

USTA Southern Wheelchair Tennis Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2025

Welcome to the newsletter for USTA Southern Wheelchair Tennis, providing you with information about upcoming tournaments, wheelchair tennis programs, tips on how to take your game to the next level and all things wheelchair tennis. Also, keep an eye out on USTA Southern's Facebook page for Wheelchair Wednesdays when wheelchair tennis will be the featured post for the day!

Tournament Recaps

The **Mississippi Rock & Roll Wheelchair Tennis Tournament**, held October 3-5, marked a significant milestone in participation and player engagement. Held at the Brandon City Courts in Brandon, MS, the event welcomed 28 dedicated athletes—a notable increase from 2024, reflecting the growing momentum and visibility of wheelchair tennis across the Southern Section and neighboring sections. Players came from Oklahoma, Florida, Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee to compete, underscoring the tournament's growing reputation as a regional hub for competitive and inclusive wheelchair tennis.

After gathering feedback through a player survey, the tournament committee made the strategic decision to move the event from April to October, and the response was overwhelmingly positive. Cooler weather, better travel conditions and alignment with players' schedules contributed to a more comfortable and accessible experience for all.



True to tradition, the tournament provided two meals a day, ensuring players and volunteers were well-nourished and energized throughout the weekend. Sunday wrapped up with a crowd-pleasing pizza lunch—a simple but beloved ritual that brings everyone together in celebration and camaraderie.

The Rock & Roll Tournament continues to be more than just a competition. It's a space where athletes connect, communities rally and the spirit of inclusion shines. From first-time participants to seasoned players, the event fosters a sense of belonging and pride in Mississippi's adaptive sports landscape.

Tournament Results

A Singles: Winner: Zane Goodwin , Runner-up: Noah Schepman

A Doubles: Winner: Zane Goodwin & Noah Schepman, Runner-up: Robbie Sullivan & Heath Brunies

B Singles: Winner: Nhat Dinh, Runner-up: Jonathan Broadway

B Doubles: Winner: Johnny McGinn & Allen Champagne

C Singles Winner: Bryan Foley, Runner-up: Jennifer Speer

C Doubles Winner: Jennifer Speer & Scott Therrel

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Hallowheel, held this year on October 3-5 in Baton Rouge, LA, is a Halloween-themed, multi-event weekend benefitting the Cajun Classic Wheelchair Tennis Tournament, which is played in the spring. Both wheelchair players and players without disabilities are included, and it's always a well-attended and festive event.

Thank you to everyone who supports Hallowheel, so that the Cajun Classic Wheelchair Tennis Tournament can continue to be a top-notch tournament!



Dream Court Wheelchair Tennis All-Comers Camp



Dream Court in Montgomery, AL, conducted a USTA All-Comers Camp October 10-12. As part of the camp, players had three days of coaching, including both drills and match play. Camp attendees also got to spend time getting to know other wheelchair tennis players.



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Innovative Wheelchair Tennis Events with Wheel Serve NC

In 2025, Wheel Serve NC hosted four events, and none of them were sanctioned events ... and that's OK! They were all geared towards bringing new athletes to wheelchair tennis and spreading the word to people who may never have seen wheelchair tennis before. USTA Southern is looking for more people to host smaller Level 4 or 5 tournaments or non-sanctioned events that help wheelchair tennis grow in your community. Here is where Wheel Serve NC hosted their successful events.

In February, they hosted **Polar Doubles** as a partnership between Western Wake Tennis Association and Wheel Serve NC. It was a one-day up/down tournament at Cary Tennis Park. At the event, 26 wheelchair athletes and 26 able bodied players team up to compete.



In May, they held **Wheel Serve NC Open On Tap**, a partnership between Wheel Serve NC and Lake Norman Tennis Foundation, which was a one-day Red Ball, up/down tennis event at Lost Worlds Brewery in Cornelius, NC.

Over 50 players were in attendance. It was a day of tennis, fellowship, and fun!



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Wheel Serve NC Play Day was held at the Winston-Salem Open in August. There were 24 wheelchair athletes and 20 volunteers who came to the Winston-Salem Open for a day of up/down tennis and then were treated to an afternoon of professional tennis. A highlight of the day was an on-court visit from ATP star Stefanos Tsitsipas, who was very generous with his time and talent!



October 11 was the day for **Wheel Serve It Up**, Wheel Serve NC's annual fundraiser. In attendance were over 90 players, including all levels of play from wheelchair athletes to college players to recreational league players. All came together to support Wheel Serve NC's mission to grow and support wheelchair tennis at the recreational level and beyond.

As part of the event, wheelchair athletes joined with able-bodied tennis enthusiasts and the D1 Queens University Men's and Women's tennis teams for a dynamic round robin, fun tennis, silent auction and playoff exhibition matches featuring top-ranked wheelchair tennis players and players from the Queens teams.

As you can see, **Wheel Serve NC** is heavily focused on integration with able-bodied tennis players and is all about fun. They promote wheelchair tennis at the recreational level, which has led to huge growth in their state. If players want to advance to higher levels, they absolutely support that as well.



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2025 Tournaments

Check out these upcoming Southern Section tournaments for players at all levels and make plans to participate!

Name	Level	Date	City & State	Tournament Director	Contact
America Wheelchair Tennis Championships	USTA Level 1 - Adult & Junior	November 13-16	Locust Grove, GA	Harlon Matthews	hmatthews@co.henry.ga.us