

2023 USTA Tennessee Tri-Level League Regulations

Memphis

Local League Coordinator (LLC)

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

I. Dates

<u>League</u>	<u>Local Registration Opens</u>	<u>Local Team Registration Close (Deadline for legal team roster minimum)</u>	<u>Local Last Day to Add Individual</u>	<u>Local Schedule Released</u>	<u>Local Playoff Dates</u>	<u>Tennessee League Play Deadline</u>	<u>State Championship</u>
Tri-Level	January 1, 2023	April 30, 2023	July 7, 2023	No later than May 21, 2023	July 27th - Aug 3rd, 2023	August 23, 2023	Tri-Level All Divisions September 8-10, 2023 Knoxville, TN

Registration Dates:

- A. All local areas must end team registration on or before the State Team Registration deadline of **July 25, 2023**. Local areas that do not have a team signed up in a level of play have an additional two weeks from the Local Team Registration deadline to form a team in that level, and that team may advance directly to state championships.

II. Tri-Level League Regulations

- A. The Tri-Level League is a team format which consists of three doubles positions, each at a different NTRP level to form the “team”. It is designed for players to compete against the same ability and gender in a fun format that does not count toward a player's NTRP rating.
- B. USTA Tennessee offers Tri-Level leagues for 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over age divisions.
 - a) * Tri-Level 65 & Over locally may be played with Adult League Committee approval.
- C. Tennessee offers the below divisions in each age group.
 - a) 3.5, 3.0, 2.5
 - b) 4.0, 3.5, 3.0
 - c) 4.5, 4.0, 3.5
 - d) 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. (i.e. a 2.5 can play in the 2.5 spot, or substitute into the 3.0 spot, but cannot play in the 3.5 spot)
- F. The minimum number of players for a legal team is six (6).
- G. 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 *prior to registering their team and by the 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.
- H. USTA Tennessee will have no residency requirements for teams that are in leagues with local play.

- I. For teams that advance directly to a State Championship or play their local league at a State Championship, USTA Tennessee requires that at least 3 players of the team be residents of the local area from which that team is representing.
- J. 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.
- K. USTA Tennessee limits the number of players that may appear on a team roster in the Tri-Level leagues to 18 players.
- L. All captains will use the following format when registering a team. For example: Facility/Last Name/City.

If a facility has both hard courts and clay courts available for team play, the captain must designate "clay" if the team is to play their home matches on the clay courts. For example: Huss/Memphis - clay

- M. The USTA Tennessee Adult League Committee, or the Local Rules & Regulations Committee have the authority to amend these regulations when necessary.
- N. If the Local League Regulations do not have a regulation in place to address an issue and there is a National regulation on that issue, the Section, District/Area or Local League must follow the national regulation.

III. Eligibility

- A. Players must have a USTA Membership that is valid through the end of the local league season. If a player is advancing to the USTA Tennessee Tri-Level State Championship, the player must have a valid USTA Membership through the end of the Championship.
- B. All must be at least 18 years of age prior to registering and competing on a Tri-Level team.
- C. For the Tri-Level 40 & Over and 55 & Over divisions, all players must have reached the minimum age for the league type within the calendar year.
- D. 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 before registration.
- E. 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.
- F. Each player must pay a \$29 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 \$32 per registrant per team.

- G. 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.
- H. Additionally, all captains and players are encouraged to visit the updated USTA / Adult League site, for helpful league resources including a Captain's Corner.

IV. Match Format

- A. The best of three sets with a match tiebreak in lieu of the 3rd set.
- B. If a set is tied 6-6, a 7-point set tiebreak will be played (first to 7 by 2)
- C. If sets are tied 1-1 a match tiebreak (first to 10 by 2) shall be played.
- D. There will be a two-minute set break at the end of each set.
- E. All tiebreaks shall follow the Coman tiebreak procedure.

