

# 2024 Southern Tri-Level Doubles | USTA Tennessee

**Memphis Local Regulations**  
 Local League Coordinator (LLC) - Laura Huss  
 Email - [laurahuss@memphista.com](mailto:laurahuss@memphista.com)

**Table of Contents** (Click below to navigate)

	<b>Page</b>
Local League Important Dates	1
Registration	2
Team Match Format	2-3
Team Regulations	3-4
League Play	4-7
Championships	7
Grievances	8
Local Committees	8

[USTA League Regulations \(National/Southern/Tennessee\)](#) have full force at all levels of play. There is no authorization to modify, amplify or change those regulations. USTA Leagues are unofficiated matches so [Friend at Court and The Code](#) shall be observed.

Please note that this information is specific to the USTA Adult Leagues in the [Memphis](#) area and may not apply to other areas or types of leagues. They are designed for the [Memphis](#) area to help ensure fair and competitive matches while maintaining good communication between teams and the Local League Coordinator. These regulations are focused on local play specific to [Memphis](#).

## Local League Important Dates

<b>League</b>	<b>Local Registration Opens</b>	<b>Local Team Registration Close (Deadline for legal team roster minimum)</b>	<b>Local Last Day to Add Individual</b>	<b>Local Schedule Released</b>	<b>Local Playoff Dates</b>	<b>State League Play Deadline</b>	<b>State Championship</b>
<b>All Tri-Level Leagues</b>	January 1, 2024 <i>March 29, 2024 for Memphis</i>	April 28, 2024	July 12, 2024	By May 19, 2024	July 26 - Aug 2	August 23, 2024	<u>Tri-Level</u> September 6-8, 2024 (Knoxville)

## Registration

- **Registering.** Registration is completed [in TennisLink](#). All players are encouraged to opt in / subscribe to communications for 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.
- All participants must be current members of the USTA, and that membership must be valid through the entire season including advancement opportunities.
- Each player must have reached the required minimum age prior to or during the calendar year of each age division. Minimum age is 18 years old.
- **NTRP Rating Entry:** Players who do not have a computer rating (“C”) or Mixed Exclusive rating (“M”) or Tournament rating (“T”) on file in TennisLink will be required to self-rate in accordance with the NTRP Guidelines and complete the self-rating process in TennisLink. A Self-rating is valid for 2 years from the issue date or until replaced by a Year-End computer rating.
- Players may play on multiple teams so long as they are not playing on more than one team in the same local area, age division, and NTRP level. [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.](#)
- **Registration Fees:** Each player must pay a \$29 league fee for each team that he/she is joining and shall be paid at the time of registration. There will also be a \$3.15 fee paid to TennisLink at the time of registration. Total fee on TennisLink will be \$32.15 per registrant per team.
- **Refunds:** Players requesting a refund must do so by contacting their local LLC. A refund may not be requested more than four days after the State League Play Deadline. All refunds will consist of the amount paid by a player for the USTA League (excluding TennisLink Fees) minus a \$4 fee that goes to the LLC. Only players that did not play a match in the league season and are not advancing to a state championship are eligible to request a refund.

## Team Match Format

- **Tri-Level Doubles:** A team shall consist of a minimum of 6 players able to combine to form 3 separate eligible teams. The format of play will be three individual men’s or women’s doubles matches. The winning team from each match will have won 2 or 3 of the courts in that match.
  - Southern Tri-Level Offered:

<u>League</u>	<u>Divisions</u>	<u>NTRP Levels</u>	<u>League Format</u>	<u>Minimum Number of Players Required For Legal Team</u>	<u>Maximum number of players allowed on team roster</u>
Tri-Level	18 & Over	5.0-4.0, 4.5-3.5, 4.0-3.0, 3.5-2.5	3 Doubles	6	18

	40 & Over	4.5-3.5 and 4.0-3.0	3 Doubles	6	18
	55 & Over	4.5-3.5 and 4.0-3.0	3 Doubles	6	18

