



2022 USTA Tennessee League Regulations Nashville

Local League Coordinator:
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☒Adult 18& Over ☒Adult 40 & Over ☒Adult 55 & Over ☒Adult 65 & Over ☐Mixed Leagues ☐Tri-Level ☐Combo

Regulations written in BLUE text are specific to Nashville leagues.

<u>League</u>	<u>Local Registration Opens</u>	<u>Deadline for Local Legal Team Registration</u>	<u>Local Last Day to Add Individual</u>	<u>Local Schedule Released</u>	<u>Local Playoff Dates</u>	<u>TN League Play Deadline</u>	<u>2022 State Championship Dates</u>
18 & Over	January 1, 2022	Feb. 7	April 26	Feb. 21	May 14-28	May 26, 2022	18 & Over Even/ 40 & Over Odd June 10-12th (Murfreesboro, TN)
40 & Over		Feb. 7	April 26	Feb. 21	May 14-28		18 & Over Odd/40 & Over Even June 24-26th (Murfreesboro, TN)
55 & Over		Feb. 7	April 26	Feb. 21	April 30	May 4th 2022	May 20-22nd (Knoxville, TN)
65 & Over		July 11	July 15	July 13	None	August 11, 2022	September 9-11th Knoxville, TN

I. Local Regulations regarding Dates, Times, Courts

- a. Local play will begin as soon as needed to get all local play completed by the USTA Tennessee State league play deadline.
- b. Any match may be played prior to the originally scheduled match.
- c. Evening weekday matches played in Hendersonville, Murfreesboro or The Grove will have an official start time at 7:00 pm to allow for traffic. Matches can start earlier if captains agree.
- d. Coordinator reserves the right to alter the start times and stagger matches that have multiple teams declaring the same home facility.
- e. If there are more matches than weeks of play, teams may have two matches per week.
- f. Play may be necessary during a USTA Championship League event. Divisions 18 & Over 3.0-4.5 teams that has at least 6 players (2.5 teams that have at least 3 players), 40 & Over 3.0-4.5 that has at least 5 players and 55 & Over 3.0-9.0 that have at least 4 players that are playing in a USTA championship may reschedule their match. The players must be registered for the championships for the team to be eligible to reschedule their match. The captain of the team that needs to reschedule, must notify the opposing team captain at least 14 days prior to the scheduled match. Then, both captains must notify the LLC by email that the match is to be rescheduled. The same



rules that apply to rainout reschedules will apply to this type of reschedule. All matches must be completed by local deadlines.

- g. It is the Captain's responsibility to ensure that any player added to a team after league play has started will have enough matches to qualify for advancement.
- h. It is the responsibility of *both* Captains to communicate at least 4 days prior to the match date to confirm location, time and how many courts are available.
- i. Captains must determine a site for their team's home matches and designate home facility in TennisLink when forming a team. Captains must confirm site usage with the Tennis Director/Facility Coordinator immediately after the league schedule has been published. Not reserving courts and hoping to walk on courts that have not been reserved, may be a default against the home team if courts are unavailable.
- j. Home teams will pay the court fees and supply new standard Type 2 USTA tennis balls for each match.
- k. If a home team playing on a WEEK NIGHT cannot provide all courts at their stated home facility at match time, the remaining courts will be played at the visiting team's stated home facility. Any court fees incurred by playing on the visitors' courts will be split between all players. If the visiting team cannot provide the remaining courts at match time, it is the home team's responsibility to provide those courts at an alternate facility. Note Regulation IV.b.i when scheduling courts.

