



2022 Tennessee USTA Mixed League Regulations

“META”

Local League Coordinator:

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

League	Local Registration Opens	Local Team Registration Close (Deadline for legal team roster minimum)	Local Last Day to Add Individual	Local Schedule Released	Local Playoff Dates	Tennessee League Play Deadline	State Championship
All Mixed Leagues	January 1st, 2022	6/10/2022	8/4/2022	6/12/2022	NA	August 4, 2022	August 26 - 28, 2022 (Chattanooga)

I. Season: 6/18/2022-8/4/2022

II. Individual Registration

- a. All participants must be current members of the USTA.
- b. Players must be 18 years of age prior to participating in the USTA League program.
- c. 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.
- d. 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 General & Experienced Player Guidelines.
 1. Self-ratings are valid for two years from the date issued or until replaced by a dynamic or computer rating.
 2. If a player does not have a valid computer (C) rating from a previous year, he/she must self-rate to be assigned a new rating, reassigned to their last expired rating or a higher rating based on their playing history. (For additional information concerning the rating program; see section 1.04F in the USTA National Regulations)



e. USTA Mixed Divisions offered in Tennessee (See table below)

<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>
Mixed	18 & Over	2.5 (straight), 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0	3 Doubles	6	18
	40 & Over	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0	3 Doubles		
	55 & Over	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0	3 Doubles		
	65 & Over	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0	3 Doubles		

i. **18 & Over**

1. Mixed 18 & Over 10.0 will play their local league at the USTA Tennessee State League Championship. This level must meet the Tennessee deadline of **August 4, 2022** for team and individual registration with a fee of \$4.00. No players may be added after **August 4, 2022**.
- f. **Minimum NTRP** levels per division: 6.0 is 2.5; 7.0 is 3.0; 8.0 is 3.5; 9.0 is 4.0; 10.0 is 4.5.
 - g. The NTRP rating difference between doubles partners shall not exceed 1.0.
 - h. The combined NTRP rating of a doubles team shall not exceed the NTRP level.
 - i. 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.
 - j. Captains are responsible for making sure that all team members meet eligibility criteria.
 - k. Each player must pay a **\$25** league fee for each team that he/she is joining that will be charged during the registration process. In addition, there is a \$3.00 processing fee assessed from TennisLink at the time of registration. Total fee on TennisLink will be **\$28** per registrant per team. Players requesting a refund must do so by contacting the LLC.
 - i. No refund will be offered beyond 1 week after state league play deadline.
 - ii. 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.
 - l. Divisions may be divided into two or more flights with a playoff at the end of local play to determine the **META** champion.
 - m. If only one team is registered at deadline for any level, an extension of two weeks will be given to meet the National requirement of a minimum of 2 teams.

III. 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. **META** defines itself as **Carter, Greene, Hancock, Hawkins, Johnson, Sullivan, and Unicoi, Washington counties in Tennessee and Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Smyth, Scott, Tazewell, Washington, and Wise counties in Virginia**. Teams competing in the **META** Local Leagues must play in facilities that reside within the defined area.



- c. 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, and therefore captains must have a valid email address and phone number listed in TennisLink.
- d. Captains MUST use the following format to name teams: Last Name/City. For example: (Smith/Murfreesboro)
- e. USTA Tennessee will have no residency requirements for teams that are in leagues with local play.
 - i. For teams that advance directly to the State Championship or play their local league at the State Championships, USTA Tennessee requires that at least 2 players of the team be residents of the local area from which that team is advancing.

IV. Local League Play – Official Ball, a standard Type 2 USTA approved ball shall be used. All matches are played without officials, the USTA official publication, The Code, shall be observed. Point Penalty Suspension System in effect for 2022.

