

USTA LEAGUE TENNIS

MEMPHIS LOCAL RULES

2009

All team captains will receive current National USTA Regulations in booklet form and should share those regulations with team members. These National Regulations are in full force and apply to all levels of play in the USTA League Tennis Program in the Tennessee and Memphis Local League. There is no authorization to modify, amplify, or change them by players, captains or Local League Coordinator.

1. Every player must have a current USTA membership before league play begins: **AGAIN THIS YEAR:** Each player's eligibility must extend through June 30, 2009. (TennisLink will not accept team members with invalid memberships.)
2. Each player must pay a \$22.00 league fee for each team that he/she is a member. This will be paid at the time of registration. There will also be a \$3.00 fee paid to TennisLink when filling out the rosters online. A player may play on two ADULT teams, at different NTRP levels. A senior may play on two adult teams and two senior teams. (But no special scheduling will be done to accommodate such players.) **PLAYERS MAY ONLY PLAY ONE LEVEL ABOVE THEIR CURRENT LEVEL.**
3. Each player will use his/her most recent NTRP Computer Rating on file in TennisLink (2006, 2007, 2008.) Players who do not have a computer rating on file in TennisLink shall self-rate in accordance with the National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP.) Use the guidelines and complete the self-rating process on TennisLink when registering for a team. **FAILURE TO DO SO OR OMISSION OF INFORMATION REGARDING A PLAYER'S TENNIS HISTORY WILL SUBJECT THE PLAYER, THE CAPTAIN, AND/OR OTHERS WHO CONDONED INACCURATE SELF-RATING TO SANCTIONS AND DISQUALIFICATION.**
4. Deadline for completed registration of legal team rosters on TennisLink is **Monday, March 2, 2009** for both men and ladies. League play will begin the weekend of March 25, 2009. No team may play a league match until rosters and fees are paid and completed. **ADD-ON PLAYERS** will be accepted until **April 26, 2009**. To constitute a legal team, there must be at least 8 players for adult, 5 players for 2.5 and 5.0 and at least 6 players for senior teams.
5. There will be a limit of 18 players on adult, 14 seniors, and 12 on 2.5 and 5.0 rosters. **REMINDER:** To be eligible to play in a state championship, a player must have played in at least **TWO** local league matches. Only one forfeit win counts as an official match for qualifying, but not for a computer rating.
6. There will be a weekday schedule made for any level of play that has a minimum of 4 teams turned in by the deadline. This schedule will be played Wednesday mornings (3.0 & 4.0) and Thursday mornings (2.5 & 3.5) for the women. The winners must play the winners of the weekend schedule for a local league champion.

7. In adult, other than 2.5, 5.0, open, and senior, teams will play two singles and three double matches; seniors will play three doubles matches. While 2.5 and 5.0 and open will play one singles and two doubles matches. In adult divisions, a team wins a team match if it wins three or more individual matches. In 2.5, 5.0, open and senior divisions, a team wins the team match if it wins two or more individual matches. Winning teams receive one point for each team match; team standings will be determined by total points accumulated during the season.
8. In case of point-total ties in any division at the end of the season, the winner will be the team that has won the most individual matches. If there is still a tie, the winner will be the team that has lost the fewest sets. If there is still a tie, the winner will be the team that has lost the fewest games. If there is still a tie, the winner will be the winner of the head-to-head match(es). (Note: All forfeits are counted as 6-0, 6-0 losses.)
9. Matches may be played on any court surface the home team chooses. (All matches must be played on one surface: i.e., singles can't be on one surface, doubles on another surface.) Surface MUST be declared when roster is turned in.
10. Home teams will pay the court fees for any outdoor match; visiting teams will provide new balls for each match. Teams will split the cost of courts for indoor matches if weather conditions make it impossible to play outdoors and both captains agree to play indoors. If the home team alone chooses to play its matches indoors, then it shall pay all court fees. Each team must have access to at least three courts for home matches.
11. Matches will be played according to a fixed day and time schedule to be determined by the league coordinator before the start of the league season. Matches will be scheduled for Saturdays, to start no earlier than 8 AM; and no later than 5 PM; and Sundays, to start no earlier than 12 PM, no later than 5 PM. Wednesday and Thursday matches will not start before 8 am. (Make-up matches may be played any day of the week, if both captains agree.) The time and location of matches may be changed only with the agreement of both captains AND the home court supervisor AT LEAST THREE DAYS BEFORE THE MATCH WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO BE PLAYED.
12. When individual matches in a team match do not begin all at the same time, the order of matches shall be as follows, unless both captains agree to change: #1 singles, #2 singles, #1 doubles, #2 doubles, and #3 doubles.
13. If a team must forfeit one or more individual matches, it must forfeit #3 doubles before #2 doubles and #2 singles before #1 singles. In other words, those players who do show up must play at the highest possible positions.
14. If a team fails to show up for a match at all (i.e., none of the its players play) the local grievance committee will make a decision to render a penalty on said team.
15. Teammates, spectators, and coaches may not comment on the line calls, scoring or the conduct of a match while it is being played. The home team will be responsible for controlling spectator's conduct during match play. Offenders may be subject to penalties in the league standings. There are no signals, verbal instruction or coaching from a team member, coach, or spectator, to a player. This applies when a player walks on the court.

