

**2009 USTA LEAGUE --Mixed Doubles
Adult and Senior Divisions
North Central Section LOCAL LEAGUE RULES
Local League Coordinator, Tommy Clements**

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 League Mississippi Regulations. All USTA, STA and MTA rules apply before any local league rules.

II. PLAYER REQUIREMENTS

All players must have a current USTA membership through August, 2009 or later.

All players, who have generated a 2006, 2007, or 2008 computer rating must play at or above their computer-generated level. All players who have not generated a 2006, 2007, or 2008 computer rating on tennislink shall self-rate in accordance with the National Tennis Rating Program(NTRP) guidelines and complete the self-rating process on tennislink (this form can be found online) 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 or had knowledge of inaccurate self-rating to sanctions and disqualification.

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

THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF OUT-OF-STATE PLAYERS ON A TEAM SHALL NOT EXCEED 25%.

14 on Roster – 4 Out-of-State Players

10-13 on Roster – 3 Out-of-State Players

6-9 on Roster – 2 Out-of-State Players

A player may play 2 different NTRP levels in the same local league in the same USTA League Season. A player must play twice locally to advance to State Championships. If a player receives a forfeit for one match, that player will be eligible for State Championships. A player may play the same NTRP level in two different local leagues. A player who wishes to play at the same level in two different local leagues areas, must

notify their Local League Coordinator of their intentions to play in another area at the same level.

Players may only advance to the State Championship with ONE team.

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

III. TEAM MATCH FORMAT

Team match format for the USTA League Mixed Doubles Tennis Program shall consist of three doubles matches. Senior league play shall consist of three doubles matches as well. The maximum number of players on adult and senior league teams, is 14 players per team. Playing Levels are as follows: 5.0, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0. In order to play in the 5.0 division, your rating cannot exceed 2.5!

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. If the teams split sets, **A THIRD SET MUST BE PLAYED. CAPTAINS: YOU DO NOT HAVE THE OPTION OF PLAYING A SUPER TIE-BREAKER IN LIEU OF A THIRD SET.** 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 defaults an entire match FOR ANY REASON during round robin play, then all matches of that team to be played, shall be null and void in the final standings. The section may impose further sanctions or penalties on said team. This action will also constitute the forfeiture of the \$150 security deposit. (Captains are not allowed to call each other to re-schedule a match, unless it is due to weather) If this takes place, the Local League Coordinator may file a grievance against BOTH CAPTAINS)**

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 Home team will furnish the balls.** If a match is not completed due to inclement weather or loss of court time, it must be completed on the same surface.

IV. RESCHEDULED MATCHES

A team match may be rescheduled **ONLY** in the case of severe weather. **SEVERE WEATHER DOES NOT INCLUDE EXTREME HEAT OR WINDY CONDITIONS!** Schedule matches for evenings if you have players that have heat related problems. 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 which 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 must be completed within two weeks of the scheduled match.** Once teams agree on a rescheduled date, 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 reschedule 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 from the bottom.

All completed scorecards should 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:

Winner of the most individual matches.

Loser of the fewest number of sets.

Loser of the fewest number of games.

Winner of head-to-head match.

A method to be determined by the Local League Coordinator.

Adult team member must play twice during the local league season to advance to the State Championship. Seniors must play once during the local league season to advance to the State Championship. A forfeit counts as an individual match for State Championship play; however a player must actually play two matches in order to generate a computer rating.

VII. CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

August 21-23, 2009- USTA League Senior Mixed Championship, Cleveland, MS
September 25-27, 2009 - USTA League Mixed Doubles Championship, Oxford, MS

NOTE: USTA LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

VIII. TEAM CAPTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

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:

- Attending (or appointing a team member to attend) mandatory local league captain's meeting;
- Collecting the security deposit and submitting it to the Local League Coordinator by the specified deadline;
- Completing and submitting team registration to TennisLink by specified deadline;
- Insuring that all team players meet eligibility requirements;
- Verifying match schedules which are posted online with Tennislink;
- Confirming reservations of courts prior to match play;
- Entering/confirming scorecards online at TennisLink within **48 hours** of completed matches;
- Reading and familiarizing themselves with all local league and tennis regulations;
- Collecting court fees and paying each facility prior to match play; and
- Making sure their team provides **tennis balls** when indicated as the **HOME** team.

IX. GENERAL

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.

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.

You may contact me by e-mail at tc3tennis5.0@gmail.com

If you need to contact me by phone please do so between 7:00 and 9:00 p.m. during the week, and not before 9:00 on Saturday and Sunday.

(C) 662-816-2735 EMERGENCY ONLY

Tommy Clements
Local League Coordinator
North Central Area

Grievance Committee:

Paula McLarty
David Heckel
Randy Cannon
Irma Buchanon

Grievance Appeals Committee:

Mark Gardner
Stephanie LeClair
Carrie Crowell
Whitney Hubbard