

Macon Tennis Association

2018 Championship Year League Regulations



ALL ADULT LEAGUES **(Updated 08/15/2017)**

The purpose of the USTA League Tennis is to promote team tennis at the local level. The established National Tennis Rating Program attempts to ensure that players of comparable ability will have fair and recreational play.

The Macon Tennis Association is a non-profit organization whose mission is the growth and development of tennis in Macon and surrounding areas. We utilize the programs of the United States Tennis Association (USTA), USTA Southern, USTA Georgia and our own local programs to carry out this mission. We offer teams the opportunity to advance to the State, Sectional and National Championships.

Local Regulation Changes for 2018:

All local league Regulation Changes are shown in red throughout the document.

National Regulation Changes for 2018: TBD

Southern Regulation Changes for 2018:TBD

Georgia Regulation Changes for 2018:TBD

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I. REGULATIONS

- A.** The Local League shall observe the USTA, Southern Tennis Association and Georgia Tennis Association League Regulations as published. Any modifications of these rules pertaining specifically to the Macon League will be published herein. National, Section and State rules and regulations may be found at the respective web sites: www.usta.com, www.southern.usta.com, www.ustageorgia.com
- B.** All local regulations will be established by a MTA Rules Committee which consists partly of the Local League Coordinator and all other coordinators representing various levels.
- C.** Each section Association shall designate a committee to handle Self Rate-Appeals for those that appeal their assigned self-rating.

II. MEMBERSHIP

- A.** All players must be members of the USTA. USTA memberships must be current through the league season. USTA memberships expiring during the season must be renewed at the beginning of the league season.
- B.** A team must have the minimum number of players needed to field a team in order to be placed in the schedule. Exception: the Local League Coordinator may extend the roster deadline for the betterment of the league.
- C.** Players may be added to teams throughout the season at any time prior to their first match played.
- D.** Each player shall have reached eighteen (18) years, forty (40) years or fifty five (55) years of age prior to, or during, the calendar year in which such player plays his/her first local league match in appropriate league type.
- E.** A player may play only one NTRP level above the player's current NTRP level.

III. CAPTAINS

- A.** The team captain must create a team on Tennis Link and give team members the team number.
- B.** Team captains and players should read and be familiar with the rules of USTA, STA, GTA and MTA and The Code found in the Friend At Court.

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- C.** Team captains should exchange completed line-ups no later than the scheduled match time. Weekday morning matches start at 9:30 am, unless both teams agree to play earlier and evening matches start at 6:30 pm.
- D.** Scores need to be entered on TennisLink as soon as possible and confirmed by the other team. Any team member can do this, but to prevent confusion you may want to enter this yourself. Matches not confirmed within 48 hours of the first scores entered, will be confirmed as correct by the computer. If there is a dispute, click the dispute button and notify the MTA to get this resolved. This is done through Score Entry and the match number may be found in the Match Summary in Stats and Standings.
- E.** The Home team must provide courts. If a fee is required, the Home team is responsible for all fees. The captains are responsible for obtaining courts whenever matches are scheduled or rescheduled. The courts must have lights and bathroom accommodations. If this becomes a problem, the home team will have to provide a site that meets the appropriate standards with regards to lights and bathrooms by the next match or the next match will become a default.
- F.** All Captains or designated team members are required to attend the Captains Meeting.
- G.** Refunds: If a team does not make, MTA will refund to the captain all local league fees for registered players on his/her team if requested. Local league fees do not include TennisLink and State fees, which are not refundable to MTA, and hence not refundable to players. Alternatively, registered players may request to be moved to another team, league, or reserve line for a future league within the championship year at no additional cost.

