



**USTA LEAGUE
MAJOR REGULATION CHANGES FOR 2017**

1. 2.03A4 and Inside Cover: allow one (1) default to count towards eligibility for National Championships.
2. Early Start Ratings are eliminated.

2.05B(3)a: Players moved up and are clearly above level must adjust to their new NTRP level immediately.
2.05B(3)b: Players will always use their most recent valid year-end rating to register for any early start leagues. Players moved up at year-end are not allowed to advance to any National Championship at the lower NTRP level
2.05B(3)c: There is an exception for players on a 2.5 team; they may continue through National Championships unless they are clearly above level.
3. 2.05E(2) Ratings for players 65&Over who are moved up will be published; automatic appeal will be granted upon request (through TennisLink auto- appeal function).
4. 3.01 Grievance Procedures: Sections may honor sanctions imposed in another Section.

**KENTUCKY
MAJOR REGULATION CHANGES FOR 2017**

- 2.03A(1)
5. Local Leagues with **one or two teams** at NTRP levels within the same age division; Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over or Adult 55 & Over may join the “Combined Area” and play a local league. All teams must abide by all regulations for local league play, meeting all state deadlines for registration and last date for match play, as well as playing the required number of matches to qualify to advance to the Kentucky State Championships. Each team will advance to represent their local league area in the appropriate age division at their NTRP level. **If two teams from the same area join the combined league only the team finishing above the other in standings will advance to represent their area at the state championship.**
- **NOTE: If two teams from the same Local League join the Combined Area, they MUST both be compiled of players from that Local Area and/or surrounding Local Area. They must both be approved by the Local Adult League Committee of that Local League to be rostered to represent them in the Combined Area.**



APPLICATION

All players participating in the USTA League Tennis Program, as a condition of their participation, agree to abide by the National, Sectional, State and Local USTA League Tennis Regulations and the Standards of Good Conduct, Fair Play and Good Sportsmanship. The Rules and Regulations for the USTA League Tennis Program are administered by the Local League Coordinator (LLC) and the Tennis Association of Louisville Kentucky (TALK) aka the Louisville Adult League Committee.

1.04C(1)a For any team in which a player is deleted in TennisLink from the roster within 60 days after initial registration, the captain must submit the reason for removal in writing to the Local League Coordinator, who will then submit the statement to the SLC. The SLC has the authority to deny reimbursement of registration fees to the Local League in question. ***Refunds will not be issued after the 60 day period has expired.***

1.04C(1)c The league fee for 2017 Adult League shall be \$25.00 (\$22.00 for the league plus \$3.00 TennisLink fee.) and \$23.00 for the Mixed Doubles League (\$20.00 for the league plus \$3.00 TennisLink fee.)

1.04C(2) Official Score Reporting and Standings System. Scores must be reported in TennisLink within 48 hours of the completed team match. 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. In the case of a dispute, click on dispute in TennisLink, and email the match ID# with details of the discrepancy immediately to the LLC. Scores for the last match of the season must be entered within 4 hours of the completed match in order to confirm winners.

1.04D(3) Local League Season

Session One:

Adult 18 & Over League – 2.5, 3.0, 4.0, 5.0

Adult 40 & Over League – 3.5, 4.5+

Registration Opens – the day 2016 year end ratings are published

Initial Roster Deadline (8 players or 5 for 2.5 & 5.0) – 10 days after registration opens

League Play – January 6 – March 6, 2017

Last Day to Register a Player – March 5, 2017

Session Two:

Adult 18 & Over – 2.5, 3.5, 4.5

Adult 40 & Over – 3.0, 4.0

Registration Opens – February 10, 2017

Initial Roster Deadline (8 players or 5 for 2.5) - February 20, 2017

League Play – March 10 – June 11, 2017

Last Day to Register a Player – June 10, 2017

Pilot Program:

