



## LOCAL LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS – USTA SOUTHERN CRESCENT

League Year 2023-2024 (January 2023- December 31,2024)

### THESE RULES MUST BE PRESENT AT ALL LEAGUE MATCHES

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The purpose of USTA Southern Crescent Tennis League is to promote team tennis for men and women at established ratings of the national Tennis Rating Program (NTRP). Rules apply to all Southern Crescent Leagues except where specific language applicability is identified in bold type.

The Southern Crescent Tennis League agrees to the rules and regulations of the USTA National, USTA Southern, and USTA Georgia as published. In addition, the Southern Crescent Tennis League also sets forth the following rules to apply to the local league that are not specified in other rules.

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#### Section I. Eligibility

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##### 1) **Players**

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- a) Within a specific league season, players may play on more than one team within the Southern Crescent Tennis League as follows:
    - i) A **women's business** player may play on a **women's weekday team and** at the same NTRP level
    - ii) A player may play on a **women's weekday** and a **business team** at different NTRP levels
    - iii) A player may play on a **business or weekday team at a different NTRP level** (i.e., 3.5 weekday, 3.5 business, 4.0 Low weekday)
    - iv) A player may play on an **Adult 18 & Over** team, an **Adult 40 & Over** team, **Adult 55 & Over** and an **Adult 65 & Over** team at either the same NTRP level or at a different NTRP level.
    - v) A player may play at two different NTRP levels.
  - b) Playing on teams at different NTRP levels may increase the player's risk of being promoted to the next level.
  - c) A player may register for an unlimited number of teams within a specific league in the same season. Those teams cannot conflict with those listed above in 1)a).
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##### 2) **Teams**

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- a) All adult leagues shall have the minimum number of players to field a complete line-up plus 2 additional rated and gender(mixed) appropriate players.
  - b) Teams must play at the level of the highest rated player on the team.
  - c) There is no restriction to the number of players on a roster
  - d) Players may be added up until the last line of a regularly scheduled match of the season has been played. Playoffs are considered championship matches at the local level and are not counted as regularly scheduled matches.
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##### 3) **Facilities**

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- a) Each team shall identify and reserve its home courts. The home team must guarantee a minimum of 2 courts for league play. The home team pays any court fees.
- b) Facilities approved for league play include those with a minimum of two courts at one site. For leagues starting after 6:30pm, courts must be lighted.
- c) Facilities must have an accessible, working restroom, and an on-site telephone (may be cellular).
- d) Facilities must be located within the counties of Coweta, Clayton, Fayette, Henry, and Spalding
- e) Some home team locations may have a minimal number of courts. When the number of teams electing to play at these facilities creates conflicts with the scheduling of matches during a season of play, the resulting match-play schedule may include more away matches to make the overall season schedule flow properly. Examples of this possible situation include 2 court facilities with 2 teams playing in a season, 4 court facilities with more than 3 teams playing in a season, or 6 court facilities with more than 5 teams playing in a season.



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## **Section II. Team Captains' Duties**

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- 1) The team Captain shall handle the administrative affairs and represent the team in USTA League Tennis matters. Team captain shall be responsible for submitting all requested information by published deadlines.
- 2) The captain should read and be familiar with the rules of USTA, STA, GTA, and the Local League.
- 3) Each team shall name a captain and a co-captain. Both Captain and co-captain must be a registered member of the team.

### **4) Scheduling Matches**

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- a) "Home" team captains should contact the visiting team captains at least 3 days prior to a scheduled match to make final arrangements for the match.

- i) If the captain listed on the schedule will not be present at the match, he/she should notify the opposing captain with the name of the person acting in his/her stead.
- ii) The captains can agree on an order of play; however, if they cannot agree, the order of play is the following:

- (1) Adult 18 and 40 & Over league will be #1 singles, #1 doubles, #2 singles, #2 doubles, and #3 doubles.
- (2) The order of play for Adult 55 and 65 & Over, Mixed 18, 40 and 55 & Over and Combo 18 and 40 & Over doubles will be #1 doubles, #2 doubles, and #3 doubles.
- (3) Players in the second-time slot (#2-S & #2-D) must be available one hour after the first-time slot begins (4) Third time slot (#3-D), two hours after the first-time slot begins.

