



USTA North Carolina Championship Procedures 2024 Championship Year

The USTA North Carolina Championship Procedures will apply to all USTA North Carolina State Championships. When not stated in the Championship Procedures, the National, Sectional and State Regulations and Friend at Court will apply.

The Championship Committee has the right to change these procedures and events if it is in the best interest of the event(s).

Due to the possibility of championship dates and locations being modified for reasons outside of our control, USTA Southern highly encourages players to secure lodging at places that allow refundable deposits.

State Championships

USTA North Carolina offers state championships for each of the following programs:

- USTA League Adult: 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over and 65 & Over
- USTA League Mixed Doubles: 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over and 65 & Over
- USTA Southern Combo Doubles: 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over and 65 & Over
- NCTA Singles League: 18 & Over, 40 & Over and 55 & Over
- USTA Southern Tri-Level League: 18 & Over, 55 & Over

2024 North Carolina State Championships (*does not advance past state championships)

League State Championship	Dates	Location	Levels
USTA League 65 & Over	May 17-19	Greenville	3.0, 3.5, 4.0
USTA League 55 & Over	May 31-June 2	Asheville	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0
USTA League 18 & Over	June 13-16	Lake Norman	2.5-5.5
USTA League 40 & Over	June 20-23	Charlotte	3.0-4.5, 5.0*, W 2.5*
USTA League Mixed Doubles	September 5-8	Greensboro	18s: 2.5-4.5, 10.0; 40s: 3.0-4.5; 55s: 3.0-4.0, 4.5*; 65s: 3.0-4.0
Southern Tri-Level	September 19-22	Kinston	18s: 4.0-3.0, 4.5-3.5, 5.0-4.0, 5.5-4.5; W 3.5-2.5; 55s: 4.0-3.0, 4.5-3.5



NCTA Singles League*	October 3-6	Goldsboro	18s: 2.5-5.0; 40s: 3.0-4.5; 55s: 3.0-4.0
Southern Combo Doubles	October 31- November 3	Wilmington	18s: 2.5(W), 6.5, 8.5, 10.5; 40s: 6.5, 8.5; 55s: 6.5, 8.5; 65s: 6.5
Southern Combo Doubles	November 7-10	Wilmington	18s: 5.5, 7.5, 9.5; 40s: 5.5, 7.5, 9.5; 55s: 7.5; 65s: 7.5

Team Match Format:

- Adult 18 & Over (3.0-4.5): 2 Singles, 3 Doubles
- Adult 18 & Over (2.5, 5.0, 5.5): 1 Singles, 2 Doubles
- Adult 40 & Over (3.0-4.5): 1 Singles, 3 Doubles
- Adult 40 & Over (2.5): 3 Doubles
- Adult 55 & Over: 3 Doubles
- Adult 65 & Over: 3 Doubles
- Mixed Doubles: 3 Doubles
- Southern Combo Doubles: 3 Doubles
- NC Singles: 3 Singles
- Tri-Level: 3 Doubles

Team Qualification

- Local League winners will be allowed to advance to the State Championships. If the Local League winner declines their invitation, the Local League Coordinator may offer the invitation to the 2nd place team. In leagues that send 2 teams (based on league numbers) LLCs can ask the 3rd place team, if the first or second place team declines the bid. All other 3rd place teams must be approved by the State League Coordinator.
- Wildcards will be issued to fill draws at the State Championships, if needed. USTA North Carolina uses a consistent and alternating procedure to ensure that each local league gets equal opportunity at a wildcard team each year. The order in which wildcards are offered, if needed, is posted at www.nctennis.com. In the final weeks prior to a State Championship, a wildcard opening may be opened to all local leagues if needed to be filled immediately. Additional wildcards may be extended under the discretion of the Tournament Director.

