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2019 USTA Tennessee Local League Regulations

**MEMPHIS Adult Mixed League Program**

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*(Note - Regulations written in blue text are specific to Memphis leagues and may not apply in other 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>State League Play Deadline</u>	<u>State Championship</u>
All Mixed Leagues	March 29, 2019	May 1, 2019	July 7, 2019	May 25th	N/A*	August 5, 2019	August 23 - 25, 2019 (Chattanooga)

**II. League Regulations**

- 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. [Memphis](#) defines itself as [the counties of Shelby, Lauderdale, Tipton and Fayette](#). Teams competing in the [Memphis](#) Local Leagues must play in facilities that reside within the defined area.
- c. All participants must be current members of the USTA and have reached the minimum age for league type within the calendar year. Each player shall have reached the required minimum age prior to or during the calendar year in which such player participates in his or her first local league. Each player must pay a \$24 league fee for each team that he/she is joining. This will be paid at the time of registration. There will also be a \$3 fee paid to TennisLink at the time of registration. Total fee on TennisLink will be \$27 per registrant per team.
- d. Players requesting a refund must do so through by contacting the 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 Local League Coordinator. Only players that did not play a match in the league season & are not advancing to a state championship are eligible to request a refund.
- e. USTA Mixed Leagues in [Memphis](#) are offered in the following divisions.



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<u>Division</u>	<u>League Type</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>
Mixed	18 & Over	2.5 (straight), 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0	3 Doubles	6	14
	40 & Over	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0	3 Doubles		
	55 & Over	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0	3 Doubles		
	65 & Over	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0	3 Doubles		

**i. 18 & Over**

1. Mixed 18 & Over 10.0 will play their local league at the USTA Tennessee State League Championship. This level must meet the State deadline of August 5, 2019 for team and individual registration. No players may be added after August 5, 2019.
- f. The minimum NTRP level for 6.0 is 2.5; 7.0 is 3.0; 8.0 is 3.5; 9.0 is 4.0; 10.0 is 4.5.
- g. The NTRP rating difference between doubles partners shall not exceed 1.0.
- h. The combined NTRP rating of a doubles team shall not exceed the NTRP level.
- i. The format for USTA Mixed Leagues in [Memphis](#) will be three (3) doubles matches.
- j. Divisions may be divided into two or more flights with a playoff at the end of local play to determine the [Memphis](#) city champion. *\*Historically in Memphis, playoffs for Mixed have not been necessary, but if league growth warrants a playoff, they will be during the week of July 29th.*
- k. If only one team is registered at deadline for any level, an extension of two weeks will be given to meet the National requirement of a minimum of 2 teams.

**III. Team Regulations**

- a. Each team shall 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, and therefore captains must have a valid email address and phone number listed in TennisLink. Captains must determine a site for their team's home matches, designate home facility in TennisLink, and confirm site usage with the Tennis Director/Facility Coordinator [by team registration deadline](#). [Each team must have access to three \(3\) 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.](#)
- b. Captains MUST use the following format to name teams: TN/City/Captain's Last Name. (For example: TN/Memphis/Huss.)
  - i. [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. \(For example: TN/Memphis/HussClay\)](#)



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- c. If any Mixed Division Age Group consists of only two teams in a level of play, each team must maintain its roster with at least 40 percent of its players at the designated NTRP level of play.
- d. 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 that the team is advancing from.
- e. USTA Tennessee limits the number of players that may appear on a team roster. Please see the table in Local Regulation II.d for the maximum number of players on a roster in each league.

#### IV. Individual Regulations

- a. Each player will use his/her most current NTRP Computer Rating on file in TennisLink. Players who do not have a computer rating on file in TennisLink shall self-rate in accordance with the National Tennis Rating Program. 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.
- b. Players may play on more than one team 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.

#### V. League Play

- a. Lineups are to be exchanged at the scheduled match time, or before, if captains agree and are ready to play.
- b. 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. If a city playoff is warranted, 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
- c. There is no coaching in any form allowed in USTA Mixed 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) (search 2019 Friend at Court). [The Code contains the Players' Guide to Fair Play and the Unwritten Rules of Tennis.](#)



