



## **USTA Mississippi Jackson League Regulations**

2021 Adult, Mixed Doubles, Tri-Level Doubles, Combo Doubles & Team Singles  
*Subject to change based on National/Sectional or State Regulations*

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USTA League Tennis National, Southern, and Mississippi Regulations have full force and applicability at all levels of play in USTA League Tennis in Mississippi and there is no authorization to modify, amplify or change them by local or State League Coordinators, or Grievance or Grievance Appeals Committees. Any violation of these regulations shall be subject to such sanctions as may be imposed by League Grievance or Grievance Appeal Committee procedures outlined in the USTA League Regulations. USTA Southern is the final authority on such actions unless otherwise specified in Bylaws of the USTA or USTA Southern. The Local League Coordinator, in conjunction with the State League Coordinator, shall have the authority to interpret the USTA Mississippi Jackson League Regulations. USTA League Tennis Regulations (National, Southern and Mississippi) are available on the Mississippi Tennis Association website: [www.mstennis.com](http://www.mstennis.com).

All USTA, Southern, and Mississippi Regulations with the modifications listed below, shall apply to the USTA Mississippi Jackson League Programs. (Note: information included herein should be applied in conjunction with all applicable USTA, Southern, and Mississippi League Regulations.)

Failure to follow USTA, Southern, Mississippi, and Jackson League Regulations may result in the forfeiture of the \$150 security deposit and/or other sanctions as imposed by the Local League Grievance Committee. Please note sanctions may include (but are not limited to) monetary fines and/or suspension from league play.

### **OFFICIAL TEAM ENTRY**

A team is not officially registered and matches will not be scheduled in TennisLink until all criteria are met by the published deadline.

1. Completed team registration on TennisLink.
2. Minimum number of players required registered for the team.
3. Team form and security deposit of \$150 per team made payable to MTA and submitted to the coordinator.

Note: Teams not in compliance may be removed from their respective flight. League fees are non-refundable. In some cases, the LLC can move players from one team to another. If a player makes an error, contact the LLC before re-registering.

### **DOMICILE and RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS**

1. Teams that advance directly to a state championship may have no more than 50% out of local league players on their Tennislink roster.
2. Teams competing in the Adult 65 & Over State Championship may have no more than 50% out of state players on their Tennislink roster.
3. Teams that play a local league at a state championship may have no more than 50% out of state players on their Tennislink roster.

### FORMAT OF PLAY

1. All individual matches shall be the best of three sets, regular scoring, with a set tiebreak (first to 7 by 2) at six all in each set. In lieu of a third set, a match tiebreak (first to ten by 2) shall be played. All tiebreaks shall follow the Coman tiebreak procedure. There will be a two minute set break at the end of each set, with no coaching.
2. Team matches will consist of individual matches in accordance with the table below. MS leagues follow the Southern regulation regarding procedures to insure the majority of matches are played in a team match.
3. Other scoring/formats may be used with the approval of the Local League Coordinator upon consultation with the State League Coordinator.

Division	Age Group	NTRP Levels	Format
Adult	18 & Over	2.5, 5.0, Open	1 Singles, 2 Doubles
	18 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	2 Singles, 3 Doubles
	40 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 Open	1 Singles, 3 Doubles 3 Doubles
	55 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0	3 Doubles
	65 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0	
Mixed	18 & Over	Straight Level 2.5 AND Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0	3 Doubles
	40 & Over	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0	
	55 & Over	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0	
Tri-Level	18 & Over	2.5-3.5, 3.0-4.0, 3.5-4.5	3 Doubles
	40 & Over	3.0-4.0, 3.5-4.5	
	55 & Over	3.0-4.0	
Combo Doubles	18 & Over	Straight Level 2.5 AND Combined Levels 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5	3 Doubles
	40 & Over	5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5	
	55 & Over	6.5, 7.5, 8.5	
Team Singles	18 & Over	2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0+, 4.5+	3 Singles

4. The number of matches to be played will be based on the number of teams in each level:
  - a) Two teams – best of four to five matches;
  - b) Three teams – double or triple round robin (six to nine matches);
  - c) Four to Six teams – double round robin (six to ten matches);
  - d) Seven teams and up – single round robin (six matches and up).
5. If a division/level has 14 or more teams, the division/level will be divided into flights.

