

## **2008 NORTH CAROLINA SOUTHERN COMBO DOUBLES STATE REGULATIONS**

Only, the NC Director of Adult League Tennis, in conjunction with the USTA North Carolina Adult League Committee Chair and Vice Chair, shall have the authority to interpret these Regulations.

### **I. GENERAL**

- A.** The Southern Tennis Association (STA) and the North Carolina Tennis Association (NCTA) are the governing bodies of the Southern Combo Doubles program.
- B.** Southern Combo Doubles is a team competition for Men or Women with NTRP levels of 2.5 to 5.5. Winning local teams advance to the NC State Championship. Winners of the NC State Championship advance to the Southern Sectional Championship. Teams are formed in the Adult division (19 and over) using combined NTRP levels of 5.0, 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5 and 10.5. Teams are formed in the Senior division (50 and over) using combined NTRP levels of 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5 and 9.5.
- C.** The 2008 Southern Combo Doubles season will begin August 11, 2008. The NC State Championship will be held November 6-9, 2008 in Winston-Salem.
- D.** **Play is governed by THE RULES OF TENNIS in The Friend at Court, The Code, The USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules, STA Regulations, and these NCTA Regulations.**
- E.** All Adult division players must be 19 years old or older by December 31, 2008. All Senior division players must be 50 years old or older by December 31, 2008.
- F.** All players must be current members of the USTA. All players will register through TennisLink. All players' membership expiration dates must be October 2008 or later **when rosters are due**. No renewals are allowed during the season.
- G.** The format of play is three individual men's doubles matches per team or three individual women's doubles matches per team.
- H.** The National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) is the official system of rating levels of competition in this program. Players with a 2005, 2006 or 2007 computer rating must use that rating or above in the combined format. Players who do not have a NTRP rating are allowed to self-rate according to the NTRP Guidelines. Players 60 and over whose last valid NTRP Rating was in 2005 or earlier, will be allowed to self-rate.
- I.** Official results from the 2008 Southern Combo Doubles season are not used to generate a rating.
- J.** Combined NTRP possibilities include the following:

To play in the:

- 5.0 level, an individual's rating cannot exceed 2.5
- 5.5 level, an individual's rating cannot exceed 3.0
- 6.5 level, an individual's rating cannot exceed 3.5
- 7.5 level, an individual's rating cannot exceed 4.0
- 8.5 level, an individual's rating cannot exceed 4.5
- 9.5 level, an individual's rating cannot exceed 5.0
- 10.5 level, an individual's rating cannot exceed 5.5

**\*\*\*\*The combined levels of each doubles pair cannot exceed the team level.**

K. A team's lineup does not have to be listed in order of strength.

## II. TEAM AND PLAYER REQUIREMENTS

A. A team shall be made up of a minimum of six players. Teams can have no more than 14 players on a roster. When forming teams using this combined format, the combined levels of each doubles pair cannot exceed the combined level of the team.

B. A local league must consist of a minimum of 2 teams at a specific level of competition. Exceptions may be made at the 5.0, 5.5, 9.5 and 10.5 Adult levels and all Senior levels where it may be difficult to form 2 teams.

1. In cases other than the above levels, where there are not sufficient teams, the Local League Coordinator should contact the NC Director of Adult League Tennis and discuss if other options exist.

C. The scoring format for the league will be best 2 out of 3 sets with a 10-point match tiebreaker used in lieu of the third set.

D. Coaching is illegal during match play.

E. If the loss of a player resulting from an NTRP Disqualification (from USTA League Adult and Senior local and/or championship results) affects a team, that team may petition to add another player to their roster, even if it exceeds the 14 player limit. The petition must be filed with and approved by the NC Director of Adult League Tennis. Cases such as this will be granted under the following circumstances. Cases such as this will be granted under the following circumstances:

1. The change in the disqualified player's rating leaves another player with no partner according to the roster
2. The disqualification reduces the number of players on the roster to less than 6

F. A disqualified player during the local league season may request a waiver of the regulation regarding number of players on a roster. If a player is disqualified during local league play, that player may request moving to another team providing there is a team available and time permits. The NC Director of Adult League Tennis must approve this waiver.

## III. PLAYERS COMPETING ON MORE THAN ONE TEAM

A. Players may compete on more than one team in the following situations only:

- 2 Adult teams at the same level. Teams must be in separate local leagues.
- 2 Adult teams at different levels. Teams can be in same or separate local leagues.
- 2 Senior teams at the same level. Teams must be in separate local leagues.
- 2 Senior teams at different levels. Teams can be in same or separate local leagues.
- 1 Adult and 1 Senior team at the same level. Teams can be in same or separate local leagues.
- 1 Adult and 1 Senior team at different levels. Teams can be in same or separate local leagues.

