

**Montgomery USTA League Tennis Local League Rules
2024 Championship Year
Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over, Adult 65 & Over,
Mixed Doubles,
Southern Combo Doubles, Tri –Level, Fall Prep Leagues and Beginner
Leagues**

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APPLICATION:

USTA LEAGUE NATIONAL, SOUTHERN AND ALABAMA REGULATIONS HAVE FULL FORCE AND APPLICABILITY AT ALL LEVELS OF PLAY IN USTA LEAGUE TENNIS IN THE USTA SOUTHERN SECTION AND THERE IS NO AUTHORIZATION TO MODIFY, AMPLIFY OR CHANGE THEM BY LOCAL OR STATE LEAGUE COORDINATORS, OR GRIEVANCE OR GRIEVANCE APPEAL COMMITTEES. USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS (NATIONAL, SOUTHERN AND ALABAMA) ARE AVAILABLE ON THE USTA ALABAMA WEBSITE: WWW.ALABAMATA.COM.

(NOTE: THE SOUTHERN REGULATIONS ARE INCORPORATED IN GREEN INTO THE CORRESPONDING PARAGRAPHS OF THE 2020 USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS AND SHOULD BE APPLIED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THOSE PARAGRAPHS)

(Note: USTA Alabama regulations are incorporated in purple into the corresponding paragraphs of the 2019 USTA League regulations and should be applied in conjunction with those paragraphs)

All players participating in the USTA League Program, as a condition of their participation, agree to abide and be bound by the USTA Constitution, By-Laws and Standings Orders; the National, Sectional, District and Local USTA League Regulations and the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship.

USTA LEAGUE

MAJOR REGULATION CHANGES FOR 2024 (USTA)

1. For the USTA League program organization at the National level for the Adult division, 40 & Over age group, team matches at National Championships will consist of 1 Singles and 4 Doubles matches, beginning with the 2024 National Championships. Sectional Associations have the option, but are not required to adopt this format for the 2024 Championship Year. Conforming changes are reflected in 1.04(A) and 2.03(E) and the Glossary.

Additional conforming changes:

- 1.04(D)4 Minimum number of rostered players increases from 7 to 9 players
- (2.03A(5) Minimum number of rostered players required at National Championships increases from 7 to 9 players
- (2.03K) Minimum number of players at all championships with a 5 court match format of 1 Singles and 4 Doubles changes from 4 to 5 players

2. For two team leagues, Sectional Associations have the authority to require from 40–100% of the rostered players to be at level.

1.04D(5) Two Team Leagues. If any Adult Division Age Group consists of only two teams in a level of play, each team must maintain its roster with a minimum of 40 percent of its players at the designated NTRP level of play. A Section may increase the required minimum percentage. The Adult Division 55 & Over Age Group that uses combined NTRP rating levels will not be required to comply with this Regulation.

3. A player may not have more than one USTA membership account/USTA Number

1.04E(2) Membership. All individuals who compete in the USTA League must be current USTA members in good standing through the local league season. Any individual who progresses to a championship level in the USTA League must be a current USTA member through each championship progression. Individuals shall only have one USTA membership account/ USTA number. Individuals who obtain more than one USTA membership account/ USTA number may be subject to a grievance and such suspension penalties as outlined under the League Suspension Point System.

4. For the Mixed division, in both the 18 & Over and 40 & Over age groups, straight level play is authorized at the Sectional Championships and below. Conforming changes are reflected in 2.01(A)4.

NTRP LEVELS OF PLAY				
DIVISION	AGE GROUP	LOCAL LEAGUES	ALL CHAMPIONSHIPS BELOW NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
Mixed	18 & Over	Straight Levels 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0 OR Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0	<u>Straight Levels</u> <u>3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5</u> <u>OR</u> Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0	Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0
	40 & Over	Straight Levels 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0 OR Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0	<u>Straight Levels</u> <u>3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5</u> <u>OR</u> Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0	Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0

5. 2.05E(1)–(5) that described the eligibility criteria for players 60 and older to appeal their rating down have been removed from the 2024 USTA League Regulations. The opportunity for these players to appeal their rating has not changed. The player can appeal their rating with a few clicks, and will receive an immediate answer, based on the criteria programmed into TennisLink. As such, the specific criteria are not needed in these regulations.

MAJOR REGULATION CHANGES FOR 2024 (USTA SOUTHERN)

1. Southern Regulation 3.03E(3): NTRP Grievances filed within 7 days of the start date of the players and/or captain's local league playoff and/or **14** days of the start date of the player's and/or captain's State or Section Championships will be administered after the event unless the section authorizes the administration of the grievance prior to that time. If the grievance is not administered until after the event, points won by players will stand. Disqualified players and/or captains that are suspended will not be eligible to advance to the next level of championship play.

