



**2018 USTA MISSISSIPPI LEAGUE REGULATIONS**  
**for USTA League Tennis**  
**Adult, Mixed, Tri-Level, and Team Singles Leagues**  
**League Year 2018 – as of 11/27/2017**  
*subject to change based on National/Sectional Regulation changes*

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 State League Coordinator, in conjunction with USTA Mississippi Adult League Committee Chairman, shall have the authority to interpret the USTA League Tennis Mississippi Regulations. USTA League Tennis Regulations (National and Southern) are available on the Mississippi Tennis Association website: [www.mstennis.com](http://www.mstennis.com).

**All USTA and STA Regulations shall apply to the Mississippi League Programs with the modifications allowed to the state listed below:**

(Note: Paragraphs included herein are numbered according to pertinent paragraphs of the 2018 USTA Southern Section League Regulations and the 2018 USTA League Tennis Regulations and should be applied in conjunction with those paragraphs.)

**1.00 GENERAL**

**The Regulations in 1.00 GENERAL shall apply to all Mississippi USTA League divisions. Certain authorities are delegated by these regulations to the local league.**

**1.01 NAME.** The MTA Adult League Committee has approved the adoption of rules and regulations for Mississippi Leagues that shall be known as the USTA Mississippi League Regulations.

**1.02 GOVERNANCE.** The USTA Mississippi League Regulations shall apply to all Mississippi USTA League Tennis Program. The FRIEND AT COURT - *The USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations*, including Wheelchair Rules of Tennis, shall apply to all matches played in the USTA League (unless modified by these USTA Mississippi League Regulations). In all matches played without officials, the USTA official publication, THE CODE, shall be observed. The USTA Point Penalty System shall be used at all championship levels.

**1.02A Waiver of Regulations and Procedures Prohibited.** Except where a waiver is specifically permitted by a MS League Regulation or by a MS League Procedure, no MS League Regulations or MS League Procedure shall be waived by any Local League or by any Local or State Coordinator or Grievance or Grievance Appeal Committee. Any violation of this regulation shall be subject to such penalties as may be imposed by the USTA, STA, or MTA League Committee. Such penalties are not subject to appeal.

**1.02B Amendments.** These USTA Mississippi Regulations may be amended by the Mississippi Adult League Committee.

**1.02C Written Interpretations.** The State League Coordinator, in conjunction with the MTA Adult League Committee Chair, and at least one other member of the Committee, shall have the authority to interpret the USTA Mississippi League Regulations

**1.04B Administration**

**1.04B (1) Adult League Committee** The MS League shall be governed by the Adult League Committee appointed by the President of the Mississippi Tennis Association and subject to the control and direction of the Mississippi Tennis Association Board of Directors.

**1.04B (3) Local Leagues** The MTA has eight Local Leagues. Each Local League is responsible for the development and implementation of the MS League within its geographic territory

**1.04B (3) b State League Coordinators** The MTA State League Coordinator under the employ of the MTA shall be responsible for the day to day administration of the MS League.

**1.04B (3) c Local League Coordinators** The State League Coordinator shall appoint Local League Coordinators to implement and administer the MS League. The Section League Coordinator must approve all appointments.

**1.04B (5) Championship Committees** State championship committees will be appointed and published in championship information for each event by the State League Coordinator

**1.04C Official Information System**

**1.04C (1) Official League Registration** Each local league must establish deadlines and procedures for registering teams/players on TennisLink with approval of State League Coordinator.

**1.04C (2) Official Score Reporting and Standings System** Each local league must establish procedures for reporting scores in TennisLink. Scores must be reported in TennisLink within 48 hours of the completed team match. TennisLink will automatically confirm scores 48 hours after the team match is initially reported in TennisLink if not confirmed by opposing captain. Team captains of matches with unreported scores will be contacted by the local league coordinator if a team match has not been reported. **Southern Regulations mandate that failure to comply may subject teams to grievance and/or double default.**

**1.04D LOCAL LEAGUE**

**1.04D (3) Local League Season** Local leagues shall determine league season dates with approval of State League Coordinator. **Per Southern Regulations in the event a local league is not concluded on the date published in Tennislink, then the end date in Tennislink should be amended to reflect the date of the last match played.**

**1.04D (4) Team** A team shall consist of players eligible to compete at a specific level of competition in accordance with the table below. A local league may limit the number of players that appear on a team roster. A local league may also limit the number of players at a specific NTRP level.