#### **IV. FORMAT OF PLAY**

- A. A round robin format shall be played where each team will play every other team at least once.
- B. A league schedule may only consist of full round robins.
- C. The Local League Coordinator will determine the schedules.
- D. If multiple flights in an NTRP level exist, at least 1 team from each flight will advance to a playoff to determine the winner of that level.
- E. Local Leagues will determine the playoff format.
- F. Defaults will be “from the bottom up” (Position #3 will be forfeited first). Teams with only 4 players must play the #1 and #2 positions and forfeit the #3 position.

#### **V. SCORING**

- A. A team match consists of 3 individual doubles matches. The winner of a team match must win at least 2 out of 3 individual matches.
- B. The winner of each local level will be the team having won the most team matches, unless there is a playoff due to multiple flights within a level. [In this case, the winner of the playoff will be the winner of the local league.](#)
- C. If season ends with a tie, the tie shall be broken according to the following procedure:
  - a. Winner of the most individual matches.
  - b. Loser of the fewest number of sets.
  - c. Loser of the fewest number of games.
  - d. Winner of head-to-head match.
  - e. Toss of coin.
- D. All scores must be posted on TennisLink within the prescribed time listed in the local league rules. NOTE: Where there are no local league rules, the scores must be posted within 48 hours by the winning captain and confirmed within 72 hours of the match by the losing captain. If the score has not been posted and confirmed within the 72 hours after the match, the Local League Coordinator will determine if there is a winner by the information that they have.

#### **VI. NCTA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- A. Southern Combo Doubles State Championships will be held November 6-9, 2008, in Winston-Salem, NC. Matches will begin as early as 8:00am on Thursday, Nov. 6. If matches are needed on Wednesday night due to the number of teams, the captains will be notified as early as possible.
- B. The winner of the local league will automatically be extended an invitation to the State Championships. If wildcards are needed, the NC Director of Adult League Tennis will notify the Local League Coordinator in accordance with the 2008 Wildcard Procedures.
- C. [Any team that defaults a court at the State Championships will be subject to an automatic grievance.](#)

- D.** Invitations to the State Championships will be extended to local leagues as follows:
- Local leagues having 2 teams on a NTRP level will establish a format to determine a winner of that level to advance to State Championships.
  - Local leagues having 3 or more teams on a NTRP level will run round robins in each level to determine a winner to advance to State Championships.
  - In levels with multiple flights, the Local League Coordinator has the right to run a playoff in either an elimination or round robin format.
  - Each local league will be extended an invitation for 1 team to go to the State Championships. Where there are at least 20 teams at a particular level in any league, then 2 teams will be invited from that level.
- E.** Wildcards will be offered to local leagues in the following manner: When a wildcard is needed to make the numbers balance in the state tournament, a wildcard will be offered to a local league as determined by random draw.
- F.** If the first place team from a local league cannot attend the State Championships, the second place team from that local league's particular NTRP level will be asked to represent the local league. If the second place team is unable to attend, the Local League Coordinator must contact the NC Director of Adult League Tennis to discuss the possibility of a lower finishing team attending in its place. If not, the offer will go to a second place team from another Local League, as determined by random draw.
- G.** A minimum of 6 team members 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 at the State and Sectional Championships. The Tournament Committee may reduce that number to not less than four.
- H.** To qualify for State championship, each team must play at least 2 matches on its level. Individual players on the adult level must have played in at least 2 matches and on the senior level a player must have played at least 1 match. Forfeits received by a player during local competition shall count for advancing. Exceptions may be made in cases as defined by NC Rule II B where there is only 1 team for that level in the local area.

## **VII. PLAYERS COMPETING ON MORE THAN 1 TEAM AT CHAMPIONSHIPS**

- A.** Any player on two or more teams advancing to the NC Combo State Championships may play for two of those teams, unless those teams are in the same NTRP level (ex. 2 adult 6.5 teams from different local leagues).
- There will be NO special consideration in scheduling.
  - There is the possibility of several matches in 1 day.
  - The player is considered 2 different people, which requires separate championship fees.
- B.** Any player playing on two teams at the NC Combo State Championships must declare this to their Local League Coordinator before the start of the NC Combo State Championships. Failure to do so will result in an automatic grievance filed against the player.
- C.** If a player's team wins at the State Championship but s/he did not play at the State Championships, that player is still eligible to play at the Sectional Championship as long as he or she had qualified for the State Championship.

## **VIII. DEADLINES and DATES**

- A.** No local league may begin **before August 11** unless approved by the NC Director of Adult League Tennis.
- B.** NC Southern Combo Doubles State Championships: November 6-9, 2008 in Winston-Salem, NC.
- C.** 2008 Sectional Championships: TBA.

## **COMMITTEES**

### State Grievance Committee

Donna Barger, Chair  
Iris Ham  
Angie McEachran

### State Grievance Appeal Committee

Jennifer Settin, Chair  
Bevie Walker  
Tammy Brown