



Lake Norman 2023 USTA Adult League Regulations

Play is governed by "The Rules of Tennis" and "The Code" in Friend at Court, the USTA League Tennis National Regulations, STA Regulations, the USTA North Carolina League Regulations and the Lake Norman USTA League Regulations. The United States Tennis Association (USTA), Southern Tennis Association (STA) or the North Carolina Tennis Association (NCTA) are the governing bodies of these League programs. These regulations cover USTA Adult League, USTA Mixed Doubles, Southern Combo Doubles, Tri Level, and USTA Singles League. **The Lake Norman League Coordinator, in conjunction with the NC Director of Adult Leagues, shall have the authority to interpret these Regulations.**

MAJOR REGULATION CHANGES FOR 2023

Major Regulation Changes (USTA)

A Section option to extend the timeline for decision on an eligibility grievance has been approved: 3.03B(4)a. In the event of an eligibility disqualification during the local league season **and up to a maximum of 14 days** after the end of the local league season, **but prior to any playoff**, all matches played by the disqualified player shall be considered defaults, and those matches shall be considered wins for the opposing players or doubles teams and scored 6-0, 6-0 for determining standings. **Sections must determine the timeframe between 24 hours and 14 days.** The ineligible player will not be allowed to continue or advance. In the case of an eligibility disqualification in single elimination, the last individual match played by the disqualified player shall be considered a win for the opposing player or doubles team and scored 6-0, 6-0 for determining standings. If a double disqualification results in a tie, the local tiebreak procedure shall be used to determine the winner of the team match. If no such local tiebreak procedure exists, Reg. 2.03H Procedures in the Event of a Tie shall be used in order to determine the winner of the team match.

1. Additional age-related appeal options have been approved:

2.05E **Age-Related Appeals of Players 60 or Over.** A player may appeal their rating at any time if they have reached the minimum age. A player who will reach the minimum age during the next calendar year and appeals their rating without registering at the same time for a team that will begin play in the next Championship Year, will have their appeal evaluated based on their current age. A player who will reach the minimum age during the next calendar year and appeals their rating when registering for a team that will begin play in the next Championship Year, will have their appeal evaluated based on reaching the minimum age. Such player shall have reached the required minimum age prior to or during the calendar year in which such player participates in his or her first local league per 1.04E(3).

2.05E(1) Any player who is 60 to 64 years of age or older prior to, or during, the calendar year in which such player plays his or her first local league match and has achieved the same rating level or lower for his or her three most recent year-end ratings, without benefit of **an age-related** appeal of the player's year-end rating level, **if promoted** will automatically be granted an appeal (A rating) **of their**

current rating back to their previous valid year-end rating level, subject to 2.05E(5) below. NTRP Dynamic Disqualification procedures as outlined in 2.04B(3) apply.

2.05E(2) Any player who is 65 to 69 years of age and has not been granted an age-related appeal of their year-end rating level in the last three years, if promoted, will automatically be granted an appeal (A rating) of their current rating back to their previous valid year-end rating level, subject to 2.05E(5) below. NTRP Dynamic Disqualification procedures as outlined in 2.04B(3) apply.

2.05E(3) Any player who is 70 to 79 years of age and has not been granted an age-related appeal of their year-end rating level in the last three years, will automatically be granted an appeal (A rating) of their current rating to the next lower level, subject to 2.05E(5) below. NTRP Dynamic Disqualification procedures as outlined in 2.04B(3) apply.

2.05E(4) Any player who is age 80 or older and has not been granted an age-related appeal of their year-end rating level in the last five years, will automatically be granted an appeal (A rating) of their current rating to the next lower level. NTRP Dynamic Disqualification procedures as outlined in 2.04B(3) apply.

2.05E(5) Any player who is clearly above level under the applicable Computer Methodology procedures, as defined in the Glossary, will be denied an appeal of his or her year-end rating under 2.05E(1), 2.05E(2) and 2.05E(3).

2. The 2021 COVID-necessitated amendments under 2.03A(4) for eligibility to advance to National 6 Championships were not continued for 2022. As a result, the application of Move-Up/Split-Up reverts to the pre-Covid regulation: 2.06A(2): Split-Up - No more than three (3) players who were on the roster of any team that advanced to, or qualified for, any National Championship team the previous year may play together in the same Division, same Age Group and at the same NTRP team level as the National Championship team(s), if their NTRP rating allows. Split-Up requirements only apply to all players other than Self-Rated and Valid Computer Rated Appealed Players players who participated in three (3) or more matches (one default received shall count) and Self-Rated and Valid Computer Rated Appealed players who participated in at least four matches (no default received shall count), for that team during the championship year.

