



## TENNESSEE

# 2023 Southern Combo Doubles

## USTA Tennessee

### “Knoxville”

Local League Coordinator (LLC):

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**Blue text represents regulations that are specific for this Local Area/.**

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### I. Local League Important Dates

<u>League</u>	<u>Local Registration Opens</u>	<u>Local Team Registration Close (Deadline for legal team roster minimum)</u>	<u>Local Last Day to Add Individual</u>	<u>Local Schedule Released</u>	<u>Local Playoff Dates</u>	<u>State League Play Deadline</u>	<u>State Championship</u>
All Combo Leagues	June 1, 2023	8/1/2023 (18/55)  8/28/23 (40/65)	9/29/23 (18/55)  10/13/23 (40/65)	8/5/23 (18/55)  9/1/23 (40/65)	TBD	October 4, 2023    October 18, 2023	Combo 18 & Over/55 & Over October 20-22, 2023 (Murfreesboro)  Combo 40 & Over/65 & Over November 3-5, 2023 (Memphis)



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### TENTATIVE PLAY DATES/DAYS FOR KNOXVILLE LEAGUE PLAY

18/55 & Over Divisions: August 11-13; 18-20; 25-27; September 8-10; 22-24; 29-October 1  
5.0 M/W (Sunday); 5.5 M/W (Saturday); 6.5 M/W (Sunday); 7.5 M/W (Saturday); 8.5 M/W (Sunday); 9.5 M/W (Saturday)

40/65 & Over Divisions: September 8-10; 22-24; 29-October 1; October 6-8; 13-15  
5.5 M/W (Sunday); 6.5 M/W (Saturday); 7.5 M/W (Sunday); 8.5 M/W (Saturday); 9.5 M/W (Sunday)

MATCHES WILL BE SCHEDULED AS WEEKEND MATCHES; however, any "overflow" matches may be scheduled on a weeknight.

Team captains will have the option to play weeknight matches. If the scheduled team captains both agree that match MAY BE scheduled on a weeknight. IT IS NOT GUARANTEED THESE WILL BE SCHEDULED FOR A WEEKNIGHT.

## II. Registration

- a. **Registering.** Registration is completed in TennisLink.
- b. All participants must be current members of the USTA, and that membership must be valid through the entire season including advancement opportunities.
- c. Each player must have reached the required minimum age prior to or during the calendar year of each age division. Minimum age is 18 years old.
- d. **NTRP Rating Entry:** Players who do not have a computer rating ("C") or Mixed Exclusive rating ("M") or Tournament rating ("T") on file in TennisLink will be required to self-rate in accordance with the NTRP Guidelines and complete the self-rating process in TennisLink. A Self-rating is valid for 2 years from the issue date or until replaced by a Year-End computer rating.
- e. Players may play on multiple teams so long as they are not playing on more than one team in the same local area, age division, and NTRP level.
- f. **Registration Fees:** Each player must pay a \$29 league fee for each team that he/she is joining and shall be paid at the time of registration. There will also be a \$3.15 fee paid to TennisLink at the time of registration. Total fee on TennisLink will be \$32.15 per registrant per team.
- g. **Refunds:** Players requesting a refund must do so by contacting their local LLC. A refund may not be requested more than four days after the State League Play Deadline. All refunds will consist of the amount paid by a player for the USTA League (excluding TennisLink Fees) minus a \$4 fee that goes to the LLC. Only players that did not play a match in the league season and are not advancing to a state championship are eligible to request a refund.

## III. Team Match Format:

- a. **Combo Doubles:** A team shall consist of a minimum of 6 players able to combine to form 3 separate eligible teams. The format of play will be three individual men's or women's doubles matches. The winning team from each match will have won 2 or 3 of the courts in that match.
  1. Tennessee Combo Doubles Divisions Offered:



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<u>League</u>	<u>Divisions</u>	<u>NTRP Levels</u>	<u>League Format</u>	<u>Minimum Number of Players Required for Legal Team</u>	<u>Maximum number of players allowed on team roster</u>
Combo	18 & Over	2.5, 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5, 10.5	3 Doubles	6	18
	40 & Over	5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5	3 Doubles	6	18
	55 & Over	6.5, 7.5, 8.5	3 Doubles	6	18
	65 & Over	6.5, 7.5, 8.5	3 Doubles	6	18

### NTRP cap for Combined Levels:

NTRP Level	Max NTRP Rating	NTRP Level	Max NTRP Rating
5.5	3.0	8.5	5.0
6.5	3.5	9.5	5.5
7.5	4.0	10.5	6.0

*Each individual doubles team's combined NTRP ratings may not exceed the level entered.*

- b. Divisions may be divided into two or more flights with a playoff at the end of local play to determine the **Knoxville** champion. Players may play in only one flight of each NTRP level.
- c. Local areas that do not have a team signed up at any level of play at the registration deadline may have an additional month (unless the State League Play Deadline occurs first) to form a team, or a team may be formed at the approval of the State League Coordinator & the Championship Committee to advance straight to the USTA Tennessee Combo Doubles Championships. Teams may continue to add players per each local league's regulation. No individual may register for a local team roster after the State League Play Deadline.