### MATCH PLAY, LINEUP EXCHANGE, and DEFAULTS

1. Players participating in a league match must be registered in TennisLink prior to participation. Points earned by un-registered players may be reversed. (Singles League - In the event that any player should register for this league subsequent to the release of the current yearend computer ratings, that player must use the new year-end rating.)
2. Captains must simultaneously exchange completed lineups prior to the scheduled match.
3. Matches should begin promptly as scheduled with a 10 minute warm-up allowed, including serves.
4. There is a 15 minute default rule in effect for all scheduled matches. An individual default occurs when a player(s) fails to appear properly clothed, equipped and ready to play within 15 minutes of the scheduled match time.

5. Teams may not default an entire match. For a five court match, a maximum of two courts may be defaulted; for three and four court matches, only one court may be defaulted. If a team cannot field all positions in a team match, they must default beginning at the bottom of the scorecard (either #2 singles and/or #3 doubles) and work upward. Exception: Due to the format of Tri-Level, any position may be defaulted, but only one per match. Please see state regulations for further information concerning penalty for match defaults.
6. In the spirit of good sportsmanship and fair play, a team should be advised by its opponent of a known default (#2 singles or #3 doubles) prior to match time. Please note, this notification is appreciated, but it is not required.
7. 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 in the lineup. If a team cannot field all positions in a team match, they must default beginning at the bottom of the scorecard (either #2 singles and/or #3 doubles) and work upward.
8. Incomplete matches that in any way affect the outcome of 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> place must be completed by the date specified by the LLC. Failure to do so can result in the loss of the security deposit, and other sanctions may also be imposed.

#### **COURTS AND EQUIPMENT**

1. The LLC will schedule and reserve courts for all league matches except for makeups and rescheduled matches.
2. The host team/hosting facility will be responsible for determining whether the match will be played on hard court or clay court surfaces. Captains are responsible for notifying their players of court surface on which a match is to be played and that they must wear proper shoes for the specified surface.
3. Captains should contact the host facility to confirm courts at least two days prior to the match.
4. Visiting teams provide new balls that are approved by USTA for championship play.

#### **SCORE REPORTING**

1. Captains should confirm scores with each other at the end of the match.
2. Match scores should be reported in TennisLink within 48 hours of a completed match by either captain.
3. If a team match has not been reported within the 48 hours of match completion, The LLC will contact the captains via automated email from Tennislink.
4. If for any reason the scores cannot be reported, the LLC should be contacted.
5. For rescheduled matches, the match date entered shall be the actual date that the match is completed, not the scheduled date.
6. After 48 hours, TennisLink will automatically confirm the score entry and scores/players will stand as entered.
7. Once scores are entered, captains or players may not change them. If scores are entered incorrectly, either of the captains should email the LLC with the corrections and copy the opposing captain. The LLC will then make the changes.

