



2023 USTA Early Start League Regulations

Knoxville

Local League Coordinator:

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Adult 18 & Over ESL

Regulations written in BLUE text are specific to Knoxville league and may not apply in other local areas.

Dates

<u>League</u>	<u>Registration Opens</u>	<u>Local Team Registration Deadline</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>
Adult 18 & Over ESL	August 1, 2021	September 21st	December 3rd	TBD	Dec 10 th and 11 th if needed	December 23, 2021	TBD

I. Local Regulations:

Local 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- Adult 18 & Over 3.5	W-Adult 18 & Over 3.0	Re-Schedule Day	W-Adult 18 & Over 2.5 and 4.0	Re-Schedule Day	4.5 W and Weekend Teams of Women's Divisions (Sundays if necessary)	Adult 18 & Over Men's Divisions



Local Items of Note:

Play begins October 1st, however not all divisions will begin that week. Check TennisLink on September 28th for your local schedule.

1.04C(1) Official League Registration. TennisLink is the official system for registering teams and players for the USTA League. A player's name must be listed on the team roster, as shown in TennisLink, prior to participation in any match.

Any player who participates in a match without first registering for the team is ineligible and will be defaulted. The score will be entered as 0-6,0-6 in favor of opponent.

A scheduled match could be played prior to the originally scheduled match time with both captain's agreement. Otherwise, the match should be played as scheduled unless weather conditions interfere.

If another USTA Championship is scheduled in conflict with a match and at least 5 of your players are registered for that Championship, please contact the LLC for a new date of play. (That request must be done 2 weeks before that Championship)

USTA approves all surfaces for match play. Knoxville uses hard courts and clay courts for USTA play. Knoxville also does not use a strictly home and away basis for scheduling.

GKTA Ball Sponsorship: GKTA will provide balls for a team's home matches if all team members are GKTA Members for the current 2022 year. GKTA membership can be paid online at www.gkta.usta.com. GKTA Membership is annual from Jan-Dec, so if you played for any 2022 leagues your membership should be paid.

II. League Regulations

- a. Where not otherwise stated, USTA League National, Southern, and Tennessee Regulations have full force and applicability.
- 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. All participants must be current members of the USTA. Players must be 18 years of age prior to participating in the USTA League program. Each player over the age of 18 shall have reached the required minimum age prior to or during the calendar year in which such player participates in his or her first local league. Each player must pay a **29.00** 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 fee paid to TennisLink at the time of registration.



Total fee on TennisLink will be **\$32.00** per registrant per team, except team captain who gets their registration of \$29.00 paid by GKTA as captain’s gift.

- d. Players requesting a refund must do so by contacting the 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 Local League Coordinator. Only players that did not play a match for that team and are not advancing to a state championship are eligible to request a refund.
 - i. Refunds must be submitted to the LLC by December 26th, 2021.
- e. USTA Adult Leagues in [Knoxville](#) offered in the following divisions:

<u>Division</u>	<u>League Type</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>
Adult ESL	18 & Over	2.5 women, 5.0	1 Singles 2 Doubles	5	12
	18 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	2 Singles 3 Doubles	8	18

- i. **Adult 18 & Over –**
 - 1. Adult 18 & Over 2.5 Men, 5.0 Men/Women will play their local league at the USTA Tennessee State League Championship. These levels must meet the State deadline for team and individual registration. No players may be added after the State League Play Deadline.
- f. Divisions may be divided into two or more flights with a playoff at the end of local play to determine the Knoxville champion, or 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 top two teams shall progress to a single elimination playoff to establish a local league champion for that NTRP level.
 - i. [Local Playoff will be scheduled to determine winner, if necessary. The winner will have until April 1st to accept the bid. If the 1st place team does not accept that spot, it will be offered to the 2nd place finalist. A deposit check must be mailed by April 2nd to USTA TN by advancing team, or the offer may be considered null and void.](#)
- g. If only one team is registered at deadline for any level, an extension of two weeks will be given to meet the National requirement of a minimum of 2 teams.
 - i. [The coordinator, with approval of local rules committee, reserves the right to add a team after close of registration, if it is believed this addition is beneficial to the overall growth and health of our leagues, and only if that addition does not violate any Tennessee State Regulation deadline.](#)
- h. Each team shall appoint a captain to manage team activities and to represent the team in USTA League matters. The captain is the person who is to communicate with the LLC



and serves as the liaison between the players and the LLC, and therefore captains must have a valid email address and phone number listed in TennisLink.

