



2011 Louisville Southern Combo Doubles Regulations

THESE RULES MUST BE PRESENT AT ALL LEAGUE MATCHES.

Play is governed by the RULES OF TENNIS, "The Code" as contained in the 2011 Friend of Court, The USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations, USTA Southern Sectional Regulations, USTA Kentucky Regulations and Louisville Regulations. Tennis Association Louisville Kentucky - TALK is a non-profit organization whose mission is the growth and development of tennis in the Louisville area.

The National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) is the official system for rating levels of competition in Southern Combo Doubles.

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

The Local League Coordinator (LLC) is the person who implements and administers all USTA League Programs.

The State League Coordinator (SLC) is the person who oversees the administration of the league programs at the State Level.

SECTION I. ELIGIBILITY

1) **TEAMS**

- A. Local League Coordinators must notify the SLC of a single team league by September 30, 2011. Said single team may attend the State Championship if this requirement is met. **Senior Teams will be allowed to play in an Adult division.**
- B. All NTRP levels teams are required to play a minimum of four (4) team matches.
- C. **Teams must have a minimum of six (6) eligible players of the appropriate NTRP level registered on TennisLink by July 22, 2011.**
- D. **The roster size for the 2011 season shall be a maximum of 21 players.**
- E. The registration fee for the 2011 Southern Combo Doubles is \$23.00 per player plus the \$3.00 TennisLink fee. (State Fee is \$20.00 – the additional \$3.00 per player will be used to cover the cost of the courts at Tom Sawyer Park.

2) PLAYERS

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

Comment: A self-rating 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.

- B. Players must play at or above their NTRP rating. A player may not be dynamically disqualified based on results from Southern Combo Doubles and match results are not calculated in year-end NTRP computer ratings. Players may play with the rating submitted on the roster through the Sectional Championships unless the player's year end rating is two levels above the rating on roster.
- C. All players must follow the Southern Combo Doubles Combination Guidelines.
- a. The format of play will be three individual men or women's doubles matches per team match. Levels offered will be combined Adult 5.0, 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5, and 10.5 and Senior 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, where each individual doubles team's combined NTRP rating may not exceed the level entered. **NOTE: There is no limitation as to a player's rating for a particular level. For example, for an 8.5 COMBO level, the players can have an NTRP rating of 3.0+5.5 or 4.0+4.5 or 3.5+5.0. Note:** the maximum level of play allowed at the combined 5.0 level is 2.5.
- D. All participants must reach 18 years of age for Adult divisions, 50 for Senior divisions, and 60 for Super Senior divisions during the calendar year in which they play their first match.
- E. Where there is no local senior Combo league, a senior team may play in an adult division. The matches will be entered into TennisLink to determine the standings. The Senior team will be eligible to advance directly to Kentucky Championships in Senior Division and the Adult teams will advance in the order they finished.
- F. All players must be paid members of the USTA through the respective season of play.
- G. Eligible players may be added to a roster prior to the start of the team match.
- H. **Players may be added to a roster until midnight October 4, 2011. The last day to play matches is October 5, 2011.**

SECTION II. TEAM CAPTAINS' DUTIES

- 1) It is the Captain's responsibility to have each team member thoroughly read and understand current Sectional, State and Local Southern Combo Doubles 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. Said email address must be provided to the LLC.**
- 3) **PREPARING LINEUPS**

Any player may play any position at any time. Any eligible player may participate at any time during the season. Players must participate once to be eligible for the State Championship.

4) SCHEDULING MATCHES

- A. The Captains must agree on placement of courts.
- B. If a Captain knows a court is to be forfeited prior to the match, as a courtesy, please notify the opposing Captain. The policy of the local league is that there will be NO RESCHEDULING of matches during the season. We realize this is not always possible, so **if it is absolutely necessary** for a match to be rescheduled **both** team Captains **must** be in agreement, AND the LLC **must** be notified via e-mail. The match must be played within 2 weeks of the original scheduled date. If a match is rescheduled without the consent of the LLC, a grievance will be filed against BOTH Captains.
- C. If a team knowingly begins a team match without a full complement of players for the lineup (e.g. four players rather than six) they must forfeit from the bottom. For example, a team with four players must forfeit #3 doubles.
- D. Any team with 50% or more of their players involved in a USTA League Tennis State, Sectional or National match, that carries over into another league season regardless of the league, may request from their opponent consideration in prescheduling their Southern Combo Doubles matches prior to the scheduled day of the match so as not to have to forfeit. **A team with this concern must notify the affected opponents at least two weeks prior to the scheduled match to reschedule individual matches.** We expect opposing teams to cooperate fully in these circumstances.

