



**USTA SOUTH CAROLINA  
AIKEN AREA TENNIS LEAGUE (AATL)  
LOCAL REGULATIONS  
Adult 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over, 65 & Over  
And 70 & Over Divisions  
League Year 2018- DRAFT  
AATL Web Site - [www.aikentennis.com](http://www.aikentennis.com)**

**SOUTH CAROLINA DIRECTOR OF LEAGUES (DL)- ADULT LEAGUE COORDINATOR**

The following person has been appointed to implement and administer the South Carolina State USTA League Tennis Program including the South Carolina State USTA Adult 18 & Over, 40 & Over League:

Mary Goins  
P.O. Box 386  
Easley, SC 29641  
864-855-0881  
[goins@sctennis.com](mailto:goins@sctennis.com)

**ASSISTANT STATE LEAGUE COORDINATOR (SLC)**

The following person has been appointed the following to implement and administer the South Carolina State USTA 55 & Over, 65 & Over and 70 & Over League Tennis Program:

Susan Turner  
48 Upper Pond Road  
Columbia, SC 29223  
803-201-1016  
[Tennistogo@aol.com](mailto:Tennistogo@aol.com)

**LOCAL LEAGUE COORDINATOR (LLC)**

The following person has been appointed to implement and administer the Aiken Area Tennis League, and to interpret the Aiken Area Tennis League Regulations:

[Kristin Risher](#)  
3100 Calli Crossing Dr  
Graniteville SC, 29829  
[803-295-3271](tel:803-295-3271)  
[aikentennisleague@gmail.com](mailto:aikentennisleague@gmail.com)

**0.00 INTRODUCTIONS**

**0.01** USTA South Carolina has approved the Local League Coordinator to organize, coordinate and supervise all USTA League Tennis activities at the local level and report to the Director of Leagues and the Assistant League Coordinator for 55 & Over, 65 & Over and 70 & Over age divisions.

**0.02** All players, teams and Local Leagues must abide by USTA League Tennis, USTA Southern Tennis, USTA South Carolina, and AATL Regulations.

**0.03** USTA League Regulations, Southern League Regulations, and South Carolina State Regulations take precedence over AATL Regulations in the event of dispute.

**0.07** Paragraph numbering is in accordance with the format of USTA League Tennis Regulations. Topics addressed in specific paragraphs of these USTA South Carolina-AATL Regulations relate to the same topics in the same paragraphs of the aforesaid regulations.

0.08 New regulations or changes in regulations are underlined and in red.

**0.05** New regulations or changes in regulations from the previous league year are underlined and in red in the body of these regulations.

## **1.0 GENERAL**

If a Section, District/Area or Local League does not have a regulation in place to address an issue and there is a National Regulation on that issue, the Section, District/Area or Local League must follow the National Regulation.

**1.02 GOVERNANCE** The USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS shall apply to the USTA League Program (USTA League). The FRIEND AT COURT - *The USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations*, including Wheelchair Rules of Tennis, shall apply to all matches played in the USTA League (unless modified by these USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS). In all matches played without officials, the USTA official publication, "THE CODE", shall be observed. The USTA Point Penalty System shall be used at all championship levels.

### **1.02C Written Interpretation.**

The AATL Local League Coordinator shall interpret the USTA-SC-AATL Regulations.

**1.04A USTA League Program:** The AATL League is a team competition for men, women and mixed genders at specified National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) levels of play. The purpose of the AATL League Program is to provide organized recreational play, emphasizing local competition, with advancement for winning teams from local competition to District/Area, Sectional and National Championships to determine annually USTA League National Championship teams in each approved level of competition..

### **1.04C OFFICIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM**

**1.04C (1) Official League Registration.** TennisLink is the official information system for registering teams and players in AATL League.

a. INITIAL ROSTER DEADLINE: Team Rosters shall have a minimum number of eligible players as listed below in TennisLink no later than February 4, 2018 for all teams, except 65+ which is August 12, 2018, to participate in the AATL 2018

b. AATL **TEAM** registration will end February 4, 2018 except for 65+ and over which is August 12, 2018. Teams may continue to add players after this date per these league regulations.

c. AATL teams that play at State Championships shall have a minimum number of eligible players by two weeks prior to last local match played except for 65+ and 70+ which is one week prior to last match. The add-on deadline for levels playing Local League at Championships will be determined by the State League Coordinators.

d. The required State Adult Championship team entry fees, USTA-SC deposit checks, and information must be received by the AATL LLC by April 12, 2018 for 70 & over level

3.0,3.5 and 4.0, [April 12, 2018](#) for 55 & over levels 3.0,3.5,4.0 and 9.0, [April 2, 2018](#) for 40 & over levels 3.0,3.5,4.0 and 4.5+, [May 04, 2018](#) for 18 & over for levels 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0,4.5 and 5.0+, and [October 20, 2018](#) for 65 & over levels 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 9.0.

e. Once placed on a roster through TennisLink, there will be no refunds after the initial roster deadline. It is possible to transfer from one team to another, before the first match is played, without additional fees by contacting the Local League Coordinator to process the movement to another team.

