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2024 Southern Combo Doubles | USTA Tennessee

“MEMPHIS”

Local League Coordinator (LLC):

LLC - Laura Huss

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Blue text represents regulations that are specific for this Local Area

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I. Local League Important Dates

<u>League</u>	<u>Local Registration Opens</u>	Local Team Registration Close (Deadline for legal team roster minimum)	Local Last Day to Add Individual	Local Schedule Released	Local Playoff Dates	<u>State League Play Deadline</u>	<u>State Championship</u>
All Combo Leagues	June 1, 2024	July 3, 2024	Sept 6, 2024	No later than July 24, 2024	TBA	October 2, 2024 October 16, 2024	Combo 18 & Over/55 & Over October 18-20, 2024 (Murfreesboro) Combo 40 & Over/65 & Over November 1-3, 2024 (Murfreesboro)



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II. Registration

- a. **Registering.** Registration is completed in TennisLink
- b. All participants must be current members of the USTA, and that membership must be valid through the entire season including advancement opportunities.
- c. 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.
- d. **NTRP Rating Entry:** Players who do not have a computer rating (“C”) or 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. A Self-rating is valid for 2 years from the issue date or until replaced by a Year-End computer rating.
- e. Players may play 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.
- f. **Registration Fees:** Each player must pay a \$29 league fee for each team that he/she is joining and shall be paid at the time of registration. There will also be a \$3.15 fee paid to TennisLink at the time of registration. Total fee on TennisLink will be \$32.15 per registrant per team. [New in Memphis for 2024 Combo, when a Captain registers his/her Combo team, they will receive a \\$25 discount on their individual registration fee at checkout. One discount per team, and the Captain needs to check “yes” to “are you the captain?” when initially registering the team.](#)
- g. **Refunds:** Players requesting a refund must do so by contacting their local LLC. A refund may not be requested more than four days after the State League Play Deadline. 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.

III. Team Match Format:

- a. Combo Doubles: A team shall consist of a minimum of 6 players able to combine to form 3 separate eligible teams. The format of play will be three individual men’s or women’s doubles matches. The winning team from each match will have won 2 or 3 of the courts in that match. Combo Doubles Divisions Offered in Tennessee in chart below:

<u>League</u>	<u>Divisions</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, 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



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NTRP cap for Combined Levels:

NTRP Level	Max NTRP Rating	NTRP Level	Max NTRP Rating
5.5	3.0	8.5	5.0
6.5	3.5	9.5	5.5
7.5	4.0	10.5	6.0

Each individual doubles team's combined NTRP ratings may not exceed the level entered.

- b. Divisions may be divided into two or more flights with a playoff at the end of local play to determine the **Memphis** champion. Players may play in only one flight of each NTRP level.
 - a. A level that has at least 12 teams may be subdivided into flights/brackets per the LLC's discretion. If a bracket has 5 or fewer teams, it will play each team more than once, for 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 round robin. Another possible option would be to cross brackets and play teams in the opposite flight based on a random drawing.
- c. 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.

IV. Team Regulations

- a. Each team shall appoint a captain to manage team activities and to represent the team in USTA League matters including Grievance 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: Captain's Last Name/City. (**Memphis/Huss**).
- c. USTA Tennessee will have no residency requirements for teams that are in leagues with local play.
- d. For teams that advance directly to a USTA Tennessee State Championship, USTA Tennessee requires that at least 3 players of the team be residents of the local area from which that team is advancing.
- e. Tennessee limits the number of players that may appear on a team roster to 18 players. (See table in section III.)



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- f. Players must play at the rating on the TennisLink roster unless they appeal up or down during the local league season, or if that player is dynamically promoted. The player then should notify the LLC to make an update on the TennisLink roster. The adjusted rating will be used for the duration of Combo Doubles season including through Championships.

