

## 2022 Southern Combo Doubles Regulations

### “Mountain Empire Tennis Association (META)”

Local League Coordinator (LLC):

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

### COMBO DOUBLES LEAGUE REGULATIONS

All USTA League Tennis Regulations in 1.00 GENERAL and 3.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES and the following regulations in this section shall apply to the Southern Combo Doubles League Program.

- a. Local regulations may be amended at any time by the TN Adult League Committee, or the Local rules and regulations committee.

#### 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>State League Play Deadline</u>	<u>State Championship</u>
All Combo Leagues	June 1, 2022	August 7, 2022	September 25, 2022	August 10, 2022	October 1, 2022	October 3rd, 2022  October 17th, 2022	<u>Combo 18 &amp; Over/55 &amp; Over</u> October 21-23 <sup>rd</sup> 2022(Murfreesboro)  <u>Combo 40 &amp; Over/65 &amp; Over</u> November 4-6, 2022 (Knoxville)

- a. LLC has the right to interpret the rules and make schedule changes as necessary. Once a league schedule has been posted, captains have 5 days to request reasonable changes. Changes are not guaranteed, but will be given consideration on a one by one basis.

#### II. League Regulations

- a. All participants must be current members of the USTA, and that membership must be valid through the entire season including advancement opportunities.
- b. 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.
- c. **Registering.** A player without a computer rating must self-rate to enter the program. A player with a current NTRP computer rating must use that rating to enter the program.

- d. **NTRP Rating Entry:** Players must accurately complete the Self-Rate Questionnaire in accordance with the National Tennis Rating Program. 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 so 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 \$25 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 fee paid to TennisLink at the time of registration. Total fee on TennisLink will be \$28 per registrant per team.
- g. **Refunds:** 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.

**III. Southern Combo Divisions Offered:**

<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 (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

**2.41A(1) Using combined NTRP levels, the combined NTRP level of the doubles team cannot exceed the combined NTRP rating level in which the players are competing.**

- a. 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).

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 **META** champion. Players may play in only one flight of each NTRP level.
- 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 **and must reside within the defined area (see section VII.3.b).**
- b. Captains **MUST** use the following format to name teams: Captain's Last Name/City. (Harris/Nashville).
- 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 2 players of the team be residents of the local area from which that team is advancing.
- e. USTA Tennessee limits the number of players that may appear on a team roster. TN Combo Doubles allows 18 players per team. (See table in section III.)
- f. **Public courts must be used for league matches. Facilities must have enough courts to play a team match and all courts must be the same surface. If a team requests to play at a private facility, the team requesting to play at the private facility will be responsible for all court fees.**

- V. **League Play**-Dunlop is the official sponsor of Southern Combo Doubles. All matches are played without officials. The USTA official publication, The Code shall be observed.
  - a. Both team lineups are to be exchanged at the scheduled match time, or before, if captains agree and are ready to play. **Tennislink scorecards are recommended but not mandatory.**
  - b. **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.**
  - c. 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.
  - d. **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.

- e. There will be no coaching in any form allowed Southern Combo Doubles League matches.
- f. Cell phones must be turned off or silenced during play.
- g. Southern Combo Doubles League matches in **META** 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.
- h. **Entering Scores.** Captains are responsible for entering and/or confirming match scores on Tennis Link. The winning captain should report scores within 24 hours of completion of the match. The losing captain should confirm or dispute scores on Tennislink within 48 hours of the completion of the match. 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).
- i. **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.
  - 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.
- g. 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. In the event of extreme temperature (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](http://www.weather.com) at the time of the match and at the location of the match) captains and players may choose to reschedule the match. If players choose to play, despite the temperature, they should play the match in its entirety.
- ii. Rain-outs should not be determined more than 2 hours prior to the scheduled match time.
- iii. Makeup matches will be played at a location that all players agree on and within 14 days of the original date. If teams don't agree, it will be played at the original scheduled location.
- iv. Matches affected by rain or severe weather can be rescheduled with all courts together or separately.
- v. META will not reserve courts for rescheduled matches.
- vi. Defaults offered prior to the original match date are nullified when the original date of the match is rescheduled due to rain or severe weather.
- vii. 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 canceled or rescheduled, for any reason other than rain or severe weather.

VI. **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. Two players (one doubles court) will be chosen from each team to play a 10-point super tie break. The LLC will set up the time and place.

VII. **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 USTA Tennessee Combo Doubles 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. **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. Teams competing in the **META** Local Leagues must play in facilities that reside within the defined area.
  - c. The number of teams advancing from **META** is determined by the chart below:

Article I.	DIVISION	NUMBER OF LOCAL TEAMS AT A SPECIFIC NTRP LEVEL COMBINED LEVEL	NUMBER OF TEAMS ADVANCING TO STATE LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS
	<b>Combo Doubles</b>	2-9	1
		10-19	2
		20+	3

**VIII. Grievances**

- a. General/Sportsmanship Grievances and Administrative Grievances are filed with the Local League Coordinator. Please submit via email, including a \$25.00 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 \$25.00 will be refunded. Forms for grievances may be obtained from the Local League Coordinator.

**IX. Local Committees**

- a. Local Rules & 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 and Grievance Appeal Committee: Roger Ross (Chair), Barbara Hooper, and Jeanne Jones

**X. 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)