## IV. Team Regulations

- a. Each team shall appoint a captain to manage team activities and to represent the team in USTA League matters including Grievance matters. The captain is the person who is to communicate with the LLC and serves as the liaison between the players and the LLC. Captains must have a valid email address and phone number listed in TennisLink.
- b. Captains **MUST** use the following format to name teams: City/Captain's Last Name. (Knoxville/Harris).
- c. USTA Tennessee will have no residency requirements for teams that are in leagues with local play.
- d. For teams that advance directly to a USTA Tennessee State Championship, USTA Tennessee requires that at least 3 players of the team be residents of the local area from which that team is advancing.
- e. USTA Tennessee limits the number of players that may appear on a team roster. TN Combo Doubles allows 18 players per team. (See table in section III.)

## V. League Play

\*Dunlop is the official sponsor of Southern Combo Doubles. All matches are played without officials but play is governed by the Rules of Tennis, "The Code," as contained in the 2023 Friend at Court.

- a. Both team lineups are to be exchanged at the scheduled match time, or before, if captains agree and are ready to play.
- b. In the event of illness, injury, disqualification, or ineligibility 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. The substitute player is entitled to a five-minute warm-up. If no such substitution can be made, the affected position only will be defaulted in local leagues.
- c. **LATENESS:**
  - Player late 5 minutes or less---Loss of toss plus 1 game
  - Player late 5:01-10 minutes---Loss of toss plus 2 games
  - Player late 10:01-15 minutes---Loss of toss plus 3 games
  - Player more than 15 minutes late---DEFAULT
- d. There will be no coaching in any form allowed in Southern Combo Doubles League matches.
- e. Cell phones must be turned off or silenced during play.
- f. Southern Combo Doubles League matches in **Knoxville** shall 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) will be played. The Coman Tiebreak Procedure will be used for all Set Tiebreaks and Match Tiebreaks. There will be a 2-minute set break at the end of each set, with no coaching allowed during the break.
- g. **Entering Scores.** Captains are responsible for entering and/or confirming match scores on Tennis Link. Captains need to verify and confirm the recorded match scores. All recorded scores will be final 48 hours from match time. If a mistake is made when entering scores and you have clicked out of the scorecard on TennisLink, you will have to email the LLC with the match number and correction. **Only the LLC can make a change to the scorecard.** Any disputes must be made on TennisLink, and the LLC must be notified by email before the 48 hours is up.
  1. If scores are not entered into TennisLink within 48 hours, both captains may be subject to a local grievance and sanctions imposed by the Local Grievance Committee.
  2. If a match has begun and a player has to retire due to injury or illness, the match score to the point of default will be recorded on the scorecard (i.e., 6-2, 2-1, 15-15, retired).
- h. **Forfeits:** If a team plays a local match without a full lineup, forfeits must be taken at #3 doubles.
  1. Two out of the three courts must be played to constitute a legal match.



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2. If a team shows up without the minimum # of players required for the team match based on the number of players present, or to be present, it will be a full team default in favor of the opponents. Please refer to National regulation 2.01C(5) on team default procedures.
  3. If a match must be forfeited, the name(s) of the forfeiting player(s) are not written on the scorecard. Only the names of the player(s) receiving the default. The written score shall be 6-0,6-0; as if the match had been played.
  4. If a captain knows ahead of time that he/she will forfeit an entire team match, he/she must notify the LLC 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 and that team may be eligible to advance.
  5. If play is interrupted by weather, darkness or other factors beyond the control of players, completed individual matches will stand as played. In the event that rain or inclement weather forces the cancellation and/or re-scheduling of a local league team match, the line-up would stand only for those positions that had already started (first service attempt) their match. All other positions, even those that were in warm-up may be changed including defaulted courts.
    - i. [Rescheduling procedure for matches interrupted by weather, darkness or other factors beyond control of players.... please see IMPORTANT NOTES FOR KNOXVILLE LOCAL LEAGUE PLAY](#)
- i. In the event of a tie in league standings**, the tie will be broken by the first of the procedures listed below.
1. Individual Matches: Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.
  2. Head-to-head: Winner of head-to-head match.
  3. Sets: Loser of the fewest number of sets.
  4. Games: Loser of the fewest number of games
  5. Game Winning Percentage: Total games won divided by total games played.
  6. **If two teams are still tied for 1<sup>st</sup> place, a playoff match will be held between the tied teams prior to the end of the league play deadline.**

### IMPORTANT NOTES FOR KNOXVILLE LOCAL LEAGUE PLAY

#### 1. Matches may be rescheduled for ONLY the following conditions:

\*Rain

\*Extreme Heat...temperature above 93 degrees Fahrenheit as listed on [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)

#### 2. Procedure to reschedule for one of the above-mentioned reasons:

\*If both captains agree to move indoors then the court fee will be split by the teams.

