



## TENNESSEE

# 2024 Mixed Doubles USTA Tennis League Tennessee

## Memphis Local Regulations

Local League Coordinator (LLC):

Laura Huss

[laurahuss@memphista.com](mailto:laurahuss@memphista.com)

Blue text represents regulations that are specific for this Local Area

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[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 matches are non officiated. Players are expected to adhere to the USTA League regulations and the guidelines outlined in Friend at Court and The Code.

Please note that this document is related to the Mixed Doubles League 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](#).



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### I. Local League Important Dates

| League            | Local Registration Opens | Local Team Registration Deadline | Local Last Day to Add Individual | Local Schedule Released | Local Playoff Dates | Tennessee League Play Deadline | State Championship                  |
|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| All Mixed Leagues | March 29, 2024           | April 28, 2024                   | July 12, 2024                    | By May 19th, 2024       | N/A                 | August 7, 2024                 | August 23-25, 2024<br>(Chattanooga) |

### II. Registration:

- A. Registration is completed in TennisLink
- B. Participants must be registered in TennisLink to be eligible to play in their first match.
- C. All participants must be current members of the USTA, and that membership must be valid through the entire season including advancement opportunities.
- D. 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, and players must have turned 18 before they can register for a team.
- E. NTRP Rating Entry: Each player will use his/her most current NTRP computer rating on file in TennisLink.
  1. Players who do not have a computer rating ("C"), 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.
  2. A Self-rating is valid for 2 years from the issue date or until replaced by a Year-End computer rating.
  3. Players are allowed to play at their current NTRP level and/or one level above it.
- F. Registration Fee: Each player must pay a \$29 league fee for each team that he/she is joining and will be charged during the registration process. In addition, there is a \$3.15 processing fee assessed from TennisLink at the time of registration.
- G. Players may register on multiple teams as long as they are not playing on more than one team in the same local area, age division, and NTRP level.
- H. Refunds: Players that did not play a match for that team and are not advancing to a State Championship are eligible to request a refund.
- I. [o Players requesting a refund must do so by contacting the LLC, laurahuss@memphista.com. 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.](#)
- J. If only one team is registered at the local deadline for any level, an extension of two weeks will be given to meet the National requirement of a minimum of 2 teams.



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### III. Team Match Format:

**\*Mixed Doubles:** A team shall consist of a minimum of 6 players able to combine to form 3 separate eligible teams. One team has 1 male and 1 female and their rating is within the NTRP level they are registering for. The winning team from each match will have won at least 2 or 3 of the courts in that match.

- A. 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 July 26, 2024 for team and individual registration with a fee of \$4.00. No players may be added after August 7, 2024.
- B. Captains are responsible for making sure that all team members meet eligibility criteria.
  - 1. 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.

#### USTA Mixed Divisions offered in Tennessee (See table below)

| <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, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 and 10.0 (combined) | 3 Doubles            | 6  | 18  |
|                 | 40 & Over          | 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5                          | 3 Doubles            |  |   |
|                 | 55 & Over          | 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5                          | 3 Doubles            |  |   |
|                 | 65 & Over          | 3.0, 3.5, 4.0                               | 3 Doubles            |  |   |

**\*\* (New format in 2024)** Mixed teams are played as Straight Levels (i.e.) (In the 3.5 level/division, both the female and male partner will have a NTRP rating of 3.5). A 3.0 player could play “up” as a 3.5, but the partner would still be a 3.5 (also in this example, two 3.0s could partner at the 3.5 level).

**\*\***The only division that is still combined is the 10.0 level in Mixed 18 (A partnership in this division could be a 4.5 and a 5.5).

### IV. League Regulations

Players should become familiar with the USTA League Regulations. Click [here](#) for easy access to USTA League Regulations where you will find the comprehensive regulations related to league play.

- A. It is important to note that these local rules specific to the [Memphis](#) area, may be modified or adjusted with the approval of 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. 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.



