

**BEAUFORT COUNTY TENNIS ASSOCIATION  
USTA LEAGUE TENNIS REGULATIONS  
2024**

**INTRODUCTION:**

0.01 The following are the regulations for the 2024 Beaufort County Tennis Association (BCTA) USTA SC Tennis League and apply to all Adult Leagues. These local leagues are hereby known as Hilton Head Tennis League (HHTL) and Bluffton Beaufort Tennis League (BBTL).

0.02 For the most part, Local League Regulations do not repeat rules and regulations found in the other documents. In those instances where a regulation is repeated, it is repeated verbatim.

A. The Local League Coordinator (LLC) and the Level Coordinators (LC) will be responsible for organizing, coordinating and supervising USTA League Tennis activities at the local level.

B. Advisory Committee - The Advisory Committee, consisting of the LLC and LCs, shall interpret the BCTA Local League rules, regulations and procedures.

0.03 USTA League Tennis, Southern Sectional and South Carolina State Regulations take precedence over the BCTA Local League Regulations except where local league rules may be further defined.

**1.02 GOVERNANCE.** The USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS shall apply to the USTA League Program (USTA League). THE FRIEND AT COURT - The USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations, including Wheelchair Rules of Tennis, shall apply to all matches played in USTA League except as modified herein. In all matches played without officials, the USTA official publication, THE CODE, shall be observed.

**1.04B ADMINISTRATION.**

**1.04B(3)c Local League Coordinators.** Each Local League shall have a Local League Coordinator to implement and administer the USTA League. The USTA SC local league coordinator(s) will be approved and/or retained on a yearly basis by the District League Coordinator (DLC).

The following person has been appointed to implement and administer the BCTA USTA League Tennis Program. Jackie Reynecke, 96 Mathews Dr. Unit 107, Hilton Head, SC 29926. Phone (843)290-3262. Email: [Jreynecke58@gmail.com](mailto:Jreynecke58@gmail.com).

**1.04B(4) TEAM CAPTAIN.** Each team shall appoint a team captain and can appoint a co-captain to handle administrative affairs and to represent the team in league matters. It is recommended that the team captain be a playing member of the team, but it is not required. The team captain, co-captain or an acting captain must be present at every match. An individual may not captain more than one team in the same age group and NTRP level in Adult Leagues. Club teaching pros, head pros, and directors of tennis will not be assigned as a captain of any team, other than a team which they are an eligible registered player. The assigned captain is solely responsible for all matters related to the team and will be the first and main point of contact for all team related issues.

**1.04 D (1) Geographic Areas.** Local League regulations must specify geographic areas for league play. HHTL incorporates zip codes of 29915, 29926 and 29928. BBTL incorporates zip codes of 29909, 29910, 29901, 29907, 29920, 29940 and all surrounding areas.

**1.04D USTA LEAGUE REGISTRATION.** Rosters must be entered in TennisLink before league play begins. Players may not move to a different team once match play has begun for that level, unless approved by the DLC. Local leagues will set deadlines for registering players and for adding players to rosters. Players may not be added to a team roster during local league flight playoffs or at any championship.

The DLC will inform Local Leagues of add-on deadlines for State Championships when teams are playing their local league at the state tournament. Only the LLC has the authority to change deadline dates in TennisLink.

**1.04D(1) LOCAL LEAGUE SEASON.** The season for the BCTA local league shall be from January 29, 2024 through April 28, 2024 for the 55 and 70 & Over League and February 17, 2024 through May 12, 2024 for the 40 & Over League and February 17, 2024 through May 19, 2024 for the 18 & Over League. These end dates include local playoffs.

**1.04D(2) NUMBER OF TEAMS.** The BCTA USTA Tennis League shall consist of a minimum of two teams in a specific level of competition or division. In order to accommodate scheduling considerations, there may be two or more flights or an unflighted match format used within a division. The decision to establish flights will be made by the LC of that division in consultation with the LLC. The makeup of the flight or flights will be the result of either a random selection or on the basis of the previous year standings, as determined by the LC.

