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2020 USTA Tennessee State League Regulations

“KNOXVILLE”

Local League Coordinator (LLC):

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Adult 18& Over Adult 40 & Over Adult 55 & Over Adult 65 & Over Mixed Leagues Tri-Level Combo

Blue text represents regulations that are specific for Knoxville

I. Dates

League	Local Registration Opens	Local Team Registration Close (Deadline for legal team roster minimum)	Local Last Day to Add Individual	Local Schedule Released	Local Playoff Dates	State League Play Deadline	State Championship
All Combo Leagues	June 1, 2020	August 23, 2020 18&Over 55&Over September 10, 2020 40&Over 65&Over	September 27, 2020 18&Over 55&Over October 16, 2020 40&Over 65&Over	August 25, 2020 18&Over 55&Over September 12, 2020 40&Over 65&Over	TBD If needed	October 20, 2020	Combo 18 & Over / 55 & Over October 30 – November 1, 2020 (Knoxville) Combo 40 & Over / 65 & Over November 6-8, 2020 (Murfreesboro)

II.

a. Play Dates for 18&Over are as follows:

Weekend Dates (August 28-30; September 4-6*; 11-13*; 18-20; 25-27)

Weeknight Dates (August 31-September 3; 8-10; 14-17; 21-24)



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- b. Play Dates for 40&Over are as follows:
 - Weekend Dates (September 18-20; 25-27; October 2-4; 9-11; 16)
 - Weeknight Dates (September 21-24; 28-October 1; 5-8; 12-15)

- c. Play Dates for 55&Over are as follows:
 - Weekend Dates (August 28-30; September 4-6*; 11-13*; 18-20; 25-27)

- d. Play Dates for 65&Over are as follows:
 - Weekend Dates (September 18-20; 25-27; October 2-4; 9-11;16)

- e. *September 4-6 will only be used if necessary, due to Labor Day weekend.

- f. September 11-13 is STATE TRILEVEL/65&Over. If you have a team affected with players participating in either of these events, please email PRIOR TO AUGUST 20TH. Emails should be sent to citytennisace@gmail.com

- g. Every effort will be made to schedule around UT football games but is not guaranteed.

- h. In the event there is not enough teams to have separate divisions for weekend and weeknight, the two will be merged. We will do our best to schedule most of your matches for either weekend or weeknight, depending on what was signed up for. **ALL PLAYERS SHOULD BE PREPARED TO PLAY BOTH WEEKEND AND WEEKNIGHT MATCHES IF NEEDED!**

- i. GKTA BALL SPONSORSHIP: GKTA will provide balls for a team's home matches if all team members are GKTA members for the current year. GKTA membership can be paid online at www.gkta.usta.com.

III. 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. **Knoxville** defines itself as **Morgan, Scott, Campbell, Union, Grainger, Jefferson, Cocke, Blount, Monroe, Loudon, Knox, Roane, Anderson and Sevier Counties** Teams competing in the **Knoxville** Local Leagues must play in facilities that reside within the defined area.
 - i. Matches will be played at Tyson Family Tennis Center and West Hills Tennis Center.
- c. All participants must be current members of the USTA. Players must be 18 years of age prior to participating in the USTA League program. Each player over the age of 18 shall have



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reached the required minimum age prior to or during the calendar year in which such player participates in his or her first local league. Each player must pay a **\$27** league fee for each team that he/she is joining and shall be paid at the time of registration. There will also be a \$3 fee paid to TennisLink at the time of registration. Total fee on TennisLink will be **\$30** per registrant per team.

i. Knoxville requires a Greater Knoxville Tennis Association membership. The fee is \$20. This is paid annually and can now be paid online at www.gkta.usta.com

- d. Players requesting a refund must do so by contacting the 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.
- e. USTA Southern Combo Doubles Leagues in **KNOXVILLE** are offered in the following divisions.

