



Foothills (Hky) USTA League Tennis
ADULT, SINGLES, MIXED, COMBO AND TRI-LEVEL
2016 Rules and Regulations



Play is governed by THE RULE OF TENNIS in The Friend at Court, The Code, STA Regulations, NCTA Regulations and the National regulations for USTA League Tennis with exception as modified with the STA and NCTA Regulations and the Foothills League Rules.

I. GENERAL

A. USTA League programs are team competitions for men and 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 Championships (except in the case of the Singles League, and the 65 & over divisions of Mixed Doubles and Combo Doubles). With the exception of Tri-level, teams are formed in four divisions: 18 & over, 40 & over, 55 & over, and 65 & over.

B. To play in the following divisions, players must reach the minimum age for those divisions by December 31, 2016:

Age Division	Minimum Age
18 & over	18
40 & over	40
55 & over	55
65 & over	65
70 & over	70

C. Players must be paid USTA members through the respective seasons. No renewals are allowed during the local league season. **A PLAYER MUST BE REGISTERED ON THE TEAM BEFORE PLAYING A MATCH.**

D. The National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) is the official system of rating levels of competition in these programs. A player with a 2013, 2014, or 2015 computer rating must use that rating or above to participate in these leagues. A player age 60 or above with a 2014 or 2015 computer rating must use that rating or above to participate in these leagues. Players who do not have a valid NTRP rating or have never had an NTRP Rating are required to self-rate according to the NTRP Guidelines.

E. Mixed Exclusive (M) ratings are only valid for future Mixed Doubles play. In the USTA League Mixed Division, an NTRP level will be calculated for participants who play in that Division exclusively. Year-end Mixed Exclusive ratings will be based on the final dynamic rating generated from local league and championship level competition. If a player has a valid computer (C) or benchmark (B) rating from a previous year, then a player will not receive a Mixed Exclusive rating.

F. Matches played in these leagues may be used in the calculation of NTRP Ratings as follows:

League	Results used to Calculate Rating?
USTA League 18 & over, 40 & over and 55 & over	Always
USTA League 65 & over	Yes
USTA League Mixed Doubles 18 & over and 40 & over	Only when player does not play USTA Adult 18 & over, 40 & over, 55 & over or 65 & Over AND does not have a previous Year end C rating
USTA League Mixed Doubles 55 & over and 65 & over	Never
Southern Combo Doubles	Never
NCTA Singles League	Never
Southern Tri-Level League	Never
NCTA 70 & Over League	Never
Winter Blast League	Never
Women's Team Challenge Morning League	Never

II. TEAM REQUIREMENTS

A. Roster Requirements for each league:

League	Season	Minimum number	Maximum Number
USTA League 18 & over	Spring	8	15
USTA League 18 & over 2.5, 5.0+ & 5.5	Spring	5	15
USTA League 40 & over	Spring	8	15
USTA League 55 & over	Spring	6	15
USTA League 65 & over	Spring	6	15
USTA League Mixed Doubles	Summer	6	15
Southern Combo Doubles	Fall	6	15
NCTA Singles League	Varies	3	9
Tri-Level League	Varies	6	15
NCTA 70 & Over League	Varies	6	12

B. When using straight NTRP levels, a player cannot have an NTRP rating higher than the NTRP level in which the player is competing except in the 5.0+ NTRP level of the Adult Division, 18 & Over; and the 4.5+ NTRP level of the Adult Division, 40 & Over. 18 & over plus (+) level team rosters may include up to two players from the next higher NTRP level. 40 & over plus (+) level team rosters may include up to three players from the next higher NTRP level.

- In Plus (+) NTRP levels utilizing three individual matches within a team match, no more than one Plus (+) level player shall be allowed to play in a team match and shall be required to play in the #1 position, either singles or doubles.
- In Plus (+) NTRP levels utilizing four or more individual matches within a team match, two Plus (+) level players may play in a team match and shall be required to play in the #1 position, either singles or doubles.

C. NTRP Levels of Play:

DIVISION	LEAGUE TYPE	LOCAL LEAGUES
Adult	18 & Over	2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0+, 5.5
	40 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5+
	55 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0
	65 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0
Mixed	18 & Over	2.5, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0
	40 & Over	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0
	55 & Over	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0
	65 & Over	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0
Combo	18 & Over	5.0, 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5, 10.5
	40 & Over	5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5
	55 & Over	6.5, 7.5, 8.5
	65 & Over	6.5, 7.5, 8.5
Singles	18 & Over	2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0+
	40 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5+
	55 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0+
Tri-Level	18 & Over	Men 3.0/3.5/4.0, 3.5/4.0/4.5 and 4.0/4.5/5.0
		Women: 2.5/3.0/3.5; 3.0/3.5/4.0, 3.5/4.0/4.5 and 4.0/4.5/5.0
NCTA 70 & Over	70 & Over	6.0, 7.0, 8.0

D. In the USTA League Adult divisions and Tri-Level Leagues, a player may play only one level above his or her current NTRP Rating (For example, a 3.5 player can play up on a 4.0 team, but cannot play up on a 4.5 team).

