

Columbus Regional Tennis Association

USTA League Regulations

ADULT LEAGUE

18 & Over/40 & Over/55 & Over/65 & Over

I. REGULATIONS

The Local League shall observe USTA League Tennis National, Southern and Georgia Regulations as published. Any modifications of these rules pertaining specifically to the Columbus League will be published herein.

II. ELIGIBILITY

A. Players

1. Players must be 18 years of age prior to participating in the USTA League program. Each player over the age of 18 shall have reached the required minimum age prior to or during the calendar year in which such player participates in his/her first local league. {USTA National 1.04E(3)}
2. Players may play at or above the level of their current computer rating or self-rating. A player may play up to one NTRP level above the player's current NTRP level. {USTA National 1.04G(5)}
3. CORTA authorizes participation in more than one NTRP level within a division in the same local league during the same season. A player may play on multiple NTRP level teams during the same season.
4. **Player Agreement.** All players participating in the CORTA League, as a condition of said participation, agree to abide and be bound by the CORTA Bylaws; the CORTA League Regulations; the CORTA Code of Conduct; and the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship.
5. **Waiver of Claims.** Players participating in the CORTA League acknowledge the risks associated with playing competitive tennis, accept those risk voluntarily, and in consideration of their acceptance in the USTA League Program, assume all risks for bodily injury, waive all claims for injury and property damage and release and hold harmless the USTA and the host facility, their officials, employees and agents with respect to any injury or loss caused by negligence or otherwise to the fullest extent permitted by law.

B. Teams

1. **Team Definition.** A team is defined by the captain's and/or co-captain's last name.
2. **Team Minimum.** Teams must have a minimum number of eligible players of the same gender to compete at a specific level of competition on the roster by the posted deadline to form team date, unless otherwise allowed by the league coordinator. Unless otherwise determined by the league coordinator the minimum shall be as follows:
 - a. 18 & Over: 2.5 and 5.0 levels shall be five (5).
 - b. 18 & Over: 3.0 - 4.5 levels shall be eight (8).
 - c. 40 & Over: 2.5 level shall be six (6).
 - d. 40 & Over: 3.0 - 4.5 levels shall be seven (7).
 - e. 55 & Over: 3.0 - 4.0, 9.0 combined levels shall be six (6).
 - f. 65 & Over: 3.0 - 4.0, 9.0 combined levels shall be six (6).
3. **Format of Play.** Unless otherwise determined by the league coordinator the match format shall be as follows:
 - a. 18 & Over: 2.0, 2.5 and 5.0 levels shall be one (1) singles position and two (2) doubles positions.
 - b. 18 & Over: 3.0 - 4.5 levels shall be two (2) singles position and three (3) doubles positions.
 - c. 40 & Over: 2.5 level shall be three (3) doubles positions. [Comment: This is a non-advancing level.]
 - d. 40 & Over: 3.0 - 4.5 levels shall be one (1) singles position and three (3) doubles positions. {USTA 1.04A}
 - e. 55 & Over: 3.0 - 4.0, and 9.0 Combined levels shall be three (3) doubles positions.
 - f. 65 & Over: 3.0 - 4.0, and 9.0 Combined levels shall be three (3) doubles positions.
4. **Percentage of Players at NTRP Team Level.** Teams must maintain a minimum of 50% of players on a team roster that are at the specified NTRP team level of play. Exceptions may be made for levels that do not have enough qualified players to participate in a league, or at the discretion of the League Coordinator. There is no percentage minimum for the 4.0L level since this level is only offered in Georgia and doesn't advance past state championships.
6. **NTRP Range.** The NTRP difference between members of an individual doubles team may not exceed 1.0. {USTA National 2.01A(3)}
7. **Player Addition.** A player(s) may be added to a team roster prior to the last match of the season (round robin play). However, remember that any player participating in a local playoff match or advancing to the State Championships and beyond must meet minimum match play eligibility requirements.
8. **Player Deletion.** No player may be dropped from a team roster after the deadline set by the League Coordinator.
 - a. A player may request to be deleted from a roster only if he/she has not been listed in a team lineup. The request must be submitted in writing and signed by the player requesting to be deleted from the team roster. Players dropped from a roster prior to the deadline to drop will receive a partial refund.

