



**DRAFT USTA LEAGUE TENNIS
2012 TENNESSEE STATE LEAGUE REGULATIONS
ADULT, SENIOR, MIXED DOUBLES & SUPER SENIOR 60 & 70**
Subject to change based on National Regulation changes

MAJOR REGULATION CHANGES FOR 2012

1.04E(1) Domicile and Residency Requirements.

Sections may create residency requirement rules to encourage and foster local league play.

2.01A Levels of Play

Sections have the authority to choose straight or combined NTRP levels (3.0, 3.5, 4.0 or 4.5 or 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0) for Super Seniors.

2.05E Players 70 and over promoted at year end. Change allows a player who is 70 years of age or older and promoted at year end, to appeal such rating based on his/her three most recent yearend ratings, rather than on the three prior consecutive years.

3.03A(6) Regardless of any other regulation, a league coordinator, a member of the Championships Committee, a Grievance Committee, or a Grievance Appeal Committee, may file a grievance at any time except for an NTRP Grievance. This change clarifies that an NTRP Grievance may not be filed at any time to prevent a conflict with national regulation 3.03E(3).

3.03E(7) NTRP Grievances filed within 21 days of the start date of the player's and/or captain's State or Section Championships will be administered after the event unless the section authorizes the administration of the grievance prior to that time. If the grievance is not administered until after the event, points won by players will stand. Disqualified players and/or captains that are suspended will not be eligible to advance to the next level of championship play.

The USTA League Tennis National and Southern Section Regulations have full force and applicability at all levels of play in the USTA Southern Section. The Tennessee State Regulations have full force and applicability in the state of Tennessee; and there is no authorization to modify, amplify, or change them by players, captains, or League Coordinators. Printed below are Tennessee State League Regulations to make known State terms as authorized by the USTA National and Sectional Regulations. The USTA Southern Section has approved the Tennessee State League Regulations for the Adult, Senior, Mixed, and Super Senior programs.

If a certain regulation is not listed in the 2012 Tennessee State League Regulations it will be defaulted to the Southern regulations.

GENERAL
ALL LEAGUE PROGRAMS

REGISTRATION

1. All participants must be current members of the USTA and have reached 18 years of age during the calendar year. Senior players must reach the age of 50 during the calendar year. **Super Senior 60's league players must reach the age of 60 during the calendar year and Super Senior 70's league players must reach the age of 70 during the calendar year 1.04E(3).**

DIVISION	MINIMUM AGE
Adult	18
Mixed	
Senior	50
Senior Mixed	
Super Senior 60	60
Super Senior 70	70

2. The total fee for a player to play USTA League Tennis in Tennessee is not to exceed **\$27** per person. Eight (\$8) dollars of that fee goes to USTA Tennessee to offset expenses for the state administration of the USTA League Program. There will be **no refunds** of the state administration fee of eight (\$8) dollars. There will be a three (\$3) dollar fee added for TennisLink each time a player registers for a team. The remainder of the local league fee is budgeted to offset local league expenses. Court fees are not included in local league fees. Each Local League Coordinator will send a proposed and final budget to the State League Coordinator for approval of local league expenses.
3. **Each player will use his/her most current NTRP Computer Rating on file in TennisLink.** 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.
4. Self-rated players who enter the USTA League Tennis Program by misrepresenting their actual skill level are considered to have violated the standards of good conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship and may be subject to a grievance complaint and possible disqualification. A Captain, Local League Coordinator, or member of the State League Committee can file a NTRP grievance. A player with a valid NTRP Computer (C) rating, or Benchmark (B) rating or granted an Automatic Appeal (A) rating of a Computer (C) rating is not subject to an NTRP Grievance. Any other player is subject to an NTRP Grievance including players that entered an Early Start League at an NTRP level lower than their current year-end rating and players with granted medical appeals.

5. All teams will register on TennisLink for the 2012 League Season. Local leagues will not open registration for the leagues prior to January 1, 2012. Local leagues will note in their local league regulations the deadline for team registration and deadline to add players. Local leagues must meet deadlines established by the state. All teams must have a legal roster by the deadlines stated by local league regulations. A legal roster consists of eight (8) players for adult teams, five (5) players for 2.5 and 5.0 teams, six (6) players for senior teams, six (6) players for mixed doubles (3 women and 3 men), and six (6) players for super senior teams. Local areas that do not have a team (Super Senior 60/70 and Mixed leagues only) signed up at a level of play have an additional month from the local league registration deadline to form a team. A team may be formed at the approval of the State League Coordinator & the Championship Committee to advance straight to state championships.

