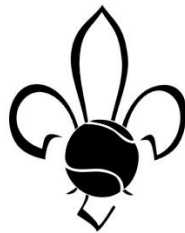


USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS
2021 Championship Year



Tennis Association of Louisville, KY (TALK)

please use this document in conjunction with National/Southern/KY regulations

Note: Due to the COVID pandemic, TALK reserves the right to adjust all league dates in accordance with guidance from USTA National/Southern/Kentucky

USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS

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USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS
2020 Championship Year
Louisville Addendum

1.04D LOCAL LEAGUE

1.04D(1) Definition. A local league is a team competition in a specified geographic area that applies specific local league regulations and consists of NTRP level(s) with a minimum of two teams per level. A local league may choose to divide any or all NTRP levels into flights. Where flights are used, a playoff structure may be established to determine a champion for each NTRP level.

All matches for Louisville league tennis shall be played in the Metro Louisville area.

1.04D(3) Local League Season

Local League Registration Fee for ALL leagues is \$22

Note: A non-refundable \$3 TennisLink fee is added to all registration fees.

Courts Fees as established by the clubs are \$19.50 for Adult League matches, \$9 for outdoor matches (matches scheduled outdoors and moved inside are \$13). A \$1 discount will be applied to all 55+ matches.

Note: all fees in Kentucky include applicable sales tax

All league dates are dependent on the number of teams; some levels may begin later or end sooner.

Session One: *Adult 18 and over League (2.5, 3.5, 4.5) AND Adult 40 and over League (3.0, 4.0)*

Registration Opens: November 6

Initial Roster Deadline (minimum needed for a match): November 19

League Play: January 8 – March 14

Session Two: *Adult 18 and over (2.5, 3.0, 4.0, 5.0, 5.0 OPEN) AND Adult 40 and over (3.5, 4.5, 4.5 OPEN)*

Registration Opens: January 20

Initial Roster Deadline (minimum needed for a match): January 31

League Play: March 5 – June 13 (18 & over) / March 5 – June 27 (40 & over)

Adult 55 & Over: *All Levels*

Registration Opens: December 1

Initial Roster Deadline (6 players): December 14

League Play: January 23 - May 16

Mixed Doubles : *All Levels - 18 and over, 40 and over, 55 and over*

Registration Opens: TBD

Initial Roster Deadline (3 males/3 females that can combine to play a match): TBD

Last Date for Match Play: August 29

Combo Doubles : *All Levels - 18 and over, 40 and over, 55 and over*

Registration Opens: TBD

Initial Roster Deadline (6 players that can combine to play a match): TBD

Last Date for Match Play: October 17

1.04D(4)Team. A team shall consist of players eligible to compete at a specific NTRP level of competition in accordance with National Regulations. A Section may limit the number of players on a team who have an individual NTRP level below the team NTRP level.

The roster limit for all indoor leagues (Adult League/Fall League) shall be a maximum of 21 players. The roster limit for all outdoor leagues (Mixed Doubles & Combo Doubles) shall be a maximum of 24 players.

2.01C Competition Format.

2.01C(1) Round Robin. Each NTRP level within a local league shall play at least one round robin competition wherein every team plays every other team. When any NTRP level consists of only two teams, each team is required to play a minimum of three team matches, which is a triple round robin. When any NTRP level consists of only three teams, each team is required to play a minimum of four team matches, which is a double round robin. Any NTRP level may be divided into flights and each team shall play every other team in its flight. The flight winners may enter a playoff structure to establish a local league champion for that NTRP level.

Flighting: Divisions with 11 or more teams will be divided into 2 or more flights. In levels where there are two flights, the top finishing teams in each flight will advance to the Kentucky Championship. If there are 11-15 teams total, the top two teams in each flight (if there are two flights) 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. The flight winner will be the team having won the most team matches in its flight competition

| # teams | # round robins |
|------------|----------------------------|
| 7-10 teams | single round robin |
| 5-6 teams | double round robin |
| 3-4 teams | triple round robin |
| 2 teams | minimum triple round robin |

Note: TALK reserves the option to conduct additional round robins for small flights if the calendar permits and courts are available.

