



USTA Tennessee State Championship Procedures
2018 Championship Year

USTA/Southern/Tennessee is comprised of Chattanooga, Greeneville, Jackson, Knoxville, Memphis, META, Nashville, Tellico and Upper Cumberland. The USTA Tennessee State Championship Procedures will apply to all USTA Tennessee State Championships. When not stated in the Championship Procedures, the National, Sectional and Tennessee regulations and Friend at Court will apply.

Tennessee State Championships

USTA Tennessee offers a State Championship for each of the following programs:

- USTA League Adult 18 & Over
- USTA League Adult 40 & Over
- USTA League Adult 55 & Over
- USTA League Adult 65 & Over
- USTA League Mixed Doubles
- Southern Combo Doubles
- USTATri-Level

Team Qualification

- Area championship teams will be allowed to advance to the USTA Tennessee State Championships. If an area championship team declines their invitation, then the state association will offer the bid to the next priority team (exception: ESL Adult 18 & Over).
- Wildcards may be issued to fill up draws at the state championships. In order for a team to be eligible to receive a wildcard from a league that has three or more teams, it must have at least a 50% winning percentage in their local league play. For two team leagues, it must have a 40% or better winning percentage to be eligible. USTA Tennessee uses a random drawing procedure to ensure that each area gets a proportionately equal opportunity at a wild card team each year. Additional wildcards may be extended under discretion of Tournament Committee.

Championship Format

- USTA Tennessee Championship format shall be round robin in all levels of competition. A full draw is comprised of 2 flights with 5 teams each.
- Each team shall play every other team in its flight, and the team with the most team points shall be champion in its flight. Levels with two flight winners will offer a single elimination finals match to determine the champion.
- If a local area has two teams in the same level, the referee will place those teams in separate flights provided there are two flights in that level. If a local area has more than two teams in a two-flight division, those teams will be randomly placed such that they are dispersed as equally as possible between the two flights.

Eligibility

- All players must possess current USTA memberships through the conclusion of the USTA Tennessee State Championship.
- **USTA League Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over, and Mixed Doubles:** Players are eligible to advance to the state championship level competition if that player has played on that same team in at least 2 matches during its local league season. A maximum of 1 default received by the player during local league competition shall count for advancing to State Championships.
 - o A minimum of eight (five for 2.5 & 5.0+ levels) team members who were on the final roster of their Adult 18 & Over and/or Adult 40 & Over local league team at the conclusion of local league play must be available and eligible to compete. The Championships Tournament Committee, by majority vote, can reduce that number to not less than four (three for 2.5 & 5.0+ levels) if an eligible wildcard team cannot be found. The defaulted courts are still subject to \$50 fine.
 - o A minimum of six team members who were on the final roster of their Adult 55 & Over or Mixed Doubles local league team at the conclusion of local league play must be available and eligible to compete. The Championships Tournament Committee, by majority vote, can reduce that number to not less than four, if an eligible wildcard team cannot be found. The defaulted courts are still subject to \$50 fine
- **Adult 65 & Over* and Southern Combo Doubles*:** Team members are eligible to advance to championship level competition if that player has played on that same team in at least 1 match (1 of which may be a default received) during its local league season.
 - o A minimum of six team members (three eligible pairings) who were on the final roster of their local league team at the conclusion of local league play must be available and eligible to combine and compete. The Championships Tournament Committee, by majority vote, may reduce that number to not less than four, if an eligible wildcard team cannot be found. The defaulted courts are still subject to \$50 fine

*Please refer to 2018 Southern Rules and Regulations for full details on eligibility for Adult 65 & Over and Combo Doubles.