- E. A local league shall consist of a **minimum of 2 teams at a specific level** of competition. Advancement to a State Championship is not permitted if this requirement is not met, except for the following:

League	Levels permitted to advance to State Championships if they are the only local team
USTA League Adult	18 & over 5.5 teams, all 65 & over teams
USTA League Mixed Doubles	All 55 & over and 65 & over teams
Southern Combo Doubles	All 55 & over and 65 & over teams, 18 & over 5.0, 5.5, and 9.5 teams, 40 & Over 5.5 and 9.5 teams
NCTA Singles League	All Levels
Tri-Level	All Levels

- F. Teams that may advance directly to a State Championships must be added to TennisLink and have the minimum number of players required to form a team registered no later than the dates in the chart below. If the team is not added prior to the Initial Roster Deadline of the Local League, the LLC must contact the SLC to notify that a team has been added. Failure to notify the SLC may result in the team not being added to the State Championship schedule.

League	Deadline to add a team advancing directly to State Championship
USTA League Adult	April 15
USTA League Mixed Doubles	July 15
Tri-Level	July 15
USTA-NC Singles League	August 15
Southern Combo Doubles	September 15

- G. If a level of USTA League Adult 18 & over, 40 & over or 55 & over consists of only two teams in a level of play, each team must maintain its roster with at least 40 percent of its players at the designated NTRP level of play. This rule does not apply to the Adult 55 & Over and 65 & Over 9.0 leagues.
- H. In levels where a team is advancing directly to the state championships as provided for in Rule II. E., players may be added to the TennisLink roster until 2 weeks prior to the start of that League's State Championship. After that, no changes may be made to the TennisLink roster.
- I. In the Southern Combo Doubles League, where there is no local 40 & Over 9.5, 55 & Over, or 65 & Over Combo league, teams are no longer allowed to play in another age division for local play. Teams are still able to advance directly to the State Championships.
- J. In USTA League Adult 55 & Over 9.0, Adult 65 & Over 9.0, Mixed Doubles and Southern Combo Doubles, the combined levels of each doubles pair cannot exceed the team level.

- K. In USTA League Adult 55 & Over 9.0, Adult 65 & Over 9.0, Mixed Doubles, and 70 & Over, on no individual team may the partners be separated by more than 1.0 NTRP point (ex. On an 8.0 team, a 4.5 and a 3.5 may play together, but a 5.0 and a 3.0 may not).

Adult & Mixed Combined Level	Minimum Rating a Player May Have
5.0	2.5
6.0	2.5
7.0	3.0
8.0	3.5
9.0	4.0
10.0	4.5

- L. In the Southern Combo Doubles league, players in each level cannot exceed the maximum rating allowed for that level. See chart below.

Combo Combined Level	Highest Rating a Player May Have
5.0	2.5
5.5	3.0
6.5	3.5
7.5	4.0
8.5	5.0
9.5	5.5
10.5	6.0

- M. In the NCTA 70 & over League, players in each level cannot exceed the maximum rating allowed for that level. See chart below:

70 & Over Combined Level	Highest Rating a Player May Have
6.0	3.5
7.0	4.0
8.0	4.5

III. PROMOTED PLAYERS

- A. If a self-rated player is promoted from a level of play, all matches played by that individual player (in the level that the player is being promoted from) shall stand. All players who have computer-rated appeals (A) or Dynamic Ratings (D) who are subject to promotion, will not be subject to match reversal if promoted. Players not promoted by the conclusion of local league round robin play will be eligible to compete in the entire local playoff. Dynamic ratings will be calculated at the end of the local playoff to inform any promoted players that they may not advance to the state championships. Points earned by the promoted players in the local playoffs will stand.
- B. A promoted player during local league play may request moving to another team providing there is a team available and time permits. If that team is full, the promoted player may request a waiver regarding number of players on a roster. The NC Director of Adult League Tennis must approve this waiver.

- C. Teams losing a player to NTRP Promotion may be provided an exception to allow for adding a player to their roster in the following cases:
 - a. If Registration has closed
 - b. Their team had the maximum number of players allowed on the roster
 - c. The player may not be a self-rated player.