6) MATCH DAY

- A. **In order to timely start the team match, complete written lineups must be simultaneously exchanged at the scheduled time of the match.** The Captain or a designated Captain shall be present at all matches.
- B. The default time is 15 minutes after the scheduled start time of each individual match. If players agree to play the match after the default time, the match result stands. No default may be claimed after the fact.

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.* If players agree to play the match after the default time, the match result stands. No default may be claimed after the fact.

Comment: This means all players must be on the court, not merely at the facility preparing food, 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. League rules support a default of the individual match if players are not on court.

- C. Once the teams exchange lineups no movement of players is allowed. **NEVER MOVE PLAYERS ALREADY LISTED ON THE LINEUP TO ANOTHER POSITION.** (See Rule 6 D regarding player substitutions)
- D. A **substitute** is defined as a player not listed on the original lineup. A substitute can be used **only** if a player or players listed on the original lineup do not arrive within the 15-minute default time, and there are players present available to play, or if a player is injured or becomes ill during the warm-up, which is the start of the individual match.

Comment: A substitute cannot be used if a player originally listed on the line up arrives at the match and decides he/she no longer wishes to play or no longer has time to play.

- E. If a court is in a 3rd set Super Tie-Break at the end of the 2 hour time limit, please be courteous and allow that court to complete their match.

7) 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. (*Note: a player who registers on the day of a match- prior to the match scheduled time – is eligible to play in that match.*)
- B. The scorecards must be exchanged at or near the entrance of the courts, promptly at the scheduled match time. Any Captain who refuses to exchange the cards at that time will be subjected to forfeiting all courts. If players are not at the facility for the scheduled match, the Captain must still exchange the scorecards, and if the player does not show up within the 15 minute default time, the court they were to play on shall be forfeited.
- C. Scores must be entered within 24 hours of the completion of a match by the Home Captain. Score confirmation or score disputes must be made by the Visiting Captain within 48 hours of score entry. **All disputes are to be e-mailed immediately to the LLC. Please be sure to include Match #.**
- D. Captains should keep a hard copy of each of their scorecards. Verify scores with opposing Captain at the completion of the match.

SECTION III. FORMAT OF PLAY AND SCORING

1) TEAM MATCH FORMAT

- A. Each team match shall consist of three individual doubles matches.
- B. The team winning the majority of individual matches shall be awarded one point.** TennisLink stats and 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.
- D. Defaults (forfeits) and disqualifications shall be scored according to USTA League Tennis Regulations. Please make sure to **ONLY** include the names of the players on the non-forfeiting team and click “default.” TennisLink will automatically score the match at 6-0, 6-0.

2) INDIVIDUAL MATCH FORMAT

- A. Line ups must be exchanged promptly at the scheduled match time. The official clock shall be the clock on the cell phone. The warm-up must be accomplished in a maximum of ten minutes, including serves. **Do not practice return of serve during warm-up.**
- B. All matches will be best of three sets with regular scoring. The 12 point tiebreak (first to 7 by 2) shall be used at 6 all in the first and second sets. In lieu of the third set, players shall play a Super Tie-Break game (or match tie-break). The players who win ten points

by a margin of two points are the winners. The Super tie-Break is scored on TennisLink as 1-0 for the winning team. **The Coman tie break will be used for all tie breaks.**

C. There will be NO COACHING allowed at any time during a match.

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 a language understood by all players present, or it may be considered coaching.

D. The Home Team shall provide a new can of regulation yellow balls (unopened) for each court.

E. Cell phones, pagers etc. should be turned off before and during the match.

Comment: 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.