Major Regulation Changes (USTA Southern)

1) 1.04D(6): The use of tennis-related blended lines is permitted on courts used for local league matches. The use of other lines for another sport, such as Pickleball, is not permitted on courts used for local league matches. Except as otherwise provided in local league regulations: (1) "Home teams" will have the choice of court surface for which they wish to play their home matches; and (2) Court surface must be the same surface for all individual lines.

Major Regulation Changes (USTA North Carolina)

North Carolina Regulation: A local league shall consist of a minimum of 2 teams at a specific level of competition. If a team is the only local team in a division and wishes to attend a State Championship may participate in a qualifying event.

Teams that may advance directly to a State Championship or are participating in a qualifying event must be added to TennisLink and have their roster finalized with the minimum eligible number of players required to form a team registered no later than the dates in the chart below. If the team is not added prior to the Initial Roster Deadline of the Local League, the LLC must contact the SLC to notify that a team has been added. Failure to notify the SLC may result in the team not being added to the State Championship schedule.

Match Format	Courts to be Defaulted First
2 Singles, 3 Doubles	If missing 1 player; #2 Singles or #3 Doubles If missing 2 players; #1 Singles and #2 Singles or #3 Doubles If missing 3 players; #2 Singles and #3 Doubles or #2 Doubles and #3 Doubles If missing 4 players; #2 Doubles and #3 Doubles
1 Singles, 3 Doubles	If missing 1 player; #1 Singles or #3 Doubles If missing 2 players; #3 Doubles
1 Singles, 2 Doubles	#1 Singles or #2 Doubles (if missing 1 player) #2 Doubles (if missing 2 players)
3 Doubles or 3 Singles	#3 Doubles (if missing 1 or 2 players) or #3 Singles

North Carolina Regulation: Team Line-Ups: Scorecards are to be exchanged **no later than the scheduled match time**. At the scheduled match time, if a player is not on site, the captains have 3 options to proceed: a. Wait until the missing player is on site and ready to play (prior to the 15-minute default time) and play the match. At the default time, if the player is still not on site and ready to play, the missing player would be moved to a defaultable court (see chart above.), and play would begin. OR b. Captains can agree to exchange scorecards and begin play with the lineups as-is. Default rules will apply (See National Reg 2.03 K and Q&A). OR c. Substitute a missing player with an eligible player that is on site and ready to play but is not listed on the original scorecard. Substitutions must be made prior to the 15-minute default time and can only be exchanged for the missing player in the original lineup.

League	Deadline to add a team to advance to a State Championship and have roster finalized
USTA Adults League	April 15
USTA Mixed Doubles League	July 15
Tri-Level League	July 15
USTA NC Singles League	August 15
Southern Combo Doubles League	September 15

2023 USTA Spring League - Important Dates

Action	Group	Date
Team Registration Begins#	All Age Groups	January 1 - February 4
Captain's Meeting (Virtual)	All Captains	February 16
Team Registration Ends	All Age Groups	February 4
Minimum players registered for team	All Age Groups	February 8
Season dates	All Age Groups	February 13 - May 30
Last Day to Add Players	All Age Groups	April 28
State Championships	65 & Over	May 12 - 14 Greenville, NC
	55 & Over	June 2 - 4 Asheville, NC
	18 & Over	June 15 - 18 Lake Norman, NC
	40 & Over	June 22 - 25 Charlotte, NC

*Season start date is dependent on the # of teams that register in each flight. Teams will have at least 6 matches and as many as 12.

GENERAL

League Fee

The Lake Norman Spring Adult League fee is \$27.15 (\$18 local league fee, \$6 state head tax and \$3.15 TennisLink fee).

Public Court Fees

Public park court use fees are \$170 for teams with 5-court matches; \$150 for 4-courts teams and \$130 for teams with 3-court matches. Fee deadline: Court fees are due 10 days from receipt of invoice from Lake Norman Tennis Assoc. (LNTA) and may be paid at the captain's meeting. Courts are reserved for 1.5 hours per match. **Captains who neglect to pay court fees within the 10-day deadline, may be subject to a default of any matches played during the period payment was outstanding.**

Lake Norman and NC ADULT LEAGUES REFUND POLICY

League with Local League Play: Refund requests for Local Fees and State Head Tax charges must be made to the Local League Coordinator prior to the team's first scheduled match. Requests must be made in writing. The TennisLink fee is non-refundable. The Local League Coordinator will hold all requests and submit one list to the State League Coordinator by the refund deadline. One check will be sent to the LLC or CTA, who will issue individual checks to the players. Any team dropping out of a league after **Initial Roster Deadline for that league** will forfeit any registration fees paid and a grievance may be filed. There will be no refunds given due to cancellation or suspension of League or Championship play due to acts of God, war, government regulation or order, pandemic (including, but not limited to, COVID-19), terrorism, natural disaster, or any other emergency beyond USTA NC's and LNTA's control, foreseeable or unforeseeable, which makes it illegal or impossible to offer or continue any USTA Adult League Tennis programming.

