



2021 USTA Tennessee Tri-Level League Regulations

Mountain Empire Tennis Association (META)

Local League Coordinator (LLC)

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Regulations written in BLUE text are specific to the META leagues and may not apply in other local areas.

I. Dates

<u>League</u>	<u>Local Registration Opens</u>	<u>Local Team Registration Close (Deadline for legal team roster minimum)</u>	<u>Local Last Day to Add Individual</u>	<u>Local Schedule Released</u>	<u>Local Playoff Dates</u>	<u>Tennessee League Play Deadline</u>	<u>State Championship</u>
Tri-Level	January 1, 2022	May 24, 2022	June 5, 2022	May 30, 2022	June 6, 2022	August 11, 2022	Tri-Level All Divisions September 9-11, 2022 Knoxville, TN

Registration Dates:

- a. All local areas must end team registration on or before the State Team Registration deadline of **July 26, 2022**. Local areas that do not have a team signed up in a level of play have an additional two weeks from the Local Team Registration deadline to form a team in that level, and that team may advance directly to state championships.

II. Tri-Level League Regulations

- a. The Tri-Level League is a team format which consists of three doubles positions, each at a different NTRP level to form the “team”. It is designed for players to compete against same ability and gender.
- b. USTA Tennessee offers Tri-Level leagues for 18 & Over, 40 & Over, and 55 & Over age divisions.
- c. Tennessee offers the below divisions in each age group.
 - 3.5, 3.0, 2.5
 - 4.0, 3.5, 3.0
 - 4.5, 4.0, 3.5
 - 5.0, 4.5, 4.0



- d. Team matches will consist of three (3) doubles matches, played in order of NTRP Rating based on the division. For example, for the 3.5, 3.0, 2.5 division, the maximum NTRP rating for #1 Doubles is 3.5, for #2 Doubles is 3.0, and for #3 Doubles is 2.5.
- e. A player may play at their current NTRP level and/or up to one level above the current NTRP level. (i.e. a 2.5 can play in the 2.5 spot, or substitute into the 3.0 spot, but cannot play in the 3.5 spot)
- f. The minimum number of players for a legal team is six (6).
- g. USTA Tennessee will have no residency requirements for teams that are in leagues with local play.
 - i. For teams that advance directly to a State Championship or play their local league at a State Championship, USTA Tennessee requires that at least 2 players of the team be residents of the local area from which that team is representing.
- h. USTA Tennessee limits the number of players that may appear on a team roster in the Tri-Level leagues to 18 players.
- i. All captains will use the following format when registering a team. For example: Smith/Knoxville.
- j. The USTA Tennessee Adult League Committee, or the Local Rules & Regulations Committee have the authority to amend these regulations when necessary. **LLC has the right to interpret the rules and make schedule changes as necessary.**
- k. If the Local League Regulations do not have a regulation in place to address an issue and there is a National regulation on that issue, the Section, District/Area or Local League must follow the national regulation.
- l. **META** defines itself as **Carter, Greene, Hancock, Hawkins, Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington counties in Tennessee and Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Smyth, Scott, Tazewell, Washington, and Wise counties in Virginia.**

III. Eligibility:

- a. Players must have a USTA Membership that is valid through the end of the local league season. If a player is advancing to the USTA Tennessee Tri-Level State Championship, the player must have a valid USTA Membership through the end of the Championship.
- b. All must be at least 18 years of age prior to registering and competing on a Tri-Level team.
- c. For the Tri-Level 40 & Over and 55 & Over divisions, all players must have reached the minimum age for the league type within the calendar year.
- d. All players must have a valid NTRP rating on file in TennisLink. Players who do not have a computer rating are to self-rate in accordance with the National Tennis Rating Program before registration.



IV. Match Format

- a. The best of three sets with a match tiebreak in lieu of 3rd set.
- b. If a set is tied 6-6, a 7-point set tiebreak will be played (first to 7 by 2)
- c. If sets are tied 1-1, a match tiebreak (first to 10 by 2) shall be played.
- d. There will be a two-minute set break at the end of each set.
- e. All tiebreaks shall follow the Coman tiebreak procedure.

