



2009 SOUTHWEST LOCAL LEAGUE RULES

Local League Coordinators

Leanne Summers
601-757-2317
lasummers@cableone.net

Connie Rawlins
601-551-4664
crawlins@cableone.net

The purpose of Southern Combo Doubles 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.

IMPORTANT DATES

Captain's Meeting: August 9 at Fernwood Country Club at 3 pm

Deadline to form team: August 9 (may be extended one week, if needed, to recruit more teams)

Adult and Senior season: August 10 – November 8, 2009 (13 weeks)

State Tournament: December 3-6, 2009, Jackson

Southern Sectional Tournament: January 23-26, 2010, Mobile

LEAGUE REGULATIONS

Play is governed by the RULES OF TENNIS, "The Code" as contained in the current USTA Yearbook, the Southern Tennis Association (STA) Sectional Regulations and the Mississippi Tennis Association (MTA) Regulations and Local League Rules. All USTA, STA and MTA rules apply before any local league rules. These rules may not be waived by agreement of the captain. National, Southern and Mississippi regulations can be found at www.mstennis.com.

PLAYER and TEAM REQUIREMENT

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

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.

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 with which team they will advance.

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.

A player must be registered on the Tennis Link team roster prior to match play. A maximum of fourteen (14) players may be on a team roster. All participants must play at least one match locally to be eligible for further competition. Teams may add players to their roster up to the date set by the Local League Coordinator.

The maximum number of out-of-state players on a team shall not exceed 25% (14 players – 4 out-of-state; 10-13 players – 3 out-of-state; 6-9 players – 2 out-of-state) Players from Vidalia and Ferriday are not considered out-of-state players. Teams must be in compliance with this rule on the date each match is played.

TEAM MATCH FORMAT

Levels offered in Adult are 5.0, 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, and 9.5. Levels offered for seniors are 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, and 8.5. The combined NTRP rating of a doubles team may not exceed the level entered. The maximum NTRP of a player on a 5.0 team may not exceed 2.5.

Team match format consists of three individual doubles matches. 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 lieu of a third set, a match tiebreak (first to 10 by 2) shall be played. If the teams split sets, there is a two minute break prior to the match tiebreak being played.

Matches should begin promptly as scheduled with a ten-minute warm-up allowed. There is a fifteen minutes default rule in effect for all scheduled matches. A team **may not** forfeit an entire match. This action may result in a grievance being filed by the Local League Coordinator and may constitute automatic forfeiture of the \$150 security deposit.

Unless agreed upon differently by the LLC and captains involved, the number of matches to be played will be based on the number of teams in each level:

Two teams - best of five matches; three teams - triple round robin; four to five teams - double round robin; six teams and up - single round robin.

RESCHEDULED MATCHES

A team match may be rescheduled only under the following circumstances: rain or severe temperatures (40°F or lower) or upon agreement of both captains for a valid reason. In the case of inclement weather, the match should not be cancelled until 90 minutes prior to the scheduled match, unless in agreement by both captains.

If matches are in progress, rain delays should wait at least thirty minutes, unless both captains agree to postpone the match immediately. The same players at the exact point within the set must resume play within two weeks.

Cancelled or rescheduled matches must be reported to the LLC and then rescheduled in a timely manner, within two weeks, if at all possible. If teams cannot agree on a rescheduled date, the LLC will assign a time and date for the match.

SCORECARDS

Captains must simultaneously exchange completed scorecards prior to the scheduled match. In the event of illness, injury, disqualification, or no-show of a player prior to the start of a 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 team, they must forfeit beginning at the bottom of the scorecard and working up.

Captains should confirm scores on the scorecards at the completion of play. Each captain should either enter the scores or confirm the scores on TennisLink. If confirmation has not been completed within 48 hours, TennisLink will automatically confirm the scorecard and scores will stand as entered.

TEAM CAPTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

The team captain will handle the administrative affairs of the team and represent the team in all league matters. Specific responsibilities include:

1. Completing and submitting team registration to TennisLink prior to the captain's meeting.
2. Attending the mandatory local league captain's meeting or appointing a representative to attend.
3. Submitting the security deposit of \$150, made out to MTA.
4. Insuring that all team members meet eligibility requirements.
5. Scheduling match times and locations.
6. Verifying match schedules which are posted on TennisLink.
7. Confirming the match time with the opponent.
8. Entering/confirming scorecards online within 48 hours of completed matches.
9. Reading and familiarizing self with local league regulations.
10. Arranging for the tennis balls for each match.
11. Ensuring that your team players practice good conduct and sportsmanship (which includes silencing cell phones).
12. Providing accurate email address for correspondence.

GRIEVANCES

A grievance is a formal, written complaint regarding an alleged violation of a regulation or procedure. There are four types of grievances: eligibility, sportsmanship, administrative, and self-rate.

As stated at the beginning of the document, the purpose of Southern Combo Doubles is to promote team tennis using the National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) for players of comparable ability to have fair and recreational play. We hope teams and players will support this purpose and there will be no necessity for filing a grievance. However, if alleged violations occur, then questions concerning who can file a grievance, time limits, etc. and procedures can be found on www.mstennis.com under the link for "League Tennis".

Local League Grievance Committee

Noreen Pyron
Nancy Fisher
Bob Lawrence
Ralph LeMay
Paul Ott

Local League Grievance Appeals Committee

Marla Beard
Clint Rounsaville
Denice Lambert
Hunter Fordice
Wendy Blue