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9. **Team Creation Deadline.** All teams must be published by the deadline set by the League Coordinator.
- Qualifying teams may be formed after the deadline only if there has been no local league competition in the first season of the league year. No qualifying teams may be formed during the first season of the league year. [Comment: Qualifying teams may be formed to play against teams requiring qualification that do not have opponents to play. The team requiring qualification must pay the TennisLink user fee for the qualifying players. No balls will be provided, and no awards presented.]
 - The league must also have at least two teams registered with the minimum number of players at least 30 days prior to the dates below: {USTA Georgia 1.04D(3)b}
 - Adult 18 & Over – **April 9, 2023**
 - Adult 40 & Over – **May 7, 2023**
 - Adult 55 & Over – **May 14, 2023**
 - Mixed 18 & Over and 40 & Over – **August 13, 2023**
 - Adult 65 & Over – **September 10, 2023**
- C. **Facility**
- Facilities approved for league play include those with a minimum of four courts at one site, similar surface (hard or clay).
 - Facilities must have a working restroom, and an on-site telephone (may be cellular).
 - Facilities must be located within the “playing area” defined as Muscogee, Harris, and Chattahoochee counties in GA; and Russell and Lee counties in AL, **and** within 30 miles of the CORTA office, 5050 Cooper Creek Parkway, Columbus, GA 31907. The following sites have been grandfathered in: Buena Vista Lawn Tennis Association, Callaway Gardens, Auburn-Samford Avenue, Auburn-Yarborough Tennis Center, and Opelika Tennis Center. Levels that do not have enough local teams (2 or less) to play will be considered on an individual basis for play at other facilities. (Example 4.5/5.0 women and men)

III. TEAM CAPTAIN

- Duties.** The team captain shall handle the administrative affairs and represent the team in USTA League Tennis Program matters. Team captain shall be responsible for submitting all requested information by published deadlines, including all applicable fees.
- Eligibility.** The team captain or co-captain must be a registered member of the team. A team captain is not required to be a registered member of the team but must have a co-captain who is a registered member.
- Team Name.** The team captain must register the team using the captain’s last name, followed by the co-captain’s last name, followed by the home court abbreviation. (ex. McEnroe/Connors-CC) [Comment: Teams playing out of Cooper Creek will need to declare its home courts as either clay or hard-court surfaces and matches will be played according to that designation. (ex. Williams-CCH for hard courts team designation)]
- Rule Familiarity.** It is the captain’s responsibility to have each team member thoroughly read and understand current USTA League Tennis National, Southern, Georgia and CORTA Regulations.
- Email.** The team captain **must** provide a current email address to the League Coordinator for correspondence.
- Court Fees.** **The team captain or acting captain will be responsible insuring their team’s court fees are paid at any facility prior to match completion**
- Absence.** If the team captain is unable to perform duties, he/she should appoint an acting captain to fulfill duties.

IV. MATCH DAY

- Captain.** Each team must have a captain or acting captain present at the beginning of each team match.
- Printed Scorecard.** The team captain should print a scorecard from TennisLink before each match to use for lineup exchange. [Comment: All eligible players will be listed at the bottom of each scorecard; therefore, if you have additions, printing the scorecards before each match will avoid confusion with the opposing team.]
- Lineup Exchange.** The team captain must exchange written lineups prior to the scheduled match time. Complete written lineups must be simultaneously exchanged. If the captain will not be present, they should send the written lineup with a designated team representative. [Comment: If Team A will not provide a written lineup within the default time, Team B may claim a default of the positions that were eligible to begin play. The remaining positions may play provided a written line up has been exchanged.]
 - If a captain is missing a player, but in good faith believes the player will arrive before the fifteen (15) minute default time, the **scorecards/lineups must be exchanged at the scheduled time.**
 - If a team knowingly begins a team match without a full complement of players for the lineup (e.g. six players rather than eight) they must forfeit from the bottom. For example, a team with six (6) players could either forfeit #3 doubles or both singles. The captain may choose whether to forfeit singles, doubles or a mixture. However, in each of the doubles and singles, the lowest position must be forfeited first
 - Teams defaulting a match, other than from the lowest position, may have one individual point deducted from the final standings for each position forfeited.

