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2021 USTA Tennessee State League Regulations

**MEMPHIS**

Local League Coordinator (LLC):

**Laura Huss**

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

Adult 18& Over Adult 40 & Over Adult 55 & Over Adult 65 & Over Mixed Leagues Tri-Level Combo

**Blue text represents regulations that are specific for this Local Area**

**I. 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>  |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--|--|
| All Combo Leagues | June 1, 2021                    | <b>July 6th</b>   | <b>Sept. 3rd</b>                        | <b>No later than July 23rd</b> | <b>TBA</b>                 | October 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2021<br><br>October 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2021 | <u>Combo 18 &amp; Over/55 &amp; Over</u><br>November 5-7, 2021<br>(Murfreesboro)<br><br><u>Combo 40 &amp; Over/65 &amp; Over</u><br>October 29-31, 2021<br>(Knoxville) |

**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



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\$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 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.
- e. USTA Southern Combo Doubles Leagues in **Memphis** are 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> |
|-----------------|--------------------|---|----------------------|--|---|
| Combo           | 18 & Over          | 2.5 (straight), 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5, 10.5 | 3 Doubles            | 6  | 18  |
|                 | 40 & Over          | 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5                            | 3 Doubles            | 6  | 18  |
|                 | 55 & Over          | 6.5, 7.5, 8.5                                 | 3 Doubles            | 6  | 18  |
|                 | 65 & Over          | 6.5, 7.5, 8.5                                 | 3 Doubles            | 6  | 18  |

- f. The maximum NTRP level for 5.5 is 3.0; 6.5 is 3.5; 7.5 is 4.0; 8.5 is 5.0; 9.5 is 5.5, and 10.5 is 6.0.
  - i. Each individual player’s NTRP rating may be no more than 1.0 apart for levels 2.5, 5.5, 6.5, 7.5 (example: a 3.0 player and a 4.0 player may play 7.5). Each individual player’s NTRP rating may be no more than 1.5 apart for levels 8.5, 9.5 and 10.5 (example: a 3.5 player and a 5.0 player may play 8.5).
- g. The combined NTRP rating of a doubles team shall not exceed the NTRP level.
- h. The format for USTA Southern Combo Doubles Leagues in **Memphis** will be three (3) doubles matches.
- 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. A level that has at least 12 teams might be subdivided into flights/brackets per the LLC’s discretion. If a bracket has 5 or less teams it will play each team more than once and have a double round robin. Each bracket is guaranteed at least 5 matches. Brackets with 6 or more teams are guaranteed a single round robin only. An option to add additional matches to a bracket of 6 will be considered if court availability allows. This option could include a random drawing to schedule some of the teams in a flight to play each other twice, but not a full double round robin. Another possible



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option would be to cross brackets and play teams in the opposite flight based on a random drawing.

- j. 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 Combo 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.

### **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. Captains must have a valid email address and phone number listed in TennisLink.
- b. Captains MUST use the following format to name teams: TN/City/Captain's Last Name. [For example: \(TN/Memphis/Huss\).](#)
- c. USTA Tennessee will have no residency requirements for teams that are in leagues with local play.
  - i. For teams that advance directly to a USTA Tennessee State Championship, USTA Tennessee requires that at least 2 players of the team be residents of the local area from which that team is advancing.
- d. USTA Tennessee limits the number of players that may appear on a team roster. Please see the table in Local Regulation II.e 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 valid 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.



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- 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. For city playoffs, the USTA lateness rule will be enforced:
    - 1. Up to 5 minutes - loss of one game and loss of toss
    - 2. Between 5 and 10 minutes - loss of 2 games and loss of toss
    - 3. Between 10 and 15 minutes - loss of 3 games and loss of toss
    - 4. Greater than 15 minutes - default
- c. There is no coaching in any form allowed in USTA Southern Combo Doubles League matches. Cell phones must be turned off or silenced during play.
- d. USTA Southern Combo 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.
- 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 first place after games lost tiebreaker, then the LLC will schedule a one team playoff match to be held between the tied teams prior to the end of league 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 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.