- b) If more than two courts are available for match play, both Captains must be in agreement before the additional courts can be used.

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### **5) Match Day**

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- a) Team captains must exchange scorecards with completed line-ups prior to the scheduled match time.
- b) Scorecards are to be printed from TennisLink and either a player's name or number will be used to identify a player.
- c) Team captains must record correct match scores on TennisLink.
- d) The winning team captain will enter the scores within 48 hours of the match completion; the losing team captain will verify/dispute scores within 48 hours of score entry into TennisLink.
- e) If the losing captain does not verify/dispute the match results within 48 hours, TennisLink will automatically confirm the match scores.
- f) Please be advised that TennisLink does not accept partial match results—all positions' scores must be entered at the same time.
- g) In the case of a disputed match score, please contact the appropriate league coordinator so that the discrepancy can be addressed immediately.

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### **6) Format of Play**

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- a) **Team Match:** For each team match, a majority of the individual matches must actually be played to constitute a valid team match. SCTA will follow the State Regulation as to what actions will take place when the combination of individual match defaults given by the two teams in the team match results, or would result, in a situation where the majority of the individual matches would be not played (not a "valid" team match).

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 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.



Format	Required Matches in sequential order	Minimum # of Players Required for Each Team in Valid Team Match
2 singles, 3 doubles	#1 and #2 singles, and #1 doubles (priority); #2 doubles if enough players present	4
1 singles, 4 doubles	#1 singles, #1 and #2 doubles (priority); #3 doubles if enough players present	5
2 singles, 2 doubles	#1 singles and #2 singles and #1 doubles (priority)	4
1 singles, 3 doubles	#1 singles and #1 doubles #2 doubles (priority)	5
1 singles, 2 doubles	#1 singles and #1 doubles	3
3 doubles	#1 and #2 doubles	4

If both teams have enough players to play the match and it's discovered after-the-fact that a majority of the matches were not played to constitute a valid team match, both captains need to come to an agreement of what lines will be played to make the team match valid. If captains cannot come to an agreement, then the individual match(es) to be played will be assigned in sequential order in the above-mentioned table. If a captain does not comply with this regulation, then it may be considered a full-team default in favor of the opponents. If a team shows up without the minimum # of players required for the team match based on the number of players present, or to be present, it will be a full team default in favor of the opponents. Please refer to USTA Georgia regulation 2.01C(5)e on team default procedures. Please see k) **Excessive Defaults** for possible consequences of team match default.

- b) **Home Team Provides:** The home team will provide one unopened can of court appropriate USTA-approved yellow balls for each match. Exception: Oversize balls may be used only if all players agree prior to the start of their match. The rule providing for a ball exchange following a home team victory has been eliminated.
- c) **Scoring:** A point will be awarded to the team winning the team match (greatest number of individual matches)
- d) **Default Time:** A 15-minute default rule starts at the exact time the match is scheduled to begin.
- e) **Line-up:** The Southern Crescent Tennis League encourages playing positions by order of strength; however, a player may play any position at any time. There are no restrictions on the movement of the players from position to position, week to week.
- f) **Injury or No-Show Prior to Start:** In the event of illness, injury, disqualification, or no-show of a player prior to the start of an individual match (once the line-up has been exchanged), a team may substitute a player in the affected position within the 15-minute default time, using a player not already listed on the scorecard. If no such substitution can be made, the affected position will be forfeited.
- g) **Defaulting Lines:** If you know you must default one or more positions at the start of the match, follow the guidelines stated in the most recent version of the USTA League Tennis Regulations handbook.



