



2012 USTA MISSISSIPPI REGULATIONS
for USTA League Tennis
Adult, Senior, Mixed Doubles, Super Senior, & Tri-Level Divisions
League Year 2012 – as of 10/24/2011
subject to change based on National/Sectional Regulation changes

USTA League Tennis National, Southern, and Mississippi Regulations have full force and applicability at all levels of play in USTA League Tennis in Mississippi and there is no authorization to modify, amplify or change them by local or State League Coordinators, or Grievance or Grievance Appeals Committees. Any violation of these regulations shall be subject to such sanctions as may be imposed by League Grievance or Grievance Appeal Committee procedures outlined in the USTA League Regulations. USTA Southern is the final authority on such actions unless otherwise specified in Bylaws of the USTA or USTA Southern. The State League Coordinator, in conjunction with USTA Mississippi Adult League Committee Chairman, shall have the authority to interpret the USTA League Tennis Mississippi Regulations. USTA League Tennis Regulations (National and Southern) are available on the Mississippi Tennis Association website: www.mstennis.com.

All USTA and STA Regulations shall apply to the Mississippi League Programs with the modifications allowed to the state listed below:

(Note: Paragraphs included herein are numbered according to pertinent paragraphs of the 2012 USTA Southern Section League Regulations and the 2012 USTA League Tennis Regulations and should be applied in conjunction with those paragraphs.)

1.00 GENERAL

The Regulations in 1.00 GENERAL shall apply to all Mississippi USTA League divisions. Certain authorities are delegated by these regulations to the local league.

1.01 NAME The MTA Board of Directors has approved the adoption of rules and regulations for Mississippi Leagues that shall be known as the USTA Mississippi Regulations.

1.02 GOVERNANCE The USTA Mississippi Regulations shall apply to all Mississippi USTA League Tennis Program. The RULES OF TENNIS and TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS, including those for wheelchair play, shall apply to all matches played in Mississippi Leagues except as modified herein. In all matches played without officials, the USTA official publication, *THE CODE*, shall be observed. The USTA Point Penalty System shall be used at all championship levels.

1.02A Waiver of Rules and Procedures Prohibited Except where a waiver is specifically permitted by a MS League Regulation or by a MS League Procedure, no MS League Regulations or MS League Procedure shall be waived by any Local League or by any Local or State Coordinator or Grievance or Grievance Appeal Committee. Any violation of this regulation shall be subject to such sanctions as may be imposed by the USTA, STA, or MTA League Committee. Such sanctions are not subject to appeal.

1.02B (1) Amendments These USTA Mississippi Regulations may be amended by the Mississippi Adult League Committee.

1.02B (2) Written Interpretations The written interpretation of MS League Regulations is the responsibility of a committee comprised of the Chair and at least one member of the MTA Adult League Committee and the State League Coordinator.

1.03 NON DISCRIMINATION MS League shall be conducted without regard to race, creed, color, or national origin.

1.04 USTA LEAGUE

Each team participating in local or state championship play, 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.

1.04B Administration

1.04B (1) Adult League Committee The MS League shall be governed by the Adult League Committee appointed by the President of the Mississippi Tennis Association and subject to the control and direction of the Mississippi Tennis Association Board of Directors.

1.04B (3) Local Leagues The MTA has eight Local Leagues. Each Local League is responsible for the development and implementation of the MS League within its geographic territory.

1.04B (4) a State League Coordinators The MTA State League Coordinator under the employ of the MTA shall be responsible for the day to day administration of the MS League.

1.04B (4) b Local League Coordinators The State League Coordinator shall appoint Local League Coordinators to implement and administer the MS League. The Section League Coordinator must approve all appointments.

1.04B (6) Championship Committees State championship committees will be appointed and published in championship information for each event

by the State League Coordinator

1.04C (1) Official League Registration Each local league must establish deadlines and procedures for registering teams/players on TennisLink.