TEAM COMPOSITION			
DIVISION/AGE GROUP	MIN/MAX ROSTER LIMIT	GENDER	NTRP LEVEL
ADULT/18 & OVER 3.0-4.5	8 min/16 max	SAME GENDER	Player's NTRP rating level shall not exceed team NTRP level except 18 & Over 5.0+ and 40 & Over 4.5+  When using straight NTRP levels, player's NTRP rating level shall not exceed team NTRP level  Combined NTRP rating levels of partners shall not exceed team NTRP level.  NTRP difference between partners shall not exceed 1.0  The minimum NTRP Level for: 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
ADULT/18 & OVER 2.5 AND 5.0+	5 min/10 max		
ADULT/40 & OVER 3.0-4.5+	8 min/16 max		
ADULT/55 & OVER 3.0-4.0, 9.0	6 min/14 max		
ADULT/65 & OVER 3.0-4.0, 9.0	6 min/14 max		
MIXED/18 & OVER 2.5-10.0	3 men, 3 women/14 max	MEN AND WOMEN	
MIXED/40 & OVER/55 & OVER 6.0-9.0	3 men, 3 women/14 max	MEN AND WOMEN	
TRI-LEVEL/18 & OVER 2.5-3.5; 3.0-4.0; 3.5-4.5	6 min /15 max	SAME GENDER	Players' ratings shall not exceed the NTRP level of the position at which the player is participating in a team match.
TRI-LEVEL/40 & OVER 3.0-4.0, 3.5-4.5			
TRI-LEVEL/55 & OVER 3.0-4.0			
TEAM SINGLES/18 & OVER 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0+, 4.5+	3 min/10 max	SAME GENDER OR CO-ED	SHALL NOT EXCEED STATED NTRP LEVEL. Exception: 4.0+ and 4.5+ (may have 2 players on the roster with one allowed to participate at #1 singles per match)

**1.04E PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

**1.04E(1) Domicile and Residency Requirements**

- 1.04E (1) a** Teams that advance directly to a state championship may have no more than 50% out of local league players on their Tennislink roster.
- 1.04E (1) b** Teams competing in the Adult 65 & Over State Championship may have no more than 50% out of state players on their Tennislink roster.
- 1.04E (1) c** Teams that play a local league at a state championship may have no more than 50% out of state players on their Tennislink roster.

**1.04E (4) Player Agreement** All players participating in the MS League as a condition of said participation, agree to abide and be bound by the USTA, STA, and MS Regulations; the Rules of Tennis (unless modified by any of the aforementioned regulations); and the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship.

**1.04E(5) Waiver of Claims** Players participation in MS League acknowledge the risks associated with playing competitive tennis, accept those risks voluntarily, and in consideration of their acceptance in the Program, assume all risks for bodily injury, waive all claims for injury and property damage and release and hold harmless the MTA and the host facility, their officials, employees and agents with respect to any injury or loss caused by negligence or otherwise to the fullest extent permitted by law.

**1.04F OFFICIAL LEAGUE RATING PROGRAM**-Please see USTA League Regulations for additional information

NTRP LEVELS FOR ENTRY INTO LEAGUE PLAY		
DIVISION	AGE GROUP	PLAYER NTRP RATING
ADULT	18 & OVER 40 & OVER 55 & Over, Straight NTRP Levels 65 & Over, Straight NTRP Levels	Current NTRP level and/or up to one level above the player's current NTRP level. Please see National regulations concerning "+" level players
	55 & Over/ 65 & Over Combined NTRP Levels	Combined NTRP levels of partners shall not exceed team NTRP level. NTRP difference between partners shall not exceed 1.0
MIXED	18 & Over, Straight NTRP Levels	Current NTRP level and/or up to one level above the player's current NTRP level
	18 & Over Combined NTRP Levels 40 & Over Combined NTRP Levels 55 & Over Combined NTRP Levels	Combined NTRP levels of partners shall not exceed team NTRP level. NTRP difference between partners shall not exceed 1.0. <u>The minimum NTRP Level for: 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</u>
	18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over	Current NTRP rating level up to the maximum level in the team match
TEAM SINGLES	18 & Over	Current NTRP level and/or up to one level above the player's current NTRP level (LLC can request a waiver if needed for a co-ed league) The 4.5+ and 4.0+ levels may have up to two players from the next higher NTRP level on a team roster.