2. Southern Regulation + Chart 2.01A(4)

NTRP LEVELS OF PLAY				
DIVISION	AGE GROUP	LOCAL LEAGUES	ALL CHAMPIONSHIPS BELOW NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
Mixed	18 & Over	Straight Levels 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0 OR Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0	<u>Straight Levels</u> <u>2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5</u> OR Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, <u>10.0</u>	Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0
	40 & Over	Straight Levels 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0 OR Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0	<u>Straight Levels</u> <u>3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5</u> OR Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0	Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0

**VALID NTRP COMPUTER RATINGS
FOR PARTICIPATION IN USTA LEAGUE IN 2024**

Players who are 59 years or under during the 2024 League Year will have their most current computer rating displayed in TennisLink. They must self-rate if their NTRP rating is older than 3 years.

* Exception: A player who receives a published (M), (T), or (A) Automatic Appeal–Mixed or Tournament rating and chooses to participate in the Adult Division will be required to self-rate even if the (M), (T), or (A) rating is less than 3 years old, unless such player has a valid Self (S) rating.

X indicates the years of valid computer rating in TennisLink for play in 2024

Players who will be 60 years or older during the 2024 League Year will have their most current computer rating displayed in TennisLink. They must self-rate if their NTRP rating is older than 2 years.

* Exception: A player who receives a published (M), (T), or (A) Automatic Appeal Mixed or Tournament rating and chooses to participate in the Adult Division will be required to self-rate even if the (M), (T), or (A) rating is less than 2 years old, unless such player has a valid Self (S) rating.

X indicates the years of valid computer rating in TennisLink for play in 2024.

Last Year Computer Rating Received	2021	2022	2023
Age 59 or Under during 2024 League Year	X	X	X
Age 60 or Over during 2024 League Year		X	X

TennisLink will automatically remove expired computer and self-ratings thereby allowing individuals to self-rate. Players with expired ratings will not be allowed to self-rate at a lower level than their last valid NTRP rating. However, they will have the opportunity to file a self-rate appeal of the NTRP rating level assigned.

Computer ratings are valid based on this table.

Self-ratings are valid for 2 years from the date issued or until replaced by a dynamic or computer rating.

NTRP DYNAMIC DISQUALIFICATION

Each NTRP Level is followed by a letter indicating the type of rating.

Who cannot be NTRP dynamically disqualified?

NTRP Level followed by the letter:

- C** Computer Rated Players *
- M** Mixed Exclusive Players **
- T** Tournament Exclusive Players **

Who can be NTRP dynamically disqualified?

Participants in the Adult Division:

NTRP Level followed by the letter:

- A** Appealed – all granted appeals including Medical and Promoted Players 60 or Over
- S** Self-rated Players
- D** Dynamic or NTRP Grievance Disqualified Players
- C** Exceptions to C year-end ratings as noted *

Players participating in the Adult Division who are promoted as a result of NTRP dynamic disqualification will be immediately required to participate at their new NTRP level in all USTA League Programs.

Exceptions:

* Players who entered an Early Start League at an NTRP Level lower than their current year-end rating are subject to NTRP dynamic disqualification.

** Year-end (M), (T), and (A) Automatic Appeal–Mixed or Tournament rated players are required to self-rate to enter the Adult Division, automatically become (S) rated players and therefore become subject to NTRP dynamic disqualification.

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 received shall count	All players other than self- rated and computer-rated appealed players: 3 matches on the same team	1 default received shall count
Section Option to require Self-rated and computer- rated appealed players to play up to 4 matches on the same team	Section Option to declare if 1 default received shall or shall not count	Self-rated and computer-rated appealed players 4 matches on the same team	No default received shall count
RETIRED matches shall count for all players.			

TennisLink is the official system for registering teams, reporting scores and providing standings.

Match play format may be changed by the local league coordinator in order to complete a specific round.

The Local League Coordinator for USTA Montgomery is the person who implements and administers all USTA League Programs for the adult, tri-level, combo, mixed doubles, fall prep leagues, and beginner leagues. The local league coordinator interprets all local league regulations.

Section I. Eligibility

Teams

- A. Teams must have registered on TennisLink a minimum of the # of players required for a team match. Therefore, this requires
 - a. 5 players levels 2.5
 - b. 8 players for 18 & Over levels 3.0 through 4.5
 - c. 9 players for 40 & Over levels 3.0 through 4.5
 - i. Note that State/Southern/Nationals requires a minimum of 9 players due to the 1S/4D format implemented for Nationals.
 - d. 6 players for all levels that play a three-line format.
- B. All facilities approved by the USTA and assigned a USTA facility number are automatically approved for play if the facilities wish to have teams homed at the facilities.