18 & Over and 40 & Over - 3.0 and 4.5 Men

Registration Opens – the day 2016 year end ratings are published

Initial Roster Deadline (8 players) – 10 days after registration opens

League Play – January 6 – June 11, 2107

Last Day to Register a Player – June 10, 2017

Adult 55 & Over League – 3.0, 4.0

Registration Opens – the day 2016 year end ratings are published

Initial Roster Deadline (6 players) – 10 days after registration opens

League Play begins – January 6 th

Adult 55 & Over League – 3.5, 4.5

Registration Opens – Febraury 10. 2017

Initial Roster Deadline (6 players) – February 20, 2017

League Play begins – March 10th

Adult 65 & Over Invitational – 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0 (combined 4.5)

Entry Deadline –September 13, 2017

Championship – September 22-24, 2017

Mixed Doubles

18 & Over - 2.5, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0

40 & Over – 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0,

55 & Over – 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0

Registration Opens – April 10, 2017

Initial Roster Deadline (3 males/3 females) – April 21, 2017

League Play – May 12 – August 27, 2017

Last Day to Register a Player – August 26, 2017

1.04D(4)Team. The roster limit for all Adult and Mixed Doubles Leagues shall be a maximum of 21 players.

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 at least 40 percent of its players at the designated NTRP level of play. The exception is the Adult 55 & Over Age Group that uses combined NTRP rating levels and will not be required to comply with this Regulation. This will not apply to the Adult 65 & Over Age Group.

1.04F(1) Entry. All players must use their current NTRP rating when registering for a team. If the player does not have an NTRP rating, he/she must self-rate using the National NTRP guidelines. Individuals who have had a National or Section ranking; played collegiate tennis; taught tennis or played professional tennis must also complete a player history form. The form is available on TennisLink. Upon completion of the player history questionnaire, players will automatically be informed through TennisLink of his/her appropriate level. If you choose to appeal this rating to a lower level, you may do so on the site at the time of yourself rating. If you wish to appeal your rating up, you may do so at the TennisLink site. Appeals pertaining to your NTRP rating will be handled by the Southern Tennis Association. Omission of information will subject the player and/or the captain to sanctions and disqualifications.

Comment: A NTRP self-rate grievance may be filed against a player and/or captain who commits or condones entering at one level when the player's actual skill level is at the top of the next NTRP level or higher.

APPEAL PROCESS – NTRP Appeals for computer rated players are to be submitted on TennisLink under Find NTRP Rating Info. This appeal is granted or denied automatically on this site. This must be submitted prior to playing a team match.

1.04F(1)b Mixed results will not be part of generating a player's year-end rating, except for those players who participate in the Mixed Division exclusively. A player who plays in the Mixed Division exclusively will receive a published Mixed Exclusive (M) NTRP rating level at year-end unless they have a valid computer (C) rating from a previous year on file in TennisLink. A published (M) NTRP rating level is valid to play in the Mixed Division exclusively and will be in effect for players 59 years of age and under for three consecutive years and for players 60 years or older for two consecutive years or until another NTRP published level is generated. A player who plays exclusively in the Mixed Division and subsequently chooses to participate in the Adult Division must enter by using a valid computer (C) rating from a previous year. If such player does not have a valid (C) or (B) rating from a previous year, he or she must self-rate with the minimum rating being the higher of the self-rating or valid Mixed Exclusive (M) rating.

1.04G Player Participation Eligibility.

1.04G(3) A player may play on more than one team in an NTRP level within a Age Group in the same season provided it is in separate local leagues.

1.04G(4) A player may play on more than one NTRP level within a Age Group in the same local league during the same season.

1.04G(5) A player may play up to one NTRP level above the player's current NTRP level.

2.01A NTRP Levels of Play.

2.01A(1) When using straight NTRP levels, a player cannot have an NTRP rating higher than the NTRP level in which the player is competing except in the 5.0+ NTRP level of the 18 & Over Adult Division, and in the 4.5+ NTRP level of the 40 & Over Adult Division. 5.0+ NTRP level of the 18 & Over Adult Division may include up to two (2) players from the next higher NTRP level. 4.5+ NTRP level of the 40 & Over Adult Division may include up to three (3) players from the next higher NTRP level.