**1.04D(3). REGISTRATION.** Teams will register for play in the BCTA USTA Spring League program by entering their minimum roster required in TennisLink no later than January 15, 2024 for 55 and 70 & Over leagues and February 9, 2024 for 18 and 40 & Over. No new teams may be registered after this date without the approval of the LLC. Players may be added to the roster before and up to the last two matches published in the TennisLink schedule. These dates may vary from age division and levels. An eligible player may register in advance and up to the scheduled match time to be considered eligible for play. If the player does play in a match and is not on the roster before match play begins, the individual match will be considered a default. To be listed on a roster, a player must be (a) a paid-up member of USTA through June 10, 2024 (b) pay \$20.15 through TennisLink. This registration fee is non-refundable unless otherwise determined by the LLC and will exclude the \$3.15 TennisLink fee. (The \$20.15 fee is split as follows: \$3.15 for TennisLink operations; \$6.00 to USTA SC to support league tennis operations in South Carolina; and \$11.00 to the local CTA (Community Tennis Association) known as TAHHI, for membership and to support league tennis operations, community development programs and funding local grant requests in the local league.)

**1.04D(4) TEAM.**

- 1) An 18 & Over Adult 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 team shall consist of a minimum of 8 players of the same sex eligible to compete at a specific level of competition. An Adult 18 & Over 2.5, 5.0 team shall consist of a minimum of 5 players of the same sex, eligible to compete at a specific level of competition. Maximum roster is 18 players with no more than 40% below level.
- 2) 40 & Over Adult 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 & 4.5 teams shall consist of a minimum of 9 players of the same sex eligible to compete at a specific level of competition. Maximum roster is 18 players with no more than 40% below level of the total roster. Rounding up is allowed at .5. Adult 40 & Over 2.5 teams shall consist of a minimum of 5 players. Maximum roster is 18 players same sex eligible to compete at a specific level of competition.
- 3) An adult 55 & Over team, 65 & Over, and 70 & Over team shall consist of a minimum of 6 players of the same sex eligible to compete at a specific level of competition. Maximum roster for all 55, 65, and 70 & Over teams is 18 players with no more than 40% below level of total roster. Rounding up is at .5. Teams playing in League Types that will use combined NTRP rating levels are exempt from this compliance.

The local league LC with approval of the LLC may increase the percentage of lower rated players, on a case by case basis on a specific team, should it be deemed necessary to promote any aspect of league play.

**1.04D (6) Number of Teams.** When a Local League does not have the required number of Teams, (two teams) for Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over, Adult 65 & Over and Adult 70 & Over, to constitute a level, the affected Local League Coordinators, shall either:

- 1) Offer to move that team to another age division offered in that area in that particular level, if applicable.
- 2) Move individual players to another team in that area, if applicable, or move them to an "Extra Players" flight to hold for future play in other leagues, i.e. Mixed, Combo, etc. in the 2024 calendar year.

- 3) The DLC may move a singleton team to another area's league tree only if it is agreed upon by both local league coordinators and accomplished before that recipient area's deadline.
- 4) Complete teams that are moved to play in a local league area other than their home local league must secure home courts in that local league they choose to participate in unless both local league coordinators agree on something different.
- 5) If one singleton team is moved into an already existing league of at least 2 teams, then that singleton team must secure home courts in that host local league where they have been moved and if that singleton team wins that league, they will represent that host league at the State Championship.
  - The singleton team must follow all rules and regulations of the host league.
  - The host league is responsible for all awards, state championship fees (if applicable) and state registration for that team.
- 6) If Local league coordinators agree to combine singleton teams in order to form a league for those teams to qualify, the winning team from that singleton league will be allowed to represent the Local League where they initially registered.
  - Rules and regulation issues that occur during the singleton team league play will be handled by the State League Coordinator in consultation with the Local League coordinators that are involved.
  - The area that is represented by the winning team will be responsible for all awards, state championship fees (if applicable) and state championship registration for that team.
- 7) Refund all or a portion of the registration fee in accordance with the Local League policy

**1.04E(1)** South Carolina will have no residency requirements for local league play.

**1.04E(3)** Players must reach the age of 18 PRIOR to participating in any USTA league.

**1.04F(1)** 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 complete the self-rating process on TennisLink when registering for a team. Failure to do so or omission of information regarding a player's history will subject the player, the captain and/or others who condoned inaccurate self-rating to sanctions and disqualifications.