DIVISION	REGISTRATON END DATE
Adult/Senior Leagues	March 18
Mixed Leagues	July 1
Super Senior 60 & 70	July 1

6. All Captains will use the following format for team name(s) in registering their team(s) in TennisLink: State/Local League/Captain's last name (example: TN/Nashville/Witt).

LEAGUE PLAY

7. Any NTRP level with only two or three teams is required to play a minimum of three matches **201C(1)**. If an Adult or Senior Division league consists of only two teams in a level of play, each team must *maintain* its roster with at least 60 percent of its players at the designated NTRP level of play **1.04D(6)**. All local leagues must meet state deadlines.

DIVISION	END OF LEAGUE PLAY
Adult/Senior Leagues	May 27
Mixed Leagues	August 5
Super Senior 60 & 70	September 2

8. All local leagues and State Championship matches will be the best of two sets with a Set Tiebreak (first to 7 by 2) used at 6 all in each set. In lieu of a third set, a Match Tiebreak (first to 10 by 2) shall be played. The Coman Tiebreak Procedure will be used for all Set Tiebreaks and Match Tiebreaks in local league and State Championship matches. There will be a two-minute set break at the end of each set with no coaching. All scorecards must be entered into TennisLink within **48 hours** of the completion of the team match. All scorecards will be **FINAL** 48 hours after the championship is complete.
9. All local leagues have the following authority and must be stated in its local league regulations. Local leagues can limit the number of players on a team roster, limit the number of players on a roster playing one level above their current NTRP rating, and limit the number of players from out of the state of Tennessee. These limits may be by number or percentage. The recommended percentage is fifty (50) percent.

10. National championship rostered team members, and teams that qualify to advance to National Championships, but do not participate, may move up one level as a team or must disperse to form new teams in accordance with the table below. The new teams that are at the same level as the National championship team are limited to the number of players who were on the final roster at the conclusion of local league play of any team or combination of teams that advanced to the national championships in accordance with the table below. This applies to any player who participated in any match for that team during the championship year, including defaults received. If a section has a regulation that limits the number of players on a roster that are at a specific level, the section must suspend that regulation for one year for any team that participated at the national championships the previous year and chooses to move up one level **2.06A**.

DIVISION	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS FOR NEW TEAMS AT SAME LEVEL	MOVE-UP/SPLIT UP RULES APPLIES	ALL CHAMPIONSHPS BELOW NATIONALS
Adult 3.0 – 4.5	3	National Championship and National Championship Eligible Teams	Section Option
Adult 2.5 and 5.0	2		
Senior	3		
Mixed Doubles	3		
Super Senior	Section Option	Does not apply	

11. Local leagues that have separate flights (night, day, and/or weekends) may have a playoff of the top team(s) from each flight(s). Local leagues will determine the number of teams from each flight(s) to play in the playoff and the method used (round-robin, single elimination, etc.). The winner of the playoff will be the first place team of that local league level.
12. In the event that rain or inclement weather forces the cancellation and/or re-scheduling of a local league team match, substitutions from the team roster may be made in any individual match not started. Points awarded for forfeits during the original written lineup exchanged will stand. All players involved in such forfeits cannot participate in the re-scheduled match. Forfeits offered verbally prior to the original written lineup exchange are nullified when the match is rescheduled due to rain or inclement weather. Local league regulations will determine a rain-out procedure.
13. If a captain knows ahead of time he/she will forfeit an entire team match, he/she must notify the Local League Coordinator and the opposing team captain. If a team forfeits an entire team match and that forfeit affects the outcome of the local league, then all matches played by the forfeiting team will be removed from the standings. If the forfeiting team has no effect on the outcome of the local league, matches played by that team will stand.
14. Lineups are to be exchanged at the scheduled match time, or before, if captains agree and are ready to play. 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 only will be defaulted in local leagues (Southern Regulation **2.01C(5)a**). At **State Championships only**, if a team has an unknown default (not enough players to field a complete team), the opposing team will have the opportunity to take their scorecard back and resubmit the lineup. If the opposing team has not turned their scorecard in, they will be notified of the default prior to turning their scorecard in.
15. There shall be no signals, verbal instruction, or coaching from a team member, coach, or spectator to a player during a USTA League match (when a player walks on the court, the no coaching rule applies). Remember tennis etiquette when watching or playing a match.