2.01A(1)a In Plus (+) NTRP levels utilizing three individual matches within a team match, no more than one Plus (+) level player shall be allowed to play in a team match and shall be required to play in the #1 position, either singles or doubles.

2.01A(1)b In Plus (+) NTRP levels utilizing four or more individual matches within a team match, two Plus (+) level players may play in a team match and shall be required to play in the #1 position, either singles or doubles.

2.01A(4) USTA League NTRP levels **(See chart in Kentucky Regulations – pages 9-10)**

2.01C Competition Format

2.01C(1) Round Robin. Each NTRP level shall play a round robin format in which each team will play every other team a minimum of one time (except in levels that are flighted).

2.01C (1)a. Flighting Teams may be divided into flights after the initial roster deadline once it is determined how many teams are registered at each level. Every effort to schedule as many matches as possible while staying within the deadline dates will be made. In levels where there are two flights, with a total number of teams between 11-15 the top two teams in each flight will advance. In levels where there are three flights, the top finishing team in each flight will advance. If additional teams are needed, the team with the highest percentage of wins will advance.

Teams will advance to the 2017 Kentucky Championship in accordance with the provisions of section 2.02 (B).

When there are an uneven number of teams in the flights within a division, matches versus the last place finisher in a flight will not be counted for teams in the larger flights, for purposes of determining advancement. This normalizes the number matches so that teams in the smaller flights (with less matches) are not penalized.

The 2.5 level where there are two sessions, the top finishing team in each session will advance to the State Championship. In the event the same team finishes first in each session they must choose which team will advance. Additional team(s) needed to advance will be determined by the highest percentage of wins in Tennislink.

2.01C(2) Team Match. Each team match shall consist of five individual matches: two singles and three

doubles matches. (For the 2.0, 2.5 and 5.0 levels each team match shall consist of three individual matches: one singles and two doubles matches.) In order for a team match to be counted in the standings, teams must play three (3) or more individual courts, (two for the 2.0, 2.5 and 5.0 levels).

In the Mixed Doubles division each team match shall consist of three doubles matches. In order for a team match to be counted in the standings, teams must play two (2) or more individual courts. A doubles team combined rating cannot exceed the level of the team and each individual player's rating may be no more than 1.0 apart.

2.01C (2)a Match Fees. Captains must collect court fees prior to the start of the scheduled team match. Court fees will be \$ **18.00** per player. Court fees for the Mixed Doubles League is TBD.

2.01C(3)a All matches will be the best of three tiebreak sets with a match tiebreak in lieu of a third set. The match tiebreak shall be scored as one set and one game for tiebreak purposes. All tiebreaks will be played using the Coman Format. The warm-up **must** be accomplished in a maximum of 10 minutes, including serves. Do not practice your return of serve during warm-up. Also, do not go out onto the courts before your scheduled match time if there is a match in progress on any of the courts.

2.01C(3)b The team winning the majority of individual matches shall be awarded one team point.

2.01C(3)d If a team knows 24 hours in advance of their scheduled match that they intend to forfeit or reschedule a court, the captain **must** contact the facility and the opposing captain to cancel the court.

Note: A facility may charge a fee unless notice is given 24 hours in advance. The forfeiting captain may be responsible for full payment of that court unless the facility has been notified in advance of the cancellation.

2.01C(5) Team Line-Ups. Captains should print a scorecard from TennisLink before each match which shall be used for lineup exchange. All eligible players will be listed at the bottom of each scorecard. Please verify all players listed are registered on the team. Please note that a player may be added on the day of the match in accordance with the regulations. Printing the scorecard in advance of the day of the match could result in a discrepancy of eligible players. It is a good idea to print the scorecard on the day of the match. Captains **must confirm** the scores with the opposing Captain at the completion of the match and keep a hard copy of each of their scorecards. The team captain for each team shall exchange their team lineup cards simultaneously prior to the beginning of the team match. If the captain will not be there at the start time, he/she should send the lineup with a designated captain. The "Home" captain shall designate placement of courts at the facility. In each match, the Home team shall provide a new can of USTA approved balls. The default time is 15 minutes after the scheduled start time of the league match. **Cell phones are the official time for the start of the match.** *However, since not all cell phone times may be the same, the benefit of the time goes to the earliest time on a cell phone. If one cell phone says 12:14 p.m. and another says 12:16 p.m. for the players on the court, the time shall be 12:14 p.m.* **Comment:** This means all players must be on the court, and 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). **League rules support** a default of the individual match if players are not on court.