**1.04G PLAYER PARTICIPATION.** (a) During the South Carolina Local League Season, a player may play on more than one NTRP level in Adult divisions in the same Local League during the same season. (b) A player may play at the same NTRP level in the same division on teams in separate Local Leagues in South Carolina during the same season.

**1.04G(6)** Players who qualify for SC Adult Championships may advance on more than one team within an Age Group only if they are different NTRP levels (ie. Player can play on an Adult 18 & over 3.5 and 4.0 team) but with no schedule accommodations.

## **2.01 LOCAL LEAGUE COMPETITION**

### **2.01A Levels offered for Men and Women**

Adult 18 & Over: 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0

Adult 40 & Over: 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5

Adult 55 & Over: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0

Adult 65 & Over: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0

Adult 70 & Over: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0

**Court Facilities.** Each team participating in the BCTA Local League must guarantee the use of three courts for Adult 18 and 40 & Over and two courts for the Adult 55, 65 and 70 & Over at one location for all regularly scheduled and make-up matches. Any approved USTA surface is permissible, including indoor and outdoor (hard or clay) surfaces. Due to weather or maintenance issues, it may be necessary for more than one surface to be used for a single team match. The home team must identify which individual matches will be played on which surface prior to either team turning in the line-up for that day's play. The

home team is responsible to have courts available and playable at match time.

**2.01(C) COMPETITION FORMAT.** Each division shall consist of one or more flights. Each flight in each division shall play at least one round robin with each team playing a minimum of 3 matches. There are no playoffs in a division with a single flight. If there are two or more flights in a division or an unflighted match format used, the playoff format will depend upon the number of teams from the HHI league that will participate in the SC State Championships and the time available for additional playoff matches.

For all divisions having playoff matches, all captains of the affected divisions will be informed of the dates and format no later than the last date for player registration in their respective leagues. In effect, before the last two matches published in TennisLink.

**TEAM MATCH AND SCORING.** Adult 18 & Over will play 2 singles and 3 doubles. Adult 40 & Over League Type will play 1 singles and 3 doubles, with the exception of the 18 & Over 2.5, 5.0 divisions and 40 & Over 2.5. Those divisions will play 1 singles and 2 doubles. Adult 55, 65, and 70 & Over will play 3 doubles. The team standings as recorded in TennisLink will be used to determine the individual flight winners. In the event of a tie, the following procedures will be followed on the local league level:

1. Team Wins
2. Individual Matches
3. Head-to-Head
4. Fewest Sets Lost
5. Fewest Games lost
6. Game Winning Percentage: Total games won divided by total games played.
7. Team winning the #1 Doubles position. This is only used in the 40 & Over division where there is a tie through "Game Winning Percentage".

If a local league has a playoff, it will defer to championship procedures in the event of a tie.

**RECORDING AND REPORTING SCORES.** The home team will enter the scores on match day. The visiting captain must confirm the scores by noon the next day. If the home captain does not report the scores by that time, the visiting captain should do so and then the home captain will confirm. If match scores are not entered within 24 hours, the home captain will be warned and delay up to 48 hours could result in the captains being sanctioned by the LLC. If the score is not confirmed by 48 hours of being entered, TennisLink will confirm and the scores will be considered correct and there will be no grounds for dispute. It is strongly recommended that the two captains compare notes at the end of the match in order to decrease the probability of an erroneous score being entered into TennisLink.

**SCORING AND REST.** Matches will be 2 sets with the third set being a match tie break (first team to win at least 10 points and with at least a two-point margin over the opponent). The Coman Tie-Break format will be used. There will be a two-minute break at the end of each set. There will be a changeover, but no break, at the end of the first game of each set. There is no coaching allowed in this format.

**TEAM LINEUPS.** The team captains shall exchange their lineups in writing simultaneously no later than the scheduled start time. Captains should print out scorecards that indicate all eligible players from both teams up to the time the card is printed. Additional eligible players can be confirmed on TennisLink prior to or at match time. No substitution may be made in an individual match after the lineup has been presented, except for injury to, illness, disqualification or no-show of a player. In the event of any of those situations a team may substitute a player in the affected position within the 15-minute default time, using a player not already listed on the lineup. If no substitution can be made, the affected position will be defaulted.

