



## 2009 Mississippi Regulations

Play is governed by the RULES OF TENNIS, "The Code" as contained in the current USTA Yearbook, the STA Sectional Regulations and the following district rules.

1. All participants must be current members of the USTA during the entire local league season.

**2. Each team must submit a security deposit of \$150.00 to the Mississippi Tennis Association.** The deposit will be submitted to the Local League Coordinator. The Local League Coordinator will forward the deposits to the office of the MTA where they will be stored in a safety deposit box and then destroyed at the end of each season. This deposit may be forfeited due to failure to adhere National, Sectional, State, or Local regulations. Forfeited deposits will go into the funds used to award grants to repair and build courts in Mississippi (Adopt-a-Court grants) Teams incurring expenses due to a forfeiture of the opposing team may submit original receipts and a request for reimbursement not to exceed the amount of the deposit. Requests must be submitted in writing to the MTA office within 48 hours of forfeiture ruling.

3. All participants must reach 19 years of age during the calendar year in which they play their first local league match.

4. The National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) is the official system for rating levels of competition in this league program. Players without a NTRP computer rating may self-rate themselves in accordance with the NTRP Guidelines and the USTA Southern Section Elite Player Guidelines. 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.

5. A player may not be dynamically disqualified based on match results from Southern Combo Doubles and match results are not calculated in year-end NTRP computer ratings.

6. The format of play will be three individual doubles matches per team match. Levels offered in this program are 5.0, 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5 and 10.5. For seniors, the levels offered are 5.5, 6.5, 7.5 and 8.5. Each individual doubles team's combined NTRP ratings may not exceed the level entered. **The maximum level of play allowed at the combined 5.0 level is 2.5.**

7. A participant may play on more than one team; however, a participant may not play on more than one adult or senior team in the same level in the same local league. For example, a participant may play on a 7.5 adult team and an 8.5 adult team but may not play on two different 7.5 adult teams. However, a participant may play on the same level adult and senior teams. A player may play the same NTRP level in two different local leagues as long as that player is playing on a team in their Local League area. Each participant must pay the league fee for each team he/she plays on. Players who qualify for the State Championship may advance on more than one adult team and more than one senior team but must understand that there will be no special scheduling consideration

given. Players that qualify for Sectionals on more than one team must choose which team they will advance with.

8. All participants must play at least one match locally to be eligible for further competition. If there is no local competition offered, a team may advance directly to the Southern Combo Doubles State Championship. If there is no state competition offered, a team may advance directly to the Southern Combo Doubles Sectional Championship. **If there is local play the required match must be played locally.**

9. A maximum of 14 players may be on a roster; however, a local league may limit the number of players on a roster to some number less than 14.

10. Teams may add players after play begins for that level until a date set by Area Local League Coordinator.

**11. The Southern Self-Rate NTRP Grievance and Grievance Appeal Committees will have jurisdiction over grievances filed against any self-rated player or his/her captain who commits or condones entering two levels or more below actual skill level. Self-Rate NTRP Grievances filed within two weeks of the start date of the player's and/or captain's State or Sectional Championships will be administered after the event unless the state or 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. Disqualified players and/or captains that are suspended will not be eligible to advance to the next level of championship play.**

## 12. STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

A. The following number of teams per local league will automatically qualify to advance to the Adult Combo Championships:

2 – 10 Teams: 1 Team	31 – 40 Teams: 4 Teams
11 – 20 Teams: 2 Teams	41 – 50 Teams: 5 Teams
21 – 30 Teams: 3 Teams	51 – 60 Teams: 6 Teams

The following number of teams per local league will automatically qualify to advance to the Senior Combo Championships:

2 – 5 Teams: 1 Team
6 – 10 Teams: 2 Teams
11 – 15 Teams: 3 Teams

B. **WILDCARD PROCEDURES:** If it is determined that additional teams are needed to complete the draw in any level, areas receiving a Wildcard will be determined by rotation among the local leagues.

C. The Championship format will be round robin where a team will receive one point for a team match. The team with the most points is the winner. In the event of a tie, it will be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:

Number of individual match wins.

Loser of the fewest number of sets.

Loser of the fewest number of games.

Winner of the head to head match.

A method to be determined by the tournament committee.

**Teams will be scheduled for minimum of three and a maximum of six matches, excluding semi-finals and finals.**

- D. REPLACEMENT OF TEAMS: In the event a qualifying team is unable to come to the championship, the team shall be replaced the first of the following that does so:

Team in second place in same local league

Team in second place in Wild Card Rotation

Team next in line in a randomly (blind draw) chosen local league

**If a team must be replaced 48 hours or less prior to the beginning of the tournament, a team shall be replaced by the first of the following that does so or the team may not be replaced:**

**Team from the host city**

**Team from the local league**

- E. In the event a team at any championship forfeits an entire match, all matches of that team played or to be played will be null and void. If all teams in contention for the Championships have already played the defaulting team in good faith, the matches stand as played. A monetary deposit will be required of all teams at championships; this deposit may be forfeited by any team forfeiting an entire team match. A team forfeiting an entire team match during championship play may receive further penalties imposed by the tournament committee.
- F. 2009 Mississippi League Championships Cancellation Policy: Should inclement weather or other circumstances prevent the completion of a State Championship, the Tournament Committee will determine whether the matches played at the point of cancellation will be used to determine round robin group winners and a champion and finalist in each level.

If the Tournament Committee determines that there was a lack of “equal opportunity” for all teams in the level due to the schedule of play, the Tournament Committee will place all teams in a drawing to determine the champion and finalist in each level. (For instance, in a five team round robin, one team may be in first place at the time of cancellation with two matches played, while other teams in the round robin have fewer matches played. This example would not provide “equal opportunity” for all teams in the round robin and would not be used to determine the round robin group winner). If any team(s) in a round robin flight is mathematically out of contention at the time of championship cancellation it will be excluded from the drawing.