II. Individual Registration

- a. All participants must be current members of the USTA.
- b. Players must be 18 years of age prior to participating in the USTA League program.
- c. 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.
- d. 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 General & Experienced Player Guidelines.
 - 1. Self-ratings are valid for two years from the date issued or until replaced by a dynamic or computer rating.
 - 2. If a player does not have a valid computer (C) rating from a previous year, he/she must self-rate to be assigned a new rating, reassigned to their last expired rating or a higher rating based on their playing history.
 - i. No year-end ratings were published for 2020.
 - ii. For additional information concerning Rating Program; see section 1.04F in the USTA National Regulations.
- e. A player will play at their current NTRP level and/or up one level above the current NTRP level. (For example: a 3.0 NTRP player may play at 3.0 and at 3.5)
- f. 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 defaulted.
- g. Each player must pay a **\$25** league fee for each team that he/she is joining that will be charged during the registration process. In addition, there is a \$3.00 processing fee assessed



from TennisLink at the time of registration. Total fee on TennisLink will be **\$28** per registrant per team.

- h. Teams that are required to play local league at state will pay \$4.00 at time of registration. The TennisLink fee will also be charged when registering.
- i. Players requesting a refund must do so by contacting the LLC.
 - 1. No refund will be offered beyond 1 week after state league play deadline.
 - 2. 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.

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: Captain's Last Name/Nashville. For example: (Smith/Nashville).
- 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.
- d. Adult 65 & Over offers direct advancement, so the minimum 2 team levels do not apply.
- e. 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.
- f. USTA Tennessee limits the number of players that may appear on a team roster. Please see the table in Local Regulation IV. c for the maximum number of players on a roster in each league.

IV. League Regulations

- a. If a Section, District or Local League does not have a regulation in place to address an issue, and there is a national regulation on that issue, the national regulation must be followed.
 - i. **Local rules may be changed or edited upon approval from the Local Rules Committee.**
- b. **Nashville** defines itself as **Davidson, Robertson, Sumner, Williamson and Cheatham counties**. Teams competing in the **Nashville** Local Leagues must play in facilities that reside within the defined area.
 - i. **Adams Tennis Complex (ATC) in Murfreesboro is an exception to this rule only for teams declaring ATC as their home facility. Teams that have not declared ATC as their home facility may not schedule ATC indoors or outdoors for makeup matches or alternative courts, unless both captains agree.**
- c. USTA Adult Leagues in **Nashville** are offered in the following divisions:



SOUTHERN
TENNESSEE

01 11/15/2021

<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	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 3 Doubles	7	16
		3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	1 Singles 4 Doubles	7	20
	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

Divisions that play their “Local League” at USTA Tennessee State League Championships.

Adult 18 & Over –

1. Adult 18 & Over 2.5 Men, 5.0 Men and Women
2. These levels must meet the State deadline of **May 26th, 2022** for team and individual registration. All players must be registered in TennisLink by May 26th.

Adult 55 & Over -

3. Adult 55 & Over 3.0 Men and 9.0 Men – These two divisions will play the local league at the USTA Tennessee State League Championship. NTRP rating level difference between partners shall not exceed 1.0. These levels must meet the State deadline of **April 28, 2021** for team and individual registration. All players must be registered in TL by April 28th.
- d. Divisions may be divided into two or more flights with a playoff at the end of local play to determine the **Nashville** champion. Cities may use either Full Round Robin or Partial Round Robin as approved formats provided there is at least a single elimination playoff between the top two teams to establish a local league champion for that NTRP level.
- e. 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.

V. Local League Play- Official Ball, a standard Type 2 USTA approved ball shall be used.

All matches are played without officials, the USTA official publication, The Code, shall be observed. Point Penalty Suspension System in effect for 2022.

- a. The team captain for each team shall exchange their team line-up simultaneously prior to the beginning of the team match.
- b. A player may participate in only one individual match within each team match.
- c. No substitution may be made in an individual match after the line up has been presented, except for injury to, illness of, or disqualification of a player prior to the start of an individual match. 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. 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.