**1.04C (2) Score Reporting in TennisLink.** The initial entry of match scores in TennisLink must take place within 48 hours of the completion of the match. After match scores have been entered in TennisLink, they must be confirmed by the opposing team within 48 hours of the initial entry or the initial score will automatically be considered valid. [Failure to comply may subject teams to a grievance and/or double default.](#)

## 1.04 D LOCAL LEAGUES

**1.04 D (1) Geographic Areas.** [AATL consist of the Aike, Edgefield, Barnwell Counties and surrounding towns and cities. There are no Local League regulations specifying geographic areas for league play.](#)

### 1.04D (3) AATL Local League Season:

Initial team registration deadlines for local play:

55 & Over	no later than February 4, 2018
70 & Over	no later than February 4, 2018
40 & Over	no later than February 4, 2018
18 & Over	no later than February 4, 2018
65 & Over	no later than August 12, 2018

AATL play will conclude on:

55 & Over	no later than March 25, 2018
70 & Over	no later than March 25, 2018
40 & Over	no later than April 2, 2018
18 & Over	no later than April 16, 2018
65 & Over	no later than September 30, 2018

State League Coordinators may amend these dates if needed, including playoffs.

The AATL league season will run from [February 4, 2018 to April 5, 2018 for 55 & over and 70 & over, February 4, 2018 to March 25, 2018 for 40 & over, February 4, 2018 to April 20, 2018 for 18 & over, and August 11, 2018 to October 13, 2018 for 65 & over.](#)

**1.04D (5) a Team.** The AATL roster limit is 15 players. For AATL Adult leagues with more than two teams at a level of play, teams must maintain rosters with at least 60 percent of players at the NTRP level of play. This rule does not apply to 65 & Over, and 70 & Over. Reduced the required percentage of team members in a two team leagues from 60% to 40% for 18 & Over, 40 & Over and 55 & Over. Team can be made up of players at a lower NTRP levels and within 1.0 NTRP level max.

1.04D (6) Number of Teams. When a Local League does not have the required number of Teams, (two teams) for Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over, Adult 65 & Over and Adult 70 & Over, to constitute a level, the affected Local League Coordinators, shall either:

- (1) Offer to move that team to another age division offered in that area in that particular level, if applicable.
- (2) Move individual players to another team in that area, if applicable, or move them to an “Extra Players” flight to hold for future play in other leagues, i.e. Mixed, Combo, etc.
- (3) The Director of Leagues or State League Coordinator may move a singleton team to another area’s league tree only if it is agreed upon by both local league coordinators and accomplished before that recipient area’s deadline.
- (4) Complete teams that are moved to play in a local league area other than their home local league must secure home courts in that local league they choose to participate unless both local league coordinators agree on something different.
- (5) If one singleton team is moved into an already existing league of at least 2 teams, then that singleton team must secure home courts in that host local league where they have been moved and if that singleton team wins that league, they will represent that host league at the State Championship.
  - The singleton team must follow all rules and regulations of the host league.
  - The host league is responsible for all awards, state championship fees (if applicable) and state championship registration.
- (6) If Local League coordinators agree to combine singleton teams in order to form a league for those teams to qualify, the winning team from that singleton league will be allowed to represent the Local League where they initially registered.
  - Rules and regulation issues that occur during the singleton team league play will be handled by the State League coordinator in consultation with the Local League coordinators that are involved.
  - The area that is represented by the winning team will be responsible for all awards, state championship fees (if applicable) and state championship registration for that team.
- (7) Refund all or a portion of the registration fee in accordance with the Local League policy.

**1.04D (1) Number of Teams.** AATL Adult teams are required to maintain rosters with a minimum of 60% of players at the designated NTRP level of play unless in a two -team league and then 1.04D (5) applies.

**1.04 (D) AATL Team Composition** *Team compositions have no residency requirement.*

**1.04E (3) Age.** *Each player shall have reached the required minimum age prior to or during the calendar year in which such player participates in his or her first local league.*

**1.04G (2)** A player may play on only one team in an NTRP level within an Age Group in the same local league during the same season. In local leagues where NTRP levels are divided into flights, a player may not play in more than one flight.