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. The exception is the Adult 55 & Over 9.0 level of play that uses combined NTRP rating levels and will not be required to comply with this Regulation.

Players

- A. All players must use their current NTRP rating when registering. If they do not have one, they must self-rate using the NTRP guidelines. Failure to provide accurate information will subject the player and/or the captain to sanctions and disqualifications.

Comment: An NTRP grievance may be filed against a player and/or captain who commits or condones entering at one level when their actual skill level is at the top of the next NTRP level or higher. See Section IX.

Comment: Players may only have ONE USTA Membership account. If someone accidentally or purposely creates two accounts, the player needs to immediately contact USTA Support to have the accounts merged. The creation of two or more accounts could result in NTRP or other grievances with associated penalties.

- B. When using straight NTRP levels, a player cannot have an NTRP rating higher than the NTRP level in which the player is competing

A player may play at their current NTRP rating and/or one NTRP level above the player's current NTRP rating. Once a computer rating has been generated, it will remain valid for 3 years for players under age 60 and for 2 years for players age 60 and over.

- C. A player may play on more than one local team in the same season provided they are:

- i) At a different level if playing in the same league, or
- ii) In different leagues.

- D. **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 participation in their first local league.**

- E. All players must be paid members of the USTA through the respective season of play including playoff-offs. **The local league coordinator can transfer registrations within the same championship year if the player has not played a match or received a default. Refunds are not given for any reasons. Transfers to the next championship year will not be granted.**

- F. Players may be added to a roster prior to the last regularly scheduled TennisLink match of the regular season. Eligible players may be added to a roster prior to the start of a team match.

- G. The maximum number of players for the leagues are as follows:

- i. Adult league – 16 (18 & Over, 40 & Over)
- ii. Adult league – 14 (55 & Over, 65 & Over)
- iii. Mixed doubles leagues – 14
- iv. Tri-Level League – 14
- v. Combo Doubles League – 14
- vi. Fall Weeknight Prep and Beginner Doubles - 16

Section II, Team Captains' Duties

1. It is the captain's responsibility to have each team member thoroughly read and understand current Local USTA League Regulations prior to the start of league competition.
2. Captains must have a current email address in order to receive league information throughout the season. If the captain does not use email, then a co-captain who uses email should be designated so they will receive correspondence and can pass that along to the captain. It is the team captain's/co-captain's responsibility to update changes in email addresses with the Local League Coordinator and with the USTA. Email is the primary means of communication used by the coordinator.
3. **Captain will be responsible for naming the team but the local league coordinator will review and update team names if they do not fit the requirements:**
Team Name Limitations (one, two and/or a combination of all three below):
 - Captain Last Name
 - Tennis Facility
 - Location or CTA NameAlabama will use Facility – Captain Name – League Name Age Level

Preparing Lineups

- A. Any player may play any position at any time.
- B. Any eligible player may participate at any time during the season, including any and all playoffs. **Players are required to have played twice, one of which can be a default received during the regular adult or mixed doubles league season to be eligible for the local flight playoffs. Players are required to have played once and that can be a default received during the regular tri-level and combo doubles league season to be eligible for the local flight playoffs.**

Comment: Players may only advance on one team within the same local league playoff with the same level.

- C. To generate a computer rating, a player must have played three times during that year's rating period. Defaults do not count towards computer ratings.

Scheduling Matches

- A. The LLC will reserve the courts in advance for all scheduled matches.

Comment: Depending upon the number of teams that enter the league, a minimal number of matches may be scheduled on days and or times different from those normally specified for your level. If those days and times will not work for your team, the local league coordinator is to be contacted **no later than 7 days after the publication of the local league schedule.**

Comment: ***If a match is scheduled on or during a major state, city or county school holiday, the match can be rescheduled. The team with the concern must notify the opposing team captain at least two weeks prior to the scheduled match to reschedule.***

- B. If the captain will not be present at a match, they should notify the opposing captain as to who will be acting in their stead and give the opposing team captain the phone number of that person.
- C. If a team *knowingly* begins a team match, including a match rescheduled for inclement weather, without a full complement of players for the lineup (i.e. six players rather than eight) they must default from the bottom. The captain may choose whether to default singles, doubles or a mixture. However, in each of the doubles and singles, the lowest position must be defaulted first. The exception would be tri-level as the level can be defaulted as opposed to the lowest position.
- D. Once a captain advises an opposing captain in writing via email or text that a line(s) will be defaulted in their match, that statement stands even if the team finds players prior to the start of the match. The only exception to this rule is inclement weather.**
- E. Captains may request the rescheduling of a match due to a conflict with **two or more** player(s) involved in USTA League Championship play. (Flight, State, Section, or National Championships.) *Comment:* If inclement weather forces a reschedule on the tennislink regularly scheduled match date that is affected by Championship Play, the local league inclement weather rules will apply and trump this local league rule.

