



GEORGIA

## USTA Georgia Championship Procedures 2026 Championship Year (as of 3/5/26)

The USTA Georgia Championship Procedures will apply to all USTA Georgia League State Championships. When not stated in the Championship Procedures, the National, Southern and Georgia regulations and Friend at Court will apply.

***Due to the possibility of championship dates and locations being modified for reasons outside of our control, USTA Georgia highly encourages players to secure lodging at places that allow refundable deposits.***

### USTA Georgia League State Championships ([www.ustageorgialsc.com](http://www.ustageorgialsc.com))

USTA Georgia offers a state championship (Dates/Locations) on last page) for each of the following programs:

- USTA League Adult 18 & Over
- USTA League Adult 40 & Over
- USTA League Adult 55 & Over
- USTA League Adult 65 & Over
- USTA League Mixed Doubles
- Southern Combo Doubles
- Southern Tri-Level

### Team Qualification

- Local League winners will be allowed to advance to the USTA Georgia State Championships contingent upon eligibility. If a local league winner declines their invitation, the local league may offer the bid to the next priority team, provided Georgia approval.
- Wildcards may be issued to fill up draws at the state championships on a need-basis and at the discretion of the Championship Committee. USTA Georgia uses a random drawing to determine which local league receives the wildcard. In the final weeks prior to a state championship, a wildcard berth may be opened to all local leagues if needed to be filled immediately.

### Team Match Format

- Adult 18 & Over (3.0-4.5): 2 singles, 3 doubles
- Adult 18 & Over (2.5, 5.0): 1 singles, 2 doubles
- Adult 40 & Over: 1 singles, 4 doubles
- Adult 55 & Over, Adult 65 & Over, Mixed Doubles, Combo Doubles, Tri-Level: 3 doubles

### Championship Format

- State Championship format shall use round robin(s), partial round robin or single elimination matches against randomly selected opponents in all levels of competition. The use of multiple round robins, or the use of partial round robin matches, will require a playoff structure to establish a champion.
- For Round Robin Format:
  - Each team shall play every other team in its flight (Exception: Please see Championship Cancellation Policy), and the team with the most team points shall be champion in its flight. Depending on the number of flights per level, single elimination playoff will be used to determine the champion.
  - If a local league has multiple teams in the same level, the referee will attempt to place those teams in separate flights when possible.
  - All teams will be guaranteed a minimum of 4 matches, unless there are only 4 teams in the level, and they will be guaranteed a minimum of 3 matches.
- For Partial Round Robin Matches Against Randomly Selected Opponents:
  - Each team shall play four or five team matches (captains may be surveyed with majority being used) against randomly selected opponents. (Exception: Please see Championship Cancellation Policy)
  - The top 4 teams, based on standings and national procedures on tiebreakers, will be entered into a Semi-Final and seeded accordingly. (For semi-finals, the draw will be #1 vs #4 and #2 vs #3.)



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### Team Eligibility

- All players must possess current USTA memberships through the conclusion of the USTA Georgia State Championship.
  - **USTA League Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over and Mixed Doubles:** Players are eligible to advance to state championship level competition if that player has played on that same team in at least 2 matches during its local league season. A maximum of 1 default received by the player during local league competition shall count for advancing to State Championships.
    - A minimum of (8) eight (five for 2.5 & 5.0 levels) team members who were on the final roster of their Adult 18 & Over local league team at the conclusion of local league play must be available and eligible to compete. The Championship Committee, by majority vote, can reduce that number to not less than (4) four (three for 2.5 & 5.0 levels), but the team would be subject to the default rule.
    - A minimum of (9) nine team members who were on the final roster of their Adult 40 & Over local league team at the conclusion of local league play must be available and eligible to compete. The Championship Committee, by majority vote, can reduce that number to not less than (5) five, but the team would be subject to the default rule.
    - A minimum of (6) six team members who were on the final roster of their Adult 55 & Over and Mixed Doubles local league team at the conclusion of local league play must be available and eligible to compete. The Championship Committee, by majority vote, can reduce that number to not less than (4) four, but the team would be subject to the default rule.
  - **Adult 65 & Over\*:** Team members are eligible to advance to championship level competition if that player has played on that same team in at least 1 match (1 of which may be a default received) during its local league season. If there was no local league during the entire championship year, the team may advance directly to the state championship.
    - A minimum of six team members (three eligible pairings) who were on the final roster of their local league team at the conclusion of local league play must be available and eligible to combine and compete. The Championship Committee, by majority vote, may reduce that number to not less than four, but the team would be subject to the default rule.
- \*Please refer to 2026 USTA Georgia Regulations for full details on eligibility of Area Teams for Adult 65 & Over.*
- **Southern Combo Doubles (18 & Over and 40 & Over):** Team members are eligible to advance to championship level competition if that player has played on that same team in at least 1 match (1 of which may be a default received) during its local league season.
    - A minimum of six team members (three eligible pairings) who were on the final roster of their local league team at the conclusion of local league play must be available and eligible to combine and compete. The Championship Committee, by majority vote, may reduce that number to not less than four, but the team would be subject to the default rule.
  - **Southern Combo Doubles (55 & Over):** Team members are eligible to advance to championship level competition if that player has played on that same team in at least 1 match (1 of which may be a default received) during its local league season. If there was no local league during the entire championship year, the team may advance directly to the state championship.
    - A minimum of six team members (three eligible pairings) who were on the final roster of their local league team at the conclusion of local league play must be available and eligible to combine and compete. The Championship Committee, by majority vote, may reduce that number to not less than four, but the team would be subject to the default rule.
  - **Southern Tri Level (18 & Over):** Team members are eligible to advance to championship level competition if that player has played on that same team in at least 1 match (1 of which may be a default received) during its local league season.
    - A minimum of six team 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 combine and compete. The Championship Committee, by majority vote, may reduce that number to not less than four, but the team would be subject to the default rule.