**1.04G (6):** *Players who qualify for South Carolina Adult Championships in 2018 may advance on more than one team within an Age Group only if they are different NTRP levels (i.e. player can play on an Adult 18 & over 3.5 and 4.0 team) but with no schedule accommodations*

**1.05 OFFICIAL BALL.** Any USTA Type 2 approved ball may be used in USTA League matches. In AATL matches, the home team is responsible for providing new balls, but new balls may be introduced to a match at any time, if all players competing in the individual match agree.

## **2.00 USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS.**

### **2.01 LOCAL COMPETITION**

#### **2.01A NTRP Levels of Play.**

**2.01A (4)** The following levels will be offered in the AATL for 2018

18 & Over: 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, and 5.0+

40 & Over: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, and 4.5+

55 & Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 9.0

65 & Over 3.0, 3.5 4.0 and 9.0

70 & Over 3.0, 3.5, and 4.0

#### **2.01C Competition Format.**

**2.01C (2) Team Match.** The number of individual singles and doubles matches for the various Adult levels will be as follows:

Adult 18 & Over 2.5 and 5.0+: 1 singles and 2 doubles.

Adult 18 & Over: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5: 2 singles and 3 doubles.

Adult 40 & Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5+: 2 singles and 3 doubles

Adult 55 & Over: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 9.0: 3 doubles

Adult 65 & Over: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, and 9.0: 3 doubles

Adult 70 & Over: 3.0, 3.5 and 4.0: 3 doubles

Any modification to this format will require approval of the AATL coordinator, the SC state league coordinator, and majority of team captains at this age and NTRP rating. This approval will be reflected in the above table as an exception.

**2.01C (3) Match Scoring.** A Coman Match Tiebreak (first to 10 by a margin of 2) in lieu of a third set will be played for Local League play. There is a 2 minute rest period prior to beginning a Match Tiebreak, and continuous play is required throughout the Tiebreak.

**2.01C (5) Team Lineups.** Team captains for each team shall exchange their team line-up card simultaneously prior to the beginning of the team match. An individual match is started when

the first ball is put into play. After the start of an individual match, if injury to, or illness of a player occurs, the opponents will be awarded a retirement (per the principles of 2.03M and 2.03N in these regulations) for that individual match only. If disqualification of a player occurs, the opponents will be awarded a default. The default principles in 2018 USTA League Regulations, shall be applicable, with the modifications that:

- a. In the event of illness, injury, disqualification, or no-show of a player prior to the start of an individual match (once the lineup has been exchanged), a team may substitute a player in the affected position within the 15-minute default time, using a player not already listed in the lineup. If substitution can't be made, the affected position will be defaulted.
- b. In the event a team match must be re-scheduled with staggered starting times, and opponents are not present to play, defaults will be awarded in the affected positions.
- c. For Weather Affected Matches, See Mandatory procedure "Matches Affected By Inclement Weather".
- d. Two players will play together in the higher position when both of their partners do not show in order to avoid two defaults.
- e. Full Team Defaults :
  - ii Player on a team that is removed from the schedule due to a defaulting their scheduled lines are not entitled to refund of any portion of their league registration fees.
- f. Players must be present and on court to receive a default except in the case of a known default where the captain giving the default has notified the receiving captain via phone and in writing (email with copy to LLC) in advance of the match that a line(s) will be defaulted. The captain giving known defaults shall specify which line(s) will be defaulted (e.g., #2 Singles and #3 doubles) in the written correspondence.
- g. If an event affects a majority of a team's players from playing at the scheduled match day/time, see the AATL Policy "MATCH CONFLICTS WITH OTHER EVENTS".
- h. The maximum number of individual lines that a team may default, prior to team disqualification, is equal to the number of team matches.
- i. Staggered Matches: A minimum of 3 courts must be provided by the home team facility for all AATL matches. If less than 5 courts are available for a 5 position team match, the visiting team shall select the order of play for all individual matches. If more than one surface is used for play, the visiting team captain shall choose which lines are played on which surface for those courts available for use at match time. Lines awaiting open courts shall occupy courts as they become available without consideration of surface type.