- i. Captains **MUST** use the following format to name teams: **Captain's Last Name/City**
- j. 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.
- k. USTA Tennessee will have no residency requirements for teams that are in leagues with local play.
 - i. For teams that advance directly to the State Championship or play their local league at the State Championships, USTA Tennessee requires that at least **3** players of the team be residents of the local area from which that team is advancing.
- l. USTA Tennessee limits the number of players that may appear on a team roster. Please see the table in Local Regulation II.e for the maximum number of players on a roster in each league.

II. Individual Regulations

- a. 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.
- b. 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 a NTRP grievance.
- c. A player may play at their current NTRP level and/or up to one level above the current NTRP level.
- d. Players may play on different age levels and NTRP levels as long as they are eligible. Team captains are responsible for making sure that all team members meet eligibility criteria. Players not meeting the above eligibility criteria will be ineligible and any matches they have played will be forfeited. A player who participates in the USTA League in violation of any eligibility provision shall be subject to an Eligibility Grievance.

III. League Play

- a. Lineups are to be exchanged at the scheduled match time, or before, if captains agree and are ready to play. A player may participate in only one individual match within each team match.
- b. 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. 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.

- i. **Tardiness:** USTA rules regarding tardiness for a match are as follows:
 - a. 5:00 min or less loss of toss plus 1 game
 - b. 5:01 -10:00 min loss of toss plus 2 games
 - c. 10:01-15:00 min loss of toss plus 3 games
 - d. More than 15 min Default
- c. **No Coaching:** There is no coaching in any form allowed in USTA Adult League matches. Cell phones must be turned off or silenced during play.
- d. **Local Match Play:** Local League Matches will be best of two out of three sets with 7-point Coman Tie-break used at 6 all in each set. Coman Super Tie-break is used in lieu of third set if match is tied at one set each. (First team to 10 by 2)
 - i. Two-minute rest period between sets
 - ii. 90-second rest period on changeover during set
 - iii. After 1st game of each set, players change ends without a rest period (continuous play)
 - iv. No coaching allowed during set breaks
 - v. A ringing phone is a deliberate hindrance. The opponent may stop play and claim the point.
- e. **Procedure in the event of a tie:** 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.
 - i. For a tie in league standings at the end of the season:
 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. Additional Match scheduled by LLC before State play deadline to break the tie.
- f. 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 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.
 - i. 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.



- g. If a team plays a local match without a full lineup, forfeits must be taken according to the following:
- For divisions playing the 1 Singles/2 Doubles format forfeits must occur at either #1 singles or #2 doubles
 - For leagues playing the 2 Singles/3 Doubles formats, forfeits occur beginning with No. 3 doubles and/or No. 2 singles.
- h. 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.
- i. If a match is 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).
- j. 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 score is entered as 6-0, 6-0.
- k. 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.
- i. 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.
- l. 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. ***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.
 1. Both captains agree to find indoor courts and split court fees.
 2. If a match is interrupted or delayed by rain or unplayable courts, teams must wait one hour to determine if play can resume. After one hour and courts are still unplayable, the match will be re-scheduled unless captain agree to wait or make other arrangements.
 3. If match play had begun and rain becomes a factor, all points, games and sets played will count; make-up procedures will begin at the point the match was halted. The players on the court should make note of the score, server, receiver and all other matters concerning the match.
 4. If the line-up was exchanged but play did not begin because of weather conditions, substitutions may be made. Forfeits offered verbally prior to the original lineup exchange are null and void.