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4. Once the teams exchange lineups no movement of players is allowed. **Never move players already listed on the lineup to another position except in these cases:**
 - a. Two (2) players will play together in the higher position when both of their partners do not show in order to avoid two (2) defaults.
 - b. In the event that inclement weather forces the cancellation and rescheduling of a team match, unrestricted substitutions from the team roster may be made in any individual matches that have not begun. This includes moving a player from one position to another. Points awarded for forfeits during the original written lineup exchange will stand. All players involved in such forfeits cannot participate in the rescheduled match. Forfeits offered verbally prior to the original written lineup exchange are nullified when the match is rescheduled due to inclement weather.
 - c. For each team match, a majority of the individual matches must actually be played to constitute a valid team match. Each team must have the minimum number of players available to play the majority of individual matches. If one team does not have the minimum number of players, the opposing team will be credited with a total team default and will win each individual match 6-0 6-0. If neither team has the required minimum number of players, the match shall be scored as a double team default, and neither team will receive credit for a win. In the case of a team default or double team default any individual matches actually played will count only for NTRP ratings and eligibility for advancement and cannot count for determining standings.

If both teams have the minimum number of players available to play, but the combination of individual defaults by the two teams would result in the majority of matches not being played, the teams must follow the procedures established:

The first course of action would be for both captains to agree on what individual matches, based on the number of players present or to be present, can be played to constitute a valid team match. Once that is determined, both captains will re-exchange scorecards.

If both captains cannot come to an agreement on what lines will be played to constitute a valid team match, based on the number of players present, or to be present, then the following individual matches will be assigned in sequential order to be played: {USTA Southern 2.01C (2)}

| Format | Required Matches in Sequential Order | Minimum # of Players Required for Each Team in Valid Team Match |
|----------------------|--|---|
| 2 singles, 3 doubles | #1 singles, #2 singles, and #1 doubles | 4 |
| 1 singles, 3 doubles | #1 singles, #1 doubles, and #2 doubles | 5 |
| 1 singles, 2 doubles | #1 singles and #1 doubles | 3 |
| 3 doubles | #1 doubles and #2 doubles | 4 |

- D. **Excessive Defaults and Forfeits.** If a team has an invalid match (a majority of the individual matches must be played to constitute a valid team match) the team will be **notified** by the Local League Coordinator and the team may (state Adult League Committee’s decision) be removed from competition and the standings.
- E. **Order of Play.** The captains may agree on the order of play. However, if no prior agreement is made, the order of play will be #1 doubles, #1 singles, #2 doubles, #2 singles, and #3 doubles.
- F. **Scorecard Verification.** At the conclusion of the match, both scorecards must be checked for agreement. Captains should keep a hard copy of each of their scorecards.
- G. **Posting Scores.** The **home** team captain is responsible for posting the correct match scores online within **48** hours upon conclusion of the match. The visiting team should confirm the scores within the same 48 hour period. If the scores have not been reported, the visiting team may report them at that time. **At the 48 hour mark, TennisLink will automatically confirm scores, and no changes may be made** Failure to comply may subject teams to a grievance and/or double default.