Registration, Entry Fee, and Deposit Requirements

- All teams must have a legal roster registered by two weeks prior to the Championship start date.
- The Championship entry fee will be \$35.00 per player if registered before the Championship Schedule is published. If registering after the Championship Schedule is published, the registration entry fee is \$60.
- No individual shall be allowed to register within 48 hours of the Championship's first scheduled match, unless approved by the USTA Tennessee Adult League Committee
- The deadline to ensure the correct t-shirt size will be two weeks prior to the start date of the Championship, and any player registering after the t-shirt deadline (wildcard teams included) cannot be guaranteed to receive the t-shirt size they request.
- Players must be registered on both TennisLink and the USTA Tennessee State League Championship registration site. In the case of administrative oversight, the Tournament Committee has the right to add a player to TennisLink and the USTA Tennessee State League Championship after the deadline.
- Any player found to be competing in the Championship without having registered on both TennisLink and the Championship Website may be subject to disqualification and their matches being reversed.
- Captains are required to submit a team deposit of \$250.00 to the USTA Tennessee office at the conclusion of their local league play. Make the check payable to: USTA Tennessee. **Please write the following on your check: Captain's name, Area, Gender, League, NTRP Level**
- Mail the check to: USTA Tennessee, 220 Athens Way, Suite 110, Nashville, TN 37228.
- The deposit check will be held by the USTA Tennessee office until the conclusion of the 2018 USTA Tennessee State League Championships. If a team pulls out before the schedule is published, the deposit will be refunded. If a team pulls out after the schedule is published (and no wild card team can be found), or if a team does not successfully complete the USTA Tennessee State tournament, the deposit will be forfeited. Additionally, the team will be subject to a grievance filed by the Tournament Committee and may receive further penalties imposed by the Championship Grievance Committee. All funds collected from forfeited teams will be given to the Tennessee Tennis Patrons Foundation.
- Awards and amenities at the USTA Tennessee State League Championship will be given to all players on the Championship roster that have paid to participate in the USTA Tennessee State League Championship

Scheduled Matches

- The Championship Schedule will be released one week prior to the Championship start date.
- The captain is responsible for checking his/her team in at the site of the match. When all players are present and ready to play, the captain will turn in their lineup at the site desk using one of the scorecards available at the site desk, no later than the scheduled match time. It is asked that captains turn in scorecards 30 minutes prior to the start of their scheduled match.
- If a team has a known default, the opposing team will have up to five minutes to revise their scorecard once both scorecards are turned in and the default has been announced by the site director. A known default is defined as turning in a scorecard with no player name(s) at the defaulted position.
- A player may play on more than one team at the USTA Tennessee State Championships, however, captains are responsible for ensuring a full team lineup for every match. Absolutely no scheduling accommodations will be made for players playing on multiple teams. Delays in the schedule, including weather delays, do not constitute a valid reason to waive the fine for a defaulted court.
- No substitution may be made in an individual match after the line-up has been presented, except for injury to, illness of, ineligibility or disqualification of a player after the lineup has been turned in, but prior to the start of such match, and except other circumstances listed in procedures. If a substitution is made during warm-up, 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.
- If a captain duplicates a name in error on a scorecard, a team may be allowed to substitute a player for the duplicate name in the lower position (at the discretion of the Tournament Committee), using a player not already listed in the line-up. If no such substitution can be made, the affected position only will be defaulted.
- The Point Penalty System, which includes the 15-minute default time rule, will be strictly enforced. Court monitors may be used to time warm-ups and changeovers.
- Winners of individual matches will take the balls and report the score immediately to the site desk.
- Team and Individual scores and standings may be posted at the tournament headquarters each day. Results will be entered into TennisLink throughout each day and can be viewed on this website.
- Captains, or captains representatives, are expected to sign each scorecard after each scheduled match is completed before leaving the tennis facility. Failure to sign the scorecard may result in scores posted online only confirmed by opposing captain.
- If a team match is postponed following the exchange of line-ups, the original line-up will stand for the make-up match UNLESS teams are released from the tournament by the Tournament Director and/or Referee. If teams are released, the line-up would stand only for those positions that have already started (first service attempt) and all other positions (even those that were in warm-up) may be changed including defaulted courts.
- Tournament Referees will not be used to make line calls or call foot faults.
- In the event of significant weather challenges, the Tournament Committee may use an alternate scoring match format, in order to complete the tournament.



