



2024 USTA Adult League Knoxville Local Regulations

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Knoxville Adult League Coordinators:

Adult 18/40 & Over – Cheryl Thompson Email-playtntennis@gmail.com

Adult 55/65 & Over – Isabelle Snyder Email -

[USTA League Regulations \(National/Southern/Tennessee\)](#) have full force at all levels of play. There is no authorization to modify, amplify or change those regulations. USTA Leagues matches are un-officiated, so Friend at Court and The Code shall be observed.

Please note the information contained in this document is specific to the USTA Adult Leagues in the **Knoxville** area and may not apply to other areas or types of leagues. They are designed for the **Knoxville** area to help ensure fair and competitive matches while maintaining good communication between teams and the Local League Coordinator. If a regulation is not mentioned then use 2024 National/Southern/Tennessee regulations for clarification.



Local League Important Dates

League	Local Registration Opens	<u>Deadline for Local Legal Team Registration</u>	<u>Local Last Day to Add Individual</u>	<u>Local Schedule Released</u>	<u>Local Playoff Dates*</u>	<u>TN League Play Deadline</u>	<u>2024 State Championship Dates</u>
18 & Over	January 1, 2024	February 23rd	April 24th	March 2nd	TBD	May 22, 2024	18 & Over Even/ 40 & Over Odd June 7-9th (Murfreesboro)
40 & Over		February 23rd	April 24th	March 2nd	TBD		18 & Over Odd/40 & Over Even June 21-23rd (Memphis)
55 & Over		February 23rd	April 21 st	TBD	TBD	May 1, 2024	May 17-19th (Knoxville)
65 & Over		April 28th	August 5th	TBD	TBD	August 23, 2024	September 6-8th (Knoxville)

***Play Off Dates will be issued at the time the schedule is released.**

Days of Play

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
W-18+ 4.0 W-40+ 3.0	W-18+2.5 W40+ 4.5	W-18+ 3.5	W-40+ 3.5	W- 40+ 4.0 W-18+ 3.0	Men 40+ All Divisions W- 18+ All Divisions	Men 18+ All Divisions W- 40+ All Divisions

*****Subject To Change*****



League Regulations

- Players should become familiar with the USTA League Regulations. Click [here](#) for easy access to USTA League Regulations where you will find the comprehensive regulations related to league play.
- It is necessary to note the rules (in blue) contained in this document are specific to the [Knoxville](#) area and may be modified or adjusted with the approval of the Local Rules Committee.
- [Knoxville](#) is defined as encompassing the counties of [Morgan](#), [Scott](#), [Campbell](#), [Claiborne](#), [Union](#), [Grainger](#), [Jefferson](#), [Cocke](#), [Blount](#), [Monroe](#), [Loudon](#), [Knox](#), [Roane](#), [Anderson](#), and [Sevier](#) Counties.
- Teams participating in [Knoxville](#) local leagues must use facilities located within this defined geographical area.

Player Registration Requirements and Fees

- All participants must be current members of USTA
- Players must be 18 years of age prior to participating in the USTA League program.
- For age divisions, each player shall have reached the required minimum age prior to or during the calendar year in which such player participates.
- Players are allowed to play at their current NTRP level and/or one level above it.
- Participants must be registered in TennisLink to be eligible to play in their first match.
- If only one team is registered at the deadline for any level, an extension of two weeks will be given to meet the National requirement of a minimum of 2 teams.
- League registration fee is \$29.00 There will be a non-refundable TennisLink processing fee added to that. (approximating \$3.00)

Refund

Players that did not play a match for that team and are not advancing to a State Championship are eligible to request a refund.

- Process for Refunds:
 - Contact the LLC to request a refund by the deadline of:
 - [Adult 18/40 – May 22nd](#)
 - [Adult 55 – May 1st](#)
 - [Adult 65 – August 23rd](#)
 - [Refund will consist of league fee \(\\$32\) minus \\$9.00 administrative fees](#)

Eligibility

- Players can participate in different age levels and NTRP levels as long as they meet the eligibility criteria for those levels.
- NTRP Ratings: 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. Self-ratings are valid for two years from the date issued or until replaced by a dynamic or



computer rating. NTRP computer generated ratings are good for 3 years for those players 59 years old or under, and 2 years for those 60 years of age or older.

