

USTA Georgia Grievance Procedures – Adult and Junior Tournaments

A. General

1. Any grievance must be filed within 10 days of the close of the tournament. The grievance form must be completed and submitted via the [USTA Georgia Tournament Grievance Form](#) .
2. A filing fee, \$25 for Adult Tournaments/\$10 Junior Tournaments, must accompany the grievance to be considered by the committee. The fee may be paid via the [USTA Georgia Tournament Grievance Form](#). If the committee finds the grievance to be valid, the fee will be returned. If not, the fee will be retained by USTA Georgia.
3. All grievance and grievance appeal actions arising out of USTA Adult or USTA Junior League programs shall be administered according to the appropriate league regulations and is not the responsibility of this committee.

B. Preliminary Screening of Grievances

1. When a written grievance is filed charging that any player, person who is associated with that player (including but not limited to parents and coaches), official, or tournament staff member has violated any of the following:
 - a. The Constitution of USTA or Articles of USTA Southern or USTA GA Standing Orders
 - b. The Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of USTA or USTA Southern or USTA Georgia.
 - c. The standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship of USTA or USTAGA.
 - d. The Rules of Tennis.
2. The Grievance Committee Chair shall email all pertinent information to the Grievance Committee who must then determine if a violation of (a), (b), (c) or (d) has occurred. The Chair shall determine the schedule for completing this determination.
3. If the Committee makes a unanimous determination that no violation occurred, or that any alleged violation cannot be substantiated, the Chair shall notify all concerned parties via email that the grievance action has been dismissed.

C. Grievance Committee Procedures:

1. Barring a unanimous determination described in paragraph B.2 above, the Chair of the Grievance Committee shall email a copy of the complaint to the person or organization and request a written response to be furnished to the Chair within five (5) days after receipt of the email.

2. The Chair, after receipt of the response to the grievance, shall promptly fix a time and place for the committee conference. After Committee deliberation, the Grievance Committee Chair shall promptly notify all parties of the Committee's decision. The Grievance Committee shall have the power to impose any of the following penalties:
 - a. Reprimand in writing.
 - b. Place such persons(s) or organization(s) upon probation under such terms and conditions as the Committee may deem appropriate. (Violation of any of the terms of probation shall constitute grounds for the imposition of additional penalties).
 - c. Suspend such person(s) or organization(s) from participating in any tournaments or other events under the committee's jurisdiction which is sanctioned by the USTA or USTA Southern or USTA GA. In the event of an egregious act involving bodily injury or the threat thereof by the person against whom the grievance is filed, said persons may be immediately suspended from participating in any tournaments or other events sanctioned by USTA GA, pending the outcome of the grievance.
 - d. Loss of Sanction.
 - e. Impose a fine not to exceed \$1000.00.
 - f. Any combination of the above.

D. Appeals of Grievance Committee Decisions

1. Any party(s) against whom a penalty is imposed by the Grievance Committee may appeal the Committee's decision. Any appeal of a Grievance Committee decision shall be made in writing to the USTA Georgia Board of Directors within fifteen (15) days after the date of the written (emailed) notice of decision of the Grievance Committee. Absent good cause shown, appeals received after this specified time will not be accepted. Notice of appeal shall be addressed to the President of USTA GA, c/o the USTA GA Executive Director requesting review by the Board of Directors.
2. In lieu of a review by the full USTA Georgia Board of Directors. The USTA Georgia President may appoint a Special Appeal Committee of no less than three Board of Directors' members. The Board of Directors or the Special Appeal Committee shall promptly review the decision of the Grievance committee and may hear such further evidence as it, in its absolute discretion, deems appropriate. If a hearing is held, the Chair shall decide whether such hearing shall be held by conference call or in person.
3. Following this review, the Board of Directors or the Special Appeal Committee shall prepare a written decision that includes findings of fact and mail the decision to the person whom the grievance was filed, the person who filed the grievance and to such other persons as the USTA Georgia Board of Directors or the Special Appeal Committee shall deem appropriate. The Board of Directors or the Special Appeal Committee shall have the power to affirm, modify, or reject the decision of the Grievance Committee which may have the result of a harsher penalty being imposed. The decision of the Board of Directors or Special Appeal Committee shall be final and binding, except as indicated in paragraph D. 4 below.

4. Any Suspension of six months or longer imposed by the USTA Georgia Grievance Committee and upheld by the USTA Georgia Board of Directors or Special Appeal Committee, is eligible for further appeal to the USTA Grievance appeal Committee in accordance with the Bylaw 43 of the USTA.

E. Effective Date

The effective date of any grievance or appeal decision shall be the date of the email of such decision unless otherwise stated.

F. Statement of Reciprocity

It is the policy of USTA Georgia and USTA Southern to grant reciprocity for a suspension from play imposed as a result of the grievance procedures of other Districts or Sections. Upon receipt of notice by the Executive Director that a player's suspension within another District or Section has become final (i.e. all appeals have been concluded or the time for appeal has run), the suspension shall apply within the state of Georgia as if it had been imposed by the grievance procedures of USTA Georgia.