



2021 USTA Tennessee League Regulations

Knoxville

Local League Coordinator:

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☒Adult 18& Over ☒Adult 40 & Over

**Regulations written in BLUE text are specific to Knoxville leagues
and may not apply in other local areas.**

<u>League</u>	<u>Local Registration Opens</u>	<u>Local Team Registration Close (Deadline for legal team roster minimum)</u>	<u>Local Last Day to Add Individual</u>	<u>Local Schedule Released</u>	<u>Local Playoff Dates</u>	<u>Tennessee League Play Deadline</u>	<u>State Championship</u>
18 & Over	January 1, 2021	February 21st	April 30th	February 27th	TBD	May 26, 2021	18 & Over Even/ 40 & Over Odd June 11-13, 2021 (Murfreesboro, TN)
40 & Over					TBD		18 & Over Odd/40 & Over Even/Open June 25-27, 2021 (Murfreesboro, TN)

Days of Local Play

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
W- Adult 18 & Over 3.5	W-Adult 18 & Over 3.0 W-Adult 40 & Over 4.0	W-Adult 18 & Over 4.0 W-Adult 40 & Over 3.0	W-Adult 18 & Over 2.5 W-Adult 40 & Over 3.5	Adult 40 & Over 4.5 W blended	Adult 18 & Over 4.5 Women All Adult 40 & Over Men (May need a few weeknight matches)	Adult 40 & Over 4.5 Women All 18 & Over Men's Divisions (May need a few weeknight matches)

I. Items to Note for Knoxville:

- Play will begin as early as March 7th.
- Last Day to add a player is April 30th.
 - Two matches are required for each player during local play to be eligible to compete in local play offs.
- Any player who participates in a match without first registering for the team, will be considered ineligible, and scores will be entered as 6-0, 6-0 will for opponent.
- Greater Knoxville Tennis Association dues can be paid at usta.gkta.com



- e. **Ball Sponsorship:** GKTA will provide home team balls if all rostered players are current GKTA members. Captains should notify the Local League Coordinator to apply for ball sponsorship from GKTA.
- f. **Matches may be scheduled on any court surface**
- g. **If a team has a scheduled match that conflicts with a USTA Championship event and has 5 players (3 players for 2.5 teams) that are registered for Championship may re-schedule within a 2-week period, or re-schedule prior to event.**
- h. **Note that in 2021 Knoxville will adopt a 1 singles and 4 doubles format for the Adult 40 & Over Division.**

II. League Regulations

- a. Where not otherwise stated, USTA League National, Southern, and Tennessee Regulations have full force and applicability.
- b. **Local Rules may be changed or edited with approval from the Local Rules Committee.**
- c. **Knoxville defines itself as:** Morgan, Scott, Campbell, Claiborne, 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.
- d. 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 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 **\$27.00** 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 \$30.00 per registrant per team.
- e. Players requesting a refund must do so through 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 Local League Coordinator. Only players that did not play a match in the league season are not advancing to a state championship are eligible to request a refund.
- f. USTA Adult Leagues in Knoxville are offered in the following divisions:

<u>Division</u>	<u>League Type</u>	<u>NTRP Levels</u>	<u>League Format</u>	<u>Minimum Number of Players Required For Legal Team</u>	<u>Maximum number of players allowed on team roster</u>
Adult	18 & Over	2.5, 5.0, Open	1 Singles 2 Doubles	5	12
		3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	2 Singles 3 Doubles	8	18
	40 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	1 Singles 4 Doubles	9	20
		Open	3 Doubles	6	14
	55 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0 combined	3 Doubles	6	14
	65 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0 combined	3 Doubles	6	14



- i. **18 & Over** –
 - 1. Adult 18 & Over 2.5 Men, 5.0, and Open divisions – these divisions will play their local league at the USTA Tennessee State League Championship. These levels must meet the State deadline of **May 26, 2021** for team and individual registration. No players may be added to a local roster after **May 26, 2021**.
- ii. **40 & Over** –
 - 1. Adult 40 & Over Open division – this division will play their local league at the USTA Tennessee State League Championship. These levels must meet the State deadline of **May 26, 2021** for team and individual registration. No players may be added to a local roster after **May 26, 2021**.
- iii. **55 & Over** –
 - 1. Adult 55 & Over 9.0 – the NTRP rating level difference between doubles partners may not exceed 1.0.
 - 2. Adult 55 & Over 3.0 Men and 9.0 Men – this division will play their local league at the USTA Tennessee State League Championship. This level must meet the State deadline of **May 5th, 2021** for team and individual registration. No players may be added to a local roster after **May 5th, 2021**.
- iv. **65 & Over** –
 - 1. Adult 65 & Over 9.0 – the NTRP rating level difference between doubles partners may not exceed 1.0.
- g. Divisions may be divided into two or more flights with a playoff at the end of local play to determine the Knoxville champion.
- h. If only one team is registered at deadline for any level, an extension of two weeks will be given to meet the National requirement of a minimum of 2 teams.