- Team captains are responsible for ensuring ALL team members meet the eligibility requirements.
- If a player is found to be ineligible any matches they have played may be forfeited.

Captain Responsibilities

- Each team must appoint a captain who will be responsible for managing team activities and representing the team in USTA League matters.
 - Captains must have a valid email address and phone number listed in TennisLink to facilitate communication with LLC's and other captains.
- Team Naming Format:
 - Captains must use the following format to name teams: *Captains Last Name/City (ex. Smith/Knoxville)*
- Captains should communicate with the opposing captain before a match to identify and solve any problems that might come up concerning the match.
- The home captain is responsible for informing the opposing captain about how matches will be played if the site uses split court times.
- Captains should be aware that matches may be played on any court surface.
- GKTA Ball Sponsorship: GKTA will provide balls for a home team's matches if all players are current GKTA members. GKTA membership can be paid online at gkta.usta.com. It is the captains' responsibility to let the LLC know when all players have paid their 2024 membership.

Roster Requirements

- If any Adult Division Age Group consists of only two teams in a level of play, each team must maintain its roster with at least 40 percent of its players at the designated NTRP level of play.
- For leagues with three teams or more, there is no minimum number of players required at the designated team NTRP level. For example, a 3.0 registered team may be composed entirely of 2.5 NTRP-rated players.
- USTA Tennessee limits the number of players that appear on a team roster. Specific details can be found in the Levels Offered table for the maximum number of players allowed in this league.
- No residency requirements are attached to divisions that play locally. In the divisions with direct advancement, there must be at least 3 players on the roster that reside within that particular local league.

Levels Offered

Division	Age Group	NTRP Levels	League Format	Minimum Number of Players Required For Legal Team	Maximum number of players allowed on team roster
Adult	18 & Over	2.5, 5.0	1 Singles 2 Doubles	5	12
		3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	2 Singles 3 Doubles	8	18
	40 & Over	W- 4.5 M - 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	1 Singles 3 Doubles	9	20
		W- 3.0, 3.5, 4.0	1 Singles 4 Doubles		
	55 & over	3.0, 3.5 4.0, 4.5	3 Doubles	6	14
	65 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0 combined	3 Doubles	6	14

- Divisions that play their “Local League” at USTA Tennessee State League Championships.
 - **Adult 18 & Over**
 - Adult 18 & Over 2.5 Men, 5.0 Men and Women
 - The above levels must meet the State deadline of **May 10th, 2024** for team and individual registration. All players must be registered in TennisLink by May 10th.
 - **Adult 55 & Over**
 - Adult 55 & Over 3.0 Men and 9.0 Combined M/W – These divisions will play the local league at the USTA Tennessee State League Championship. NTRP rating level difference between partners shall not exceed 1.0. These levels must meet the State deadline of **April 26, 2024** for team and individual registration. All players must be registered in TL by April 26th.
- Division that allows direct advancement:
 - **Adult 65 & Over-**

- If a city has more than 1 team in a division, the city is required to play a local league, and advance the winner of the division to the state championship. If a city has only one team in an individual division, that city may send that 1 team directly to the state championships.

Possible Scheduling Criteria

- Divisions may be divided into sub-flights with a playoff at the end of local play to determine the Knoxville champion. Cities may use either Full Round Robin or Partial Round Robin as approved formats provided there is at least a single elimination playoff between the top two teams to establish a local league champion for that NTRP level.
- Each NTRP level may play a partial round robin competition wherein every team plays the same number of matches against randomly selected opponents, and then a minimum of the top two teams shall progress to a single elimination playoff to establish a local league champion for the NTRP level.
- Local play will begin as soon as needed to get all local play completed by the USTA Tennessee State league play deadline.
- Any match may be played prior to the originally scheduled match, if both captains agree.

