2009 North Central **LOCAL LEAGUE RULES**

Local League Coordinator, Tommy Clements

The purpose of Southern Combo Doubles tennis in Mississippi is to promote team tennis using the National Tennis Rating Program ("NTRP") for players of comparable ability to have fair and recreational play at the local level.

I. LEAGUE REGULATIONS

All players will abide by the USTA rules of tennis: The Code, Friend at Court, USTA League Regulations and the Mississippi 2009 Southern Combo Doubles League Regulations. All USTA, STA and MTA rules apply before any local league rules.

II. PLAYER REQUIREMENTS

All participants must be current members of the USTA through November 2009 or later.

Adult players may play in the adult division during the calendar year in which they reach age 19. Senior players may play in the senior division during the calendar year in which they reach age 50.

Players who do not have a computer rating on file in TennisLink shall self-rate in accordance with the National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) Guidelines and complete the self-rating process on TennisLink 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.

PLAYERS WITH A COMPUTER RATING: Players with a 2006. 2007, or 2008 computer rating must enter at that rating or higher.

The Southern NTRP Oversight Committee will have jurisdiction over grievances filed against any self-rated player or his/her captain who commits or condones entering one level or more below actual skill level.

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.**

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 in the same area. 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 $18 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.
NOTE: If both teams at the same level in two different local leagues advance to the State Championship, the player must choose which team they will advance with.

Note: If there is no local competition offered for a team level, that team may advance directly to the State Championship.

A team member must play **ONCE** during the local league season to advance to the State Championship for Southern Combo Doubles. This applies to both Adults and Seniors. Players must play in at least one local or state championship match in order to advance to the Combo Doubles Sectional Championships (defaults do count towards advancement in this program). If there is local play the required match must be played locally. If there is no local or State competition offered, a team may advance directly to the Combo Doubles Southern Sectional Championships.

III. TEAM MATCH FORMAT

Team match format for the Combo Doubles program will be three individual doubles matches per team match. Levels offered in this program for Adults are 5.0, 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, and 9.5 . 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. **Only 2.0 and 2.5 players can participate in the 5.0 division**

The maximum number of players on an Adult or Senior team is 14 players per team

All individual matches shall be the best of two sets, regular scoring, with a **set tiebreak** (first to 7 by 2) at six all in each set In the event that teams split sets, a third set will be played. Matches should begin promptly as scheduled with a five minute warm-up allowed. There is a fifteen minute default rule in effect for all scheduled matches. A team **may not** forfeit an entire match. If a team is required to play 3 courts, only 1 court may be forfeited-#3 Doubles. **NOTE: If a team defaults an entire match for any reason during round robin play, all matches of that team played or to be played shall be null and void in the team standings. Also, the team will forfeit their security deposit and a grievance may be filed by the Local League Coordinator & further penalties may be imposed.**

The Home Team will furnish the courts and **new** balls. Court surfaces should be the same for all team matches. The Home Team Captain must notify the Visiting Team Captain for **mutual** agreement if a different surface is to be used. If the court surface is agreeable, the Home Team Captain must let the Visiting Team captain know 48 hours in advance which position(s) will be played on what surface(s).

The Home Team Captain must confirm the match date and time by contacting the Visiting Team Captain at least two days prior to the match.

Note: If there are two home teams (play out of the same facility) in the same flight, that match cannot be the last match – even if it has to be rescheduled.

IV. RESCHEDULED MATCHES

A team match may be rescheduled **ONLY** under the following circumstances: rain or severe temperatures (40 or below). Wind chill is a factor for severe temperatures. **Extreme heat is not a reason to reschedule**. In the event that inclement weather occurs during play, completed matches will stand as played. The same players at the exact set, game and point that existed when play was halted must resume incomplete matches upon an agreed date and time. In the event that rain or inclement weather forces the cancellation and rescheduling of a team match, substitutions may be made in any individual matches that had not begun. Points awarded for forfeits during the original lineup exchange will stand. All players involved in such forfeits cannot participate in the re-scheduled match. Verbal forfeits offered prior to the original written lineup exchange are nullified when the match is rescheduled due to rain or inclement weather.

A match may not be cancelled until three hours prior to the scheduled match due to inclement weather.

Rescheduled matches must be completed within two weeks of the scheduled match. Once teams agree on a rescheduled date and time, the match must be played at that time. If rain occurs on that date, the match must still be completed within the same two weeks. If teams cannot agree on a rescheduled date, the Local League Coordinator will reschedule the match. If the rescheduled match is not played within the two week period, the match will be moved to a neutral site, date, and time determined by the LLC
The Local League Coordinator will make final determinations of inclement weather cancellations occurring during the last match of the season.

V. SCORECARDS

ALL SCORECARDS MUST BE ACCURATE! Team captains must exchange scorecards with a completed line-up **10 minutes prior** to a scheduled match. All scorecards are to be entered and confirmed online with TennisLink within **48 hours** of a

completed match. If confirmation has not been completed within the aforesaid **48 hours**, TennisLink will automatically confirm the scorecard and the scores will stand as entered.

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. If no such substitution can be made, the affected position will be forfeited. If a team cannot field an entire match, they must forfeit beginning at the bottom of the scorecard and working upward.

Completed scorecards are to be verified and executed by both captains upon completion of match play.

VI. DETERMINATION OF LEAGUE WINNER

The team with the most team wins will be the league champion and advance to the State Championship. In the event of a tie, USTA procedures shall govern as follows:

1. Team with most individual match wins.
2. Team with fewest sets lost.
3. Team with the fewest number of games lost.
4. Winner of the head to head match.
5. A method to be determined by the Local League Coordinator.

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

VII. CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

December 4-6, 2009 – Southern Combo Doubles Championship - Jackson, MS
January 23-27, 2010 – Southern Combo Doubles Sectional Championship - Mobile, AL

NOTE: SOUTHERN COMBO DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

VIII: SECURITY DEPOSIT

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.

IX. RESPONSIBILITIES OF TEAM CAPTAIN

The Southern Combo Doubles Tennis Team Captain will handle the administrative affairs of the team and represent the team in all Southern Combo Doubles Tennis matters. Specific responsibilities include:

1. Attend (or a team member) local league captains' meeting;
2. Submit the team entry form and security deposit;
3. Register team with TennisLink by specified deadline;
4. Insuring that all team players meet eligibility requirements;
5. Verifying match schedules which are posted online with TennisLink;
6. Confirm reservations of courts prior to match play/Confirm with the Visiting Captain;
7. Entering/confirming scorecards online with TennisLink within **48 hours** of completed matches;
8. Familiarize themselves with all tennis regulations;
9. Ensure conduct of players while on the court ; and
10. Have fun on the courts!

X. GENERAL

LEAGUE PLAY DATES: Adults and Seniors – August 18 --November 8, 2009.
The deadline date includes all rescheduled matches and is non-negotiable.

COACHING: In the event that teams split sets, Coaching will be permitted between the second and third sets.

BATHROOM BREAKS: Bathroom breaks may be taken **as needed** during the match.

CELL PHONES: If a player's cell phone rings during match play, that player automatically loses the point. A player may **not** use or talk on the cell phone while on the court.

Grievance Committee:
Ragan Burrall
Chris Klinck
Oma Myers
Tyler Smith

Grievance Appeals Committee:
Mike Graves
Beth Sanders
Rhonda Lee
David Heckel