Registration and Tournament Fees

- Championship entry fee: \$40 per player.
- Captains are required to complete a Team Agreement form and include a credit card number for a \$300 deposit. The deposit will be held by the USTA NC office until the conclusion of the applicable 2024 USTA NC



Championship. If the team successfully completes the championship (e.g., no defaults), or if a team withdraws before the deadline the deposit will not be charged. If a team withdraws after the deadline or if a team does not successfully complete the championship, the deposit will be forfeited, or partially forfeited. The situations where the deposit will be forfeited or partially forfeited are as follows:

- If a team withdraws after the Team Registration Deadline, or if a team does not successfully complete the championship, the entire deposit will be forfeited.
- If a team defaults an individual court/line during the championship an administrative fee of \$100 per individual court will be deducted from the deposit.
- Team captains with deposit forfeiture and/or administrative fees for individual defaulted courts may submit a waiver to be exempted from paying fees. Waiver requests will be submitted to and reviewed by the NC Adult League Committee Chair, an appointed NC Adult League Committee member and the State League Coordinator. Only cases of extreme circumstances will be accepted and/or considered.
- Note: collected monies will be donated to a local charity determined by the host committee.
- A registration link will be given to captains by the local league coordinator. It will also be available on the tournament website.
- All players and captains must be registered on both TennisLink and the Match Team Tennis App.
- Players that are participating on more than 1 team must register for each team on which they are participating.
- All players must be listed on both the original TennisLink roster and must be registered and paid for the championship to be eligible to play.
- Leagues where direct advancement to the state championships is permitted, must have a complete TennisLink Roster by the following dates:

Championship	Direct Advancing Team Roster Deadline
Adult 65 & Over	April 15
Adult 55 & Over	April 15
Mixed Doubles	July 15
Tri-Level	July 15
Singles	August 15
Combo Doubles 5.0/6.5/8.5	September 15
Combo Doubles 5.5/7.5/9.5	September 15

Players must be on both the TennisLink and tournament rosters to be eligible to play.

- All players requesting refunds must do so before 11:59 PM the night before the start of the State Championship. No refunds will be considered after that time.
- Any team dropping out of the tournament after the Team Registration Deadline will forfeit the deposit. Any registration fees paid up to that point will not be refunded. The Team Registration Deadlines are as follows:

Championship	Team Registration Deadline
Adult 65 & Over	May 1



Adult 55 & Over	May 15
Adult 18 & Over	May 29
Adult 40 & Over	June 5
Mixed Doubles	August 14
Tri-Level	September 4
NC Singles	September 18
Combo Doubles 5.0/6.5/8.5	October 16
Combo Doubles 5.5/7.5/9.5	October 23

Eligibility

- To be eligible to participate in the State Championships, your team must have the minimum number of players needed to field a full team for each scheduled match by the Team Registration Deadline.

League	Season	Minimum number
USTA League Adult 18	Spring	8
USTA League Adult 40 & Over	Spring	7
USTA League Adult 55 & over and 65 & over	Spring	6
USTA League Adult 18 & over 2.5, 5.0+ & 5.5	Spring	5
USTA League Mixed Doubles*	Summer	6
Southern Combo Doubles*	Fall	6
NCTA Singles League	Varies	3
USTA Southern Tri-Level League*	Varies	6

*Players must be able to combine to form a legal roster.

- All players must be current USTA members through the end of the tournament month, be listed on the original roster on TennisLink and have registered for the event for the team they are playing.
- All players must have played in the minimum number of matches required to be eligible. Exceptions made for teams advancing directly (see NC League Regulations).

League	Season	Minimum Matches Played	# of defaults that may count as a match played
USTA League Adult 18 & over, 40 & over, 55 & over	Spring	2	1
Adult Other (18 & Over 2.5 M, 18 & Over 5.5, 40 & Over 2.5 W, 40 & Over 5.0)	Spring	1	1
USTA League Adult 65 & over	Spring	1	1



USTA League Mixed 18 & over, 40 & over	Summer	2	1
USTA League Mixed 55 & over, 65 & over	Summer	1	1
Southern Combo Doubles	Fall	1	1
NCTA Singles League	Varies	1	1
USTA Southern Tri-Level League	Varies	1	1

Championship Format

- Round robin format of play will be used with levels consisting of 6 or fewer teams. Levels with 7 or more teams will play 4 matches against randomly selected opponents (Partial Round Robin). Levels with 7-8 teams will play a final match with the top 2 teams advancing. Levels with 9 or more teams will play a semifinal and final with the top 4 teams advancing. See chart below.

