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## 2020 USTA Tennessee State League Regulations

### Memphis TRI-LEVEL Local League Program

State League Coordinator: Jason Ontog

Laura Huss, Local League Coordinator - [laurahuss@memphista.com](mailto:laurahuss@memphista.com)

MTA Website - [memphista.com/leagues/](http://memphista.com/leagues/)

Facebook [@MemphisTennisAssociation](#), Instagram [@memphistennisassociation](#) & Twitter [@MemTennisAssoc](#)

Adult 18& Over Adult 40 & Over Adult 55 & Over Adult 65 & Over Mixed Leagues Tri-Level Combo

Regulations written in BLUE text are specific to the MEMPHIS leagues and may not apply in other local areas.

#### I. Dates

League	Local Registration Opens	Local Team Registration Close (Deadline for legal team roster minimum)	Last Day to Add a Player	First Day of Local Playl	Last Day of Local Play	Local Playoff Dates	State League Play Deadline	State Championship
Tri-Level	January 1, 2020 (state) March 27, 2020 Memphis Registration Opens	July 6, 2020 (extended due to Covid-19)	August 16, 2020 (extended due to Covid-19)	July 27, 2020 (extended due to Covid-19)	August 24, 2020 (extended due to Covid-19)	August 25th - 28th, 2020 (extended due to Covid-19)	September 1, 2020 (extended due to Covid-19)	TBA

- a. All local areas must end team registration on or before the State Team Registration deadline of **September 1, 2020**. Local areas that do not have a team signed up in a level of play have an additional week from the local league registration deadline to form a team in that level, or teams may be formed at the approval of the State League Coordinator and the Championship Committee to advance straight to the state championships.

#### II. League Regulations



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- a. Where not otherwise stated, USTA League National, Southern, and Tennessee Regulations have full force and applicability.
  - i. Local rules may be changed if edited upon approval from the Local Rules Committee.
- b. USTA Tennessee authorizes Tri-Level leagues for 18 & Over, 40 & Over, and 55 & Over age divisions.
- c. There are **four** divisions in the Tri-Level league:
  - i. 3.5/3.0/2.5
  - ii. 4.0/3.5/3.0
  - iii. 4.5/4.0/3.5
  - iv. **5.0/4.5/4.0**
- d. Team matches will consist of three (3) doubles matches, played in order of NTRP Rating based on the division. For example, for the 3.5/3.0/2.5 division, the maximum NTRP rating for #1 Doubles is 3.5, for #2 Doubles is 3.0, and for #3 Doubles is 2.5.
- e. A player may play at their current NTRP level and/or up to one level above the current NTRP level.

### III. Team Regulations

- a. The minimum number of players for a legal team is six (6).
- b. Each team must appoint a captain to manage team activities and to represent the team in USTA League matters. The Captain is the person who is to communicate with the LLC and serves as the liaison between the players and the LLC. Captains must have a valid email address and phone number (preferably cell) listed in TennisLink. Captains must secure and list a site for their home matches, designate that facility in TennisLink, and confirm site usage with the Tennis Director / Facility Coordinator by team registration deadline. Each team must have access to three courts for home matches. Teams will split the cost of courts for indoor matches if weather conditions make it impossible to play outdoors and if BOTH captains agree to play indoors. Visiting teams will provide new balls for each match.
- c. USTA Tennessee will have no residency requirements for teams that are in leagues with local play.
  - i. For teams that advance directly to the State Championship or play their local league at the State Championships, USTA Tennessee requires that at least 2 players of the team be residents of the local area from which that team is advancing.
  - ii. Memphis defines itself as the counties of Shelby, Lauderdale, Tipton and Fayette. Teams competing in the Memphis leagues must play in facilities that reside within the defined area.
- d. USTA Tennessee limits the number of players that may appear on a team roster in the Tri-Level leagues to 18 players.
- e. Captains must use the following format to name their teams: TN/Memphis/Captain's Last Name (ex: TN/Memphis/Huss).