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- 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).
- 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 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.
  - i. Notifications of a full team forfeit must be done in a timely manner. For example, if you know a week ahead of time you will be defaulting an entire match, captain must not wait until the day before to notify the LLC or opposing captain. Once a captain has forfeited his/her entire team match and has contacted the LLC and/or the opposing team captain, it becomes final. The opposing team captain must contact the LLC via email at [laurahuss@memphista.com](mailto:laurahuss@memphista.com) and verify the opposing team default or the team must be present and ready to play at the scheduled match time, or it becomes a double default/forfeit.
- 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 because of rain, snow, ice, darkness or weather below 40 degrees or 94 degrees or above becomes official if courts or conditions are unplayable for more than 40 minutes during the 2 hour block matches are scheduled to be played. The temp needs to be confirmed on weather.com app or website. If colder than 40 degrees or 94 degrees or warmer than play may take place if both captains agree. The supervisor of the courts will determine whether they are playable; if there is no supervisor, the team captains will jointly make that determination. If the captains are not able to reach each other to determine if a match is eligible for inclement weather reschedule, the teams must go to the courts and be



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- ready to play. Teams can play if the temperature is below 40 degrees if both captains agree.
- ii. If match play has already started and the match is rained out or meets the criteria in above regulation, all points, games and sets played at the time of the match is rained out 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 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 court. Forfeits offered prior to the original lineup exchange are nullified when the match is rescheduled due to rain or inclement weather.
  - iv. If a makeup match is required, the 2 team captains shall agree on a date for the makeup 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 within 14 days after the original scheduled match, so long as the match is completed prior to the state league play deadline. If captains cannot agree on a date, the match will automatically be scheduled for 5 pm on the 14th day from the originally scheduled date. If the home team facility cannot accommodate a match on this 14th day at 5 pm, an alternate site will be used and the home court is responsible for the court cost; not exceptions. Not paying for court costs will be considered a default by the home team. The 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 5 pm and so on until the match is played. No exceptions. Therefore, rain outs that occur the last weekend of league play will be scheduled immediately by the LLC so that the match is completed by the state league play deadline.
  - v. Play may be necessary during Southern Sectionals or any other USTA event. A team that has at least 3 players of one NTRP level that are playing in a USTA championship including may reschedule their match. The 3 players must register, and attend the championships for the team to be eligible to reschedule their match. The captain of the team that needs to reschedule, must notify the opposing team captain at least 7 days prior to the scheduled match. Once both captains agree to a rescheduled date and time. 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 not be 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





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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, the individual match(es) to be played will be assigned in sequential order in regulation V.m above. 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 number 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.
- o. 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.

**VI. Championships**

- a. Players who qualify to advance to a USTA Tennessee Combo 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.**
- b. In order to be eligible to play for a team at the USTA Tennessee Combo 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. Players may play on more than one level in a local league. If there is only one team registered in a local league at a specific level, that team may advance directly to the USTA Tennessee Combo Doubles Championship.
  - i. Players must play in at least one local or state championship match in order to advance to the USTA Southern Combo Doubles Sectional Championships (defaults received do count towards advancement in this program).
- c. The number of advancing from **Memphis** is determined by the chart below:

| DIVISION | NUMBER OF LOCAL TEAMS AT A SPECIFIC NTRP LEVEL | NUMBER OF TEAMS ADVANCING TO STATE LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS |
|----------|--|---|
|----------|--|---|



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|               |       |   |
|---------------|-------|---|
| Combo 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, LLC, 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 LLC. 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 LLC.

**VIII. Local Committees**

- a. **Local Rules & Regulations Committee – Jackie Mills, Laura Huss, Kim Laschober**
- b. **USTA Tennessee Grievance Committee: Terryann Nelson (Chair), Debbi Booton, Jackie Mills**
- c. **USTA Tennessee Grievance and Grievance Appeal Committee: Roger Ross (Chair), Paul Fultz, Barbara Hooper**

**IX. Other Resources**

- a. USTA, USTA Southern, and USTA Tennessee Regulations - [www.ustatn.com/adult-tennis/adult-leagues/](http://www.ustatn.com/adult-tennis/adult-leagues/)
- b. USTA Tennessee Website – [www.ustatn.com](http://www.ustatn.com)
- c. USTA Southern Website – [www.southern.usta.com](http://www.southern.usta.com)
- d. [USTA 2021 Friend at Court](#) resource (including *The Code*, players' guide for unofficiated matches)
- e. [Memphis Tennis Association](#) website - source for local programming and league play
- f. MTA social media links - [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) & [Twitter](#)