# of TEAMS IN FLIGHT	FORMAT	SEMIFINAL/FINAL	# OF MATCHES
2	5 MATCHES	N/A	3-5
3	DOUBLE ROUND ROBIN	N/A	4
4	ROUND ROBIN TO SEED	SEMIFINALS AND FINAL	4-5
5	ROUND ROBIN	N/A	4
6	ROUND ROBIN	N/A	5
7	PARTIAL ROUND ROBIN (Random Selection)	FINAL*	4-5
8	PARTIAL ROUND ROBIN (Random Selection)	FINAL*	4-5
9	PARTIAL ROUND ROBIN (Random Selection)	SEMIFINALS/FINAL	4-6
10	PARTIAL ROUND ROBIN (Random Selection)	SEMIFINALS/FINAL	4-6
11	PARTIAL ROUND ROBIN (Random Selection)	SEMIFINALS/FINAL	4-6
12	PARTIAL ROUND ROBIN (Random Selection)	SEMIFINALS/FINAL	4-6
13	PARTIAL ROUND ROBIN (Random Selection)	SEMIFINALS/FINAL	4-6
14	PARTIAL ROUND ROBIN (Random Selection)	SEMIFINALS/FINAL**	4-6
15	PARTIAL ROUND ROBIN (Random Selection)	SEMIFINALS/FINAL**	4-6



16	PARTIAL ROUND ROBIN (Random Selection)	SEMIFINALS/FINAL**	4-6
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*If, at the end of random play, 3 teams are undefeated, the 2nd and 3rd place teams (as determined by standings in TennisLink) will play a playoff match to determine which team advances to the finals. For the playoff match, the team match will follow the championship format for the affected age division and level (for example, 40 & Over 3.5 Men would play 1 singles and 3 doubles courts; 18 & Over 2.5 Women would play 1 singles and 2 doubles courts) with each court playing a 10-point tiebreaker.

**If, at the end of random play, 5 teams are undefeated, the 4th and 5th place teams (as determined by standings in TennisLink) will play a playoff match to determine which team advances to the semifinals. For the playoff match, the team match will follow the championship format for the affected age division and level (for example, 40 & Over 3.5 Men would play 1 singles and 3 doubles courts; 18 & Over 2.5 Women would play 1 singles and 2 doubles courts) with each court playing a 10-point tiebreaker.

- All matches, except playoff matches noted above, shall be the best of two sets with a match tiebreak (first to 10, win by 2) in lieu of the 3rd set.
- Set tiebreaks (first to 7, win by 2) shall be used at six-all in each set.
- Set and match tiebreaks will use the Coman format.
- The Tournament Committee reserves the right to alter the format, court surface and scoring method, if necessary.
- The Tournament Committee reserves the right to terminate a team match when one team has won the majority of the points. However, without directive from the Tournament Committee, all teams are to play all matches to completion.
- All USTA Official Rules of Play, USTA National, Southern, and North Carolina Regulations, the USTA Code of Conduct and the USTA Point Penalty System for lateness will be enforced.
- In the event of a tie for each individual team match, the tie will be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so: least sets lost, then least games lost, then highest game winning percentage, then the winning team of #1 doubles match, then the winning team of the #1 singles match.
- In the event of a tie (two or more teams with the same record) in the round robin or in unflighted play, the group winner will be determined by:
 1. Most individual matches won
 2. Head to head winner, only if all tied teams have played each other AND one team defeated all of the teams that are tied.
 3. Fewest sets lost
 4. Fewest games lost
 5. Coin toss



If more than 2 teams are tied: Tiebreaks noted above will be used to eliminate teams. Once a team is eliminated, tiebreaks will continue down the list until only 1 winner is declared. For example, Teams A, B, C and D are tied at the end of the round robin. Tiebreak #2 eliminates Team D. Tiebreak #3 eliminates Team C. Tiebreak #4 and then #5 (if needed) is used to break the tie between Team A and Team B.

- Should inclement weather or other circumstances prevent the completion of a USTA North Carolina State Championship, the following procedures will be used to determine round robin winners, partial round robin match winners and state champions:
 1. 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.
 2. 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.
 3. If a round robin winner cannot be determined, only teams with a mathematical chance of finishing first will receive an entry into a drawing.
 - Undefeated teams will receive a second entry into the drawing, unless less than 2 full rounds have been played.
 - Teams with losing records will NOT be entered into the drawing, unless less than 2 full rounds have been completed.
 - Any teams that do not have an intent to attend sectionals (based on response at Championship registration) will not be entered into the drawing.
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 4. For Partial Round Robin Matches, any team with a mathematical chance of advancing to the playoff rounds will be placed into a drawing to determine the State Champion.
 - Undefeated teams will receive a 2nd entry into the drawing unless less than 2 full rounds have been played.
 - Teams with losing records will NOT be entered into the drawing, unless less than 2 full rounds have been completed.
 - Any teams that do not have an intent to attend sectionals (based on response at Championship registration) will not be entered into the drawing.
- Should a match that had begun play be interrupted by inclement weather that prevents the completion of the USTA North Carolina State Championship and an alternate facility is unavailable, the winner of each individual court will be determined by the total number of completed games won. Incomplete games will not be included in the total. Should the number of games won by each team in an individual match be equal, the winner will be determined by drawing.
- Scores will be updated regularly and available in TennisLink.