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V. FORMAT OF PLAY

- A. Scoring Matches.** The scoring format for all matches will be the best of two (2) tie-break sets, with a set tie-break at 6-all. In the event of split sets, a 10-point match tie-break shall be played in lieu of a third set. There will be a two (2) minute break at the end of each set, with no coaching allowed. The Coman Tie-Break Procedure must be used during all tie-breaks. (The Coman Tie-Break Procedure is where players change ends after the first point and then after every four points, and at the conclusion of the tie-break.)
 - 1. A point will be awarded to the team winning the overall team match. In the event of a 2-2 tie in a team match, TennisLink will break the tie using the first of the following procedures that does so:
 - a. **Sets.** Loser of the fewest number of sets.
 - b. **Games.** Loser of the fewest number of games.
 - c. **Game Winning Percentage** Total games won divided by total games played.
 - d. **Winner of No.1 Doubles**
- B. Surfaces.** Each team shall declare its home courts as either clay and/or hard court surfaces and matches will be played according to that designation. In the event that different court surfaces are available at the home site, captains must agree on the court surface for the team positions. If captains cannot agree, court assignment will be decided upon by lottery.
- C. Home Team.** The designation of "home team" indicates which team furnishes the balls for the matches and will retain the used cans of balls.
- D. Warm-up.** The warm-up must be accomplished within ten minutes, including serves. Players who arrive within the fifteen (15) minute default time are entitled to a five (5) minute warm-up.
- E. Match Time.** A match, which includes a ten (10) minute warm-up, must begin at the scheduled time; a default occurs when a player fails to appear within fifteen (15) minutes of the scheduled match time.
- F. Default Time.** A fifteen (15) minute default rule is in effect, subject to court availability. [Comment: This means all players must be on the court - not merely at the facility, going to the bathroom, stretching, etc. - no later than fifteen (15) minutes after the scheduled start time. Courtesy requires a prompt start time and a brief warm-up. League rules support a default of the individual match if players are not on court.]
- G. Player Substitution.** No substitution may be made in an individual match after the lineup has been presented, except for injury, illness, disqualification, or no-show of a player prior to the start of the match (i.e. the first point has not been played). A team may substitute a player in the affected position within the fifteen (15) minute default time by using a player not already listed on the lineup. If no substitution can be made, the affected position only will be forfeited. If a substitution is made, it must be accomplished before the fifteen (15) minute default period has elapsed. If a substitution is made during the fifteen (15) minute default period, the substitute player is entitled to a five (5) minute warm-up. Once a player's name is removed from the lineup, that player shall not be allowed to play in that team match. A match begins when the first point is served.
- H. Continuous Play.** After the first game of each set, play shall be continuous, and the players shall change ends without a rest period. There is no rest period in changeovers of a tiebreak.

VI. SCHEDULES

- A. TennisLink.** Matches will be scheduled using the TennisLink Scheduler computer program.
- B. Publication.** The schedule will be available on TennisLink and will include the dates, times and location of all matches.
- C. Time.** All matches are scheduled for **EASTERN TIME**.
- D. Unauthorized Rescheduling.** **Double Defaults will be issued** for any unapproved changes to the league schedule.
- E. Days of Play.** If courts are unavailable, the League Coordinator may schedule matches on days other than those originally posted.
- F. Requests to Reschedule.** Captains may request the rescheduling of a match due to a conflict with player(s) **representing a CORTA USTA League team involved** in USTA League Championship play. (State, Section, or National Championships.)
 - 1. Requests must be made directly to the Local League Coordinator **via JotForm**.
 - 2. Captains must notify the League Coordinator of a request to reschedule a match no later than:

| Deadline to Notify Local League Coordinator | Local League Match Scheduled |
|--|------------------------------|
| Thursday 12:00 p.m. – one week prior to match scheduled on | Thursday |
| Monday 12:00 p.m. - prior to match scheduled on | Friday |
| Monday 12:00 p.m. - prior to match scheduled on | Saturday |
| Monday 12:00 p.m. - prior to match scheduled on | Sunday |
| Monday 12:00 p.m. – one week prior to match scheduled on | Monday |
| Thursday 12:00 p.m. - prior to match scheduled on | Tuesday |
| Thursday 12:00 p.m. - prior to match scheduled on | Wednesday |

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3. No more positions may be rescheduled than the number of players attending said championship.
 4. Rescheduled matches must be played either prior to the originally scheduled match date, or within fifteen (15) days of the completion of the championship event.
 5. Player Substitution Rule {CORTA V. G.} does not apply to matches rescheduled for USTA League Championship play for the player who attend the championship. Rescheduled matches must be played using player(s) attending said championship. Championship rostered player requirements for postponed positions are null and void in the event inclement weather forces the originally scheduled match to be cancelled.
 6. Eligible players for rescheduled positions are defined as players listed on **CORTA** USTA League Championship rosters submitted to State, Section, or National; or the registered captain of a Jr. Team Tennis team competing at State, Section or National.
- G. Early Play Matches:** A team match and/or individual matches may be played early if both captains agree. Playing matches early must take place **prior** to the originally scheduled date/time. Notification **MUST** be **submitted via JotForm** to the CORTA League Coordinator. This new date now becomes your official scheduled match date. If inclement weather occurs, the scheduled date reverts back to the original date published on TennisLink. Note: It is the responsibility of the requesting player/team captain to secure a court for the newly scheduled match. Notification must also be provided to the original facility to release any unused court(s).
- H. Changes.** The League Coordinator may make changes as necessary.