Uneven Flight Advancement: When determining the qualifying teams that will advance to the District Championships and the flights are uneven; the top 2 teams from each flight will automatically advance. The two 3rd place teams will play a 3-court match (1 singles / 2 doubles) to determine the 5th place team to represent Louisville. This deciding match will be played at a time and facility determined by the LLC.

Match Decider in 4-Court Leagues: In the new format of 4-court leagues (1 singles/3 doubles), in the rare instance of a match that is tied statistically in TennisLink, the deciding factor will be Court #1 Doubles.:

- Sets. Loser of the fewest number of sets.
- Games. Loser of the fewest number of games.
- Game Winning Percentage: Total games won divided by total games played
- Winner of court #1 Doubles

4-Court League Advancement: When determining teams that will advance to the District Championships and the teams are statistically tied in TennisLink a “last resort” tiebreaker will determine the team advancing. This would be implemented only if the criteria as defined by the

National regulations does not determine the winner. A 3-court match (1 singles / 2 doubles) match will be played. The teams competing for the final spot to represent Louisville will play this match at a time and facility determined by the LLC.

2.01C(2) Team Match. Each team match in a local league shall consist of such number of individual matches of singles, doubles, or any combination thereof as determined by the local league. Each team must have the minimum number of players available to play the majority of individual matches. If one team does not have the minimum number of players, the opposing team will be credited with a total team default, and will win each individual match 6-0 6-0. If neither team has the required minimum number of players, the match shall be scored as a double team default, and neither team will receive credit for a win. In the case of a team default or double team default any individual matches actually played will count only for NTRP ratings and eligibility for advancement and cannot count for determining standings.

- In order for a team match to be counted in the standings, teams must play three (3) or more individual courts. For the 2.5 and 5.0 levels, Mixed Doubles, Combo Doubles and Fall League, teams must play two (2) or more individual courts. *All matches scheduled during the league season are expected to be played.*
- For Mixed Doubles, a doubles team combined rating cannot exceed the level of the team and each individual's rating within the doubles team may be no more than 1.0 apart.
- At NO time are cell phones allowed to be used on the tennis court during a match. **ALL Electronic Devices** must be turned off during the match or set to silent. 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 in the game based on a deliberate hindrance.
- All matches must be played to completion without interruption during the scheduled match time allotted. Unfinished matches must be played if a court is available at the host club within a half-hour of the interrupted match, or, within a reasonable time as long as both teams agree on the delay. Additional court fees may be charged, but that is at the discretion of the host club. If a court is not available within a reasonable time frame, rescheduling should be arranged immediately by the players. If it is necessary to reschedule the match, the captains must notify the LLC. The rescheduled match must be played within one week at the host facility, if possible.
- The "Home" captain shall designate placement of courts. In each match, the Home team shall provide a new can of USTA approved (standard type 2) balls for each court.
- If the team prior to your match is in a third set tiebreak, please be courteous to players on the court by allowing them to finish their match. **Do not go out to warm up for your match prior to your scheduled time unless all courts are available.**
- Play shall be continuous from the first service until the match is completed in accordance with the following provisions:
 - If the first service is a fault, the second service must be struck by the server without delay.
 - The receiver must play to the reasonable pace of the server and must be ready to receive when the server is ready to serve. The server cannot take longer than 20 seconds in between points. When changing ends, a maximum time of 90 seconds shall elapse from the moment the ball goes out of play at the end of the game to the time the ball is struck for the first point of the next game.
 - After the first game of each set and during the tie-break, play shall be continuous and the players shall change ends without a rest period. There is no break after the first game of any set.