V. League Play

- A. Players arrive on time and be ready to play.
- B. Phones turned off.
 - a. There is no coaching in any form allowed in USTA Tri-Level League matches. 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 (2023 Friend at Court). [The Code contains the Players' Guide to Fair Play and the Unwritten Rules of Tennis.](#)
- C. Captains exchange lineups prior to a match. No player should be listed that is not on premises and ready to play.
- D. Courts go on in order of NTRP rating. (4.0, 3.5, 3.0)
- E. Substitution: In the event of an illness, injury of a player or ineligible player, that is listed on the line-up. A substitution may be made in the affected position if it is made within the 15-minute default period, using a player with correct NTRP rating, and not listed on the original line-up. That player should receive a 5-minute warm-up.
- F. Defaulted court. Only one defaulted court per match, but can be at any level.
- G. If a captain knows ahead of time an entire team match will be forfeited, the captain must notify the LLC and 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, at least for the round, 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 the team is eligible for advancement.

- H. By regulation, match results must be entered into TennisLink within 48 hours. All scorecards will be FINAL 48 hours after the team match is complete. If a score is entered, and then found to be in error, the captain must contact the LLC to have it corrected. Both captains should be listed on that email to the LLC, so everyone is aware and in agreement of change.
- a. 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. LLC may enter a double default as the final score.
- I. If an area has more than one flight within a level, each local area will determine the format for the local play offs.
- a. If a team plays a local match without a full line-up, forfeits must be taken at #3 doubles.
 - b. If a team shows up without the minimum # of players required for a valid team match (defined as majority of courts played) based on the number of players present at scheduled match start time, it will be a full team default in favor of the opponents. Please refer to National regulation 2.01C(5) on team default procedures.
 - c. 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).
 - d. 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 win. The written score shall be 6-0,6-0; as if the match had been played.
- J. 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.
- a. 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, darkness or heat. See local heat rule below.) The supervisor of the courts will 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.
 - b. Memphis heat rule:
 - c. 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).

- d. 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.
- e. 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 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.
- f. 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 *at least 7 days prior to the originally scheduled match date*. All matches MUST be completed by local deadlines.
- g. If a match is rescheduled due to anything but weather or state championships, then 2 courts MUST be played on the scheduled date for any 3-court league, and the other court may be rescheduled within the 14 day make-up window. If a team reschedules 2 or more matches for any other reason and does not play the minimum required courts, a suspension may occur for the next USTA league.

VI. Championships

- A. During the local season, players must play in at least one (1) match to be eligible to compete at the USTA Tennessee League Tri-Level State Championship. One (1) default counts toward eligibility.
- B. The number of advancing from **Memphis** is determined by the chart below:

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

- C. If there is only one team registered from any authorized area, that team may advance directly to the USTA Tennessee Tri-Level State Championship.
- D. The 2023 USTA Tennessee Tri-Level State Championship will be held in Knoxville on September 8-10th.

VII. Grievances

- A. Grievances are filed with the Local League Coordinator laurahuss@memphista.com to administrate. Please submit via email, including a \$50.00 fee within written time restraints. Should the Grievance Committee uphold the grievance, the \$50.00 will be refunded. The LLC will forward the grievance to the USTA Tennessee Grievance Committee. Forms for grievances may be obtained from the LLC.

VIII. Committees

- A. **Local Regulations Committee:** Laura Huss, Jackie Mills, Kim Laschober
- B. USTA Tennessee Grievance Committee: Terryann Nelson (Chair), Debbi Booton, Jackie Mills
- C. USTA Tennessee Grievance Appeals Committee: Roger Ross (Chair), Barbara Hooper, Cayce Neal
- D. Grievance and Grievance Appeal Committee members may change or individual members substituted at the discretion of the Tennessee Adult League Committee Chairperson.
- E. **Other Resources:**
 - i. USTA, USTA Southern, and USTA Tennessee Regulations – www.ustatn.com/adult-tennis/adult-leagues/
 - ii. USTA Tennessee Website – www.ustatn.com
 - iii. USTA Southern Website – www.southern.usta.com
 - iv. Helpful Apps - USTA Mobile and USTA Southern Championships
 - v. MTA Website - memphista.com/leagues/
 - vi. MTA Facebook @MemphisTennisAssociation
 - vii. MTA Instagram @memphistennisassociation