CHAMPIONSHIPS

16. A minimum of eight (8) players (adult), six (6) players (senior), five (5) players (2.5 and 5.0), six (6) players mixed doubles (3 men and 3 women), and six (6) players super senior who were on the final roster of the local league team at the conclusion of local league play must be available and eligible to compete at the Tennessee State League Championship. The Tennessee State League Championship Committee can reduce that number to not less than four. **Any team defaulting a court at the Tennessee State League Championships without prior approval from the Championship Committee will be fined fifty (\$50) dollars per defaulted court.** The total fine is due immediately. If not paid at the championships, USTA-TN will invoice the team captain immediately following the championships and the captain will have seven (7) days to pay the total fine. If the fine is not paid in full, all players listed on the championship roster will be subject to a grievance filed by the Championship Committee with a recommendation players should not be able to participate in USTA Leagues the following year.
17. If the winning team at any level of local league competition is unable to advance to the State Championship, the Local League Coordinator will select the next team in line for such further competition.
18. **ADULT/SENIOR LEAGUES** - A local league that has two (2) to eleven (11) teams at adult/senior at a specific NTRP level will advance one (1) winning team to the 2012 Tennessee State Adult League Championships; twelve (12) to twenty-three (23) teams will advance two (2) teams; twenty-four (24) or more teams at adult/senior at a specific NTRP level will advance three (3) teams.
MIXED DOUBLES – A local league that has one (1) to nine (9) teams at mixed doubles at a specific NTRP level will advance one (1) winning team to the 2012 Tennessee State Mixed Doubles Championships; ten (10) to nineteen (19) teams will advance two (2) teams; twenty (20) or more teams at mixed doubles at a specific NTRP level or combined level will advance three (3) teams.

DIVISION	NUMBER OF LOCAL TEAMS AT A SPECIFIC NTRP LEVEL OR COMBINED LEVEL	NUMBER OF TEAMS ADVANCING TO STATE LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS
Adult/Senior	2-11	1
Adult/Senior	12-23	2
Adult/Senior	24+	3
Mixed Doubles	1-9	1
Mixed Doubles	10-19	2
Mixed Doubles	20+	3

19. The Tennessee State League Championship Committee determines the number of teams needed to round out a Championship division. If a wild card is needed, one will be selected by process of a random draw by the Tournament Committee. If for any reason a team receiving a wild card invitation cannot advance to the State Championship, then the wild card goes back to the Tennessee State League Championship Committee to be drawn again.
20. All wild card teams have 24 hours from the end of the local league to accept the wild card invitation and must notify the Local League Coordinator and register all players on line. There will be **no refunds** after the entry fees are paid.
21. Any team withdrawing after the schedule is published may be subject to a grievance filed by the State League Coordinator and is subject to such penalties or sanctions deemed appropriate by the State League Grievance Committee. The Tennessee State League Championship tentative schedule will be posted one week in advance of the State League Championship dates on the USTA Tennessee championship web site. The Final Schedule will be handed out at the captains' check-in the night before the championship matches begin. The schedule will be set up in TennisLink before the Championship begins.

- 22.** All players advancing to the USTA Tennessee State Championship will be charged twenty-five (\$25) dollars per person for the championship entry fee. Players must be registered in Tennis Link and registered for the championship event in order to participate at the State Championships. Championship registration is handled via Reg OnLine (internet based registration system). Championship entry fees are not refundable. In addition, each advancing team must send a deposit check to your state league coordinator in the amount of \$250.00 immediately following the end of your local season. Checks are to be made out to USTA Tennessee. The deposit check will be returned to the team captain at the conclusion of the championship matches. Teams withdrawing from tournament after tentative schedule is posted (one week prior to Championship event), having multiple defaults and/or teams leaving the tournament early are each factors that will result in the forfeit of the \$250.00 deposit.
- 23.** Awards and amenities at the Tennessee State League Championship will be given to all players on the Championship roster that have paid to participate in the Tennessee State League Championship.
- 24.** Any NTRP grievances filed on any player at Championship (or within two weeks prior to the Championship) will be acted upon after the conclusion of the Tennessee State Championship. All matches played by that player will stand.
- 25.** If an intervening, permanently disabling injury or illness indicates that a player's current NTRP computer rating level may be too high, the player may request a medical appeal of such rating level in accordance with *USTA League NTRP Medical Appeal Procedures – Questions and Answers.*

ADULT and SENIOR LEAGUE

The following areas have been approved by Tennessee for the USTA Adult and Senior league programs: Chattanooga, Fairfield Glade, Greeneville, Jackson, Knoxville, Loudon, Memphis, META, Nashville, and Union City. These areas must meet the Tennessee State league requirement of two NTRP levels with a minimum of two teams. Any local league not meeting the Tennessee State League requirement in 2012 will be placed on probation for 2013. If the requirement is still not met in 2012, the local league area will not be approved for the league program for 2014.

