



USTA Southern Championship Procedures (updated January 16, 2018)  
2018 Championship Year (3-day event)

*USTA Southern is comprised of the nine states of AL, AR, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, and TN. The USTA Southern Championship Procedures will apply to all USTA Southern Sectional Championships. When not stated in the Championship Procedures, the National and Sectional regulations and Friend at Court will apply.*

### Sectional Championships

USTA Southern offers an all-inclusive sectional championship site for each of the following programs: [southernchampionships.com](http://southernchampionships.com)

- USTA League Adult 18 & Over
- USTA League Adult 40 & Over
- USTA League Adult 55 & Over
- USTA League Adult 65 & Over
- USTA League Mixed Doubles
- Southern Combo Doubles

### Team Qualification

- State championship teams will be allowed to advance to the USTA Southern Sectional Championships. If a state championship team declines their invitation, then the state association may offer the bid to the next priority team, provided Southern approval.
- Wildcards will be issued to fill up draws at the sectional championships. USTA Southern uses a consistent and alternating procedure to ensure that each state gets equal opportunity at a wildcard team each year. In the final weeks prior to a sectional championship, a wildcard opening may be opened to all states if needed to be filled immediately. Additional wildcards may be extended under discretion of the Championship Committee.

### Championship Format

- USTA Southern Sectional Championship format shall be round robin in all levels of competition. A full draw is comprised of two flights with five teams each: the nine state champion teams and a wildcard team.
- Each team shall play every other team in its flight, and the team with the most team points shall be champion in its flight. Levels with two flight winners will offer a single elimination finals match to determine the champion.
- If a state has two teams in the same level, the referee will place those teams in separate flights provided there are two flights in that level.
- If less than four teams are entered in an NTRP level draw within 21 days of the event, the draw for the NTRP level will be cancelled unless otherwise authorized by the Championship Committee.

### Eligibility

- All players must possess current USTA memberships through the conclusion of the USTA Southern Sectional Championship.
- **USTA League Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over, and Mixed Doubles:** Players are eligible to advance to the sectional championship level competition if that player has played on that same team in at least 2 matches during its local league season. A maximum of 1 default received by the player during local league competition shall count for advancing to State Championships.
  - A minimum of eight (five for 2.5 & 5.0+ levels) team members who were on the final roster of their Adult 18 & Over and/or Adult 40 & Over local league team at the conclusion of local league play must be available and eligible to compete. The Championships Championship Committee, by majority vote, can reduce that number to not less than four (three for 2.5 & 5.0+ levels).
  - A minimum of six team members who were on the final roster of their Adult 55 & Over or Mixed Doubles local league team at the conclusion of local league play must be available and eligible to compete, or to combine and compete, as appropriate. The Championships Championship Committee, by majority vote, can reduce that number to not less than four.
  - Additional levels offered that do not require matches played prior to advancement to the Section Championships: Men's and Women's 5.5 and Men's and Women's Open.
- **Adult 65 & Over\* and Southern Combo Doubles:** Team members are eligible to advance to championship level competition if that player has played on that same team in at least 1 match (1 of which may be a default received) during its local league season or state championships.
  - A minimum of six team members (three eligible pairings) who were on the final roster of their local league team at the conclusion of local league play must be available and eligible to combine and compete. The Championships Championship Committee, by majority vote, may reduce that number to not less than four.
  - In Combo Doubles, if a player's year-end rating is two levels above the rating on the roster, that player must participate at the middle level (i.e. player roster is 3.5, year-end rating is 4.5, player must play as 4.0)

*\*Please refer to 2018 Southern Rules and Regulations for full details on eligibility for Adult 65 & Over.*



### Registration, Entry Fee, and Deposit Requirements

- Championship Entry Fee: \$45.00 per player. Late fee of \$25.00 will apply after online registration deadline. USTA Southern spends approximately \$98.00 per player for sectionals, which include but not limited to player t-shirt, metal participant bag tag, captain gift, player amenity/lunch, tennis balls, court fees, photographer, Referee, supplies and materials, volunteer and staff travel expenses, and host stipend to local tennis community.
- Captains are required to submit a team deposit of \$250.00 to the USTA Southern office within two weeks of the conclusion of their State Championship. Make the check payable to: Southern Tennis Association. Please write the following on your check: Captain's name, State, Gender, League and NTRP Level.
- Mail the check to: Southern Tennis Association (Attn: Marita Edrosa); 5685 Spalding Drive; Peachtree Corners, GA 30092
- The deposit check will be held by the USTA Southern office until the conclusion of the 2018 USTA League Southern Section Championship. If a team pulls out before the draw is published, the deposit will be refunded. If a team pulls out after the draw is published or if a team does not successfully complete the USTA Southern sectional tournament, the deposit will be forfeited.
- Players should be registered on both TennisLink and the Southern web site. In the case of administrative oversight by Southern, the Championship Committee may authorize to add a player to TennisLink after the deadline.