#### **RESCHEDULING MATCHES**

1. A team may reschedule only under the following circumstances:
  - a. Rain or severe temperatures (40 or below), wind chill is a factor for severe temperatures.
  - b. Severe weather alerts in the Jackson area such as tornado warning/watch –NOT gusty winds; or
  - c. A team does not have enough players to field a full lineup to the max NTRP as a result of a USTA function. Note: other local league matches and USTA NTRP tournaments are not approved reasons to reschedule.
2. In the event that inclement weather occurs during play, completed matches will stand as played.
3. League matches are not timed matches and must be played until completion or retirement. If a court is reserved for a time in which players are still playing, the current match must move to another open court. If the facility does not have open courts, the match should be rescheduled. Incomplete matches must resume with the same players at the exact set, game and point that existed when play was halted.
4. In the event that inclement weather forces the cancellation and rescheduling of a team match, substitutions may be made in any individual matches that had not begun.
5. Points awarded for defaults during the original lineup exchange will stand. All players involved in such defaults cannot participate in the rescheduled match.
6. Verbal defaults offered prior to the original written lineup exchange are nullified when the match is rescheduled due to inclement weather.
7. A match may not be cancelled more than 4 hours prior to the scheduled match due to inclement weather.
8. Matches should be made up within two weeks of the scheduled match.
9. Once teams agree on a rescheduled date, time and location, the match must be played unless inclement weather occurs.
10. Captains should get the rescheduled match details in writing.
11. If teams cannot agree on a rescheduled date, the LLC will choose a time, date and neutral location.

- Matches must be completed by the date set by the LLC or the security deposit may be taken and further sanctions imposed.

### **DETERMINATION OF LEAGUE WINNER**

The team with the most team wins will be the league champion and advance to the State Championship. In the event of a tie, USTA procedures shall govern as follows:

- Team with most individual match wins.
- Winner of the head to head match.
- Team with fewest sets lost.
- Team with the fewest number of games lost.
- A method to be determined by the Local League Coordinator.

Wildcard procedures:

Should a wildcard be issued to a level with multiple flights, there will be a playoff between the eligible teams. Should there not be enough time for a playoff match, the LLC shall flip a coin to determine which team receives the wildcard. The LLC shall have discretion on whether or not time permits to have a playoff match.

### **TEAM CAPTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Complete team registration on TennisLink and requirements listed under Official Team Entry prior to published deadlines.
- Attend the captains meeting as applicable
- Insure that all team members meet eligibility requirements.
- Verify match schedule on Tennis Link one week prior to each scheduled match.
- Call and confirm courts at each facility at least two days before each match. 6. Double check that team members are registered before they play a match
- Enter or confirm the match scores within 48 hours of playing the match.
- Know the rules and educate your team members.
- Provide accurate email address and contact numbers on TennisLink and with LLC for correspondence.
- Follow guidelines under Rescheduling Matches.
- Be a good sport and encourage your team members to do the same! Always remember this is a fun, recreational league!

### **GENERAL**

- Coaching is not permitted at any time.
- Cell Phones: If a player's cell phone rings during match play, that player automatically loses the point.
- A player may not use or talk on the cell phone while on the court.
- Bathroom Breaks may be taken as needed during the match.
- League fees are non-refundable. In some cases, the LLC can transfer players from one team to another. Please contact the LLC immediately if you have registration problems.
- Court fees are to be paid by each player for every league match. Failure to pay court fees may result in suspension and/or other sanctions to the applicable captain(s) and team(s).

### **GRIEVANCES**

*Please refer to National Regulations 3.00 for full details on Grievance Procedures*

- All complaints alleging a violation by an individual or team during local league competition shall be filed in writing with the Local Coordinator.
- The complaint must be filed prior to the commencement of the next team match in that flight involving such individual or team, or within twenty-four hours after the end of local league play, whichever occurs first.
- A complaint against an individual or team may only be filed by
  - The team captain of the team who has competed in the match where the alleged violation occurred,
  - A league coordinator (may file a grievance at any time)
  - A member of a Championships Committee
- NTRP grievances shall be filed in writing with the State League Coordinator. NTRP grievances may be filed at any time up to forty-eight hours after the conclusion of a player's Section Championships. NTRP grievances shall be handled by a Section committee.

**COMMITTEES**

**Grievance Committee:** Stedman Hunter (Chair), Brenda Thomas, Donna O'Neill

**Grievance Appeals Committee:** Anita Trigg (Chair), Chandler Strain, Dana King

The LLC may add/remove committee members as necessary.