V. League Play

- a. Players arrive on time and be ready to play.
- b. Phones turned off.
- c. Captains exchange lineups prior to match. No player should be listed that is not on premises and ready to play.
- d. Courts go on in order of NTRP rating. (4.0, 3.5, 3.0)
- e. Substitution: In the event of an illness, injury of a player, or an ineligible player that is listed on the line-up; a substitution may be made in the affected position if it is made within the 15-minute default period, using a player with correct NTRP rating, and not listed on original line-up. That player should receive a 5-minute warm-up.
 - i. **The 15-minute default clock begins at the scheduled match time, when a court is available, and a player has not arrived. The opposing captain and the opposing players have the discretion to extend the default time and play the match if he or she chooses to. NO POINT PENALTY is allowed for a late player.**
- f. Defaulted court: Only one defaulted court per match, but can be at any level.
- g. If a captain knows ahead of time an entire team match will be forfeited, the captain must notify the LLC 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, at least for the round, 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 team is eligible for advancement.
- h. By regulation, match results must be entered into TennisLink within 48 hours. All scorecards will be FINAL 48 hours after the team match is complete. If a score is entered, and then found to be in error, the captain must contact the LLC to have it corrected. Both captains should be listed on that email to the LLC, so everyone is aware and in agreement of change.
 - 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.
 - ii. **It is the responsibility of the winning captain to report scores to TennisLink within 24 hours of completion of the match. The losing captain should confirm or dispute scores on TennisLink within 48 hours.**
- i. If an area has more than one flight within a level, each local area will determine the format for the local play offs. **The winning team from each flight will have a play-off match to determine the league winner.**



- j. If play is interrupted by **rain or severe weather (40 degrees F or below (not wind chill) or 100 degrees F or above (not heat index), as reported by the weather channel or www.weather.com at the time of the match and at the location of the match)**; or darkness or other factors beyond the control of players, completed individual matches will stand as played. In the event that rain or **severe** 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. **Makeup match will be played at location that all players agree on and within 14 days of original date. If teams don't agree, it will be played at original schedule location.**
 - ii. **Matches affected by rain or severe weather can be rescheduled with all courts together or separately.**
 - iii. **META will not reserve courts for rescheduled matches.**
 - iv. **Defaults offered prior to the original match date are nullified when the original date of match is rescheduled due to rain or severe weather.**
 - v. **Negotiations for rescheduling should be confirmed in writing via text or email. Once a time, day and location for the makeup match has been agreed upon by the parties involved, that match MAY NOT be cancelled or rescheduled, for any reason other than rain or severe weather.**
- k. **META will supply team captains with game balls prior to the start of the season. The HOME team is responsible for providing these game balls on match day.**

VI. Championships

- a. During the local season, players must play in at least one (1) match to be eligible to compete at the USTA Tennessee League Tri-Level State Championship. One (1) default court
- b. The number of advancing from **META** 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>
All Tri-Level Leagues	1 - 9	1
	10-19	2
	20+	3



- c. If there is only one team registered from any authorized area, that team may advance directly to the USTA Tennessee Tri-Level State Championship.
- d. The 2022 USTA Tennessee Tri-Level State Championship will be held in Knoxville on September 9-11th.

VII. Grievances

- a. Grievances are filed with the Local League Coordinator to administrate. Please submit via email, including a \$25.00 fee within written time restraints. Should the Grievance Committee uphold the grievance, the \$25.00 will be refunded. The LLC will forward the grievance to the USTA Tennessee Grievance Committee. Forms for grievances may be obtained from the LLC.

I. Committees

- a. **Local Regulations Committee: Andy Pullen, Ashley McCoy, and Nicole Stewart**
- b. USTA Tennessee Grievance Committee: Terryann Nelson (Chair), Debbi Booton, Jackie Mills
- c. USTA Tennessee Grievance Appeals Committee: Roger Ross (Chair), Barbara Hooper, Alice Zhang
- d. Grievance and Grievance Appeal Committee members may change or individual members substituted at the discretion of the Tennessee Adult League Committee Chairperson.