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- i. If a facility has both hard courts and clay courts available to team play, the captain must designate "clay" if the team is to play their home matches on that surface (ex: TN/Memphis/HussClay).

#### IV. Individual Regulations

- a. Players must have a USTA Membership that is valid through the end of the local league season and have reached the minimum age for league type within the calendar year. If a player is advancing to the USTA Tennessee League Tri-Level State Championship, the player must have a valid USTA Membership through the end of the Championship.
- b. All players must have a valid NTRP rating on file in TennisLink. Players who do not have a computer rating are to self-rate in accordance with the National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP). Self-ratings are valid for two years from the date issued or until replaced by a dynamic or computer rating. NTRP computer generated ratings are good for 3 years for those players 59 years old or under, and 2 years for those 60 years of age or older.
- c. Players may play on different age levels and NTRP levels as long as they are eligible. Team captains are responsible for making sure that all team members meet eligibility criteria. Players not meeting the above eligibility criteria will be ineligible and any matches they have played will be forfeited. A player who participates in the USTA League in violation of any eligibility provision shall be subject to an Eligibility Grievance.
- d. Each player must pay a \$24 league fee for each team that he/she is joining. This will be paid at the time of online registration. There will also be a non-refundable \$3 fee paid to TennisLink at same time of registration. **Total fee to TennisLink will be \$27 per registrant per team.**
- e. All players are encouraged to opt in / subscribe to communications regarding their league in Tennis Link. These messages (text and/or email preferences) will come from the LLC regarding important information regarding the league(s) for which they are registered.
- f. Additionally, all captains and players are encouraged to visit the [updated USTA / Adult League site](#), for helpful league resources including a [Captain's Corner](#).

#### V. League Play

- a. All matches will be the best of three sets and the set tiebreak shall be used at 6-all in each set. In lieu of a third set, a match tiebreak shall be played. There will be a two minute set break at the end of each set with no coaching. All tiebreaks shall follow the Coman tiebreak procedure.
- b. All scorecards must be entered into TennisLink within 48 hours of the completion of the team match. All scorecards will be FINAL 48 hours after the team match is complete.
  - i. If scores are not entered into Tennislink within 48 hours, both captains may be subject to a local grievance and sanctions imposed by the Local Grievance Committee.
- c. If an area has more than one flight within a level, each local area will determine if playoffs will be required.



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- d. If a team plays a local match without a full line-up, forfeits must be taken at #3 doubles.
- e. If a team shows up without the minimum # of players required for the team match based on the number of players present, or to be present, it will be a full team default in favor of the opponents. Please refer to National regulation 2.01C(5) on team default procedures.
- f. If a match has begun and a player has to retire due to injury or illness, the match score to the point of default will be recorded on the scorecard (i.e.; 6-2, 2-1 - retired, listing opponent as winner).
- g. If a court must be forfeited, the name(s) of the forfeiting player(s) are not written on the scorecard,. Only the names of the player(s) receiving the default. The written score shall be 6-0,6-0; as if the match had been played.
- h. If a captain knows ahead of time he/she will forfeit an entire team match, he/she must notify the Local League Coordinator by email at [laurahuss@memphista.com](mailto:laurahuss@memphista.com) along with the opposing team captain. If a team forfeits an entire team match and that forfeit affects the outcome of the local league, then all matches played by the forfeiting team will be removed from the standings. If the forfeiting team has no effect on the outcome of the local league, matches played by that team will stand and that team may be eligible to advance.
- i. For each team match, a majority of individual matches must actually be played to constitute a valid team match. In a situation where the majority of individual matches would be not played (not a "valid" team match) the first course of action would be for both captains to agree on what individual matches, based on the number of players present, or to be present, can be played to constitute a valid team match. Once that is determined, both captains will re-exchange scorecards. If both captains cannot come to an agreement on what lines will be played to constitute a valid team match, based on the number of players present, or to be present, then the following individual matches will be assigned in sequential order to be played.
- j. If both teams have enough players to play the match and it's discovered after-the-fact that a majority of the matches were not played to constitute a valid team match, both captains need to come to an agreement of what lines will be played to make the team match valid. If captains cannot come to an agreement then the individual match(es) to be played will be assigned in sequential order in the above-mentioned table. If a captain does not comply with this regulation, then it may be considered a full team default in favor of the opponents. If a team shows up without the minimum # of players required for the team match based on the number of players present, or to be present, it will be a full team default in favor of the opponents. Please refer to national regulation 2.01C(5) on team default procedures.
- k. In the event of a tie at the end of the season, in a team match or in league standings, the tie will be broken by the first of the following procedures that breaks the tie.



