

2025 USTA ADULT LEAGUES (18,40,55,65)

Memphis Local Regulations

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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 Leagues are un-officiated matches so Friend at Court and The Code shall be observed.

Please note that this information is specific to the USTA Adult Leagues 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. If the local league does not have a regulation in place to address an issue and there is a National, Sectional or State regulation on that issue, the local league must follow that regulation.

Local League Important Dates

<u>League</u>	<u>Local Registration Opens</u>	<u>Deadline for Local Legal Team Registration</u>	<u>Local Last Day to Add Individual</u>	<u>Local Schedule Released</u>	<u>Local Playoff Dates</u>	<u>TN League Play Deadline</u>	<u>2024 State Championship Dates (These proposed dates are not approved yet)</u>
18 & Over and 40 & Over	January 1, 2025	February 4, 2025	April 18, 2025	February 23, 2025	May 5-May 19	May 22, 2025	18 & Over Even/ 40 & Over Odd June 20-22 Memphis 18 & Over Odd/40 & Over Even Murfreesboro June 6-8
55 & Over	January 1, 2025	January 31, 2025	April 15	Feb. 20	N/A	May 1, 2025	May 16-18 Chattanooga
65 & Over	January 1, 2025	April 27, 2025	July 27	May 15	N/A	August 23, 2025	Sept. 26-28 Knoxville

Days of Play

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
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	Overflow matches for facilities that allow play on Tuesday	18 & over 2.5, 3.5, 4.5 40 & Over 3.0, 4.0	18 & over 3.0, 4.0 40 & Over 3.5,4.5		Men/Women 18 & over 2.5, 3.5, 4.5, 40 & over 3.0, 4.0, 55& over 3.5, 9.0	Men/Women 18 & over 3.0, 4.0, 40 & over 3.5,4.5, 55 & over 3.0, 4.0
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League Regulations

- Players should become familiar with the USTA League Regulations. Click [here](#) for easy access of USTA League Regulations where you will find the comprehensive regulations related to league play.
- It is necessary to note that these local rules specific to the Memphis area, may be modified or adjusted with the approval of the Local Rules Committee.
- Memphis is defined as encompassing the counties of Shelby, Lauderdale, Tipton and Fayette. Teams participating in Memphis local leagues must use facilities located within this defined geographical area.

Player Registration Requirements and Fees

- All participants must be current members of USTA
- Before a player registers for a team, they must have reached 18 years of age.
- For Age Divisions 40, 55, and 65 & Over: Each player shall have reached the required minimum age, prior or during the calendar year in which such player participated. (In summary, a player can compete in the division based on the minimum age requirements as long as they turn the required age by the end of the calendar year.
- Players are allowed to play at their current NTRP level and/or one level above it.
- Participants must be registered for the team (in TennisLink) to be eligible to play in their first match
- If only one team is registered at the deadline for any level, an extension of two weeks will be given. This extension aims to meet the National requirement of a minimum of 2 teams per NTRP level.
- League registration fee is \$31. There will be a non-refundable TennisLink processing fee added to that (approximately \$3).

Refund

Players that did not play a match and are not advancing to a State Championship are eligible to request a refund.

Eligibility

- Players can participate in different age levels and NTRP levels if they meet the eligibility criteria for those levels.
- NTRP Ratings: 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 or under, and 2 years for those 60 years or older.
- Team captains have the responsibility to ensure that all team members meet the eligibility requirements.
- If a player is found to be ineligible, any matches they have played may be forfeited.

Captain Responsibilities

- Each team must appoint a captain who will be responsible for managing team activities and representing the team in USTA League matters.
 - Captains must have a valid email address and phone number listed in TennisLink to facilitate communication with LLC's and other captains.