Individual Regulations

USTA Local League Play in Knoxville

- Official Ball - A standard Type 2 USTA approved ball shall be used in all matches.
- Warmups are limited to 5 minutes
- All local league matches will be the best of two out of three sets with a Set Tiebreak (first to 7 by 2) used at 6 all in each set.
 - Two-minute rest period between sets
 - No coaching will be allowed during set breaks. After the first game of each set, players change ends without a rest period (continuous play).
 - All other changeovers within a set will have a 90-second rest period.
 - 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.
- Restroom breaks can be taken at any time.

Line-ups and Substitutions

Written line-ups are to be exchanged at the scheduled match time or earlier if captains agree. Each player can participate in only one individual match within each team match. In case of illness, injury, disqualification, or no-show of a player before the start of an individual match, the team may substitute a player in the affected position within the 15-



minute default time, using a player not already listed on the line-up. The substitute player is entitled to a five-minute warm-up.

- Tardiness: USTA rules regarding tardiness for a match are as follows:
 - 5:00 min or less loss of toss plus 1 game
 - 5:01 -10:00 min loss of toss plus 2 games
 - 10:01-15:00 min loss of toss plus 3 games
 - More than 15 min default

Valid Match

For a team match to be considered valid, the majority of individual matches must be played. Refer to National regulation. 2.01C(3)

- Non-compliance with Regulations: If a captain does not comply with these regulations, it may be considered a full team default in favor of the opponents.

Defaults

- If a team shows up without the minimum number 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, and the opposing team will win each individual match 6-0, 6-0. Please refer to National Regulation 2.01C(3) on team default procedures.
- If a team plays a local match without a full lineup, defaults must be taken according to the following:
 - For 1 Singles/2 Doubles format, defaults must occur at either #1 singles or #2 doubles
 - For 1 Singles/3 or 4 Doubles format, defaults must occur at either #1 singles or bottom doubles court.
 - For leagues playing the 2 Singles/3 Doubles. Defaults are taken from either #2 Singles or #3 Doubles making sure that at least 3 courts are being played.
- Any team/captain who has more than 4 court defaults during one league season may be subject to a grievance, and suspension points assessed.
- If a match is begun and a player has to retire due to injury or illness, the match score to the point of retiring will be recorded on the scorecard (i.e.; 6-2, 2-1, 15-15, retired).
- 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.
- Enter the score as 6-0, 6-0

Coaching and Cell Phones

- Coaching in any form is not allowed during USTA Adult League matches. Cell phones must be turned off or silenced during play.

- Coaching is considered to be communication, advice or instruction of any kind and by any means to a player.
- Teammates, spectators, and coaches may not comment on the line calls or scoring while a match is being played.
- Cell phones must be turned off or silenced during play.
 - A ringing phone is a deliberate hindrance. The opponent may stop play and claim the point.

Weather Interruptions

- 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.
- *Rain or Cold/Hot Weather Procedure: If it is raining or temperature is below 40 degrees not counting wind chill factor or above 93 degrees as listed on weather.com.
- If rain or heat causes the match to be hindered, and if it is agreed upon by both captains, the match may be moved indoors and the court costs will be split by both teams.
- Rescheduling for any other reason than weather is frowned upon, but if you do agree to reschedule a match, captains should notify the LLC of details. Then the original match date and time can be altered in TennisLink. Captains/players are required to pay any additional court fees associated with the new court date/time.
- ***Any match that is rescheduled must be made up within two weeks of the originally scheduled match. If on the 15th day the match has not been completed or arrangements made with the LLC, a double default can be issued.*

Full Team Match Forfeits

- If a captain knows ahead of time that 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 and that team may be eligible to advance.
- In an effort to avoid full team defaults, the LLC will work between the 2 captains to play enough courts to make the match legal, and the team, who was without, the minimum # of players required, will forfeit remaining courts in the match. If that is



not possible, then a full team default will be issued and the LLC will determine if the offending team will be taken out of local standings.

Score Entry

- Captains are responsible for entering and/or confirming match scores on TennisLink. 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.
 - If scores are not entered into TennisLink within 48 hours, both captains may be subject to a local grievance and sanctions imposed by the USTA TN State Grievance Committee.

Tiebreak Procedures

In the event of a tie in a team match or in league standings, the tie will be broken by the first of the procedures listed below.