Eligible players for rescheduled positions are defined as players listed on USTA League Championship rosters submitted to State, Section, or Nationals **or local flight playoff.**

If two or more players are registered to play in a USTA League Championship that affects a match then that entire match may be rescheduled. **Both** team captains **may agree** to play all the courts or **some of the** courts prior to the **affected tennislink scheduled match.**

Rescheduled matches should be played either prior to the originally scheduled match date, or within 15 days of the completion of the championship event. *Comment:* If a local league schedule is published no more than two weeks prior to the championship event then 21 days will be allowed from the completion of the championship event to complete the rescheduled local league match.

F. Tournaments **that are not USTA LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP Events** are not a legitimate reason for rescheduling a match.

Court Fees

Court fees charged by the facility will apply for all league matches.

Match Day

- A. **In order to start the team match, complete written lineups showing all individual matches **should** be simultaneously exchanged.** If the captain will not be there at start time, they should send the lineup with a player who is playing at match time.

Comment: If Team A will not provide a written lineup within the default time, Team B may claim a total match default.

- B. The default time is 15 minutes after the scheduled start time of each individual match. No default may be claimed if a court has not become available. If players decide to play a “fun” match after a forfeit has been decided, that decision should be in email or text to the captains and all players involved so that intention is clear and documented. This is to avoid misunderstandings and the possibility of having to register the line as a played match. If there is nothing in writing and players agree to play the match after the default time, the match results stand. No default may be claimed after the fact.

Comment: This means all players must be on the court and ready to play, not merely at the facility, going to the bathroom, stretching, etc., no later than 15 minutes after the scheduled start time. Courtesy requires a prompt start time and a brief warm-up, 10 minutes including serves. League rules allow a default of the individual match if players are not on the court and ready to play.

Once the teams exchange lineups no movement of players is allowed. The exceptions are as follows:

- i) A player listed on the original lineup does not arrive within the 15 minute default time
- ii) A player is injured or becomes ill prior to the start of the individual match
- iii) **A doubles pair has an ineligible rating for the league being played. Points may be reversed for violation of this rule.**
- iv) A match is rescheduled by inclement weather.

Comment: Written lineups have been exchanged. A substitution is made during the warm-up; the substitute player is entitled to a five minute warm-up.

*Comment: An individual match is started when the first ball is put in play. After the start of an individual match, if injury to or illness of a player occurs, the opponents will be awarded a retirement for that individual match only. If a disqualification occurs the opponents **may** be awarded a default.*

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. If no such substitution can be made, the affected position only will be defaulted in local leagues.

In the event that a team must reschedule and starting times are staggered, where opponents are not available and ready to play, defaults will be awarded in the affected position only.

- C. Two players must play together in the higher position when both of their partners do not show in order to avoid two defaults. The lower position will be defaulted.
- D. For each team match, a majority of the individual matches must actually be played to constitute a valid team match. If a situation arises where the majority of the individual matches would not be played, 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:

FORMAT	REQUIRED MATCHES IN SEQUENTIAL ORDER	MINIMUM # OF PLAYERS REQUIRED FOR EACH TEAM IN VALID TEAM MATCH
2 SINGLES, 3 DOUBLES	#1 AND #2 SINGLES, AND #1 DOUBLES (PRIORITY); #2 DOUBLES IF ENOUGH PLAYERS PRESENT	4
1 SINGLES, 4 DOUBLES	#1 SINGLES, #1 AND #2 DOUBLES (PRIORITY); #3 DOUBLES IF ENOUGH PLAYERS PRESENT	5
2 SINGLES, 2 DOUBLES	#1 SINGLES AND #1 DOUBLES (PRIORITY); #2 SINGLES IF ENOUGH PLAYERS PRESENT	4
1 SINGLES, 3 DOUBLES	#1 SINGLES #1 DOUBLES AND #2 DOUBLES(PRIORITY)	5
1 SINGLES, 2 DOUBLES	#1 SINGLES AND #1 DOUBLES	3
3 DOUBLES	#1 AND #2 DOUBLES	4

If a team shows up without the minimum number of required players for the team match based upon the number of players present, or to be present, it will be a full team default in favor of the opponents.