**2.01E:** Procedures in the Event of a Tie for Local Play (If a Local League has a playoff, it will defer to championship procedures in the event of a tie. Please refer to national regulation

**2.03E (1) Individual Matches.** Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.

**2.01E (2): Sets. Loser of the fewest number of sets.**

**2.01E (3): Games. Loser of the fewest number of games.**

**2.01E (4): Head-to-head. Winner of head-to-head match.**

**2.01F(1)** If a team defaults an entire match for any reason during round robin play, all matches for the defaulting team already played or to be played shall be null and void when determining standings but will be used for ratings and advancement purposes. If all teams with a mathematical chance to advance have played the defaulting team in good faith, those matches shall stand as played when determining standings. Teams that default an entire match are expected to play the remainder of their schedule. A grievance may be filed against the defaulting team.



## **2.02 Progression.**

**2.02A (1) Local League Competition.** Each team that wins a specific level of local league competition in the Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over, Adult 65 & Over, Adult 70 and over competition shall be entitled to advance to the next level of competition if otherwise eligible.

**2.02A (2) Local League Champions.** At the conclusion of local league competition for Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over, Adult 65 & Over and 70 & Over the Local League Coordinator shall certify to the USTA SC League Coordinator the results of the local league competition and the name(s) of the team captain(s). Local league competition must be concluded prior to the deadline set by the State Association.

**2.02A (3)** Local Leagues cannot extend their Deadline Date past their Local League Season, unless approved by the USTA SC State Adult League Coordinator.

### **2.02B Championships:**

**2.02B(a)** All NTRP levels in the Adult 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over, 65 & Over and 70 & Over divisions must play a local league in order to advance to District Championships except as noted in 2.02B(c). A player must play in at least 2 Local League matches in order to qualify to play at USTA SC Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over and Adult 55 & Over State Championship (a default received counts towards advancement). A player must play in at least 1 Local League match in order to qualify to play at the USTA SC Adult 65 & Over and 70 & Over State Championship (a default received counts towards advancement).

**2.02B (b)** The winner of each specific NTRP level in each age division in local league competition shall be entitled to advance to the State Championship. If the winning team is unable to attend, an alternate team, preferably the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team can be asked to advance. Should the second-place team not be available to attend then, a 3<sup>rd</sup> place team from the Local League affected, could be invited to advance to State Championships. If the 3<sup>rd</sup> place team from the affected Local League is unable to attend, then the wildcard procedure will be utilized to complete the draw.

**2.02B(c)** The State League Coordinator will determine the number of teams in the 18 & Over Men's 2.5 and Men's and Women's 5.0+ levels, the 40 & Over Men's and Women's 4.5+ level, the 55 & Over Men's and Women's 9.0 level, the 65 & Over Men's and Women's 9.0 level and the 70 & Over Men's and Women's 4.0 level to qualify to advance to the State Championships to play their local league once the team rosters for these levels have been submitted. Legal team rosters for these levels must be submitted by the initial league deadline date for the area in which the team is registering

### **South Carolina Adult Championship Dates for 2018-**

April 26-28 Adult 70 & Over, Hilton Head - Levels 3.0, 3.5, 4.0

April 28-30 Adult 55 & Over, Hilton Head - Levels 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0

May 5-7 Adult 40 & Over, Florence - Levels 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5+

May 18-21 Adult 18 & Over, Aiken – Levels 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0+

November 3-5 Adult 65 & Over Hilton Head – Levels 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0

A player must play in at least 2 Local League matches to qualify to play at USTA SC Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over and Adult 55 & Over State Championship (a default received counts towards advancement).

A player must play in at least 1 Local League match to qualify to play at the USTA SC Adult 65 & Over and 70 & Over State Championship (a default received counts towards advancement).

### **2.02C Championships:**

- a. The first place team in each level will go on line at USTA of SC and sign up for the state championship.
- b. If the first place team declines the invite to the state championship the second place team will be invited and will sign up on line as required.
- c. The captain of the teams going to the state championship will submit to the LLC a check for \$250 made out to the USTA of SC per 2.03L(b).
- d. *All items in (a-c) shall be provided by each team going to the state championship by April 12, 2018 for 70 & Over and 55 & Over, April 21., 2018 for 40 & Over, May 04, 2018 for 18 & Over, and October 20, 2018 for 65 & Over.*  
Upon notification by the LLC, that the first place team did not meet the deadline or declined the invite to state championships, the second place team shall provide items (a-c) within 48 hours to represent the AATL at championships. If second place team declines the third place team will shall provide items (a-c) within 48 hours to represent the AATL in the championships.
- e. Captains shall confirm registration of their team and checks by the LLC on or before the dates listed in (d). Information may be delivered to the LLC: Kristin Risher 3100 Calli Crossing Drive, Graniteville SC 29829
- f. Championship advancing captains are responsible for the deposit check to USTA-SC. Captains are responsible for representing team at Championship Captain's meetings, and teams are expected to play all lines scheduled at championships.