VII. INCLEMENT WEATHER

- A. Weather Conditions.** The weather conditions that shall authorize the cancellation of a scheduled match are rain, lightning, tornado warnings or severe temperatures (an actual temperature of **32° or lower** or a temperature of **95° or higher**). The official temperature shall be determined at match time by the temperature posted on weather.com for the zip code of the facility where the match is scheduled. Weather apps cannot be used.
1. Rain: Cancellation will be determined by the court conditions at the time of each match at each scheduled site.
 - a) Matches can only be cancelled by the on-site facility staff.
 - b) In the event rain occurs after play has begun, players should use their best judgement regarding player safety and suspend matches, if necessary. Completed individual matches will stand as played and incomplete matches must be resumed by the same players at the exact set, game and point when play was halted.
 2. Lightning:
 - a) If lightning occurs at match time, players may elect to reschedule the match.
 - b) In the event lightning occurs after play has begun, players should use their best judgement regarding player safety and suspend matches, if necessary. Completed individual matches will stand as played and incomplete matches must be resumed by the same players at the exact set, game and point when play was halted.
 3. Tornado Warnings:
 - a) If there is a tornado warning at your facility or in your travel area, players may elect to reschedule the match.
 - b) In the event a tornado warning occurs after play has begun, players should use their best judgement regarding player safety and suspend matches, if necessary. Completed individual matches will stand as played and incomplete matches must be resumed by the same players at the exact set, game and point when play was halted.
 4. Severe Temperature:
 - a) A severe temperature is defined as an actual temperature of 32° or lower or a temperature of 95° or higher. The official temperature shall be determined at match time by the temperature posted on weather.com for the zip code of the facility where the match is scheduled. Weather apps cannot be used. Heat index and wind chill are not a factor in determining temperature.
 - b) If the severe temperatures occur at match times, players **may** elect to reschedule.
 - c) If players elect to proceed, the match should be played to completion.
- B. Match Interruption.** The **home** team captain must immediately report any matches postponed or suspended due to inclement weather to the league coordinator via **JotForm** A tentative scheduled for the completion of the match should be included.
- C. Deadlines.** Any matches postponed due to inclement weather must be completed within fifteen (15) days of the originally scheduled match. Any rescheduled match postponed due to inclement weather must be completed within seven (7) days of the rescheduled match date. At the end of the season, any match postponed due to inclement weather must be completed within 48 hours.

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- D. **Lack of Agreement.** The League Coordinator must be notified via JotForm within three (3) days of the originally scheduled match when a reschedule date cannot be agreed upon. If teams cannot agree on a rescheduled date, the League Coordinator will reschedule the match. The League Coordinator will automatically reschedule any matches not completed within the fifteen (15) day rule, seven (7) day rule for interruption of rescheduled match, 48-hour rule for interruption of rescheduled match at end of league season. An email will be sent to the captains suggesting three (3) days/times for reschedule; each captain will have the chance to throw out one day and the match will be scheduled on the remaining day/time. A match scheduled by the League Coordinator is not affected by the fifteen (15) day rule, seven (7) day rule or 48-hour rule.
- E. **Negotiation.** Delays or cancellations due to weather are common; therefore, captains are expected to use good sportsmanship as they negotiate and carry out the terms of the rescheduled matches. Captains must agree on the time and place, including court surfaces, of the rescheduled matches. In the event that captains are not able to exchange lineups prior to a rescheduled match, captains must negotiate the rescheduled match in terms of positions, not names of individuals.
- F. **Lineups.** In the event that inclement weather forces the cancellation and rescheduling of a team match, unrestricted substitutions from the team roster may be made in any individual matches that have not begun. This includes moving a player from one position to another. Points awarded for forfeits during the original written lineup exchange will stand. All players involved in such forfeits cannot participate in the rescheduled match. Forfeits offered verbally prior to the original written lineup exchange are nullified when the match is rescheduled due to inclement weather. Championship rostered player requirements for postponed positions are null and void in the event inclement weather forces the originally scheduled match to be cancelled.
- G. **Rescheduled Match.** Once a time, day and location for the makeup match has been agreed upon by the parties involved, that match MAY NOT be cancelled or rescheduled, for any reason other than inclement weather.
 - 1. **Extenuating Circumstances.** If captains agree to any accommodations to the fifteen (15) minute default for a **rescheduled** match, the agreement must be in writing via e-mail or text. If there is no agreement for a revision by the opposing captain, the fifteen (15) minute default rule will be in effect. For example, if a rescheduled match is to take place and one player is not sure of their arrival time due to work, etc. both captains must agree in writing to any flexibility regarding the arrival time and the start time for the match. This agreement must be in writing.