Scorecards

- A. Captains should print a scorecard from TennisLink before each match to use for lineup exchange. **All eligible players will be listed at the bottom of each scorecard**; therefore, if you have additions, printing the scorecards before each match will avoid confusion with the opposing team.

B. Scores must be entered within 48 hours of the completion of a match.

When entering scores, the date to be used should be the date the last court played. The winning captain is responsible for ensuring that scores are entered and the losing captain is responsible for confirming the score.

Deliberately entering or confirming incorrect scores destroys the integrity of the ratings system and any captains found doing so may be suspended from USTA league play. Score confirmation or score disputes must be made within 48 hours of score entry. **Scores for the last match of the season must be entered within 2 hours in order to confirm winners and develop playoff schedules or a grievance may be filed.**

C. Captains should keep a hard copy of each of their scorecards.

SECTION III, FORMAT OF PLAY AND SCORING

Team Match Format

- A. Each team match consists of the following individual matches:

Adult 18 & Over: 2 singles, 3 doubles except 2.5 and 5.0+ which play 1 singles and 2 doubles

Adult 40 & Over: 1 singles, 3 doubles except 2.5 which will play 1 singles and 2 doubles.

Adult 55 & Over: 3 doubles

Adult 65 & Over: 3 doubles

Mixed Doubles: 3 doubles

Tri-Level: 3 doubles

Combo Doubles: 3 doubles

Beginner Leagues: 1 singles, 2 doubles or other format as deemed necessary if the league does not advance

- B. The team winning the majority of individual matches shall be awarded one team point. TennisLink standings will determine division winners.
- C. Each division of an NTRP level shall play a round robin format in which each team will play every other team a minimum of one time. Additional matches may be scheduled within flights with even number of teams repeating the first match of the season.
- D. Defaults and disqualifications shall be scored according to USTA League Regulations.

Individual Match Format

- A. The warm-up must be accomplished in a maximum of ten minutes, including serves. **Do not practice returns of serves during the warm-up.**
- B. In the 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over and 65 & Over leagues as well as the tri-level, combo doubles and fall weeknight prep leagues, matches will be the best of two sets and the Set tiebreak shall be used at 6-all in each set. In lieu of a third set, a Match tiebreak (first to 10 points by 2) shall be played.
- C. **In the mixed doubles league both the 18 & over and 40 & Over matches will be the best of two sets and the Set tiebreak shall be used at 6-all in each set. In lieu of a third set, a Match tiebreak (first to 10 points by 2) shall be played.**

- D. Tie-breaks will use the Coman tiebreak format in which ends are changed after the first point and then every four points.
- E. Coaching is not permitted.

Comment: Coaching is considered to be communication, advice, or any instruction that is audible or visible to a player. Communication between spectators and players should be in language understood by all players present, or it may be considered coaching.

- F. The home team will be listed first on the schedule, and will provide new balls for play, which must be yellow, solidly colored and made for the appropriate court surface.
- G. **A player may not use electronic devices such as cell phones or any device capable of receiving communication.**

Comment: If an opponent's phone rings on your court you may claim the point in the game based on a deliberate hindrance.

SECTION IV, MATCH REQUIREMENTS

Courts

- A. If a match is scheduled and courts are not playable **one and one quarter hours prior to match time**, then the match can be played at an alternate site if their courts are playable and available. **The players have to be given adequate notice in order to make arrangements to change sites, etc.**

Comment: Captains should stay in contact via the telephone during inclement weather and should not cancel the match until both captains have determined that there is no court availability.

Comment: If no alternate courts are available and playable, then the match may be rescheduled using the inclement weather rules.

- a. Any player may deem a court unsafe for play. Once play has started, a court cannot be deemed unfit for play unless there is a change in court condition.
- B. If the lights go out during an evening match and cannot be re-lit in a reasonable amount of time (10 minutes), or if the facility closes, the match can be rescheduled using the inclement weather rules.

SECTION V, INCLEMENT WEATHER

The only weather conditions that shall authorize the cancellation of a scheduled match are lightning, rain, any severe weather storm warnings, or severe temperatures forecasted for the scheduled match start time (below 40 degrees (this does not include wind chill) or temperatures in excess of 100 degrees (this does not include heat index)). Decisions can be made **one and one quarter hour prior to match time**. Either captain may elect to reschedule if any of these conditions are met. National Weather Service is the official source. Comment: Captains should use their best judgment in cancelling a match prior to one and one quarter hour prior to match time. Rain **may** not be a reason to cancel that far in advance whereas a severe weather storm warning **could** be if it extended into the match time or travel time to arrive or to leave from a match.

