



2009 Mississippi Regulations USTA Adult/Senior League and USTA Adult/Senior Mixed Doubles League

The 2009 USTA League Regulations will be given to all team captains at the captains' meetings. Sectional Regulations are located on the Mississippi Tennis Association website at www.mstennis.com. These national and sectional regulations have full force and applicability at all levels of play in USTA League in Mississippi, and there is no authorization to modify, amplify or change them by players, captains, Local League Coordinators or State League Coordinators. The Mississippi Tennis Association ("MTA") has appointed the Mississippi League Coordinator to organize, coordinate and supervise all USTA League activities on the state level and to interpret the Mississippi USTA League Regulations.

I. GENERAL

A. Local Leagues

1. Each local league will have a Local League Coordinator, approved by the State League Coordinator, who will be responsible for organizing, coordinating, and supervising all USTA activities on the local level. The Local League Coordinator will report to the State League Coordinator.
2. USTA, STA and MTA Rules and Regulations will take precedence over Local League Rules and Regulations.
3. The Local League Rules and Regulations must be approved by the State League Coordinator prior to the start of the local league season and distributed to team captains. USTA, STA, and MTA Regulations will be available online at www.mstennis.com.

B. Membership: All players must be current members of the USTA for the entire local league season and pay league fees.

C. SELF-RATING: 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.

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

- E. SECURITY DEPOSITS: Each team 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 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.
- F. Out of state participation: The Local League 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

II. NTRP APPEAL PROCESS

- A. Players may appeal their rating in accordance with the procedures of the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System and their State Appeal Procedures except for those players who have a benchmark rating (B) and those players disqualified at any time during the league year. A player with a year old national benchmark rating may request a reevaluation of his/her national benchmark. Such appeals must be submitted in writing to the League Tennis National Manager
- B. **Appeals based on a permanent or long-term disabling injury or illness: A player may request a reconsideration of his or her rating due to a permanent or long-term disabling injury. Procedures for filing a medical appeal can be accessed at www.mstennis.com. The Section Association shall utilize a Medical Review Committee to evaluate all medical appeals; and, if the injury/illness is deemed permanently disabling, the appeal will be forwarded to the National Medical Appeal Committee for a final decision.**

III. GRIEVANCES

- A. The 2.00 Grievance Procedures in the 2008 USTA League Regulations shall apply to all USTA League Tennis Divisions
- B. All complaints shall be filed in writing with the grievance committee responsible for enforcement.
- C. The USTA/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.

IV. ADULT/SENIOR LEAGUE REGULATIONS

- A. Levels and Format of play will be determined by the local league.
- B. **Roster Limits**
 - 1. **3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 2.5 Sr., 3.0 Sr., 3.5 Sr., 4.0 Sr., 4.5 Sr. Men's and Women's teams may have no more than 16 players unless limited by the local league to a number less than 16.**
 - 2. 2.0 Women, 2.5 Women, 2.5 Men, and 5.0 Men's and Women's teams may have no more than 10 players.

C. Registration: Teams may register and add players until a date set by the Local League Coordinator.

D. One team only leagues: The State League Coordinator in conjunction with the Local League Coordinators will confer with captains of “one teams” to determine how to best facilitate an opportunity for local play.

E. 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 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.

F. ADVANCEMENT

1. 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.
2. 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

G. NTRP DYNAMIC DISQUALIFICATION

1. Local League Procedures: Disqualified players may register on a higher-level team if a team agrees and there is time to register prior to the end of local round robin competition. Regulations for deadlines and roster limits would be waived if a team is found and time permits.
2. Scoring Procedures
 - a. Local. 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.** Players not disqualified by conclusion of local league round robin play will be eligible to compete in entire local playoff. Dynamic ratings will be calculated at the end of the local playoff to inform any disqualified players that they may not advance to the state championships. Points earned by disqualified players will stand. **Local play occurring at the State Championships: Players will be permitted to play in the entire event but if a disqualification occurs, the scoring will be the same as for all local round robin play.**
 - b. Championship. Dynamic ratings will be calculated following the State and Sectional Championships. Points earned by disqualified players will stand. The disqualified player will not be eligible to advance to the next level of competition.