- a. The team captain for each team shall exchange their team line-up simultaneously prior to the beginning of the team match.
- b. A player may participate in only one individual match within a team match.
- c. No substitution may be made in an individual match after the line up has been presented, except for injury to, illness of, or disqualification 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. USTA rules regarding tardiness for a match are as follows:**
 - a. 5:00 min or less loss of toss plus 1 game**
 - b. 5:01 -10:00 min loss of toss plus 2 games**
 - c. 10:01-15:00 min loss of toss plus 3 games**
 - d. More than 15 min Default**
- d. There is no coaching in any form allowed in USTA Mixed League matches. Cell phones must be turned off or silenced during play.
- e. USTA Tennessee Mixed league matches in **META** shall be:
 - i. 2 out of 3 sets with a 10-point tie break for 3rd set.**
- f. 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.
 - 6. One more match with 3 courts will be played.**



- g. 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.
- 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.
- h. If a team plays a local match without a full lineup, forfeits must be taken at #3 doubles.
- i. 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.
- j. If a match is 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).
- k. 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.
- l. If a captain knows ahead of time 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 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.
- m. 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. **Makeup match will be played at location that all players agree on and within 10 days of original date. If teams don't agree, it will be played at original scheduled location.**
- ii. **Rainout matches can be rescheduled with all courts together or separately.**
- iii. **Reschedule matches: rescheduling matches is not advised. But if both captains agree, they can reschedule the lines. It is advised that advance notice should be given in this case, preferably a week notice. If captains don't agree, then the line(s) will be defaulted.**
- iv. **META will not reserve courts for rescheduled matches.**
- n. 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 be not 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 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.

- o. 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, then the individual match(es) to be played will be assigned in sequential order in the above-mentioned regulation. 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 # 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.

V. Championships

- a. Players who qualify to advance to the USTA Tennessee State Championship for USTA Mixed Doubles may advance on more than one team within an age group only if they are different NTRP levels. **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.**

MATCHES REQUIRED TO ADVANCE TO CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR ADULT AND MIXED DIVISIONS			
SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AND BELOW		NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	
LOCAL MATCHES REQUIRED	DEFAULTS THAT COUNT	TOTAL MATCHES REQUIRED THROUGH SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP	DEFAULTS THAT COUNT
To advance to any championship level through Sectional Championship	To advance to any championship level through Sectional Championship	To advance to National Championship	To advance to National Championship
2 matches on the same team	1 default <u>received</u> shall count	All players other than self-rated and computer-rated appealed players: 3 matches on the same team	1 default <u>received</u> shall count



Section Option to require Self-rated and computer-rated appealed players to play up to 4 matches on the same team	Section Option to declare if 1 default <u>received</u> shall or shall not count	Self-rated and computer-rated appealed players 4 matches on the same team	No default <u>received</u> shall count
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b. In order to be eligible to compete in a USTA Tennessee League State Championship, players must play in the number of matches listed in the table below:

***A retirement counts as a match played for all players involved.**

- c. If a Mixed 55 & Over/Mixed 65 & Over team has no local competition offered at that specific combined level, a team may advance to the State Championship. Any Mixed 55 & Over/Mixed 65 & Over local league having more than two (2) teams must play a local league.
- d. The number of advancing from **META** is determined by the chart below:

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

VI. 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, Local League Coordinator, 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 Local League Coordinator. Please submit via email, including a \$50.00 fee. Should the Grievance Committee find in favor of the person filing the grievance,



the \$50.00 will be refunded. The LLC will give the grievance to the Local Grievance Committee. Forms for grievances may be obtained from the Local League Coordinator.

VII. Committees

- a. **META Rules & Regulations Committee: Alice Zhang, Daryl Addison, Soma Murkajee**
- b. USTA Tennessee Grievance Committee: Terryann Nelson (Chair), Debbi Booton, Jackie Mills.
- c. USTA Tennessee Grievance Appeals Committee: Roger Ross (Chair), Alice Zhang, Barbara Hooper.
- d. Grievance and Grievance Appeal Committee members may change or individual members substituted at the discretion of the USTA Tennessee Adult League Committee Chairperson.

VIII. Other Resources

- a. USTA, USTA Southern, and USTA Tennessee Regulations - www.ustatn.com/adult-tennis/adult-leagues/
- b. USTA Tennessee Website - www.ustatn.com
- c. USTA Southern Website - www.southern.usta.com