1.04C (2) Official Score Reporting and Standings System Each local league must establish procedures for reporting scores in TennisLink. **Scores must be reported in TennisLink within 48 hours of the completed team match. TennisLink will automatically confirm scores 48 hours after the team match is initially reported in TennisLink if not confirmed by opposing captain.**

1.04D LOCAL LEAGUE

1.04D (4) Local League Season Local leagues shall determine league season dates with approval of State League Coordinator.

1.04D (6) Team A team shall consist of players eligible to compete at a specific level of competition in accordance with the table below. A local league may limit the number of players that appear on a team roster. A local league may also limit the number of players at a specific NTRP level.

DIVISION	MIN/MAX ROSTER LIMIT	GENDER	NTRP LEVEL
ADULT	8 min/16 max	SAME GENDER	SHALL NOT EXCEED STATED NTRP LEVEL
ADULT 2.5 AND 5.0	5 min/10 max		
SENIOR	6 min/14 max		
SUPER SENIOR	6 min/14 max		
MIXED 2.5	3 men, 3 women/14 max	MEN AND WOMEN	
MIXED(Adult, Senior, & Super Senior)	3 men, 3 women/14 max	MEN AND WOMEN	Combined NTRP player level shall not exceed stated NTRP level
TRI LEVEL	6 min /14 max	SAME GENDER	Players' ratings shall not exceed the NTRP level of the position at which the player is participating in a team match.

1.04E PLAYER REQUIREMENTS

1.04E(1) Domicile

1.04E (1) a Local leagues will determine procedures for players and teams participating from other states. Teams must be in compliance with local rules on dates each match is played.

1.04E (1) a Local leagues may create residency requirement rules to encourage and foster local league play.

1.04E (1) b Local leagues may create rules for individual players concerning out of area participation. Players must adhere to the local rules of the league in which they reside.

1.04E (1) c Teams participating in multiple local leagues must adhere to the following guidelines: At least 50% of the team's members must compete in their own local league if local play is available. Said participation must be within the same division and level as any secondary participation.

d At least 50% of players on teams advancing directly to the state championship must reside in the local league in which the team is registered.

1.04E (4) Player Agreement All players participating in the MS League as a condition of said participation, agree to abide and be bound by the USTA, STA, and MS Regulations; the Rules of Tennis (unless modified by any of the aforementioned regulations); and the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship.

1.04E(5) Waiver of Claims Players participation in MS League acknowledge the risks associated with playing competitive tennis, accept those risks voluntarily, and in consideration of their acceptance in the Program, assume all risks for bodily injury, waive all claims for injury and property damage and release and hold harmless the MTA and the host facility, their officials ,employees and agents with respect to any injury or loss caused by negligence or otherwise to the fullest extent permitted by law.

1.04F OFFICIAL LEAGUE RATING PROGRAM-Please see USTA League Regulations

1.04G PLAYER PARTICIPATION

1.04G(2)c Players may participate in more than one NTRP level within a division in the same local league during the same season.

1.04G(2)e Players who qualify for State Championships may advance according to the table below:

ADULT/SENIOR	ADULT/SENIOR MIXED	SUPER SENIOR(60s, 70s, & Mixed)	TRI LEVEL
One Adult team and one Senior team	Players may advance on multiple teams but there will be no scheduling accommodations extended		

1.04G (2) h For teams in which the entire division's local play occurs at the State Championship, the maximum number of out-of-state players on a team roster shall comply with the table below:

# of players on roster	# from out of state
14-16 on the roster	4 may be from out of state
10-13 on the roster	3 may be from out of state
6-9 on the roster	2 may be from out of state

2.00 USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS-MISSISSIPPI

All USTA League Regulations in 1.00 General, 2.00 USTA League Regulations and 3.00 Grievance Procedures and the following procedures shall apply to MS League—Adult, Senior, Adult Mixed, Senior Mixed, Super Senior, and Tri-Level Divisions.

2.01A Levels of Play MS League levels are in accordance with the following table.