- 1) If the start of a team match is cancelled due to inclement weather any defaults awarded in advance may now be played.
- 2) In the event inclement weather occurs after the team match has begun, and play cannot be continued:
 - A. Completed individual matches stand as played.
 - B. Points awarded for defaults given at the time the original written lineup were exchanged are considered completed matches assuming courts were available and playable. All players listed on the lineup who are involved in defaults cannot participate in rescheduled matches.
 - C. Individual matches in progress should be made up and resumed by the same players at the exact set, game and point that existed when play was halted. In the event that one team elects to retire, the scores should be entered in TennisLink exactly as played.
 - D. Any player who is not involved in a previously started match or default can participate in any matches that have not yet begun. Unrestricted substitutions from the team roster may be made in any individual matches that have not begun. This includes moving a player from one position to another.
 - E. **Rescheduling matches due to inclement weather:**
 - Delays or cancellations due to weather are common and inconvenient. Captains are expected to use good sportsmanship regarding make up matches.
 - All makeup matches should follow the makeup schedules listed below. If for some reason captains agree these cannot be followed, matches should be made up prior to 15 days past the scheduled date. If neither of these criteria can be met, the league coordinator has the option to set a date for the makeup outside of the criteria below.

The following is an attempt to cover most circumstances that may be encountered when trying to schedule makeup matches. However, due to the complexity of scheduling makeups, there is no way to anticipate and cover all possible situations.

a. Night and Weekend Leagues:

- a. The official date for makeups will be the Sunday afternoon following the cancelled scheduled match.
 - i. The following times will become the official time of the makeup match.
 1. Monday and Tuesday matches – Sunday 2:45
 2. Wednesday and Thursday Matches – Sunday 12:45
 3. Sunday matches will be made up either at 12:45 or 2:45, whichever is not their regular scheduled match time
 4. Tournament style matches will be rescheduled by the league coordinator
- b. Matches will be made up in the order of the scheduled match date. Older matches take precedence over newer matches.
- c. Since the makeup date becomes the official match date, it follows the same rules as a regularly scheduled match other than what is listed below.
 - i. Caveats to rules regarding regularly scheduled matches.
 1. Both captains can agree to play on a date prior to the Sunday makeup day or a different time on the scheduled Sunday.
 - a. Captains have a degree of flexibility with stated times to get makeups played if both captains agree. Otherwise, the times listed above stand.
 - b. Agreements between captains that meet (c.i.1.) above should be in writing. What is in writing becomes official.
 2. Courts are not available (Matches can be played at courts other than Lagoon if captains agree)
 3. A team has two or more players participating in mixed matches or other makeups at the scheduled makeup time. Proof must be given to the league coordinator and other captain.
 - a. If players are participating in other league matches at the makeup time, consideration should be given to making some lines up at different times on the makeup Sunday
 - b. If lines are scheduled at different times, the lineup should be exchanged at the beginning of the first line.

- c. League rules still allow players to be changed after the lineups are exchanged but before the first point is played for that line due to injury or sickness.
 - 4. Two team leagues may opt to play makeups at the end of their perspective seasons as long as the match is completed prior to the state deadline for scores to be entered. This does not apply to leagues with three or more teams.
 - a. Captains should notify the league coordinator in email if this option is taken for deadline verification and approval
 - ii. If a player in the makeup is playing another makeup or mixed match at the same court as the makeup
 - 1. with a match time at least 1 hr and 45 minutes prior to the makeup, that line will wait on the player involved in the earlier match to start. The 15-minute default rule will not apply in this case for that player.
 - 2. with a match time less than 1 hr 45 minutes prior to the match, the 15-minute rule will apply. Captains should weigh their options on playing this player. This is so start of play does not delay for longer periods, causing unnecessary inconvenience to other players and possible issues with the facility closure.
 - 3. The 15-minute default rule will apply to all other players.
- d. If a makeup match is not played on the scheduled Sunday, the home captain will email the league coordinator within 2 days and copy the visiting captain with the reason it was not played.
 - i. the next makeup date will be the following Sunday at the pre-set makeup match times.
- e. It is the home team captain's responsibility to reserve courts
- f. It is the captains' responsibility to set their players' expectations
 - i. to be ready to play on Sundays if a regular scheduled match is cancelled
 - ii. the possibility of playing multiple matches on that Sunday if they are on multiple teams.
- g. Teams in contention must have all their matches played and ready for a tentative playoff if required. In this case teams may have to adjust makeups and play sooner.