○ Tennessee Tri-Level Doubles Divisions Offered:

<u>League</u>	<u>Divisions</u>	<u>NTRP Levels</u>	<u>League Format</u>	<u>Minimum Number of Players Required For Legal Team</u>	<u>Maximum number of players allowed on team roster</u>
Tri-Level	18 & Over	5.0-4.0, 4.5-3.5, 4.0-3.0, 3.5-2.5	3 Doubles	6	18
	40 & Over	4.5-3.5, 4.0-3.0, 3.5-2.5	3 Doubles	6	18
	55 & Over	4.5-3.5, 4.0-3.0, 3.5-2.5	3 Doubles	6	18
	65 & Over	4.0-3.0	3 Doubles	6	18

- Divisions may be divided into two or more flights with a playoff at the end of local play to determine the **Memphis** champion. Players may play in only one flight of each NTRP level.
- Local areas that do not have a team signed up at any level of play at the registration deadline may have an additional month (unless the State League Play Deadline occurs first) to form a team, or a team may be formed at the approval of the State League Coordinator & the Championship Committee to advance straight to the USTA Tennessee Tri-Level Doubles Championships. Teams may continue to add players per each local league's regulation. No individual may register for a local team roster after the State League Play Deadline.

### Team Regulations

- Each team shall appoint a captain to manage team activities and to represent the team in USTA League matters including Grievance 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 (standard Type 2 USTA approved balls).
- Captains MUST use the following format to name teams: Captain/City's Last Name. (Smith/Memphis). *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: Smith/Memphis - clay*

- USTA Tennessee will have no residency requirements for teams that are in leagues with local play. [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.](#)
- For teams that advance directly to a USTA Tennessee State Championship, USTA Tennessee requires that at least 3 players of the team be residents of the local area from which that team is advancing.
- USTA Tennessee limits the number of players that may appear on a team roster. TN Tri-Level Doubles allows 18 players per team. (See table in section III.)

### League Play

\*All matches are played without officials but play is governed by the [Rules of Tennis, "The Code," as contained in the 2024 Friend at Court.](#)

- Both team lineups are to be exchanged at the scheduled match time, or before, if captains agree and are ready to play.
- In the event of illness, injury, disqualification, or ineligibility 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.
- [For city playoffs the USTA lateness rule will be enforced: up to 5 minutes....loss of one game and loss of toss, up to 10 minutes....loss of 2 games and loss of toss, up to 15 minutes....loss of 3 games and loss of toss, greater than 15 minutes... default.](#)
- There will be no coaching in any form allowed in Southern Tri-Level Doubles 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 their spectators' conduct during match play. The visiting team will be responsible for controlling their spectators' conduct during match play. Remember tennis etiquette when watching or playing a match.](#)
- Cell phones must be turned off or silenced during play.
- Southern Tri-Level Doubles League matches in **Memphis** shall be the best of two sets with a Set Tiebreak (first to 7 by 2) used at 6 all in each set. In lieu of a third set, a Match Tiebreak (first to 10 by 2) will be played. The Coman Tiebreak Procedure will be used for all Set Tiebreaks and Match Tiebreaks. There will be a 2-minute set break at the end of each set, with no coaching allowed during the break.
- **Entering Scores.** Captains are responsible for entering and/or confirming match scores on Tennis Link. Captains need to verify and confirm the recorded match scores. All recorded scores will be final 48 hours from match time. If a mistake is made when entering scores and you have clicked out of the scorecard on TennisLink, you will have to email the LLC with the match number and correction. **Only the LLC can make a change to the scorecard.** Any disputes must be made on TennisLink and the LLC must be notified by email before the 48 hours is up.