5. Use open date including night time and reschedule match within a two-week period. Once the make-up date is agreed upon, that then becomes the new “official” match date/time and cannot be altered.
 6. Contact coordinator for help in re-scheduling match if you cannot agree on terms within time allowed.
 7. Re-scheduling for any other purpose than weather is frowned upon, but if you do agree to re-schedule a match, captains must notify LLC of details and obtain approval.
 8. *****Prior approval from Committee is required to make up match after two-week grace period. On the 15th day, if match has not been completed or arrangements made with coordinator, a double team default may be issued.***
- m. For each team match, a majority of individual matches must actually be played to constitute a valid team match. In a situation where the majority of individual matches would be not played (not a “valid” team match) the first course of action would be for both captains to agree on what individual matches, based on the number of players present, or to be present, can be played to constitute a valid team match. Once that is determined, both captains will re-exchange scorecards. If both captains cannot come to an agreement on what lines will be played to constitute a valid team match, based on the number of players present, or to be present, then the following individual matches will be assigned in sequential order to be played:

<u>Format</u>	<u>Required Matches In Sequential</u>	<u>Minimum Number Of Players Required For Each Team In A Valid Team Match</u>
2 Singles/3 Doubles	#1 and #2 singles, and #1 doubles (priority); #2 doubles if enough players present	4
1 Singles/2 Doubles	#1 singles and #1 doubles	3
1 Singles/3 Doubles	#1 singles and #1 doubles and #2 doubles (priority)	5
1 Singles/4 Doubles	#1 singles, #1 doubles, and #2 doubles	5
3 Doubles	#1 and #2 doubles	4

- n. If both teams have enough players to play the match and it’s discovered after-the-fact that a majority of the matches were not played to constitute a valid team match, both captains need to come to an agreement of what lines will be played to make the team match valid. If captains cannot come to an agreement, then the individual match(es) to be played will be assigned in sequential order in the above-mentioned table. If a captain does not comply with this regulation, then it may be considered a full team default in favor of the opponents. 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.

IV. Championships

- a. 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.**
 - i. Each player must play in 2 matches during local league round robin to be eligible for the local playoff with only (1) default received counting. A retired match counts for all players. The local playoffs is considered Championship play.
- b. In order to be eligible to compete in a USTA Tennessee League State Championship, players must play in the number of matches listed in the table below:

MATCHES REQUIRED TO ADVANCE TO CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR ADULT AND MIXED DIVISIONS			
SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AND BELOW		NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	
LOCAL MATCHES REQUIRED	DEFAULTS THAT COUNT	TOTAL MATCHES REQUIRED THROUGH SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP	DEFAULTS THAT COUNT
To advance to any championship level through Sectional Championship	To advance to any championship level through Sectional Championship	To advance to National Championship	To advance to National Championship
2 matches on the same team	1 default <u>received</u> shall count	<u>All players other than self-rated and computer-rated appealed players:</u> 3 matches on the same team	1 default <u>received</u> shall count



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VO.1 8/19/2022

<u>2 matches required</u>	<u>1 default received shall count</u>	<u>Self-rated and computer-rated appealed players</u> <u>4 matches on the same team</u>	<u>No default received shall count</u>
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A retirement counts as a match played for all players involved.

c. 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>
ESL Adult 18 & Over	2+	1

V. Grievances

- a. 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, State League Coordinator or member of a Championship Committee can file a NTRP grievance. A player with a valid NTRP Computer (C) 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.
- b. Grievances are filed with the Local League Coordinator. Please submit via email, including a \$50.00 fee. Should the Grievance Committee find in favor of the person filing the grievance, the \$50.00 will be refunded. The LLC will give the grievance to the Local Grievance Committee. Forms for grievances may be obtained from the Local League Coordinator.

VI. Local Committees

- a. **Rules & Regulations Committee:** Lynn Eagen, Jennifer Douglas, Bryce Curry
- b. **USTA Tennessee Grievance Committee:** Terryann Nelson, Chair, Debbie Booton, Jackie Mills
- c. **USTA Tennessee Grievance Appeals Committee:** Roger Ross, Chair, Barbara Hooper and Jeanne Jones

VII. Other Resources

- a. **USTA, USTA Southern, and USTA Tennessee Regulations -**
http://www.ustatn.com/adults_league/league/?intloc=headernavsub



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V0.1 8/19/2022

- b. USTA Tennessee Website – www.ustatn.com
- c. **USTA Southern Website** – www.southerntennis.com