SECTION IV. MATCH REQUIREMENTS

- 1) All matches must be played to completion without interruption. If a match is not completed at the end of the scheduled time and there are no other courts available, rescheduling should be arranged immediately by the Captains. The rescheduled match must be played within one week. The LLC must be notified via e-mail.
- 2) Play shall be continuous from the first service until the match is completed, in accordance with the following provisions:
 - A. If the first service is a fault, the second service must be struck by the server without delay.
 - B. 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.
 - C. After the first game of each set and during a tie-break, play shall be continuous and the players shall change ends without a rest period. (*The first "break" shall occur after 3 games.*)
 - D. 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.
- 3) **A 10 minute break WILL NOT be allowed between the 2nd set and the Super Tie-break game. A player may leave the court at the end of any game and/or set for a BONA FIDE bathroom break.**
- 4) 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.

SECTION V. INCLEMENT WEATHER

- 1) In the case of potential rain or scattered showers, all players must report to the scheduled site at the time of the match as it may be raining on one end of town but not the other. Both Captains must agree to the cancellation of the match. **DO NOT PLAY ON WET HARD COURTS.** If the weather does not allow the match to be played, the match must be rescheduled within two weeks.

If **both teams** agree the match can be moved indoors at a cost decided by the individual facilities. The original line-up from the suspended match does not have to be followed IF the match was suspended BEFORE PLAY BEGAN. No alterations from the original line-up will be permitted if the match had started and was interrupted due to weather. **Inclement weather is defined as precipitation due to rain.**

In the case of extreme heat. If the Heat Index is projected to be 100 degrees or more at the TIME of your match it will be canceled. We will use weather.com for the Louisville area where you can view weather by the hour (heat index is "feels like"). The Captains will reschedule this match. Captains must notify the LLC via e-mail to donnastedman@louisvilleleaguetennis.com. It should be completed within 2 weeks from originally scheduled

SECTION VI. PROGRESSION

- 1) In the event of a tie, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following methods:
 - a. Winner of the most individual matches.
 - b. Loser of the fewest sets
 - c. Loser of the fewest games
 - d. Head-to-head winners
- 2) Teams advancing to the Southern Combo Doubles State Championship from the local level shall be as follows:
 - a. 2-10 teams - 2 teams
 - b. 11-20 teams – 3 teams
 - c. 21 + teams – 4 teams
- 3) State Championship Dates. All dates and locations are subject to change by the State Tournament Committee, but are currently listed as follows: **October 21-23, 2011 - Louisville, KY.**
- 4) Sectional Championship Dates are currently listed as follows: **March 2-5, 2012 Mobile, AL**

SECTION VII. FORFEITS, RATINGS & DISQUALIFICATIONS

- 1) If a team forfeits an entire team match (2 or more positions) a grievance WILL be filed by the LLC against the team, which may result in removal from the competition. If removed, then all matches that team has played, or matches to be played shall be null and void. 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 additional penalty. 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.
- 2) All players must use their most current published rating at the time of registration on a team.

SECTION VIII. LOCAL LEAGUE GRIEVANCES

- 1) All complaints alleging a violation of League Tennis Regulations or standards of good conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship shall be filed in writing with the chairman of the Louisville Grievance Committee.
- 2) Grievances must be filed by a **Team Captain** prior to the next team match during the local league season and within twenty-four hours after the last regular match.

- 3) Contact your LLC for a 2011 Grievance form.
- 4) The requirement that a grievance be in writing is satisfied if it is sent by fax 502 228-8263 or email (donnastedman@louisvilleleaguetennis.com).
- 5) A **copy** of each complaint shall be sent to the party(ies) against whom the complaint has been made.

**For full Grievance Procedures refer to Section 2.0 of the USTA League Tennis
2011 Regulations.**

SECTION IX. SELF-RATE ELIGIBILITY GRIEVANCES

- 1) A complaint may be filed by a Captain or 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 (ies) that files the Self Rate Eligibility grievance must provide documentation to support their complaint at the time of their filing.
- 3) The USTA Southern Section Self-Rate Eligibility 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. This action may include disqualification, suspension from league play or other league sanctions.
- 4) Send Self-Rate Eligibility Grievances to kklein@kentuckytennis.com for forwarding to USTA Southern Section Grievance Committee. USTA Kentucky serves only as a pass through entity to the Southern Section. A Self-Rate Eligibility Grievance can be filed at any time. Only Self-Rate Eligibility Grievances filed within 24 hours of the last regular season match will be heard prior to the start of the local league playoffs. Self-Rate Eligibility Grievances filed **after** that time will be heard and administered after the conclusion of the local league playoffs.

**“Louisville USTA League Committees”
Tennis Association Louisville Kentucky**

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