

2026 USTA Georgia Combo Doubles State Championships 55 & Over

Captain's Packet



Important Information

When:	September 25-27, 2026
Where:	Columbus, GA
Facilities:	Cooper Creek Tennis Center (clay courts)
Captains' Registration (Check-In):	Thursday, September 24 from 6:00pm – 6:30pm at Cooper Creek Tennis Center
Captains' Conference (Zoom) Call:	Wednesday, September 23, 2025 at 7 pm (Phone number will be emailed later)
Match Format:	3 lines of doubles
Format of Play:	Round robin (partial or full) and/or single elimination matches against randomly selected opponents in all levels of competition. The use of multiple round robins or the use of un-flighted matches will require a playoff structure to establish a champion.
Number of matches per team:	Each team is guaranteed a minimum of four matches during the tournament, unless there are only 2 teams (triple round robin) or 4 teams (round robin followed by playoffs)
Awards:	Champions and Finalists will receive awards
Player Amenities:	• State Championship T-shirt (for registrations submitted by September 7th) • \$10 Meal Voucher for each player • Hospitality including ice, bananas, snacks and photo ops • "Show your badge" featuring local businesses offering discounts to tournament players



Important Information

Eligibility:

- Membership: Players must have a USTA membership valid through September 27th, 2026
- Matches Played: Combo 55 & Over is an invitational championship. Teams can compete without playing matches in a local league.
- Ratings: **Captains are responsible for checking the players' ratings on the roster.**

Important Dates:

- **August 19th** is the deadline to have **all players registered in TennisLink**. Players added to the roster after this date are ineligible to compete. NO EXCEPTIONS CAN BE MADE.
- **August 26th** is the deadline to have at least **6 players registered for the state championship**. Otherwise, the team will not be included in the schedule.
- **September 7th** is the last day to register and receive a t-shirt
- **September 24th at 6:30 pm** is the deadline for any player to register for the State Championship (must be registered in the TennisLink roster too)

Important Links:

USTA Georgia State Championships: www.ustageorgialsc.com

Player Registration: <https://form.jotform.com/USTAGeorgia/2026-combo-55-registration>

Who is Registered: <https://ustageorgia-lsc.powerappsportals.com/player-search/combo-doubles/combo-55-columbus/>

Captain Checklist

- ☐ Once you have gathered at least 6 players for your combination level, let your local league coordinator know. Create a team number and make sure your players go to TennisLink to register. **All players must be in the TennisLink roster by August 19th.**
- ☐ Your local league coordinator will submit your team information to USTA Georgia and you will receive an email to review the roster, the withdrawal and default policies and accept the team deposit fee of \$250. **Your card will not be charged.** The team deposit form is an authorization to charge the same credit card that was used for player registration in case of withdrawal or default. USTA Georgia does not place “holds” on the credit card. Team deposits must be received by September 3rd. If you are a non-playing captain and will not register for this tournament, click on “non-playing captain approval” and you will receive a separate email to forward the link to the player that will complete your team deposit form. **Your team will not be uploaded for registration until you approve it.**
- ☐ Once the team is uploaded to the [registration form](#), you and your teammates can start registering. Entry fee is \$47 per player. Registrations received after **September 7th** will not include a t-shirt.
- ☐ Make sure you have at least 6 players registered for the State Championship by **August 26th** or your team will not be included in the schedule. You can check who has registered for your team on the [player search portal](#). **IMPORTANT: player must be registered in two places: TennisLink and USTA Georgia State Championships.**
- ☐ Get ready for the tournament! Download the USTA Georgia Championships App and make sure you are setup to receive alerts. General notifications and weather-related updates will only be sent through the app.
- ☐ Tentative match schedules will be on the State Championship website by Friday, September 11th, 2026.
- ☐ **Captains' Zoom Video Call is Wednesday, September 23rd, at 7 pm.** The link will be emailed to you the week of the call.
- ☐ **Captains' Registration is Thursday, September 24th, from 6:00 until 6:30 pm** at the CORTA Office at Cooper Creek Tennis Center. You will receive a list of players registered for your team and the t-shirt sizes they ordered, along with the meal vouchers. Please make sure the sizes in the bag match the list and you have the correct number of meal vouchers. It is your responsibility to distribute them to your players.
- ☐ Email the Hotel Information Survey to Kaminski@ustageorgia.com or bring it to the captain's registration. This is important for future room block contracts and it's how our hosts get financial support from their local community.
- ☐ From the app or the Championship website, locate the links for lineup submission and the court assignment sheets. Submit a few test lineups to get familiar with the process.

