



## **2011 USTA Louisville Mixed Doubles Rules and Regulations**

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 Code. The Rules and Regulations for the USTA League Tennis Program are administered by the Local League Coordinator (LLC) and the Louisville Adult League Committee.

### **SECTION I. ELIGIBILITY**

#### **1) TEAMS**

- A. A minimum number of two teams are required at all NTRP levels.
- B. Any NTRP level with only two teams are required to play a minimum of three (3) team matches.
- C. Teams must have a minimum of six (6) eligible players (3 Men and 3 Women) registered on TennisLink by **April 22, 2011**.
- D. The roster size for the 2011 season shall be a maximum of 21 players.
- E. Senior teams with only one team at that level may NOT play in the Adult division to qualify.

#### **2) PLAYERS**

- A. All players must use their current NTRP rating when registering. If they do not have a current NTRP rating from 2008, 2009 or 2010 they may self-rate using the national 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. If you are 59 and under, your NTRP Computer Rating is valid for 3 years and if you are 60 and over, your NTRP Computer Rating is valid for 2 years.
- C. Teams must follow the USTA League Tennis Mixed doubles combination guidelines.
  - a. The format for the USTA Mixed Doubles League will be straight 2.5 level and combined 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, and 10.0 for Adults and straight 2.5, 6.0 through 9.0 for Seniors as adopted by the Southern Tennis Association. Each doubles team combined rating cannot exceed the team level, and each individual player's rating may be no more than 1.0 apart.
  - b. A doubles team's combined rating cannot exceed the level of the team (For example at the 6.0 level a 3.5 player cannot play with a 3.5 or 3.0 player, but can play with a 2.5 player).
  - c. All players shall have reached the age of eighteen (18) years of age prior to or during the calendar year in which such player plays in their first team match.
  - d. All players must be paid members of the USTA through the respective season of play.
  - e. **The deadline to roster a player for the season shall be midnight August 23, 2011. An eligible player may be added to a roster prior to the start of a team match, as long as the roster deadline of August 23rd has not passed.**
  - f. The registration fee for the 2011 Mixed Doubles league is **\$23.00** per player plus the \$3.00 TennisLink fee. (State Fee is \$20.00) plus an additional \$3.00 to cover the court cost for play at Tom Sawyer Park.

## **SECTION II. TEAM CAPTAIN DUTIES**

- 1) **It is the Captain's responsibility to have each team member thoroughly read and understand current National, Sectional, State and Local USTA Regulations prior to the start of league competition.**
- 2) **Captains must have a current e-mail address on TennisLink** in order to receive league information throughout the season.
- 3) PREPARING LINEUPS
  - A. Any player may play any position at any time. Any eligible player may participate at any time during the season. Players must however participate twice with no more than one default counting to be eligible for advancement to the State Tournament. Seniors must play one match to be eligible for advancement to the State Tournament with a default counting as one match.
  - B. To generate a computer rating, a player must have played twice during the entire league year. Forfeits do not count towards computer ratings.

#### 4) SCHEDULING MATCHES

- A. The "Home" captain shall designate 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. Also, please notify the LLC, and the facility where the match is scheduled, so this court can be used if needed.
- C. The policy of the local league is that there will be NO RESCHEDULING of matches during the season. **If it is absolutely necessary** for a match to be rescheduled **both** team Captains must be in agreement, and the LLC **must** be notified. The home team Captain must notify the tennis facility 24 hours in advance that the match is going to be rescheduled. 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.
- D. 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.
- E. If any team has **50% or more** of their roster involved in a USTA League Tennis State, Sectional, or National match, regardless of the league, said team may request consideration in rescheduling their league match prior to the scheduled day of said match. 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.

#### 5) MATCH DAY

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

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 3<sup>rd</sup> set Super Tie-Break at the end of the 2 hour time limit, please be courteous and allow that court to complete their match.** If a court has not started the third set Super Tie Break at the end of the two hour limit, said players need to relinquish that court and arrange a mutually agreed time to complete the match.
- F. **DO NOT GO OUT ONTO A COURT TO WARM UP NEXT TO A MATCH IN PROGRESS IF IT IS BEFORE YOUR SCHEDULED MATCH TIME.**

#### 6) SCORECARDS

- A. Captains should print a scorecard from TennisLink before each match to use for lineup exchange. All eligible players will be listed on the bottom of each scorecard; therefore if you have last minute 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. **Cell phones are the official time for the start of the match.** 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 player may be substituted (see 5 D. above) or that court 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 with the match# to: [donnastedman@louisvilleleaguetenis.com](mailto:donnastedman@louisvilleleaguetenis.com)

### **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. **Divisions with 16 or more teams will be flighted into 2 flights. The top team in each flight will advance to the State Championship and the third place team will be determined by best record. If there are 21 or more teams the top 2 teams in each flight will advance.**

- E. Defaults (forfeits) and disqualifications shall be scored according to the USTA League Tennis Regulations. Please make sure to ONLY include the names of the non-forfeiting team and click on "default". TennisLink will automatically score the match at 6-0, 6-0. (NOTE: You do not need to include any names of players from the team that defaulted.)

