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2009 USTA LEAGUE MISSISSIPPI MIXED DOUBLES
PINEBELT LOCAL LEAGUE RULES
Local League Coordinator, Greg Butler

The purpose of USA League Tennis 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. Deadlines listed in the 2009 Pine Belt Local League Rules may be extended at the discretion of the Local League Coordinator.

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. In order for the player to be eligible to play, the player must be registered on the TennisLink team roster **prior** to playing in a match. The deadline for adding teams via the TennisLink website is May 30, 2009.

The years of valid rating for the 2009 championship year and forward is three (3) years for those individuals 59 and under and is two (2) years for those individuals 60 years and over. Therefore, 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 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.

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. If a player with a S, T, or M rating is disqualified for that particular level of play, all matches played by that

individual player at that level shall be considered losses and scored (6-0, 6-0). There will be no dynamic disqualification of Computer ("C" or "B") rated players. Players with an A rating may be disqualified, but no matches shall be reversed.

A player may play 2 different NTRP levels in the same local league in the same USTA League Tennis season. A player may play the same NTRP level in two different local leagues as long as that player is playing on a team in their Local League area. NOTE: If both teams advance to the State Championship, the player must choose with which team they will advance.

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.

The maximum number of out-of-state players on a team shall not exceed 25%. For example:

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

Note: Teams must be in compliance with rule on date match is played.

III. TEAM MATCH FORMAT

Team match format for the USTA League Program shall consist of three individual doubles matches for all levels. Levels offered in this program for Adults are 5.0, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0 and 10.0. For Seniors, the levels offered are 5.0, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0 and 9.0. The combined NTRP ratings of each individual doubles team may be no more than 1.0 apart, i.e. a 3.0 player and a 4.0 player may play 7.0. Only 2.0 and 2.5 players may play at the 5.0 level. The maximum number of players on adult and senior league teams 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. There is a fifteen minute default rule in effect for all scheduled matches. A team **may not** forfeit an entire match (only one court can be forfeited). This action may result in a grievance being filed by the Local League Coordinator and may constitute forfeiture of the $150 security deposit and elimination from competition for the State Championship.

A team match must be played on one surface. The surface is the choice of the home team; however, the surface choice must be announced at least two weeks prior to the scheduled match. If a match is not completed due to inclement weather or loss of court time, it must be completed on the same surface. The **minimum** number of team matches will be three. Each level will play a double round robin. Other alternative play will be determined by the LLC if the double round robin creates too few or too many matches.

The home team is responsible for courts and balls.

The deadline for all Senior Mixed Doubles matches to be played is July 26, 2009. The deadline for all Adult Mixed Doubles matches to be played is August 31, 2009.

IV. RESCHEDULED MATCHES

A team match should be rescheduled **ONLY** under the following circumstances: rain or severe cold (40°F or lower and wind chill is a factor for severe temperatures). Cancelled matches must be rescheduled within two weeks of the cancelled date and reported to the LLC. If matches are in progress, rain delays must wait at least 30 minutes unless both captains agree to postpone the match immediately. Write all scores down for use in the make-up match. Any match date or time that cannot be agreed upon by both captains shall be referred to the LLC who will then make the final decision about the date, time, and location of the match. 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.

V. SCORECARDS

Team captains must exchange scorecards with a completed line-up **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 **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 chooses to forfeit an individual court, the forfeits must be #3 doubles.

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. Winner of the most individual matches.
2. Loser of the fewest number of sets.
3. Loser of the fewest number of games.
4. Winner of head-to-head match or matches.
5. If there is a total team forfeit, all matches played or un-played by the forfeited team will be removed for the purposes of determining the winner.

Adult team members must play twice during the local league season to advance to the State Championship. Senior team members may advance to the State Senior Championship with one match played or forfeited instead of two matches. In the Senior Division if there is no local competition offered, a team may advance directly 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 Doubles Championship, Cleveland, MS
September 25 – 27, 2009 – USTA League Adult Mixed Doubles Championship, Oxford, MS
October 16 – 18, 2009 – USTA League Southern Sectional Mixed Doubles Championship, Jackson, MS

VIII. TEAM CAPTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

The USA 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. Attending (or appointing a team member to attend) mandatory local league captain's meeting, which will be held at the Whitehead Advanced Technology Center in Ellisville on May 30, 2009, at 10:00am;
2. Completing and submitting team registration to TennisLink by specified deadline;
3. Verifying match schedules which are posted online with Tennislink;
4. Confirming reservations of courts prior to match play;
5. Entering/confirming scorecards online at TennisLink within **48 hours** of completed matches;
6. Reading and familiarizing themselves with all local league and tennis regulations;

IX. GENERAL

1. 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.
2. Only balls that are approved by the USTA for championship play may be used. The Rally Ball will not be used in USA League Tennis matches.
3. There will be no refund for players who register on the wrong team. In some cases, the LLC can move players from one team to another; if a player makes an error, call the LLC before re-registering.
4. Self-rated players must register themselves and input their self-rating.
5. Self-rated players playing in more than one level **must** self-rate at the same level.
6. Email addresses are required for **each** team.
7. 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.

Grievance Committee
Bryan Batson
Tom Ruffin
Renee Burroughs
Christy Brown
Kim Gillespie

Grievance Appeal Committee
Sherry McBride
Orjan McCarty
Toni Jackson
Jan Delk
Jennifer Eveges