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- D. 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.
- E. Captains MUST use the following format to name teams: Last Name/City. For example: (Smith/Memphis)
- F. 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 that surface (ex: Smith/Memphis - clay).
- G. USTA Tennessee will have no residency requirements for teams that are in leagues with local play.
- H. USTA Tennessee limits the number of players that may appear on a team roster. TN allows 18 players per team. in the Mixed Doubles league. (See table in section III)
- I. Divisions may be divided into two or more flights with a playoff at the end of local play to determine the Memphis champion.
- J. For teams that advance directly to the State Championship or play their local league at the State Championships, USTA Tennessee requires that at least 3 players of the team be residents of the local area from which that team is advancing.
- K. There is no coaching in any form allowed in USTA Mixed League matches. Cell phones must be turned off or silenced during play.

## V. Local League Play

\*Official Ball, a standard Type 2 USTA approved ball shall be used. All matches are played without officials, the USTA official publication, [The Code](#), shall be observed. Point Penalty Suspension System in effect for 2024.

- A. Team lineups are written and exchanged at the scheduled match time, or earlier if both captains agree and are prepared to begin play. A player may participate in only one individual match within a team match.
- B. No substitution may be made in an individual match after the line up has been exchanged, except for injury to, illness of, or disqualification of a player prior to the start of an individual match. In this situation, 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. A player may be added to the team roster up until the last day to add a player but it must be before they step foot on court for warm-up of the individual match they will play.
- C. There is no coaching in any form allowed. 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.
- D. Cell phones must be turned off, or silenced during league play.
- E. Mixed Doubles 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

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break at the end of each set with no coaching. All tiebreaks shall follow the Coman tiebreak procedure.

- F. 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 1st place after games lost tiebreak and winning percentage, 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. Either captain may enter the scores, and the opposing captain verifies the recorded score in TennisLink. 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.
1. 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. Forfeits: If a team plays a local match without a full lineup, forfeits must be taken at #3 doubles.
1. Two out of the three courts must be played to constitute a legal match.
  2. 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.
  3. 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 recorded score shall be 6-0,6-0 for the team receiving the forfeit.
  4. 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.
- H. If a match begins 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).
- K. 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. [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. \(For summer Mixed in Memphis, this includes rain, lightning, darkness and heat. See below for local heat policy\). The supervisor of the courts will determine whether or not they are playable. If there is no supervisor,](#)

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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.

1. 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).
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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. Four of one level or four 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](mailto: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.
5. If a match is rescheduled due to anything but weather or State Championships, then 2 courts for a valid match **MUST** be played on the scheduled date for a 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.
6. 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



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it is prior to state league play deadline. You may still play the match if both captains agree to play.

- L. 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.
- M. 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.

**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 at 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.**

| 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 <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 |





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|   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| 2 matches on the same team  | 1 default <u>received</u> shall count   | All players other than self-rated and computer-rated appealed players:<br><br>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<br><br>4 matches on the same team                         | No default <u>received</u> shall count |

- 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 above: **\*A retirement counts as a match played for all players involved.**
- C. If a Mixed Doubles 55 & Over/Mixed Doubles 65 & Over team has no local competition offered at that specific level, a team may advance directly to the State Championship. Any Mixed Doubles 55 & Over/Mixed Doubles 65 & Over local league having more than two (2) teams must play a local league.
- D. The number of teams advancing from each local area 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 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 \$50.00 fee. Should the Grievance Committee find in favor of the person filing the grievance, the \$50.00 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.





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### VIII. Local Committees

- A. Local Rules & Regulations Committee: Laura Huss, Jackie Mills & Kim Laschober
- B. USTA Tennessee Grievance Committee: Terryann Nelson (Chair), Bryce Curry, Jackie Mills
- C. USTA Tennessee Grievance Appeal Committee: Roger Ross (Chair), Barbara Hooper, Heather Andersen
- D. 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)  
MTA Website - [memphista.com/leagues/](http://memphista.com/leagues/)

- a. MTA Facebook [@MemphisTennisAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/MemphisTennisAssociation)
- b. MTA Instagram [@memphistennisassociation](https://www.instagram.com/memphistennisassociation)
- c. Helpful Apps - USTA Mobile and USTA Southern Championships