Schedule

- A tentative schedule will be available on the tournament web site at <https://www.nctennis.com/state-championships> no later than 7 days before the tournament begins. The tentative schedule will also be available on the Match Team Tennis App.
- The tentative schedule posted on the tournament web site is only TENTATIVE and subject to change.



- Do not refer to TennisLink or the USTA mobile app for any match times.

Match Play

- It is the captain's responsibility to inform all team members of these tournament rules.
- All teams must check in, ready to play their match, at least 30 minutes prior to their scheduled match. All players must be present and ready to play for the Captains to check in. **Scorecards are to be turned in AT THE LATEST by the scheduled match time to avoid lateness penalties. Captains are encouraged to move any missing players to defaultable courts and turn in their scorecard to the site coordinator to avoid lateness penalties on all courts.**
- Lineups are to be turned in via the app. Once you submit the lineup we assume you are on site and ready to play. If you turn in a wrong or inaccurate lineup, it will not be returned for revision.
- If a captain duplicates a name in error on a lineup, a team may be allowed to substitute a player for the duplicate name in the lower position (using a player not already listed on the line-up) at the Tournament Director's discretion. A player may be substituted only if the error is discovered before the match begins. If no such substitution can be made, or if the error is discovered after the match has started, the affected position (lower court) will be defaulted.
- Teams are allowed to substitute players once a lineup has been turned in only due to injury or illness during the warm-up. Substitute players must be on site and ready to play. Teams substituting a player may not change their lineup, but may only substitute a player in the affected position. Substitutions are not allowed for no-shows. Once the individual match with the injured/ill player has begun, substitutions are no longer allowed.
- Team members should always introduce themselves to their opponents to be sure they are playing the correct players. Example: "We are the #2 doubles team on the 3.5 Piedmont team". This practice may seem elementary, but it can stop a problem from occurring.
- Friend at Court, which includes the 15-minute default time rule, will be strictly enforced. Only 1 court must be available on or before the scheduled match time for all courts at that site to be subject to lateness penalties. For example, Teams A, B, C and D are all scheduled to play at 9:30 AM at Site X. Teams A and B begin their matches at 9:15. Teams C and D are subject to lateness penalties if they have a late player as there was at least 1 court available for a 9:30 match, regardless of what time Teams C and D matches are put on court.
- If a court is open, and both teams have turned in their lineups, the match may start early. The team captain should not leave the tournament desk area once the team has checked in.
- A 5-minute warm up period, including serves, will be observed.
- Line calls will be made as accurately as possible, always giving the benefit of any doubt to your opponent. Remember that if you cannot call your opponent's shot out, it is presumed good. Do not ask opinions of spectators. **Tournament Referees will not be used to make line calls.**
- No coaching of any player during a match.
- Follow all rules of considerate behavior.



- The winning team on each court should IMMEDIATELY report scores on the app and return used balls to the site desk.
- Both team captains should review the scorecard for accuracy and confirm scores in the app.
- If a team forfeits an entire team match for any reason during round robin play, **then all matches of that team, played or to be played, shall be null and void.** (See: Defaults)

Weather Conditions

- All teams must be at their match site 30 minutes before match time, regardless of match conditions, unless other instructions have been provided.
- All players will receive weather related changes through the Match Team Tennis App.
- In case of rain, if you feel that the playing surface is unsafe, you may halt play. Do not leave the site until the site coordinator or referee has released you.
- If a team match is postponed following the exchange of lineups, original lineups will stand unless the players have been released from the site (by the Tournament Director or Referee, not the Site Coordinator) for play at a later time. If the postponed match has been released from the site, only those courts that have begun play (first point played) will stand. Any other court may be changed.