**2.03E (1) Championship Draw:** The Championship Draw is a random draw done by the championship referee once local league competition is completed and rosters for State Championship entry are received. If possible, teams from the same local league will be put in separate flights. The number of flights at a given level will depend on the number of teams eligible. The championship referee will determine, before league competition is completed, if wildcards are needed to balance out the flights. The wild cards will be chosen by a weighted random draw. (i.e. one entry per local league team in that local league division). A flight typically will have four teams. Local Leagues receiving a wildcard for the championships will be eligible for a wildcard at the same level/flights the following year. Flights must have a minimum of four (4) teams to be eligible for a wildcard.



**2.03E(1)(a) Semifinal Wildcard for draws with 3 flights at the Championship:** When a draw has three flights, a wildcard will be drawn at random (from the numbers 1, 2, 3) by the referee on the final day of round-robin play to determine which flight's second place team will play in the semifinals. The wildcard team will play a team from another flight.

**2.03F(a)** – If a team has a known default, (not enough players to field a complete team) the opposing team will have the opportunity to adjust their scorecard either in doubles by moving the third-place position to the second-place position or in singles by moving the second-place position to the first-place position. The default will not be given until both scorecards have been received by the Site Director and after consulting with the captain receiving the default, scorecards will be adjusted by the Site Director.

**2.03F(b)** Once championship play has begun, any team defaulting a court for any reason at the State Championships will incur a \$100 fine per scheduled court payable immediately (cash or check) for each court defaulted. That team will not be allowed to play their match until that fine is paid. If a team refuses to pay the fine, a grievance will be filed against all players on the state roster, which could result in the suspension of play from any USTA League play until the fine is paid. It is your team's responsibility to have players on every court at each match at a state championship.

**2.03H Procedures in the Event of a Tie. At Championships:** In the event of a tie, whether in round robin or single elimination competition, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:

**2.03H(1): Individual Matches. Winner of the most individual matches.**

**2.01E(2): Head-to-head. Winner of head-to-head match.**

**2.01E(3): Sets. Loser of the fewest number of sets.**

**2.01E(4): Games. Loser of the fewest number of games.**

**2.03L(a) Scoring of Team Defaults,** if a team defaults 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 when determining standings. If all teams in contention for the championships have already played the defaulting team in good faith, those matches stand as played. The defaulting team is ineligible to continue to play the remainder of their matches. The defaulting team will be responsible for the \$100 per line default penalty for all matches not played.

**2.03L(b)** A \$250.00 Deposit from each team advancing to the championships is required and any team withdrawing from a championship after the deadline for online registration will be subject to a fine of \$250.00 per team, payable to USTA SC. The deposit is to be sent to the Local League Coordinator. Once championship play has begun, the Local League Coordinator will destroy the check. A grievance may be filed against the withdrawing team in addition to the \$250 fine. Penalties against these team members may include that all members on the submitted roster be banned from participating in any USTA leagues for a period of up to 364 days.

**2.03L(c)** If a team defaults an entire match during a championship, a grievance may be filed against all members on the team roster that is submitted for the championship. Sanctions against the team members may include that all members on the submitted roster be banned from participating in any USTA leagues for a period of up to 364 days.

**2.03L(d)** Teams that withdraw from the championship after the online registration deadline date and before the draws are published will lose their \$250 deposit but may request a refund for registration fees. Teams that withdraw from the championship after the draws have been published will lose their \$250 deposit and their registration fees.

#### **2.04 NTRP Dynamic Disqualification and Review Procedures**

**2.04B(2)b(a)** Local play occurring at the State Championships: Players will be permitted to play in the entire event but, if a Self-Rate (S) or Medical Appeal promotion occurs when the ratings are run at the conclusion of the tournament, those matches shall be handled in the following manner: the player shall cease play immediately from the NTRP Level being promoted from and graduate to the next NTRP level. All prior matches shall stand in good faith.

**2.04B (3)** Following an NTRP Dynamic Disqualification, the player may not play at the disqualified NTRP level of play or any lower NTRP level of play in either singles or doubles for the remainder of the championship year and for the succeeding championship year. In any Division using combined levels, the combined NTRP rating of the disqualified player and partner may not surpass the level of competition. A player who has been moved up as a result of an NTRP Dynamic Disqualification in the Adult Division must immediately adjust his/her NTRP level of play.