a. 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 a 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.

b. The policy of the Louisville League is that there will be NO RESCHEDULING of matches during the season. However, there may be an occasion where a match or just a court or two needs to be rescheduled. Both Captains must agree and the match must be played within two weeks at the originally scheduled facility. If a court or more is rescheduled, do not enter the scores until the match is completed. The LLC must be notified via email when an agreement has been reached. In addition if any team is involved in a USTA League Tennis State, Sectional or National event, regardless of the league, they may request from their opponent consideration in rescheduling their league match. A team with this concern must notify the affected opponents at least two weeks prior to the scheduled match to reschedule individual courts. The team affected must notify the LLC.

c. In the event of inclement weather, the LLC and the Louisville Adult League Committee will post a decision on the local league website at www.talktennis.org.

For outdoor matches If there is a threat of rain you must contact the facility to see if they are open prior to contacting the opposing Captain to see about moving indoors or rescheduling. Both teams must agree to move indoors. Non-member fees may apply. If the weather does not allow the match to be played and both teams do not agree to move indoors, the match must be rescheduled by the Captains within two weeks. If the heat index is projected to be 100 degrees or above at the time of the scheduled match you may request rescheduling with opposing team.

d. Two players will play together in the higher position when both of their partners do not show in order to avoid two defaults.

e. All matches of a defaulting team played or to be played shall be null and void unless all teams in contention for advancement to further competition have already played the defaulting team in good faith, the matches will stand as played.

f. If a team forfeits an entire team match (3 courts or more or 2 for 2.5,5.0 ,55+ and Mixed Doubles) a grievance will be filed by the LLC against the team, which may result in removal from competition. If removed, all matches that team has played or matches to be played shall be null and void. If all teams in contention have played the forfeiting team in good faith, the matches stand as played. The forfeiting team will be placed on a probationary watch the following season, and the Grievance Committee will determine any sanctions to the team and/or Captain.

g. At NO time are cell phones or any other electronic device allowed to be used on the tennis court during a match. If a phone on your court rings once, request that the phone be turned off and replay the point. If the phone rings again you may claim the point based on a deliberate hindrance.

2.02 Progression

2.02 A Local League

2.02A(1) The division winner shall be the team having won the most team matches in its division competition. In the event of a tie for division winner or other placements the tie shall be broken by the first of the following methods:

- a. Individual Matches. Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.
- b. Head-to-Head. Winner of head-to-head match.
- c. Sets. Loser of the fewest number of sets.
- d. Games. Loser of the fewest number of games

2.02B(1) District/Area Championships. Teams will advance to USTA Kentucky State Championships based on the below listed number of teams participating at the local level. Teams should expect to play on any USTA approved surface.

Adult 18 & Over 40 & Over		Adult 55 & Mixed Doubles	
2 teams	1 team	2-5 teams	2 teams
3-5 teams	2 teams	6-10 teams	3 teams
6-10 teams	3 teams	11+ teams	4 teams
11-15 teams	4 teams		
16+	5 teams		

2.03 DISTRICT/AREA, SECTIONAL AND NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS

2.03A Eligibility.

2.03A(1)a A team cannot advance to Championship level without playing a local league. Local leagues that enroll less than the required two teams per NTRP level may compete in the regular USTA league tennis program by joining another existing local league or the “Combined Area”.