1. USTA League Tennis NTRP levels for adults are 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, and 5.0 for both men's and women's teams. Senior NTRP levels are 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5 for both men's and women's teams.
2. Adult and senior players must play in two (2) matches to qualify for advancement to State League Championships with only one (1) default counting. A retired match counts for all players.
3. USTA League Tennis Tennessee authorizes participation in more than one NTRP level in the same local league during the same season. Seniors may play at two different NTRP adult levels and at two different NTRP senior levels during the same local league season. Adults may play at two different NTRP adult levels during the same local league season. **Players may only play one NTRP level above their current NTRP rating.** Local leagues have the authority to limit the number of players playing at a higher level than their NTRP rating.
 - a. Players must qualify separately for each team he/she plays on to advance with that team. Players can advance to the Tennessee State Championship on more than one adult and one senior team.
 - b. Players can only advance to the Southern Sectional Championship on one adult and one senior team.
 - c. Absolutely **NO SCHEDULING** accommodations will be made at the Tennessee State League Championship to accommodate those players playing on more than one team.
4. All adult and senior leagues in Tennessee must end team registration on or before March 18, 2012. Teams may continue to add players per local league regulations. Local leagues that have only one team registered at local league deadline can extend the deadline two weeks to meet the National requirement of a minimum of two (2) teams. All areas must end league play by May 27, 2012.
5. The following NTRP levels will play their local league at the Tennessee State League Championship: adult 2.5 men, 5.0 men, 5.0 women, 5.5 men, and 5.5 women. These levels must meet the Tennessee State League deadline of April 29, 2012, for team registration. Teams may add players up to two weeks before championship.
6. 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. State regulations for deadlines and roster limits would be waived if a team is found and time permits **2.04B(4)**.

2012 USTA League Tennis Tennessee State Adult and Senior Championship dates:

NTRP Levels 2.5, 3.5, 4.5 Adult and 3.0, 4.0 Senior - June 8-10, 2012, Memphis, TN
NTRP Levels 3.0, 4.0, 5.0 Adult and 3.5, 4.5 Senior - June 22-24, 2012, Memphis, TN

MIXED DOUBLES ADULT LEAGUE

The following areas have been approved by Tennessee for the USTA Mixed Doubles League program: Chattanooga, Fairfield Glade, Greeneville, Jackson, Knoxville, Loudon, Memphis, META, Murfreesboro, Nashville, and Union City. These areas must meet the Tennessee State league requirement of two levels with a minimum of two teams. Any local league not meeting the Tennessee State League requirement in 2012 will be placed on probation for 2013. If the requirement is still not met in 2013, the local league area will not be approved for the league program for 2014.

1. The combined levels offered in this program are: 2.5 and combined 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, and 10.0 adults where each individual player's NTRP rating may be no more than 1.0 apart (example: a 3.0 player and a 4.0 player may play 7.0).
 - 2.5
 - 6.0 (example of combinations - 3.0 & 3.0 or 2.5 & 3.5)
 - 7.0 (example of combinations - 3.5 & 3.5 or 3.0 & 4.0)
 - 8.0 (example of combinations - 4.0 & 4.0 or 3.5 & 4.5)
 - 9.0 (example of combinations - 4.5 & 4.5 or 4.0 & 5.0)
 - 10.0 (example of combinations - 5.0 & 5.0 or 4.5 & 5.5)
2. **Dynamic** disqualification is not part of the mixed doubles program. NTRP grievances may be filed, and a player can be disqualified.
3. The Tennessee Mixed Doubles league program authorizes players to play in more than one combined level in their local league.
4. All Local leagues must end team registration on or before July 8, 2012. Teams may continue to add players per local league regulations.
5. Tennessee's Mixed Doubles league program authorize players to advance to the Tennessee State League Championship listed below: There will be NO SCHEDULING accommodations given to players playing on more than one team at the Tennessee State League Championship.
 - a. two (2) adult; or two (2) senior
 - b. one (1) adult and one (1) senior
 - c. one (1) adult, one (1) senior, and one (1) super senior team(s).
6. Teams advancing to the 2012 National Mixed Doubles Championships will follow the same Move-up/Split-up Regulations governing the Adult and Senior divisions.