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- i. Individual Matches. Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.
        - ii. Head-to-Head match winner.
        - iii. Sets. Loser of the fewest number of sets.
        - iv. Games. Loser of the fewest number of games.
          - i. Game Winning Percentage: Total games won divided by total games played.
        - v. If two teams are still tied for 1st place after games lost tiebreak, then a one team playoff match will be held between the tied teams prior to the end of the league play deadline.
- l. 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 on the lineup. The substitute player is entitled to a five minute warm-up. If no such substitution can be made, the affected position only will be defaulted in local leagues.
  - i. During city playoffs, the USTA lateness rule will be enforced:
    - 5 minutes - loss of one game and loss of toss
    - 10 minutes - loss of 2 games and loss of toss
    - 15minutes - loss of 3 games and loss of toss
    - Greater than 15 minutes - default
- m. There is no coaching in any form allowed in USTA Tri-Level League matches. Cell phones must be turned off or silenced during play.
  - i. Teammates, spectators, and coaches may not comment on the line calls or scoring while a match is being played. The home team will be responsible for controlling spectators' conduct during match play. Remember tennis etiquette when watching or playing a match. All players are encouraged to familiarize themselves with *The Code*, which may be found at [usta.com](http://usta.com) (2020 Friend at Court). [The Code contains the Players' Guide to Fair Play and the Unwritten Rules of Tennis.](#)
- g. If play is interrupted by weather, darkness or other factors beyond the control of players, completed individual matches will stand as played. In the event that rain or inclement weather forces the cancellation and/or re-scheduling of a local league team match, the line-up would stand only for those positions that had already started (first service attempt) their match. All other positions, even those that were in warm-up may be changed including defaulted courts.
  - i. An inclement weather reschedule becomes official if courts or conditions are unplayable for more than 40 minutes during the 2 hour block matches are scheduled to be played. (For summer Tri-Level in Memphis, this includes rain, lightning and darkness. There is no official heat rule in place.) The supervisor of the courts will



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determine whether or not they are playable. If there is no supervisor, the team captains will jointly make the determination. If the captains are not able to reach one another to determine if a match is eligible for inclement weather reschedule, the teams must go to the courts and be prepared to play.