Player Instructions

- ❑ We ask that all players participating in the match are on-site at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled match time. Give yourself extra time in case of traffic or an accident.
- ❑ There will NOT be any warmup courts available after 7:30 am. If you warm up on clay courts, you must drag and line the court when you are done.
- ❑ Once all players participating are on site or it's match time, the captain will submit the lineup digitally and receive an email with a copy of what they submitted.
- ❑ Once both teams have submitted their scorecards, we will combine them, and they will be available to be seen through our Virtual Site Desk Court Assignment link (State Championship website or the State Championship app)..
- ❑ Once courts are assigned, a text message will be sent to the players involved in each individual match (as well as the captains) with the names of the players and the court assignment. At this point, all players should make their way to the assigned court. The line sweepers will leave a new can of balls at your court. Players should be at their assigned court within 10 minutes, 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.**
- ❑ If the court assigned to you is in use, it's because your match was pre-assigned, and we do not have any extra courts at the moment. Stay by the court and wait for the match to be completed. Once they shake hands, you can take the court. If another court becomes available, we will text you a "change of court" message with your new court assignment.
- ❑ Prior to beginning the 10-minute warm-up, introduce yourselves to confirm the players in the text are the players on your court. The rest time for all changeovers is 90 seconds, except between sets, which is limited to two minutes.
- ❑ When the match is finished, **one player from each team should reply to the text message you received with your court assignment with the ONLY names of the players for the winning team and the scores from the winner's perspective.** (EX: Federer/Nadal won 64 64). Do not include other names or send scores from the losers' perspective (36 46) because it is confusing and it may cause scorecard errors.
- ❑ Please report scores IMMEDIATELY, as this will be the only way we know the court is available. The text will not be a group text at this point, just an individual message back to us. Used balls should be dropped in the white baskets placed by the courts.
- ❑ If there is a rain delay, players are not permitted to leave the facility 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.

Withdrawal and 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 1st 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.

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Withdrawal and Cancellation Policy

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- 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. Undeclared 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 2nd 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.

Directions to Sites

Captain's Registration and Tennis Courts: Cooper Creek Tennis Center (5050 Cooper Creek Parkway, Columbus, GA)

Traveling South on I-185, take Exit 7 (Manchester Expressway). Turn left at the light onto Manchester Expressway. Stay on Manchester Expressway until you come to the Warm Springs Road Connector Exit. Take the Warm Springs Road Connector Exit and turn right at the light. Go straight and enter Cooper Creek Park.

The check-in desk for Site A will be on the left side of the road in the Annex Building. The check-in desk for site B will be on the right side of the road at the main Cooper Creek clubhouse – the two-story building

In Case of Inclement Weather:

Directions to Country Club of Columbus (2610 Cherokee Ave., Columbus, GA 31906) (Site CCC) (706-323-0116)

At the Cooper Creek Park traffic light, turn left (west) out of the park onto Milgen Road. Stay straight and travel approximately 3.5 miles. At the CVS/Hilton Terrace Baptist Church traffic light, turn left onto Hilton Avenue. Go to the first traffic light and turn right onto Cherokee Avenue. The Country Club will be about a mile ahead on your left. (Note: Milgen Road changes names. Milgen Road = Gentian Boulevard = Warm Springs Road)

Directions to Green Island Country Club (6501 Standing Boy Road, Columbus, GA 31904) (Site GI) (706-324-1533)

At the Cooper Creek Park traffic light: Continue straight on Warm Springs Road Connector approximately ½ mile. Turn left onto Manchester Expressway. Continue west to I-185. Get on I-185 heading north. Merge onto W/US-80/22 West / J R Allen Pkwy via Exit 10 toward Phenix City AL. Take the first exit (Exit 3B) onto Bradley Park Drive and bear right and follow until the roundabout. Enter the roundabout and take a right onto Green Island Drive. Travel approximately 1 mile to Standing Boy Road and turn left. The Green Island Country Club entrance is ahead on your left.

FAQ's

1. Why do I have to listen to the captain's conference call?

On the captain's conference call we go over all the specific rules that apply for the tournament. All announcements concerning schedule changes are made at that time. The captain's call is the only way we can ensure you are informed of changes or special situations you need to know about in order to make your tournament as smooth as possible. The captain may have a representative listen to the conference call and/or attend the captain's registration.

2. How many matches does a player have to have played locally to be eligible to participate at the USTA Georgia Combo 55 & Over State Championship?

Since this is an invitational tournament, teams can compete without having a local league. In order to be eligible to compete in the Sectional Championships, players must play at least 1 match (one defaulted match counts as one match played).

3. Our team only has four players available. Will we have to default all our matches?

You must have a minimum of six players who can play all three positions, but if the Tournament Committee approves this prior to the tournament your team will be allowed to play with only 4 players for the entire tournament. These defaults would be subject to the default rule (see #4).

4. What is the Default rule for the State Championships?

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

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