1. The LLC shall assign a team to a local league or the “Combined Area” and move the team to the appropriate league within TennisLink.
2. The assigned team will be required to travel to all matches within the existing local league they are assigned, unless the other teams within that local league agree to share the traveling.
3. The assigned team must abide by the local league regulations and deadlines of the local league in which the team is assigned or the State Regulations dates and deadlines for the “Combined Area”.
4. In the case that two one team leagues join together, both teams will be required to travel equally.

5. Local Leagues with **one or two teams** at NTRP levels within the same age division; Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over or Adult 55 & Over may join the “Combined Area” and play a local league. All teams must abide by all regulations for local league play, meeting all state deadlines for registration and last date for match play, as well as playing the required number of matches to qualify to advance to the Kentucky State Championships. Each team will advance to represent their local league area in the appropriate age division at their NTRP level. **If two teams from the same area join the combined league only the team finishing above the other in standings will advance to represent their area at the state championship.**

- ***NOTE: If two teams from the same Local League join the Combined Area, they MUST both be compiled of players from that Local Area and/or surrounding Local Area. They must both be approved by the Local Adult League Committee of that Local League to be rostered to represent them in the Combined Area.***

6. Local League prior to State Championships will be played if there are two or more teams from different local areas that were not able to join another local league. Teams must have all players registered following the local league registration deadlines to be eligible for local prior to state. Teams would arrive one day prior to the State Championships to play the required number of round robins to ensure that all players are qualified to advance to the State Championships.

2.03A(1)b The Championship Tournament Committee will determine the number of teams needed to complete the draw. If it is determined that additional teams are needed to complete the draw in any level, a blind draw will be made to determine which local league area will receive the wildcard. However, the “Host City” for any tournament will be given first consideration for providing a wildcard for any level if they have a team available in that level, and assuming a wildcard is needed.

2.04 NTRP DYNAMIC DISQUALIFICATION AND REVIEW PROCEDURES – 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. A disqualified player may join a team at their new level. No refund will be given to a disqualified player, however the LLC can place a disqualified player on another team at their higher level without having to incur another league fee. All match scores played by the disqualified player will stand as played in TennisLink.

2.05 YEAR-END NTRP COMPUTER RATINGS AND APPEAL PROCEDURES –Please see USTA Southern Section Regulations.

2.05E Promotion of Players 60 or Over and 65 or Over

2.05E(1) Any player who is 60 years of age or older prior to, or during the calendar year in which such player plays his or her first local league match and has achieved the same rating level or lower for his or her three most recent year-end ratings, without benefit of appeal of the player’s year-end rating, will be granted an appeal if promoted.

2.05E(2) All players age 65 or over, if promoted, will automatically be granted an appeal (A rating) of their current rating back to their previous valid year-end rating. NTRP Dynamic Disqualification procedures as outlined in 2.04B(3) apply.

3.0 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The Regulations in 3.0 GRIEVANCES PROCEDURES shall apply to all USTA League Divisions. All complaints alleging a violation of USTA League Tennis Regulations or standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship shall be filed in writing with the LLC.

3.01 Grievances must be filed by a team captain prior to the next team match during the local league season and within 24 hours after the last regular match. Grievances shall be sent to the LLC who will then forward them on to the Grievance Committee. A copy of each complaint shall be sent to the party(ies) against whom the complaint has been made by the LLC>

For full Grievance Procedures refer to Section 3.0 of the 2017 USTA League Tennis Regulations

Adult League Committee

Lynn Harris
Daniel Kalef
Karen Kutz
Beth McCulley
John Riddick
Robin Smith
Debbie Winbigler

Chris Mather – Pro Liaison

TALK Board

Karen Kutz – President
Lynn Harris – Vice President
TBD – Secretary
Robin Mather - Treasurer

2017 Grievance Committee

Debbie Winbigler – Chairperson
Daniel Kalef
Beth McCulley

2017 Grievance Appeal Committee

Karen Kutz – Chairperson
Lynn Harris
John Riddick
Robin Mather

Local League Coordinator – Donna Stedman