**2.04E(1)(a)** If a self-rated (S) or Medical Appeal player is promoted or disqualified from a particular level of play, the player shall cease play immediately from the NTRP level being promoted or disqualified from and graduate to the next higher NTRP level.

**2.05D Medical Appeals.** If an intervening, permanently disabling injury or illness indicates that a player's current NTRP computer rating level may be too high, the player may request a medical appeal of such rating level in accordance with *USTA League NTRP Medical Appeal Procedures – Questions and Answers*.

USTA SC-Medical appeals are to be Signed by the player and a written statement from the player must be sent by email to Mary Goins at goins@sctennis.com or mailed to Mary Goins at PO BOX 386, Easley, SC 29641

**2.05E(2)** Ratings for players 65 & Over who are moved up will be published; automatic appeal will be granted upon request (through TennisLink auto- appeal function).

- If players are granted the appeal, they will be considered an "A" player which means they are subject to dynamic disqualification.

### **3.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

#### **3.01 ADMINISTRATION.**

##### **3.01A Grievances Committees.**

###### **3.01A (1) Local Grievance Committee.**

The AATL Grievance Committee for all league types is:

James Mosteller, Chairman  
Kristin Reamer, Member  
Courtney Whitlow, Member

### **3.01B (1) Local Grievance Appeals Committee.**

The AATL Grievance Appeals Committee for all league types is:

Mo Garcia, Chairman  
Ben Holmes, Member  
Kenny Brown, Member

### **AATL Policy for Free Registration of Captains:**

The AATL will register captains at no cost on or before the initial roster deadline per the following:

1. Captain is required to attend any Captain's meeting offered for specific league season.
2. Team must have the required number of eligible players registered.
3. Captain must not have previously lost free registration privilege due to rules violations or grievance.
4. Excluding those violations listed in #5 below, two violations of any other AATL Regulations shall result in loss of free registration privilege for a period of one calendar year. The AATL LLC will notify the captain in writing (email) of the offense and penalty.

If a captain allows someone to compete in a match who is not on the team roster, goes to [goins@sctennis.com](mailto:goins@sctennis.com) if a captain's team drops out of State Championships after the information/fee deadline, or if captain's team grants a Full-Team-Default, the Free Registration privilege shall be lost for a period of one calendar year. The AATL LLC will notify the captain in writing (email) of the offense and sanction.

### **AATL Policy for Granting League fee Refunds**

Refund of the league registration fee (less Tennislink \$3 processing fee) will be granted if a player requests to be removed from a team prior the initial roster deadline date for any reason. Requests for refunds will not be granted after the initial roster deadline except in the case where a direct to state team player is removed from the roster prior to the state deadline. It is a player's responsibility to submit refund requests to the AATL LLC. Full refunds (include \$3 USTA National Processing fee) will only be given for the case where teams advancing directly to state championships have play cancelled by USTA-SC.

### **Other Situations:**

If there is a situation that is not covered by these rules and regulations, refer to USTA Sectional and State League Regulations. The advice and recommendations of the South Carolina State League Coordinator shall be secured by the LLC when deemed necessary. Questions regarding rules interpretations, refunds, Tennislink corrections shall be addressed by the AATL LLC: [Kristin Risher \(aikentennisleague@gmail.com\)](mailto:KristinRisher@aikentennisleague@gmail.com) 803-295-3271

## MATCHES AFFECTED BY INCLEMENT WEATHER (Rules and Procedure)

General Weather Related Rules (Apply to all Inclement Weather Cases)

W1. Matches may only be postponed if courts are unplayable, as verified by both team captains, due to moisture, freezing, or the match time temperature is below 32 degrees. Matches may not be postponed due to excessive wind or heat.

W2. Matches may not be postponed more than one hour before match time, unless email notification of facility closure is received.

W3. Only players on the team roster for the originally scheduled match date/time are eligible for make-up matches.

W4. If some courts are playable at match time, other individual matches, not started due to unplayable courts, may not be postponed to a later date unless courts are still unplayable 30 minutes after the original match time. Postponed individual matches are subject to rules 2A-2D below.

W5. Team Captains shall schedule all individual and team make-up matches. Since substitution applies to all matches not started, exchange of scorecards and relying on players to arrange times to complete a make-up match is **NOT** permitted.

W6. Failure to follow the prescribed inclement weather make-up procedures listed for cases 1-3 will result in defaults.

### **Case 1: If courts are unplayable due to moisture, or temperature is below 32 degrees at match time, and both captains agree to postpone the match.**

1A. Postponed matches shall be scheduled for play to occur within 14 days from the original match date per USTA-SC regulations.