Team Requirements

Roster Requirements for each league:

League	Season	Minimum Number	Maximum Number
USTA Adult League 18 & Over (3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5)	Winter/Spring	8	15
USTA Adult League 18 & Over (2.5, 5.0, 5.5)	Winter/Spring	5	15
USTA Adult League 40 & Over (3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5)	Winter/Spring	7	15
USTA Adult League 40 & Over (2.5 , 5.0)	Winter/Spring	6	15
USTA Adult League 55 & Over (All)	Winter/Spring	6	15
USTA Adult League 65 & Over (All)	Winter/Spring	6	15
USTA Mixed Doubles League* (All)	Spring/ Summer	6	15
USTA NC Singles League (All)	Spring/ Summer	3	9
USTA Southern Combo Doubles League* (All)	Summer/Fall	*6	15
Southern Tri-Level	Summer	6	15

*Those 6 players must be able to combine to form 3 eligible doubles teams.

- When using straight NTRP levels, a player cannot have an NTRP rating higher than the NTRP level in which the player is competing.

NTRP Levels of Play

League	Age Group	NTRP Level
USTA Adult League	18 & Over	2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0, 5.5
	40 & Over	2.5 women/men, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0
	55 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0
	65 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0
USTA Mixed Doubles League	18 & Over	2.5, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0
	40 & Over	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0
	55 & Over	6.0, 7.0, 8.0
	65 & Over	6.0, 7.0, 8.0
USTA NC Singles League	18 & Over	2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0
	40 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5
	55 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0
Tri-Level League		Men 4.0/3.5/3.0, 4.5/4.0/3.5 and 5.0/4.5/4.0
	18 & Over	Women: 3.5/3.0/2.5; 4.0/3.5/3.0, 4.5/4.0/3.5 and 5.0/4.5/4.0
	55 & Over	4.0/3.5/3.0; 4.5/4.0/3.5
USTA Southern Combo Doubles League	18 & Over	5.0, 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5, 10.5
	40 & Over	5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5
	55 & Over	6.5, 7.5, 8.5
	65 & Over	6.5, 7.5, 8.5

- In the USTA Adult League divisions, a player may play only one level above his or her current NTRP Rating (For example, a 3.5 player can play up on a 4.0 team but cannot play up on a 4.5 team).
- A local league shall consist of a minimum of 2 teams at a specific level of competition.

Advancement to State Championships is not permitted if this requirement is not met, except for the following:

League	Levels permitted to advance to State Championships if they are the only local team
USTA Adult League	18 & Over 5.5 and 40 & Over 2.5, 5.0 and all 65 & over
USTA Mixed Doubles League	All 55 & over and 65 & over
USTA Southern Combo Doubles League	All 55 & over and 65 & over 18 & over 5.0, 5.5, and 9.5, 40 & Over 5.5 and 9.5
USTA NC Singles League	All Levels
Tri Level League	All Levels

- Per USTA National Reg 2.02A (1) Teams that advance directly to a State Championship OR are participating in a qualifying event must maintain their roster on TennisLink with a majority of players from within the league area that they are representing, unless approved by the State League Coordinator. For example, a roster of 15 players must have a minimum of 8 players residing within the league boundaries. An exception can be made if a team is formed by the State League Coordinator to qualify a team. Leagues (and levels) that utilize combined ratings, for example Mixed Doubles or Adult League 55 & Over 9.0 teams are excluded.
- Teams that may advance directly to a State Championship must be added to TennisLink and have their roster finalized with the minimum eligible number of players required to form a team registered no later than the dates in the chart below. If the team is not added prior to the Initial Roster Deadline of the Local League, the LLC must contact the SLC to notify that a team has been added. Failure to notify the SLC may result in the team not being added to the State Championship schedule.

League	Deadline to add a team to advance to a State Championship and have roster finalized
USTA Adults League	April 15
USTA Mixed Doubles League	July 15
Tri-Level League	July 15
USTA NC Singles League	August 15
Southern Combo Doubles League	September 15

- Per USTA NC Rule 2.02A(1), If a level of USTA League Adult 18 & Over, 40 & Over or 55 & Over consists of only two teams in a level of play, each team must maintain its roster with at least 40 percent of its players at the designated NTRP level of play. This rule does not apply to the Adult 55 & Over. USTA Adult League 55 & Over 9.0, all divisions in USTA Mixed Doubles and USTA Southern Combo Doubles, the combined levels of each doubles pair cannot exceed the team level.

- In USTA Adult League 55 & Over 9.0 and USTA Mixed Doubles, doubles partners may not be separated by more than 1.0 NTRP point (ex. On an 8.0 team, a 4.5 and a 3.5 may play together, but a 5.0 and a 3.0 may not).

