



V1.1.2 3/25/21

2021 USTA Tennessee Mixed League Regulations

MEMPHIS

Local League Coordinator:

Laura Huss

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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 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>
All Mixed Leagues	March 26, 2021	May 2, 2021	July 9, 2021	May 15, 2021	N/A*	August 4, 2021	August 20 - 22, 2021 (Chattanooga)

II. League Regulations

- a. Where not otherwise stated, USTA League National, Southern, and Tennessee Regulations have full force and applicability. Local regulations may be amended at any time by the USTA Tennessee Adult League Committee, or the Local Rules & Regulations 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. Players must be 18 years of age prior to participating in the USTA League program. Each player over the age of 18 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 and shall 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 by contacting the LLC. A refund may not be requested more than four days after the Tennessee League Play Deadline in table above. 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 or are not advancing to a state championship (Mixed 55 & Over/65 & Over only) are eligible to request a refund.



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e. USTA Mixed Leagues in **Memphis** offered in the following divisions.

<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	18
	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 Tennessee deadline of **August 4, 2021** for team and individual registration. No players may be added after **August 4, 2021**.

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. Divisions may be divided into two or more flights with a playoff at the end of local play to determine the **Memphis** champion.

i. ***Note: Historically in Memphis, playoffs for Mixed have not been necessary, but if league growth warrants a playoff, they will be during the evenings of the last week of local play.**

j. 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 (**preferably cell**) listed in TennisLink.

b. **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. Captains MUST use the following format to name teams: TN/City/Captain's Last Name. For example: (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).

- 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 from which that team is advancing.

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.
- i. **A player who participates in the USTA League in violation of any eligibility provision shall be subject to an Eligibility Grievance.**
- c. **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.**
- d. **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. 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. **During city playoffs*, the USTA lateness rule will be enforced:**
- **up to 5 minutes late - loss of one game and loss of toss**
 - **up to 10 minutes late - loss of 2 games and loss of toss**
 - **up to 15 minutes late - loss of 3 games and loss of toss**



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- **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. **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 (2021 Friend at Court). *The Code contains the Players' Guide to Fair Play and the Unwritten Rules of Tennis.***
- d. USTA Tennessee Mixed league matches in **Memphis** shall be:
 - i. **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.**
- 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. Game Winning Percentage: Total games won divided by total games played.
 - vi. **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.**
- f. 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.
 - 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.
- 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 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).



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- j. 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.
- k. If a captain knows ahead of time he/she will forfeit an entire team match, he/she must notify the Local League 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.
- 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. **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 Mixed in Memphis, this includes rain, lightning and darkness. There is no official heat rule in place.) 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.**
 - 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 by both team captains. The match MUST be made up by the 14th day after the**



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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

- v. **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 of the Local League Coordinator to 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 laurahuss@memphista.com at least 7 days prior to the originally scheduled match date. Please note all matches must be rescheduled prior to the first day of Sectionals. All matches MUST be completed by local deadlines.**

- 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: #1 doubles, then #2 doubles.
- 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 regulation. 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.



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VI. Championships

- a. Players who qualify to advance to the USTA Tennessee State Championship for Mixed Doubles 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:

MATCHES REQUIRED TO ADVANCE TO CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR ADULT AND MIXED DIVISIONS			
SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AND BELOW		NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	
LOCAL MATCHES REQUIRED	DEFAULTS THAT COUNT	TOTAL MATCHES REQUIRED THROUGH SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP	DEFAULTS THAT COUNT
To advance to any championship level through Sectional Championship	To advance to any 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	All players other than self-rated and computer-rated appealed players: 3 matches on the same team	1 default <u>received</u> shall count
Section Option to require Self-rated and computer-rated appealed players to play up to 4 matches on the same team	Section Option to declare if 1 default <u>received</u> shall or shall not count	Self-rated and computer-rated appealed players 4 matches on the same team	No default <u>received</u> shall count

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

- 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.



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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	2-9	1
	10-19	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. Committees

- a. **Rules & Regulations Committee: Laura Huss, Jackie Mills and Kim Laschober**
- b. USTA Tennessee Grievance Committee: Terryann Nelson (Chair), Debbi Booton, Jackie Mills.
- c. USTA Tennessee Grievance Appeals Committee: Roger Ross (Chair), Paul Fultz, Barbara Hooper.
- d. Grievance and Grievance Appeal Committee members may change or individual members substituted at the discretion of the USTA Tennessee Adult League Committee Chairperson.

IX. Other Resources

- a. USTA, USTA Southern, and USTA Tennessee Regulations - www.ustatn.com/adult-tennis/adult-leagues/
- b. USTA Tennessee Website - www.ustatn.com
- c. USTA Southern Website - www.southern.usta.com
- d. MTA Website - memphista.com/leagues/
- e. MTA Facebook [@MemphisTennisAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/MemphisTennisAssociation)



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- f. [MTA Instagram @memphistennisassociation](#)
- g. [MTA Twitter @MemTennisAssoc](#)
- h. Helpful Apps - USTA Mobile and USTA Southern Championships