



TENNESSEE

2023 USTA TN Mixed Doubles Regulations

META

Local League Coordinator (LLC):

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Blue text represents regulations that are specific for Meta Local Area

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I. Local League Important Dates: 6/10-8/9/2023

League	Local Registration Opens	Local Team Registration Deadline	Local Last Day to Add Individual	Local Schedule Released	Local Playoff Dates	Tennessee League Play Deadline	State Championship
All Mixed Leagues	January 1, 2023	5/28/2023	7/31/2023	6/1/2023	NA	August 9, 2023	August 25-27, 2023 (Chattanooga)

II. Registration:

- A. 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.



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- 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, and players must have turned 18 before they can register for a team.
- D. NTRP Rating Entry: Each player will use his/her most current NTRP computer rating on file in TennisLink.
 1. 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.
 2. A Self-rating is valid for 2 years from the issue date or until replaced by a Year-End computer rating.
- E. Registration Fee: Each player must pay a \$25 league fee for each team that he/she is joining and will be charged during the registration process. In addition, there is a \$3.15 processing fee assessed from TennisLink at the time of registration.
- F. Players may register 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.
- 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. 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.
- H. If only one team is registered at the local deadline for any level, an extension of two weeks will be given to meet the National requirement of a minimum of 2 teams.

III. Team Match Format:

***Mixed Doubles:** A team shall consist of a minimum of 6 players able to combine to form 3 separate eligible teams. One team has 1 male and 1 female and their combined rating is within the NTRP level they are registering for. The winning team from each match will have won 2 or 3 of the courts in that match.

- A. 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 July 19, 2023 for team and individual registration with a fee of \$4.00. No players may be added after August 9, 2023.
- B. The NTRP rating difference between doubles partners shall not exceed 1.0.
- C. Captains are responsible for making sure that all team members meet eligibility criteria.

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



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	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	

NTRP cap for Combined Levels:

NTRP Level	Max /Min NTRP Rating	NTRP Level	Max /Min NTRP Rating
6.0	3.5/2.5	9.0	5.0/4.0
7.0	4.0/3.0	10.0	5.5/4.5
8.0	4.5/3.5		

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

IV. 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. **Local Area** 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/Nashville)
- E. USTA Tennessee will have no residency requirements for teams that are in leagues with local play.
- F. USTA Tennessee limits the number of players that may appear on a team roster. TN allows 18 players per team. (See table in section III)
- G. Divisions may be divided into two or more flights with a playoff at the end of local play to determine the **META** champion.
 1. For teams that advance directly to the State Championship or play their local league at the State Championships, USTA Tennessee requires that at least 3 players of the team be residents of the local area from which that team is advancing.
- G. There is no coaching in any form allowed in USTA Mixed League matches. Cell phones must be turned off or silenced during play.



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V. 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 2023.

- A. Both team lineups are to be exchanged at the scheduled match time, or before, if captains agree and are ready to play.
- 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 exchanged, 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.
 1. 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.
- D. USTA Tennessee Mixed league matches will be the best of three sets and the set tiebreak shall be used at 6-all in each set. In lieu of a third set, a match tiebreak shall be played. There will be a two-minute set break at the end of each set with no coaching. All tiebreaks shall follow the Coman tiebreak procedure.
- E. 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. Coin flip. Coordinator will choose a number between 1-50 and the Captain who guesses the closest number will choose heads or tails.
- F. 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.
- G. 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.



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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.
- H. If a match begins 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 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. 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 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.
 2. Rain-outs should not be determined more than two hours prior to the scheduled match time.
 3. 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 originally scheduled location.
 4. Matches affected by rain or severe weather can be rescheduled with all courts together or separately. META will not reserve courts for rescheduled matches.
 5. Defaults offered prior to the original match date are nullified when the original date of match is rescheduled due to rain or severe weather.
 6. 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 inclement weather.
- L. 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.
- M. 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



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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.

VI. 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 at 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



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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 above: ***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 directly 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 teams 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

VII. 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 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.

VIII. Local Committees

- A. **Local Rules & Regulations Committee:** Joan Hagood, Daryl Addison, and Ivanna Stewart
- B. **USTA Tennessee Grievance Committee:** Terryann Nelson (Chair), Debbi Booton, Jackie Mills
- C. **USTA Tennessee Grievance Appeal Committee:** Roger Ross (Chair), Barbara Hooper, Jeanne Jones



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- 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