



GEORGIA

2026 USTA Georgia Tri-Level League Regulations

Play is governed by the RULES OF TENNIS; “The Code” as contained in the 2026 Friend at Court. The USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations, and the following Georgia Tri-Level Regulations. USTA Georgia will adhere to the USTA League National and/or Southern Regulations on items not mentioned in the USTA Georgia Tri-level Regulations

LOCAL COMPETITION

- I. All players participating in USTA Tri-Level League Tennis must be a current member of the USTA for the entire league season.
- II. For Tri-Level 18 & Over local leagues, players must be 18 years of age prior to registering in the USTA League program. For Tri-Level 40 & Over or 55 & Over local leagues, each player shall have reached 40 or 55 years of age prior to or during the calendar year in which such player plays in their first local league match.
- III. All teams in a local league must play a minimum of three matches. All teams must participate in the same number of round robins as every team in the flight.
- IV. All teams participating in the 2026 USTA Tri-Level League Tennis season must be registered in TennisLink by their local league registration deadline. A team shall consist of a minimum of 6 players of the same gender to be eligible to compete at a specific level of competition.
- V. Team members shall not have a higher NTRP rating than the maximum NTRP rating of the division in which they are competing, however players may play up one NTRP level. Example: a 3.5 player may play in the 4.0 position, but a 3.0 player may not play in the 2.5 position. The following divisions are available for the 2026 Championship Year.

a. 18 & Over Division, Men and Women	3.5, 3.0, 2.5
b. 18 & Over Division, Men and Women	4.0, 3.5, 3.0
c. 18 & Over Division, Men and Women	4.5, 4.0, 3.5
d. 18 & Over Division, Men and Women	5.0, 4.5, 4.0
e. 40 & Over Division, Men and Women	4.0, 3.5, 3.0
f. 40 & Over Division, Men and Women	4.5, 4.0, 3.5
g. 55 & Over Division, Men and Women	4.0, 3.5, 3.0
h. 55 & Over Division, Men and Women	4.5, 4.0, 3.5
- VI. **Invalid Matches: A majority of the individual matches must be played by the two teams to constitute a valid team match. If a team shows up without the minimum # of players required**

(4), it will be a full team default in favor of the opponents. If both teams have enough players to play the match and it's discovered after-the-fact that a majority of the matches were not played to constitute a valid team match, both captains need to come to an agreement of what lines will be played to make the team match valid. If captains cannot come to an agreement, the lowest defaulting line must play up one level. If a captain does not comply with this regulation, then it may be considered a full team default in favor of the opponents.

- VII. If a team has an invalid match or a full team default, the team may be removed from competition and the standings, along with a possible grievance being filed by the local league coordinator.
- VIII. Local leagues shall determine the procedures for rescheduling team matches including inclement weather procedures.
- IX. A player may play on multiple teams as long as they are in different divisions (see "V" above). There will be no concessions made for scheduling.
- X. A player may not be dynamically promoted based on match results from the Tri-Level program, but match results will be calculated in year-end NTRP computer ratings. A player may be dynamically promoted mid-year from play in the Adult League program.

PROGRESSION

- I. Local leagues with the following number of teams per local season may qualify to advance to the Georgia State Championship.

<u>18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over</u>	
2-5 teams	1 berth
6-10 teams	2 berths
11+ teams	3 berths
- II. Two-Team Leagues. If a local league 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. Otherwise, two team leagues in both seasons will require a flight playoff between both flight winners to determine the local league winner.
- III. Any local league divided into flights must establish playoff regulations and the format for determination of local league winners.
- IV. In the 18 & Over division, 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 for the player(s) who received the default. A retired match shall count for all players involved.
- V. In the 40 & Over and 55 & Over divisions, the same regulation applies as above, unless there is no local competition from a CTA during the championship year. If this occurs, a team may advance directly to the Tri-Level State Championship. Players advancing straight to 2026 championships must play with their 2025 year-end rating.

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

- If a player's rating is appealed down during or after the local season, the player should notify the Local League Coordinator to make update on TennisLink roster. Previous matches by the player would stand.
- If a player's rating is appealed up during or after the local season, player must immediately play at the new appealed rating. The player should notify the Local League Coordinator to update the TennisLink roster. Adjusted rating will be used for duration of championship year. Previous matches by the player would stand.
- **If the player has a Mixed, Tournament or Self-rating and receives a new self-rating that places them at a higher NTRP level at which they are competing, said player must immediately adjust to their new NTRP level.**

USTA GEORGIA TRI-LEVEL LEAGUE STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

- I. Last day for local league match play for USTA Georgia Tri-Level league is **July 5, 2026**. The league must also have at least two teams registered with the minimum number of players at least 30 days prior to this date.
- II. Participants competing in the USTA Georgia Tri-Level State Championships are required to have a current USTA membership throughout the entire event.
- III. Teams progressing to the USTA Georgia Tri-Level State Championship are determined by placement after local league play. Local leagues are expected to send their top finishers. A local league may send the next team in their local standings to represent their local league.
- IV. A \$250 team deposit form will be required of all teams at USTA Georgia Tri-Level State Championship.
- V. Teams that withdraw within twenty-one (21) days of the start of the championship or 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.
- VI. For scoring format, refer to Championship Procedures.
- VII. All tiebreaks will be played using the Coman Tiebreak Procedure.
- VIII. A team match format shall be three individual doubles matches. The team winning the majority of those three individual matches shall be awarded one point.
- IX. State Championship play shall consist of full or partial round robin(s) or single elimination matches. The use of multiple round robins or the use of partial round robin matches will require a playoff structure to establish a champion. Please refer to championship procedures for full details.

X. Defaults are not required to be “from the bottom up” unless each team is defaulting a different line. In this case, the lowest defaulting line must play up one level to make the team match legal.

XI. **Individual Defaults.** Please refer to the 2026 USTA Georgia Championship Procedures for default procedures.

XII. Match winners shall be determined by the winner of most courts and shall receive 1 point for each match win. In the event of a tie, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:

Individual Matches. Winner of the most matches in the entire competition.

Head-to-Head. Winner of the head-to-head match.

Sets. Loser of the fewest number of sets.

Games. Loser of the fewest number of games.

A method to be determined by the championship committee. Procedures to be announced prior to commencement of the championship competition.