfeits are covered by the USTA League Tennis 2009 Regulations. A team having excessive forfeits and defaults may have all of its matches nullified and may be treated as a bye for the remainder of the season. Excessive forfeits and defaults shall be defined as defaulting all lines of an entire match or an average of one defaulted line per match. This may result in a grievance filed against the team.**

The following statements are excerpts taken from the amended USTA Regulations regarding medical time-outs and toilet visits:

- ☉ Medical conditions include, but are not limited to injuries, illnesses, heat-related conditions and cramping.
- ☉ A medical time-out consists of evaluation time plus a maximum of three minutes treatment time.
- ☉ A player with a pre-existing condition, sustained prior to the match in progress, may...receive one medical time-out if the condition is aggravated during match play.
- ☉ Only one medical time-out shall be permitted for cramping and other heat-related conditions in any match, even if the cramping occurs in different parts of a player’s body.
- ☉ A player may request a suspension of play for a toilet visit at one or more times during a match.
- ☉ No coaching shall be permitted during suspension of play for either a medical condition or a toilet visit.

## VI. Schedules

### A) Inclement Weather

1. The following weather conditions authorize the cancellation of a scheduled match: rain, lightning, snow, or severe temperatures (below 32F or above 100F). The Weather Channel's data will be used to determine temperature and no wind chill factor is taken into consideration
2. If inclement weather, not including a temperature rise or drop, occurs after play has begun, completed matches will stand as played and incomplete matches must be resumed by the same players at the exact point, game, and set that existed when play was halted. Substitutions may be made in any individual matches which had not begun. Points awarded for forfeits during the original line-up will stand. All players involved in such forfeits cannot participate in the rescheduled match.
3. If teams have reported for play and the match is delayed or interrupted by rain, teams must wait 30 minutes to determine if courts are playable. All players in each position (singles or doubles) must mutually agree that their court is playable for the match to begin or resume. If courts are still not playable after 30 minutes, teams are free to leave and reschedule unless both teams agree to wait longer.
4. Rescheduled weekday matches should be completed within 12 days of the scheduled match. Rescheduled weekend matches should be completed within 12 days of the scheduled match.
5. Inclement Weather Make-Up Matches: If any positions of an inclement weather match cannot agree on a make-up date and time within the 12 day make-up period, the make-up match will be played as follows:
  - ☉ **3.0 and 3.5 Weekday Women:** 9:30 a.m. Tuesday (13<sup>th</sup> day after the originally scheduled match).
  - ☉ **4.0 Weekday Women:** 9:30 a.m. Wednesday (13<sup>th</sup> day after the originally scheduled match).
  - ☉ **All Business Women:** 6:30 p.m. Friday (the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> day after the originally scheduled match).
  - ☉ **Adult Men:** 6:30 p.m. Friday (the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> after the originally scheduled match).
  - ☉ **Senior Men:** 4:00 p.m. Saturday (the 13<sup>th</sup> day after the originally scheduled match).
  - ☉ **Senior Women:** 9:30 a.m. Monday (the 13<sup>th</sup> day after the originally scheduled match).
  - ☉ **Mixed:** 7:00 p.m. Thursday (the 13<sup>th</sup> day after the originally scheduled match).
6. Once teams agree on a rescheduled date they are committed to play on that date, unless inclement weather occurs again. Failure to play on that rescheduled date will result in default only of the match or matches not played.
7. If there is inclement weather on these make-up days, **Weekday Women** will play the next weather permitting weekday after the mandatory make-up day at 9:30 a.m. – excluding the regularly scheduled match day. **Business Women and Men** will play at 6:30 p.m. the following Monday or, in case of inclement weather that night, the first dry weekday evening at 6:30 p.m. National holidays are not to be included when calculating mandatory make-up days (i.e., the mandatory make-up days falls on Memorial Day; therefore, the default day moves to the next day).
8. If one team position cannot make the mandatory make-up time, they forfeit the point. If both cannot, it is a double forfeit.