- 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. [Winning captain should enter scores, but either captain may do so.](#)
- 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, 15-15, retired).
- **Scorecard Placement & Defaults:** Players may play “up” one level (.5) within a Tri-Level match line-up. For example, a Tri-Level 18 & Over 4.0-3.0 team may place a 3.0 player in the #2 (3.5) and/or #3 (3.0) positions only.
- **Tennessee Individual Defaults:** If an individual default is necessary, the default can be at the original line in the match. For example, in a 4.0-3.0 match and a team has no 3.5’s or 3.0’s to play up, they can default line 2 the (3.5) position.
- **Forfeits:** If a team plays a local match without a full lineup, forfeits must be taken at #3 doubles.
  - Two out of the three courts must be played to constitute a legal match.
  - 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.
  - If a match 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.
  - If a captain knows ahead of time that he/she will forfeit an entire team match, he/she must notify the LLC Coordinator 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 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.
  - 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.
    - [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 LLC 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.

- 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.
  - 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.
  - Memphis Heat Rule: (effective July 6, 2020) - If the temperature is 94 degrees or higher in Memphis (*not heat index*) per [weatherchannel.com](http://weatherchannel.com) at the scheduled match time, then the match may be rescheduled as long as it is played within the 14-day makeup rule, so long as it is prior to state league play deadline. You may still play the match if both captains agree to play.
  - 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 team 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.
- **In the event of a tie in league standings**, the tie will be broken by the first of the procedures listed below.
    1. Individual Matches: Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.
    2. Head-to-head: Winner of head-to-head match.
    3. Sets: Loser of the fewest number of sets.
    4. Games: Loser of the fewest number of games
    5. Game Winning Percentage: Total games won divided by total games played.

6. If two teams are still tied for first place after a game winning percentage tiebreak, the LLC will schedule a playoff match to be held between the tied teams prior to the end of league deadline.

### Championships

- Players who qualify to advance to a USTA Tennessee Tri-Level Doubles Championship may advance on more than one team within an age group only if they are different NTRP levels, and the player must have qualified separately for each team. **No accommodations for scheduling will be made at any Championship for teams with players that may be competing on two or more teams during a championship.**
- In order to be eligible to play for a team at the USTA Tennessee Tri-Level Doubles Championships, a player must have played at least one match for that team during the local league season. *Defaults received do count toward advancement.* A retired match counts for all players.
- If there is only one team registered in a local league at a specific level, that team may advance directly to the USTA Tennessee Tri-Level Doubles Championship.
  - Players must play in at least one local or state championship match in order to advance to the USTA Southern Tri-Level Doubles Sectional Championships
  - **Memphis** defines itself as *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.* Teams competing in the **Memphis** Local Leagues must play in facilities that reside within the defined area.
  - The number of teams advancing from **Memphis** is determined by the chart below:

DIVISION	NUMBER OF LOCAL TEAMS AT A SPECIFIC NTRP LEVEL COMBINED LEVEL	NUMBER OF TEAMS ADVANCING TO STATE LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS
Tri-Level Doubles	2-9	1
	10-19	2
	20+	3

### Grievances

- General/Sportsmanship Grievances and Administrative Grievances are filed with the [Local League Coordinator](#). Please submit via email, including a \$50.00 fee. The LLC will give the grievance to the USTA Tennessee Grievance Committee. Should the Grievance Committee find in favor of the person filing the grievance, the \$50.00 will be refunded. Forms for grievances may be obtained from the LLC.

**Local Committees**

- Local Rules & Regulations Committee: Laura Huss, Jackie Mills, Marla Goodwin
- USTA Tennessee Grievance Committee: Terryann Nelson (Chair), Jeanne Jones, Jackie Mills
- USTA Tennessee Grievance Appeal Committee: Roger Ross (Chair), Barbara Hooper, Heather Andersen
- Grievance and Grievance Appeal Committee members may change or individual members substituted at the discretion of the USTA Tennessee Adult League Committee Chairperson.

Additional resources to find league information: [ustatn.com](http://ustatn.com), [usta.com](http://usta.com) and/or [southerntennis.com](http://southerntennis.com)

Helpful Apps - USTA Mobile and USTA Southern Championships

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

MTA Facebook @MemphisTennisAssociation

MTA Instagram @memphistennisassociation