1B. Within 24 hours from match postponement, the home team captain shall provide the Visiting team captain a minimum of 2 dates to choose from for the make-up match(es) for each affected position, with proposed match times, (maximum of one Saturday or Sunday date for postponed weekday match, weekday times before 6pm may be given, but do not count toward the 2 date per position minimum as these times do not accommodate working players. The AATL LLC shall be notified, via email, of the postponement and proposed make-up dates/times at the same time as the visiting team captain. Acceptable examples for a 5 position match, rained out on a Sunday, include (2 options for each singles position, and 2 options for each doubles position,

\*Monday, All positions at 6:30pm

\*Sunday, Singles (1 position at 2pm or 7pm), Doubles (2 positions at 7pm)

\*Wednesday #2, Singles (2 positions at 7pm), Doubles (2 positions at 6pm)

Note: 3 different days are given, that include times after 6pm during the week, and any time on one weekend day. 5 total singles position times, and 7 doubles position times are provided. This is slightly more than the minimum, and captains are encouraged to provide as many options as they can. When individual matches are played on different days, they are recorded on the scorecard based on the order played. The first match played is #1, second #2, etc..

1C. After receiving the proposed make-up dates/times, the visiting team captain may decide how many of each position are played on the given dates/times and notify the Home Team Captain and League Coordinator, via email, within 24 hours (NOTE: Based on the timing in rules 1B and 1C, the schedule for make-up matches should be established with 48 hours after original match postponement.) **If agreement between captains can't be reached, any disputed individual matches will be made up at a time decided upon by the LLC.**

1D. After make-up scheduling, if a team must default an individual match on any of the make-up dates, the defaults shall be recorded at the lowest positions when scores are entered in TennisLink regardless of the defaulted match position.

1E. If a make-up match must be postponed due to inclement weather, it must be made up within one week or prior to the end of the original 14 day make-up window, whichever is later on the calendar, and rules 1A-1D, or 2A-2E as applicable, apply to all successive make-ups with the one week limitation applied.

### **Case 2: A court becomes unplayable after match start time, but before the start of the first point in the individual matches.**

2A. Case 1 rules 1A-1E apply.

2B. Defaults received during scorecard exchange count if any individual match has started, but are null and void if no individual match has started.

2C. For make-up matches, substitution of players on original scorecard may include any player eligible per rule W3.

2D. In the case of defaults received at originally scheduled match time, the players listed on the scorecard at original exchange receive the default, and are not eligible for substitution at other positions for this team match.

### **Case 3: Courts become unplayable due to moisture after the first point has been played in an individual match.**

For this case, the match must be resumed from the exact point where it was stopped (i.e., same players, score, court position, court surface but not exact court, and service rotation) rescheduled for completion within 14 days of the original match date using rules 1A-1E Above.

## MATCH CONFLICTS WITH OTHER EVENTS

Except in the event of weather, matches shall not be played after the originally scheduled match date, under penalty of default. Matches may be played in advance of the originally scheduled match for 2 reasons: (1) If the match date interferes with a USTA League Championship. (2) Special event deemed acceptable by the Local League Coordinator (i.e., tournament, tennis facility event, funeral, facility closure, etc., with number of players unaffected <number required to play a team match without full team default). For a conflict to be granted, the captain requesting a conflict

must notify the LLC In writing no less than 14 days prior to the event causing the conflict, with a description of the event, and the names of the affected players. If the request for a conflict is granted, both captains will be notified, and only the players named will be permitted to compete in the conflict matches. The conflict matches shall be played prior to the regularly scheduled match.

If a conflict is granted, a minimum of three dates, with proposed match times should be given to the visiting captain to play the match early using the procedure given in rules MATCHES AFFECTED BY INCLEMENT WEATHER rules 1B-1C. If no agreement can be reached on a date to play, the Local League Coordinator has the final say using dates proposed by both captains. If it rains the day of the conflict match, and no other day can be agreed upon to play, then the original date of the match stands.

## DUTIES OF TEAM CAPTAIN

The following includes duties for AATL Captains which are enforceable as part of the AATL regulations.

### Team Registration:

1. Complete Captain Registration Form on Aikentennis.com.
2. Familiarize all team members with regulations.
3. Secure at least three players by initial roster deadline.
4. Ensure all players meet the eligibility requirements as listed in these regulations.
5. Secure a facility for team to play out of, ensure membership requirements are met by all players, fees are paid to facility, and obtain a minimum of 3 court reservations for each scheduled match time.
6. Team captain is responsible for notification and communication to each team member, all information needed from or distributed by the LLC.

