



April 28, 2020

Dear USTA League Players,

I want to begin by hoping this letter finds you healthy and your family's safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. I know this is a very challenging time, and I speak for the USTA Tennessee organization when I say that we miss seeing you on the courts. I wanted to take this time to communicate with you directly on a few things concerning our USTA Tennessee Leagues. There is a lot of information floating around and I wanted to make sure that you hear from me on the exact status of our League Programs.

LOCAL LEAGUE PLAY

First, we have not cancelled any Leagues as of this time. Our Adult 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over, and 65 & Over Leagues have been postponed in accordance with the USTA suspension of play which is in effect through May 31, 2020, but we have every intention at this time of continuing the Adult League season once play resumes. I am, and have been, in communication with USTA Southern almost daily as we prepare for play resuming and will be communicating with your local league coordinators to make sure they are prepared in advance so that they can communicate with you directly.

Obviously, because our Leagues were delayed, there will need to be some modifications to the way we run our local leagues. As a result, USTA has amended for 2020 several of the regulations regarding the local leagues. To be clear, these regulation changes are only valid the 2020 Championship Season and will not be in effect for the 2021 Championship Season (including ESL). I have highlighted those rules below. (Southern regulation changes are made in green font, and Tennessee regulation changes are in purple font).

- Southern has authorized that local leagues may use the Unflighted Random Match format, with each team playing at least 5 matches against random opponents. Either 2 or 4 teams (determined by local league prior to local league play beginning) will advance to a playoff to determine the local champion.
- Southern has authorized that in the Adult and Mixed Divisions, a player will be eligible to progress to championship level competition (Local Playoff, State Championship, and Sectional Championship) if that player has played in at least one match at the same NTRP level in the same Age Group during the local league season. No default received by the player during local league competition shall count for advancing. Retired matches shall count toward advancing for all players involved.
- Tennessee has authorized that teams in the Adult and Mixed Divisions shall have not have a limit on the number of players that may appear on a local roster. Teams in the Tri-Level and Combo divisions shall have a limit of 18 players that may appear on a local roster.
- Tennessee has authorized that 2020 ESL teams that are advancing to the State Championship must turn in a security deposit check by June 1, 2020. If the Adult 18 & Over Championship dates are published by June 1, 2020, a team may withdraw by June 3, 2020



without forfeiting their security deposit. If the Adult 18 & Over Championship dates are not published by June 1, 2020, a team may have until three days after the date that the Adult 18 & Over Championship dates are published to withdraw without forfeiting their security deposit.

CHAMPIONSHIPS

I know many of you also have questions regarding Championships (both State and Sectional). At this time, the only Championships that have been cancelled are National Championships. All Sectional and State Championships are still planning on being held, though the dates, locations and formats are subject to change. The current statuses of the seven USTA Tennessee State Championships are:

<u>Championship</u>	<u>Status</u>
Adult 55 & Over State Championship/Adult 70 & Over State Invitational	Postponed, date/site tbd
Adult 18 & Over EVEN/Adult 40 & Over ODD State Championships	Postponed, date/site tbd
Adult 18 & Over ODD/Adult 40 & Over EVEN State Championships	Postponed, date/site tbd
Mixed Doubles State Championship	August 21-23, 2020, Chattanooga, TN
Adult 65 & Over/Tri-Level State Championships	September 11-13, 2020, Knoxville, TN
Combo 18 & Over/Combo 55 & Over State Championships	October 30-November 1, 2020, Knoxville, TN
Combo 40 & Over/Combo 65 & Over State Championships	November 6-8, 2020, Murfreesboro, TN

In the event that further State Championships are postponed, we will distribute that information through our website at www.ustatn.com and to LLCs. There are many variables that we are monitoring as we consider all of our Championships, including State Government and Health Department restrictions on the size of events, host facility availability, and USTA Southern deadlines. I know that Championships are an integral part of our League program, and we are balancing that with our overall priority of the safety and healthy of our players.

CREDIT POLICY

There have been numerous inquiries regarding players wishing to withdraw from our Adult Spring Leagues. I do apologize for the delay in communicating our USTA Tennessee credit policy. Again, there were many variables that needed to be considered before we could define our policy. This policy has been discussed and approved by the USTA Tennessee Adult League Committee as well as the Executive Committee and will be in effect so long as the USTA suspension of play remains through May 31. In the event the suspension is extended, the policy is subject to change. Please note the following tenets of our credit policy regarding the USTA COVID-19 Suspension of Play:

- Players wishing to withdraw from an Adult League team who have **not** played in a 2020 Adult Spring League match (or played in only one match in which a default was received) will be eligible to receive a credit that can be applied to a future USTA Tennessee League registration in 2020 or 2021. This credit will only apply to registration fees and will not



apply in the event there are additional fees associated with the league, such as court fees, ball fees, CTA memberships, etc.

- Players that have played in a 2020 Adult Spring League match will not be eligible for a credit. The only exceptions to this are:
 - In the event a player has played a match on a team that does not continue play once the suspension is lifted, that player can either be moved to another team in that local league or may receive a credit for a future league.
- All credits will be handled at the local level. Players wishing to withdraw that are eligible for a credit must contact their LLC to request a credit, as well as redeem a credit in the future.
- Credits may be requested beginning April 27, 2020. Any withdrawals made to LLCs prior to April 27 must be requested again.
- Credit requests must be made by May 13, 2020. Credit requests will not be processed after May 13, 2020.

The COVID-19 situation is one that is changing quickly, and while we seem to be on the downhill of the pandemic, there are always unforeseen things that pop up. I will continue to communicate with our LLCs any and all information that becomes available. I know there will be many questions in the next few weeks, and I ask that you contact your LLC for any questions you may have. I have listed those on the final page of this letter. I hope you all continue to stay healthy and I look forward to seeing you all very soon.

Sincerely,

Jason Ontog

Director of Adult Tennis, USTA Tennessee

Eric Voges

USTA Tennessee President

Michael Chamberlain

USTA Tennessee Executive Director



Local League Coordinators

AREA	COORDINATOR	EMAIL
Chattanooga	Callie Voges (All)	chattanoogaleaguetennis@gmail.com
Jackson	Cyndi Bryant (Adult)	Cyndi.bryant@gmail.com
	Sara Barnett (Mixed)	saraebarnett@sraginslaw.com
	Linda Swope (Tri-Level)	swopels@chartner.net
	Angela Melton (Combo)	Sportsmom65@msn.com
Knoxville	Cheryl Thompson (Adult 18 & Over/40 & Over)	Chula138@comcast.net
	Isabelle Snyder (Adult 55 & Over/65 & Over, Tri-Level Women)	Fuseless102@gmail.com
	Mike Pappas (Mixed)	mpappas@cbww.com
	Deidra Dunn (Combo, Tri-Level Men)	citytennisace@gmail.com
Memphis	Jackie Mills (Adult)	jackiemills@memphista.com
	Laura Huss (Mixed, Tri-Level, Combo)	laurahuss@memphista.com
META	Annette Clemons (Adult, Tri-Level)	metaleaguetennis@gmail.com
	Alice Zhang (Mixed)	
	Ivanna Stewart (Combo)	
Murfreesboro	Shannon Smith (All)	murfreesboroleaguetennis@gmail.com
Nashville	Tanya Capeling (All)	nashvilleleaguetennis@gmail.com
Upper Cumberland	Melinda Leftwich (All)	Melin848@hotmail.com