



## **USTA Mississippi East Central League Regulations**

2026 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 East Central 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 East Central 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 East Central League Regulations may result in 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**

Official team entry is satisfied when all of the following requirements are met by the published deadlines. The local league coordinator reserves the right to accept late entries if circumstances allow, upon consultation with the state league coordinator.

1. Completed team registration in Tennis Link.
2. Team name must be completed in the following format in Tennislink: Captain's Last Name - City where the team will play their home matches – Facility (ex: Tompkins – Columbus - MTC)
3. Minimum number of players required registered on the team.
4. Match schedule completed and submitted to the coordinator.

Note: There will be no refund for players who register on the wrong team. In some cases, the LLC can move players from one team to another. If a player makes an error, call 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 10 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 ensure 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	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	1 Singles, 3 Doubles
	55 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 5.0	3 Doubles
	65 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 5.0	
Mixed	18 & Over*	Straight Level 2.5 AND Combined Levels 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0	3 Doubles
	40 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0	
	55 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	
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

**\*To be eligible to participate in the league season, players must be 18 years of age prior to start of the season.**

4. The number of matches to be played will be based on the number of teams in each level:
5. Two teams – best of four to five matches;
  - a) Three teams-triple round robin (six matches);
  - b) Four to Five teams – double round robin (six-eight matches);
  - c) Six teams and up- single round robin (five matches and up).
5. If a division/level has 12 or more teams, the division/level will be divided into flights.

#### **MATCH PLAY, LINEUP EXCHANGE, and DEFAULTS**

1. All local league matches must be played within the geographic boundaries of the East Central local league
2. 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 year-end computer ratings, that player must use the new year-end rating.)
3. Team captains should exchange scorecards simultaneously with a completed line-up prior to match time.
4. Matches should begin promptly as scheduled with a ten-minute warm-up allowed. This includes serves.
5. There is a fifteen-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.
6. Teams may not default an entire match. For a five-court match, a maximum of two courts may be defaulted, and for a 3 court match, 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. Please see state regulations for further information concerning penalty for match defaults.
7. 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.
8. 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.

#### **COURTS AND EQUIPMENT**

1. The Home Team will provide courts that are in safe playable condition and new balls approved by the USTA.
2. The home team 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. The Home Team Captain should confirm the match date and time by contacting the Visiting Team Captain at least two days prior to the match.

## **SCORE REPORTING**

1. Captains should confirm scores with each other at the time of the match
2. Scores must be reported in TennisLink within 48 hours of the completed match.
3. Either captain can report the scores.
4. Team captains should confirm that scores have been entered correctly
5. If a team match has not been reported within the 48 hours of match completion, The LLC will contact the captains.
6. If for any reason the scores cannot be reported, the LLC should be contacted.
7. For rescheduled matches, the match date entered shall be the actual date that the match is completed, not the scheduled date.
8. After 48 hours, TennisLink will automatically confirm the score entry and scores/players will stand as entered.

## **RESCHEDULING MATCHES**

1. A team match may be rescheduled **ONLY** under the following circumstances:
  - a) Rain or severe temperatures at the scheduled time of play (Winter-40 or below, Summer-100 and above). Wind chill is a factor for severe temperatures;
  - b) Severe weather alerts in the East Central 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. Prior approval of the LLC is required.
  - d) Agreement of both captains. If not in agreement, the match will be played as originally scheduled.
2. In the event that inclement weather occurs during play, completed matches will stand as played.
3. 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 rain or 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 re-scheduled match.
6. Verbal defaults offered prior to the original written lineup exchange are nullified when the match is rescheduled due to rain or inclement weather.
7. A scheduled match may not be cancelled until three hours prior to the match time 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.
12. Rescheduled or postponed matches must be reported to the LLC.

## **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:

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

#### **TEAM CAPTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Complete team registration on TennisLink and requirements listed under Official Team Entry prior to the Captains Meeting.
2. Attend the mandatory captains meeting (or send a representative).
3. Ensure that all team members meet eligibility requirements
4. Verify match schedules when published on TennisLink.
5. Confirm the match time with the opponent twenty-four hours before the match. Confirm court reservations prior to match play.
6. Double check that a team member is registered before they play a match.
7. Enter or confirm the match scores within 48 hours of playing the match
8. Read and familiarize self and players with local league and state regulations.
9. Provide accurate email address and contact numbers for correspondence.
10. Keep the LLC informed of the status of postponed/rescheduled matches.
11. Remind team players to practice good conduct and sportsmanship.

#### **GENERAL**

1. Coaching is not permitted at any time.
2. Cell Phones: If a player's cell phone rings during match play, that player automatically loses the point.
3. A player may not use or talk on the cell phone while on the court
4. Bathroom Breaks may be taken as needed during the match
5. 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.

#### **GRIEVANCES**

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

1. All complaints alleging a violation by an individual or team during local league competition shall be filed in writing with the Local Coordinator.
2. 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.
3. A complaint against an individual or team may only be filed by
  - a. The team captain of the team who has competed in the match where the alleged violation occurred,
  - b. A league coordinator (may file a grievance at any time)
  - c. A member of a Championships Committee
4. 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**

Local League Grievance Committee: Judy Bumgardner, Cyndi Sullivan and Billy Gip Clark

Local League Grievance Appeal Committee: Shannon Stafford, Myranda Shelton, Helen Campassi

Committee members may be replaced, as needed, by the East Central Local League Coordinator.