V. MIXED DOUBLES ADULT/SENIOR LEAGUE REGULATIONS

- A. Format and Levels: Levels offered in this program for Adults and Seniors are 5.0, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0. Each individual doubles team’s combined NTRP ratings may be no more than 1.0 apart (i.e. a 3.0 player and a 4.0 player may play 7.0). The format of play will be determined by the local league. **Only 2.0 and 2.5 players can participate in the 5.0 mixed doubles division**
- B. Rosters are limited to 14 players unless limited to some number less than 14 by the local league.
- C. Registration: Teams may register and add players until a date set by the Local League Coordinator.
- D. **One team only leagues (Affects only Adult Mixed): The State League Coordinator in conjunction with the Local League Coordinators will confer with captains of “one teams” to determine how to best facilitate an opportunity for local play.**
- E. A player or team 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. **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
- F. ADVANCEMENT-Adult Mixed
 - 1. 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.
 - 2. 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
- G. ADVANCEMENT-Senior Mixed
 - 1. Participants may advance to championships with one match instead of two matches with a forfeit or a retirement counting as a match.
 - 2. If there is no local competition offered a team may advance directly to the State Championship.
 - 3. Seniors may not advance to championships on two senior mixed doubles teams from the same local league.

NOTE: If playing on more than one team and all teams advance to the State Championship, the player must choose which team they will advance with.

VI. STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

- A. The following number of teams per local league will automatically qualify to advance to State Adult, Adult Mixed, and **Adult Combo Championships**:

2 – 10 Teams: 1 Team	31 – 40 Teams: 4 Teams
11 – 20 Teams: 2 Teams	41 – 50 Teams: 5 Teams
21 – 30 Teams: 3 Teams	51 – 60 Teams: 6 Teams

The following number of teams per local league will automatically qualify to advance to State Senior, Senior Mixed, and **Senior Combo Championships**:

2 – 5 Teams: 1 Team

6 – 10 Teams: 2 Teams

11 – 15 Teams: 3 Teams

Teams will be scheduled for minimum of three and a maximum of six matches, excluding semi-finals and finals.

- B. WILDCARD PROCEDURES: If it is determined that additional teams are needed to complete the draw in any level, areas receiving a Wildcard will be determined by rotation among the local leagues.
- C. **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. 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. Tennis Link or a blind draw will be used to randomly determine opponents for the semi-final matches. 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.**
- D. REPLACEMENT OF TEAMS: In the event a qualifying team is unable to come to the championship, the team shall be replaced by the first of the following that does so:
- Team in second place in same local league
 - Team in second place in Wild Card Rotation
 - Team next in line in a randomly (blind draw) chosen local league
- If a team must be replaced 48 hours 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 host city**
 - Team from the local league**
- E. In the event a team at any championship forfeits an entire match, all matches of that team played or to be played will be null and void in accordance with USTA League National Regulations. If all teams in contention for the Championships have already played the defaulting team in good faith, the matches stand as played. A monetary deposit will be required of all teams at championships; this deposit may be forfeited by any team forfeiting an entire team match. A team forfeiting an entire team match during championship play may receive further penalties imposed by the tournament committee.
- F. 2009 Mississippi League Championships Cancellation Policy: Should inclement weather or other circumstances prevent the completion of a State Championship, the Tournament Committee will determine whether the matches played at the

point of cancellation will be used to determine round robin group winners and a champion and finalist in each level.

If the Tournament Committee determines that there was a lack of “equal opportunity” for all teams in the level due to the schedule of play, the Tournament Committee will place all teams in a drawing to determine the champion and finalist in each level. (For instance, in a five team round robin, one team may be in first place at the time of cancellation with two matches played, while other teams in the round robin have fewer matches played. This example would not provide “equal opportunity” for all teams in the round robin and would not be used to determine the round robin group winner). If any team(s) in a round robin flight is mathematically out of contention at the time of championship cancellation it will be excluded from the drawing.

CHAMPIONSHIP DATES:

USTA League Senior Championship- May 8-10, Meridian, MS

USTA League Adult Championship- June 11-14, Jackson, MS

USTA League Senior Mixed Championship- Aug. 21-23, Cleveland, MS

USTA League Adult Mixed Championship- Sept. 25-27, Oxford, MS

USTA League Super Senior Championship- Oct. 9-11, Tupelo, MS

Southern Combo Doubles Championship- Dec 3-6, Jackson, MS

NOTE: LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Grievance Committee

Grievance Appeals Committee

Martha Watkins

Pam Eifling

Greg Butler

Tommy Clements

Betty Byars

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