



# 2025 Southern Tri-Level Doubles | USTA Tennessee

## KNOXVILLE

### Local League Coordinators

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[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 are unofficiated matches so Friend at Court and The Code shall be observed.

Please note that this information 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. These regulations are focused on local play specific to [Knoxville](#).

*We will adhere to the USTA League National and/or Southern Regulations on items not mentioned in these local regulations.*

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 Tri-Level Leagues	January 1, 2025	January 6, 2025	February 28, 2025	January 8, 2025	NONE	August 29, 2025	Tri-Level September 12-14, 2025 (Knoxville)

Knoxville League Play Dates: January 10-12; 17-19; 24-26; 31-Feb.2; February 7-9; 14\*-16; 28-March 2 (\*Will only be used if needed)

FRIDAY matches will not be scheduled prior to 6:00 pm and may be scheduled as late as 9:00 pm

SUNDAY matches will not be scheduled before 1:00 pm unless absolutely necessary.

Registration and Refunds

- **Registering.** Registration is completed in TennisLink
  - All participants must be current members of the USTA, and that membership must be valid through the entire season including advancement opportunities.
  - 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.
- **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.
  - 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.
- **Registration Fees:** Each player must pay a \$37 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 \$40.15 per registrant per team.
- **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) 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.

## Team Match Format

- Tri-Level 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.
  - Southern Tri-Level Offered:

<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>
Tri-Level	18 & Over	5.0-4.0, 4.5-3.5, 4.0-3.0, 3.5-2.5	3 Doubles	6	18
	40 & Over	4.5-3.5 and 4.0-3.0	3 Doubles	6	18
	55 & Over	4.5-3.5 and 4.0-3.0	3 Doubles	6	18

- Tennessee Tri-Level Doubles Divisions Offered:

<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>
Tri-Level	18 & Over	5.0-4.0, 4.5-3.5, 4.0-3.0, 3.5-2.5	3 Doubles	6	18
	40 & Over	4.5-3.5, 4.0-3.0, 3.5-2.5	3 Doubles	6	18
	55 & Over	4.5-3.5, 4.0-3.0, 3.5-2.5	3 Doubles	6	18
	65 & Over	4.0-3.0	3 Doubles	6	18

- 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.
- 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 Tri-Level 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.

## Team Regulations

- Each team should 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 communicates 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.
- Captains MUST use the following format to name teams: Captain's Last Name/City (Smith/Chattanooga)
- USTA Tennessee will have no residency requirements for this league.
- USTA Tennessee limits the number of players that may appear on a team roster. TN Tri-Level Doubles allows 18 players per team. (See table in section III.)

## League Play

\*All matches are played without officials, but play is governed by the Rules of Tennis, "The Code," as contained in the 2025 Friend at Court.

- Both team lineups are to be exchanged at the scheduled match time. It is possible to begin play before match time if courts are available and both captains agree. 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 will be defaulted in local leagues.
  - **Lateness: USTA rules regarding lateness 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**
- There will be no coaching in any form allowed in Southern Tri-Level Doubles League matches.
- Cell phones must be turned off or silenced during play.
- Southern Tri-Level 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.
- **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.

- 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.
- 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).
  
- **Scorecard Placement & Defaults:** Players may play “up” one level (.5) within a Tri-Level match line-up. For example, a Tri-Level 18 & Over 4.0-3.0 team may place a 3.0 player in the #2 (3.5) and/or #3 (3.0) positions only.
- **Tennessee Individual Defaults:** If an individual default is necessary, the default can be at the original line in the match. For example, in a 4.0-3.0 match and a team has no 3.5’s or 3.0’s to play up, they can default line 2 the (3.5) position.
  - Two out of the three courts must be played to constitute a legal match.
  - 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.
  - If a match must be defaulted, only the names of the player(s) receiving the default should be written on the scorecard. The written score shall be 6-0,6-0; as if the match had been played.
  - If a captain knows ahead of time that he/she will default an entire team match, he/she must notify the LLC and the opposing team captain. If a team defaults an entire team match and that default affects the outcome of the local league, then all matches played by the defaulting team will be removed from the standings. If the defaulting 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.
  - Inclement weather - the Knoxville Trilevel league is an indoor league; therefore, all matches should be played as scheduled. In the event any match is rescheduled, it is the sole responsibility of the players to pay any indoor costs associated with the rescheduling. If inclement weather causes the LLC to reschedule any match, court fees will not be assessed to the players. **NO ONE IS OBLIGATED TO RESCHEDULE any match unless the LLC is requesting the change due to inclement weather.**
- **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. **LLC will schedule a match between teams that may still be tied in the league standings.**

Championships

- Players who qualify to advance to a USTA Tennessee Tri-Level 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 accommodation for scheduling will be made at any Championship for teams with players that may be competing on two or more teams during a championship.**
- In order to be eligible to play for a team at the USTA Tennessee Tri-Level 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.
- If there is only one team registered in a local league at a specific level, that team may advance directly to the USTA Tennessee Tri-Level Doubles Championship.
  - Players must play in at least one local or state championship match in order to advance to the USTA Southern Tri-Level Doubles Sectional Championships
  - **Knoxville** defines itself as [the counties of 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.
  - 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
Tri-Level Doubles	2-9	1
	10-19	2
	20+	3

Grievances

- General/Sportsmanship Grievances and Administrative Grievances are filed with the Local League Coordinator. Please submit it 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.

## Local Committees

- Local Rules & Regulations Committee: Rob Bray, Millicent Dunn-Hagood; Lyn Eagen;
- USTA Tennessee Grievance Committee: Terryann Nelson (Chair), Bryce Curry, Jackie Mills
- USTA Tennessee Grievance Appeal Committee: Roger Ross (Chair), Barbara Hooper, Holly Fisher
- 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)