

**USTA Mississippi North Central League Regulations**  
**2024 Adult, Mixed Doubles, Tri-Level Doubles, Combo Doubles and 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 North Central League. USTA League Tennis Regulations (National, Southern and Mississippi) are available on the Mississippi Tennis Association website: [www.msleaguetenis.com](http://www.msleaguetenis.com)

All USTA, Southern, and Mississippi Regulations with the modifications listed below, shall apply to the USTA Mississippi North 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 North 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**

A captain or co-captain shall officially register a team for local league play by completing the following tasks:

1. Creating a team in Tennislink by the team registration deadline
2. Having the required minimum number of players on the roster in tennislink prior to the captains' meeting
3. Submitting a deposit of \$150 per team made payable to MTA, and submitted to the coordinator.
4. Completing a match schedule and submitting it 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, contact the LLC before re-registering.

## TEAM NAMING

Starting with 2022 Champ Year registrations, teams must adhere to the following below. (Exception: Team names for any ESL leagues that are in the middle of an active local league, or have finished, may stay intact.)

### Team Name Limitations (one, two and/or a combination of all three below):

- Captain Last Name
- Tennis Facility
- Location or CTA Name

### Recommended Examples (or a variation):

- Tucker
- Tucker/Fayetteville
- Tucker/Fayetteville/Fayetteville AC
- Fayetteville AC/Tucker
- Babolat TC (Guarini)
- Babolat TC – Guarini
- Yonex RC/Walling/NEGTA
- NEGTA – Yonex Racquet Club – Walling

\*There could be many ways to name a team, but anything resembling the above examples would work as they all do not go outside the “Team Name Limitations.”

## DOMICILE and RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

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

### 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 year-end computer ratings, that player shall use the new year-end rating.)
2. Team captains should exchange scorecards simultaneously with a completed line-up prior to match time.
3. Matches should begin promptly as scheduled with a ten minute warm-up allowed. The permitted 10 minute warm-up includes serves.
4. 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.
5. For a five court match, a maximum of two courts may be defaulted. For four court and three 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 and work upward.

Please see state regulations for further information concerning the penalty for a complete match default.

6. In the spirit of good sportsmanship and fair play, a team should be advised by its opponent of a known default prior to match time. Notice of a default is a courtesy, but is not a requirement.

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 and work upward.

Exception: Any position may be defaulted in a tri-level match, but only position may be forfeited per match in order for the match to be considered valid.

8. Incomplete matches that impact the outcome of 1st-3rd place shall be completed by the date specified by the LLC. Failure to complete scheduled matches may result in the loss of the security deposit as well as other sanctions.

9. Teams not completing all matches are not eligible to advance beyond local play.

#### **COURTS AND EQUIPMENT**

1. The Home Team will furnish courts that are in safe playable condition and new balls approved by the USTA.

2. Court surfaces should be the same for all team matches unless mutually agreed upon by the team captains. If the court surface is agreeable, the Home Team Captain must let the Visiting Team captain know 48 hours in advance which position(s) will be played on what type of surface(s).

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.

4. If only four courts are to be used for the team match, the match will be played as follow: #1 Singles, #2 Singles, #1 Doubles, and #2 Doubles to be played first with the #3 Doubles to follow on the first available court unless both captains agree on a different schedule of play for the team 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, then 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.

9. Corrections to scores reported in Tennislink shall be made by the LLC only after a team captain utilizes the dispute scores feature in

Tennislink and both captains confirm the inaccuracy.

### **RESCHEDULING MATCHES**

Captains will be allowed up until the start date of each league to make any changes to their match dates and times scheduled at the Captains'

Meetings.

1. After the start date of the league, captains may only reschedule matches for the following reasons:
  - a) Rain or severe temperatures (40 degree or below). Wind chill (below 40) is a factor for severe temperatures.
  - b) Significant weather events in the North Central area such as a tornado warning/watch that would impede travel for one or both teams involved. Gusty winds generally do not constitute a significant weather event and should not be viewed as a reason to reschedule.
  - c) A team does not have enough players to field a full lineup to the max NTRP as a result of a USTA function.
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 rescheduled 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 shall not be cancelled due to inclement weather until three hours prior to match time.
8. In event that a match is cancelled due to weather, captains shall make a good faith effort to make up the match within two weeks of the originally scheduled date.
9. Once captains 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 in a timely manner.

### **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). Failure to do so will result in loss of home court advantage.
3. Ensure that all team members meet eligibility requirements
4. Verify match schedules published in TennisLink.
5. Confirm the match time with the opponent 48 hours before the match. Confirm court reservations with the facility 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 more information 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**

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE: Lee Parks (Chair), Marty Pearson, Krisi Allen, Amy Farmer, and Lisa Thomas

LOCAL LEAGUE COMMITTEE: Stephanie Oliver, Vicki Ferguson, Jimmy Humber

Committee members may be added or replaced by the local league coordinator as needed. A grievance appeal committee may be appointed as needed.