V. League Play

- a. Teams should exchange written lineups at the scheduled match time, or before, if captains agree and are ready to play.
- b. In the event of illness, injury, disqualification, or ineligibility 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.
- c. **For city playoffs, the USTA lateness rule will be enforced:**
 - 1. Up to 5 minutes late – loss of one game and loss of toss
 - 2. Between 5 minutes 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
- d. There will be no coaching in any form during match play.
- e. Cell phones must be turned off or silenced during play, and smart watches turned off or covered.
- f. Combo Doubles matches 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.
- g. **Entering Scores.** 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.
 - 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.
 - 2. 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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- h. **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. For any reason other than inclement weather or USTA Championship play (see 4. and 5. below), a legal match as defined above must be played on the originally scheduled match date and time.
 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 written score shall be 6-0,6-0; as if the match had been played.
 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. These notifications must be done in a timely manner. For example if you know a week ahead of time that you will be defaulting an entire match, the captain must not wait until the day before to notify the LLC or opposing captain. Once a captain has forfeited his/her entire match by contacting the LLC and/or the opposing captain, it becomes final.
 5. 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.
 1. An inclement weather reschedule due to rain, snow, ice, darkness or temperatures (below 40 degrees or 94 or above degrees) becomes official if courts or conditions are unplayable for more than 40 minutes during the two hour block matches are scheduled to be played. The temperature needs to be confirmed in real time on weather.com website or its app. The heat rule became effective in Memphis July 6, 2020. Regarding temperature below 40 degrees or 94 or above degrees, play may take place if BOTH captains agree. If no facility supervisor is present to determine if courts are playable, the team captains are to jointly make the decision. If captains are not able to reach one another to confirm ahead of time if a match is eligible for inclement weather reschedule, the teams must go to the courts and be ready to play.



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2. If match play has already begun and the match is rained out (or meets the criteria in above regulation), all points, games, and sets played at the time the match is rained out will count. Make-up matches will resume at the point they ceased play and may be played on an alternate surface if both captains agree. The players on the court should make note of the score, including who is serving and all the other matters concerning the match.
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 or place. Once the captains have agreed on a match date and time, that date and time is official and is not to be changed unless due to inclement weather (see rules outlined above). The new date, time and location should be emailed to laurahuss@memphista.com by both team captains. The match must be completed and scores entered within 14 days of the *originally scheduled* match date (but no later than the state league play deadline for matches later in the season – see chart on page one). If captains cannot agree on a date, the match will automatically be scheduled for 5:00 p.m. on the 14th day after the originally scheduled date. If the home facility cannot host, an alternate site will be used and the home team will be responsible for court costs. If that match is rained out, the match will be played on the following day at 5:00 p.m. and so on and so forth until the match is completed. Note, rainouts that occur the last week/weekend of league play will need to be scheduled immediately according to the state league play deadlines and/or City Playoff deadlines given by the LLC.
3. Play may be necessary during Southern Sectionals or other USTA sanctioned events. A team that has at least 3 players of the NTRP level that are playing in a USTA Championship may reschedule their match. The three players must register and attend the Championship to be eligible to reschedule their match. The captain of the team that needs to reschedule must notify the opposing team at least 7 days prior to the scheduled match. Once both captains agree to a rescheduled date and time, that becomes the new official match time and may not be rescheduled unless inclement weather rules come into play. All matches must be completed by local and state deadlines.

i. 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.



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6. If two teams are still tied for first place after Game Winning Percentage, then the LLC will schedule a one team playoff match to be held between the tied teams prior to the end of a league deadline.

VI. Championships

1. 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.**
2. 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.
3. If there is only one team registered in a local league at a specific level, that team may advance directly to the state Championship..
 - a. Players must play in at least one local or state championship match in order to advance to the USTA Southern Combo Doubles Sectional Championships
 - b. **Memphis** defines itself as **the counties of Shelby, Lauderdale, Tipton and Fayette.**
 - c. Teams competing in the **Memphis** Local Leagues must play in facilities that reside within the defined area.
 - d. The number of teams advancing from **Memphis** is determined by the chart below:

DIVISION	NUMBER OF LOCAL TEAMS AT A SPECIFIC NTRP LEVEL COMBINED LEVEL	NUMBER OF TEAMS ADVANCING TO STATE LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS
Combo Doubles	2-9	1
	10-19	2
	20+	3

VII. Grievances

- a. General/Sportsmanship Grievances and Administrative Grievances are filed with the Local League Coordinator. Please submit via email, including a \$50.00 fee. The LLC will give the grievance to the USTA Tennessee Grievance Committee. Should the Grievance Committee find in favor of the person filing the grievance, the \$50.00 will be refunded. 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 Mill & Marla Goodwin](#)
- b. USTA Tennessee Grievance Committee: Terryann Nelson (Chair), Bryce Curry, Jackie Mills
- c. USTA Tennessee Grievance Appeal Committee: Roger Ross (Chair), Barbara Hooper, Heather Anderson
- 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, usta.com and/or southerntennis.com

[USTA 2024 Friend at Court](#) (including *The Code*, players' guide to unofficiated matches; a hard copy of this handbook may be purchased online via USTAproshop.com)

- [Memphis Tennis Association website](#) resource for local programming, league play and special events.
- MTA social media links – [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)