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- **Southern Tri-Level (40 & Over and 55 & Over):** Team members are eligible to advance to championship level competition if that player has played on that same team in at least 1 match (1 of which may be a default received) during its local league season. If there was no local league during the entire championship year, the team may advance directly to the state championship.
  - A minimum of six team 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 combine and compete. The Championship Committee, by majority vote, may reduce that number to not less than four, but the team would be subject to the default rule.

### Registration, Entry Fee, and Deposit Requirements

- Championship Entry Fee:
  - \$42.00 per player (Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over (hard), Mixed, Combo 18/40 & Over)
  - \$47.00 per player (Adult 40 & Over (clay), Adult 55 & Over, Adult 65 & Over, Tri-Level and Combo 55 & Over)
- Captain or teammate is required to submit a team deposit authorization for \$250.00 (Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over, Mixed, Combo, Tri-Level) and \$100.00 (and Adult 65 & Over). If a team withdraws before the schedule is published, the deposit will not be charged. If a team withdraws after the schedule is published or if a team does not successfully complete the USTA Georgia State Championship, the deposit will be charged to the credit card used to register for the state championship by the individual who submitted the authorization form. Should a team default a line and not pay their \$100 fee, it will be charged to the credit card used to register for the state championship by the individual who submitted the authorization form.
- Note: Collected default monies will be donated to the host Community Tennis Association.
- Players should be registered in both TennisLink and the USTA Georgia League State Championship website. In the case of administrative oversight by USTA Georgia, the Championship Committee may authorize to add a player after the deadline.

### Individual Defaults (Default Rule)

- Any team defaulting a court for any reason will incur a fee of \$100 per court defaulted. Teams will pay with the credit card on file for the deposit, or teams may choose to use cash and/or another credit card (additional \$4 processing fee if paid by credit card) if they choose to do so. If a team doesn't pay their fee, it will be charged to the credit card used to register for the state championship by the individual who submitted the authorization form. 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 championship, but more importantly, it affects those players who showed up ready to play, only to find their opponents did not show. Any money collected from defaults will be given to the CTA hosting the state championship in which the defaults occurred. An appeal of this fee may be made to the USTA Georgia Adult League Committee and under extreme circumstances will be considered.

### Scheduled Matches

- Schedules on the USTA Georgia League State Championship website under the Schedules tab are the official schedule.
- No accommodation for scheduling will be made at any Championship for teams with players that may be competing on two or more teams during a championship. There are no exceptions to this rule.
- Players may only be listed on a scorecard once per scheduled match time. If a player is submitted on two line-ups per scheduled match time, the priority scorecard for player will be the first submitted through the digital lineup submission. *(For example, Player A is listed on a 7.5 Combo Doubles scorecard (submitted at 7:42 AM) and 8.5 Combo Doubles scorecard (submitted at 7:52 AM), with both matches scheduled for Friday at 8:00 AM. The 7.5 Combo Doubles scorecard will be deemed priority, and Player A will be disqualified from the 8.5 Combo Doubles Scorecard. Please see below for eligible substitution rules.)*



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- The captain is responsible for making sure all players playing in the match are present and ready to play. At that point, the captain will submit their digital lineup through the USTA Georgia App or the USTA Georgia League State Championship website. An email reply will immediately be sent to the email provided with a summary of the submission. Captains are requested to have the lineup submitted a minimum of 15 minutes prior to the start of their scheduled match.
- USTA Georgia will defer to the table on 2.01C(2) of the regulations when the combination of individual defaults given by the two teams in the team match results, or would result, in a situation where the majority of the individual matches are not played.
- If a team has a known default (i.e. "forfeit" or "default" is submitted on the lineup), once both lineups have been submitted, the opposing captain will receive a text message with the line being defaulted and will have the opportunity to revise their lineup and submit it again.
- If a team has an unknown default on the scorecard (i.e. player is a "no show"), then players on the scorecard will be moved up in accordance with National Regulation Table 2.03K ("Allowable Defaults at All Championships"). Singles and doubles are considered separate entities when applying 2.03K. *(For example, Player A is #1 singles and Player B is #2 singles on a scorecard. Player A is called at match time to go on court; however, Player A cannot be found. Player B is not permitted to go on court until after the applicable 15-minute default window of Player A. If Player A is found within the 15-minute default window, the applicable "Penalties for Lateness" will be applied via Friend at Court for Player A, and both Player A and Player B can go on court. If Player A is not found within the 15-minute default window, then Player B moves up to the #1 singles position, and the #2 singles position is defaulted.)*
- If a captain duplicates a name in error on a scorecard, a team may be allowed to substitute a player for the duplicate name in the lower position (at the Tournament Director or Referee's discretion), using a player not already listed on the line-up. A substitution may only be made in the lower position if the error is discovered before the match begins. If no such substitution can be made, National Regulation 2.03K will be used in determining the required position of default.
- No substitution may be made in an individual match after the line-up has been submitted, except for injury to, illness of, ineligibility or disqualification of a player prior to the start of such match (first point played), and except other circumstances listed in procedures. If a substitution is made during 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.
- The following applies to the Adult 2.5 and 5.0 teams at the State Championships: If a player is injured or becomes ill after the lineup has been submitted and the captain must change the lineup in order to prevent a team match default, the opposing captain may also change their lineup. This only applies to 2.5 and 5.0 levels as the lineup change will affect both singles and doubles positions.
- Once both teams have submitted their lineups, a text message will be sent to the players involved in each individual match, as well as the captain with the names of the players and the court assignment. Once the text message is sent, the players have 10 minutes to be at the assigned court and ready to play or they will be subject to the point penalty system. The home team should pick up the can of balls at the site desk and all players should go to their assigned courts and wait for them to open.
- When each individual match is complete, one player from each team should immediately reply to the text message with the full name(s) of the player(s) of the winning team and the scores from the winner's perspective.
- Once all of the individual matches are complete and the scores have been sent in via text, they will be entered into Tennislink. Captains should confirm the scores through Tennislink or by viewing the results through the Virtual Site Desk Court Assignment Page. The captain can reply to the text they received for that individual match with an issue.
- If there is a rain delay, players are not permitted to leave the site unless otherwise released by the Tournament Director and/or Tournament Referee. If released from the courts due to rain, players will be asked to submit in progress through texting. Players will be prompted to enter all details of where the match stands.
- If a team match is postponed following the submission of the line-up, the original line-up will stand for the make-up match UNLESS teams are released from the championship by the Tournament Director and/or Referee. If teams are released, the line-up would stand only for those positions that have already started (first service attempt) and all other positions (even those that were in warm-up) may be changed including defaulted courts.



