



*Tennis Association of Louisville, KY (TALK)  
Local League Guidebook  
2023 Leagues*

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

*Note: 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, Singles Team, 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 Mixed Doubles/Combo Doubles shall be a maximum of 24 players.
  - The roster limit for the Singles Team League shall be a maximum of 8 players.

**Local League Season**

- Local League Registration Fee for ALL leagues is \$28. *Note: This includes a non-refundable \$3 TennisLink fee.*
- 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). *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 Dates/State Championships

<i>Session</i>	<i>League Levels</i>	<i>Registration Opens*</i>	<i>Initial Roster Deadline</i>	<i>Last date of play</i>	<i>State Tournament</i>
1	see 18+/40+ below	December 1	December 11		
2	see 18+/40+ below	<i>January 15</i>	<i>February 5</i>		
18+	Session 1: (2.5, 3.5, 4.5) Session 2: (2.5, 3.0, 4.0, 5.0)			June 4	June 23-25
40+	Session 1: (3.0, 4.0) Session 2: (3.5, 4.5)			May 21	June 9-11
55s	All levels	December 1	December 15	May 14	June 2-4
Mixed	All levels	<i>April 2</i>	<i>April 23</i>	August 6	August 25-27
Combo	All levels	<i>May 28</i>	<i>June 18</i>	October 1	October 20-22
Singles	All levels	TBD	TBD	TBD	
Fall	All levels	TBD	TBD	TBD	

*\*with the exception of Session 1, ALL registration dates are estimations and not final*

## Competition Format

- TALK administered leagues use the round robin format for 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.*

- Flights: Divisions with 11 or more teams will be given the option to remain unflighted or to be flighted. Captains will be asked to vote within 2 days of registration closing. The majority of votes will determine that division’s format. In levels where there are two flights, the top two (2) finishing teams in each flight will advance to the District Championships. If additional teams are needed, the team(s) with the highest percentage of wins will advance. *Note: Please see chart on the last page of this document for total number of teams advancing.*
- Partial Round Robin. Each NTRP level within a local league may play a partial round robin competition wherein every team plays the same number of matches against randomly selected opponents. A minimum of the top two teams shall progress to a single elimination playoff to establish a local league champion for that NTRP level.
- Uneven Flight Advancement: When determining the qualifying teams that will advance to the District Championships and the flights are uneven; the top two (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 (40+ Adults): 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.

## Pre-Match

- The “Home” captain shall designate placement of courts. In each match, the Home team shall provide a new can of USTA approved balls for each court.
- 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. 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.

- ***Do not go out to warm up for your match prior to your scheduled time unless all courts are available.*** If a court from the prior match is in a third set tiebreak, please be courteous to players on the court by allowing them to finish their match

### Match Play

- 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). 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 return of serve during warm up.
- All matches must be played to completion without interruption during the scheduled 2-hour match time. 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.
  - If you are nearing the 2 hour mark (within 5 minutes)
    - Still in the 2nd set? Please don't start another game. Your captains should have already looked into court availability to move you.
    - If your match has split sets, get your 3rd set tiebreaker started.
    - If your 3rd set tiebreaker is underway, you are permitted to complete it without moving courts. If the next match comes on the court, politely ask them to leave the court until you are done (their teammates are permitted to be on adjacent courts).
  - Change-over: 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
  - Break between sets: maximum of 2 minutes.
  - Medical/Injury: per "Friend of Court": "No extra time shall be given to a player to recover condition. However, a player suffering from a treatable medical condition may be allowed one medical timeout of three (3) minutes for the treatment of that medical condition."
  - When your court is finished, please EXIT the court and watch from the lobby.
- 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.
  - 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.

- 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”.
- 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

- Coaching is not permitted 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.
- Players are responsible for adhering to the Code. Unsportsmanlike conduct will NOT be tolerated.
- At NO time are cell phones allowed to be used on the tennis court during a match. **ALL Cell Phones** must be 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.
- 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.**

#### Weather

- Winter Weather: In the event of inclement winter weather (unsuitable driving conditions in regards to snow and ice), Club Management makes the decision to open/close the clubs. Any decisions will be shared on the TALK social media accounts. If the captains chose to re-schedule, all protocols as defined this guide must be followed.
- 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.

### 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.
- ***Notice: If courts are not cancelled within 24 hours, the teams may be charged for the unused courts per club policy.***
- 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.

### **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**

- As with grievances filed at the Southern or Kentucky level, TALK will require a \$50 filing fee for all General/Sportsmanship and/or Administrative Grievances and Grievance Appeals that are heard at the local level. The filing fee will only be returned to the grieving party if a penalty is imposed. Payment should be via check made payable to "TALK".
- The decision of the Grievance Committee shall conform to the USTA League Suspension Point System, which shall be established prior to each League Year by the USTA National League Committee.
- 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.ustaky.com/adult/league\\_forms/?intloc=headernavsub2](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.
- TALK has a Grievance Committee and the Board Officers comprise the Appeals Committee

## **Facilities**

### *Indoor Facilities*

Advantage Tennis & Fitness	502.897.7185	4014 Dutchman's Lane
Blairwood Fitness and Swim	502.426.8820	9300 Blairwood Road
Louisville Bass Rudd/UL	502.852.1684	2350 University Blvd
Louisville Indoor Racquet Club (LIRC)	502.426.2454	8609 Westport Road
Louisville Tennis Club (LTC)	502.426.4923	2011 Herr Lane
Southern Indiana Tennis Club	812.288.8424	6113 Appleleaf Lane
The Tennis Club at Springhurst	502.412.2950	4109 Simcoe Lane

### *Outdoor Courts*

Louisville Tennis Center (zoo)	502.456.8140	3783 Illinois Avenue
Mercy Academy		5801 Fegenbush Lane
Plainview Tennis		0235 Timberwood Circle



## Championships

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

<i>All Leagues</i>	
<b>Local Teams</b>	<b>Teams Advancing</b>
2-3 teams	2 teams
4-6 teams	3 teams
7-10 teams	4 teams
11-15 teams	5 teams
16+ teams	6 teams

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

<i>League Championship Calendar</i>			
<b>League</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Registration Deadline</b>
60/70 & over invitational	May 12 – 13	Louisville	April 30
Adult 55 & over	June 2 – 4	TBD	May 21
Adult 18 & over	June 23 - 25	Louisville	June 11
Adult 40 & over	June 9 – 11	Lexington	May 28
Mixed Doubles	August 25 – 27	TBD	August 13
Adult 65 & Over	September 22 – 24	Louisville	
Tri-Level	September 8 – 10	Owensboro	August 27
Combo Doubles	October 20 – 22	TBD	October 8

<i>Southern Calendar – not published</i>		
<b>League</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Location</b>
Adult 18 & Over Championship (3.0, 4.0, 5.0)		
Adult 18 & Over Championship (2.5, 3.5, 4.5)		
Adult 40 & Over Championship (3.0 - clay, 4.0 – hard court)		
Adult 40 & Over Championship (3.5 - clay, 4.5 – hard court)		
Adult 55 & Over Championship		
Mixed Doubles Championship (18, 40 & Over)		
Tri-Level Sectional Invitational		
Adult 65 & Over Sectional Invitational		
Mixed Doubles 55/65 Sectional Invitational		
Combo Doubles Championship		