**STARTING MATCH PLAY.** All individual matches will begin (the first serve is made) within 15 minutes of the scheduled start time. All warm-ups, including service, must be concluded prior to fifteen minutes after the scheduled start time. (EXCEPTION: All players will be allowed a five-minute warm up if substituted into an affected position, even if this means starting after the mandatory start time.)

**DEFAULTS.** A default occurs when a team captain knows he/she cannot field all positions for a team match. Defaults must be given “from the bottom” - No. 2 singles must be defaulted before No. 1 singles. No. 3 doubles must be defaulted before No. 2 doubles. To receive a win by a given default at match time, the non-defaulting player(s) must be present on court, ready to play. If the default is known and given in advance of the teams assembling for the match, in consideration of the players time and travel, opposing players do not need to be present on court at match time to receive the default. If both teams default the same position, neither team will receive a win and the scorecard will indicate a dual default. If an Adult team defaults more than 20% of scheduled individual matches, during the season, the LC and LLC will have the discretion to sanction the team which could remove the team from league play.

**2.01C(5) If a team defaults an entire match.** A ‘team default’ occurs when a team defaults 3 or more individual matches in a 5-court team match, defaults 2 or more in a 4-court team match, or defaults 2 or more individual matches in a 3-court team match. If a team commits a team default for any reason during round robin play, all matches for the defaulting team already played or to be 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. Teams that default an entire match are expected to play the remainder of their schedule. A grievance could be filed against a team that is assessed a team default.

If a team is in jeopardy of a match default, the LC and LLC must be notified immediately and if needed will jointly mediate for the team to avoid a team default. In the event of a team default, the captain and players are subject to sanctions, among which could include ineligibility in the current season and subsequent leagues.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER.** It is the responsibility of the home captain to determine if weather conditions warrant the postponement of a regular season team match. If teams have assembled, having started or waiting to start play, they should be prepared to wait a reasonable amount of time up to one hour to determine if the courts are playable unless the facility has closed the courts. If match play has not begun (scorecards not exchanged) the match will be played on the scheduled make-up date, or if both captains agree, an alternate date with the approval of the LC. Friday is the scheduled makeup day for all weekday teams.

Weekend teams will have the option of a makeup any day/evening of the following week. However, any alternate makeup date will not be later than the next published scheduled match unless alternative arrangements have been approved by the LC. Team lineups on the makeup date do not have to be the same as they were on the scheduled match date. If match play has begun for all positions (first serve put into play), completed matches will stand as played and incomplete matches must resume with the same players at the exact set, game and point score as when play was halted. The incomplete matches do not have to play at the same date and time, but can be arranged by the individuals involved in each of the individual matches. The decision when individual matches will be resumed must be made in 24 hours and the matches played before the next published scheduled match, unless the LC approves an alternative option. If the captains and/or players cannot agree on a makeup date, then matches will be played on the scheduled rain day or an alternate date as decided by the LC. In the event of a double rainout, the LC will determine the makeup dates working with the captains or individual players as needed. In order to avoid a reschedule, if the home team’s courts are not playable, captains may agree to move the match to either the visitor’s or a neutral facility. The original home team will incur any court/guest fees, if applicable, if play moves to the visitor’s courts. If a neutral site is used both teams will split the court costs. The original home team will be responsible for match balls. The LC and LLC will resolve problems concerning scheduling and approve any changes. Local League matches may be postponed under the following conditions: unsafe court conditions (including lightning). Home teams are responsible for seeing that courts are playable and free of debris or any other potentially dangerous conditions. In extreme weather conditions, such as high winds and severe cold, both captains must agree to reschedule the match (unless the facility has closed the courts for these reasons) and the LC must be notified immediately of any changes.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER – PLAYOFFS.** During playoffs, it is the responsibility of the LC to decide when a match must be postponed due to inclement weather. There is no maximum wait time, but it is the discretion of the LC to decide when players are released. Make up time and dates for postponed matches will be determined by the LC and all will recommence at the same time. Every effort will be made to play the makeup no later than the next day.