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- Championship Referees may assist with medical time-outs and scoring disputes but will not be used to make line calls or call foot faults. If a player feels line calls and/or foot faults are an issue, said player may request a Referee (if available) to assess the problem. Spectators are not permitted to request a Referee unless the players on court request it. All medical time-outs will be addressed in accordance with "Friend at Court."
- The Championship Committee will make all efforts to remain proactive with the weather. However, in the event of significant weather challenges, the Championship Committee may use an alternate scoring match format, in order to complete the championship. See Alternative Scoring document located on the web site and/or in captain's packet for scoring conversions.

### **Important Items Relating to Friend at Court (FAC)**

- Penalties for Lateness, which includes the 15-minute default rule, will apply. The Championship Referee, in conjunction with the Championship Committee, has the authority to enforce penalties for lateness. If a player is :01 to 5:00 minutes late, the penalty is a loss of toss and one game for that player. If a player is 5:01 to 10:00 minutes late, the penalty is a loss of toss and two games for that player. If a player is 10:01 to 15:00 minutes late, the penalty is a loss of toss and three games for that player. If a player is 15:01 minutes late, the penalty may be a default. The Championship Referee may also use the Suspension Point System at his/her discretion.
- Warm-Ups: Players are limited to a ten-minute warm-up prior to match play.
- Changeovers: The rest time for all changeovers is 90 seconds, except between sets, which is limited to two minutes.
- Continuous Play: There is continuous play during the following situations: 1) during any tiebreaker (set or match tiebreaks), and 2) after the first game of each regular set.
- Bathroom Breaks: A player can take a bathroom break at any time, but players should try to take them during changeovers or between sets.

### **Scoring**

- Regular scoring for matches will be the best of two tiebreak sets with a 10-point match tiebreak in lieu of a third set. All tiebreaks will be played with the Coman format. 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) one set and (1) one game for tiebreak procedures. In the event of shortened formatting, matches will be converted to a compatible scoring format using the Alternative Scoring document (located on the championship website).
- Results will be entered into Tennis Link throughout each day and can be viewed on this website and/or app.
- Each team will receive (1) one point for each team match won.
- In the event of a tie:
  - For each individual team match, the tie will be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so: least sets lost, then least games lost, then highest game winning percentage, then the winning team of #1 doubles match, then the winning team of the #1 singles match.
  - For determining teams round robin and/or flight winners, and/or determining teams to advance to a semifinal and/or final, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so: winner of the most individual matches, then winner of head-to-head match (if all tied teams played one another), then least sets lost, then least games lost, then highest game winning percentage. If a tie still remains through game winning percentage, the tie will be broken by the following: Team with highest # of victories at #1 Doubles during state championship round robin and/or un-flighted matches. Then the team with highest # of victories at #1 Singles during state championship round robin and/or un-flighted matches. If there is still a tie, each team will pick two players to play doubles, and they will play a 10-point tiebreaker. Please see national regulation 2.03H(2) for further information.



