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## **2009 USTA MIXED DOUBLES JACKSON LOCAL LEAGUE RULES**

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 AND PLAYER AGREEMENT**

All players will abide by the USTA rules of tennis: The Code, Friend at Court, USTA League Regulations and the 2009 USTA League Mississippi Regulations. All USTA, STA and MTA rules apply before any local league rules. All players participating in the USTA League Program(s) as a condition of their participation, agree to abide and be bound by the USTA Constitution and By-Laws; the USTA Regulations; the Rules of Tennis (unless modified by then USTA League Regulations); the USTA League Regulations and the standard of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship.

### **II. PLAYER REQUIREMENTS**

All players must have a current USTA membership through August 2009 or later and be registered online with Tennislink, prior to playing a league match. Players may be added to a team’s roster until the last match of the local league season. Players shall not be added to a team roster during local league flight play-offs or at any championship.

Players 59 and under who have generated a 2006 through 2008 computer rating will have to play at or above their computer rated level. All players 60 and over who have generated a 2007 through 2008 computer rating will have to play at or above their computer rated level. Players who do not have a computer rating on file with Tennislink shall self-rate in accordance with the National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) Guidelines and declare their self-rating online with Tennislink when registering for a team. 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.

**The minimum entry level rating for the Adult Mixed league is 2.5. Adult Mixed Players with ratings below 2.5 will need to appeal up using the automatic appeal system in Tennis Link in order to participate.**

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 play two different NTRP levels in the same local league in the same USTA League season. A player 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, must apply to play in both through their local coordinator who will confer with the state coordinator.**

NOTE: If both teams advance to the State Championship, the player must choose a team to advance with for this tournament.

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.

### III. TEAM MATCH FORMAT

The levels offered will be a 2.5 level and combined ( 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0 Adults and 5.0,6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0 Seniors) where each individual player's NTRP rating may be no more than 1.0 apart (i.e. a 3.0 player and a 4.0 player may play 7.0).

Team match format for the USTA League Program shall consist of three individual doubles matches for all levels. The maximum number of players on adult and senior league teams is 14 players per team.

All individual matches shall be the winner of two sets, ad 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 may be forfeited). **If a team defaults an entire team match for any reason during round robin play, all matches of that team played or to be played may be null and void in the team standings. In addition, the team will forfeit their Security Deposit plus a grievance may be filed by the Local League Coordinator and further penalties may be imposed.**

A team match must be played on one surface. Clay courts may be used only when the host team is designated as the **HOME** team. The **VISITING team** will furnish the *balls* (all balls are to be new and unused or unopened prior to match play). If a match is not completed due to inclement weather or loss of court time, it must be completed on the same surface. Court times are scheduled every hour and one-half. At the end of this time, individual courts must be vacated. There is no scheduled "grace period." **If a team match is not complete at the end of the allotted court time (hour and one-half), and courts (of the same surface) are available at the facility where the team match is being played, it is preferred by the Local League Coordinator and considered to be good sportsmanship to finish all matches in progress on the aforementioned available courts.**

Deadline for all matches played: Senior – August 2; Adult – August 16. Request for extensions must be submitted by Local League Coordinator to the State League Coordinator for approval.

### 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. In the event of rain, the facility manager will make the decision on whether or not the courts are playable. Facility managers should not cancel matches prior to 90 minutes before the scheduled match time. 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 time and location. In the event that rain or inclement weather forces the cancellation and re-scheduling 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 90 minutes prior to the scheduled match. **Rescheduled matches should be completed within two weeks of the scheduled match. Once teams agree on a rescheduled date, time and**

**location, 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. 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. The player's name must appear the same as reflected on the team roster and individual USTA membership card. No nicknames may be used.

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. Number of individual match wins.
2. Loser of the fewest number of sets.
3. Loser of the fewest number of games.
4. Winner of the head to head match.
5. A method to be determined by the Local League Coordinator.

A team member must play twice during the local league season to advance to the State Championship. Seniors must play once during local league season to advance. 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.

If it is determined that additional teams are needed to complete the draw in any level for the State Championship tournament, a rotation among the local leagues determines which local league area will receive the Wildcard.

## VII. CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

August 21-23, 2009 – USTA Mixed Doubles Senior Championship in Cleveland  
September 25-27 2009 – USTA Mixed Doubles Adult Championship in Oxford

## VIII. RESPONSIBILITIES OF TEAM CAPTAIN

The USTA League Team Captain will handle the administrative affairs of the team and represent the team in all USTA League matters. Specific responsibilities include:

1. Attending (or appointing a team member to attend) mandatory local league captain's meeting;
2. Collecting and submitting the security deposit to the LLC by the specified deadline;
3. Registering team online 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. Confirming reservations of courts prior to match play;
7. Entering/confirming scorecards online with TennisLink within **48 hours** of completed matches;
8. Reading and familiarizing themselves with all tennis regulations;
9. Collecting court fees and paying each facility prior to match play; and
10. Making sure to provide new **tennis balls** when indicated as the **VISITING** team.

## IX. GENERAL

Draws for the league shall be held at a location prescribed by the Tri-County CTA in coordination with the LLC. Members of the Board of the Tri-County CTA shall be present at the draw.

**CELL PHONES: If a cell phone, which belongs to a player who is in the process of playing a league match, rings during match play, that player automatically loses the point.**

## X. COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### *Local League Grievance Committee*

Brad Bumgarner, Judy Hearn, Chris Irby,  
Abba Mapp, Jeneane Mixon

### *Local League Grievance Appeal Committee*

Daryl Berry, James Brown, Theresa Kennedy,  
Gregg Tripp, Jim Warren

By participating in this league the team captain and all team members agree to and understand that all schedules, rules and deadlines are final and not subject to arbitration of any kind.

*USTA LEAGUE IS SUPPORTED IN JACKSON BY:*

