

2024 Southern, Kentucky, & Tennis Association of Central Kentucky (TACK) Tri-Level Regulations

Updated: December 11, 2023 - Updated: December 13, 2023 – Updated: March 20, 2024

Play is governed by the RULES OF TENNIS, "The Code" as contained in the 2024 Friend at Court, and the following USTA Southern Tri-Level Regulations. **USTA Southern will adhere to the USTA League National and/or Southern Regulations on items not mentioned in the USTA Southern Tri-level Regulations.** General regulations and procedures for the program are listed below and/or Championship Procedures. Each State of the USTA Southern Section may supplement these regulations as is required for play within their State. Local and/or State regulations shall not be in conflict with the Southern Tri-Level Regulations. No Southern Tri-Level Regulation or Procedure may be waived by a State Association or by any local, state or sectional league coordinator or Grievance or Grievance Appeal Committee. Any violation of these regulations shall be subject to such sanctions as may be imposed by League Grievance or Grievance Appeal Committee procedures outlined in the USTA League Regulations. USTA Southern is the final authority on such actions unless otherwise specified in Bylaws of the USTA or USTA Southern.

1. All participants must be current members of the USTA and register through Tennis Link.

2. **Team Composition:** A team shall consist of a minimum of six (6) players which are able to combine to form an eligible pairing for each of the three (3) lines for a team match.

3. **Team Match & Scoring:** The team match format of play will be 3 lines of doubles per team match. It is recommended that all matches be the best of three tiebreak sets with a match tiebreak in lieu of a third set. Local leagues may decide to use other USTA approved scoring methods that are compatible with the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System.

TACK Local League Regulation: Play for all divisions will be round robin format with matches scheduled March 21, 2024, through Sunday, March 24, 2024. All teams will play each other equally in their round robin. The team winning the most courts will be the winner.

With four teams a round robin with semi-final and final will be played. #1 vs. #4 and #2 vs. #3 with winners playing a final.

All matches MUST be played with scores reported by the last date of local league play on March 24, 2024. Scores must be reported in TennisLink within 24 hours of the completed team match, and must be entered within 1-hour of the Semi-Finals and Finals matches if applicable. After match scores have been entered in TennisLink, they must be confirmed by the opposing team within 48 hours of the initial entry or the initial score will automatically be considered valid.

Procedures in the Event of a Tie for Lexington local play only will be determined by the following criteria:

1. Individual Matches. Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.
2. Sets. Loser of the fewest number of sets.
3. Games. Loser of the fewest number of games.
4. Head-to-head. Winner of head-to-head match.
5. Coin toss

If a match is disputed within the 48 hours after the score is reported in TennisLink, the captain disputing the scores must contact the LLC and opposing team captain, with match number, date played, position and scores in dispute.

Teams are expected to play what constitutes a "Team Match"

(*Adult League Reg 2.01C(3)*) at the scheduled match time. In the event a team must forfeit a court(s) the captain is responsible for the following:

1. Notify the opposing team captain of forfeited court(s)
2. Notify the Local League Coordinator of the forfeit; and
3. Notify the Tennis Club to cancel court(s).

If this notification is less than 24 hours prior to the match, that captain's team shall be responsible for any/all court fees.

There shall be no rescheduled courts besides the situations specified in *Adult League Reg 2.01C(3)c*. All reschedules must be approved by the LLC in writing.

In the event of closure of a club or inclement weather, the LLC shall notify the captains. Captains will need to collaborate to reschedule their match within 2 weeks of their original match time. If captains are unable to agree on a reschedule time/location, the LLC shall be contacted and a new scheduled match time will be provided. The team captains shall contact the LLC if weather prevents play and proceed to collaborate to reschedule their match within 2 weeks of the original match. If captains are unable to agree on a reschedule time/location, the LLC shall be contacted and a new scheduled match time will be provided within 2 weeks of the original match.

The home team shall bring a new, unopened can of balls to every match. A 10-minute warm-up will begin at the scheduled match time or as soon as the court becomes available. Late arrivals will forfeit the time remaining (within 15- minute default) time.

4. **Levels Offered:** Levels offered are Men's and Women's Tri- Level 18 & Over 5.0-4.0, 4.5-3.5, 4.0-3.0 and 3.5-2.5; Tri- Level 40 & Over 4.5-3.5 and 4.0-3.0; and Tri-Level 55 & Over 4.0-3.0.

Kentucky Regulation: Local Leagues may offer differing levels and divisions of Tri-Level, including Mixed Doubles format. These additional levels/divisions will not advance beyond Local League play. Initial roster deadline for all Local Leagues is July 21, 2024. This includes any teams that combine and play in a Regional or Combined Area.

A team shall consist of a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 21 players. Local League Regulations may limit the number to less than 21.

TACK Local League Regulation: League registration for Lexington (TACK) Tri-Level League opens February 11, 2024. Initial Roster Deadline (minimum six players at levels that combine to play a match) March 8, 2024. Lexington limits the number of players that may roster on a Tri-Level League team to 20.

League Season: March 21-24, 2024

Registration Fee: \$25.00 plus a \$3.00 TennisLink non-refundable fee.

5. **NTRP Rating & Scorecard Overview:** Players may register for a Tri-Level team roster with a computer ("C"), self ("S"), mixed- exclusive ("M"), tournament-exclusive ("T"), computer appealed ("A"), and/or Dynamic ("D") rating. For players that do not have a rating on file, he/she shall self-rate in accordance with the National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) Guidelines and complete the self- rating process on TennisLink when registering for a team. Failure to do so or omission of information regarding a player's tennis history will subject the player, the captain and/or others who condoned inaccurate self-rating to an NTRP

A player may not be dynamically promoted based on match results from Southern Tri-Level program, but **match results will be calculated in year-end NTRP computer ratings**. A player may be dynamically promoted mid-year from play in the Adult and/or Mixed Doubles League program.