**1.04G PLAYER PARTICIPATION ELIGIBILITY**

Each team participating in local or state championship play, must submit a security deposit of \$150.00 to the Mississippi Tennis Association. The deposit will be submitted to the Local League Coordinator or State League Coordinator as applicable. The deposits will be retained and then destroyed at the end of the league year or season whichever is applicable. Local League Coordinators may keep deposits on file for those captaining more than one team or attending more than one championship during the league year. This deposit may be forfeited due to failure to adhere National, Sectional, State, or Local regulations. Forfeited deposits will go into the funds used to award grants to repair and build courts in Mississippi (Adopt-a-Court grants). Teams incurring expenses due to a forfeiture of the opposing team may submit original receipts and a request for reimbursement not to exceed the amount of the deposit. Requests must be submitted in writing to the MTA office within 48 hours of forfeiture ruling.

**1.04G (4)** Players may participate in more than one NTRP level within an age group in the same local league during the same season.

**1.04G (6)** Players who qualify for State Championships may advance on multiple teams, but there will be no scheduling accommodations extended. A player may not compete on multiple teams in the same NTRP level within the same age group. For example, a player may not play on two 3.0 18&Over teams.

**2.00 USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS-MISSISSIPPI**

All USTA League Regulations in 2.00 USTA League Regulations and 3.00 Grievance Procedures and the following procedures shall apply to MS League—Adult, Mixed, Tri-Level, and Team Singles Divisions.

**2.01A (4) Levels of Play** MS League levels are in accordance with the following table.

Division	Age Group	Local League and State Championship Levels of Play
Adult	18 & Over	2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0+
	40 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5+
	55 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0
	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
	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
	40 & Over	3.0-4.0, 3.5-4.5
	55 & Over	3.0-4.0
Team Singles	18 & Over	2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0+, 4.5+

**2.01C Competition Format**

**2.01C (2) Team Match** Team matches will consist of individual matches in accordance with the table below unless noted differently in local regulations. MS will follow the Southern regulation regarding procedures to insure the majority of matches are played in a team match.

Division	Age Group	NTRP Levels	Format
Adult	18 & Over	2.5, 5.0+	1 Singles, 2 Doubles
	18 & Over	3.0, 4.0, 4.5	2 Singles, 3 Doubles
	40 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5+	2 Singles, 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	
Team Singles	18 & Over	2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0+, 4.5+	3 Singles

**2.01C (3) Match Scoring** All matches (local and championship) shall be the best of two tiebreak sets with a match tiebreak in lieu of a third set. The Coman procedure will be used in all tiebreaks. **Other scoring/formats may be used with the approval of the State League Coordinator.**

**2.01C(5) e Scoring of Team Defaults** In accordance with principles in the National Regulations (2.03L), the following will apply to teams defaulting an entire team match during local or local at state competition:

- i. The defaulting team is ineligible to advance beyond local league, but may continue to play the remainder of local matches.
- ii. If the defaulting team continues to play, the remainder of the local season matches will be recorded in Tennis Link for the purpose of satisfying match play requirements for opponents only.
- iii. At the end of the season all matches of a defaulting team will be removed from the stats and standings in Tennis Link, UNLESS:
- iv. All teams with a mathematical chance to advance have already played the defaulting team in good faith, the matches shall stand as played when determining standings
- v. During local play, the local league coordinator may recommend the forfeiture of team deposit and/or file a grievance with the local grievance committee. During championship play the deposit may be forfeited and the championship committee may impose further penalties such as, but not limited to, monetary fines and player suspensions.

f. The following applies to the Adult 2.5 and 5.0 teams competing locally or at State Championships: if a player is injured or becomes ill or is a **no-show (locally only)** after the line-up has been submitted and the captain must change the line up in order to prevent a team match default, the opposing team may also change its lineup. This only applies to the 2.5 and 5.0 levels as the lineup change will affect both singles and doubles positions.