2012 USTA League Tennis Tennessee State Mixed Doubles Championship Dates:

August 24 - 26, 2012

Location:

MIXED DOUBLES SENIOR and MIXED DOUBLES SUPER SENIOR LEAGUE

The following areas have been approved by Tennessee for the USTA League Mixed Doubles Senior and Mixed Doubles Super Senior League Program: Chattanooga, Fairfield Glade, Greeneville, Jackson, Knoxville, Loudon, Memphis, META, Murfreesboro, Nashville, and Union City. Mixed Doubles Senior and Mixed Doubles Super Senior are not part of the National League Program. Mixed Doubles Senior is a USTA Southern League Program.

MIXED DOUBLES SENIOR

The Mixed Doubles Senior levels are combined 6.0, 7.0, 8.0 and 9.0. These levels are not part of the National League program. The USTA Southern Section has authorized the following waivers for Senior Mixed Doubles levels:

- Players must play in at least one local or state championship match (including defaults received) in order to advance to the USTA Southern Mixed Doubles Senior Sectional Championship.
- If a team has no local or state competition offered at that specific combined level, a team may advance directly to the State or Sectional Championship.

MIXED DOUBLES SUPER SENIOR

The Mixed Doubles Super Senior levels are combined 6.0, 7.0, and 8.0.

- Players must play in at least one local match (including defaults received) in order to advance to the USTA Tennessee Mixed Doubles Super Senior State Championship.
- If a team has no local competition offered at that specific combined level, a team may advance directly to the State Championship.
- The State Championship is the highest level of advancement for Mixed Doubles Super Senior teams.

1. All Local Leagues must end team registration on or before July 8, 2012. Teams may continue to add players per local league regulations.
2. All other Mixed Doubles rules shall apply for Mixed Doubles Senior.

2012 USTA League Tennis Tennessee State Mixed Doubles Senior and Mixed Doubles Super Senior Championship Dates:

August 24 - 26, 2012

Location:

SUPER SENIOR 60 and 70 LEAGUE

The following areas have been approved by Tennessee for the USTA League Super Senior program: Chattanooga, Fairfield Glade, Jackson, Knoxville, Loudon, Memphis, META, Murfreesboro, Nashville, and Union City.

1. The NTRP levels of play for 2012 Super Senior 60 are 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, and 4.5 for both men and women. The NTRP levels of play for 2012 for Super Senior 70 are 3.0, 3.5, and 4.0 for both men and women.
- 2.
3. Any local league having two (2) or more teams at any Super Senior level must play a local league. If there is only one team registered at a level in a local league, that team will advance to the 2012 Super Senior Tennessee State Championship.
4. All players must play at least one (1) match (defaults received counting) in local league play. All players on teams advancing directly to the Super Senior Tennessee State Championship must play in at least one (1) match (defaults counting) to qualify to advance to the USTA Southern Super Senior Sectional Championship.
5. If there are no other teams in the state at a specific NTRP level, that team can advance directly to the USTA Southern Super Senior Sectional Championship.
6. Players may play on more than one team. Players can only play on one team at a specific NTRP level. Players may play both Super Senior 60 and 70. There will be **NO scheduling** accommodations for players playing both Super Senior 60 and 70 and players playing more than one NTRP level at the Super Senior Tennessee State Championship. **Players may only play one NTRP level above their current NTRP rating.**
7. Players 70 and over promoted at year end. Change allows a player who is 70 years of age or older and promoted at year end, to appeal such rating based on **his/her three most recent yearend ratings**, rather than on the three prior consecutive years **2.05E**.
8. All local leagues must end team registration on or before July 1, 2012. Teams may continue to add players per local league regulations.

2012 Super Senior Tennessee State League Championship dates:

September 28-30, 2012, Knoxville, TN

The Tennessee State League Committee and the Tennessee State League Coordinator have the authority to interpret the USTA League Tennis Tennessee State Regulations.

Listed below are people named to serve on the USTA League Tennis Tennessee State Grievance and Grievance Appeal Committees. Per National Regulation 2.01A, these members of the Committee(s) may be the same, or different, in whole or in part, from the Committee(s) first approved. These lists are subject to change.

TENNESSEE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE: Cheryl Thompson (Chairman), Ann Flint, Terry Brown

TENNESSEE GRIEVANCE APPEALS COMMITTEE: Pat Evans (Chairman), Paul Fultz, Angel Talwar

TENNESSEE STATE LEAGUE COMMITTEE: Ann Flint (Chairman), Paul Fultz, Angel Talwar, Nancy Vineyard, Pat Evans

DRAFT