Adult & Mixed Combined Level	Minimum Rating a Player May Have
5.0	2.5
6.0	2.5
7.0	3.0
8.0	3.5
9.0	4.0
10.0	4.5

In the USTA Southern Combo Doubles League, players in each level cannot exceed the maximum rating allowed for that level. See chart below:

Combo Combined Level	Highest Rating a Player May Have
5.0	2.5
5.5	3.0
6.5	3.5
7.5	4.0
8.5	5.0
9.5	5.5
10.5	6.0

Player Eligibility

- All individuals who compete in the USTA League must be current USTA members in good standing through the entire local league season.
- All players must be registered on TennisLink prior to playing their first match. If a non-registered player participates in a match, that match will be considered a default.
- Age requirements for the spring season are listed below. Players must reach the minimum age for those divisions by December 31, 2023.

Age Group	Minimum Age
18 & Over	18*
40 & Over	40
55 & Over	55
65 & Over	65
70 & Over	70

*Players must be 18 years of age prior to registering in the USTA League program.

- The National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) is the official system of rating levels of competition for USTA League programs. A player with a 2021 or 2022 computer rating must use that rating or above, and a player aged 60 or above with a 2021 computer rating must use that rating or above. Players who do not have a valid NTRP rating or have never had an NTRP Rating are required to self-rate according to the NTRP Guidelines.

- Mixed Exclusive (M) ratings are only valid for future Mixed Doubles play. Players who receive a Mixed Exclusive rating will be required to self-rate when signing up for any league other than Mixed Doubles.
- Matches played in these leagues may be used in the calculation of NTRP Ratings as follows:

USTA League	Age Group	Results used to Calculate Rating?
USTA Adult League	18 & over, 40 & over, 55 & over, 65 & over	Always
	18 & Over 5.5 and 40 & Over 5.0 40 & Over 2.5	Never
USTA Mixed Doubles League	18 & Over and 40 & Over	Only when player does not play USTA Adult 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over or 65 & Over AND does not have a previous Year end C rating.
	55 & Over and 65 & Over	Never
USTA NC Singles League	All age groups	Never
USTA Southern Combo Doubles League	All age groups	Never
Tri-Level League	All Age groups	Never

**Players may participate in more than one NTRP level within an Age Group in the same local league during the same season, however, they may play on only one team in the same NTRP level within an Age Group in the same local league during the same season.

**While a local league has the authority to accept or deny participants from outside the local league area, the Lake Norman League allows players from outside our area to participate on teams.

Promoted Players

If a self-rated player is promoted from a level of play, all matches played by that individual player (in the level that the player is being promoted from) shall stand. All players who have computer rated appeals (A) or Dynamic or NTRP Grievance Disqualified Players (D) who are subject to promotion, will not be subject to match reversal if promoted. Players not promoted by the conclusion of local league round robin play will be eligible to compete in the entire local playoff. Dynamic ratings will be calculated at the end of the local championship (playoff) to inform any promoted players that they may not advance to the state championships. Points earned by the promoted players in the local championships (playoffs) will stand.

- A promoted player during local league play may request moving to another team providing there is a team available and time permits. If that team is full, the promoted player may request a waiver regarding number of players on a roster. The NC State League Coordinator must approve this waiver.
- Teams losing a player to NTRP Promotion may be provided an exception to allow for adding a player to their roster in the following cases:
 - if registration has closed.
 - their team had the maximum number of players allowed on the roster.
 - the player may not be a self-rated player.

Captain Responsibilities

- Each captain is responsible for reviewing and understanding not only the local regulations but also the state, sectional, & national regulations. In addition, captains are required to direct their players to the website where these regulations are posted. Lake Norman USTA League Local Regulations are posted online on the **Captain's Corner/Player Resources page** under the Adult Tennis option at <https://www.Inta.org/adult-tennis/player-resources/>
- The captain shall follow all Match Procedures as well as procedures listed under Inclement Weather.
- It is the responsibility of the captain to ensure there are enough committed players registered on the team to field full lineups for all scheduled matches; and serve as the liaison for the team/teammates to maintain communications with the League Coordinator.
- It is the responsibility of the captain to confirm dates, times and match locations scheduled on TennisLink. **COMMUNICATE!!**
- The home team must communicate 48 hours prior to the match if different court surfaces are being used and state which lines will play on hard, clay or indoor. If a visiting team captain does not want to play on a mixture of court surfaces alternate arrangements must be made to stagger the match at the scheduled time or play the match at an alternate time - before or on the scheduled match date, using the same surface.
- It is the responsibility of the home team captain to notify the visiting team captain at least 48 hours in advance regarding any staggered matches. If the visiting team has not received notice about staggered matches at least 48 hours in advance of the match, the visiting team has the option to choose which lines will stagger, provided there are enough players on site, or follow the order of staggering, or arrange to make up the staggered lines following the order of staggering and in accordance with rain make-up rules.
- Each team must have an acting captain present at every match.
- The team captain for each team shall exchange their team line-up simultaneously prior to scheduled match start time.
- All scores must be posted on TennisLink within 48 hours of the match. Although both team captains have access to enter scores, the winning team captain is responsible for entering the scores and the opposing captain must confirm. In the case of a tie where a winner cannot be determined at the time of the last match, the home team should enter scores. The Local League Coordinator will monitor score entry and will immediately notify both captains regarding any missing entries. Failure to comply may subject teams to a grievance or double default.
 - Captains/players are strongly advised to confirm scores with one another at the conclusion of the match to avoid confusion with incorrect score/player entry.