- ii. If match play has already started and the match is rained out or meets the criteria in the above regulation, all points, games and sets played at the time that the match was rained out will count. Make-up matches will begin at the point that they are terminated and may be resumed on an alternate surface if both captains agree. The players on the court should make note of the score (who is serving and all other matters concerning the match).
- iii. If a written line-up has been exchanged but play did not start, substitutions from the team roster may be made on any non-default court(s). Forfeits offered verbally prior to the original line-up exchange are nullified when the match is rescheduled due to rain or inclement weather.
- iv. If a make-up match is required, the two team captains shall agree on a date for the make-up match. The individual courts do not have to be made up at the same time. Once the captains have agreed on a match date and time, that date and time is official and cannot be changed without the consent of the LLC. The new date, time and location should be emailed to [laurahuss@memphista.com](mailto:laurahuss@memphista.com) by both team captains. The match MUST be made up by the 14th day after the originally scheduled match. If captains cannot agree on a date, the match will automatically be scheduled for 5PM on the 14th day from the originally scheduled date. If the home facility cannot accommodate a match on the 14th day at 5PM, an alternate site will be used and the home court is responsible for the court cost, no exceptions. Not paying for court cost will be considered a default by the home team. LLC reserves the right to book the match at another facility if the home courts are not available on the 14th day. If that make-up is rained out, the match will be played on the next day at 5PM and so on until the match is completed. No exceptions. Therefore, rain outs that occur the last weekend for league play will be scheduled immediately by the LLC.
- v. Play may be necessary during USTA State or Southern state or sectional championships. A team that has at least three players of one gender or of a level that are playing in such event may reschedule their match. The three players must register *and* attend the championships for the team to be eligible to reschedule their match. The captain should email the opposing captain and the Local League Coordinator via email at [laurahuss@memphista.com](mailto:laurahuss@memphista.com) *at least 7 days prior to the originally scheduled match date*. All matches MUST be completed by local deadlines.

## VI. Championships





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- a. If there is local play, players must play in **at least one (1)** match to be eligible to compete at the USTA Tennessee League Tri-Level State Championship. **A default may count as one match.**
- b. The number of advancing from **Memphis** is determined by the chart below:

<b>Division</b>	<b>Number Of Local Teams At A Specific NTRP Level</b>	<b>Number Of Local Teams Advancing to State League Championship</b>
All Tri-Level Leagues	1 - 9	1
	10-19	2
	20+	3

- c. If there is no local play, a team may advance directly to the USTA Tennessee League Tri-Level State Championship.
- d. The 2020 USTA Tennessee League Tri-Level State Championship will be held **PENDING.**

**VII. Grievances**

- a. Self-rated players who enter the USTA League Tennis Program by misrepresenting their actual skill level are considered to have violated the standards of good conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship and may be subject to a grievance complaint and possible disqualification. A Captain, Local League Coordinator, State League Coordinator or member of the State League Committee can file a NTRP grievance. A player with a valid NTRP Computer (C) rating, or granted an Automatic Appeal (A) rating of a Computer (C) rating is not subject to an NTRP Grievance. Any other player is subject to an NTRP Grievance.
- b. Grievances are filed with the Local League Coordinator. Please submit via email, including a \$25.00 fee. Should the Grievance Committee find in favor of the person filing the grievance, the \$25.00 will be refunded. The LLC will give the grievance to the Local Grievance Committee. Forms for grievances may be obtained from the Local League Coordinator.

**VIII. Local Committees**

- a. **Rules & Regulations Committee - Jackie Mills, Laura Huss, Kim Laschober**
- b. **Grievance Committee - Sylvia Poll, Julie Dial, Duncan Howell**
- c. **Grievance Appeals Committee - Marla Goodwin, Keith Latiolais, Mark Bran**

**IX. Other Resources**

- a. **USTA, USTA Southern, and USTA Tennessee Regulations -**
- b. **USTA Tennessee Championship Procedures -**
- c. **USTA Tennessee Website - [www.ustatn.com](http://www.ustatn.com)**
- d. **USTA Southern Website - [www.sta.usta.com](http://www.sta.usta.com)**



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- e. Helpful Apps - USTA Mobile and USTA Southern Championships
- f. MTA Website - [memphista.com/leagues/](http://memphista.com/leagues/)
- g. MTA Facebook [@MemphisTennisAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/MemphisTennisAssociation)
- h. MTA Instagram [@memphistennisassociation](https://www.instagram.com/memphistennisassociation)
- i. MTA Twitter [@MemTennisAssoc](https://twitter.com/MemTennisAssoc)

**2020 Tennessee Tri Level League Championship  
September 11-13, 2020 in Knoxville, TN (pending)**

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**2020 USTA Southern Tri Level Sectional Invitational  
hosted by USTA Kentucky in Louisville, KY (canceled due to Covid-  
19)**