IV. FORMAT OF PLAY

- A.** The home team furnishes the new balls.
- B.** Adult League Formats
 1. Adult 18 & Over and Adult 40 & Over league types, two out of three sets will be played.
 - 1a. **Adult 18+ Over** and 40 & Over women will play 1 line of singles, 4 lines of doubles. A minimum number of players to make a legal match is (5). If a team advances to any championship after their local season, the format will be 2 lines of singles, 3 lines of doubles.
 - 1b. Adult 40 & over men will play 2 lines of singles, 3 lines of doubles.
 2. Adult 55 & Over and Adult 65 & Over league types will play 3 lines of doubles, two out of three sets with a 10-point tiebreak played in lieu of a third set.
 3. All Adult Mixed leagues will play 3 lines of doubles, two out of three sets with a

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- 10-point tiebreak played in lieu of a third set.
4. All Adult Combo Leagues will play 3 lines of doubles, two out of three sets with a 10-point tiebreak played in lieu of a third set.
 5. All Adult Tri-level Leagues will play 3 lines of doubles, two out of three sets with a 10-point tiebreak played in lieu of a third set.
- C.** A point will be awarded to the team winning the team match.
- D.** The 15-minute default rule is in effect.
- E.** If both captains agree, team matches or individual matches may be scheduled to play earlier than the original scheduled date. If, for any reason, the rescheduled matches are not completed on the prior rescheduled date, they must then be played on the original scheduled date and time. Exception: If, for any reason, scheduled league matches conflict with a State or Sectional Championship tournament, those players affected may play a delayed match up to 14 days after the originally scheduled match date. Opposing captains must agree to the rescheduling of only those matches and must be notified 2 weeks prior to the original match date. Schedules and line ups for authorized delayed matches must be submitted to the local league coordinator one week prior to the original match date.
- F.** If there are only two teams in a level of play, each team must maintain its roster with at least 40 percent (40%) of its players at the designated NTRP level of play. If there are more than two teams in a level of play, each team must maintain its roster with at least fifty percent (50%) of its players at the designated NTRP level of play. If the number is odd, the higher number in the division must be in level.

V. INCLEMENT WEATHER

- A.** The only weather conditions that authorize the cancellation of a match scheduled is rain, snow or severe temperature (35 degrees or lower) or heat index of 100 degrees. If the start of a team match is cancelled due to inclement weather and no points have been played in any of the individual matches for that team match, any defaults awarded in advance may now be played. A team or teams may submit a new line up due to the cancellation.
- B.** In the event that inclement weather does occur after play has begun, completed matches will stand as played and incomplete matches must be resumed by the same players at the exact set, game, and point that existed when play was halted.
- C.** Captains should assemble their teams at the facility even if inclement weather has occurred or threatens. However, upon advice from the facility within 90 minutes prior to the scheduled match time that the courts are not and will not be playable, both captains may agree that a rain-out has occurred and proceed to reschedule the

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match. **If there is no facility owner present, a home team member may inspect the courts to determine playability.** If teams have assembled to play and the match is delayed or interrupted by rain, snow, or wet courts, teams should be prepared to wait ONE HOUR to determine if the courts are playable. After one hour has elapsed or, if both captains agree sooner, the captains may proceed to reschedule the match. Both captains may agree to wait longer than one hour.

NO MATCHES MAY BE CALLED EARLIER THAN 90 MINUTES PRIOR TO MATCH-TIME.

- D.** Rescheduled matches due to weather must be completed within FOURTEEN DAYS of the scheduled match. Only the coordinator can extend the fourteen days deadline. Both captains must contact the League Coordinator to confirm rescheduled match dates and times within FORTY-EIGHT HOURS of the original scheduled match time. The confirmed match dates and times are thereafter considered as official match dates and times. If the captains or players can't agree on a date and time for rescheduled matches, the League Coordinator will set the date and time.
- E.** Captains have two options in rescheduling rain-outs. Either captain may insist on a new match date being set, in which case line-ups will not be exchanged until the teams meet for the rescheduled match. In the alternative, if both captains agree, they may exchange line-ups at the rain-out and allow individual opponents to schedule their own individual matches. In either case, if teams cannot agree on a rescheduled date, the League Coordinator will reschedule the match. A match rescheduled by the Coordinator is not affected by the fourteen-day rule.
- F.** **In the event that rain or inclement weather forces the cancellation and re-scheduling of a team match, substitutions from the team roster may be made in any individual match that has not begun.**
- G.** Rain-outs occurring on the last match of the season will be rescheduled by the League Coordinator.
- H.** If lights fail which is no fault of the teams, the matches will be treated as a rained out match.