Division	Division Level
Adult	2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0*, 5.5*
Senior	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5
Adult Mixed	2.5, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0

Senior Mixed	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0
Super Senior 60s	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5
Super Senior 70s	3.0, 3.5, 4.0
Tri Level	2.5-3.5, 3.0-4.0, 3.5-4.5

*5.0 local league play will be held at the State Championship. 5.5 play will be held at the Southern Sectional Championship and does not require matches to be played prior to advancement.

2.01C Competition Format

2.01C (2) Team Match Team matches will consist of individual matches in accordance with the table below:

ADULT 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, & 4.5	ADULT 2.5 & 5.0	SENIOR	AD/SR MIXED	SUPER SENIOR (60s, 70s)	TRI LEVEL
2 Singles, 3 Doubles	1 Singles, 2 Doubles			3 Doubles	

2.01C (3) Match Scoring Each local league may determine the method of scoring for local league competition. All tie breaks shall follow the Coman tiebreak procedure.

2.01C(5) c Rescheduling Matches Each local league will decide how to regulate rescheduling of team matches.

e Scoring of Team Defaults In accordance with principles in the National Regulations (2.03L), the following will apply to teams defaulting an entire team match during local or championship competition:

- All matches of a defaulting team played or to be played shall be null and void
- If all teams in contention for advancement to further competition have already played the defaulting team in good faith, the matches will stand as played.
- During local play, the local league coordinator may recommend the forfeiture of team deposit and/or file a grievance with the local grievance committee. During championship play the championship committee may impose further penalties.
- The following applies to the Adult 2.5 and 5.0 teams competing locally or at State Championships: if a player is injured or becomes ill or is a **no-show (locally only)** after the line-up has been submitted and the captain must change the line up in order to prevent a team match default, the opposing team may also change its lineup. This only applies to the 2.5 and 5.0 levels as the lineup change will affect both singles and doubles positions.

2.02 PROGRESSION

2.02B State Championships The team winning the State Championship in each level of competition in the Adult, Senior, Mixed, and Super Senior divisions, shall be the MS League Champion and be entitled to advance to the next level of competition.

2.03 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

2.03A Eligibility

2.03A (1) a Winning teams shall progress from local league competition in accordance with the table below:

Adult 2.5-4.0 & Adult Mixed		Adult 4.5, Senior Divisions, Senior Mixed Divisions, and Tri-Level	
# of teams in league	# of teams to advance	# of teams in league	# of teams to advance
1-10 teams	1 team	2-5 teams	1 team
11-20 teams	2 teams	6-10 teams	2 teams
21-30 teams	3 teams	11-15 teams	3 teams
31-40 teams	4 teams	Super Senior 60s and 70s teams will compete at a State Championship to determine advancement to Sectionals. Adult 5.0 local league play will be held at the State Championship, with the winning team advancing to the next level of competition as the MS State Champion.	
41-50 teams	5 teams		
51-60 teams	6 teams		

2.03A (1) b If a combined local league is formed with more than two teams from different local leagues, then two places will be given to that combined local league to advance to the State Championship if teams agree to share travel. If a combined local league is formed with only two teams, then only one place is given for advancement.

2.03A (1) c The State may issue wildcards as necessary to fill the draw by a rotation among the local leagues. Wildcards will not be issued to leagues with fewer than three teams or to teams without an overall winning record (50% or more matches won). If necessary, teams will be replaced in the first of the following that does so:

- Team in second place in the same local league
- Team in second place in the local league next in the wild card rotation
- Team next in line in a randomly (blind draw) chosen local league

Regardless of other wildcard procedures, if a team must be replaced five days 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 local league in which the tournament is being held
- Team from the host city

2.03A (3) A player is eligible to progress to championship level in accordance with the table below provided the required number of matches were played on that same team in the same division during its local league season. A maximum of one default received by the player during local league competition shall count for advancing. A retired match shall count toward advancing for all players involved.