- i) **Adult 18 and 40 & Over** leagues must default from the bottom of the line-up, #2 singles or #3 doubles. If you must default 2 positions, you have the option to default #1 and #2 singles, or #2 and #3 doubles, or #2 singles and #3 doubles.
- ii) **Adult 55 and 65 & Over, Mixed 18, 40 and 55 & Over and Combo 18 & 40 Over** leagues default line #3 doubles. Additional defaults result in a majority of lines not played. See rule 6.a) **Team Match** and k) **Excessive Defaults**

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- h) **Starting Times Additional Lines:** Players must be ready to take the court when the previous match is finished (i.e. the first team match begins at 9:30 a.m. and ends at 10:10 a.m., default time for the next position would be 10:45 a.m. [10:30 a.m. being the official start time of the next time slot]). If the first team match ends at 10:45 a.m., the next players must take the court immediately, since the second and third time slot players must be available the second or third hour from start time.
  - i) **OPTION for Third Set, Adult 18, 40 and 55 & Over League and Combo 18 and 40 & Over Daytime League:** Each position may, before each individual match begins, decide on the following options for the third set:

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- (1) Play a complete third set, OR
  - (2) Play a match tiebreak in lieu of a third set. A match tiebreak is won by the first team to win 10 points with a margin of 2.

Agreement must be reached by all 4 players (2 players for singles) or the format cannot be changed and a full third set will be played. If option 2 is chosen, there will be no break taken after the second set, no coaching is allowed, and play is continuous (a 2-minute break is allowed between sets, including the second set and a match tiebreak). At the beginning of the tiebreak, the players may change the serving order and partners may change side (ad or deuce) where they receive. The "tiebreak set" will be recorded as 1-0 for the winner and "Timed Match" selected in TennisLink rather than "Completed".

- j) **FORMAT for Third Set, Mixed 18, 40 and 55 & Over, Business Women and Men 18 and 40 & Over and Combo 18 and 40 & Over.** The format for any league whose regular matches are scheduled to begin at 6:30 PM or later shall be third Set Match Tiebreak. No full third set is played, rather if sets are split the teams play continuously (no 10-minute break, no coaching) a match tiebreaker (first team to 10 by 2).
- k) **Excessive Defaults:** A team having excessive defaults may have all of its matches nullified and may be treated as a bye for the remainder of the season. Excessive defaults shall be defined as defaulting all lines of an entire match or an average of one defaulted line per match over the course of the season. This may result in a grievance filed against the team.
- l) **The official match schedule** (date and time) for each season of play will be posted on the USTA Tennis Link website and the local league website ([www.ustasoutherncrest.com](http://www.ustasoutherncrest.com)) by the SCTA Local League Coordinator.
- m) **Flight scheduling changes** can be made at the Local League Coordinator's discretion if agreed upon by all Captains in that flight.
- n) **Tie-breaks** (7 pt and 10 pt) will be played using the Komen Tie-break Rules. The Komen Tie-break is the format used by the Georgia State League Championships.
- o) **Home Facility Unavailable:** In the event the home team cannot provide courts, the Visiting team has the first option to provide courts. Court location can be changed if agreed upon by both Captains. Once an alternate location is agreed upon, it stays unless both Captains agree again to change it.
- p) **Playing Early:** By mutual agreement of the Captains, a scheduled match (or lines) may be rescheduled to be played earlier. A rescheduled match (including in-progress lines) that is not completed, due to inclement weather, before the date and time listed on the official match schedule, will be played (or completed) on the date and time listed in the official match schedule. Players unable to complete their in-progress match on this date will be subject to default. For purposes of inclement weather postponements, any in progress lines from rescheduled matches (early play) have to be completed on the official scheduled date of play, will be subject to the same make-up match time frame rules as other matches scheduled for that day.
- q) **Start of Season:** The "Start of the Season" is defined as the end date of Team Registration plus 5 days.