Division	League Type	NTRP Levels	League Format	Minimum Number of Players Required For Legal Team	Maximum number of players allowed on team roster
Combo	18 & Over	2.5 (straight), 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5, 10.5	3 Doubles	6	18
	40 & Over	5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5	3 Doubles	6	18
	55 & Over	6.5, 7.5, 8.5	3 Doubles	6	18
	65 & Over	6.5, 7.5, 8.5	3 Doubles	6	18

- f. The maximum NTRP level for 5.5 is 3.0; 6.5 is 3.5; 7.5 is 4.0; 8.5 is 5.0; 9.5 is 5.5, and 10.5 is 6.0.
 - i. Each individual player’s NTRP rating may be no more than 1.0 apart for levels 2.5, 5.5, 6.5, 7.5 (example: a 3.0 player and a 4.0 player may play 7.5). Each individual player’s NTRP rating may be no more than 1.5 apart for levels 8.5, 9.5 and 10.5 (example: a 3.5 player and a 5.0 player may play 8.5).
- g. The combined NTRP rating of a doubles team shall not exceed the NTRP level.
- h. The format for USTA Southern Combo Doubles Leagues in **KNOXVILLE** will be three (3) doubles matches.
- i. Divisions may be divided into two or more flights with a playoff at the end of local play to determine the **KNOXVILLE** champion.



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- j. Local areas that do not have a team signed up at any level of play at the registration deadline may have an additional month (unless the State League Play Deadline occurs first) to form a team, or a team may be formed at the approval of the State League Coordinator & the Championship Committee to advance straight to the USTA Tennessee Combo Doubles Championships. Teams may continue to add players per each local league's regulation. No individual may register for a local team roster after the State League Play Deadline.

III. Team Regulations

- a. 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. Therefore captains must have a valid email address and phone number listed in TennisLink.
- b. Captains MUST use the following format to name teams: TN/City/Captain's Last Name. For example: (TN/Nashville/Ontog).
- c. USTA Tennessee will have no residency requirements for teams that are in leagues with local play.
 - i. For teams that advance directly to a USTA Tennessee State Championship, USTA Tennessee requires that at least 2 players of the team be residents of the local area from which that team is advancing.
- d. USTA Tennessee limits the number of players that may appear on a team roster. Please see the table in Local Regulation II.e for the maximum number of players on a roster in each league.
- e. It is the responsibility of the Captain to ensure that any player added to a team roster after league play has started will have enough matches to qualify for advancement.

iv. Individual Regulations

- a. Each player will use his/her most current NTRP Computer Rating on file in TennisLink. Players who do not have a computer rating on file in TennisLink shall self-rate in accordance with the National Tennis Rating Program. Self-ratings are valid for two years from the date issued or until replaced by a dynamic or computer rating. NTRP computer generated ratings are valid for 3 years for those players 59 years old or under, and 2 years for those 60 years of age or older.
 - b. Players may play on more than one team so long as they are not playing on more than one team in the same local area, age division, and NTRP level. Team captains are responsible for making sure that all team members meet eligibility criteria. Players not meeting the above eligibility criteria will be ineligible and any matches they have played will be forfeited.

v. League Play

- a. Lineups are to be exchanged at the scheduled match time, or before, if captains agree and are ready to play.



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- b. 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 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.

i. Penalites for lateness are as follows:

5:00 minutes or less	loss of toss plus 1 game
5:01-10:00 minutes	loss of toss plus 2 games
10:01-15:00 minutes	loss of toss plus 3 games
More than 15 minutes	DEFAULT

ii. Players are not required to wait for players competing in another match.

Captains should have a player available to play the match in the event this occurs.

- c. There is no coaching in any form allowed in USTA Southern Combo Doubles League matches. Cell phones must be turned off or silenced during play.
 - i. Teammates, spectators and coaches may not comment on line calls or scoring while a match is being played. Remember tennis etiquette when watching or playing a match. All players are encouraged to familiarize themselves with The Code, which may be found at: www.usta.com (search Friend at Court)
- d. USTA Southern Combo Doubles League matches in **KNOXVILLE** shall be the best of two sets with a Set Tiebreak (first to 7 by 2) used at 6 all in each set. In lieu of a third set, a Match Tiebreak (first to 10 by 2) will be played. The Coman Tiebreak Procedure will be used for all Set Tiebreaks and Match Tiebreaks. There will be a 2-minute set break at the end of each set, with no coaching allowed during the break.
- e. In the event of a tie at the end of the season, in a team match or in league standings, the tie will be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so
 - i. Individual Matches. Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.
 - ii. Head-to-head. Winner of head-to-head match.
 - iii. Sets. Loser of the fewest number of sets.
 - iv. Games. Loser of the fewest number of games.
 - v. Game Winning Percentage. Total games won divided by total games played.
 - vi. Additional match scheduled and played to break tie.**