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- All Teams are expected to provide full line-ups for all team matches. All teams are also expected to play all scheduled matches. Any team not complying may be subject to forfeiting the team deposit check. Any team not complying may be subject to grievance procedures which will include all players from the championship roster. In accordance with USTA League Tennis Regulations, any team forfeiting an entire team match for any reason will result in all matches of that team previously played or to be played to be declared null and void. If all teams in contention for the Championships have already played the forfeiting team in good faith, the matches stand as played. In the event of a full team default (i.e. team does not have available players to play a majority of individual matches), the following scoring procedures will apply when determining flight winners and/or advancing teams to playoffs:
  - Round Robin (every team plays each team in their flight): 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 played the defaulting team in good faith, those matches shall stand as played when determining standings.
  - Partial Round Robin Play: Teams will not have an equal number of team matches due to a 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:
    - Team with the least number of TEAM LOSSES.
    - Team with the least number of ACTUAL INDIVIDUAL LOSSES divided by the number of POSSIBLE INDIVIDUAL LOSSES.
    - Team with the least number of ACTUAL SETS LOST divided by the number of POSSIBLE SETS Lost.
    - Team with the least number of ACTUAL GAMES LOST divided by the number of POSSIBLE GAMES Lost.
    - Coin Toss.
- If any team is released from the USTA Georgia State Championship due to inclement weather and certain individual matches in their team match have already begun, it will be recorded in Tennislink as a "retirement" with the leading team in the individual match as the "winner." (For example, a team leading 6-4, 0-4 would be considered the leading team. If a 2<sup>nd</sup> set is not completed, the team winning the first set is considered the leading team.)

### Grievances

- Suspension Points may be assessed onsite during a league championship by the Head Referee. A captain may appeal said suspension points to the Championship Grievance Appeal Committee within 72 hours of points being assessed. *Please note that appeals may not be reviewed until after the championship. Please refer to national league regulation 3.04a(4).*
- Grievance Forms are available at each of the sites at the tournament desk. Completed grievance forms must be presented to the Site Director (by the captain) at the site of the match within 30 minutes of the completion of the last individual court of the team match.
- NTRP Grievances filed within 14 days of the state championship against anyone participating in the State Championship will be administered after the State Championship unless the USTA Southern Adult League Committee Chair, Vice-Chair and USTA Southern League Coordinator authorize the administration of the grievance prior to that time. If the grievance is not administered until after the State Championships, points won by players will stand. Disqualified players and/or captains that are suspended will not be eligible to advance to the Sectional Championships.
- A team that withdraws from a championship after schedules are published, or a team defaulting an entire team match during championship play will be subject to a grievance filed by the Championship Committee and may receive suspension penalties under the Suspension Point System from the Championship Grievance Committee.



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### **NTRP Dynamic Disqualification**

- USTA Georgia follows national regulation 2.04E(2)c and dynamic ratings will be generated following the State Championships. It is possible for any self-rated (S), appealed (A) and/or dynamic disqualified (D) players to be dynamically promoted at his or her NTRP level. (Please see National NTRP Dynamic Disqualification table for further details.) The promoted player will not be eligible to advance to the next level of competition. Points earned by promoted players will stand.
- Players in early-start leagues who were promoted in the 2024 year-end ratings may continue play through the state championships but are not permitted to advance to the southern and/or national championship at the lower level. The only exception is for the Adult 18 & Over Women's 2.5 league. (see National Regulation 2.05B(3)b and c.)

### **Championship Withdrawal Policy**

- Teams that withdraw twenty-two (22) days in advance of the start of the championship will be reimbursed their security deposit and entry fee (minus \$2 processing fee). Teams that withdraw within twenty-one (21) days of the start of the championship and the posting of the draw will not be reimbursed their entry fee. Teams that withdraw once the draw is posted will not be reimbursed their entry fee and will be charged their security deposit. Separately, the team will be subject to a grievance filed by the Championship Committee and may receive suspension penalties imposed by the Championship Grievance Committee.

### **Championship Cancellation Policy**

- *Round Robin Format (flighted format)*
  - Should inclement weather or other circumstances prevent the completion of the State Championship or prevent round robin matches from starting by a specific time as determined by the Championship Committee on the final day of the championship, the level/flight winners will be determined by the first of the following procedures:
    - In the event a level or flight within a level consists of multiple round robins, the first-place team will be determined by TennisLink standings at the conclusion of the most recent full round robin. If no full round robin is completed, the below-mentioned procedures would apply.
    - If only one team in a round robin has a mathematical chance of finishing first, that team will be declared the winner of the round robin.
    - If more than one team has a mathematical chance of winning their round robin, and the first-place team has already beaten the other teams with a mathematical chance of winning, the 1<sup>st</sup> place team would be considered the round robin winner as the head-to-head winner.
    - If a round robin winner cannot be determined, and each team in a round robin has been given the opportunity to complete a minimum of one team match, only teams with a mathematical chance of finishing first will receive an entry into a drawing. Undefeated teams will receive a second entry into the drawing.
    - If a round robin winner cannot be determined, and each team in a round robin has not been given the opportunity to complete a minimum of one team match, each team will receive one entry into a drawing to determine the round robin winner.
- *Partial Round Robin Format is on the next page...*