## 7) Schedules

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### a) **Inclement Weather**

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- i) The following weather conditions authorize the cancellation of a scheduled match: rain, lightning, snow, or severe temperatures below 32F or above 95F for all Adult Leagues except Adult 55 and 65 & Over leagues which will adhere to below 35° and above 95°. The Weather Channel's data will be used to determine temperature and no wind chill factor is to be taken into consideration
- ii) If inclement weather, not including a temperature rise or drop, occurs after play has begun, completed matches will stand as played and incomplete matches must be resumed by the same players at the exact point, game, and set that existed when play was halted. Substitutions may be made in any individual matches which had not begun. Points awarded for defaults during the original line-up will stand. All players involved in such defaults cannot participate in the rescheduled match.
- iii) If teams have reported for play and the match is delayed or interrupted by rain, teams must wait 30 minutes to determine if courts are playable. All players in each position (singles or doubles) must mutually agree that their court is playable for the match to begin or resume. If courts are still not playable after 30 minutes, teams are free to leave and reschedule unless both teams agree to wait longer.
- iv) Rescheduled daytime matches should be completed within 12 or 13 days of the scheduled match. (difference in days is since Winter Business teams play on Saturday, and Summer plays on Sunday)
- v) **Last Match of Season** - Rainouts of the last match of the season must be completed within 5 or 6 days of the original match date
- vi) **Inclement Weather Make-Up:** If any positions of an inclement weather match cannot agree on a make-up date and time within the 12 - 13-day make-up period, the make-up match will be played on the specific default day for each league listed on the league calendar on the local website.
- vii) **Rescheduled Match** – Captains shall agree in writing, clearly confirming with each other make up match times. Once teams agree and captains confirm in writing on a rescheduled date they are committed to play on that date, unless inclement weather occurs again. Failure to play on that rescheduled date will result in default only of the match or matches not played.
- viii) If there is inclement weather on these make-up days, **All adult leagues** will play the next weather permitting weekday after the mandatory make-up day at the start time specified on the local league schedule.
- ix) **National holidays** are not to be included when calculating mandatory make-up days (i.e., the mandatory make-up days falls on Memorial Day; therefore, the default day moves to the next day).
- x) **Make-up No Show** - If one team position cannot make the mandatory make-up time, they default the point. If both cannot, it is a double default.
- xi) **Home Team Courts Unavailable** - If the home team's named courts are not available for a make-up match, the visiting team's courts will be the first alternate match site to be considered. Ultimately, the home team is responsible for finding make-up courts if the home and visitor's courts are unavailable. **Inclement Weather Roster Substitutions**

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- xii) In the event that rain or 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.
  - xiii) 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 rain or inclement weather.

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- xiv) **Failure To Play Matches** - Matches not made up within the time limit will result in a double default.
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## 8) **Southern Crescent Championships and Championship Teams**

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- a) The season champion shall be the team with the greatest number of team matches won and shall represent the local league in State Championships. In the event of a tie, the USTA League Tennis Regulations for tie-breaks will be followed. The tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:

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- i) Individual matches: winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition ii) Sets: Loser of the fewest number of sets in the entire competition iii) Games: Loser of the fewest number of games in the entire competition iv) Head-to-Head: Winner of the head-to-head match
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- b) **Scoring For Even Number of Lines:** For leagues that play an even number of lines and if the individual matches are tied (i.e. 2 to 2), then the team match winner will be determined by the following procedure: i) Sets : Loser of the fewest number of sets in the entire competition  
 ii) Games: Loser of the fewest number of games  
 iii) Coin toss

- c) **Qualifying Matches:** In order for a player to be eligible to progress to State Championships, that player must have played qualifying matches, see chart below:

League/Type	Matches to Advance	Defaults counting to advancement
Adult 18, 40 & 55 Over	2 matches	1 default
Adult 65 & Over	See state Regs.	See State Regs.
Mixed 18 and 40 & Over	2 matches	1 default
Combo 18 and 40 & Over	1 matches	1 default

- d) The National rules have recently changed to include local league playoffs as a championship match. Therefore, a local league Playoff match may NOT be counted as one of the matches needed to qualify for the State Championships. A retired match shall count toward advancing for all players involved. Defaults do not count when generating a computer rating. In addition, if players aren't eligible to progress prior to the local league playoff, they are NOT eligible to play in the local league playoff.
- e) One women's team and one men's team at each level from each season will progress to the State Championships. **Business Women** and **Daytime Women** with teams at the same level will have a playoff to determine which team will progress to the State Championship.