Adult and Senior	2 local matches
Adult Mixed	
Senior Mixed	1 local match if local play is available. If there is no local play, a team may advance directly to the next level of competition.
Tri Level	

Super Senior	The Super Senior Championship will be an invitational event with all teams advancing to the State Championship
---------------------	--

2.03A(5) At all State Championships, a minimum number of team members as shown in the table below, who were on the final roster of their local league team at the conclusion of local league play must be available and eligible to compete or to combine and compete, as appropriate. The Championships Committee, by majority vote, can reduce that number to not less than the minimum noted in the table below.

Division	Minimum number of players	Minimum number with approved waiver
Adult 3.0-4.5	8	4
Adult 2.5 and 5.0	5	3
Senior	6	4
Mixed (Adult and Senior)	3 women and 3 men	4
Super Senior	6	4
Tri Level	6	4

2.03B Official League Championships Entry A copy of the official entry form along with all fees and required information shall be submitted by the team captain prior to the announced deadline for entry into the event. The captain is responsible for reviewing all information pertaining to the league championships. All championship information may be accessed at www.mstennis.com.

2.03C Scoring and Rest At the Mississippi Championships, all matches will be the best of three sets and the set tiebreak shall be used at 6-all in each set. In lieu of a third set, a match tiebreak shall be played. There will be a two minute set break at the end of each set with no coaching. All tiebreaks shall follow the Coman tiebreak procedure.

2.03D Competition Format State Championships format shall be round robin in all levels of competition. Each team shall play every other team in its flight and the team with the most team points shall be champion in its flight. If a local league has two teams in the same level, the referee will place those teams in separate flights provided there are two flights in that level. Levels with multiple flights will enter into semi-finals and finals to determine an overall winner. Levels with three flights will have a blind draw from second place teams to determine the fourth semi-finalist. A blind draw will be used to determine opponents for the semi-final matches.

2.03K(1) Known Defaults-At the state championships, if a team has a known default, (not enough players to field a complete team) the opposing team (prior to line up exchange) will have the opportunity to take its scorecard back and resubmit its lineup. If the opposing team has not turned its scorecard in, the team will be notified of the line at which the default is taking place prior to turning in the scorecard.

2.03J(1) Scoring of Individual Defaults. At championships players must be present to receive a default unless a tournament staff member has notified the team prior to the match of a known default. Any player receiving a default must be a registered participant in the event.

2.03L Team Defaults (See regulation 2.01C (5) e-f)

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP DATES AND LOCATIONS

2012 USTA League Tennis MS Senior Championships	May 18-20, 2012	Greenville, MS
2012 USTA League Tennis MS Adult Championships	June 7-10, 2012	Gulf Coast, MS
2012 Mississippi Tri Level Championships	August 10-12, 2012	Ridgeland, MS
2012 USTA League Tennis MS Senior Mixed Championships	August 24-26, 2012	Tupelo, MS
2012 USTA League Tennis MS Adult Mixed Championships	September 21-23, 2012	Oxford, MS
2012 USTA League Tennis MS Super Senior Championships	October 5-7, 2012	Greenwood, MS

2.04 NTRP DISQUALIFICATION AND REVIEW PROCEDURES-*Please see USTA League Regulations*

2.05 YEAR-END NTRP COMPUTER RATINGS AND APPEAL PROCEDURES-*Please see USTA Regulations*

3.0 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES-*Please see USTA Regulations*

3.01A (1) Local Committees

All local league regulations will include the names of grievance and grievance appeal committee members and will be distributed to captains prior to beginning of the local league season. Distributions via captains' packets and/or websites are acceptable. State League Coordinator shall approve all Local League Grievance and Grievance Appeal Committees.

2011 and 2012 USTA Mississippi Adult League Committee:

Jack Ward, Chair	Beth Bryant	Pam Cure	Lee France
Donald Jones	Teresa Mathews	September Moore	Cindy Sturdivant
Martha Watkins	Lindsey Sartain, MTA Staff		

State Grievance Committees & Grievance Appeal Committees are formed as necessary first utilizing members of the Adult League Committee and then other committee members selected by the Adult League Committee Chairman.