- Team Naming Format:
 - o Captains must use the following format to name teams: *Captains Last Name/Local Area*
- Captains should communicate with the opposing captain before a match if there are potential complications (i.e. Rain, defaults)
 - The home captain is responsible for informing the opposing captain about how matches will be played if the site uses split court times.
 - Captains should be aware that matches may be played on any court surface.
 - It is the captain’s responsibility to recruit enough players to have a complete line-up at match Time.
- Home teams pay the court fees for regular season matches, and visiting teams provide new balls for each match.
- If matches need to be moved indoors due to weather conditions, the cost is split between both teams if agreed upon by the captains.
- Each team must have access to at least three courts for home matches, but if a facility has blackout dates, teams may play some home matches elsewhere.

Roster Requirements

- If any Adult Division Age Group consists of only two teams in a level of play, each team must maintain its roster with at least 40 percent of its players at the designated NTRP level of play.
- For leagues with three teams or more, there is no minimum number of players required at the designated team NTRP level. For example, a 3.0 registered team may be composed entirely of 2.5 NTRP-rated players.
- USTA Tennessee limits the number of players that appear on a team roster. Specific details can be found in the Levels Offered table for the maximum number of players allowed in this league.
- No residency requirements attached to divisions that play locally; however, matches should still be held within the defined counties set for each city.

Levels Offered

<u>Division</u>	<u>Age Group</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>
<u>Adult</u>	<u>18 & Over</u>	<u>2.5, 5.0</u>	<u>1 Singles 2 Doubles</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>12</u>
		<u>3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5</u>	<u>2 Singles 3 Doubles</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>18</u>
	<u>40 & Over</u>	<u>3.0, 3.5, 4.0,4.5</u>	<u>1 Singles 3 Doubles or 1 Singles 4 Doubles</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>20</u>
	<u>55 & over</u>	<u>3.0, 3.5 4.0, 4.5</u>	<u>3 Doubles</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>14</u>
	<u>65 & Over</u>	<u>3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0 combined</u>	<u>3 Doubles</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>14</u>

- Divisions that play their “Local League” at USTA Tennessee State League Championships.
- **Adult 18 & Over**
 - Adult 18 & Over 2.5 men, 5.0 Men and Women
 - The above levels must meet the State deadline of **May 23, 2025**, for team and individual registration. All players must be registered in TennisLink by May 23, 2025.
- **Adult 55 & Over**

- . Adult 55 & Over 3.0 men and 9.0 Combined M/W- These divisions will play the local league at USTA Tennessee State League Championship. NTRP rating level difference between partners shall not exceed 1.0. These levels must meet the State deadline of **May 2, 2025**, for team and individual registration. All players must be registered In TL by May 2nd.

. Division that allows direct advancement:

- . **Adult 65 & Over-**

- . If a city has more than 1 team in a division, the city is required to play a local league and advance the winner of the division to the State championship. If a city has only one team in an individual division, that city may send that 1 team directly to the State championships.

Possible Scheduling Criteria

Divisions may be divided into sub flights with a playoff at the end of local play to determine the Memphis champion. Cities may use either Full Round Robin or Partial Round Robin as approved formats provided there is at least a single elimination playoff between the top two teams to establish a local league champion for that NTRP level.

Individual Regulations

USTA Local League Play in Memphis

- . A division 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 or a partial second round robin if the calendar allows.
 - . 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.
 - . There will be a weekday schedule, and a weekend/weeknight schedule made for any level of play that has a minimum of 2 teams registered by the deadline.
 - . If there is only one team in a weekday bracket, that team will be moved to the weekend bracket of the same age group and NTRP level.
 - . If there is only one weekend team in a bracket, the weekday teams will play against that one team on a weekend day and that weekend team will be moved to the weekday bracket, but all of their matches will be on the weekend.
 - . If there are more matches than the weeks of play, teams may have two matches scheduled in one week. These matches will be scheduled on an alternate day, most likely Tuesday for weekday teams and a weeknight evening for weekend teams.
 - . Make up matches need to be rescheduled between the captains. Once the date/time are set and confirmed, captains will email the exact match details to the LLC at jackiemills@memphista.com.
 - . Brackets that do not have playoffs in the Adult 18 & Over and 40 & over brackets must have matches completed by May 20 at 5pm. Once the match is set, it is expected to be played at this time unless canceled by weather. This match will then follow the inclement weather policy.
- . Local league matches will be the best of two sets with a Set Tiebreak (first to 7 by 2) used at 6 all in each set. After each set there is a two- minute rest period allowed.
 - . In lieu of a third set, a Match Tiebreak (first to 10 by 2) shall be played. The Coman Tiebreak

Procedure will be used for all Set Tiebreaks and Match Tiebreaks. A third set tiebreak is recorded as 1-0.