- i) If the total of teams in both the women's weekday and business weekend/night reach a minimum of 16 teams and each league has a minimum of 6 teams, at the same NTRP level, there will not be a playoff to determine a single winner. Instead, both winning teams will advance to the State Championship.
- ii) **Partial Round Robin.** Each NTRP level within a local league may play a partial round robin competition wherein every team plays the same number of matches against randomly selected opponents. A minimum of the top two teams shall progress to a single elimination playoff to establish a local league champion for that NTRP level.
- f) A level or league that has three or more teams for each of two seasons may send two teams to the State Championships, one from each season. If a level has only two teams, only one team from the league year (summer and winter) will be sent to the State Championships. The determination of which team receives the berth at the State Championships will be determined by the team match winning percentage.
- g) Information on the location and dates of State Championships can be found in the USTA Georgia State Regulations.
- h) If the division OR play-off winner cannot participate in the State Championships in May, the replacement shall be determined as follows:

- i) In **Women's** divisions where there is a playoff between **Daytime** and **Business Women**, there will be a playoff between the finalists (losers) from the playoff matches from each season. If one finalist team declines to playoff, the other team is automatically chosen. If both finalists decline, the State playoff offer will extend to the second place business and weekday division winners. All who are interested would participate in a playoff for a berth in the State Championship
- ii) In the Women's divisions, in the event that a playoff is necessary one season but not the other, the championship berth will be extended to the finalist of the season in which a playoff was held.
- iii) In **Women's** divisions where there is no playoff (no equal-level teams in both **Business** and **Daytime** leagues), and in the **Men's, Adult 40 and 55 & Over** and **Mixed Doubles** divisions, the second place team from the first championship year season will play the second place team from the second championship year season to replace the winning team at State Championships. If one team declines to playoff, the other team is automatically chosen.



If both second place teams decline, the offer will extend to the third place division winners who will participate in a playoff for a berth in the State Championship.

- iv) If a berth at the State Championship becomes available unexpectedly (wild card, team withdrawal), that berth may be filled at the Local League Coordinator's discretion as there may be insufficient time to hold a playoff match.

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- i) If a regularly scheduled USTA league tennis match conflicts with a USTA District, Sectional, or National League championship, that match may be either played in advance or rescheduled using the inclement weather guidelines for make-up dates. Captains are encouraged to have players play the matches early or play as many lines as possible early to avoid unavailability on the make-up match default date. The Captain who is requesting this exception must notify the opposing Captain and the League Coordinator at least seven (7) days in advance of the scheduled match day.

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9) **Grievances**

- a) For full Grievance procedures refer to Section 3.0 of the USTA National League Regulations
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GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE\*:

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GRIEVANCE APPEAL COMMITTEE\*:

\* Alternates may be appointed at the discretion of the LLC. For example, substitutions may be made based upon conflicts of interest between Committee members and those involved in a Grievance.

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**Refer to Friend at Court or USTA Rules of Tennis:**

**1. Can anyone on the court call a let for a ball on the court?**

*Yes on both sides of your court. You may not call lets on adjoining courts even if your ball rolls into another court. Exception: You may not call a let if the ball falls out of your own or your partner's pocket.*

**2. What if an injury occurs during a match?**

*A medical timeout shall begin when a player states the need for one. A maximum of three minutes is allowed for a medical timeout. His/her opponent(s) may begin timing the three minutes after which play must resume immediately or the match must be retired. A player may not take more than one medical timeout for the same condition.*

**3. What if the net looks too high?**

*If no one has a measure, the court is deemed playable.*

**4. What if there is no center strap on the net?**

*This is not a fully equipped court and therefore no one is forced to play on it. If you decide to play, no grievance may be filed.*

**5. What if there are holes, cracks, debris, ice etc. on the court?**

*If you feel a court is unsafe, you do not have to play on it. It only takes one player to deem a court unplayable. Agreement of all parties is not required.*

**6. What should you do if a player calls a ball out, then decides it was in?**

*The player should correct his or her call and that player or pair loses the point except when it was on a first serve that hit the net; in that event the server is entitled to two serves. See the Code clause 12.*