IV. League Play

- A. A round robin format shall be played where each team will play every other team at least once. When any NTRP level consists of only two teams, each team is required to play a minimum of three team matches, which is a triple round robin. When any NTRP level consists of only three teams, each team is required to play a minimum of four team matches, which is a double round robin.
- B. A league schedule must consist of full round robins.
- C. The Local League Coordinator will determine the local 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. This rule does not prohibit a playoff for single flight leagues.
- E. Local League Coordinator will determine the playoff format.
- F. A team's lineup **does not** have to be listed in order of strength, except in plus (+) leagues, where, by regulation, the plus (+) players are restricted to play on designated courts (see NC Regulation II.B.) and in the Tri-Level Leagues, where the highest NTRP level must be played on the #1 court, the 2nd highest NTRP level must play on the #2 court and the lowest NTRP level must play on the #3 court. Example: in the 2.5/3.0/3.5 leagues, the 3.5 rated players play on the #1 court, the 3.0 players play on the #2 court, and the 2.5 players on the #3 court.
- G. The scoring format for all leagues will be best 2 out of 3 sets with a 10-point match tiebreaker used in lieu of the third set. An exception may be requested for 2-team leagues. Exception requests must be made in writing to the State League Coordinator prior to the beginning of the league play for approval.
- H. The Coman Tiebreak format will be used for all tiebreakers.
- I. Coaching is not permitted at any point during a match.
- J. Defaults will be "from the bottom up," defaulting the lowest positions first. The chart below shows which courts are to be defaulted first in the different match types.

Match Type	Courts to be Defaulted First
2 Singles, 3 Doubles	#2 Singles or # 3 Doubles
1 Singles, 2 Doubles	#1 Singles or #2 Doubles
3 Doubles	#3 Doubles

- K. Scorecards are to be exchanged when all players are on site. If a player is not on site at the scheduled match time, any absent players must be moved to a defaultable court as noted in the chart above. Scorecards should then be exchanged as normal. Exceptions are allowed for the latter courts in staggered matches and Tri-Level matches.
- L. A team must be able to field enough courts to win the match (Field 3 courts for a 5 court match; field 2 courts for a 3 court match). If a team fails to do so, the entire match (all courts) is deemed defaulted.

M. When the combination of individual match defaults given by the two teams in the team match results, or would result, in a situation 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 line-ups.
- If both captains cannot come to an agreement on what lines will be played to 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 and #2 singles, and #1 doubles (priority); #2 doubles if enough players present	4
1 singles, 2 doubles	#1 singles and #1 doubles	3
3 doubles	#1 and #2 doubles	4

- If these procedures are not followed and the resulting line-up shows an invalid team match, both teams will be charged a full team default.
- If a team shows up without the minimum # of players required for the team match based on the number of players present, or to be present, it will be a full team default in favor of the opponents. Please refer to the National Regulation 2.03L on team default procedures.

N. Prior to the start (first service attempt) of an individual match injury to, illness of, or disqualification of a player, or no show occurs. The affected team may substitute a player who is immediately ready to play and not already in the line-up and is qualified to play that court. The line-up can be adjusted at the affected position only. The substituted player is entitled to a 5-minute warm up.

- A no-show player is a player who is unable to play the match because of an unforeseen situation of which the captain is unaware of before exchanging the line-ups with the opponent.
- If a substitute player (i.e. player not listed on the line-up) is available and more than one player is a no-show, the substitute player must play on the highest court missing a player that they are qualified to play on.

O. Players may compete on more than one team except if the teams are on the same level, in the same age division and in the same local league.

- P. If a Foothills team has 4 or more players on a roster (3 for Singles League matches) who are playing or working at a League Championship at either the North Carolina State, Southern Section or National Levels and have a Foothills team match in conflict with these events, then the team can reschedule the match either by playing before the scheduled date or within 2 weeks after the scheduled match (as long as the makeup match occurs within the league season dates). The Captain of the team must notify the opposing team captain and LLC of the conflict no later than 1 week before the scheduled match and work with both parties to reschedule the match within the above-mentioned timeframe. The captains must submit the names of the players who are playing or working the tournament to the LLC.
- Q. To win a team match, a team must win at least a majority of the individual courts played. If the match ends in a tie, it will be broken by:
 - 1. The team with the fewest sets lost.
 - 2. The team with the fewest games lost.
 - 3. Toss of coin.
- R. The winner of each local level will be the team having won the most team matches, unless there is a playoff within the level. In this case, the winner of the playoff would be the winner of the local level.
- S. If the season ends with a tie for first place, the tie shall be broken according to the following tiebreakers, unless otherwise specified in the local league regulations.
 - 1. Winner of the most individual matches.
 - 2. Winner of head-to-head match.
 - 3. Loser of the fewest number of sets.
 - 4. Loser of the fewest number of games.
 - 5. Toss of coin.
- T. All scores must be posted on TennisLink within 24 hours by the winning captain and confirmed within 48 hours of the match by the losing captain. If the score has not been posted and confirmed within the 48 hours after the match, the Local League Coordinator will determine if there is a winner by the information s/he has.
- U. If a scheduled match is completely rained out (play has not begun on any court), any defaults on the scorecard are reinstated and can be made up. If, however, one court has begun play (first point played) and the match is interrupted due to inclement weather, all defaults stand.
- V. If a date, time and location have been determined for a team match (or individual court) rescheduled due to inclement weather or another allowed circumstance, i.e. State Championship conflict, the match can only be suspended again due to inclement weather. Any team that cannot make the rescheduled match time will default any affected courts.
- W. Substitutions for team matches interrupted due to inclement weather: For any court that had begun play (first point played), lineups will stand. For any court that had not yet begun play (first point played), teams may substitute players as long as the substitutions are not listed on the original scorecard.