16. A rainout becomes official if courts or conditions are unplayable for more than 40 minutes during the two-hour block matches are scheduled to be played. The supervisor of the courts will determine whether they are playable; if there is no supervisor, the team captains will jointly make that determination. All points, games, and sets already played at the time a match is rained out will count; make-up matches will begin at the point they are terminated. Captain note scores at this point, who is serving game and set scores. (NOTE: If the temperature is 40 degrees F or below, matches may be cancelled.)
17. If a make-up match is required, the two team captains shall agree on a date for the make-up match to be played. This make up match date must be decided within 48 hours and becomes a firm date. The home captain is to contact Barbara Hervey via email within this time frame. This new date to be no later than 12 days following the date the match was originally scheduled. If captains cannot agree on such a date, the match will automatically be scheduled for 5 pm on the Saturday two weekends from the originally scheduled date. If that make-up time is rained out, the match will be played the next day (Sunday) at 5 pm. If that make-up is rained out, the match will be played on the next day (Monday) and so on until the match is played. Be sure to mark scorecard with this match number and NEW MATCH DATE. (Match 3 could be played before Match 2.)
18. There will be no minimum number of teams in a division necessary for a local team to be recognized, as long as there are at least two teams in the district (state) in that division. In that event, the district's teams will, as a group, be considered a local league and have a playoff to determine the state champion. (NOTE: This may not hold if another district city has more than 2 local teams.)
19. If there are **12** or more teams in a division, there will be a playoff. This will be done by a random drawing of teams into two groups. The top TWO teams in each group will be playing for the chance to go to the State Championship.
20. Each team MUST name both a captain and co-captain. Only ONE name allowed on the team name.
21. For matters not covered in these Local Rules refer to the USTA League Tennis National, Sectional, and/or State Regulations. The USTA Regulations "The Code" of conduct applies. Grievances are filed with the Local League Coordinator to be given to the Local Grievance Committee.
22. If a match is tied at one set a piece, a 10-point tie-breaker will be played in lieu of the third set. This set is called a match tie-breaker and is the first to win 10 points by a two point advantage. (The tie-breaker will be scored as 1 set and 1 game for tie-breaker procedures.) There will be no rest or coaching allowed, play will be continuous.
23. After each set there is a two minute rest period allowed. There is **NO changing of ends**, unless it is a change over time, (6-1, 6-3). **No coaching** will be allowed during set breaks. After the first game of each set, players change ends **without** a rest period (continuous play). All other changeovers within a set will have a **90-second rest period**.
24. If, during the local league season, a player is moved up to a higher level, he/she may be added to a team at the new level. Matches played at the lower level do not count toward eligibility. The add-on player must be submitted to the local

league coordinator to be eligible and there must be at least two more matches scheduled at the higher level. ALL LOCAL LEAGUE SIGN UP DEADLINES WILL BE WAIVED FOR DISQUALIFIED PLAYERS.

25. In the event that rain or inclement weather forces the cancellation and re-scheduling of a Local Team match, substitutions from the team roster may be made in any individual match NOT STARTED. Points awarded for forfeits during the original written lineup exchanged will stand. All players involved in such forfeits cannot participate in the re-scheduled match. Forfeits offered verbally prior to the original written lineup exchange are nullified when the match is re-scheduled due to rain or inclement weather. Once a new time is agreed upon for the make-up match, it is now the new scheduled time and cannot be changed without the coordinators consent.
26. All teams entering into the local playoffs must be ready to represent Memphis at State Championships. If a winning team does not represent Memphis a grievance will be filed against said team and the entire team will be subject to penalties.
27. All teams playing in the Memphis USTA League must have at least 50% of the team playing at the proper level.
28. All teams playing in the Memphis USTA League must have at least 50% of the players from Tennessee. (One half of the players must be Tennessee residents.)
29. Teams advancing to the State Championships must plan to stay and play the duration of all their round robin matches, winning or losing. Leaving a State Championship before all round robin matches are completed will cause a grievance to be filed by the State League Coordinator against the captain and their team. Any team withdrawing after the schedule is posted on the Tennessee Tennis Website (www.tennesseetennis.com), will be subject to a grievance filed by the State League Coordinator and is subject to such penalties or sanctions deemed appropriate by a Grievance Committee. A tentative schedule will be posted one week prior to the scheduled State Championship.
30. The following levels will play their local league (area league) at the State Championship: 2.5 men, 5.0 men and 5.0 adult women. Area teams will have time to add players, but MUST HAVE A LEGAL ROSTER REGISTERED BY MAY 1, 2009. Ad-on players MAY BE ADDED UP TO TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE CHAMPIONSHIP.
31. ALL PLAYERS ADVANCING TO THE 2009 STATE LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS WILL BE CHARGED TWENTY DOLLARS (\$20.00) PER PERSON. Captains are to turn in one check to the Local League Coordinator for all team members advancing to the Tennessee Tennis Championship Checks are to be made USTA Tennessee. There are NO REFUNDS.

Local Grievance Committee: Doug Johnson, Roy Cochran, Inez Clark
Local Appeal Committee: Suzanne Winstead, Jim Cole, Jeff Meek