Scoring

- Each team will receive 1 point for each team match won. Results may be posted on the official scoreboards. To comply with national regulation 2.03H, in the event of a tie, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so: winner of the most individual matches, then winner of head-to-head match, then least sets lost, then least games lost, then a coin toss. Please see national regulation 2.03H(1) for further information. All scores are final 48 hours after the conclusion of the tournament.
- All teams are expected to play all scheduled matches. Any team not complying may be subject to grievance procedures in addition to forfeiting the team deposit check. Teams are also expected to provide full line-ups for all team matches. If player participation on more than one team results in a team defaulting a court, the defaulting team may be subject to grievance procedures. Penalties may include but are not limited to monetary fines and/or suspension from league play. In accordance with USTA League Tennis Regulations, any team forfeiting an entire team match for any reason will result in all matches of that team previously played or to be played to be declared null and void. (Exception: The final match of a division may be counted as a double default if the captains, or captain's representative, of both teams, agree to abandon the match AND if the standings of all other teams in that division would not be affected by the match being abandoned. A double default must be approved by the Tournament Committee, and no fines or penalties shall be imposed.) If all teams in contention for the Championships have already played the forfeiting team in good faith, the matches stand as played.
- If any team is released from the State Championships due to inclement weather and certain individual matches in their team match have already been started, it will be recorded in TennisLink as a "retirement" with the leading team in the individual match as the "winner." (For example, team leading 6-4, 0-4 would be considered the leading team. If a 2nd set is not completed, the team winning first set is considered the leading team.)

Grievances

- Filing fee for State Championship Grievances (General/Sportsmanship, Administrative) will be \$50, made payable to USTA Tennessee. The fee will only be refunded to the filing party if the grievance is upheld or if a penalty is imposed on the subject party. All collected fees will be donated to the Tennessee Tennis Patrons Foundation.
- Forms are available at each of the sites at the tournament desk. Completed grievance forms must be presented to the Site Director at the site of the match within 30 minutes of the completion of the team match.
- The committees involved will handle all grievances as promptly as possible. Unless requested by the committee, only the captain and the player(s) involved will be permitted at any hearings.
- NTRP Grievances filed within 21 days of the start date of the player's and/or captain's state championship will be administered after the event unless the section authorizes the administration of the grievance prior to that time. If the grievance is not administered until after the event, points won by players will stand.
- A team forfeiting an entire team match during championship play may receive further penalties imposed by the Championship Grievance Committee.

NTRP Dynamic Disqualification & Other Advancement Information

- USTA Southern follows national regulation 2.04E(2)c in that dynamic ratings will be generated following the State Championships. Points earned by disqualified players will stand. The disqualified player will not be eligible to advance to the next level of competition.
- NTRP Grievances filed within 21 days of the state championship against anyone participating in the State Championships will be administered after the State Championships unless the USTA Tennessee Adult League Committee Chair and State League Coordinator authorize the administration of the grievance prior to that time. If the grievance is not administered until after the State Championships, points won by players will stand. Disqualified players and/or captains that are suspended will not be eligible to advance to the National Championships.



Tournament Cancellation Policy

- Should inclement weather or other circumstances prevent the completion of a State Championship or prevent round robin matches from starting by 5:00 PM (local time) on Sunday, the round robin winners will be determined by the first of the following procedures that does so:
 - o In the event a level or flight within a level consists of multiple round robins, the first place team will be determined by TennisLink standings at the conclusion of the most recent full round robin. If no full round robin is completed, the below-mentioned procedures would apply.
 - o In the event that only one team in a round robin has a mathematical chance of finishing first, that team will be declared the winner of the round robin.
 - o If more than one team has a mathematical chance of winning their round robin, and the first place team has already beaten the other teams with a mathematical chance of winning, the 1st place team would be considered the round robin winner as the head-to-head winner.
 - o If a round robin winner cannot be determined, and each team in a round robin has been given the opportunity to complete a minimum of one team match, only teams with a mathematical chance of finishing first will receive an entry into a drawing. Undefeated teams will receive a second entry into the drawing.
 - o If a round robin winner cannot be determined, and each team in a round robin has not been given the opportunity to complete a minimum of one team match, each team will receive one entry into a drawing to determine the round robin winner.
- The following procedure will take place when two round robin winners (in a specific age group and NTRP level) have been determined by the above-mentioned procedures and/or cancellation occurs after the finals have begun:
 - o Both teams can agree to meet at a mutual location and time to play for the sectional championship. A deadline will be given by the Tournament Committee to complete the match. If both teams cannot agree to a mutual location and time prior to or on the deadline set forth by the Tournament Committee, both teams will receive an entry into a drawing to determine the state champion. USTA Southern will not be responsible for providing an official or for expenses relating to this match.

Administration

- Tournament Committee will use proper and fair judgment with regard to all state tournament-related issues.
- Tournament Committee: To be appointed by Tennessee Adult League Committee Chair.
- Championship Grievance Committee: To be appointed by Tennessee Adult League Committee Chair.
- Championship Procedures may be amended at Tournament Committee's discretion