**2.02 PROGRESSION**

**2.02B State Championships** The team winning the State Championship in each level of competition in the Adult, Mixed, and Tri-Level divisions, shall be the MS League Champion and be entitled to advance to the next level of competition. There is no state championship advancement for Team Singles.

**2.03 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS-See MS Championship Procedures for additional information regarding championships**

**2.03A Eligibility**

**2.03A (1) a** Winning teams shall progress from local league competition in accordance with the table below:

Adult 18 & Over 2.5-4.0 & Adult 40 & Over 3.0-4.0 Mixed 18 & Over 2.5, 6.0-9.0 & Mixed 40 & Over 6.0-9.0 Tri-Level 18 /40 & Over (all levels)		Adult 18 & Over 4.5, Adult 40 & Over 4.5+, Adult 55 & Over (all levels) Mixed 55 & Over (all levels) Tri Level 55 & Over (all levels)	
# of teams in league	# of teams to advance	# of teams in league	# of teams to advance
2-10 teams	1 team	2-5 teams	1 team
11-20 teams	2 teams	6-10 teams	2 teams
21-30 teams	3 teams	11-15 teams	3 teams
31-40 teams	4 teams	<b>Adult 65 &amp; Over</b> teams will compete at a State Championship to determine advancement to Sectionals. <b>Adult 18 &amp; Over Men and Women 5.0+, Adult 40 &amp; Over Men and Women 4.5+, and all age groups Mixed Doubles 9.0:</b> local league play will be held at the State Championship, with the winning team advancing to the next level of competition as the MS State Champion.	
41-50 teams	5 teams		
51-60 teams	6 teams		

**2.03A (1) a** The state may issue wildcards as necessary to fill the draw or to replace teams. Wildcards will be determined by blind draw in accordance with the USTA MS Wildcard Procedures. Wildcards will not be issued to leagues with fewer than three teams or to teams without an overall winning record (50% or more matches won) unless deemed necessary by the state league coordinator (tournament director) in order to fill a draw.

**2.03A (1) b** The state league coordinator (tournament director) may issue invitations to all teams to attend the championship in groups in which there is a limited number of teams available statewide depending on the overall ability of the event to accommodate additional teams.

**2.03A (1) c** The state league coordinator (tournament director) may declare an entire group’s competition be held as a “local at state league” if there are a limited number of teams available statewide.

**2.03A (1) d** For groups in which play for the entire state occurs within one local league, that local league winner will advance to the next level of competition if that level is available.

**2.03A (3)** A player is eligible to progress to championship level (below national level) in accordance with the table below provided the required number of matches were played on that same team in the same NTRP level in the same age group during its local league season. A maximum of one default received by the player during local league competition shall count for advancing. A retired match shall count toward advancing for all players involved.

<b>Adult 18 &amp; Over Adult 40 &amp; Over Adult 55 &amp; Over</b>	2 local matches
<b>Mixed 18 &amp; Over Mixed 40 &amp; Over</b>	
<b>Mixed 55 &amp; Over Tri-Level</b>	1 local match if local play is available. If there is no local play, a team may advance directly to the next level of competition.
<b>Adult 65 &amp; Over</b>	The Adult 65 & Over Championship will be an invitational event with all teams advancing to the State Championship. One (1) match played is required to advance to Sectionals. For teams that are advancing, the one match requirement may be waived at the discretion of the Sectional Tournament Committee for up to a maximum of two players per team. If there is no local and/or state competition offered for Adult 65 & Over, one team per NTRP level may advance directly to the sectional championships.

**2.03A(4)** For applicable Adult and Mixed Doubles levels: Teams with no local competition may combine with other local leagues to satisfy local play requirements. One teams will be offered advancement to the state championship as long as all eligibility requirements are met. Viable local leagues that agree to share travel with a one team will be offered one additional berth to the state championship.

**2.03A(5)** At all State Championships, a minimum number of team members as shown in the table below, who were on the final roster of their local league team at the conclusion of local league play must be available and eligible to compete or to combine and compete, as appropriate. The Championships Committee, by majority vote, can reduce that number to not less than the minimum noted in the table below.

