



Preface

The purpose of the rules and regulations is to assure that fair play and good conduct is maintained and to ensure that all teams and players are treated equally in USTA League Tennis. The rules and regulations will be enforced on all teams and players. It is the responsibility of each team captain to familiarize all team members with the rules and regulations. National, Southern, and Tennessee regulations are in full force and apply to all levels of play in the USTA League Tennis programs in Tennessee. They may not be changed by local league regulations. **All rules are available via www.usta.com**

I. Player and Team Eligibility:

- A. Each player participating in USTA Early Start League Tennis must be a current member of the USTA. A \$25.00 league fee must be paid prior to the start of the league season. No refunds will be issued once a player has registered Tennis Link, as long as there are 2 teams in the given division.
- B. Each player participating in USTA League Tennis must be 18 years of age or turn 18 during the 2016 calendar.
- C. Each player will use his/her most current NTRP computer rating on file in Tennis Link (2013, 2014, and 2015). Players who do not have a computer rating on file in Tennis Link shall self-rate in accordance with the National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) Guidelines and complete the self-rating process on Tennis Link when registering for a team. Failure to do so or omission of information regarding a player's tennis history will subject the player, the captain and/or others who condoned inaccurate self-rating to sanctions and disqualification.
- D. Players are eligible to play teams at different levels. Example: A 4.0 NTRP player may play on a 4.0 team and a 4.5 team. Players may not play higher than one level up from their current NTRP or self-rating. League schedules cannot accommodate players on multiple levels and teams.
- E. Team captains are responsible for making sure that all team members meet eligibility criteria. They are also responsible for having their team represented at all USTA League Tennis organizational meetings.
- F. No more than 50% of teams' players may reside outside of the state of Tennessee.
- G. If in any division, only two teams exist in a level of play, each team must maintain its roster with at least 60% of its players at the designated NTRP level of play.

II. Levels of Play:

- A. It is the intention of USTA League Tennis to offer competition at the following levels:
Men: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5+
Women: 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0+
- B. Each level shall consist of a minimum of three teams. A level that is unable to field a 3 team league may be allowed a 2 team league, per USTA, at that specified level. Specific rules apply to two team levels. See state rules.
- C. Teams winning their division of USTA Early Start League Tennis will be invited to participate in the 2016 Tennessee State Championships. Divisions may be divided into two or more flights with a play off at the end of local play to determine a first place team.

A playoff will be necessary to determine the team/teams that will represent the Nashville Early Start League at the State Tournament. Playoff date for Nashville Adult Early Start League is TBD.

D. If a player plays on both the Early Start League and the Spring Adult League and both teams advance to the state championships, the player must choose one team to advance with.

E. Any team withdrawing from the playoffs after the schedule has been posted on Tennis Link will be subject to a grievance filed by the Local League Grievance Committee.

F. If a Local League has a playoff, it will defer to championship procedures in the event of a tie. **Please refer to national regulation 2.03tt.**

III. Team Rosters:

A. USTA League Tennis teams must have a minimum of 8 members and no more than 18.

B. Initial legal rosters must be in Tennis Link by 10:59 PM CT, September 14, 2015. Players may be added up to 10:59 PM CT, October 19th, 2015.

C. Note: A player must play at least two matches (singles, doubles or one of each) to be eligible to play in the Tennessee State Championships and to receive a computer rating. In order to advance out of local league to championship an individual player must have participated in 2 matches on that specific team with no more than one default counting.

D. Each team must designate a captain and co-captain and one must have internet access.

E. It is the captain and co-captains responsibility to update address, email, and phone numbers on Tennis Link. These are the numbers the committees and coordinators will use to communicate with the captains.

F. Mandatory Captain's Meeting: Tuesday, September 15th, 2015 • 6pm • Centennial Sportsplex multi-purpose building

IV. League Season:

A. Schedules will be posted on Tennis Link before the league season begins. No schedules will be mailed. It will be the captain's responsibility to obtain schedules through Tennis Link.

B. The home team will be responsible for scheduling the courts and choosing the court surface. Advance notice of court surface is not required. ***The home team provides balls. Court fees, if applicable, will be split between teams.***

C. A team must provide at least two courts for team matches. Singles will play first followed by number one and two doubles in that order. Captains may agree to alter the order positions play.

D. Both captains are responsible for entering and/or confirming match scores on Tennis Link. The scores must be entered and confirmed within 48 hours of the completion of the match.