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, and 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. If any Adult Division Age Group consists of only two teams in a level of play, each team must maintain its roster with at least 40 percent of its players at the designated NTRP level of play. The exception is the Adult Division 55 & Over Age Group that uses combined NTRP rating levels and will not be required to comply with this Regulation. This regulation does not apply to the 65 & Over Age Group.
- d. USTA Tennessee will have no residency requirements for teams that are in leagues with local play.
 - i. For teams that advance directly to the State Championship or play their local league at the State Championships, USTA Tennessee requires that at least 2 players of the team be residents of the local area from which that team is advancing.
- e. 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.



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 good for 3 years for those players 59 years old or under, and 2 years for those 60 years of age or older.
- b. A player may play at their current NTRP level and/or up to one level above the current NTRP level.
- c. Players may play on different age levels and NTRP levels as long as they are eligible. 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. A player who participates in the USTA League in violation of any eligibility provision shall be subject to an Eligibility Grievance.

V. League Play

- a. Lineups are to be exchanged at the scheduled match time, or before, if captains agree and are ready to play. A player may participate in only one individual match within each team match. When individual lines in a team match do not begin at the same time try to exchange line-ups before 1st court begins with players and times that captains have agreed upon. Remember that a player on that line-up can be changed if necessary. Courtesy would dictate that you let the opposing captain
- 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. **Tardiness: USTA rules regarding tardiness for a match are as follows:**

a. 5:00 min or less	loss of toss plus 1 game
b. 5:01 -10:00 min	loss of toss plus 2 games
c. 10:01-15:00 min	loss of toss plus 3 games
d. More than 15 min	Default
- c. There is no coaching in any form allowed in USTA Adult League matches. Cell phones must be turned off or silenced during play.
- d. USTA Tennessee Adult league matches in **Knoxville** shall be:
 Local League Matches will be best of two out of three sets with 7-point Coman Tie-break used at 6 all in each set. Coman Super Tie-break is used in lieu of third set if match is tied at one set each. (First team to 10 by 2)
 - i. **Two-minute rest period between sets**
 - ii. **90-second rest period on changeover during set**
 - iii. **After 1st game of each set, players change ends without a rest period (continuous play)**
 - iv. **No coaching allowed during set breaks**
 - v. **Point Penalty for a ringing phone**
- e. In the event of a tie in a team match or in league standings, the tie will be broken by the first of the procedures listed below.
 - i. For a tie in league standings at the end of the season:



1. Individual Matches. Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.
 2. Head-to-head. Winner of head-to-head match.
 3. Sets. Loser of the fewest number of sets.
 4. Games. Loser of the fewest number of games
 5. Game Winning Percentage: Total games won divided by total games played.
 6. **Top 2 teams play additional match scheduled by Coordinator to determine winner**
- ii. For a tie in a team match:
1. Sets. Loser of the fewest number of sets.
 2. Games. Loser of the fewest number of games.
 3. Game Winning Percentage. Total games won divided by total games played.
 4. Final tiebreaker: The team that wins #1 Doubles wins the match.
- 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 according to the following:
- For leagues playing the 1 Singles/2 Doubles format, 1 Singles/3 Doubles, or 1 Singles/4 Doubles, forfeits must occur at either #1 singles or the lowest doubles position.
 - For leagues playing the 2 Singles/3 Doubles formats, forfeits must occur at either #3 doubles or #2 singles.
 - For leagues playing the 3 Doubles format, forfeits must occur 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 is 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 that he/she will forfeit an entire team match, he/she must notify the Local League 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.
- l. If play is interrupted by weather, darkness or other factors beyond the control of players, completed individual matches will stand as played. If 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.