Division	League Type	Minimum number of players	Minimum number with approved waiver
Adult	18 & Over 2.5 & 5.0+	5	3
	18 & Over 3.0-4.5	8	4
	4.0 & Over	8	4
	55 & Over	6	4
	65 & Over	6	4
Mixed	All	3 Men, 3 Women	2 Men, 2 Women
Tri-Level	All	6	4

**2.03B Official League Championships Entry** Registration of the minimum number of players along with all fees and required information shall be submitted by the team captain and/or players prior to the announced deadline for entry into the event. The captain is responsible for reviewing and adhering to all information pertaining to the league championships. All championship information may be accessed at [www.msleaguetenis.com](http://www.msleaguetenis.com).

**2.03C Scoring and Rest** At the Mississippi Championships, all 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.

**2.03D Competition Format** The State League Coordinator and Championship Official shall determine the format for the competition. The format may be round robin competition, single elimination competition or a combination of both. If a local league has two teams in the same level, the referee will place those teams in separate flights provided there are two flights in that level. Levels with multiple flights will enter into semi-finals and finals to determine an overall winner. Levels with three flights will have a blind draw from second place teams to determine the fourth semi-finalist. A blind draw will be used to determine opponents for the semi-final matches.

**2.03H Procedures in the event of a tie** In all state championship play including “local at state” competition, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:

**2.03H(1) Individual Matches.** Winner of the most individual matches(courts) in the entire competition.

**2.03H(2) Head to Head.** Winner of head-to-head match.

**2.03H(3) Sets.** Loser of the fewest number of sets.

**2.03H(4) Games.** Loser of the fewest number of games.

**2.03H(5) Coin Toss.**

**2.03J(1) Scoring of Individual Defaults.** Any player receiving a default must be a registered participant in the event, but is not required to be

physically present when match line ups are exchanged.  
**2.03L Team Defaults (See regulation 2.01C (5))**

**STATE CHAMPIONSHIP DATES AND LOCATIONS**

2018 USTA League Tennis MS Adult 65 & Over Championships	April 27-29, 2018	Columbus, MS
2018 USTA League Tennis MS Adult 55 & Over Championships	May 18-20, 2018	Tupelo, MS
2018 USTA League Tennis MS Adult 40 & Over Championships	June 8-10, 2018	Oxford, MS
2018 USTA League Tennis MS Adult 18 & Over Championships	June 22-24, 2018	Ridgeland-Jackson, MS
2018 USTA League Tennis MS Mixed Doubles Championships	August 24-26, 2018	Tupelo, MS
2018 Mississippi Tri-Level Championships	September 7-9, 2018	Greenville, MS

**OTHER USTA MISSISSIPPI LEAGUE EVENTS**

2018 USTA Southern Tri-Level Doubles Sectional Invitational	October 13-15, 2018	Ridgeland-Jackson, MS
2018 MS Southern Combo Doubles 18 and 40 & Over Championships	November 9-11	Ridgeland-Jackson, MS
2018 MS Southern Combo Doubles 55 & Over Championships	November 9-11	Vicksburg, MS

**2.04 NTRP DISQUALIFICATION AND REVIEW PROCEDURES-** *Please see USTA Southern Regulations*

**2.05 YEAR-END NTRP COMPUTER RATINGS AND APPEAL PROCEDURES-** *Please see USTA Southern Regulations*

**3.0 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES-** *Please see USTA Southern Regulations*

**3.01A (1) Local Committees**

All local league regulations will include the names of grievance and grievance appeal committee members and will be distributed to captains prior to beginning of the local league season. Distributions via captains’ packets and/or websites are acceptable. State League Coordinator shall approve all Local League Grievance and Grievance Appeal Committees.

**2017-2018 USTA Mississippi Adult League Committee:**

Donald Jones, Chair	Rockie Netherland	Kevin Martin	Angie Keyes	Jim Warren
September Moore	Katie Boykin	Dianne Holloway	Christie Bennett	Melanie Fink

Lindsey Bullard, MTA Staff

State Grievance Committees & Grievance Appeal Committees and Championship Committees are formed as necessary first utilizing members of the Adult League Committee and then other committee members selected by the Adult League Committee Chairman or State League Coordinator.