6. **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.*

A team may not default a higher line on a scorecard unless there is no in-level pairing to list. *For example, a Tri-Level 40 & Over 4.0-*

3.0 team only has two 3.5 players and two 3.0 players for the team match. The team is permitted to default the #1 line (4.0) and list the 3.5 players in the #2 line (3.5) and 3.0 players in the #3 line (3.0). If a team defaults an entire match (as described in USTA League Regulation 2.03K) in local play, states may decide whether to allow further play by that team and how matches played by that team should be used in determining standings. A state may not authorize a local league to make such determination. If the state does not have a specific rule in place regarding such team defaults, it must follow USTA League Regulation 2.03L.

Kentucky Regulation: Follows USTA Kentucky League Regulation 2.01C(6)E.

7. **Appealed Ratings:** Players who submit an appeal to their self-rating through the Tennis Link system before their local league deadline for registering players will be permitted to register up to seven days after the notification of final self-rating.

- If a player's rating is **appealed down** during or after the Tri-Level local season, the player should notify applicable Local League Coordinator to make update on TennisLink roster. Previous matches by the player would stand.
- If a player's rating is **appealed up** during or after the Tri-Level local season, player must immediately play at the new appealed rating. The player should notify applicable Local League Coordinator to make update on TennisLink roster. Adjusted rating will be used for duration of championship year. Previous matches by the player would stand.

8. **State Championship:** State associations may regulate how many matches, if any, qualify a player to advance to state championship. State associations may determine advancement on more than one team within an age group only if they are different NTRP levels.

Kentucky Regulation: Tri-Level 18 & Over and Tri-Level 40 & Over players must have played one match or received one default on the same team which player is advancing to be eligible to play at the state championship. Teams must play in a local league. If there is only one team in a division/level, the local league coordinator can assist in one of the following options:

- **Arrange for Local at State (LAS)**
 - o Single teams from different areas across Kentucky play a shortened format one day prior to the state championship at the location of the state championship. All teams stay and participate in the championship.
 - o
- **Arrange for team to play in the Combined or Regional Area.**
 - o Single teams from other areas across Kentucky agree to meet at agreeable location to play an approved format to qualify all players.

Tri-Level 55 & Over Division may advance direct to the state championship if there is no Local League available in their area at their NTRP level.

9. **Southern Championship Advancement Process:** If the winning team at any level of State Championship competition is unable to compete further towards the Sectional Championships, then the State League Coordinator may select the second-place team for such further competition. The Section may issue wildcards as necessary to fill the draw. If less than four teams are entered in a NTRP level draw within 21 days of event, the draw for the NTRP level may be cancelled unless otherwise authorized by the Championship Committee.

10. **State Championship Advancement Process & Deadlines:**

States shall determine the progression from local league to the State Championship. States shall conclude their State League Championships to determine its State Champions and identify to the Section their winning teams at each level by September 24, 2024.

Kentucky Regulation: Local Leagues must conclude play on or before August 18, 2024.

11. **Southern Championship Advancement Requirement:**

Players must play in at least one local or state championship match in order to advance to the Tri-Level League Championship. The one match requirement pertains to the team and age division for which player is advancing. A default received counts towards advancement in this program.

Players who qualify for a Tri-Level 18 & Over, Tri-Level 40 & Over and/or Tri-Level 55 & Over teams (s) may advance on more than one team within an age group only if they are different NTRP levels. **No accommodations for scheduling will be made at Sectional Championships for teams with players that may be competing on two or more teams during a Sectional Championship.** If matches are scheduled concurrently in the above-mentioned scenarios, then teams are expected to provide full line-ups for all team matches. Please refer to Championship Procedures for full details on the Southern Tri-Level League Championship.

Kentucky Regulation: Players may advance on more than one team if qualified, however must be different age division and/or NTRP Level. No scheduling accommodations for players or teams they play on will be made.

Local Leagues may allow a single team registered in a Tri-Level 55 & Over, play in the 40 & Over division for local competition. The team advances to the state championship in the 55 & Over age division and all standings in lower division count as played. This does NOT QUALIFY a team advancement to Tri-Level Sectionals Championship. Teams must play at Kentucky State Championship in Tri-Level 55 & Over Age Division and all players must play required one match or receive one default at state to be eligible to advance to Tri-Level Sectionals. Matches played in the local league in the 40 & Over League do NOT apply toward advancement to Tri-Level Sectionals.

The Southern Tri-Level League Championship will be hosted on **October 11 – 14, 2024** in Mobile, AL.
Kentucky State Championship date: September 6-7, 2024, location TBD.

TACK Tri-Level Local League Coordinator: Tara McGuire
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2024 TACK Board:

Joe Ross, President
Lisa Allen, Vice President*
Judy Craft, Secretary*
Clinton Colliver, Treasurer
Charles Matthews, Past President
Adam Bantz

Nina Begley
Janine Coy**
Stutzi Hixson
Laurel Humbert-Stock*
Dustin Ingram*
Sarah Owens

Emily Pernice
Laura Singler
*denotes Adult League Committee member, **chair

2024 TACK Grievance Committee:

Janine Coy, Chairperson (others selected as needed)