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- 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 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.
 - i. 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. If a team plays a local match without a full lineup, forfeits must be taken at #3 doubles.
- h. 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.
- i. If a match has begun 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).
- j. 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.
- k. If a captain knows ahead of time 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.
 - i. **Any team/captain that has more than 3 forfeits during one league season may be subject to a grievance and sanctioned for the next local USTA season. Sanctions will be determined by the Local Grievance Committee and can include suspension from USTA local league play.**
- l. 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.
 - i. **In the event of inclement weather, it is the responsibility of captains to arrange indoor courts. BOTH CAPTAINS MUST AGREE TO MOVE INDOORS! Indoor court costs will be paid by the players.**
 - ii. **If a team make-up match is required, the team Captains will agree on a date or dates for the make-up match(es) to be played and the date shall stand; however, it is not necessary that all matches are played at the same time. Make up date(s) should be set within 48 hour hours of the original scheduled date. The make-up match may be**



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rescheduled with all courts played together or separately. If separately, Captains may give the players the authority to set their own individual court time and location. The agreed date under either method is the new scheduled match time. Failure to play on this date will result in a default for each individual match not present. Should neither team be present, the double default rule will apply.

- iii. The date of a team match make-up is to be no later than 14 days following the date of the original scheduled match. Both team Captains will inform the league coordinator of the new match date. If Captains are unable to agree upon such a date, the Rules Committee will set a date for the match to be played in order to comply with state guidelines. Failure to play on this date will result in default for each individual match not present.
- iv. If a match has already begun and is rained out, all points, games and sets played at the time the match is suspended will count. Make-up matches will begin at the point they terminated and may be played on an alternate surface if both Captains agree.
- v. The players on the court should make note of score, who is serving to which end and all other matters concerning the match.
- vi. All matches SHALL BE PLAYED as scheduled, unless inclement weather is a factor. NO ONE IS UNDER OBLIGATION TO RESCHEDULE A MATCH AT THE REQUEST OF AN OPPOSING CAPTAIN.
- vii. Any court fees associated with a rescheduled match, with the exception of matches being rescheduled due to inclement weather, WILL BE AT THE EXPENSE OF THE PLAYERS.
- m. 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 not be 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. If both captains cannot come to an agreement on what lines will be played to constitute a valid team match, based on the number of players present, or to be present, then the following individual matches will be assigned in sequential order to be played: #1 doubles, then #2 doubles.
- n. 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



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agreement, the individual match(es) to be played will be assigned in sequential order in regulation V.m above. If a captain does not comply with this regulation, then it may be considered a full team default in favor of the opponents. If a team shows up without the minimum number 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 a USTA Tennessee Combo Doubles Championship may advance on more than one team within an age group only if they are different NTRP levels, and the player must have qualified separately for each team. **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.**
- b. In order to be eligible to play for a team at the USTA Tennessee Combo Doubles Championships, a player must have played at least one match for that team during the local league season. Defaults received do count toward advancement. A retired match counts for all players. Players may play on more than one level in a local league. If there is only one team registered in a local league at a specific level, that team may advance directly to the USTA Tennessee Combo Doubles Championship.
 - i. Players must play in at least one local or state championship match in order to advance to the USTA Southern Combo Doubles Sectional Championships (defaults received do count towards advancement in this program).
- c. The number of advancing from **KNOXVILLE** is determined by the chart below:

DIVISION	NUMBER OF LOCAL TEAMS AT A SPECIFIC NTRP LEVEL COMBINED LEVEL	NUMBER OF TEAMS ADVANCING TO STATE LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS
Combo 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



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disqualification. A Captain, LLC, State League Coordinator or member of the State League Committee can file a NTRP grievance. A player with a valid NTRP Computer (C) rating, or granted an Automatic Appeal (A) rating of a 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 LLC. Please submit via email, including a \$25.00 fee. Should the Grievance Committee find in favor of the person filing the grievance, the \$25.00 will be refunded. The LLC will give the grievance to the Local Grievance Committee. Forms for grievances may be obtained from the LLC.

viii. Local Committees

- a. **Rules & Regulations Committee- Christian Burns, Millicent Dunn-Hagood, Karen Kelly, Nancy Vineyard**
- b. **Grievance Committee- Aaron Browning, Sherry Norris, Jeremy Tanarungsekul, Tiffany Webb**
- c. **Grievance Appeals Committee- Rob Bray, Lyn Eagen, Jimmy Selph, Amanda Smith**

ix. Other Resources

- a. USTA, USTA Southern, and USTA Tennessee Regulations - www.ustatn.com/adult-tennis/adult-leagues/
- b. USTA Tennessee Website - www.ustatn.com
- c. USTA Southern Website - www.southern.usta.com