9. If the home team's courts are not available for a make-up match, the visiting team's courts will be the first alternate match site to be considered. Ultimately, the home team is responsible for finding make-up courts if the home and visitor's courts are unavailable.
10. Rainouts of the last match of the season must be completed within 6 days of the original match date. If you cannot agree on a make-up date and time, follow the above schedule on the 6<sup>th</sup> instead of the 13<sup>th</sup> day.
11. In the event that rain or inclement weather forces the cancellation and rescheduling of a team match, unrestricted substitutions from the team roster may be made in any individual matches that have not begun. This includes moving a player from one position to another. Points awarded for forfeits during the original written lineup exchange will stand. All players involved in such forfeits cannot participate in the rescheduled match. Forfeits offered verbally prior to the original written lineup exchange are nullified when the match is rescheduled due to rain or inclement weather.
12. Matches not made up within the time limit will result in a double forfeit.
13. Team matches or individual matches may be rescheduled if both captains agree. The rescheduled matches MUST be played prior to the originally scheduled date.

#### VII. Addition of Players During a Season

- A) The late add-on deadline has been eliminated and players may be added up until the last line of a regularly scheduled (not championship) match of the season has been played.

#### VII. Southern Crescent Championships and Championship Teams

- A) The season champion shall be the team with the greatest number of team matches won and shall represent the local league in State Championships. In the event of a tie, the USTA League Tennis Regulations for tiebreaks will be followed. The tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:
  - 1 Individual matches: winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition
  - 2 Sets: Loser of the fewest number of sets in the entire competition
  - 3 Games: Loser of the fewest number of games in the entire competition
  - 4 Head-to-Head: Winner of the head-to-head match
- B) In order for a player to be eligible to progress to State Championships, that player must have played twice during the entire season. To participate in the playoffs between the **Weekday Women Division Winners and Business Women Division Winners**, a player must have played twice prior to that during the season. One default received by the player during local competition shall count for advancing. A retired match shall count toward advancing for all players involved. Forfeits do not count when generating a computer rating.
- C) One women's team and one men's team at each level from each season will progress to the State Championships. **Business Women** and **Weekday Women** with teams at the same level will have a playoff to determine which team will progress to the State Championship.
  1. If there are 8 or more weekday and 8 or more business teams at the same NTRP level, there will not be a playoff to determine a single winner. Instead, both winning teams will advance to the State Championship.
- D) A level or league that has three or more teams for each of two seasons may send two teams to the State Championships, one from each season. If a level has only two teams, only one team from the league year (summer and winter) will be sent to the State Championships.

- E) Information on the location and dates of State Championships can be found in the USTA Georgia State Regulations.
- F) If the division OR play-off winner cannot participate in the State Championships in May, the replacement shall be determined as follows:
1. In **Women's** divisions where there is a playoff between **Weekday** and **Business Women**, there will be a playoff between the finalists (losers) from the playoff matches from each season. If one finalist team declines to playoff, the other team is automatically chosen. If both finalists decline, the State playoff offer will extend to the second place business and weekday division winners. All who are interested would participate in a playoff for a berth in the State Championship.
  2. In the Women's divisions, in the event that a playoff is necessary one season but not the other, the championship berth will be extended to the finalist of the season in which a playoff was held.
  3. In **Women's** divisions where there is no playoff (no equal-level teams in both **Business** and **Weekday** leagues), and in the **Men's**, **Seniors** and **Mixed Doubles** divisions, the second place team from the first championship year season will play the second place team from the second championship year season to replace the winning team at State Championships. If one team declines to playoff, the other team is automatically chosen. If both second place teams decline, the offer will extend to the third place division winners who will participate in a playoff for a berth in the State Championship.
  4. If a berth at the State Championship becomes available unexpectedly (wild card, team withdrawal), that berth may be filled at the Local League Coordinator's discretion as there may be insufficient time to hold a playoff match.
- G) If a regularly scheduled USTA league tennis match conflicts with a USTA District, Sectional, or National championship, that match may be either played in advance or rescheduled using the inclement weather guidelines for make-up dates.

***GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE:***

Todd Piester  
Kelly Love  
Valerie Cullen  
Nancy Jones  
Stephanie Maddock  
Phil Mittenzwei

***GRIEVANCE APPEAL COMMITTEE:***

Mike Wilson  
Leslie Frey  
Linda Tunstall  
Beth Jarrett  
Karen Piester