## 2) INDIVIDUAL MATCH FORMAT

- A. Line ups must be exchanged promptly at the scheduled match time.  
The official clock shall be the clock on cell phones as noted in Section II. 5B.
- B. The warm-up must be accomplished in a maximum of ten minutes, including serves. Do not practice return of serve during warm-up. Also, **DO NOT GO OUT ON THE COURTS BEFORE** your scheduled match time if there is a match in progress on either side of your assigned court.
- C. All matches will be best of three sets with regular scoring. The 12 point tie- point (first to 7 by 2) shall be used at 6 all in the first and second sets. A Super Tie Break (first to 10 by 2) shall be used in lieu of a third set. There will be a 2 minute break at the end of each set.  
**ALL TIEBREAKS WILL BE PLAYED IN THE COMAN TIEBREAK FORMAT.**
- D. 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.

- E. The Home Team shall provide a new can of regulation yellow balls (unopened) for each court.
- F. Captains must collect court fees prior to the scheduled team match.  
Court fees will be \$6.00 per player for Bass Rudd and Louisville Tennis Center.
- G. At NO time are CELL PHONES, BEEPERS, or any other electronic device allowed 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 in the game based on a deliberate hindrance.

## **SECTION IV. MATCH REQUIREMENTS**

- 1) All matches must be played to completion without interruption. Unfinished matches must be played at the host facility within a half hour of the interrupted match if possible. If a court is not 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 to [donnastedman@louisvilleleaguetenis.com](mailto:donnastedman@louisvilleleaguetenis.com)
- 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 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. (**NOTE:** If your first set concludes at an even score, i.e. 6-2, take a Set Break rather than starting the first game of the second set, because there will be **no break until after the third game** of the second set.)
- 3) A 10 minute break will not be allowed between the 2<sup>nd</sup> set and Super Tie-Breaker. A player may leave the court at the end of a 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, players guide for matches when officials are not present. (pages 45-51 of the 2011 Friend of Court). 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 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. The original line-up from the suspended match does not have to be followed if the match was suspended BEFORE PLAY BEGAN. (Play begins as soon as the ball is struck including warm up). 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. All players must be in agreement to move the match to an indoor facility. Non-member fees may apply. Court costs vary from club to club. **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. The Captains will reschedule this match. Captains must notify the LLC via e-mail to [donnastedman@louisvilleleaguetenis.com](mailto:donnastedman@louisvilleleaguetenis.com). It should be completed within 2 weeks from originally scheduled date.**

## **SECTION VI. PLAYOFFS & 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 USTA Kentucky Mixed Doubles 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: September 9-11, 2011 - Location: TBD

Sectional Championship Dates are currently listed as follows:  
October 14-16, 2011 - Macon, GA

## **SECTION VII. FORFEITS, RATINGS AND DISQUALIFICATIONS**

- 1) If a team forfeits an entire team match (2 or more courts) 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 have already played the forfeiting team in good faith, the matches stand as played. The forfeiting team may be placed on probationary watch the following season, and the Grievance Committee will determine any additional penalties to the team and Captain.
  
- 2) 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.
  
- 3) All players must use their most current published rating at the time of registration on a team. Once a player is registered on a specific roster they may play at that Level throughout all USTA State, Sectional, and National Championships even if their rating increases prior to the championships unless the person has a self-rating disqualification.

- 4) Any self-rated player who is dynamically disqualified from a level of play, will have all matches at that level considered losses and scored 6-0, 6-0.
- 5) A disqualified player may join a team at their new level following TennisLink procedures. No refund will be given to a disqualified player.

### **SECTION VIII. LOCAL LEAGUE GRIEVANCES**

- 1) All complaints alleging a violation of USTA League Regulations or standards of good conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship shall be filed in writing with the chairman of the USTA 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 and/or playoff match.
- 3) Contact your LLC for 2011 Grievance Form and procedures.
- 4) The requirement that a grievance be in writing is satisfied if it is sent by fax to: 502 290-8036 or e-mail to:  
[donnastedman@louisvilleleaguetenis.com](mailto:donnastedman@louisvilleleaguetenis.com)
- 5) The Grievance Chairperson will notify all parties named in the grievance via e-mail.

### **SECTION IX. SELF RATE GRIEVANCE 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 a player 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 file(s) the Self Rate Grievance must provide documentation other than the players match record to support their complaint at the time of the filing. The complaint will then be handled at the Southern level.
- 3) Send Self Rate Grievances to Kathy Klein at:  
[kklein@ustaky.com](mailto:kklein@ustaky.com) for forwarding to USTA Southern Section Grievance Committee. Self-Rate Grievances are not handled at the State or Local level.

## **USTA LOUISVILLE COMMITTEES**

### **Tennis Association Louisville Kentucky**

Karen Kutz– President  
Gerry Canter – Immediate Past President  
Nancy Jones - Vice President  
Janice Clark – Secretary  
Alice Tucker - Treasurer  
Maureen Bates  
Cherie Branson  
Diann Eberhardt  
Janet Kubran  
Paul Berrier  
Jonathan Amlung – Legal Liaison  
Local League Coordinator - Donna Stedman

### **Grievance and Grievance Appeal**

Karen Kutz – Chairperson  
Stan Sims – Appeals Chair  
Tom Campbell  
Janice Clark  
Judy Davenport  
Lisa Hennekes  
Nancy Jones  
Mark Prieto  
Robin Smith  
Alice Tucker

**Kentucky State League Coordinator** – Kathy Klein  
**Executive Director** – Sharon Rahman