VIII. NTRP RATINGS & PROCEDURES

- A. **NTRP Dynamic Disqualification Procedures.** Dynamic ratings will be calculated for all Adult Division (18 & Over, 40 & Over, and 55 & Over) players during local league competition and at every level of championship competition including National Championships to determine if any players have reached the NTRP Dynamic Disqualification criteria stated in the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System Procedures. Players subject to NTRP Dynamic Disqualification, as described in the NTRP Disqualification Table, will be dynamically disqualified if they reach the disqualification level three times based on all matches except retirements received. {USTA 2.04B}
- B. **Scoring Procedures.** In the event of an NTRP Dynamic Disqualification from a particular level of play, each Section shall determine what matches, if any shall be considered losses. The USTA Southern Section regulation will be as follows:
 - 1. If a self-rated (S), Self-Rated Appealed (S), Computer Appealed (A), Medical Appealed (A) and/or Dynamic (D) player is promoted from a particular level of play, the player shall cease play immediately from the NTRP level being promoted from and graduate to the next higher NTRP level. All prior matches shall stand in good faith. {USTA Southern 2.04E(1)}

IX. PROGRESSION

- A. **League Year.** The Local League year begins in June and ends in May of the following year. The year may consist of two (2) seasons, and a championship team will be determined at each level for each season.
- B. **Scoring Standings.** A point will be awarded to the team winning the team match. In the event of a tie at the end of the season whether in round robin or single elimination competition, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:
 - 1. **Individual Matches.** Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.
 - 2. **Head-to-head.** Winner of head-to-head match only if all tied teams have played each other and one team defeated all the teams that are tied.
 - 3. **Sets.** Loser of the fewest number of sets.
 - 4. **Games.** Loser of the fewest number of games.
 - 5. **Game Winning Percentage:** Total games won divided by total games played.
 - 6. **Coin Toss.** A coin toss by the league coordinator in the presence of witnesses.

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- C. Representatives.** The teams representing the Local League at the State Championships shall be the winners of each season at each level of play.
1. If the winner of the fall season repeats as winner of the spring season at any one level, and there are two (2) different teams that are runner-ups, then these two (2) teams will have a one (1) match playoff to determine the other Local League representative at the State Championships. The fall runner-up must use eligible players from their fall team roster and the spring runner-up must use eligible players from their spring team roster.
 2. If the winner of the fall season declines the berth, the berth will go to the second-place team from the fall season. If the winner of the spring season declines the berth, the berth will go to the second-place team from the spring season.
 - a. If both the first and second place teams from the same season decline the berth, it will be offered to the second-place team from the other season.
 3. If the winner of the fall season repeats as the winner of the spring season at any one level, and the same team repeats as the runner up, then the runner up team may determine their choice of either their fall or spring roster to be the representative at the State Championships.
 4. **USTA Georgia State Championship Berths.** {USTA Georgia 2.02B}
 - a. **Adult 18 & Over League.** Teams \leq Fifteen (15): CORTA receives one berth to State Championships per season. {USTA Georgia 2.02B(1)a}
 - b. **Adult 40 & Over League.** Teams \leq Fifteen (15): CORTA receives one berth to State Championships per season. {USTA Georgia 2.02B(1)b}
 - c. **Adult 55 & Over/65 & Over League.** Teams \leq Ten (10): CORTA receives one berth to State Championships per season. {USTA Georgia 2.02B(1)c}
 - d. **Mixed 18 & Over/Mixed 40 & Over League.** Teams \leq Fifteen (15): CORTA receives one berth to State Championships per season. {USTA Georgia 2.02B(1)d}
- D. Wildcards.** When CORTA is offered a wildcard entry into a state level tournament, team selection will be determined as follows:
1. If all first-place teams are progressing to the State Championships, then the second place teams from the same championship year will be eligible for the wildcard. The second-place team with the best win/loss record will be awarded the slot. If this team decides to pass on the wildcard then it will be offered to the other second place team. If both second-place teams decide to pass, it will be offered to the best third place teams, and so on.
 2. If a playoff occurred to determine which team would progress to the State Championships, the runner up will be offered the wildcard.
 3. Teams advancing to state competition from 3rd place or below will be handled as a wildcard selection and will follow wildcard procedures.
- E. Player Match Requirement.** A player is eligible to progress to State or Section championship level competition if that player has played the minimum number of required matches on that same team which his/her team qualified for further competition in accordance with the requirements listed below. A retired match shall count for all players involved. {USTA Southern 2.03A(4)}
1. 18 & Over: 2 matches; one default received may count
 2. 40 & Over: 2 matches; one default received may count
 3. 55 & Over: 2 matches; one default received may count
 4. 65 & Over: 1 match if local league; none if no local league
 5. Eligibility to advance to National Championships for self-rated and computer-rated appeal players requires playing at least four (4) matches on the same team at the same level in the same Age Group. No defaults received count. {USTA 2.03A(4)}
- F. Multiple Team Participation.** Players who qualify for an Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over and/or Adult 65 & Over team(s) may advance on more than one team within an age group only if they are different NTRP levels. No accommodations for scheduling will be made at any Championship for teams with players that may be competing on two or more teams during a championship. {USTA Georgia 1.04G(6)}
- G. Awards.** Awards will be provided to the winning team of two (2) team leagues. Awards will not be presented to teams who advance through qualifying league play.
- H. Championship Registration.** To register for Championship play, captains must submit required paperwork along with team entry fee and one deposit check per team

