

BEAUFORT COUNTY TENNIS ASSOCIATION
USTA LEAGUE TENNIS REGULATIONS
Spring
2026

INTRODUCTION:

0.01 The following are the regulations for the 2026 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.

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 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 and BBTL leagues both incorporate zip codes of 29915, 29926 and 29928, 29909, 29910, 29901, 29907, 29920, 29940 and approved 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 26, 2026 through April 26, 2026 for the 55 and 70 & Over League, January 26, 2026 through May 10, 2026 for the 40 & Over League and January 26, 2026 through May 24, 2026 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 11, 2026 for 55 and 70 & Over leagues and 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 16, 2026 (b) pay \$22.15 through TennisLink. This registration fee is non-refundable unless otherwise determined by the LLC and will exclude the \$3.15 TennisLink fee. (The \$22.15 fee is split as follows: \$3.15 for TennisLink operations; \$9.00 to USTA SC to support league tennis operations in South Carolina; and \$10.00 to the local Community Tennis Association) known as BCTA, 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. The maximum roster is 20 players with no more than 40% below level. Rounding up is allowed at .5.
- 2) An Adult 18 & Over 2.5 or 5.0 team shall consist of a minimum of 5 players of the same sex eligible to compete at a specific level of competition. The maximum roster is 18 with no more than 40% below level. Rounding up is allowed at .5.
- 3) 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. The maximum roster is 20 players with no more than 40% below level. Rounding up is allowed at .5.
- 4) Adult 40 & Over 2.5 teams shall consist of a minimum of 5 players of the same sex eligible to compete at a specific level of competition. The maximum roster is 18 players with no more than 40% below level. Rounding up is allowed at .5.
- 5) 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. The maximum roster level is 18 players with no more than 40% below level. 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 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 2026 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 and **not obligated to provide courts for warmup prior to the scheduled 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 BCTA 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. The exception is the 18 & Over 2.5 & 5.0 divisions which play 1 singles and 2 doubles. Adult 40 & Over League Type will play 1 singles and 3 doubles **only in local league play and format will increase to 1 singles and 4 doubles at all championships. The 40 & Over 2.5 locally will play 3 doubles and format will change to 1 singles and 2 doubles at championships.** 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 should enter the scores on match day. The visiting captain should 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 the home captain should confirm. If the score is not confirmed by 48 hours of being entered, TennisLink will confirm and the scores will be considered correct. 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. If no substitution can be made, the affected position will be defaulted.

MATCH ATTENDANCE & DEFAULTS: Matches will be defaulted 15 minutes after the scheduled start time (or as soon as a court is open, if later). Warm-up is capped at 10 minutes. (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.

INCLEMENT WEATHER. It is the responsibility of the home captain and/or the home court facility 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.

For weekday or weekend teams, matches will be made up by the end of a two week deadline determined from the original published date of the match. Individual courts within the match may be split with the agreement of the players involved or the captains. Lineups and players may be changed if play had not started (first serve put into play). If needed a coordinator can facilitate the exchange of lineups and player contact information that the two captains have compiled.

If teams do not finish the make-up matches within the two week deadline, the coordinator will book the match or unplayed individual courts for completion and any players or teams who do not show to play will be defaulted. For weekday matches, the coordinator appointed makeup date will be the first Friday after the two week deadline. For weekend matches the coordinator makeup date will be the first Monday, day or evening, after the two week deadline. The only exception to this timeline will be for the last published scheduled match. If the match is held less than two weeks from the state mandated deadline, the two teams will only have those remaining days to finish.

Team lineups on the makeup date do not have to be the same as they were on the scheduled match date as long as the court(s) did not actually start the match (first serve put into play). If match play has begun, 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.

In the event of a makeup that is booked by the coordinator is also rained out/canceled, the LC and LLC will determine the makeup dates.

To avoid unnecessary reschedules, if one of the captains is able to obtain courts at a different facility with playable courts, teams should be flexible and play the match. The original home team will incur any court/guest fees, if applicable, if play moves to the visitor's courts. If teams have multiple matches against each other they can agree to "swap" home dates. If a neutral site is used both teams will split the court costs. The original home team will be responsible for match balls.

If the scheduled facility has closed the courts for any weather related issue, or an alternative site has been secured, or a reschedule is the outcome, 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 – 2026
James Teal – Co-Chair Grievance Committee
Scott Zobrist – Co-Chair Grievance Committee
Debby Bosselman – Chair – Grievance Appeals Committee

Local League Representatives

(AATL)
Jonathan Watkins (BBTL)
Toni Odom (CTL)

Lauren Demosthenes (FTA)
Abby Martin (GATA)
Jessica Holmes (GSTL)
Sue Cook (HHTL)
Thea Salmonson (LATA)
Art Welling (LCTA)
Becky Williamson (LCTA)
Chris Jones (LCTA)
Stephanie Stanton (MCTL)
Linda Freeman (PD)
Frank Thompson (SATL)
Terry Kent (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 2026

May 14-16	Adult 70 & Over, Hilton Head
May 16-18	Adult 55 & Over, Hilton Head
May 30-June 1	Adult 40 & Over, Florence
June 12-14	Adult 18 & Over, Aiken – Levels 4.0, 4.5, 5.0, Aiken
June 13-15	Adult 18 & Over, Aiken - Levels 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, Aiken
August 22-14	Mixed Doubles 55 & Over and 65 & Over, Lexington
August 21-23	Mixed Doubles 18 & Over, 40 & Over, Lexington
September 18-20	Tri-Level, Sumter
December 4-6	Singles, Aiken
October 9-11	75 & Over Invitational, Hilton Head
October 10-12	65 & Over, Hilton Head
October 23-25	Combo Doubles 55 & Over, Aiken
October 24-26	Combo Doubles 18 & Over, Aiken
November 7-9	Combo Doubles Adult 40 & 65 & Over, Florence

Contact Information:

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