\*To reschedule a match outdoors, a new date should be agreed on and the match should be played within 2 WEEKS of the original date. The new date becomes the official match date/ time and cannot be altered.

\*If a match is interrupted or delayed by rain or unplayable court conditions, the teams must wait at least 30 minutes to determine if play can resume. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE FACILITY WHERE YOUR MATCH IS SCHEDULED AGREES FOR YOU TO WAIT AND WILL NOT





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CAUSE A SCHEDULING ISSUE AT THE FACILITY. Please check with them first to be sure waiting for courts to dry is not going to cause an issue.

\*If match play had begun and the match was interrupted due to inclement weather, all points, games and sets played will stand; make-up procedures would begin at the point match was stopped. The players on court should make note of the score, server, receiver and all other matters concerning the match.

\*Contact the LLC for help in rescheduling a match if you cannot agree on terms within time allowed.

\*PLAY MAY BE NECESSARY DURING A USTA LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP. IF THERE ARE FOUR (4) OR MORE PLAYERS OF THE SAME RATING ON A LOCAL COMBO TEAM WHO ARE ATTENDING THESE CHAMPIONSHIPS, THE TEAM IS ELIGIBLE FOR A RESCHEDULING OF ANY MATCHES DURING THE CHAMPIONSHIPS. The captain should email the opposing captain and the LLC at least 7 days prior to the originally scheduled match date. Please note all matches must be rescheduled prior to the first day of the Championships. All matches MUST BE completed by local deadlines...NO EXCEPTIONS!!

\*If a match is rescheduled due to anything but inclement weather or a USTA CHAMPIONSHIP, then 2 courts for a valid match MUST BE PLAYED on the scheduled date. The remaining court may be rescheduled within the 14-day make-up window, only if the opposing captain agrees. If a team reschedules 2 or more matches for any other reason and does not play the minimum required courts, a suspension may occur for the next USTA COMBO league season.

\*\*Prior approval from LLC is required to make up a match after a two-week grace period. On the 15<sup>th</sup> day if the match has not been completed or arrangements made with LLC, a double team default may be issued, or the LLC will pick a new date/time without consulting any of the teams for fairness.

\*Matches will be played at either Tyson Tennis Center or West Hills Tennis Center.

\*MATCH BALLS will only be provided to teams who have all rostered players current GKTA members. Captains will be asked via Jotform if their team will be participating in the GKTA ball sponsorship.

## VI. Championships

1. Players who qualify to advance to a USTA Tennessee Combo Doubles Championship may advance on more than one team within an age group only if they are different NTRP levels, and the player must have qualified separately for each team. **No accommodations for scheduling will be made at any Championship for teams with players that may be competing on two or more teams during a championship.**
2. In order to be eligible to play for a team at the USTA Tennessee Combo Doubles Championships, a player must have played at least one match for that team during the local league season. *Defaults received do count toward advancement.* A retired match counts for all players.
3. If there is only one team registered in a local league at a specific level, that team may advance directly to the USTA Tennessee Combo Doubles Championship.





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- a. Players must play in at least one local or state championship match in order to advance to the USTA Southern Combo Doubles Sectional Championships.
- b. **Knoxville** defines itself as [Morgan, Scott, Campbell, Claiborne, Union, Grainger, Jefferson, Cocke, Blount, Monroe, Loudon, Knox, Roane, Anderson, and Sevier counties](#). Teams competing in the **Knoxville** Local Leagues must play in facilities that reside within the defined area.
- c. The number of teams advancing from **Knoxville** is determined by the chart below:

DIVISION	NUMBER OF LOCAL TEAMS AT A SPECIFIC NTRP LEVEL COMBINED LEVEL	NUMBER OF TEAMS ADVANCING TO STATE LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS
Combo Doubles	2-9	1
	10-19	2
	20+	3

### VII. Grievances

- a. General/Sportsmanship Grievances and Administrative Grievances are filed with the Local League Coordinator. Please submit via email, including a \$50.00 fee. The LLC will give the grievance to the USTA Tennessee Grievance Committee. Should the Grievance Committee find in favor of the person filing the grievance, the \$50.00 will be refunded. Forms for grievances may be obtained from the Local League Coordinator.

### VIII. Local Committees

- a. [Local Rules & Regulations Committee: Millicent Hagood, Amanda Smith, Brandon Cartwright](#)
- b. USTA Tennessee Grievance Committee: Terryann Nelson (Chair), Debbi Booton, Jackie Mills
- c. USTA Tennessee Grievance Appeal Committee: Roger Ross (Chair), Barbara Hooper, Jeanne Jones
- d. Grievance and Grievance Appeal Committee members may change, or individual members substituted at the discretion of the USTA Tennessee Adult League Committee Chairperson.

Additional resources to find league information: [ustatn.com](http://ustatn.com), [usta.com](http://usta.com) and/or [southerntennis.com](http://southerntennis.com)