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- d. USTA Tennessee Mixed league matches in **Memphis** shall be:
  - i. All local league matches will be the best of two sets with a Set Tiebreak (first to 7, win by 2) used at 6 all in each set. After each set there is a two minute rest period allowed. No coaching will be allowed during set breaks. After the first game of each set, changeovers within a set will have a 90-second rest period. In lieu of a third set, a Match Tiebreak (first to 10, win by 2) shall be played. The Coman Tiebreak Procedure will be used for all Set Tiebreaks and Match Tiebreaks in local league and State Championship matches.
- e. 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 does so
  - i. Individual Matches. Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.
  - ii. Head-to-head. Winner of head-to-head match.
  - iii. Sets. Loser of the fewest number of sets.
  - iv. Games. Loser of the fewest number of games.
  - v. If two teams are still tied for first place after games lost tiebreak, then a one team playoff match will be held between the tied teams prior to the end of league deadline.
- f. Both 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 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.
  - i. Team match scores much be reported within 48 hours of completion of the team match. Failure to comply may subject teams to grievance and/or double default.
- g. If a team plays a local match without a full lineup, forfeits must be taken at #3 doubles.
- h. 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.
- i. If a match is 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).
- j. 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.
- k. 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 [memphisjrtennis@gmail.com](mailto:memphisjrtennis@gmail.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.



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- i. If a team fails to show up for a match at all and has not notified the Local League Coordinator, then a grievance will be filed against that team. The Grievance Committee may impose actions or penalties deemed necessary.
- l. 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. A rainout becomes official if the courts of condition are unplayable for more than 40 minutes during the 2 hour block the matches are scheduled to be played. The supervisor of the courts will determine whether the courts are playable. If there is no supervisor present, the team captains will jointly make the determination.
  - ii. If a make-up is required, the two team captains shall agree on a match date and time within 48 hours and the date shall stand. The new date must be emailed to the LLC at [memphisjrtennis@gmail.com](mailto:memphisjrtennis@gmail.com) and be confirmed by both captains. Note, not all matches have to be played at the same time. If a rainout match is not completed within fourteen days of the originally scheduled date, the LLC will schedule the makeup match (in accordance with the Memphis Standard League Regulations). All matches must be completed by July 28th.
  - iii. If a match has already begun and match is rained out, all points, games and sets played at the time of the match is suspended will count. Make up matches will begin at the point they are terminated and may be played on an alternate surface if both captains agree. The players on the court should make note of score, who is serving to which end and all other matters concerning their match.
  - iv. Any team captain who has more than three forfeits during one league season may be sanctioned for the next local USTA season. Sanctions will be determined by the local rules committee, however, can include up to a local league USTA season suspension.
- m. 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.
- n. 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



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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.

- o. Play may be necessary during State or Southern Adult League or any other USTA event. If there are four (4) players on a local mixed team attending these Championships of either one level or one gender, the captain may request the Local League Coordinator reschedule the affected mixed match. 4 of one level or 4 of one gender must attend the Championships for the team to be eligible for the reschedule. The captain should email the opposing captain and the Local League Coordinator via email at [memphisjrtennis@gmail.com](mailto:memphisjrtennis@gmail.com) two(2) weeks prior to the originally scheduled match date. Please note all matches must be rescheduled prior to the first day of Sectionals.

**VI. Championships**

- a. Players who qualify to advance to State for a Mixed Doubles 18 & Over and/or Mixed Doubles 40 & Over team(s) may advance on more than one team within an age group only if they are different NTRP levels. **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.**
- b. In order to be eligible to compete in a USTA Tennessee League State Championship, players must play in the number of matches listed in the table below:

<b>MATCHES REQUIRED TO ADVANCE TO CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR ADULT AND MIXED DIVISIONS</b>			
<b>SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AND BELOW</b>		<b>NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS</b>	
<b>LOCAL MATCHES REQUIRED</b>	<b>DEFAULTS THAT COUNT</b>	<b>TOTAL MATCHES REQUIRED THROUGH SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP</b>	<b>DEFAULTS THAT COUNT</b>
To advance to <b>any</b> championship level through Sectional Championship	To advance to <b>any</b> championship level through Sectional Championship	To advance to National Championship	To advance to National Championship
2 matches on the same team	1 default <u>received</u> shall count	3 matches on the same team	1 default <u>received</u> shall count

**A retirement counts as a match played for all players involved.**



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- c. If a Mixed 55 & Over/Mixed 65 & Over team has no local competition offered at that specific combined level, a team may advance to the State Championship. Any 55 & Over/65 & Over local league having more than two (2) teams must play a local league.
- d. The number of advancing from Memphis is determined by the chart below:

DIVISION	NUMBER OF LOCAL TEAMS AT A SPECIFIC NTRP LEVEL OR COMBINED LEVEL	NUMBER OF TEAMS ADVANCING TO STATE LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS
Mixed Doubles	2-12	1
	13-19	2
	20+	3

**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, Kim Laschober, Laura Huss](#)
- b. [Grievance Committee - Sylvia Poll, Julie Dial, Duncan Howell](#)
- c. [Grievance Appeals Committee - Kerry Johnson, Keith Latiolais, Marla Goodwin](#)