



Registration: January 1, 2009-January 26, 2009
Captain's Meeting: January 24, 2009
Adult and Senior Leagues Begin: February 1, 2009
Adult League ends: May 18, 2009
Senior League ends: April 13, 2009

2009 USTA LEAGUE SOUTHWEST LOCAL LEAGUE RULES

Darla G. Vincent, Local League Coordinator

www.swmississippi.usta.com

Highlights of Recent Changes

The player limit on an Adult league team is now sixteen. Senior league teams are still limited to fourteen players. (Southwest District rule) The limit on 2.0, 2.5, and 5.0 league teams is still ten players.

The out-of-state player limit on a team has been increased to fifty percent. (Southwest District rule)

Players who compete at State, Sectionals, or Nationals are benchmark players and may not appeal their rating at the end of the year. (National rule)

Benchmark and Computer Rated Players cannot be dynamically disqualified during the league season. (National rule)

LEAGUE REGULATIONS

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. These rules may not be waived by agreement of the captains. National and Southern regulations are available at www.southerntennis.com. National, Sectional, and State regulations are available at www.mstennis.com.

PLAYER REQUIREMENTS

All players must have a current USTA membership through May 2009 or later. Players 59 years and under, with a 2006, 2007, or 2008 computer rating must enter at that rating or higher. Players 60 years and older, with a 2007 or 2008 computer rating, must enter that that rating or higher. Adult players may play in the adult division during the calendar year in which they reach age nineteen. Senior players may play in the senior division during the calendar year in which they reach age fifty.

The deadline for adding teams via the TennisLink website is January 26, 2009. The deadline for adding senior players is April 13, 2008, and for adult players is May 18, 2009. A player must be registered on the TennisLink team roster prior to match play. **A player may not play both 2.0 and 2.5, they must choose between the two.**

Players playing on two different NTRP levels must choose which team they will play for if both teams advance to the state championships.

TEAM MATCH FORMAT

The match format for the USTA League Program shall consist of two singles matches and three doubles matches for all levels with the exception of the 2.0, 2.5 and 5.0 levels. All 2.0, 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. The maximum number of players on adult league team is sixteen, the senior league team is fourteen players per team, and 2.0, 2.5 and 5.0 is ten 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 minutes default rule in effect for all scheduled matches. The home team is responsible for courts and balls. **The captains must confirm the match date and time by contact at least two days prior to the match.**

A team may not forfeit an entire match. This action may result in a grievance being filed by the Local League Coordinator and may constitute automatic forfeiture of the \$150 security deposit. NOTE: If a team defaults an entire match for any reason during round robin play, all matches a team played or will play shall be null and void in computing the team standings.

The number of matches to be played is based on the number of teams in each level (unless the teams agree to play a greater number):

Two teams: best of seven matches.
Three to four teams: triple round robin.
Four to five teams: double round robin
Six teams and up: single round robin

RESCHEDULED MATCHES

Match dates may not be changed unless both captains agree. Exception:rain or severe cold (40_F or lower). 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 thirty 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. The captains must inform the LLC of any match dates which are changed.

SCORECARDS

Team captains must exchange scorecards with a completed line-up ten minutes **prior** to a scheduled match. All scorecards are to be entered and confirmed online with Tennislink within **forty-eight hours** of a completed match. If confirmation has not been completed within **forty-eight 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 cannot field an entire match, they must forfeit from the bottom.

Completed scorecards are to be verified by both captains upon completion of match play.

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. 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. 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

May 8-10, 2009 B USTA League Senior Championship, Meridian, MS
June 11-14, 2009 B USTA League Adult Championship, Jackson, MS

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:

1. Attend (or appoint a representative to attend) the mandatory local league captain=s meeting. **If a captain fails to attend or send a representative to the meeting, then that team will be required to travel to all of its matches.**
2. Register team on TennisLink by specified deadline. **If a captain fails to meet the deadline and is added later, then that team will be required to travel to all of its matches.**
3. Verify match schedules posted online with Tennislink.
4. Enter/confirm scorecards online at TennisLink within **forty-eight hours** of completed matches.
5. Read and familiarize self with all local league and tennis regulations.
6. Submit security deposit of \$150.00, made out to MTA.
7. Provide active e-mail address or e-mail address of team player.

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. Self-rated players must register themselves and input their self-rating.
3. **The maximum number of out-of-state players on a team shall not exceed 50%. Vidalia and Ferriday are considered part of Mississippi. TEAMS MUST BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THIS RULE ON THE DATE EACH MATCH IS PLAYED.**

Grievance Committee Grievance Appeal Committee

Noreen Pyron
Nancy Fisher
Bob Lawrence
Ralph LeMay
Paul Ott

Marla Beard
Clint Rounsville
Denice Lambert
Hunter Fordice
Leanne Summers