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- *Partial Round Robin Format*
  - Should inclement weather or other circumstances prevent the completion of the State Championship or prevent un-flighted matches from starting by a specific time as determined by the Championship Committee on the final day of the championship, the winners will be determined by the first of the following procedures that does so:
    - If a minimum of 3 full partial round robin rounds have been completed by all teams, any undefeated teams will receive an entry into a drawing to determine a winner. In this instance, partial round robin rounds in fourth segment will not count.
    - If only one team (after the most recent full partial round robin round) has a mathematical chance of finishing first, that team will be declared the winner.
    - If more than one team has a mathematical chance of winning, after the most recent full partial round robin round, and the first-place team has already beaten the other teams with a mathematical chance of winning, the 1st place team would be considered the winner as the head-to-head winner.
    - If a winner cannot be determined, and each team has been given the opportunity to complete a minimum of one team match, only teams with a mathematical chance of finishing first will receive an entry into a drawing.  
Undefeated teams will receive a second entry into the drawing.
- *During Playoffs*
  - Should inclement weather or other circumstances prevent the completion of all playoff rounds during the State Championship; the following procedures will be used to determine round robin winners:
    - If cancellation occurs before or during the first round of playoffs, all group winners will receive two entries in the drawing and any best 2<sup>nd</sup> place teams will receive one entry into the drawing to determine one state champion. Team(s) that have clinched (won a majority of individual matches) in their first round of playoffs will be considered the winner of the playoff match and will also receive two entries into the drawing and the losing team(s) will be excluded from the drawing.
    - If cancellation occurs during the second round of playoffs, all teams that have not had their team match decided will receive an entry in the drawing to determine one state champion. Any winning team that has completed their second-round match will also receive one entry into the drawing and the losing team will be excluded from the drawing.
    - Once the finalists are determined, both teams will be told how the champion will be determined by the USTA Georgia State League Coordinator, should cancellation occur after the finals have begun play.
    - If cancellation occurs once the finalists have been determined, but play has not begun, both teams can agree to meet at a mutual location and time to play for the state championship. A deadline will be given by the Championship Committee to complete the match. If both teams cannot agree on a mutual location and time prior to or on the deadline set forth by the Championship Committee, both teams will receive an entry in the drawing to determine one state champion. USTA Georgia will not be responsible for providing an official or for any expenses related to this match.

### **Administration & Player Expectations**

- Rain Hotline & Event Messages: USTA Georgia Championship App Event Messages (See App Download Instructions). Download our [USTA Georgia Championship App](#) (available for iPhone and Android). Once you open app, choose which championships you would like to receive Event Message.
- Championship Committee will use proper and fair judgment regarding all state championship-related issues. This includes procedures and information not listed in the Championship Procedures.
- Championship Committee: To be appointed by the USTA Georgia State League Coordinator.
- Championship Grievance Committee: TBD by Georgia Adult League Committee Chair
- Championship Procedures may be amended at the Championship Committee's discretion.
- The Championship Committee may release a team from the USTA Georgia State Championship.
- ***Captains and players are expected to be courteous and cooperative with championship staff and volunteers.*** Players who exhibit inappropriate behavior and/or unsportsmanlike conduct towards the host, tournament staff and/or volunteers will be subject to a Championship Grievance and may receive points under the Suspension Point System.

# CAPTAIN INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Do not submit your digital lineup until ALL players are present and ready for play OR it's match time.** You will submit your lineup digitally through the USTA Georgia App or the USTA Georgia League State Championship website. You will receive an email reply to the email address you provide with a summary of your submission. We ask that you have it submitted a **minimum of fifteen (15) minutes before the scheduled match time.**
- 2.** Defaults must be made from the bottom up.
- 3.** The default time is **15** minutes.
- 4.** Substitutions, except for injury, illness, or disqualification are not allowed after the scorecard has been submitted digitally.
- 5.** Once both teams have submitted their lineups, a text message will be sent to the players involved in each individual match, as well as the captain with the names of the players and the court assignment. Once the text message is sent, the players have 10 minutes to be at the assigned court and ready to play or they will be subject to the point penalty system. **Should the player have opted out of providing their cell phone number during the registration process, it is the captain's responsibility to make sure they are at their court within the 10-minute window. The player not receiving a text because they opted out will not prevent them from being put on the clock.** The home team should pick up the can of balls at the site desk and all players should go to their assigned courts and wait for them to open.
- 6.** Warm-ups are restricted to **10** minutes. Captains should remind each of their players to adhere to the warm-up time in order to keep the tournament on schedule. All practice serves should be completed within the **10**-minute warm-up time.
- 7.** Players will have received a text message that shows the name of their opponents. However, please have your players introduce themselves and verify the position they are playing when they go on the court. **In the event that players are not playing the correct opponents, the following procedure shall be used:** If the mistake is discovered before the first game of all matches affected has been completed, players are to go to the correct courts and begin the matches over. If the discovery occurs after the first game is completed, the matches will be completed as started and count as matches played in good faith.
- 8.** The third set tiebreak is treated the same as a new set in that the serving and/or receiving order may be altered by either team.
- 9.** One player from each team should reply to the text message with the full name(s) of the player(s) of the winning team and the scores from the winner's perspective **IMMEDIATELY**. This will allow the opponents to confirm the scores.
- 10.** Once all of the individual matches are complete and the scores have been sent in via text, they will be entered into Tennislink. Captains should confirm the scores through Tennislink or by viewing the results through the Virtual Site Desk Court Assignment Page. If there is an issue, the captain can reply to the text they received for that individual match.

# **SCORING PROCEDURES**

## **USTA GEORGIA Regulation 2.03C Scoring:**

At the **USTA Georgia State Championships**, all matches will be the best of three tiebreak sets, with a match tiebreak in lieu of a third set. A **Set tiebreak** shall be used at 6-all in each of the first two sets (first players to reach seven (7) points by a margin of two). The **Match tiebreak** set shall be played (first players to reach 10 points by a margin of (2) two). 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. The scoring in the event of a default, forfeit, or disqualification shall be 6-0, 6-0. Should the format need to be altered due to unforeseen circumstances, one of the approved Alternate Scoring Formats will be used.