Court Availability and Staggering

- Host facilities must be within the LNTA USTA Lake Norman League coverage area ([as determined by USTA NC](#)), with the exception of The Club at Westport.
- The home team must guarantee the use of 3 courts at one location for each team match consisting of 4 or 5 individual matches, and 2 courts at one location for each team match consisting of 3 individual matches.
- In accordance with staggering regulations, up to 2 individual matches may be staggered for team matches requiring 5 courts and 1 individual match may be staggered for team matches requiring 3 or 4 courts.
- Any approved USTA surface is permissible, including indoors (if indoors, home team pays for any applicable court fees). Per Southern Regulation 1.04D(6): Home teams will have the choice of court surface for which they wish to play their home matches. Court surface must be the same surface for all individual lines unless prior agreement between both captains.
- Tennis courts eligible for USTA Southern sanctioned competition, including, junior and adult tournaments and league must contain only lines prescribed by the ITF Rules of Tennis, as set out in the USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations (i.e. courts with Pickleball lines may not be used).
- It is the responsibility of the home team captain to notify the visiting team captain no less than 48 hours in advance regarding any staggered matches. If the visiting team has not received notice about staggered matches within 48 hours of the match, the visiting team has the option to choose which lines will stagger, provided there are enough players on site, or follow the order of staggering, or arrange to make up the staggered lines following the order of staggering and in accordance with rain make-up rules.
- A mix of court surfaces should not be used for a staggered match.
 - In the event teams agree to play a staggered match on a mix of courts surfaces, the home team must communicate 48 hours prior to the match which lines will play on hard, clay or indoor.
 - At the time the home team communicates about staggering matches but does not also communicate regarding the use of mixed surfaces, the visiting team will determine the court assignments before line ups are exchanged.
- In the event of staggering due to unexpected conditions that render courts unplayable, teams will follow the order of staggering or mutually agree which courts to stagger; or arrange to make up the staggered lines following the order of staggering in accordance with rain make-up rules.

- When teams have only 3 courts at one location for a team match consisting of 4 or 5 individual matches and 2 courts at one location for a team match consisting of 3 individual matches and have the option to use a secondary site nearby rather than stagger, they must contact the Local League Coordinator 48 hours in advance for approval, whether for an individual match or an entire season.
- Players scheduled for the staggered line(s) must be present one hour after the match start time. The default time for the staggered line is 1 hour and 15 minutes after the scheduled match start time.

Unless captains mutually agree to change order of play, staggered matches are to be played as follows:

Match Format	First Time Slot	Second Time Slot
2 Singles, 3 Doubles	#1 and #2 Singles and #1 Doubles	#2 Doubles and #3 Doubles
1 Singles, 3 Doubles	#1 Singles and #1 & #2 Doubles	#3 Doubles
1 Singles, 2 Doubles	#1 Singles and #1 Doubles	#2 Doubles
3 Doubles/3 Singles	#1 and #2 Doubles/Singles	#3 Doubles/Singles

Match Play

- 2.01C(1) Full Round Robin. Each NTRP level within a local league may play at least one full round robin competition wherein every team plays every other team. When any NTRP level consists of only two teams, each team is required to play a minimum of three team matches, which is a triple round robin. When any NTRP level consists of only three teams, each team is required to play a minimum of four team matches, which is a double full round robin. Any NTRP level may be divided into flights and each team shall play every other team in its flight. The flight winners may enter a playoff structure to establish a local league champion for that NTRP level.
 - Southern Regulation: Southern authorizes the use of 2.01C(1)a, 2.01C(1)b and/or 2.01C(1)c within its local leagues.
 - 2.01C(1)a Each Sectional Association may permit additional matches, selected randomly, within a flight.
 - 2.01C(1)b Each Sectional Association may permit additional cross-flight matches in which each team in one flight plays an equal number of matches in the other flight, selected randomly if not a full round robin.
 - 2.01C(1)c Each Sectional Association may permit the top teams in a flight to play an additional round robin to determine advancement, and the teams without a mathematical chance to advance may play an additional round robin.

