2009 USTA MIXED DOUBLES LEAGUE
DELTA LOCAL LEAGUE RULES
Local League Coordinator, Pam Eifling

The purpose of USTA League 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, USA League Regulations and the 2009 USTA Mixed Doubles League Tennis Mississippi Regulations.

<u>All USTA, STA and MTA rules apply before any local league rules.</u>

II. PLAYER REQUIREMENTS

All players must have a current USTA membership through August 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.

COMPUTER RATING: Players 59 years and under, with a 2006, 2007 or 2008 computer rating must enter at that rating or higher. A player must play in two matches that calculate in order to generate a new year-end rating. Players 60 years and over with a 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.

Out of State Participation: All Delta USTA team matches will play within the Mississippi Delta boundaries. Out of State teams are teams made up of 90% of USTA out of state players. These Out of State teams will not be charged any fees to play within the Mississippi Delta boundaries.

A player may play two different NTRP levels in the same local league in the same USTA League season. A player or team may play the same NTRP level in two different local leagues one of which must be their own local league. Teams wanting to play in two areas, but having a viable league in their own area, must apply to play in both through their local coordinator who will confer with the state coordinator.

NOTE: A player may advance on only one adult team and one senior team.

ADVANCEMENT: A player must play twice locally to advance to the State Championship. If a player receives a forfeit for one match, that player will be eligible for the championship. A player must play in 3 matches (defaults do not count) to advance to Nationals. Retirements count for all players involved.

If a "combined local league" is formed with more than 2 teams from different local leagues, then 2 places will be given to that combined local league to advance to the State Championship providing they agree to share travel. If a combined local league is formed with only 2 teams from different local leagues, then only 1 spot is given to advance to the State Championship.

NOTE: If both teams 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 Senior team level, that team may advance directly to the State Championship.

Note: Players who play exclusively in the Mixed Doubles Division and choose to participate in the Adult and/or Senior Divisions the next year must enter at their Mixed Doubles Division year-end rating or higher.

III. TEAM MATCH FORMAT

Team match format for the USA League Mixed Doubles program will be three individual doubles matches per team match. Levels offered in this program for Adults and Seniors are 5.0, 6.0, 7.0 8.0, 9.0, and 10.0. Each individual doubles team's combined rating may be no more than 1.0 apart (i.e. a 3.0 player and a 4.0 player may play 7.0).

NOTE: Only 2.0 and 2.5 players can participate in the 5.0 Mixed Doubles Division.

The Senior Mixed Doubles is not a part of the national program.

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 lieu of a third set, a **match tiebreak** (first to 10 by 2) shall 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 or #3 Doubles may be forfeited). **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 may 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 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.**

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 should 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 should still try to be completed within the same two weeks. If teams cannot agree on a rescheduled date, the Local League Coordinator will reschedule the match. 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.

A team member must play twice during the local league season to advance to the State Championship for Adult Mixed Doubles. For Seniors a team member must play once to advance to the State Championship for Senior Mixed Doubles. In both divisions a forfeit counts as an individual match for qualifying for State Championship play; however a player must actually play two matches in order to generate a computer rating. If there is only one team in a Senior division in a local league, that team may advance directly to the State Championship.

VII. CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

August 21-23, 2009 – State Senior Mixed Doubles Championship, Cleveland, MS
September 25-27, 2009 – State Adult Mixed Doubles Championship, Oxford, MS
October 16-18, 2009 – Sectional Mixed Doubles (Adult & Senior), Jackson, MS

Note: USTA LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

VIII. RESPONSIBILITIES OF TEAM CAPTAIN

The USTA League Tennis Team Captain will handle the administrative affairs of the team and represent the team in all USA League 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!

IX: GENERAL

LEAGUE PLAY DATES: Adults-June 1-August 23/Seniors-June 1-August 2
The deadline date includes all rescheduled matches and is non-negotiable.

COACHING: Coaching will not be permitted at **any** time during the match.

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:
Ruchell Phillips-Chairperson
Yancy DeLoach
Arnold Luciano
Linda Evans
Thad Virden
Melissa Zeigler

GREIVANCE APPEAL COMMITTEE:
Paula Simmons-Chairperson
Mark Bowie
Bobbie Childress
Birlette Jelks
Phillip McIntosh
Shawna Young

LOCAL LEAGUE REGS & RULES COMMITTEE:
Rene Seymour-Chairperson
Hattie Bourne
John Cox
Bonnie Gordon
Sherilyn Jones
Frankie Mullen
Shaneca Roberts
Judy Ross
Chuck Stephenson
John P. Walker

Non-Voting Members:
Jamie Bell – Tennis Pros Rep
Pam Eifling – LLC

***For more information about tennis in Mississippi, the Southern Section, or the Nation visit www.mstennis.com**

***For more information about tennis in the Delta, visit www.deltamississippi.usta.com**