V. FOOTHILLS TRI-LEVEL LEAGUE

- A. A player's Tri-Level League match results will **NOT** be used in the calculation of the player's NTRP Rating. A player can play on multiple teams as long as they are in different levels.
- B. 18 & Over Age Group (18 years old or older by 12/31/2016) – STATES & SECTIONALS
 Levels: Women 2.5,3.0,3.5, 3.0,3.5,4.0, 3.5,4.0,4.5, 4.0,4.5,5.0 and
 Men 3.0,3.5,4.0, 3.5,4.0,4.5, 4.0,4.5,5.0

C. To play in the:

- 2.5, 3.0,3.5 level - Players can have a 2.0, 2.5, 3.0 or 3.5 NTRP. Each team must have a mix of six players who can combine for a match and have each court filled.
- 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 level - Players can have a 2.5, 3.0, 3.5 or 4.0 NTRP. Each team must have a mix of six players who can combine for a match and have each court filled.
- 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 level - Players can have a 3.0,3.5,4.0 or 4.5 NTRP. Each team must have a mix of six players who can combine for a match and have each court filled.
- 4.0, 4.5, 5.0 level - Players can have a 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 or 5.0 NTRP. Each team must have a mix of six players who can combine for a match and have each court filled.

D. A player cannot play on a court that is below their NTRP or self-rate rating. Players may only play up one level i.e. a 3.0 players can play 3.5, but not 4.0.

E. Format:

- The Tri-Level league has a women's division and a men's division.
- Matches consist of three courts of doubles.
- Court #1 is the highest NTRP rating of the level. (e.g. for a "3.5-4.0-4.5" match, court #1 is called the 4.5 court).
- Court #2 is the middle NTRP rating in the level. (e.g. for a "3.5-4.0-4.5" match, court #2 is called the 4.0 court).
- Court #3 is the lowest NTRP rating in the level. (e.g. for a "3.5-4.0-4.5" match, court #3 is called the 3.5 court).
- This is the only league you can forfeit #1 if you do not have the players. You can also forfeit #2 and play #1 and #3. You have to be able to field at least two courts for the match to be a legitimate match.

VI. PLAYER REQUIREMENTS

- A. Any player on two or more teams advancing to the 18 & over, 40 & over, 55 & over or 65 & over State Championships may play for two of those teams, unless those teams are in the same NTRP level (ex. 2 – 18 & over, 3.5 teams from different local leagues).
- B. Players who do not have a computer rating on file in TennisLink shall self-rate in accordance with the National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) Guidelines and declare their self-rating on TennisLink when registering for a team. If they wish to appeal their self-rate, they must do so at the time of registering.
- C. The Local League Coordinator has the authority to accept or deny participants from outside the local league.

VII. USTA REGISTRATION FEE

All fees will go through Tennislink. The registration fee to play on a USTA tennis team for 2016 is \$25.00 per player, per roster for all Leagues. The fees are comprised of a \$6.00 NCTA head tax, a \$3.00 TennisLink user fee and a \$16.00 GHFA fee.

VIII. REFUND POLICY

- A. *League with Local League Play:* Refund requests for Local Fees and State Head Tax charges must be made to the Local League Coordinator prior to the team's first scheduled match. Requests must be made in writing. The TennisLink fee is non-refundable. The Local League Coordinator will hold all requests and submit one list to the State League Coordinator by the refund deadline. One check will be sent to the LLC or CTA, who will issue individual checks to the players.

- B. *League with direct advancement to State Championships:* Refund requests for Local Fees and State Head Tax charges must be made to the Local League Coordinator prior to the Deadline to Add a Team Advancing Directly to State Championship as noted in the chart in II. F. in the 2016 USTA North Carolina League Tennis Regulations. Requests must be made in writing. The TennisLink fee is non-refundable. The Local League Coordinator will hold all requests and submit one list to the State League Coordinator by the refund deadline. One check will be sent to the LLC or CTA, who will issue individual checks to the players.
- C. *State Championships:* Refund requests for registrations fees to any 2016 USTA North Carolina State Championship must be made in writing prior to the first scheduled match of the tournament, whether the level in question has begun play or not. Requests should be sent to Travis Sandman at Travis@nctennis.com. All refunds will be credited to the credit card used to pay the registration fee. Refunds will be credited the week after the conclusion of the tournament.