X. LOCAL LEAGUE GRIEVANCES

- A. Grievances.** Complaints alleging a violation of League regulations or standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship shall be filed in writing with the chairman of the CORTA Grievance Committee and must be

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in accordance with USTA League Regulations. Complaints are **to be** filed with the League Coordinator. For full Grievance Procedures **and information regarding the Suspension point system** refer to Section 3.0 of the USTA League Regulations.

- B. Appeals.** If the complainant is not satisfied with the decision of the Grievance Committee, he/she may appeal the case to the Local Appeals Committee. The appeal must be done in writing and in accordance with USTA League Regulations.

XI. THE HONOR CODE OF ETHICS

The Honor Code of Ethics is prepared under the philosophy that "today's opponent is tomorrow's tennis friend." To assure that end, the code should be used as a guideline during league play.

A. Courtesy

1. The game of tennis depends upon courtesy and fairness.
2. Hosting teams should extend themselves to provide pleasant conditions for their guests. Water and restroom facilities must be provided.
3. The use of alcohol and/or tobacco products (to include e-cigarettes and liquid vaporizers) is prohibited on the court during league play.
4. Cell phones, pagers, smart watches, etc. should be turned off during play. [Comment: Use of a cell phone/smart watch is not allowed on the tennis courts at any time during a match. Using a cell phone/smart watch in any way (calling, receiving messages, texting) gives the appearance of coaching. A ringing cell phone is a deliberate hindrance; if an opponent's cell phone rings during a point, the player may immediately stop and claim the point.]

B. Friends, Coaches, Children, Parents

1. Except in the case of medical time-outs; friends, coaches, children, parents are not permitted on the court at any time.
2. Spectators or coaches may not volunteer advice on line calls, scoring, or the conduct of a match.
3. Coaching is not allowed at any time.

C. Conduct of Captains and Players

1. The highest level of sportsmanship along with courtesy and fairness is expected from every captain and player.
 - a. All matches should be played in good faith and to the benefit of tennis and fair play. No manipulation of the outcome of matches will be tolerated. (i.e. Actions that affect standings to the benefit, or the detriment of another team are strictly prohibited.) Teams are expected to compete to win.

D. Conduct of Captains and Players at Championship Tournaments and Associated Events

1. Participants are expected to honor the CORTA Code of Conduct and conduct themselves in a respectful manner at Championship level tournaments and associated events.
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Columbus Regional Tennis Association

USTA League Regulations

LEAGUE RULE MODIFICATIONS

The USTA Adult 18 & Over League Tennis Regulations shall apply to all USTA League Tennis Programs with any specific league modifications being listed below.