- See National Regulations 2.01C(1)a and 2.01C(1)c: The Lake Norman league will play at least one full round robin and may schedule an additional partial round robin in flights. A playoff between the top two teams will determine advancement to the next level of play.

Team matches consist of the following:

USTA League	Individual Courts Played
USTA Adult League: 18 & Over; 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5	2 Singles, 3 Doubles
USTA Adult League 40 & Over; 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5	1 Singles, 3 Doubles
USTA Adult League 40 & Over 2.5, 5.0	3 Doubles
USTA Adult League 18 & Over; 2.5, 5.0 and 5.5	1 Singles, 2 Doubles
USTA Adult League 55 & Over and 65 & Over	3 Doubles
USTA Mixed Doubles League	3 Doubles
USTA NC Singles League	3 Singles
USTA Southern Combo Doubles League	3 Doubles
Tri-Level League	3 Doubles

- Match schedules are posted online at TennisLink.
- In support of play opportunity, and to avoid team defaults, if both captains agree in advance, they may reschedule a match that is in conflict with a holiday. Matches are to be played as scheduled, unless the captains agree to play early, and LLC has given permission. In the case of conflicts during the first week of the season, teams shall follow the procedure outlined for inclement weather and arrange to play within two weeks following the scheduled match date. Once a time, day, location and court surface for the makeup match has been agreed upon by the parties involved, that match may not be postponed, for any reason other than inclement weather. Before denying a request, captains should make teammates aware of the conflict to see if they would like to play versus take a default and lose a play occasion. Captains are responsible for canceling the originally scheduled courts and for reserving courts for the rescheduled time. Public facility captains should fill out a rain make-up request form to reserve courts for rescheduled matches.
- All matches/players will play the best of three sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak in lieu of a third set. The Coman Tiebreak will be used for the set tiebreak and the match tiebreak.
- If a team has 4 or more players on a roster (3 for Singles League matches) who are playing for the Lake Norman League working at a League Championship at either the North Carolina State, Southern Section or National Levels and have a team match in conflict with these events, then the team can reschedule the match either by playing before the scheduled date or within 2 weeks after the scheduled match (as long as the makeup match occurs within the league season dates). The Captain of the team must notify the opposing team captain and LLC of the conflict no later than 1 week before the scheduled match and work with both parties to reschedule the match within the above-mentioned time frame.

Match Procedures

- The home team will supply [USTA approved](#) new balls.
- Warm-ups begin at the match start time and are limited to 10 minutes including serves. However, if all players are present and match courts are available, the warm-up may start sooner. If a player arrives after the match start time but before the 15-minute default time, the player(s) is entitled to 5 minutes for warm-up.
- The default time is 15 minutes after the scheduled start time.
 - Default time is determined by player(s) being present on court.
- A team's lineup does not have to be listed in order of strength.
- Scorecards should be exchanged **no later than the scheduled match time**.
 - At the scheduled match time, if a player is not on site, the captains have 3 options to proceed with the scorecard lineup exchange:
 1. Wait until the missing player is on site and ready to play (prior to the 15-minute default time), exchange lineups, and play the match. At the default time, if the player is still not on site and ready to play, the missing player would be **moved to a defaultable court and play would begin**. Or
 2. Captains can agree to exchange lineups and begin play. If the missing player arrives prior to the default time, he/she will take the court assigned and begin. If the missing player arrives after the default time, the default will be entered on the scorecard as it occurred and matches will be entered as played. Or
 3. Substitute a missing player with an eligible player that is on site and ready to play, but is not listed on the original lineup. Substitutions must be made prior to the 15-minute default time and can only be exchanged for the missing player in the original lineup.
- No substitution may be made in an individual match after the lineup has been presented, except for injury to, illness of, disqualification or no-show of a player, prior to the start of such match. In the event of illness, injury, disqualification, or no-show of a player (after the lineup has been exchanged and prior to start of affected match) a team may substitute a player in the affected position within the 15-minute default time, using a player not already listed on the lineup. If no substitution can be made, the affected position will be defaulted. The substitution shall affect only the position for which the substitution has been made. The remaining lineup positions will remain the same.
- Captains/players are strongly advised to confirm scores with one another at the conclusion of the match to avoid confusion with incorrect score entry.
- Cell phones are not permitted to be turned on during play. If the phone rings during the point, the opponent may stop the point and claim the point based on deliberate hindrance. If the cell phone rings between points, the interruption is treated as a warning. In both cases the player shall turn off the cell phone. There is no penalty for a vibrating phone, but the player should immediately turn off the phone.