IX. DEADLINES AND DATES- Please refer to the current league calendar for deadlines and important dates.

X. THE TEAM CAPTAIN'S RESPONSIBILITY

- A. It is the captain's responsibility to review and understand all of the rules pertaining to league play. This includes local, state, sectional, and national rules. It is the responsibility of the captain to see that each of their players is knowledgeable of all the rules.
- B. General guidelines:
- Each team must have a captain or ACTING captain present at every match.
 - Home team shall supply new balls – appropriate to surface and USTA approved
 - Matches start promptly at 6:30 through the week or at various times on weekends.
 - The team captains for each team shall exchange their team line-up simultaneously prior to the beginning of the team match.
 - Communicate, communicate, and communicate with other team captains and LLC. This is very important. Double check match times especially on Saturday or Sunday because there are many teams playing on those days. The home team has the choice of playing surface and courts. Each team should have a home court to play from.
 - After the completion of the match, captains should check with each other to make sure the scores are reported correctly.
 - The winning captain is responsible for reporting scores on TennisLink within 24 hours of the match. If the winning captain has not posted the scores within the above time frame, the opposing captain should report them. If the opposing captain does not confirm the scores within the 48-hour time frame, TennisLink will consider the match valid and the score will stand.
 - Captains should keep a copy of original scorecard for your records.

XI. RAIN OUTS OR INCLEMENT WEATHER

- A. In case of rain, sleet, snow, or temperatures below or will be below 35°F at match time at the home courts, notify visiting team of court conditions at least **TWO HOURS** prior to match time. Both captains should be CERTAIN that the courts are unplayable at the designated starting time and will not be playable for at least **ONE HOUR** past match time. Play is canceled unless both captains agree on a later time in the day/night. Teams should show up at the designated match time or risk a forfeit if they are uncertain of the court conditions. It is much easier to play the match when scheduled, then try to find a makeup date for it.
- B. If a player feels the court they are playing on is unsafe to start/continue playing on, he/she can insist that play halt. Facility staff can also declare their courts unplayable.
- C. If rain interrupts a warm-up or match, the visiting team is required to wait **ONE HOUR** for courts to become playable, unless both teams agree to wait longer.
- D. Rained out or incomplete matches must be made up within 14 days.

- E. Within 72 hours of the regular scheduled match, both captains must have agreed on the make-up dates. NOTIFY THE LEAGUE COORDINATOR OF YOUR MAKE-UP DATE.
- If a date cannot be agreed upon within 72 hours, let the league coordinator know you are having problems rescheduling. The league coordinator will set up a make-up date.
 - *Preferably* the whole team makes up the match at the same time. Any match already started can make it up as individual lines at varying times. Either way the match must be keyed in by the 14th day.
 - Any team that does not show up for the assigned make-up date will forfeit the match. The 14 day time frame may be extended by the LLC if there have been extreme weather situations.
 - In a rescheduled team match, substitutions may be made in any individual matches not yet begun, (first ball of first point struck). Substitutions for matches interrupted due to inclement weather:
 - For any court that had begun play (first point played), lineups will stand.
 - For any court that had not yet begun play (first point played), teams may substitute players as long as the substitutions are not in the original line-up that was exchanged between captains.
 - In the event of inclement weather:
 1. Completed individual matches stand as played.
 2. Incomplete matches must be resumed by the same players in the same positions, same side of net, same point score, same game, same set at the same site, unless the players mutually agree to play elsewhere.
 - When a match is postponed following exchange of line-up, the line-up would stand for those positions that had already started (first service attempt) their match. All other positions, even those that were in warm-up, **may be** changed for the make-up match as long the substituted players were not in the original line-up. The rationale is that the same players may not be available while others now can play.
 - The League Coordinator can postpone a match if conditions are unfavorable for play in order to safeguard the players.

XII. FORFEITS AND DEFAULTS

- A. The customary 15-minute default rule applies. A player arriving within the 15-minute default time is still entitled to the full warm-up.
- B. If a player is not on site when scorecards are to be exchanged (5 minutes before the scheduled match time, unless otherwise stated in local league regulations), any missing players must be moved to a defaultable court. The only exceptions are for the latter courts in staggered matches and Tri-Level matches.
- C. Captains are allowed, but not required, to let the opposing captain know if they are forfeiting a court and which court they are forfeiting.
- If the away team calls/emails and says they are forfeiting a court, the **HOME TEAM'S** players, for that court, **HAVE** to be present to receive the known forfeit.
 - If the home team calls/emails the away team saying they are forfeiting a court, the away team does not have to travel to that facility to receive the forfeit.
 - If your team is forfeiting a court, and the captain wishes to let the other captain know, please put it in writing (i.e. email) and also copy the LLC for documentation to protect against any confusion later.
 - If you call ahead of time and tell the opponent you are forfeiting a court, you cannot CHANGE YOUR MIND later and tell them you do not have a forfeit. The rationale being that they have already told the players involved in the forfeit and they have made other plans. However, if the match has to be rescheduled to another date because of weather, you do not have to forfeit the court if you have a full team.
 - WHEN TRAVELING TO CLUBS WITH ONLY THREE COURTS, IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO LET THEM KNOW AHEAD OF TIME IF YOU ARE FORFEITING A COURT, ESPECIALLY DURING SEASON WHERE YOU ONLY USE THREE COURTS.
 - In the case of a forfeit that is not known in advance, a forfeit can be granted only to a player who is present and dressed to play. **REMEMBER BEING LATE AFFECTS MORE THAN ONE PERSON!**