### Scheduled Matches

- The captain is responsible for checking his/her team in at the site of the match. When all players are present and ready to play, the captain will turn in their lineup at the site desk using one of the scorecards in your registration packet. It is asked that captains turn in scorecards 30 minutes prior to the start of their scheduled match. Captains should fill out scorecards according to the instructions enclosed in this packet.
- If a team has a known default, the opposing team will have the opportunity to revise their scorecard once both scorecards are turned in and the default has been announced by the site director.
- No substitution may be made in an individual match after the line-up has been presented, except for injury to, illness of, ineligibility or disqualification of a player prior to the start of such match, and except other circumstances listed in procedures. If substitution is made during warm-up, the substitute player is entitled to a five minute warm-up. If no such substitution can be made, the affected position only will be defaulted.
- The following applies to the Adult 2.5 and 5.0+ teams at the Southern Championships: If a player is injured or becomes ill after the lineup has been submitted and the captain must change the lineup in order to prevent a team match default, the opposing captain may also change their lineup. This only applies to the 2.5 and 5.0+ levels as the lineup change will affect both singles and doubles positions.
- If a captain duplicates a name in error on a scorecard, a team may be allowed to substitute a player for the duplicate name in the lower position (at the discretion of the Championship Committee), using a player not already listed on the line-up. A substitution may only be made in the lower position if the error is discovered before the match begins. If no such substitution can be made, the affected position only will be defaulted.
- The Point Penalty System, which includes the 15-minute default time rule, will be strictly enforced. Court monitors may be used to time warm-ups and changeovers. The Tournament Referee, in conjunction with the Championship Committee, has full authority on enforcing PPS.
- Winners of individual matches will take the balls and report the score immediately to the site desk.
- Captains are expected to sign each scorecard after each scheduled match is completed before leaving the tennis facility. Failure to sign the scorecard may result in scores posted online only confirmed by opposing captain.
- If a team match is postponed following the exchange of line-ups, the original line-up will stand for the make-up match UNLESS teams are released from the tournament by the Tournament Director and/or Referee. If teams are released, the line-up would stand only for those positions that have already started (first service attempt) and all other positions (even those that were in warm-up) may be changed including defaulted courts.
- Tournament Referees will not be used to make line calls or call foot faults.
- In the event of significant weather challenges, the Championship Committee may use an alternate scoring match format, in order to complete the tournament. See Alternate Scoring document located on web site and/or in captain's packet for scoring conversions.

### Scoring

- All matches will be the best of two tiebreak sets with a 10-point match tiebreak in lieu of a third set. There will be a two minute set break at the end of each set with no coaching. The Match tiebreak shall be scored as 1 set and 1 game for tiebreak procedures. In the event of shortened formatting, matches will be converted to a compatible scoring format using the Alternative Scoring document (found on championship web site).



- Each team will receive 1 point for each team match won. Results may be posted on the official scoreboards. To comply with national regulation 2.03H, in the event of a tie, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so: winner of the most individual matches, then winner of head-to-head match, then least sets lost, then least games lost, then a coin toss. Please see national regulation 2.03H(1) for further information. All scores are final 48 hours after the conclusion of the tournament.
- Team and Individual scores and standings may be posted at the tournament headquarters each day. Results will be entered into Tennis Link throughout each day and can be viewed on this website.
- All teams are expected to play all scheduled matches. Any team not complying may be subject to grievance procedures in addition to forfeiting the team deposit check. Teams are also expected to provide full line-ups for all team matches. If player participation on more than one team results in a team defaulting a court, the defaulting team may be subject to grievance procedures. Penalties may include but are not limited to monetary fines and/or suspension from league play. In accordance with USTA League Tennis Regulations, any team forfeiting an entire team match for any reason will result in all matches of that team previously played or to be played to be declared null and void. If all teams in contention for the Championships have already played the forfeiting team in good faith, the matches stand as played.
- If any team is released from the Southern championships due to inclement weather and certain individual matches in their team match have already been started, it will be recorded in TennisLink as a "retirement" with the leading team in the individual match as the "winner." (For example, team leading 6-4, 0-4 would be considered the leading team. If a 2<sup>nd</sup> set is not completed, the team winning first set is considered the leading team.)

#### **Grievances**

- Filing fee for Championship Grievances (General/Sportsmanship, Administrative) will be \$100.00 made payable to USTA Southern. Fee will only be given back to filing party if penalty is imposed on subject party.
- Forms are available at each of the sites at the tournament desk. Completed grievance forms must be presented to the Site Director at the site of the match within 30 minutes of the completion of the last individual court of the team match.
- The committees involved will handle all Grievances as promptly as possible once payment is submitted. In most cases, all grievances will be heard by Southern Grievance Committee after the conclusion of the championship.
- NTRP Grievances filed within 21 days of the sectional championship against anyone participating in the Sectional Championships will be administered after the Sectional Championships unless the USTA Southern Section Adult League Committee Chair, Vice-Chair and Sectional League Coordinator authorize the administration of the grievance prior to that time. If the grievance is not administered until after the Sectional Championships, points won by players will stand. Disqualified players through grievance and/or captains that are suspended will not be eligible to advance to the National Championships.
- A team that withdraws from a championship after schedules are published, or a team that forfeits an entire team match during championship play, will forfeit their deposit check and entry fees and will be subject to a grievance filed by the Championship Committee; and may receive further penalties imposed by the Championship Grievance Committee.

