



TENNESSEE

# 2024 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</u> <small>(Deadline for legal team roster minimum)</small>	<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, 2024	August 3, 2024	September 27, 2024	August 5, 2024	NA	October 2, 2024  October 16, 2024	<u>Combo 18 &amp; Over/55 &amp; Over</u> October 18-20, 2024 (Murfreesboro)  <u>Combo 40 &amp; Over/65 &amp; Over</u> November 1-3, 2024 (Murfreesboro)



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### Local League Season Dates: August 9th-October 6th\*

October 4-6 will only be used if absolutely necessary.

Matches will be WEEKENDS, primarily at Tyson Park and West Hills Park.

Friday will be used for divisions where more play dates are needed.

Weeknight matches may be scheduled certain weeks, if needed, due to State Championships or other events.

WEEKENDS of Labor Day and State Trilevel will not be used unless absolutely necessary.

### Tentative Play Days

18 & Over: 2.5 (Sat/Sun); 5.5 (Sat); 6.5(Sun); 7.5 (Sat); 8.5 (Sun); 9.5 (TBD)

40 & Over: 5.5 (Sun); 6.5 (Sat); 7.5 (Sun); 8.5 (Sat)

55 & Over: 6.5 (Sun); 7.5 (Sat); 8.5 (Sun)

65 & Over: 6.5 (Sat); 7.5 (Sun); 8.5 (Sat)

## 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. 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. (Email [citytennisace@gmail.com](mailto:citytennisace@gmail.com) to request refund.)

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### 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. Combo Doubles Divisions Offered in Tennessee:

<b>League</b>	<b>Divisions</b>	<b>NTRP Levels</b>	<b>League Format</b>	<b>Minimum Number of Players Required For Legal Team</b>	<b>Maximum number of players allowed on team roster</b>
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: Captain's Last Name/City. (Harris/Nashville).



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- 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. Tennessee limits the number of players that may appear on a team roster to 18 players. (See table in section III.)
- f. Players must play at the rating on the TennisLink roster unless they appeal up or down during the local league season, or if that player is dynamically promoted. The player then should notify the LLC to make an update on the TennisLink roster. The adjusted rating will be used for the duration of Combo Doubles season including through Championships.

### 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 2024 Friend at Court.

- a. Teams should exchange written lineups 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. **If one player/team is late the following should be followed:**
  - \*5 minutes or less: Loss of toss plus 1 game
  - \*5:01-10 minutes: Loss of toss plus 2 games
  - \*10:01-15 minutes: Loss of toss plus 3 games
  - \*More than 15 minutes: Default
- d. There will be no coaching in any form during match play.
- e. Cell phones must be turned off or silenced during play, and smart watches turned off or covered.
- f. Combo Doubles matches 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**



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**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.
    - i. **MATCHES SHOULD BE PLAYED AS SCHEDULED. In the event a match is rescheduled due to anything but weather issues or Championships, TWO (2) COURTS for a valid team match MUST BE PLAYED ON THE SCHEDULED DATE. The 3rd court should be entered as a DEFAULT unless the opposing captain agrees to reschedule that court. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE SHOULD A CAPTAIN FEEL OBLIGATED TO AGREE TO A 3RD COURT RESCHEDULE.**
  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. **An inclement weather reschedule becomes official if courts or conditions are unplayable for more than 30 minutes during the time matches are scheduled. This includes rain, lightning, darkness and heat (Air temperature above 93 degrees per weather.com AT THE SCHEDULED MATCH TIME). Team captains will jointly make a decision. If an agreement cannot be made prior to the scheduled match, both teams must go to the courts and be prepared to play as scheduled.**



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- 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 tied for first place after games lost, tiebreak and winning percentage, a one match playoff will be held between the tied teams prior to the end of the league play deadline.**

## 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 state Championship..
  - 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 **the counties of Morgan, Scott, Campbell, Claiborne, Union, Grainger, Jefferson, Cocke, Blount, Monroe, Loudon, Knox, Roane, Anderson and Sevier.** ----- 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



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### 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 and Rob Bray](#)
- b. USTA Tennessee Grievance Committee: Terryann Nelson (Chair), Bryce Curry, Jackie Mills
- c. USTA Tennessee Grievance Appeal Committee: Roger Ross (Chair), Barbara Hooper, Heather Anderson
- 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)