- If a team forfeits two entire team matches in one season, that team is disqualified for the remainder of the League season and all matches (played and scheduled) will revert to forfeits. An automatic grievance will be filed with the local Grievance Committee. The Grievance Committee will investigate and determine what action needs to be taken. Penalties may include denial of re-entry (as a team) into the Local League the next season and the stipulation that no more than three of the players that had played together on the disqualified team be allowed to play together on ANY level in the next season.
- In the event that a team defaults one entire team match during local play, the LLC will determine if this default has affected the local league standings in any way. If it is found that the local league standings have been affected, then the matches of that team may be ruled to be null and void. If all teams in contention for advancement to the state championships have played the defaulting team in good faith, the matches stand as played.
- Captains/Players going to the match early should take the line-up with them to exchange before any court is begun. This is so both teams know who is playing and what court. In the event of a rescheduled team match, substitutions may be made in any individual matches not yet begun, (first ball of first point struck) as long as substitutes are not in the original line-up.

XIII. MATCH PLAY

- A. Matches between teams will be played on an **alternating home and away schedule (subject to court availability – coordinators decision)**. **Ideally 55 & over and 65 & over should be able to play on clay courts when at all possible**. Each team must guarantee the use of 3 courts (preferably more) for league matches and rainouts. Any approved USTA surface is permissible, including indoor.
 - Exception: After the schedule is posted, you have a period of two weeks to notify the LLC and the opponent that you need to make a change. This means that once the schedule is done at the beginning of the season all captains have the responsibility to look at their schedules, get with their pro/players and make changes to their schedules within the first two weeks. This change should only be made because of a conflicting event and not because you don't have a full team or your best players. After that period, there are no changes unless as described above. All schedule changes need to be sent to the league coordinator.
 - A match should not be postponed if you have at least 5 players who can play on an 18 & over and 40 & over team and 4 players on any teams that play three courts such as all mixed doubles, singles, tri and combo leagues and spring 55 & over and 65 & over teams. It should not be postponed if you do not have your strongest players available to play.
- B. The schedules will be followed as posted on TennisLink. No changes should be made between captains without the consent of the LLC. You must be able to prove a hardship, (accident, death) to request a schedule change.
 - Exception: After the schedule is posted, you have a period of two weeks to notify the LLC and the opponent that you need to make a change. This means that once the schedule is done at the beginning of the season all captains have the responsibility to look at their schedules, get with their pro/players and make changes to their schedules within the first two weeks. This change should only be made because of a conflicting event and not because you don't have a full team or your best players. After that period, there are no changes unless as described above. All schedule changes need to be sent to the league coordinator.
 - A match should not be postponed if you have at least 5 players who can play on an 18 & over and 40 & over team and 4 players on any teams that play three courts such as all mixed doubles, singles, tri and combo leagues and spring 55 & over and 65 & over teams. It should not be postponed if you do not have your strongest players available to play.
- D. The Home Team will pay for the indoor court fees. All matches will be played when scheduled indoors. The only exception would be for hazardous road conditions.
- E. The number of weeks in the league season will determine the number of matches played with these exceptions, when any NTRP level consists of only two teams, each team is required to play a minimum of three team matches which is a triple round robin. When any NTRP level consists of only three teams, each team is required to play a minimum of four team matches, which is a double round robin.

F. Team matches consist of the following:

League	Season	Individual Courts Played
USTA League 18 & over and 40 & over	Spring	2 Singles, 3 Doubles
USTA League 18 & over 2.5, 5.0+ & 5.5	Spring	1 Singles, 2 Doubles
USTA League 55 & over and 65 & over	Spring	3 Doubles
USTA League Mixed Doubles	Summer	3 Doubles
Southern Combo Doubles	Fall	3 Doubles
NCTA Singles League	Varies	3 Singles
Tri-Level League	Varies	3 Doubles
USTA League 70 & over	Varies	2 Doubles, 1 Mixed Doubles

XIV. MISCELLANEOUS

A. BATHROOM BREAKS

- Reasonable bathroom breaks are allowed at any time, but preferably should take place on an odd game changeover or between sets.
- If a bathroom facility is not available at a site, then a player may leave to go to the bathroom. No one should accompany a player but a partner or opponent.