**USTA League Regulation, 2.03E Team Match and Scoring:** Adult 18 & Over team matches will consist of two singles and three doubles matches at the 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.0 Low and 4.5 levels. For the 2.5 & 5.0 levels, there will be one single, and two doubles matches. The team winning the majority of these matches shall 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.

## **IN THE EVENT OF A TIE**

**USTA League Regulation, 2.03H Procedures in the event of a tie:** In the event of a tie, whether in round robin or single elimination competition, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:

- 2.03H(1) Individual Matches.** Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.
- 2.03H(2) Head-to-Head.** Winner of head-to-head match.
- 2.03H(3) Sets.** Loser of the fewest number of sets.
- 2.03H(4) Games.** Loser of the fewest number of games.
- 2.03H(5) A method to be determined by the championships committee.**  
See Championship Procedures.

\*\*\*\*IN THE EVENT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER THE FORMAT OF PLAY MAY BE CHANGED AND THE SCORING CONVERSION CHART IN USTA LEAGUE TENNIS WILL BE USED TO BREAK TIES AND DETERMINE CHAMPIONS.

# DEFAULT RULE

## **Individual Defaults (Default Rule)**

Any team defaulting a court for any reason will incur a fee of \$100 per court defaulted. Teams will pay with the credit card on file for the deposit, or teams may choose to use cash and/or another credit card (additional \$4 processing fee if paid by credit card) if they choose to do so. If a team doesn't pay their fee, it will be charged to the credit card used to register for the state championship by the individual who submitted the authorization form. 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 championship, but more importantly, it affects those players who showed up ready to play, only to find their opponents did not show. Any money collected from defaults will be given to the CTA hosting the state championship in which the defaults occurred. An appeal of this fee may be made to the USTA Georgia Adult League Committee and under extreme circumstances will be considered.

## **How to determine the Best 2<sup>nd</sup> Place team(s) when a team withdraws from the tournament, or all flights do not have an equal number of teams and seeding the playoffs if all flights do not have an equal number of teams.**

When a level is going to have one or more Best 2<sup>nd</sup> Place team(s) to advance into the playoffs, this procedure is followed if a team has withdrawn from the tournament during play or all flights do not have an equal number of teams. When seeding the playoffs and all flights do not have an equal number of team, this procedure is also followed.

#1 and then percentages beginning with #2 until a winner or higher seed is determined:

- 1) Team with the least number of TEAM LOSSES.
- 2) Team with the least number of ACTUAL INDIVIDUAL LOSSES divided by the number of POSSIBLE INDIVIDUAL LOSSES.
- 3) Team with the least number of ACTUAL SETS LOST divided by the number of POSSIBLE SETS Lost.
- 4) Team with the least number of ACTUAL GAMES LOST divided by the number of POSSIBLE GAMES Lost.

If two or more teams are still tied at this point, a coin flip will determine who receives the Best 2<sup>nd</sup> Place team(s).

## CAPTAINS' INFORMATION & SITE RESPONSIBILITIES

The following includes information and responsibilities for each team captain. Please review this information carefully and relay all information to your team members!

- The captain is responsible for checking his/her team in at the site of the match. **Do not submit your digital lineup until ALL players are present and ready for play.** You will submit your lineup digitally through the USTA Georgia App or the USTA Georgia League State Championship website. You will receive an email reply to the email address you provide with a summary of your submission. A fifteen-minute default time will be strictly enforced, as will the point penalty system. Court monitors will time warm-ups and changeovers.
- **Once both teams have submitted their lineups, a text message will be sent to the players involved in each individual match, as well as the captain with the names of the players and the court assignment. Once the text message is sent, the players have 10 minutes to be at the assigned court and ready to play or they will be subject to the point penalty system. Should the player have opted out of providing their cell phone number during the registration process, it is the captain's responsibility to make sure they are at their court within the 10-minute window. The player not receiving a text because they opted out will not prevent them from being put on the clock. The home team player should pick up the can of balls at the site desk and all players should proceed directly to their assigned court. If the court is still in use from the previous time slot, the players should wait by the court until it's open. TELL YOUR PLAYERS TO INTRODUCE THEMSELVES AND GIVE THE POSITION THEY ARE PLAYING!** One player from each team should reply to the text message with the full name(s) of the player(s) of the winning team and the scores from the winner's perspective **IMMEDIATELY**. This will allow opponents to confirm the scores.
- **SCORING:** Each team will receive 1 point for each team match won. Results can be found on the Court Assignment link and/or the Results page of the state championship website. In the event of a tie, the tiebreak procedures will be total of individual matches, then head-to-head, then least sets lost, then least games lost, then see championship procedures.
- All teams are expected to play all scheduled matches! Any team not complying will be subject to grievance procedures. In accordance with USTA League Tennis Regulations, any team forfeiting an entire team match for **ANY REASON** will result in all matches of that team previously played or to be played to be declared null and void and a grievance will be filed against the entire team that is listed on the Team Information Sheet. If all teams in contention for the Championships have already played the forfeiting team in good faith, the matches stand as played.
- **Grievances:** Forms are available at each of the sites at the tournament desk. A copy of any grievance must be given to the opposing team captain by the captain of the team filing the grievance. Completed grievance forms are to be presented to the Site Director at the site of the match within 30 minutes of the completion of the team match. The committees involved will handle all Grievances as promptly as possible. Unless requested by the committee, only the captain and the player(s) involved will be permitted at any hearings.
- **NTRP Disqualification. The USTA Southern Section Regulations 2.04B(2)b Championship state: Dynamic ratings will be generated following the State and Sectional Championships. Points earned by disqualified players will stand. The disqualified player will not be eligible to advance to the next level of competition.**
- **NTRP Grievances filed after April 17, 2026, against anyone participating in the USTA Georgia Adult 18 & Over League State Championships will be administered after the State Championships unless the USTA Southern Adult League Committee Chair, Vice-Chair and Section League Coordinator authorize the administration of the grievance prior to that time. If the grievance is not administered until after the State Championships, points won by players will stand. Disqualified players and/or captains that are suspended will not be eligible to advance to the Sectional Championships.**
- Awards will be given to the champions and finalists.
- All matches will observe a 10-minute warm-up, including serves. In matches where players or teams split sets, the match tiebreak in lieu of a third set shall be played (first to ten points by a margin of two points). Play is continuous. **Coaching is not permitted at any time.**
- Medical Conditions: Medical conditions include but are not limited to injury, illness, and heat-related condition or cramping.
- Medical Time-Out: A medical time-out consists of evaluation time as determined by the referee plus a maximum of three minutes treatment time.
- Request for a medical time-out. A request for a medical time-out may be made by a player to the court monitor or at the tournament desk. During the match or warm-up, if a player suffers from a medical condition or believes that medical diagnosis or treatment is required, the player may request a one-time medical time-out for that medical condition. Subsequently, he may request another medical time-out for a **different medical condition. Only one medical time-out shall be permitted for heat-related conditions and cramping in any match, even if the heat-related condition or cramping occurs to different parts of the body.**
- Toilet visit. A player may request one or more suspensions of play for a toilet visit. No coaching shall be permitted during the suspension of play for either a medical time-out or a toilet visit.
- In the event of rain, the Site Director on site will stop play and players will be instructed what to do. **Players will not be allowed to leave the site until released by the Site Director on site.** If needed, play will continue under lights, if necessary, to keep on schedule.