****Rain or Cold/Hot Weather Procedure: If it is raining or temperature is below 40 degrees not counting wind chill factor or above 93 degrees as listed on weather.com.***

1. Both captains agree to find indoor courts and split court fees.
2. If a match is interrupted or delayed by rain or unplayable courts, teams must wait one hour to determine if play can resume. After one hour and courts are still unplayable, the match will be re-scheduled unless captain agree to wait or make other arrangements.
3. If match play had begun and rain becomes a factor, all points, games and sets played will count; make-up procedures will begin at the point the match was halted. The players on the court should make note of the score, server, receiver and all other matters concerning the match.
4. If the line-up was exchanged but play did not begin because of weather conditions, substitutions may be made. Forfeits offered verbally prior to the original lineup exchange are null and void.
5. Reschedule match within a two-week period. Once the make-up date is agreed upon, that then becomes the new "official" match date/time and cannot be altered.
6. Contact coordinator for help in re-scheduling match if you cannot agree on terms within time allowed.
7. Re-scheduling for any other purpose than weather is frowned upon, but if you do agree to re-schedule a match, captains must notify LLC of details and obtain approval.
8. *****Prior approval from Committee is required to make up match after two-week grace period. On the 15th day, if match has not been completed or arrangements made with coordinator, a double team default may be issued.***

- 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 be not 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:

<u>Format</u>	<u>Required Matches In Sequential</u>	<u>Minimum Number Of Players Required For Each Team In A Valid Team Match</u>
2 Singles/3 Doubles	#1 and #2 singles, and #1 doubles (priority); #2 doubles if enough players present	4
1 Singles/3 Doubles	#1 singles and #1 doubles and #2 doubles (priority)	5
1 Singles/2 Doubles	#1 singles and #1 doubles	3
1 Singles/4 Doubles	#1 singles, #1 doubles, and #2 doubles	5
3 Doubles	#1 and #2 doubles	4



- m. 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 agreement then the individual match(es) to be played will be assigned in sequential order in the above-mentioned table. 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 # 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 for an Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over and/or Adult 65 & Over team(s) may advance on more than one team within an age group only if they are different NTRP levels and 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.**
 - i. Each player must play in 2 matches during local league round robin to be eligible for the local playoff with only (1) default received counting. A retired match counts for all players. Knoxville Local Playoffs are not considered local league play.
 - ii. Divisions that require a play-off and dates for play off will be announced on March 1st.
- b. To be eligible to compete in a USTA Tennessee League State Championship, players must play in the number of matches listed in the table below:

MATCHES REQUIRED TO ADVANCE TO CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR ADULT AND MIXED DIVISIONS			
SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AND BELOW		NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	
LOCAL MATCHES REQUIRED	DEFAULTS THAT COUNT	TOTAL MATCHES REQUIRED THROUGH SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP	DEFAULTS THAT COUNT
To advance to any championship level through Sectional Championship	To advance to any championship level through Sectional Championship	To advance to National Championship	To advance to National Championship
2 matches on the same team*	1 default <u>received</u> shall count	All players other than self-rated and computer-rated appealed players: 3 matches on the same team	1 default <u>received</u> shall count
Section Option to require Self-rated and computer-rated appealed players to play up to 4 matches on the same team	Section Option to declare if 1 default <u>received</u> shall or shall not count	Self-rated and computer-rated appealed players 4 matches on the same team	No default <u>received</u> shall count

A retirement counts as a match played for all players involved.

- c. Adult 65 & Over requires 1 local or state match to advance to sectional championship play with 1 default counting. For teams that are advancing to the sectional championships through local or state play, the one match requirement may be waived at the discretion of the Championship Committee for up to a maximum of two players per team.
- d. If there is no local and/or state competition offered for Adult 65 & Over, one team per state per NTRP level may advance directly to the sectional championships.
- e. Any local league having two (2) or more teams at any 65 & Over level must play a local league. If there is only one (1) team signed up at a level, that team may advance directly to the State Championship.
- f. The number of advancing from each city is determined by the chart below:



<u>Division</u>	<u>Number Of Local Teams At A Specific NTRP Level</u>	<u>Number Of Local Teams Advancing to State League Championship</u>
Adult 18 & Over/40 & Over/55 & Over/65 & Over	2 - 13	1
	14 - 23	2
	24+	3
	2+	1

VII. Grievances

- a. General/Sportsmanship Grievances and Administrative Grievances are filed with the Local League Coordinator. Please submit via email, including a \$25.00 fee. The LLC will give the grievance to the USTA Tennessee Grievance Committee. Should the Grievance Committee find in favor of the person filing the grievance, the \$25.00 will be refunded. Forms for grievances may be obtained from the Local League Coordinator.

VIII. Committees

- a. **Local Regulations Committee: Tanya Morgan, Deanne Young, Lynn Eagen**
- b. USTA Tennessee Grievance Committee: Terryann Nelson (Chair), Debbi Booton, Jackie Mills
- c. USTA Tennessee Grievance Appeals Committee: Roger Ross (Chair), Paul Fultz, Barbara Hooper
- d. Grievance and Grievance Appeal Committee members may change or individual members substituted at the discretion of the USTA Tennessee Adult League Committee Chairperson.

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