

WHAT EXACTLY IS CHANGING?

In NC, USTA age divisions for league play have been Adult (18 & over), Senior (50 & over) Super Senior (60 & over) Super Senior 70s (70 & over). The new structure, which will begin in NC in 2013, will have age divisions of 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over and 65 & over. The chart below outlines the changes, the format of play and how far each of these age divisions will advance.

LEAGUE	18+	40+	55+	65+	FORMAT	ADVANCE TO
Adult League (spring)	✓	✓	✓	✓	18+, 40+ - 2S, 3D 55+, 65+ - 3D	18, 40, 55 to National 65 to Section
Mixed Doubles (summer)	✓	✓	✓	✓	All Divisions 3 Doubles	18 to Nationals 40 to Nat'l Invitational 55, 65 to State
Singles League (varies)	✓	✓	✓		All Divisions 3 Singles	18, 40, 55 to State
Combo Doubles (fall)	✓	✓	✓	✓	All Divisions 3 Doubles	18, 40, 55 to Section 65 to State
Tri-Level (varies)	✓	✓			Varies by area	Local only

WHY DID USTA MAKE THIS CHANGE?

The decision to change the structure was made to better distribute USTA League participants among the three age categories—previously, the vast majority of USTA League participants fell in the "Adult" category (18 & Over), with far fewer in the "Senior" (50 & Over) and "Super Senior" (60 & Over) categories—and to better align participants with players their own age.

USTA League tennis started close to 30 years ago. Since then, the makeup of our league population has changed significantly. In the mid-1980s, the average age of the league player was in their mid-30s. Today, the average age of a league player is around 49. As a matter of fact, over half of all league players fall somewhere between the ages of 40-59. Those players ages 50-59 have always had the benefit of playing at both the Adult and Senior Levels, while those 40-49 have been limited to playing only in the Adult levels, restricting close to a third of our league population from playing in multiple divisions. Realigning the age levels this way allows us to better serve a larger part of our USTA League community.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF MAKING THIS CHANGE?

The majority of players should now have additional play opportunities. Also, matches should be more competitive as players are not only the same level, but often times, within a closer age range. With the increased competitiveness of the matches comes even more accurate ratings.