Day Leagues

- i. Day matches: the following Friday at the same time
 - ii. Ladies 4.0 Day 55 & over League: the following Monday at 1:00 pm
 - iii. **The regular makeup schedules become the official scheduled date for the match if a match has to be rescheduled.** The only reasons for not making up matches on the scheduled make up days will be inclement weather, major holiday, participation in a USTA league championship tournament, lack of court availability, or a prior make up match.
 1. In the event the same team has two or more cancellations, the oldest match should be played first. The newest match should be played on the next available makeup date.
 2. If a team has two or more players who are committed to another team's makeup match scheduled on the same day, teams may choose to play the next available makeup date. (Players can be verified via tennislink after the makeup. Teams may not use this reason to delay the makeup date and then not show that their players did indeed participate in another makeup)
- F. If the two teams cannot agree upon a rescheduled date and time, the local league coordinator will resolve the issue.

SECTION VI, PLAYOFFS & PROGRESSION

- 1) Only the winning flight team will advance to the playoffs. If a team wins more than one flight at the same level of play, that team may elect to represent only one team in the flight playoffs.
 - a. 40&Over individual match tie-break procedure when playing 1Singles/3Doubles format
 - i. Least sets lost
 - ii. Least games lost
 - iii. Highest game winning percentage
 - iv. Winner of #1 Doubles

Comment: If a team wins more than one flight at the same level of play, that team may elect to represent only one team in the flight playoffs. The second-place team from the vacated flight does not advance to the local flight playoff.

- 2) The flight winner shall be the team having won the most team matches in its flight competition. In the event of a tie, whether in round robin or single elimination local competition or in the local flight playoff, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:
 - a. Round robin flight winners
 - i. Individual Matches **category**. Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.
 - ii. Head-to-Head **category**. Winner of head-to-head match.
 - iii. Sets **category**. Loser of the fewest number of sets.
 - iv. Games **category**. Loser of the fewest number of games.
 - v. Game winning percentage, excluding defaults.
 - vi. Team with highest number of victories at #1 Doubles
 - vii. Team with the highest number of victories at #1 Singles

Local league flight playoffs are part of championship play; therefore, all championship rules would apply to local league (flight) playoffs including but not limited to:

A player must have played in a minimum of two matches for advancement to a championship, local or state. A minimum of one match, which could be a default received, is required for tri-level and combo doubles advancement to a championship, local or state.

Format for all flight playoffs does not have to be the same as the state championships, therefore, it will be set by the LLC the same as played in Local League.

- 3) Players are required to have played twice, one of which can be a default received during the **regular adult league** season to be eligible for the local flight playoffs. **For tri-level and combo doubles, a player is required to have played once with a default received counting as a played match during the regular season to be eligible for the local flight playoff.**
- 4) In order for a player to be eligible to progress to State Championships, that player must have played twice during the entire season the team qualified for Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over and Adult 55 & Over leagues, twice for Mixed Doubles and once for the Tri-Level and Combo Doubles leagues. Receiving a default can only be counted as one of the matches played. The following leagues may have invitational championships with no local league play require: Adult 18 & Over 5.0, Adult 40 & Over 2.5, Adult 55 & Over Level 9.0, Adult 65 & Over, Mixed Doubles 55 & Over, Mixed Doubles 18 & Over Level 9.0 and 10.0, Mixed doubles 40 & Over 9.0, Combo Doubles 18 & Over Level 9.5, Combo Doubles 65 & Over and Tri-Level 55 & Over.
- 5) The following chart reflects national championship play requirements:

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
<u>Section Option to require Self-rated and computer-rated appealed players to play 4 matches on the same team</u>	<u>Section Option to declare if 1 default received shall or shall not count</u>	<u>Self-rated and computer-rated appealed players</u> <u>4 matches on the same team</u>	No default <u>received</u> shall count

RETIRED matches shall 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 Tournament Committee for up to a maximum of two players per team.**

If there is no local and/or state competition offered for Adult 65 & Over, one team per state per NTRP level may advance directly to the sectional championships.

