



*Tennis Association of Louisville, KY (TALK)  
Local League Guidebook*

*This document should be used in conjunction with  
National/Southern/Kentucky regulations and "Friend at Court"*

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

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### TALK Administered Leagues (Adult, Mixed, Combo, Fall)

- All matches shall be played in the Metro Louisville area as scheduled by the LLCs.
- Rosters Sizes:
  - 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.

### 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.

<i>Session</i>	<i>League Levels</i>	<i>Registration Opens</i>	<i>Initial Roster Deadline</i>	<i>2021 League Play</i>
Adult 1	Adult 18+ (2.5, 3.5, 4.5) Adult 40+ (3.0, 4.0)	11/06/2020	11/19/2020	01/08 – 03/14
Adult 2	Adult 18+ (2.5, 3.0, 4.0, 5.0, 5.0 Open) Adult 40+ (3.5, 4.5, 4.5 Open)	01/20/2021	01/31/2021	03/05 - 06/13 03/05 - 06/27
55s	All levels	12/01/2020	12/14/2020	01/23 – 05/16
Mixed	All levels	04/02/2021	04/16/2021	06/04 - 08/29
Combo	All levels	05/28/2021	06/11/2021	07/23 – 10/17
Fall	All levels	TBD	TBD	TBD

### Competition Format

- **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

number of teams	number of round robins
7 – 10	single round robin
5 - 6	double round robin
3 - 4	triple round robin
2	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 3<sup>rd</sup> place teams will play a 3-court match (1 singles / 2 doubles) to determine the 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Match Day/Scoring/Line-ups

- 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.***
- 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. League rules support a default of the individual court if players are not on court within the 15-minute time limit.

- 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.
- **Do not go out to warm up for your match prior to your scheduled time unless all courts are available.** 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
- The warm-up must be accomplished in a maximum of 10 minutes, including serves. Do not practice return of serve during warm-up.
- 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.
- In order for a team match to be counted in the standings, teams must play the minimum courts as defined in the chart below:

<i>Match Format</i>	<i>Required matches in sequential order</i>	<i>Minimum # of players per team required for valid match</i>
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 #2 singles and #1 doubles (priority)	4
1 singles, 3 doubles	#1 singles and #1 doubles and #2 doubles (priority)	5
1 singles, 2 doubles	#1 singles and #1 doubles	3
3 doubles	#1 and #2 doubles	4

- 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 to complete the match, the captains must notify the LLC. The rescheduled match must be played within one week at the host facility, if possible.
- 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 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.

### 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](mailto:srice@talktennis.org) or [sara.ward@talktennis.org](mailto:sara.ward@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

- Winter Weather: 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.
- If both team captains agree to move/reschedule a match due to weather, the facility MUST be notified and the cancellation confirmed or the teams will be liable for all match fees. *The LLC must be notified in writing of this decision.*
- Match moved indoors
  - *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 also incur additional court costs when moving a match indoors.*
  - Rain Suspension: 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. *Note: refunds will not be issued by the original facility.*
  - Rain Reschedule: Forecast is for rain within 4 hours of match time.
  - Heat Reschedule: Heat index is projected to be 100 degrees or above.

### Forfeits

- Forfeits will be monitored weekly by TALK.
- If a team forfeits an entire team match, a grievance will be filed by the LLC against the team. 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 per session.
  - 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.

- 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.

### Grievances

- Any 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.ustakv.com/adult/league\\_forms/?intloc=headernavsub2](http://www.ustakv.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.
- TALK has a Grievance Committee and the Board Officers comprise the Appeals Committee

### Championships

Teams will advance to USTA Kentucky District Championships based on the following charts:

<i>Adult 18+ and Adult 40+</i>	
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

*Note: ALL teams advancing to Adult 40 and Over Championships MUST play the 1 singles/3 doubles format.*

<i>Adult 55+, Mixed Doubles and Combo Doubles</i>	
Local Teams	Teams Advancing
2-5 teams	2 teams
6-10 teams	3 teams
11+ teams	4 teams

<i>2021 League Championship Calendar</i>			
League	Dates	Location	Registration Deadline
60/70 & over Invitational	May 14 -16	Louisville	April 28
Adult 55 & over	June 4 – 6	Henderson	May 26
Adult 18 & over	June 25 – 27	Louisville	June 16
Adult 40 & over	July 9 – 11	Lexington	June 30
Tri-Level	August 27 – 29	Owensboro	August 18
Mixed Doubles	September 9 – 12	Bowling Green	September 1
Adult 65 & Over	September 24 – 26	Louisville	September 8
Tri-Level Sectionals	October 15 – 17	Louisville	September 24
Combo Doubles	October 28 – 31	TBD	October 20