For a tie in league standings at the end of the season:

- **Individual Matches.** Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.
- **Head-to-head.** Winner of head-to-head match.
- **Sets.** Loser of the fewest number of sets.
- **Games.** Loser of the fewest number of games
- **Game Winning Percentage.** Total games won divided by total games played.
- **LLC will schedule a match with 1 S and 2 Doubles. Best 2 lines of 3 will win the match. (Adult 55 and Adult 65 will schedule an additional match)**

Local Playoffs:

- Local playoffs are considered championship play, so each player must have played 2 matches during the local season to be able to participate.
- Flights that were divided must play a final match to determine the winner of that flight.
- Play-Off Format is dependent on the number of teams registered for each sub-flight.
- Local rules committee reserve the right to alter the Play-Off format if it is necessary.



USTA TN State Championships

- Players who qualify for an Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over and/or Adult 65 & Over team(s) may advance on more than one team within an age group only if they are different NTRP levels and 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.

Matches required to advance to championships for Adult League

- Local Play Offs, State and Sectional Championships:
 - 2 matches played on advancing team
 - 1 Default received shall count
 - Retirements count for all players on the court
- National Championships
 - 3 matches played on the advancing team for a computer rated player
 - One default received counts as one of those 3
 - For Self-rated and computer rated appealed players- 4 matches required with no defaults counting as one of the four.
- Retirements count for all players
- Adult 65 & Over requires 1 local or state match to advance to sectional championship play with 1 default counting. For teams that are advancing to the sectional championships through local or state play, the one match requirement may be waived at the discretion of the Championship Committee for up to a maximum of two players per team. (Adult 65)
- If there is no local and/or state competition offered in a particular Adult 65 & Over division, one team per state per NTRP level may advance directly to the sectional championships.
- In Tennessee, a local league having two (2) or more teams at any 65 & Over level must play a local league. If there is only one (1) team signed up at a level, that team may advance directly to the State Championship.
- The number of advancing from Knoxville is determined by the chart below:

<u>Division</u>	<u>Number Of Local Teams At A Specific NTRP Level</u>	<u>Number Of Local Teams Advancing to State League Championship</u>
Adult 18 & Over/40 & Over/55 & Over	2 - 11	1
	12 - 24	2
	25+	3
Adult 65 & Over	If a city has 2 or more teams in any Adult 65 & Over division, they must play locally	1

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Grievances

- **Self-Ratings and Grievances:** Any self-rated player who is playing at an NTRP level lower than his/her actual skill level is subject to an NTRP Grievance. Players who allow someone else to complete the self-rating process for them will be ultimately responsible and held accountable for information submitted or omitted. Failure to self-rate in accordance with the *Guidelines*, or omission of information regarding a player's tennis history, will subject the player as well as the captain and/or others who completed, assisted, condoned and/or approved an inappropriate self-rating to penalties or disqualification. A Captain, Local League Coordinator, or member of a Championship Committee can file an NTRP grievance.
- Grievances are filed with the Local League Coordinator. Please submit via email, including a \$50.00 filing fee. Should the USTA TN Grievance Committee uphold the grievance, the filing fee will be refunded. The LLC will give the grievance to the State Grievance Committee. Forms for grievances may be obtained from the Local League Coordinator
- USTA League Suspension Point System will be used to assess points to players, captains and associated USTA Members when grievances are upheld.

Local Committees

- **Knoxville Local Rules Committee:** Brooke Browning, Lisa Huffman, Rob Gosselin, Caitln Woriskey, Stephen Wills
- USTA Tennessee Grievance Committee: Terryann Nelson, Chair, Jackie Mills, Jeanne Jones
- USTA Tennessee Grievance Appeals Committee: Roger Ross, Chair, Barbara Hooper and Heather Andersen

Other Resources

- USTA, USTA Southern and USTA Tennessee Regulations – <https://www.ustatn.com/adult-local-league-regulations/>
- Friend at Court – <https://www.ustatn.com/adult-local-league-regulations/>
- USTA Tennessee Website – <https://www.ustatn.com/>
- USTA Southern Website – <https://southernchampionships.com/>
- Greater Knoxville Tennis Association – <https://playtennis.usta.com/gkta>