- Coaching is not allowed. Spectators are to watch quietly while a match is in progress and may not assist in line calls, score disputes, or any other calls. Applaud appropriately for great rallies and winning shots made by both teams!
- The only time a player may leave the court is to:
 1. Take a bona fide restroom visit (preferably on an odd game changeover or between sets)
 2. Fix an item of clothing necessary to play (you may not leave the court to get a racquet)
 3. Get water (please plan ahead and take water with you before the match starts)

Inclement Weather

If the weather is questionable, it is ultimately the responsibility of the HOME TEAM CAPTAIN to make the call on court conditions & to communicate with the opposing captain on court conditions. If you are the visiting captain and don't hear from the home team, CALL THEM!!! Do not cancel a match earlier than 2 hours before match times. If there is any question, both teams must show up ready to play. COMMUNICATE!

- If it is raining or the weather is questionable, do not assume the match is cancelled. Your team should show up ready to play unless both team captains have spoken in person (not on answering machine) and cancelled the match.
- Safety of the players is the number one priority; therefore, if it begins raining once a team match is underway and players feel that conditions are unsafe, then the match should be stopped.

In the Event of Rain

- When teams have assembled to play, and weather and/or courts are questionable, or the match is interrupted by inclement weather, teams are required to wait 30 minutes past the originally scheduled match time, unless both teams agree to wait longer. Do not assume the match is cancelled. Your team must show up ready to play, unless both captains of the teams have spoken in person (not on answering machines or email) and cancelled the match.
- If the *start* (first service attempt of the team match not played), of a team match is cancelled due to inclement weather, any defaults awarded in advance or at the time lineups were exchanged are null and void.
- In the event inclement weather occurs *after* the team match has begun, players must wait 30 minutes to determine if play can be resumed, unless both captains agree that play is not possible or agree to wait longer.
- In the event inclement weather occurs *after* the team match has begun (at least one point played in one individual match):
 - Completed individual matches stand as played.
 - Points awarded for defaults given at the time the original written lineup was exchanged are considered completed matches if any court began play.

- Incomplete matches that were in progress (first service attempt) must be resumed by the same players, in the same positions (ad and deuce), same side of net, same set, game, and point score, and at the same site, (unless players have mutually agreed to play elsewhere).
- Substitutions of players:
 - For individual matches that **have not yet begun**, any player who is not involved in a match that was in progress or a default may sub in for the make-up match.
 - For team matches **interrupted due to inclement weather**, lineups will stand for any court that had begun play (first service attempt). For any court that had not yet begun play (first service attempt), teams may substitute players as long as the substitutions are not listed on the original scorecard.
- **Captains must exchange at least one contact name for each line within 48 hours of the match being cancelled. It is the responsibility of the home team captain to initiate contact with the opposing team captain.**
- **Players must contact each other to schedule their individual matches and confirm make-up match date, time, and location.**

MAKE-UP MATCH PROCEDURES

Defaults will be taken if rule is not followed. The Local League Coordinator (LLC) will not be responsible for managing the process of exchanging lineups. However, if contact names for lineups have not been exchanged within 48 hours, captains should notify the LLC. At this point, the LLC will advise captains they have 24 hours to exchange contact names to avoid default.

Once a time, day, location, and court surface for the make-up match has been agreed upon by the parties involved, that match may not be postponed, for any reason other than inclement weather.

- Incomplete or postponed matches must be made up within 14 days or before the end of the season.
- If captains cannot agree on a make-up day, the 14th day will be the default mandatory match date. If there is inclement weather on the 14th day, the match will be played on the 15th day or the next subsequent day as weather and court conditions permit.
- In accordance with regulations for score entry, when matches are played on the mandatory match date, scores must be entered within 48 hours of that match time. In the event that captains mutually agree for players to play the match after the mandatory match date and within the 48-hour match score entry deadline, the provision for making up rained-out matches will not apply. The deadline to enter scores 48 hours after matches to be played on the mandatory match date (or the official rain date for the mandatory match date) stands.
- The default match location and time is the same as the originally scheduled match location and time. If courts cannot be reserved at the originally scheduled match facility then the match should be played at the visiting team's facility. If neither team is able to reserve courts at their facility for the default mandatory match date, captains should contact the Local

League Coordinator to reserve courts at a neutral facility. Captains must contact the LLC 48 hours prior to the match date, so courts can be reserved.

- Club captains shall reserve courts for make-up matches. Public court captains need to fill out the rain make-up court request sheet on the *Captain's Corner/Player Resources* page of www.Inta.org and submit to Iris to secure courts.

