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**2009 USTA LEAGUE TENNIS
PINE BELT 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 May 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 February 7, 2009.

The years of valid rating for the 2009 championship year and forward will be three (3) years for those individuals 59 and under and 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. Any self-rated player that hits the DQ mark during the league season will have **all matches overturned.**

A player may play 2 different NTRP levels in the same local league in the same USA 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 which team they will advance with.

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%.

14 - 16 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 Adult League Tennis Program shall consist of two individual singles matches and three individual doubles matches for all levels with the exception of 2.5 and 5.0. All 2.5 and 5.0 matches shall consist of one singles match and two doubles matches. Senior league play shall consist of three doubles matches. With the exception of 2.5 and 5.0, the maximum number of players on adult league teams is 16, and the maximum number of players on senior league teams is 14 players per team. The maximum number of players on 2.5 and 5.0 teams is 10 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. Teams that are required to play 5 courts each match can only forfeit 2 courts and teams that are required to play 3 courts can only forfeit 1 court. A team **may not** forfeit an entire match. This action will result in a grievance being filed by the Local League Coordinator and may constitute automatic forfeiture of the \$150 security deposit. The forfeiting team will be eliminated from competition from the State Championship, and the scores from that team will be removed in determining the local winner.

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 four. Each level will play a double round robin. Other alternative play will be determined by the LLC if the double round robin creates too many matches.

The home team is responsible for courts and balls.

IV. RESCHEDULED MATCHES

It is recommended that a team match be rescheduled **ONLY** under the following circumstances: rain or severe cold (40°F or lower and wind chill is a factor for severe temperatures). 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.

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 individual courts, the forfeits must be from the lower positions up, i.e. #2 singles must be forfeited before #1 singles, #3 doubles must be forfeited before #2 doubles, etc. This does not mean that a team cannot forfeit both singles matches and play 3 doubles matches or forfeit 2 doubles matches and play both singles matches and a doubles match

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.

A team member must play twice during the local league season to advance to the State Championship. A forfeit counts as an individual match for State Championship play.

VII. CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

May 8 - 10, 2009 – USTA League Tennis Senior Championship, Meridian, MS

June 11 - 14, 2009 – USTA League Tennis Adult Championship, Jackson, MS

July 25 – August 2, 2009 – USTA League Southern Sectional Championship, Birmingham, AL

VIII. TEAM CAPTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

The USTA League Tennis Team Captain will handle the administrative affairs of the team and represent the team in all USTA 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 Ronald E. Whitehead Advanced Technology Center in Ellisville on February 7, 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 USTA 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. Email addresses are required for each team.
6. 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

Teresa Bounds
Orjan McCarty
Toni Jackson
Jan Delk
Mark Naylor