- At the conclusion of each set, there shall be a set break of a maximum of 2 minutes from the moment the ball goes out of play at the end of the game to the time the ball is struck for the first point of the next game, or on a changeover. A 10 minute break will NOT be allowed between the 2nd set and the Super tiebreak game. A bona fide bathroom break can be taken at any time during the match, though it is courteous to leave the court at the end of a game or on a “designated change-over”.
- Coaching is not allowed in USTA matches. 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 a language understood by all players present, or it may be considered coaching.
- Visible or audible profanity will NOT be tolerated on the courts during any match. Abuse of racquet, balls or equipment will also NOT be tolerated. Players are responsible for adhering to the Code. Unsportsmanlike conduct will NOT be tolerated.
- If a team knows 24 hours in advance of their scheduled match that they intend to forfeit 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 shall be responsible for full payment of that court unless the facility has been notified in advance of the cancellation.***

2.01C(3) MATCH SCORING AND FORMATS

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. All Matches will be the best 2 out of 3 sets, with the Set tiebreak (the first to 7 winning by 2) to be used at 6 all in each set. In lieu of the third set, a Match tiebreak (Super tiebreak) shall be played (the first to 10 winning by 2). There will be a 2 minute set break at the end of each set with no coaching. The Match tiebreak shall be scored as 1 game for tiebreak procedures. All tiebreaks will be played using the Coman Format.

2.01C(5) Team Line-Ups. The team captain for each team shall exchange their team line-up simultaneously prior to the beginning of the team match. No substitution may be made in an individual match after the line-up has been presented, except for injury to, illness of, or disqualification of a player prior to the start of such match and except under such further circumstances as a Sectional Association may authorize. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute player is entitled to a five minute warm-up. The default principles in Reg. 2.03K Team Defaults and 2.03L Scoring of Team Defaults shall be applicable.

If the captain will not be there at the start time, he/she should send the lineup with a designated captain. If all players are present and ready to take the court, please exchange line-ups simultaneously 5 minutes before the scheduled match time. 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. 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 within the 15-minute time limit.

- ***RESCHEDULES:*** The policy of all TALK administered League Play is that there will be NO RESCHEDULING of matches during the season. However, there may be extenuating circumstances where a team needs to request a reschedule of a match or individual courts.
 - It is each captain’s responsibility to review the ENTIRE match schedule once it is published to identify problematic weekends such as holidays, district/sectional play,

etc. and to be proactive in ascertaining player availability and requesting any needed reschedule several weeks in advance.

- EXCEPTION: If any team has 50% or more of their roster registered for a **sanctioned** USTA League State, Sectional or National Tournament, regardless of the league, they can request from their opponent consideration in rescheduling their league match. A team with this concern should notify their opponents and the LLC (srice@talktennis.org) at least 2 weeks prior to the scheduled match to reschedule the match.
- If a captain needs to request a reschedule of a match or partial match the following protocol should be followed:
 - Captains should make reasonable efforts to accommodate a request to rescheduled courts.
 - The LLC should be notified via email of the request to reschedule.
 - Advise the opposing Captain specifically which courts are being requested to reschedule (singles and/or doubles) and the court placement (S1, D1, etc.).
 - Within 24 hours, the opposing Captain shall acknowledge the request and if they are willing to look for alternative dates and times. This acknowledgement must be via email/text.
 - If the Opponent is able to secure alternative options, they shall offer two (2) reasonable dates, times and locations for the reschedule within 5 days of the request. If the opponent is unable to find acceptable alternative options, they will advise the requesting captain as such. Every effort must be made to play the rescheduled courts/matches at the facility where it was originally scheduled. *The requesting team will then play the courts as originally scheduled or will forfeit those courts.*
 - The requesting captain has 48 hours to respond by either agreeing to one of the proposed times or acknowledging forfeiture of the courts.
 - The requesting captain is responsible for cancelling any courts with the scheduled facility. *If cancellation is not made within 24 hours of the original match time, the requesting team is liable for the court costs.*
 - ALL courts must be played within 2 weeks of the originally scheduled dates and by the last date of play for the session. The LLC may grant permission for a date outside of the two (2) weeks with Board approval except in the event that it would pass the last date of play for the league.
 - Once an agreement is reached, the LLC shall be notified via email of the decision.
 - All scores must be entered into Tennislink within four (4) hours of the completion of the match.
- **WEATHER**
 - If teams are in agreement to move/reschedule a match due to weather, the facility **MUST** be notified or the teams will be liable for all match fees. The LLC must be notified in writing of this decision.
 - In the event of inclement winter weather (unsuitable driving conditions in regards to snow and ice), the LLC and the TALK Officers in consultation with Club Management will make a decision to play or cancel matches. This decision will be posted on the TALK social media accounts.
 - Suspended match due to rain (Defined as play has begun [the first service attempt has been made] and must be halted due to conditions.) No alterations from the original line-up will be permitted if the match has started and was interrupted due to weather. *Both teams must be in agreement to move the match to an indoor facility. Teams will be responsible for ALL court fees at the original facility if a match is moved inside*