Match Scoring

- To win a team match, a team must win at least a majority of the individual courts played. If the match ends in a tie (i.e. 1 to 1 or 2 to 2), it will be broken by:
 - a) the team with the fewest sets lost
 - b) the team with the fewest games lost
 - c) winner of the #1 doubles line
 - d) For a 4 or 5-line match, in the event #1 doubles was not played, TennisLink will award the win to the team that won #1 singles.
 - e) For a 3-line Singles league match, in the event #1 singles was not played, TennisLink will award the win to the team that won #2 singles.
 - f) For a 3-line Mixed Doubles or Combo Doubles league match, in the event #1 doubles was not played, TennisLink will award the win to the team that won #2 doubles.
- To receive a win by default, the non-defaulting player or players must be present on court, ready to play; however, if a team captain advises his/her opponent in advance of the default, he/she, in effect, waives the requirement for the non-defaulting player(s) to be present in order to receive the default.
 - In the spirit of good sportsmanship and fair play, it is recommended that the opposing team(s) should be advised of a known default.
 - If a captain is advised prior to the match that the opponent must default one or more positions and that captain knows that he/she would also have had to default a position, it is incumbent upon that captain to demonstrate good sportsmanship and declare a double default rather than to accept the win.
 - When entering scores on TennisLink, use the pull-down menu and select 'Default' or 'Double Default.' The system will automatically record the appropriate score.

Determining Final Standings

- Final standings are determined by the number of team wins in round robin play.
- The following procedure is used to break any ties in team wins in round robin play during the local season:
 1. Individual Matches: Winner of the most individual matches in that flight or division
 2. Head to Head: Winner of head-to-head match
 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. Toss of Coin

- Where flights are used, for any level, at least the top team from each flight will play each other to determine the winner to advance to State Championships. The specific playoff format will be posted around the time that regular season schedules are published.

Advancing to Local and State Championships (Playoffs)

- If a team accepts a spot in the local championships (playoffs) and does not have enough players available to win a local playoff match, the entire match is a default and an automatic grievance will be filed.
- Players must play in a minimum number of regular-season matches to be eligible to advance to Local Championships (playoffs) and State Championships (players on teams advancing directly to the State Championships, are exempt from the following):

League	Season	Minimum Required Matches Played	# of defaults that may count as a match played
USTA Adult 18 & over, 40 & over, 55 & over	Winter/ Spring	2	1
USTA Adult (18 & Over 2.5 men and 5.5, 40 & Over 2.5 and 5.0)	Winter/ Spring	1	1
USTA Mixed 18 & over, 40 & over	Spring/ Summer	2	1
USTA Mixed 55 & over	Spring/ Summer	1	1
USTA Mixed 65 & over	Spring/ Summer	1	1
USTA NC Singles League	Spring/ Summer	1	1
USTA Southern Combo Doubles	Summer/Fall	1	1
Tri-Level League	Summer	1	1

Each local league will be extended one invitation per level of play for a team to go to the Local and State Championships. The top two teams will be invited when a level has the following number of teams:

League	Season	Min # of teams on a Level
USTA Adult League	Winter/Spring	30
USTA League Mixed Doubles	Spring/Summer	25
USTA Southern Combo Doubles	Summer/Fall	30
USTA NC Singles	Spring/Summer	25
Tri-Level League	Summer	25

- Wildcards will be offered, if needed, to local leagues according to the chart on the NC Tennis website (<https://www.nctennis.com/state-championships>). The NC Director of Adult Leagues will notify the LLC of each league after the Team Registration Deadline if any wildcards are being offered. Wildcards are not used often but can be if a team drops out.
- For leagues sending 2 teams to the state championships based on number of teams in league (above), LLC will ask the third-place team to attend if the first or second place team cannot attend.
- If a team has 4 or more players on a roster (3 for Singles League matches) who are playing for the Lake Norman League or working at a League Championship at either the North Carolina State, Southern Section or National Levels and have a team match in conflict with these events, then the team can reschedule the match either by playing before the scheduled date or within 2 weeks after the scheduled match (as long as the makeup match occurs within the league season dates). The Captain of the team must notify the opposing team captain and LLC of the conflict no later than 1 week before the scheduled match and work with both parties to reschedule the match within the above-mentioned time frame.

Committees

The Lake Norman League Grievance and Grievance Appeal Committees are formed as necessary using members of the Adult League Committee & Lake Norman League. The procedures for filing a grievance are outlined in the 2023 USTA League National Regulations.

Grievance & Grievance Appeal Committees: Beth Krogstie, Lance King, Tim Powell, Cathleen Phelps, Karen Taylor, and Kathleen Kaake

The following forms must be submitted to reserve make up courts and scorecard corrections.

Make up court reservation form:

<https://www.lnta.org/inclement-weather/>

Scorecard correction form:

<https://www.lnta.org/scorecard-correction/>

State Championship Dates & Locations for each age division	65 & Over	May 12 - 14 Greenville, NC
	55 & Over	June 2 - 4 Asheville, NC
	18 & Over	June 15 - 18 Lake Norman, NC
	40 & Over	June 22 - 25 Charlotte, NC