B. COACHING AND SPECTATORS

- COACHING is allowed at any time during the match. Spectators may not aid in line calling or in determining the score.
- NO ONE IS ALLOWED WITHIN THE FENCED COURT AREA EXCEPT THE PLAYERS WHO ARE "PLAYING" ON THAT COURT. NO OUTSIDE "ADVICE" OF ANY KIND IS ALLOWED FROM ANYONE. THIS INCLUDES LINE CALLS AND HELP WITH SCORING.
- Once your match is over, you should leave the court immediately.

C. CELL PHONES

- Cell phones must be silenced or turned off during match play. A player whose phone rings while a point is in progress will be warned that if it happens again, the opponent can claim the point.
- It is perfectly legal to play a let if the ringing of the phone interferes with the play; however, the owner of the phone may not claim a let.
- If you have an EMERGENCY and need to make a call, please do so only on changeovers and let your opponents know that you need to make a quick call.
- If at all possible refrain from making any calls, or if you are expecting a call, leave your phone with a teammate and they can take a message.

D. CHILDREN- No unattended children (by an adult) should be brought to the tennis courts. No children are ever allowed on the courts during play.

E. FAIR CALLS

- In accordance with "THE CODE" and in reference to "Line Calls"; when in doubt as to whether a ball is out or good, the call is always made in favor of your opponent.
- Any change of call, in a rally or on either serve, that is corrected from an out call to a good call, is a loss of the point for the team making the correction. The only exception to this rule is when the serve is a let serve, and then the entire point is replayed.

F. PROFANITY AND UNSPORTSMANLIKE BEHAVIOR

- All players are under an official warning in reference to Unsportsmanlike Behavior.
- The Foothills League will uphold a non-tolerance policy of unsportsmanlike behavior of any kind.
- Profanity **WILL NOT** be tolerated in USTA League play!

- General behavior on the court and to the opponents is expected to be sportsmanlike at all times.
- Players who abuse these rules will suffer a penalty.
- Opponents may file an official grievance against such player.
- The Local League Coordinator has the authority to file a grievance against such player.
- Disqualification for further play in the League Season will be enforced if the Grievance Committee finds the complaint to be valid.
- This is a recreational league. Players should abide by the rules of tennis as stated in "THE CODE". (A copy of "THE CODE" can be found in the NCTA website (nctennis.com). "THE CODE" is the players' guide for unofficiated play. It is a good idea for each player to keep a copy of "THE CODE" in his or her tennis bags.

G. Below are the allotted times for rests and breaks during a match:

- Time allowed between points.25 seconds
- Between games.25 seconds
- At change over90 seconds
- Set breaks.120 seconds
- A break begins as soon as the point ends, and play should resume with the next serve at or before the allotted time.

XV. FLIGHT PLAYOFF MATCHES

- A. If a level has 8 or more teams, it may be divided into two or more divisions. When there are several flights in any level, the top teams only (#1 in each flight) will compete against each other in a single elimination playoff.
- B. When there are several flights in any level, the local league coordinator will select the format for the playoff to determine the overall flight winner. The time and date may vary from the original time and day that you played during the season.
- C. The playoffs may be scheduled at a neutral site. If a site cannot be secured the team with the best record will be the home team and the match played at their facility.
- D. In the case of an odd number of flights, the team with the best winning percentage will get the bye in the first round of the playoffs.
- E. The playoff matches can differ from season to season, therefore the format is determined by the LLC and can only be changed at their discretion. The SLC may be consulted for their input concerning the local playoffs.

XVI. GRIEVANCE COMPLAINTS- Refer to section 3.00 in the USTA League regulations booklet or on-line at www.usta.com.

XVII. NATIONAL AND SECTIONAL RULES

- A. Rules can be found on www.nctennis.com, www.usta.com and www.sta.com.
- B. Only the Local League Coordinator in conjunction with the State League Coordinator can interpret the Foothills League Rules.
- C. If the Local League Coordinator needs to extend the registration deadline at any time, she/he will need to contact the State League Coordinator for approval to do so.