SECTION VII, DEFAULTS, RATINGS & DISQUALIFICATIONS

- 1) Teams defaulting an entire team match during local or local at state competition:
 - a. The defaulting team is ineligible to advance beyond local league play but may continue to play the remainder of local matches.
 - b. If the defaulting team continues to play, the remainder of the local season, matches will be recorded in Tennis Link for the purpose of satisfying match play requirements for opponents only.
 - c. At the end of the season all matches of a defaulting team may be removed from the stats and standings in Tennis Link UNLESS:
 - d. All teams with a mathematical chance to advance have already played the defaulting team in good faith, the matches shall stand as played when determining standings
 - e. During local play, the local league coordinator may recommend the filing of a grievance with the local grievance committee.
- 2) Any team found playing an ineligible player may immediately be disqualified from league play for at least the remainder of the league year. A grievance may be filed against the ineligible player and/or team.
- 3) All players must use their most current published rating at the time of registration on a team.
- 4) Once a player is registered on a specific roster they may play at that level throughout all USTA state and sectional championships even if their rating increases prior to the championships unless the person has a dynamic or NTRP Grievance disqualification. The player cannot play in national championships if their rating increases prior to the championships.
- 5) Any player who has been dynamically disqualified, or whose published rating is above the disqualification level, is no longer protected through the championships and must immediately cease participation at that level.
- 6) If a self-rated player or a player with a granted medical appeal is disqualified for that particular level of play, the player must immediately stop play at that level but will not be subject to match reversal. All players who have computer rated appeals (A), or dynamic ratings (E), who are subject to disqualification, will not be subject to match reversal if disqualified. Players not disqualified by the conclusion of the local league round robin play will be eligible to compete in the entire local playoff. Dynamic ratings will be calculated at the end of the local playoff to inform any disqualified players that they may not advance to the state championships. Points earned by disqualified players will stand. Players will be permitted to play in the entire event, but if a disqualification occurs when the ratings are run at the conclusion of the tournament, those players must immediately cease participation at that level.

- 7) A disqualified player may join a team at their new level following TennisLink procedures. No refund will be given to a disqualified player.
- 8) When new ratings are published players can appeal by attempting to register for their team on TennisLink. All year end rating appeals notification are immediate via TennisLink.
- 9) If a player successfully appeals their rating after registering for their team, they must notify their LLC to have the rating adjusted on their roster.

SECTION VIII, LOCAL LEAGUE GRIEVANCES

- 1) All complaints alleging a violation of USTA League Regulations or standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship shall be filed in writing by email to TennisInMontgomery@yahoo.com.
- 2) Grievances must be filed by a team captain prior to the commencement of whichever occurs first: (a) the involved team's next match in that flight, whether or not the involved player participates or (b) within 24 hours after the end of the local league season.
- 3) **Grievance forms and procedures can be found on alabamata.usta.com.**
- 4) The Local League Coordinator will send a copy of the complaint to each party against whom the complaint has been made. All information provided by the parties about the incident will be shared with each party.
- 5) **In the event of an eligibility disqualification during the local league season and up to a maximum of 14 days after the end of the local league season, but prior to any playoff, all matches played by the disqualified player shall be considered defaults and those matches shall be considered wins for the opposing players or doubles teams and scored 6-0, 6-0 for determining standings. Sections must determine the timeframe between 24 hours and 14 days. The ineligible player will not be allowed to continue or advance. In case of an eligibility disqualification in single elimination, the last individual match played by the disqualified player shall be considered a win for the opposing player or doubles team and scored 6-0, 6-0 for determining standings. If a double disqualification results in a tie, the local tiebreak procedure shall be used to determine the winner of the team match. If no such local tiebreak procedure exists, Reg. 2.03H Procedures in the Event of a Tie shall be used in order to determine a winner of the team match.**
- 6) Upon receipt of the grievance and responses, the Local League Coordinator shall immediately send a copy to the Chair of the appropriate League Grievance Committee. The Local League Grievance and Grievance Appeals Committee may consist of:

John Cannady
Karen Phillips
Deborah Long
Shirley Garrett
Ethel Holladay
Tina Swinson
Felicia Brooks
Sharon Woernle

Keith Wilson
Robert Pitman
Mary Weidler
Charlie Trotman
Regina Dinger
John Enslin
Barbi Gelabert
Clyde Luster

Diane Locke
Jewell Pitts
Michelle Slack
Antonio Holmes

- 7) The grievance and grievance appeal committee members may be selected from the above list and may be amended by the local league coordinator in the event conflict exist.

For full Grievances Procedures refer to Section 2.0 of the USTA League Regulations.

SECTION IX, NTRP GRIEVANCES

- 1. A complaint may be filed by a captain or a Local League Coordinator against a player and/or captain who commits or condones entering at one level when their actual skill level is at the top of the next NTRP level or higher.**
- 2. The party that files the NTRP grievance must provide documentation to support their complaint at the time of their filing.**
- 3. The USTA Southern Section NTRP Grievance Committee will have jurisdiction, augmented as necessary by experts in NTRP ratings, and may ask the alleged violator to complete a USTA Player Background History sheet and submit it to the committee for review. After review, and in consultation with the NTRP experts who have augmented the committee, they will take action, as they deem appropriate.**
- 4. This action may include disqualification, suspension from league play or other league sanctions.**
- 5. An NTRP Grievance may be filed at any time.**