Grievances

- Filing fee for Championship Grievances (General/Sportsmanship, Administrative) will be \$100.00 made payable to USTA NC. The fee will be returned if the grievance is upheld. Forms are available at each of the sites at the tournament desk. Completed grievances forms must be presented to the Site Coordinator or Tournament Director within 30 minutes of the completion of the last individual court of the team match.
- NTRP Grievances filed during the State Championships will not be reviewed until after the tournament. Points won by players will stand. Any disqualified players and/or suspended captains will not be eligible to advance to the Sectional Championships.
- Players who exhibit inappropriate behavior and/or unsportsmanlike conduct towards the host, tournament staff and/or volunteers will be subject to a Championship Grievance and may receive suspension penalties imposed by the Championship Committee.
- Suspension Points may be assessed onsite during a league championship by the Head Referee. A captain may appeal said suspension points to the Championship Grievance Appeal Committee within 72 hours of points being assessed. Please note that appeals may not be reviewed until after the championship. *Please refer to national league regulation 3.04a(4).*
- **Captains and players are expected to be courteous and cooperative with championship staff and volunteers.** Players who exhibit inappropriate behavior and/or unsportsmanlike conduct towards the host, tournament staff and/or volunteers will be subject to a Championship Grievance and may receive points under the Suspension Pont System.



Defaults

- Defaults at State Championships are unacceptable. It is your team's responsibility to have players on every court at each match. When a team defaults, it not only can affect the outcome of the tournament, but more importantly it affects those players who showed up ready to play only to find their opponents did not show.
- An administrative fee of \$100 will be taken from the deposit for any line defaulted during the championship up to the maximum \$300 default fee.
- If a team has a known default, once both lineups have been turned in, the opposing team will be notified and have the opportunity to revise their lineup unless matches have been called.
- If a team defaults an entire team match (i.e. team does not have available players to play a majority of individual matches) for any reason during round robin play, then all matches of that team, played or to be played, shall be null and void. The team will not be allowed to participate in the Championship any further.
- In the event of a full team default, the following scoring procedures will apply when determining flight winners and/or advancing teams to playoffs:
 - Round Robin (every team plays each team in its flight): All matches of the defaulting team already played shall be null and void when determining standings but will be used for ratings and advancement purposes. If all teams with a mathematical chance to advance have played the defaulting team in good faith, those matches shall stand as played when determining standings.
 - Partial Round Robin Play: Teams will not have an equal number of team matches due to a team default. All teams in applicable division will go through a tiebreaker procedure to determine advancing teams to playoffs. This will ensure that teams are compared against each other as fairly as possible. The tiebreaker procedure will use the first of the following procedures that does so:
 - Team with the least number of TEAM LOSSES.
 - Team with the least number of ACTUAL INDIVIDUAL LOSSES divided by the number of POSSIBLE INDIVIDUAL LOSSES.
 - Team with the least number of ACTUAL SETS LOST divided by the number of POSSIBLE SETS Lost.
 - Team with the least number of ACTUAL GAMES LOST divided by the number of POSSIBLE GAMES Lost.
 - Coin toss

Medical Timeouts

- Medical conditions include, but are not limited to, injury, illness and heat related conditions or cramping.
- A medical time-out consists of evaluation time as determined by the referee plus a maximum of 3 minutes treatment time.
- A player may make a request for a medical time-out to the tournament desk.
- During the match or warm-up, if a player suffers from a medical condition or believes that medical diagnosis or treatment is required, the player may request a one-time medical time-out for that medical condition. Subsequently, he may request another medical time-out for a different medical condition. Only one medical



time-out shall be permitted for heat-related conditions and cramping in any match, even if the heat-related condition or cramping occurs to different parts of the body.

Section Championships

- State Championship teams will be invited to advance to the USTA Southern Section Championships, if offered.
- If a State Championship team declines their invitation, the State League Coordinator may offer the bid to the next priority team.
- Section Championship information will be provided to the State Champions at the conclusion of their tournament.
- Section Championship information is available on the Sectional Championship web sites at www.southernchampionships.com.

2024 Championship Committees

- Championship Committees for all North Carolina State Championships consist of the Tournament Director, the State League Coordinator, and the Tournament Official. *The Adult League Committee Chair will step in should the State League Coordinator also be in the role of Tournament Director.*

*Please note the championship Committee and/or dates may change at any time prior to the tournament