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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USTA Georgia Cancels 2020 USTA League, Combo Doubles and Tri-Level State Championships

TOURNAMENTS WERE SCHEDULED FROM MAY THROUGH NOVEMBER

ATLANTA – MAY 29, 2020 – The United States Tennis Association (USTA) Georgia Board of Directors announces the cancellation of the 2020 USTA Georgia Adult League, Combo Doubles and Tri-Level State Championships due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Eleven events were scheduled between May and early November in eight Georgia cities.

With more than 25,000 players in Georgia and 330,000 nationally, League and Combo Doubles are considered the flagship products of the USTA. Leagues consist of teams of approximately six to 20 players in various age categories. Most teams start competing at the local level and advance to the state championships. In 2019, approximately 6,100 players and 575 teams participated in USTA Georgia State Championships and contributed millions of dollars to local economies.

In Georgia, most local league play halted, canceled or had not started when shelter-in-place orders went into effect and USTA suspended play on March 13, 2020. On May 26, 2020, USTA announced the extension of any USTA events and programs beyond May 31, 2020 would be at the discretion of the sections individually. USTA Southern granted states (Georgia) the authority to determine if/when events and programs within their state can resume. The USTA Georgia Board of Directors has determined that effective June 1, all local community tennis associations can restart all USTA Georgia programming including Adult League while following the USTA "Return to Play" guidelines.

The USTA announced in April that all 2020 USTA national adult league championships were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. USTA Southern announced on May 18 that all 2020 USTA Southern adult league and combo doubles sectional championships were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The eleven canceled events, with dates and locations:

- USTA League Adult 18 & Over State Championships; May 1-4; Rome, GA
- USTA League Adult 18 & Over State Championships; May 8-11; Macon, GA
- USTA League Adult 40 & Over State Championships; May 29 – June 1; Columbus, GA
- USTA League Adult 40 & Over State Championships; May 29 – June 1; Athens, GA
- USTA League Adult 55 & Over State Championships; June 5-8; Columbus, GA
- Southern Tri-Level State Championship; August 7-9; LaGrange, GA
- USTA League Mixed State Championship; September 11-13; Macon, GA
- Southern Combo Doubles 55 & Over State Championship; September 25-27; Columbus, GA
- USTA League Adult 65 & Over State Championships; October 9-11; Savannah, GA
- Southern Combo Doubles 18 & Over and 40 & Over State Championship; October 23-25; Valdosta, GA
- Southern Combo Doubles 18 & Over and 40 & Over State Championship; November 6-8; Dalton, GA

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USTA Georgia President Ashley Massengale said, *"We are truly disappointed that we've had to cancel our state championships. We value our USTA League and Combo Doubles players tremendously and wish we could provide them with this reward for their achievements in local play. However, their safety, as well as the safety of our volunteers and staff is paramount."*

USTA Georgia Adult League Committee Chairperson Robin Stevens said, *"Canceling the state championships was a very distressing decision for our committee because we know how much players enjoy participating in them. However, the players' health, as well as the health of the numerous volunteers who work the tournaments, comes first. We look forward to the State Championships returning in 2021."*

USTA Georgia Senior Director of USTA Adult and Junior Leagues Dave Bain added, *"Making a decision like this was very difficult and was discussed at all levels of our organization, with the common thought always being what was best for our players. The non-tennis related concerns were abundant and providing a safe and healthy environment for our players is always our main priority. The recent USTA Georgia League survey provided us over 3,000 responses, with a majority of the players making it clear that they wanted us to focus on local play and were not comfortable with team events with more than 500 players in attendance."*

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[Click here for the USTA Georgia League State Championships website](#)

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USTA is the national governing body for the sport of tennis in the United States and the leader in promoting and developing the growth of tennis at every level – from local communities to the highest level of the professional game. It owns and operates the US Open, the largest annually attended sporting event in the world, and launched the **US Open Series** linking six summer tournaments to the US Open. In addition, it owns about 90 Pro Circuit events throughout the U.S., and selects the teams for the Davis Cup, Fed Cup, Olympic and Paralympic games. A not-for-profit organization with more than 615,000+ members, it invests 100 percent of its proceeds in growing the game. It is divided into 17 sections, of which USTA Southern is the largest. The Southern section is made of nine states including Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee and account for nearly 25 percent of the total USTA membership. USTA Georgia has the largest membership in the Southern section with more than 30,000 members. USTA Georgia delivers tennis to members across the state through 33 local community tennis associations. A professional staff housed in Marietta, GA, carries out USTA Georgia's daily operations, but policy is formed and much of the organization's work is executed via a board and committee structure of more than 200 volunteers. For more information about the types of programs and services offered by USTA Georgia, visit ustageorgia.com.

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