- d. No coaching is allowed in USTA Adult League matches.
 - i. **Coaching is considered to be communication, advice or instruction of any kind and by any means to a player.**
- e. 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.**
- f. USTA Tennessee Adult league matches in **Nashville** shall be:
 - i. **All local leagues, playoffs and State Championship matches will be the best of two sets with a set tiebreak (first to 7 by 2) used at 6 all in each set. After each set there is a two-minute rest period allowed. No coaching will be allowed during set breaks.**
 - ii. **In lieu of a third set, a match tiebreak (first to 10 by 2) shall be played. The Coman Tiebreak Procedure will be used for all set tiebreaks and match tiebreaks in local league, playoffs and state championship matches.**
 - iii. **Warmups are limited to 5 minutes. When the players change ends at the end of a game, a maximum of 90 seconds are allowed. However, after the first game of each set and during a tie-break game, play shall be continuous and the players shall change ends without a rest. After each set there is a two-minute rest period. Restroom breaks can be taken at any time.**
- g. In the event of a tie in an individual 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
- h. In the event of a tie 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. **Coin Toss: Winning team will be decided by a coin toss.**
- i. 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.



- j. If a team plays a local match without a full lineup, forfeits must be taken according to the following formats:
 - 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.
 - 2 Singles/3 Doubles formats, forfeits must occur at either #3 doubles or #2 singles.
 - 3 Doubles format, forfeits must occur at #3 Doubles.
- k. 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 2.03K on team default procedures.
- l. 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).
- m. 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 with the win going to person/team receiving default.
- n. 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.
- o. 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.
 - i. **In the event of rain, the match will be played if the home team can provide indoor courts with a starting time no later than 1 hour from the original 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 match time. If home indoor courts are not available and the away team can provide indoor courts, then the match will be played away with a starting time no later than 1½ hours past the original scheduled time (this allows for travel time). Court costs and/or guest fees will be split between both teams.**
 - ii. **When a match is delayed by rain or wet courts, teams must wait one hour to determine if play can resume. If courts are not playable after one hour, the match will be rescheduled unless captains agree to wait longer.**
 - iii. **If a team make-up match is required, the team captains will agree on a date for the make-up to be played. Captains may also 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.**



- iv. The original lineup may be changed for a makeup match as long as the match has not been started, meaning the first ball has not been served and the players have not already played in that particular match.
 - v. The date of a team make-up match is to be no later than 14 days following the date of the original scheduled match. Both of the 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.
 - vi. If the air temperature is below 40°F, or above 93°F at match time, the match may be rescheduled, or if both captains agree the match will be played. The decision to reschedule or move the match indoors must be made prior to the start of play. Once the match has begun outdoors, regardless of temperature, it must be completed outdoors. The official weather source used will be weather.com. Rules, V.o.i-v, applies to the below 40°F, or above 93°F situation.
 - vii. If your team's match is not finished by the time the next match is scheduled to start, your players will have to vacate the courts and finish per inclement weather policy if one or both of the next scheduled match captains so desire.
- 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

- p. 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 2.01L 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.**
- b. To be eligible to compete in **Nashville Local League Playoff** and USTA Tennessee League State Championship, players must play:
 1. Two local matches on the same team required to advance to state championship for the Adult 18, 40, 55 & Over divisions.
 2. One default received shall count
 3. A retirement counts as a match played for all players involved.
 4. Refer to 2.03A for additional eligibility information
- 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 **Nashville** 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	2 - 13	1
	14 - 23	2
	24+	3
Adult 65 & Over	If a city has 2 or more teams in any Adult 65 & Over division, they must play locally	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. Administration

- a. **Local Regulations Committee: Tanya Capeling, Elizabeth Walker, Barbara Hooper, Pat Yung-Okamoto**
 - i. **The Local League Rules Committee has the authority to interpret the rules.**
- b. USTA Tennessee Grievance Committee: Terryann Nelson (Chair), Debbi Booton, Jackie Mills
- c. USTA Tennessee Grievance Appeals Committee: Roger Ross (Chair), Barbara Hooper, Alice Zhang
- d. Grievance and Grievance Appeal Committee members may change or individual members substituted at the discretion of the USTA Tennessee Adult League Committee Chairperson.

Additional Resources to find league information: usta.com and ustatn.com