- If a match is rescheduled due to anything but weather, school spring or fall breaks (as defined by the LLC) or State Championships, then 3 courts need to be played on the scheduled date (or 2 courts for any 3-court league) and the other court(s) may be rescheduled within the 14-day make-up window. Captains do not have to agree to a reschedule unless it is the instances listed above.

Line-ups and Substitutions

Line-ups are to be exchanged (in writing) at the scheduled match time or earlier if captains agree. Each player can participate in only one individual match within each team match. In case of illness, injury, disqualification, or no-show of a player before the start of an individual match, the team may substitute a player in the affected position within the 15-minute default time, using a player not already listed on the line-up. The substitute player is entitled to a five-minute warm-up.

Valid Match

For a team match to be considered valid, the majority of individual matches must be played. Refer to National regulation 2.01C(3)

- Non-compliance with Regulations: If a captain does not comply with these Regulations, it may be considered a full team default in favor of the opponents.

Defaults

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 and the opposing team will win each individual match 6-0 6-0. Please refer to National Regulation 2.01C(5) on team default procedures.

- If a team plays a local match without a full lineup, defaults must be taken according to the following:
 - o For 1 Singles/2 Doubles format, defaults must occur at either #1 singles or #2 doubles
 - o for leagues playing the 2 Singles/3 Doubles. Defaults are taken from either #2 Singles or #3 Doubles making sure that at least 3 courts are being played.
 - o For leagues playing the 1 Singles/3 or 4 doubles format, defaults must occur at either #1 Singles or bottom doubles court.
- If a match is begun and a player has to retire due to injury or illness, the match score to the of default will be recorded on the scorecard (i.e.; 6-2, 2-1, 15-15, retired).
- 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 score is entered as 6-0, 6-0 by TennisLink when you choose default in the drop-down menu.

Coaching and Cell Phones

- Coaching in any form is not allowed during USTA Adult 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 captain/players will be responsible for controlling their spectators' conduct during match play.

Weather Interruptions

- 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.

- Inclement Weather Rescheduling:
 - 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.
 - Inclement weather conditions include rain, snow, ice, darkness, or weather below 40 degrees Fahrenheit. (this does not include the windchill factor). Also, if the temperature is 94 degrees or warmer at match time (not including heat index) the match may be rescheduled.
 - If the temperature is colder than 40 degrees or 94 degrees or higher, play may still take place if both team captains agree.
 - The supervisor of the courts will determine if the courts are playable. If there is no supervisor, the team captains will jointly make that determination.
 - If captains cannot reach each other to determine if a match is eligible for inclement weather rescheduling, the teams must go to the courts and be ready to play.
- Completing a match interrupted by weather:
 - If a match has already started and is rained out or meets the criteria for inclement weather rescheduling, all points, games, and sets played at the time the match is rained out will count.
 - Makeup matches will begin at the point they were terminated and may be played on an alternate surface if both captains agree.
 - If a written line-up has been exchanged by the captains but play did not start, substitutions from the team roster may be made.
 - Forfeits offered verbally prior to the original lineup exchange are nullified when the match is rescheduled due to rain or inclement weather.
- Scheduling Makeup Matches:
 - The two team captains shall agree on a date for the makeup match.
 - Individual courts do not have to be made up at the same time.
 - Once the captains agree on a match date and time, that date and time are official and cannot be changed without the consent of the LLC (Local League Coordinator).
 - The makeup match must be completed by the 14th day after the match was originally scheduled.
 - If captains cannot agree on a date, the match will automatically be scheduled for 6:30 pm on the 14th day from the originally scheduled date for weekend teams and 1:00 pm on the 14th day for weekday teams.
 - If the home team facility cannot accommodate a match on this 14th day at the deadline, an alternate site will be used, and the home team is responsible for court costs.
 - The LLC reserves the right to book the match at another facility if the home courts are not available on that 14th day.
 - If the makeup match scheduled for the 14th day is rained out, it will be played the next day at 1 pm or 6:30 PM, and so on until the match is played.
 - Rainouts that occur during the last weekend of league play will be scheduled immediately by the LLC without exceptions.
 - Captains are encouraged to be proactive and schedule makeup matches at a time and date agreeable to both teams, especially if inclement weather is expected for the last days of play.
- Rescheduling because of Championship Conflict
 - During USTA championship events, if a team has at least 6 players who are participating in a USTA championship (including Combo State Championships), they may reschedule their match.
 - At least 6 players must have registered and attended the championships for the team to be eligible for rescheduling.