VI. DEFAULTS AND DISQUALIFICATIONS

- A.** For each team match, a majority of the individual matches must actually be played to constitute a valid team match. If a situation arises where the majority of the individual matches would not be played (not a "valid" team match), the first course of action would be for both captains to agree on what individual matches, based on the number of players present or to be present, can be played to constitute a valid team match. Once that is determined, both captains will re-exchange scorecards.

If both captains cannot come to an agreement on what lines will be played to

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constitute a valid team match, based on the number of players present, or to be present, then the following individual matches will be assigned in sequential order to be played:

Format	Required Matches in Sequential Order	Minimum # of Players Required for Each Team in Valid Team Match
2 singles, 3 doubles	#1 singles, #2 singles and #1 doubles	4
1 singles, 4 doubles	#1 singles, #1 doubles and #2 doubles	5
2 singles, 2 doubles	#1 singles, #1 doubles and #2 singles or #2 doubles	4
1 singles, 3 doubles	#1 singles, #1 doubles and #2 doubles	5
1 singles, 2 doubles	#1 singles and #1 doubles	3
3 doubles	#1 doubles and #2 doubles	4

- B.** If a team fails to field the required levels for two matches, they will be removed from the standing but matches played will count toward eligibility for advancement and the League Coordinator **may** file a grievance.

VII. CHAMPIONSHIP PROGRESSION

- A.** Two teams from each Regular Adult League level, winners from fall and spring seasons, will advance to the District League Championships, (unless there are only two teams playing at the level). If the same team wins both seasons, a playoff may be necessary to determine the second team. Exception: For the women, where there are day and business leagues, one team will represent each league, with a play-off possibly necessary between fall and spring winners in order to determine which team will advance.
- B.** Regular Adult Leagues
 1. 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over, Mixed 18 & Over and Mixed 40 & Over League players are eligible to advance to state and sectional championships if he/she has played in 2 league matches, with no more than 1 being a default. Should a player's team advance to national championships, he/she must have played in 3 matches with no more than 1 being a default.
 2. **65 & Over League players are eligible to advance to the state championship if he/she has played in at least one match and the team has played in at least three team matches during the local league season. A defaulted match shall count for the player(s) who received the default. If there is no local competition during the championship year, a team may advance directly to the State Championship.**
- C.** Combo Adult Leagues

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1. 18 & Over and 40 & Over Combo League players are eligible to advance to the state championship if he/she has played in at least one match and the team has played in at least three team matches during the local league season. A defaulted match shall count for the player(s) who received the default.
2. 55 & Over Combo league State Championship will be an invitational; therefore all teams will receive a berth

D. Tri-Level

1. 18 & Over, Tri-level League players are eligible to advance to the state championship if he/she has played in at least one match and the team has played in at least three team matches during the local league season. A defaulted match shall count for the player(s) who received the default.
2. 40 & Over and 55 & Over Tri-level league players are subject to the same rules as the 18 & Over Tri-level, unless there is no local competition during the championship year. If this occurs, a team may advance directly to the State Championship.