MIXED DOUBLES LEAGUE 18 & Over/40 & Over

II. Eligibility

B. Teams

- 2. Team Minimum.** The team captain will maintain a minimum of six (6) players (three women, three men) eligible to compete at a specific level of competition on the roster. [Comment: Each team roster must have a minimum of three possible pairings whose NTRP rating is equal to the level of the mixed team. e.g. for a 6.0 mixed team at least three partners must be combined as the following: 3.0M/3.0W, 3.5M/2.5W, 3.5W/2.5M]
- 3. Format of Play.** Match format will be 3 doubles positions, unless otherwise determined by the league coordinator.
- 5. The NTRP difference between members of an individual doubles team may not exceed 1.0.** {USTA National 2.01A(3)} The minimum NTRP Level for 6.0 is 2.5; 7.0 is 3.0; 8.0 is 3.5; 9.0 is 4.0. (i.e. A 3.0 player and a 4.0 player may play 7.0). The 2.5 level is a straight level and players may not combine levels (i.e. a 2.0 player and a 3.0 player may not play together).

VIII. NTRP Ratings & Procedures

- A. Dynamic Ratings.** A player may not be “dynamically NTRP” disqualified from the USTA League Tennis – Mixed division; however, a player is subject to Self-Rate Eligibility Grievances.
- C. Year End Ratings.** Mixed Doubles results will not be part of generating a player’s year-end rating except for those players who play in the Mixed Division exclusively. Players who play exclusively in the Mixed Division will receive a published Mixed Exclusive (M) rating level at year-end unless they have a valid computer (C) rating from a previous year on file in TennisLink. A published (M) rating level is valid to play in the Mixed Division exclusively and will be in effect for players 59 years of age or under for three consecutive years and for players 60 and over for two consecutive years or until another published NTRP rating level is generated. A player who plays exclusively in the Mixed Division and subsequently chooses to participate in the Adult Division must enter by using a valid Computer (C) rating from a previous year. If he or she does not have a valid (C) rating from a previous year, he or she must self-rate with the minimum NTRP rating level being the higher of the self-rating or valid Mixed Exclusive (M) rating. {USTA National 1.04F(1)b}

IX. Progression

- F. Multiple Team Participation.** Players who qualify for a Mixed Doubles 18 & Over and/or Mixed Doubles 40 & Over team(s) may advance on more than one team within an age group only if they are different NTRP levels. No accommodations for scheduling will be made at any Championship for teams with players that may be competing on two or more teams during a championship. {USTA Georgia 1.04G(6)}

COMBO DOUBLES 18 & Over/40 & Over/55 & Over

II. Eligibility

B. Teams

- 2. Team Minimum.** The team captain will maintain a minimum of six (6) players of the same gender eligible to compete at a specific level of competition on the roster. [Comment: Each team roster must have a minimum of three players whose NTRP rating is the highest allowed for that team. e.g. On a 6.5 team, there must be a minimum of three (3) 3.5 players.]
- 3. Format of Play.** Match format will be 3 doubles positions, unless otherwise determined by the league coordinator.

Columbus Regional Tennis Association

USTA League Regulations

IX. Progression

- A. League Year.** The Local League year will begin in January and end in September and may consist of two (2) seasons, and a championship team will be determined at each level.
- C. Representatives.**
1. All leagues in Georgia: Men and Women {USTA Georgia 2.42A(3)}
 - a. One berth per season for flights with 9 teams or less.
 - b. Two berths per season for flights with 10 or more teams but with less than 19 teams.
- E. Player Match Requirement.** A player is eligible to progress to State or Section championship level competition if that player has played the minimum number of required matches on that same team which his/her team qualified for further competition in accordance with the requirements listed below. A retired match shall count for all players involved. {USTA Georgia 2.43A(3)}
1. 18 & Over: 1 match; one default received may count
 2. 40 & Over: 1 match; one default received may count,
 3. 55 & Over: will be an invitational; therefore, all teams will receive a berth
 4. Players may play on both, 18 & Over and 40 & Over Combo teams, however if both the 18 & Over and 40 & Over teams advance to the State Championships, the player must qualify in both league types. (USTA Georgia 2.41C(6)d)
- F. Multiple Team Participation.** Players who qualify for the Combo 18 & Over/40 & Over Georgia State Championships may advance on two (2) 18 & Over teams and two (2) 40 & Over teams, but at different levels. {USTA Georgia 2.41C(6)e}

Grievance Committee

Mark Mims (Chairperson)
Ken Smith
Jennifer Williams

Grievance Appeal Committee

Mark Levy (Chairperson)
Pauline Marth
Laura Wickham