# 2026 USTA Georgia League Tennis State Championships Withdrawal & Cancellation Policy

## **Tournament Withdrawal Policy**

Teams that withdraw twenty-two (22) days in advance of the start of the tournament will be reimbursed their security deposit and entry fee (minus \$2 processing fee). Teams that withdraw within twenty-one (21) days of the start of the championship and the posting of the draw will not be reimbursed their entry fee. Teams that withdraw once the draw is posted will forfeit their entry fee and security deposit. Separately, the team will be subject to a grievance filed by the Championship Committee and may receive suspension penalties imposed by the Championship Grievance Committee.

## **Tournament Cancellation Policy**

- *Round Robin Format (flighted format)*
  - Should inclement weather or other circumstances prevent the completion of the State Championship or prevent round robin matches from starting by a specific time as determined by the Championship Committee on the final day of the championship, the level/flight winners will be determined by the first of the following procedures:
    - In the event a level or flight within a level consists of multiple round robins, the first-place team will be determined by TennisLink standings at the conclusion of the most recent full round robin. If no full round robin is completed, the below-mentioned procedures would apply.
    - In the event that only one team in a round robin has a mathematical chance of finishing first, that team will be declared the winner of the round robin.
    - If more than one team has a mathematical chance of winning their round robin, and the first-place team has already beaten the other teams with a mathematical chance of winning, the 1<sup>st</sup> place team would be considered the round robin winner as the head-to-head winner.
    - If a round robin winner cannot be determined, and each team in a round robin has been given the opportunity to complete a minimum of one team match, only teams with a mathematical chance of finishing first will receive an entry into a drawing. Undefeated teams will receive a second entry into the drawing.
    - If a round robin winner cannot be determined, and each team in a round robin has not been given the opportunity to complete a minimum of one team match, each team will receive one entry into a drawing to determine the round robin winner.
- *Partial Round Robin Matches Format*
  - Should inclement weather or other circumstances prevent the completion of the State Championship or prevent un-flighted matches from starting by a specific time as determined by the Championship Committee on the final day of the championship, the winners will be determined by the first of the following procedures that does so:
    - If a minimum of 3 full partial round robin rounds have been completed by all teams, any undefeated teams will receive an entry into a drawing to determine a winner. In this instance, unfinished partial round robin rounds in fourth segment will not count.
    - In the event that only one team (after the most recent full partial round robin round) has a mathematical chance of finishing first, that team will be declared the winner.
    - If more than one team has a mathematical chance of winning, after the most recent full partial round robin round, and the first-place team has already beaten the other teams with a mathematical chance of winning, the first-place team would be considered the winner as the head-to-head winner.
    - If a winner cannot be determined, and each team has been given the opportunity to complete a minimum of one team match, only teams with a mathematical chance of finishing first will receive an entry into a drawing. Undefeated teams will receive a second entry into the drawing.