- o The captain of the team that needs to reschedule must inform the opposing team captain at least 7 days prior to the scheduled match. o Once both captains agree to a reschedule date, they must notify the LLC by email at jackiemills@memphista.com, providing the exact date and time of the rescheduled match.
- o The same rules that apply to rainout reschedules will also apply to this type of rescheduling, and there will be no exceptions.
- o It is important to complete all matches by local deadlines. In case of rainouts occurring during the last weekend of league play, the LLC will schedule those matches immediately,

- o **Finishing Matches:**
- o If a team's match is not finished by the time the next scheduled match starts, the players will have to vacate the courts if the other captains request it. Please use some discretion to let them continue if they are almost finished.
- o The unfinished match will be continued according to the inclement weather policy if one or both of the next scheduled match captains want courts available at their scheduled time.

Full Team Match Forfeits

- If a captain knows ahead of time that 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 full forfeit 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.

Score Entry

Captains are responsible for entering and /or confirming match scores on TennisLink. 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.
 - o If scores are not entered into TennisLink within 48 hours, both captains may be subject to a local grievance and sanctions imposed by USTA Tennessee Grievance Committee.

Tiebreak Procedures

In the event of a tie in a team match or in league standings, the tie will be broken by the first of the procedures listed below.

For a tie in league standings at the end of the season:

- **Individual Matches.** Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.
- **Head-to-head.** Winner of head-to-head match.
- **Sets.** Loser of the fewest number of sets.
- **Games.** Loser of the fewest number of games
- **Game Winning Percentage.** Total games won divided by total games played.
- If two teams are still tied for first place after the game winning percentage tiebreak, then a playoff match will be held between the tied teams prior to the end of league deadline.

Local Playoffs

- All players must play in two (2) matches locally to qualify for advancement to City Playoffs. Local playoffs are considered championship play, so each player must have played 2 matches during the local season to be able to participate.

- For city playoffs the USTA lateness rule will be enforced: 5 minutes.... loss of one game and loss of toss, 10 minutes....loss of 2 games and loss of toss, 15 minutes....loss of 3 games and loss of toss, greater than 15 minutes... default.

All teams playing in the city playoffs may be required to pay a \$250 security deposit (payable to MTA), which will be destroyed upon completion of city playoffs if the team has played all courts of its scheduled playoff matches. If a team knows that it will not be able to attend state championships, that team needs to decline the bid to state championships, and it will be given to the next place team in the bracket.

- If a bracket/flight has more than 7 teams, the top 2 teams will advance to the local playoffs.