XVIII. COMMITTEES

A. Adult League Committee

Saundra Denny	Mark Ervin
Karen Ginn	Aaron Swisher
George Bolter	Betty Mahoney
Katie Teague	Candace Scott
Michelle McBride	Shanda Hedrick

B. Grievance Committee and Grievance Appeal Committee- *Grievance committees for local league will consist of 3 persons from the following lists:*

Marsha Diamonti	Cathy Wells	Carol Robinson	Blair Tate
Scott Hoffman	Chetana Honnara	Kim McCarter	Ana Endjso
Marian Erikson	Betty Mahoney	Karen Smart	Suzanne Einfalt
Shane Lynch	Janet McDonald	Sallie Newell	Shanda Hedrick
Elaine Myers	Robert Womack	Candace Scott	Wayne Giese

XIX. STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

- A. Each local league will be extended one invitation per level of play for a team to go to the State Championships. The top two teams will be automatically invited when a level has the following number of teams:

League	Season	Min # of teams on a Level
USTA League Adult	Spring	30
USTA League Mixed Doubles	Summer	25
Southern Combo Doubles	Fall	30
NCTA Singles League	Varies	25
Tri-Level	Varies	25

- B. Wildcards, will be offered, if needed, to local leagues according to the chart in Appendix A of the 2016 State Regulations. The SLC will notify the LLC of each league after the team registration deadline if any wildcards are being offered.
- C. 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. The offer may go to another Local League, as determined by the Wildcard chart in Appendix A of these State Regulations, if a team is needed to fill the draw.
- D. The following is the minimum number of team members who were on the final roster of their local league team at the conclusion of local league play who must be available and eligible to compete at the State Championships:

League	Season	Minimum number
USTA League Adult 18 & over and 40 & over	Spring	8
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
Tri-Level	Varies	6
USTA League Adult 70 & over	Varies	6

*Those 6 players must be able to combine to form 3 eligible teams.

- E. Teams must have played in a minimum of three local matches, except in cases where a team is advancing directly to the State Championships, as provided for in Rule II. E.
- F. Players must play in a minimum number of matches to be eligible to advance to the State Championships (players on teams advancing directly to the State Championships, as provided for in rule II. E., are exempt from the following):

League	Season	Minimum Required Matches Played	# of defaults that may count 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	Summer	1	1
Tri-Level	Summer	1	1
USTA League Adult 70 & over	Varies	2	1

G. Team Matches at the State Championships will consist of:

League	Season	Individual Courts Played
USTA League 18 & over and 40 & over (Men)	Spring	2 Singles, 3 Doubles
USTA League 40 & over (Women)	Spring	2 Singles, 3 Doubles
USTA League 18 & over 2.5, 5.0+ & 5.5	Spring	1 Singles, 2 Doubles
USTA League 55 & over and 65 & over	Spring	3 Doubles
USTA League Mixed Doubles	Summer	3 Doubles
Southern Combo Doubles	Fall	3 Doubles
NCTA Singles League	Summer	3 Singles
Tri-Level	Summer	3 Doubles
NCTA 70 & Over	Varies	2 Doubles, 1 Mixed Doubles

- H. Any team defaulting a court at the State Championships will incur a \$100 penalty for each court defaulted. The fine is payable prior to the team's next match or, if it is their last match, before they leave the tournament. If a team does not pay the fine, no members of that team will be allowed to play in any future league tennis until the fine is paid. Any matches played during the suspension will be defaulted.
- I. Any team withdrawing from a state championship after the published withdrawal date will incur a \$300 penalty. These dates will be published in the Captain's Information in each State Championship's Tournament information, posted at www.ncleaguetennis.com. The penalty is payable within 1 week after the team notifies either their LLC or the SLC that they will not participate in the tournament after which all members of the team will be suspended from league play until the penalty has been paid. Any registration fees paid will not be returned.
- Teams who accept a wildcard after the published withdrawal date and then later withdraw will be subject to the same penalties.
 - Any team that fails to show up at a State Championship will be subject to the same penalties as a team that withdraws after the published withdrawal date.
 - Teams may be subject to a grievance by the Tournament Committee.
- J. Any player on two or more teams advancing to a North Carolina League State Championship may play for a maximum of two of those teams, unless those teams are in the same NTRP level and age division (ex. 2 adult 3.5 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.
- K. If a round robin ends with a tie for first place in Championship Play, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that break the tie:
1. Winner of the most individual matches.
 2. Winner of the Head-to-Head match.
 3. Loser of the fewest number of sets.
 4. Loser of the fewest number of games.
 5. Toss of coin.

- L. 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, provided he or she had met the requirements to qualify for the State Championship.

League State Championship	Date	Location	Levels
USTA League Adult 55 & over, 65 & over	May 19-23	Greensboro	55s – May 19-22 65s – May 21-23
USTA League Adult 18 & over	June 9-12	Lake Norman	All
USTA League Adult 40 & over	June 23-26	Winston-Salem	All
USTA League Mixed Doubles	Sept 8-11	Asheville	All
Tri-Level	Sept. 23-25	Raleigh	All
NCTA Singles League	Oct 13-16	Goldsboro	All
NCTA 70 & Over League	Oct 21-23	TBD	All
Southern Combo Doubles (Part 1)	Nov 3-6	Wilmington	TBD
Southern Combo Doubles (Part 2)	Nov 10-13	Wilmington	TBD