E. State Championship Participation

1. In the Adult 18 & Over League Type, a player may advance on two (2) teams, provided the two teams play at different levels.
2. In the Adult 40 & Over League Type, a player may advance on two (2) teams, provided the two teams play at different levels.
3. Provided the teams are at different levels. In the 55 & Over & 65 & Over player may advance on one 55 & Over and one 65 & Over team.
4. Players who qualify for the Mixed 18 & Over and/or Mixed 40 & Over Georgia State Championship may advance on up to two teams (one 18 & Over and one 40 & Over, two 18 & Over or two 40 & Over). If the teams are both in the 18 & Over or 40 & Over, they must be at different levels
5. Players who qualify for Tri-level Georgia State Championship may advance on two (2) 18 & Over teams and two (2) 40 & Over teams, but at different levels.
6. Players who qualify for Combo Georgia State Championship may advance on two (2) 18 & Over teams and two (2) 40 & Over teams, but at different levels.

*Note: Players who participate on two teams will not be accommodated in scheduling of the event.

- ### **F. Local teams which are unopposed (without any competition) in the local league and which are eligible under USTA-Georgia rules to advance to state championships may elect either (1) to have their local league fee refunded and pay their own registration fee for the state championship tournament or (2) to pay the local league fee and have MTA pay the registration fees of 8 players for the state championship tournament.**

- ### **G. MTA will pay the captain's entry fee for all State Championships in 2018. Additionally, teams advancing to Sectionals as a result of a State Championship win will receive a gift of \$250.00.**

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VIII. LOCAL PLAYOFF RULES – Regular Adult Leagues

Playoffs are scheduled when there is a different winner from each season, such as fall vs. spring at a particular level, day or night. Playoffs cannot be played at any level until all regular season matches have been played and the scores entered into the computer. If a team gives up the playoff, the next in line will have a chance to play in the playoffs (second place, third place teams etc.)

Women: Two teams will advance to the State Championships, one from Weekday and one from Business. If a team wins both seasons, it will advance to the State Championships without a playoff and will choose whether to take the fall or the spring team. If different teams win each season they will play in a playoff against each other. If there is not a weekday league or a business league follow the rules of the men's league.

Men: Two teams will advance to state championships: The winner from each season, fall and spring. If the same team wins both seasons, the second place teams will play in a playoff to determine which will advance. If the same team came in second both times they can chose which roster they will take.

IX. Grievances

Grievances must be filed by a **team captain** prior to the commencement of the next team match in the flight involving the individual or team against whom the grievance has been filed and within twenty-four hours after the last regular match or playoff match. The Macon office will send a copy of the complaint to each party against whom the complaint has been made. An Administrative Grievance may be filed at any time, but captains and committee members are not subject to subject to this type of grievances.

X. NTRP GRIEVANCES

A complaint may be filed by a captain or Local League Coordinator against a player and/or captain who commits or condones entering at one level when their actual skill level is at the top of the next NTRP level or higher. The party that files the NTRP grievance must provide documentation to support their complaint at the time of their filing.

The USTA Southern Section NTRP Grievance Committee will have jurisdiction, augmented as necessary by experts in NTRP ratings, and may ask the alleged violator to complete a USTA Player Background History sheet and submit it to the committee for review. After

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review, and in consultation with the NTRP experts who have augmented the committee, they will take action, as they deem appropriate. This action may include disqualification, suspension from league play or other league sanctions.

Send NTRP Grievances to macontennisassociation@gmail.com for forwarding to USTA Southern Section Grievance Committee. Macon Tennis serves only as a pass through entity to USTA Georgia and USTA Southern.

A NTRP Grievance can be filed at any time. NTRP Grievances filed within 24 hours of the last regular season match and prior to the start date of the player's and/or captain's local league playoffs will be administered after the event unless the section authorizes the administration of the grievance prior to that time. If the grievance is not administered until after the event, points won by players will stand. Disqualified players and/or captains that are suspended will not be eligible to advance to the next level of championship play.

LOCAL GRIEVANCE & GRIEVANCE APPEAL COMMITTEES

2018 Macon Grievance Committee Members

TBD

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TBD

**Grievance committee members are subject to change due to a Conflict of Interest or availability.*