If a bracket/flight has less than 7 teams, the top team only in that bracket/flight will advance to local playoffs. However, no more than 4 teams from each NTRP level will advance to playoffs. For instance, if there are three or more sub-flights at an NTRP level with more than 7 teams each, only the top team from each bracket will advance. All players must have played two local league matches to participate in local playoffs and beyond

- Playoff teams may be asked to commit to State Championships by email if the LLC requests. If a team enters the playoffs and knows they can't play all the courts (defaulting courts) or the team knows they will not advance to the State Championships if given the opportunity, a grievance will be filed on the captain and possibly team members and will forfeit their security deposit.
- This \$250 does not forward to the state security deposit. Captains will have their checks voided and if going to state will need to pay a different security deposit to state office.

USTA TN State Championships

- Players who qualify for an Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over and/or Adult 65 & Over team(s) may advance on more than one team within an age group only if they are different NTRP levels and have qualified separately for each team. No accommodation for scheduling will be made at any Championship for teams with players that may be competing on two or more teams during a championship.
- To be eligible to compete in a USTA Tennessee League State Championship, players must play:
 - Two local matches on the same team required to advance to state championship for the Adult 18, 40, 55 & Over divisions.
 - One default received shall count as one qualifying match.
 - A retirement counts as a match played for all players involved.
 - Refer to 2.03A for additional eligibility information
- Adult 65 & Over requires 1 local or state match to advance to sectional championship play with 1 default counting. For teams that are advancing to the sectional championships through local or state play, the one match requirement may be waived at the discretion of the Championship Committee for up to a maximum of two players per team. (Adult 65)
- If there is no local and/or state competition offered for Adult 65 & Over, one team per state per NTRP level may advance directly to the sectional championships.
- In Tennessee, a local league having two (2) or more teams at any 65 & Over level must play a local league. If there is only one (1) team signed up at a level, that team may advance directly to the State Championship.
- The number of advancing from **Memphis** is determined by the chart below:

<u>Division</u>	<u>Number Of Local Teams At A Specific NTRP Level</u>	<u>Number Of Local Teams Advancing to State League Championship</u>
Adult 18 & Over/40 & Over/55 & Over	2 - 11	1
	12 - 24	2
	25+	3

Adult 65 & Over	If a city has 2 or more teams in any Adult 65 & Over division, they must play locally	1
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Grievances

- **Self-Ratings and Grievances:** Any self-rated player who is playing at an NTRP level lower than his/her actual skill level is subject to an NTRP Grievance. Players who allow someone else to complete the self-rating process for them will be ultimately responsible and held accountable for information submitted or omitted. Failure to self-rate in accordance with the *Guidelines*, or omission of information regarding a player's tennis history, will subject the player as well as the captain and/or others who completed, assisted, condoned and/or approved an inappropriate self-rating to penalties or disqualification. A Captain, LLC, or member of a Championship Committee can file a NTRP grievance.
- Grievances are filed with the Local League Coordinator. Please submit via email, including a \$50.00 filing fee. (Memphis fees should be addressed to Memphis Tennis Association and the LLC will give instructions on how to submit the fee). Should the USTA TN Grievance Committee uphold the grievance, the filing fee will be refunded. The LLC will give the grievance to the State Grievance Committee. Forms for grievances may be obtained from the Local League Coordinator
- USTA League Suspension Point System will be used to assess points to players, captains and associated USTA Members when grievances are upheld.

Local Committees

- Memphis Rules & Regulations Committee: Jackie Mills, Laura Huss, Rachel Baker
- USTA Tennessee Grievance Committee: Terryann Nelson, Chair, Jackie Mills, Bryce Curry,
- USTA Tennessee Grievance Appeals Committee: Roger Ross, Chair, Barbara Hooper and Holly Fisher

Other Resources

- USTA, USTA Southern and USTA Tennessee Regulations - <https://www.ustatn.com/adult-local-league-regulations/>
- Friend at court - <https://www.ustatn.com/adult-local-league-regulations/>
- USTA Tennessee Website - <https://www.ustatn.com/>
- USTA Southern Website - <https://southernchampionships.com/>
- Memphis Tennis Association Website - <https://www.memphista.com/>
- Facebook - [@MemphisTennisAssociation](#), Memphis USTA 18&over, 40 & over, 55 & over, 65 & over and Early Start League