E. League season will begin no earlier than September 28th, 2015 and end no later than December 15th, 2015

V. Match Play:

A. Team matches will consist of two singles and three doubles matches.

B. Any individual match is any singles match or any doubles match played as part of a team match.

C. The captains for each team shall exchange their team scorecards at the scheduled match time. **Note National and Sectional Rules.**

VI. Scoring:

- A. Individual matches will be the better of two sets set tiebreak (first to 7 by 2) shall be played at 6-all in each set. In lieu of a third set, a Match tiebreak (first to 10 by 2) shall be played. There will be no rest period or coaching. The Match tiebreak shall be scored as one set and one game in the event of a default or forfeit shall be 6-0, 6-0.
- B. The team that wins the majority of its individual matches in a team match will be awarded one team point.
- C. In the event of a tie in a team match or in league standing at the end of the season, the tie will be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:
 - a. Team winning the most individual matches.
 - b. Team losing the fewest sets.
 - c. Team losing the fewest games.
- D. All tie breaks will follow the Coman Tiebreak Procedure: the same as the present Tiebreak except that ends are changed after the first point, then after every four points, and at the conclusion of the Tiebreak. The scoring is the same as traditional set or match Tiebreak. Beneficial in doubles as players continue to serve from the same side as during the set.

VII. Forfeit and Defaults:

- A. A 15 minute default rule will be in effect for the scheduled start time for each individual league match.
- B. A team must have a minimum of five eligible players for play in each match or the entire match must be forfeited.
- C. Forfeits must be taken beginning with No. 2 doubles.
- D. If a player is not a member of the competing team or the USTA, at the time he/she plays an official match, he/she will forfeit that match and any other matches played while not a USTA/team member.
- E. The name of forfeiting players DOES NOT have to be written on the scorecard. The written score shall be 6-0, 6-0; as if the match had been played.
- F. If a match is begun and must be defaulted 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). Make a note of who actually won the games played.
- G. Each forfeited or defaulted match will be counted as an individual match point for the opposing team.
- H. All matches not forfeited or defaulted will be played as scheduled.
- I. 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.
- J. In the event that players for both teams are unable to play an individual match, a double forfeit will be declared and no point will be awarded for that individual match.

VII. Play Postponement or Interruptions:

- A. If play is interrupted by weather, darkness or other factors beyond the control of players, completed individual matches will stand as played.
- B. If the temperature is below 32 degrees, the match may be rescheduled, or if both captains agree, the match will be played. The following indoor court rule applies to the below 32 degrees situation. In the event of rain, the match will be played if the home team can provide indoor courts with starting time no later than one hour past the scheduled match time. Teams only need to provide a minimum of one court and one position must play if indoor court/courts are provided at the scheduled time. If home indoor courts are not available and the away team can provide indoor courts, the match will be played away with a

starting time no later than 1 ½ hours past the original scheduled time (this allows for travel). ***Court costs will be split between both teams.*** Teams may reschedule if both captains agree.

C. If a team make-up match is required, the two team captains will agree on a date for the makeup to be played. Captains may also give the players the authority to set their own individual court time and location. This time becomes the new match time and is subject to all rules pertaining in VIII. The agreed date is the new scheduled match time. Failure to play on this date will result in default for each individual match not present. Should neither team be present, the double default rule will apply (3.03 K). The date is to be no later than 12 days following the date the match was originally scheduled. If a match is rained out, the captains have twelve days to make-up the rained out match. If the captains are unable to make up the match within 12 days, the Local League coordinators will schedule the time and place for playing raincoat matches. Rain-outs that occur the last weekend of league play will be scheduled immediately by the Local League Coordinator. Forfeits offered verbally prior to the original written lineup exchange are nullified when the match is rescheduled due to rain or inclement weather.

D. Court surface is determined by the home team and may change due to inclement weather.

E. When a match is delayed by rain or wet courts, teams must wait one hour to determine if play can begin. If courts are not playable after one hour, team captains may reschedule the match unless they mutually decide to wait longer.

F. Decisions to delay matches due to rain or inclement weather should not be made prior to the scheduled match date.

IX. Player Conduct:

A. Cell Phones must be turned off during a team match. If a phone rings during a point, it is a let for the first occurrence. Each additional interruption will be a point for the opposing team.

B. No linesmen or umpires will be supplied for matches.

C. Players are encouraged to call the game score before each game and the point score before each point to avoid confusion.

D. Team captains, coaches, pros or spectators may give no coaching once an individual match has begun. There is no rest period or coaching between the second set and match tiebreak.

E. All players are expected to be familiar with USTA rules.

F. For matters not covered in these local rules refer to the USTA League Tennis National, Southern, and State regulations. The USTA regulations "The Code" of conduct applies.

G. Grievances are filed with the Local League Coordinator. They must be submitted via US Mail or email and must include a \$25 in-refundable fee. Exception: No fee for filing a self-rate grievance. The LLC will give the grievance to the Local Grievance committee. Forms for grievances may be obtained from the Local League Coordinator or the USTA Tennessee website (www.ustatn.com)

The Local League Rules committee has the authority to interpret the rules.

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