### **2.03. AREA, SECTIONAL, NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS.**

**2.03A(2) Eligibility.** Players must have played in at least two local league matches in order to participate in the state level championships in the 18 & Over, 40 & Over & 55 & Over age groups. A player must play in at least one Local League match in order to qualify to play at the USTA SC 65 & Over and 70 & Over State Championship (a default received counts towards advancement). **Local League Playoffs are considered Championships. Minimum match requirements MUST be met before playoffs start.**

### **2.04 LEAGUE NTRP DISQUALIFICATION AND APPEAL PROCEDURES**

**NTRP Disqualification Procedures.** During local league competition and at every level of championship competition below national championships, computer ratings will be calculated for all players to determine if players have reached the disqualification criteria using the USTA NTRP Computer Methodology Procedures. Players with year-end computer “C” ratings are not subject to dynamic NTRP disqualification unless they have an appealed “C” rating. All other players can be NTRP disqualified if they reach the disqualification level three (3) times based on all matches reported in the national database for Adult divisions.

**2.04A(1) Local League NTRP Disqualification.** Any player that reaches the NTRP disqualification level three times shall be disqualified and will not progress to championship competition at that level of play. These players will be immediately notified and have the right to appeal in accordance with procedures in 3.04 of the USTA League Tennis Regulations.

**2.04B NTRP APPEAL PROCEDURES.** If the player or team captain of a player disqualified in the local league season desires to appeal the NTRP disqualification, he/she must file an appeal, in writing, to the Southern Tennis Association within 48 hours of notification.

### **3.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

#### **3.01A Appointees to the State Grievance and Appeal Committee:**

#### **USTA South Carolina Local League Grievance and Grievance Appeals Committee – 2024**

**James Teal – Co-Chair Grievance Committee**  
**Scott Zobrist – Co-Chair Grievance Committee**  
**Debby Bosselman – Chair – Grievance Appeals Committee**

#### **Local League Representatives**

**Jeannette Hammers (AATL)**  
**Jonathan Watkins (BBTL)**  
**Toni Odom (CTL)**  
**Malinda Griffin (FTA)**  
**Abby Martin (GATA)**  
**Susie Honeycutt (GSTL)**  
**Sue Cook (HHTL)**  
**Thea Salmonson (LATA)**  
**Art Welling (LCTA)**  
**Becky Williamson (LCTA)**  
**Chris Jones (LCTA)**  
**Stephanie Stanton (MCTL)**  
**Kim Northcutt (PD)**

Frank Thompson (SATL)  
Terri Errington (UPTA)

As circumstances dictate, the appointee is interchangeable with area LCs.

**A \$100 filing fee would be required for all General/Sportsmanship, Championship and/or Administrative Grievances that are heard at the SC level. The filing fee will only be returned to the grieving party if the grievance is upheld.**

**3.02A GRIEVANCES COMPLAINTS.** Grievance complaints may be filed not only for infractions of regulations but also for failing to abide by good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship.

**3.02B NTRP GRIEVANCES.** NTRP grievances shall come under the jurisdiction of the Section Grievance and Grievance Appeals Committees. Grievance complaints will be sent to the District League Coordinator to be forwarded to the Section Grievance Committee.

**3.02C LOCAL LEAGUE PROCEDURES.** All complaints alleging a violation by an individual or team during local league competition shall be filed in writing with the LLC or designee having jurisdiction. The complaint must be filed prior to the commencement of the next team match in that flight involving such individual or team, or within twenty-four hours after the end of local league play, whichever occurs first.

**2.02B(d) South Carolina Adult Championship Dates for 2024**

May 16-18	Adult 70 & Over, TBD
May 18-20	Adult 55 & Over, TBD
June 1-3	Adult 40 & Over, Florence
June 7-9	Adult 18 & Over, Aiken – Levels 4.0, 4.5, 5.0, Open
June 8-10	Adult 18 & Over, Aiken - Levels 2.5, 3.0, 3.5
August 24-26	Mixed Doubles 55 & Over and 65 & Over, Lexington
August 23-25	Mixed Doubles 18 & Over, 40 & Over, Lexington
September 7-9	Tri-Level, TBD
September 21-23	Singles 18 & Over and 40 & Over, Aiken
October 11-13	Adult 75 & Over Invitational, TBD
October 12-14	Adult 65 & Over, TBD
November 2-4	Combo Doubles 55 & Over and 65 & Over, Aiken
October 25-27	Combo Doubles 40 & Over, Florence
October 26-28	Combo Doubles 18 & Over, Florence

Contact Information:

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