### Match Play:

1. Each team must guarantee availability of 3 courts for AATL matches. Any approved USTA surface is permissible. It is the home team's responsibility to have courts available and playable at match time. Separated courts may be used. Captains must designate the exact location of any separated courts prior to the match in writing (email) to visiting captain and LLC.
2. Home captain should contact visiting captain prior to match to confirm match location and match time. Also, it is the responsibility of the home team captain to contact the visiting team captain if courts are not playable. The captains may then discuss postponement, movement to another location, or rescheduling. If weather and availability of courts at visitor's site permits play, match should be played at visitor's courts.
3. Home team captain shall reschedule weather affected matches immediately and report rescheduled time to LLC within the 24-48 hour deadline.
4. Home captain shall convey to visiting team, at time of match and before exchanging lineups, if he/she is using multiple surfaces and which positions are on particular surfaces.
5. Scorecards are to be printed by captains from TennisLink for use during line-up exchange
6. Captains shall exchange line-ups simultaneously at match time. After scorecards have been exchanged, if a team receives a default, the receiving team may not change their line-up.
7. Persons serving as match captains are to agree on scores and players' names (as they appear in TennisLink) on scorecard before leaving match and sign each other's scorecards. The signed scorecard will be official agreement of the final match scores, and be used as records if later disagreement occurs.
8. Report scores through TennisLink immediately after each match. Any player on either team may enter the scores. Scorecards should be compared to be sure the names and scores are correct.
9. Errors in entering scores in Tennislink must be corrected by the LLC. Prior to requesting LLC correction, captains should agree that the correction is required. The LLC should be notified by one of the captains, via email with CC: of the other captain, the exact details of the required correction including match number, individual match line number, and the player/score correction required.

**Sportsmanship:** "Sportsmanship is the expectation that a player, coach or spectator abide by the rules of tennis and that they act at all times with fairness, courtesy and respect for others."



USTA publication "The Code", a handbook of ethics and fair play should be understood and followed by every player. Captains and team members are urged to become familiar with "The Code". The following additional guidance or clarification is provided:

1. Captain shall ensure team practices good sportsmanship.
2. CELL PHONES and all other electronic devices must be turned OFF. If a cell phone rings during a point, the opponent wins the point based on a hindrance. Emergency response personnel may utilize electronic devices, worn on their person, and set to vibrate mode for notification. Emergency response personnel shall notify their opponents of their status if a return call must be made during a match.
3. Every player is expected to call shots on their side of the net, and loud enough for his/her opponent to hear. Any out ball must be called promptly; otherwise, it is presumed good and in play. Late calls (made by player after their return clears net or goes out) shall be avoided, and are not to be honored by opponents.
4. Balls that are not clearly out should be ruled as good for the opponent. In the case of doubles, when a partnership is in disagreement of an in/out call (disagreement means both are certain but with opposite conclusions, and not that one is certain and the other uncertain), it should be awarded to the opponent.
5. Players shall call the score before each game and point to avoid confusion.
6. Players shall advise their home fans to show sportsmanship and applaud for good shots made – not points won from errors. Also, respect players on neighboring courts. Spectators may not aid players in making a line call, or in determining the correct score. Spectators should not communicate with players in regard to match specifics, or participate in the match in any way. Spectators should refrain from expressing opinions related to the match even if asked by players. Spectators shall not sit or stand at the end of the court immediately behind the servers or receivers if it is distracting to the players. Players may suspend a match to obtain captain's assistance to deal with an incident of spectator interference.
7. While spectators may clap for points well played, it should be remembered that the well-played point should be applauded regardless of who won the point. It is considered to be poor tennis etiquette to clap for unforced errors. It is the responsibility of each team to control the noise and behavior of its spectators. Loud, boisterous or unsportsmanlike behavior is unacceptable. If a problem exists with a spectator, the player(s) or her opponent(s) should ask the spectator to refrain from the particular behavior. If the behavior persists, team captains should be summoned to handle the situation.
8. Coaches or club pros must refrain from intrusion in discussions or negotiations between players or captains unless specifically asked by BOTH captains. Even then, it is the responsibility of the two captains, not the pro, to decide on the resolution of the incident.
9. DO NOT RETURN obviously out serves. This is considered rude, may be gamesmanship, and may unnecessarily delay the server to the point where granting a let is in order.
10. No spectators, children, pets or other team members shall be permitted within the confines of the playing area.