#### **NTRP Dynamic Disqualification & Other Advancement Information**

- USTA Southern follows national regulation 2.04E(2)c and dynamic ratings will be generated following the Sectional Championships. It is possible for any self-rated (S), appealed (A), and/or dynamic (D) players to be dynamically promoted at his or her NTRP level. The promoted player will not be eligible to advance to the next level of competition. Points earned by promoted players will stand.
- Players in early-start leagues who were promoted in the 2017 year-end ratings may continue play through the state and sectional championships but are not permitted to advance to the national championship at the lower level. The only exception is for the Adult 18 & Over 2.5 women's league.

#### **Championship Cancellation Policy**

- Should inclement weather or other circumstances prevent the completion of a Sectional Championship or prevent round robin matches from starting by 5:00 PM (local time) on Sunday, the level/flight winners will be determined by the first of the following procedures that does so:
  - In the event a level or flight within a level consists of multiple round robins, the first place team will be determined by TennisLink standings at the conclusion of the most recent full round robin. If no full round robin is completed, the below-mentioned procedures would apply.
  - In the event that only one team in a round robin has a mathematical chance of finishing first, that team will be declared the winner of the round robin.



- If more than one team has a mathematical chance of winning their round robin, and the first place team has already beaten the other teams with a mathematical chance of winning, the 1st place team would be considered the round robin winner as the head-to-head winner.
- If a round robin winner cannot be determined, and each team in a round robin has been given the opportunity to complete a minimum of one team match, only teams with a mathematical chance of finishing first will receive an entry into a drawing. Undeclared teams will receive a second entry into the drawing.
- If a round robin winner cannot be determined, and each team in a round robin has not been given the opportunity to complete a minimum of one team match, each team will receive one entry into a drawing to determine the round robin winner.
- The following procedure will take place when two round robin winners (in a specific age group and NTRP level) have been determined by the above-mentioned procedures and/or cancellation occurs after the finals have begun:
  - Both teams can agree to meet at a mutual location and time to play for the sectional championship. A deadline will be given by the Championship Committee to complete the match. If both teams cannot agree to a mutual location and time prior to or on the deadline set forth by the Championship Committee, both teams will receive an entry into a drawing to determine the sectional champion. USTA Southern will not be responsible for providing an official or for expenses relating to this match. The Championship Committee may keep both finalist teams at the tennis center past 5:00 pm to see if play can continue later that evening.

#### **Administration**

- Rain Hotline Number: 888-434-0998. Text Update also available (more info at registration desk).
- Championship Committee will use proper and fair judgment with regard to all sectional tournament-related issues. This includes but is not limited to procedures and information not listed in the Championship Procedures or National/Sectional regulations.
- Championship Committee will consist of the Tournament Director, Tournament Referee and one other person selected by the Southern Adult League Committee Chairman.
- Championship Grievance Committee: To be appointed by Southern Adult League Committee Chair as necessary.
- Championship Procedures may be amended at Championship Committee's discretion.
- The Championship Committee may release a team from the Southern championship.

#### **2018 Championship Committees\***

- Adult 18 & Over Championship (Mobile, AL; July 20-23, 2018): Chris Walling (Tournament Director), TBD (Referee) and Cookie Guarini (Chair – Southern Championship Selection Subcommittee).
- Adult 40 & Over Championship (Mobile, AL; July 27-30, 2018): Chris Walling (Tournament Director), TBD (Referee) and Cookie Guarini (Chair – Southern Championship Selection Subcommittee).
- Adult 55 & Over Championship (Asheville, NC; September 14-16, 2018): Chris Walling (Tournament Director), Kenny Martin (Referee) and Cookie Guarini (Chair – Southern Championship Selection Subcommittee).
- Mixed Doubles Championship (Little Rock, AR; October 12-15, 2018): Chris Walling (Tournament Director), Deanna Garretson (Referee) and Cookie Guarini (Chair – Southern Championship Selection Subcommittee).
- Adult 65 & Over Championship (Hilton Head Island, SC; November 30 – December 2, 2018): Marita Edrosa (Tournament Director), Kenny Martin (Referee) and Cookie Guarini (Chair – Southern Championship Selection Subcommittee).
- Combo Doubles 55 & Over (Auburn, AL; March 8-10, 2019): Marita Edrosa (Tournament Director), TBD (Referee) and Cookie Guarini (Chair – Southern Championship Selection Subcommittee).
- Combo Doubles 18/40 & Over (Mobile, AL; March 15-18, 2019): Chris Walling (Tournament Director), TBD (Referee) and Cookie Guarini (Chair – Southern Championship Selection Subcommittee).

\*Please note any of above-mentioned Championship Committees may change prior to tournament start.