



USTA North Carolina Championship Procedures 2021 Championship Year

USTA North Carolina is comprised of 14 league areas. 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.

Notice Regarding COVID-19

USTA North Carolina will take proactive measures to create a safer environment for our participating tennis players. These actions will be relayed to teams prior to the start of each championship. Such measures may include but not limited to staggered championship schedule (to make player capacity smaller); an app for scorecard submissions; online schedules, resources and materials (as opposed to print-outs); sanitizing stations, no spectators, and mask and social distancing requirements. To ensure a smooth and nondisruptive tournament experience, we require all players to abide by guidelines given by USTA North Carolina Tournament Staff. This is for the safety of everyone. Should a "state of emergency" occur in a state leading up to our USTA North Carolina League Championship, tournament staff will notify captains and players with as much advance notice as possible. Should a North Carolina League Championship cancellation occur due to COVID or another infection virus/disease, and the securing of another location is not possible, the championship will not be rescheduled and the "cancellation policy," as described in these Championship Procedures, will be followed. If another location is possible, USTA North Carolina will notify captains as soon as possible. Due to this possibility, we highly encourage 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

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. 3rd place teams will only be offered an invitation only IF there is a wildcard offered, subject to wildcard procedures.
- 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: \$35 per player, which includes a PayPal fee
- All players must use the Double Match Point App to register for championships. The link to the app can be found at www.doublematchpoint.com or in the App Store or Play Store.
- 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 the tournament web site roster (online registration) to be eligible.
- Teams advancing directly to the State Championships (no local league play) may add players to their TennisLink roster until 2 weeks prior to the start of that League's State Championship. Players must be on both the TennisLink and tournament rosters to be eligible to play.
- Any team dropping out of the tournament after the Team Registration Deadline will be required to pay a \$300 penalty. Any registration fees paid up to that point will not be refunded. The Team Registration Deadline will be posted on the tournament web site at <https://nctennis.com/schedule.aspx?path=leagues&schedule=2>.



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.

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 Regulation on pages 4 & 5 of the combined USTA/Southern/NC regulations).

League	Season	Minimum Matches Played	# of defaults that may counts as a match played
USTA League Adult 18 & over, 40 & over, 55 & over	Spring	2	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

- Either a Round Robin format will be used for all levels OR 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 unflighted matches against randomly selected opponents. Levels with 7-10 teams will play a final match with the top 2 teams advancing. Levels with 11 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	UNFLIGHTED RANDOM	FINAL*	4-5
8	UNFLIGHTED RANDOM	FINAL*	4-5
9	UNFLIGHTED RANDOM	FINAL*	4-5
10	UNFLIGHTED RANDOM	FINAL*	4-5
11	UNFLIGHTED RANDOM	SEMIFINALS/FINAL	4-6
12	UNFLIGHTED RANDOM	SEMIFINALS/FINAL	4-6
13	UNFLIGHTED RANDOM	SEMIFINALS/FINAL	4-6
14	UNFLIGHTED RANDOM	SEMIFINALS/FINAL**	4-6
15	UNFLIGHTED RANDOM	SEMIFINALS/FINAL**	4-6
16	UNFLIGHTED RANDOM	SEMIFINALS/FINAL**	4-6

*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 2 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 2 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, 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 (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, unflighted 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.
 4. Once a winner is determined in each round robin flight in a particular level, each flight winner will be put into a drawing to determine the state champion.



5. For Unflighted 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.
- 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://nctennis.com/schedule.aspx?path=leagues&schedule=2> no later than 7 days before the tournament begins. The tentative schedule will also be available on the Double Match Point App.
- The tentative schedule posted on the tournament web site is only TENTATIVE and subject to change.
- Captains will be given an official copy of the schedule in their Captain's Packet that they will receive at Registration.
- 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.**
- Scorecards for each match are in your Captain Packet. Print names clearly, both first and last names, as they appear on TennisLink. DO NOT complete scorecards ahead of time. If you turn in a wrong or inaccurate scorecard, it will not be returned for revision.
- 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 (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.



- The Point Penalty System, 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 scorecards, 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 return used balls and report the scores to the site desk.
- Both team captains should review the scorecard for accuracy and sign the scorecard.
- 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.**

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 Double Match Point App and will be posted on the tournament website.
- 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, except those that were defaulted, may be changed. Defaults will stand.

Grievances

- 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.
- Sportsmanship Grievances: The Tournament Director must be notified of the intent to file a Sportsmanship Grievance within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the individual court affected. To file a grievance, the captain (or player on the affected court if the captain is playing) should inform the site coordinator of your intent to file a grievance. The site coordinator will contact the Tournament Director, who will then provide instructions.



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.
- **Any team defaulting a court for any reason will be fined \$100 per court defaulted.**
- The fine must be paid in the tournament room prior to the team's next match, or, if the last match, before the team leaves the tournament.
- If a team does not pay the fine, all members of that team will be suspended from any USTA North Carolina league play until the fine is paid.
- Any matches played by a suspended player during a team's suspension for unpaid fines will be defaulted.
- If a team has a known default, once both scorecards have been turned in, the opposing team will be notified and have the opportunity to revise their scorecard unless matches have been called.

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 or court monitor.
- 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 a State Championship team declines their invitation, the State League Coordinator will 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.