without confirmation of the cancellation of the courts at the original site. Teams will incur additional court costs when moving a match indoors.

- *If the heat index is projected to be 100 degrees or above, you may request rescheduling with opposing team (see above rescheduling regulations). Both teams must be in agreement to move the match to an indoor facility. Teams will be responsible for ALL court fees at the original facility if a match is moved inside without confirmation of the cancellation of the courts at the original site. Teams will incur additional court costs when moving a match indoors.*

- **FORFEITS**

- If a team forfeits an entire team match (reference chart on page 18 of the State Regs), a grievance **will be filed** by the LLC against the team, which may result in removal from competition. If removed, then all matches that team has played or matches to be played shall be invalidated. If all teams in contention for the playoffs have already played the forfeiting team in good faith, the matches stand as played. The forfeiting team may be placed on a probationary watch the following season, and the Grievance Committee will determine any penalty to the team and/or captain. The threshold for penalty for all TALK administered leagues will be 15% of total courts scheduled for a team.
 - At the end of a league session, if any team has reached the 15% threshold for the first time in the calendar year, the captain(s) will be sent a warning letter from the TALK Board.
 - If a team reaches the 15% a second time in the calendar year, the captain(s) will be suspended from captaining a team for a length of time to be determined by the LLC and the TALK Board Officers.
- Forfeit percentages will be calculated by dividing a team's forfeited courts by the total number of courts scheduled for that team.
- Forfeits will be monitored weekly by TALK.
- Any team forfeiting 2 (out of 5) courts will be contacted by the LLC offering assistance in avoiding future forfeits. A letter outlining these concerns will be sent and kept on file.

2.02 PROGRESSION

2.02B Championships

Teams will advance to USTA Kentucky District Championships based on the below chart for Adult 18+ and Adult 40+. *Note: ALL teams advancing to Adult 40 and Over Championships MUST play the 1 singles/3 doubles format.*

| Local Teams | Teams Advancing |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 1 team | 1 team |
| 3-5 teams | 2 teams |
| 6-10 teams | 3 teams |
| 11-15 teams | 4 teams |
| 16+ teams | 5 teams |

Teams will advance to USTA Kentucky District Championships based on the below chart for Adult 55+, Mixed Doubles and Combo Doubles.

| Local Teams | Teams Advancing |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 2-5 teams | 2 teams |
| 6-10 teams | 3 teams |
| 11+ teams | 4 teams |

3.01 Administration

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 or playoff match. The Grievance form can be found on the USTA website (http://www.ustaky.com/adult/league_forms/?intloc=headernavsub2). 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.

- Grievance Administration (Southern): \$100 filing fee
- Grievance Administration (Kentucky): \$50 filing fee

3.01A Grievance Committees.

3.01A(1) Local

Each local league shall appoint a Local League Grievance Committee.

TALK has a Grievance Committee (TALKKyGrievance@gmail.com) and the Board Officers comprise the Appeals Committee