- *During Playoffs*
  - Should inclement weather or other circumstances prevent the completion of all playoff rounds during the State Championship; the following procedures will be used to determine round robin winners:
    - If cancellation occurs before or during the first round of playoffs, all group winners will receive two entries in the drawing and any best 2<sup>nd</sup> place teams will receive one entry into the drawing to determine one state champion. Team(s) that have clinched (won a majority of individual matches) in their first round of playoffs will be considered the winner of the playoff match and will also receive two entries into the drawing and the losing team(s) will be excluded from the drawing.
    - If cancellation occurs during the second round of playoffs, all teams that have not had their team match decided will receive an entry in the drawing to determine one state champion. Any winning team that has completed their second-round match will also receive one entry into the drawing and the losing team will be excluded from the drawing.
    - Once the finalists are determined, both teams will be told how the champion will be determined by the USTA Georgia Championship Committee, should cancellation occur after the finals have begun play.
    - If cancellation occurs once the finalists have been determined, but play has not begun, both teams can agree to meet at a mutual location and time to play for the state championship. A deadline will be given by the Championship Committee to complete the match. If both teams cannot agree to a mutual location and time prior to or on the deadline set forth by the Championship Committee, both teams will receive an entry in the drawing to determine one state champion. USTA Georgia will not be responsible for providing an official or for any expenses related to this match.

# SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

You will be playing your matches in conditions some of you may not be used to. The temperature and the humidity can get quite high. If you follow the suggestions below, there is no reason why you cannot have a good match and a good time.

You will lose fluid from your body through perspiration and respiration. Along with water you also lose salts. It is necessary to replenish your body with both water and salts.

1. **Do not take salt tablets.**
2. **Many players begin play dehydrated. Drink plenty of water the night prior to play. Drink one or two cups of fluid on match day prior to play.**
3. **Every player must bring a thermos with you on the court filled with water** so you can drink it between games. You may not feel thirsty but you should drink water, as you may be unaware of the amount of fluid you are losing to perspiration and respiration.
4. After your match, drink large quantities of fluids. It could be Gatorade, lemonade, iced tea with lemon, or carbonated drinks. If you prefer, dilute any of these to your own taste. Water by itself does not replace the necessary electrolytes.
5. Fresh fruits and fruit juices are an excellent source of electrolytes, with bananas and melons a particularly good source of potassium.
6. A hat and/or scarf around the neck will help reduce dehydration.
7. Take your allotted 20 seconds between points and your 90 seconds at the changeover, in addition to your two-minute set break.

Signs and symptoms of heat stroke are chills, stomach cramps, diarrhea, leg cramps, headaches and dizziness. If any of these conditions should occur, apply a cold wet towel to head and neck area, and drink fluids. If you feel faint, get into the shade and apply ice to head and chest area.

Remember, adequate and well-timed water, electrolyte, and carbohydrate intake should be priorities for any player looking to play well and safely.

## Coman Tiebreak Procedure



- Switch sides after 1<sup>st</sup> point to the deuce court.
- Then switch sides every 4 points thereafter.
- Each player serves on the side they serve from during the set.

### THE COMAN TIE-BREAK FORMAT:

The Coman tiebreak procedure is identical to the regular tiebreak procedure except that the players change ends after the first point and then after every four points, and at the conclusion of the tiebreak.

Set Tie Break: First to win 7 points by 2, wins “Game” and “Set”.

3rd set Match Tie Break: First to win 10 points by 2, wins match.

The player whose turn it is to serve shall serve the first point from the deuce court.

After the first point, the players shall change ends and the following two points shall be served by the opponent(s) (in doubles, the player of the opposing team due to serve next) starting from the ad court.

After this, each player/team shall serve alternately for two consecutive points (starting from the ad court); changing ends after every four points, until the end of the tie break game.

Switch sides after points 1,5,9,13,17..... and at the conclusion.

### Principle Advantages

Fairness – By changing ends more frequently, the effects of the elements (sun, wind, etc.) are distributed more evenly between the two opponents as opposed to playing six consecutive points before changing ends.

In doubles, the server will always serve from the same end of the court, rather than having to serve from both ends.

## **Directions to Macon Tennis Association Facilities**

**John Drew Smith Tennis Center**  
**3280 North Ingle Place**  
**Macon, GA 31210**  
**(478) 474-5075**

From I-75 take the Arkwright Exit 169. Go west to First light at Riverside Dr and take a left on to Riverside Dr. Follow Riverside Dr. until you reach an Arby's on the right and take a right on to Northside Dr. Go about 100 yards and look for the John Drew Smith Tennis Center sign. Turn left on to North Ingle Place, which dead ends at the John Drew Smith Tennis Center.

### **Directions to other Macon tennis facilities: (from John Drew Smith Tennis Center)**

**Randy Stephens Tennis Center**  
**7035 Houston Rd.**  
**Macon, GA 31216**  
**(478) 259-4792**

Take a right on to Northside Dr. Go about 100 yards and take a right on to Riverside Dr. Go about 1 ½ miles and take a Left on to I-75 S. Stay on I-75 S for 13 miles and take Exit 153, Sardis Church Road. Turn right on Sardis Church Road and follow for 2 miles. Turn right on Houston Road and the complex will be on the right.

**Stratford Academy**  
**6010 Peake Rd.**  
**Macon, GA 31210**

Take a right on to Northside Dr. Go about 100 yards and turn right on to Riverside Dr. Go 4/10 mile and turn right onto Wimbish Road. Go 1.5 miles, then take a slight left onto Forest Hill Road (Forest Hill Rd is just past North Minster Drive). Go 6/10 of a mile and turn right onto Forsyth Rd/Vineville Ave. Go 1.5 miles, and then turn left onto Tucker Road. Go 2.6 miles and turn right onto Peake Road. Go 4/10 mile, and then turn left into the Academy. You must go all the way around the school to reach the tennis courts parking.