



2012 USTA LOUISVILLE LEAGUE 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 Standards of Good Conduct, Fair Play and Good Sportsmanship. The Rules and Regulations for the USTA League Tennis Program are administered by the Local League Coordinator (LLC) and the Tennis Association of Louisville Kentucky (TALK) aka the Louisville Adult League Committee.

SECTION I. ELIGIBILITY

1) TEAMS

A. Adult Teams must have a minimum of EIGHT (8) eligible players [FIVE (5) for the 2.0, 2.5 and 5.0 levels] by the **initial roster deadline of December 12, 2011**. Senior Teams must have a minimum of SIX (6) eligible players by the **initial roster deadline of December 12, 2011**. Teams that do not meet this deadline may be subject to a grievance filed by the LLC. The Kentucky Adult League Committee has the authority to alter the initial roster deadline prior to the match start date if deemed necessary.

B. Captains, Co-captains or someone acting on his or her behalf **MUST** be present at each team match.

2) PLAYERS

A. All players must use their current NTRP rating when registering for a team. If the player does not have an NTRP rating, he/she must self-rate using the National NTRP guidelines. Individuals who have had a National or Section ranking; played collegiate tennis; taught tennis or played professional tennis must also complete a player history form. The form is available on TennisLink. Upon completion of the player history questionnaire, players will automatically be informed through TennisLink of his/her appropriate level. If you choose to appeal this rating to a lower level, you must contact the LLC. If you wish to appeal your rating up, you may do so at the TennisLink site. Appeals pertaining to your NTRP rating will be handled by the Southern Tennis Association. Omission of information will subject the player and/or the captain to sanctions and disqualifications.

Comment: A NTRP self-rate grievance may be filed against a player and/or captain who commits or condones entering at one level when the player's actual skill level is at the top of the next NTRP level or higher. See Section IX.

B. Players must play at or above their NTRP rating. For the NTRP Computer Ratings, if you are age 59 and under, your NTRP Computer Rating is valid for 3 years. If you are age 60 and over, your NTRP Computer Rating is valid for 2 years. Players to and over promoted at year end can appeal based on his/her three most recent ratings, rather than on the three prior consecutive years.

- C. A player may play on more than one team in the same season provided they are
- a. At a different level (one level above actual NTRP rating) if playing in same league.
 - b. At the same level in a different league; or
 - c. At a different level (one level above actual NTRP rating) if playing in a different league.

D. 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 local league match.

E. All players must be paid members of the USTA through the respective season of play. The league fee for 2012 shall be \$25.00 (\$22.00 for the league plus \$3.00 TennisLink fee.)

F. The roster size for the 2012 Adult/Senior season **shall be a maximum of 21 players.**

G. **The last day to add a player to the team roster shall be May 8, 2012 for Adult League and April 6, 2012 for Senior League.** Exceptions may be made if a player is new to the area, or has been leveled up during the season. Whether or not a player can be added will be determined by the Louisville Adult League Committee.

H. **The last day to play matches for the Adult League will be June 8, 2012, and the last day to play for the Senior League will be May 6, 2012.**

SECTION II. TEAM CAPTAIN'S DUTIES

1. REGULATIONS

It is the captain's responsibility to have each team member thoroughly read and understand the current National, Sectional, State and Local USTA League Regulations prior to the start of league competition. These regulations are available at: www.ustaky.com, and www.louisvilleleaguetenis.com. *It is especially important to have the person designated as acting captain at any match to be familiar with these regulations as well.*

2. CONTACT INFORMATION

Captains must have a current e-mail address and phone contact information in TennisLink in order to receive league information throughout the season. **It is the captain's responsibility to know what is going on during the league season.** Check the websites listed above routinely for updates of league information. Updates to your personal information can be made via TennisLink or Membership Services at 1-800-990-USTA.

3. SCHEDULING MATCHES

A. The “Home” captain shall designate placement of courts in an indoor facility.

B. The policy is that there will be **NO RESCHEDULING** of matches during the season, **unless both** captains agree. The LLC **MUST** be notified if an agreement has been reached. The **only exception** is if any team has 50% or more of their roster involved in a USTA League Tennis State, Sectional or National event, regardless of the league, may request from their opponent consideration in **pre-scheduling** their league match prior to the scheduled day of the match. A team with this concern **must** notify the affected opponents **at least 2 weeks prior to the scheduled match** to reschedule individual matches. The team affected should contact the LLC if this situation should arise. **We expect opposing teams to cooperate fully in these circumstances.**

4. RATINGS

To generate a computer rating, a player must have played twice during the entire league year. Forfeits do not count toward computer ratings.

5. MATCH DAY

A. In order to start the league match, complete written lineups must be simultaneously exchanged at or before the scheduled match time. If the captain will not be there at the start time, he/she should send the lineup with a designated captain. 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. 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.*

Comment: This means all players must be on the court, and 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 (10 minutes). League rules support a default of the individual match if players are not on court.

B. Once the teams exchange lineups no movement of players is allowed. NEVER MOVE PLAYERS ALREADY LISTED ON THE LINEUP TO ANOTHER POSITION. (See Rule 5C regarding player substitutions). Should any movement occur, the individual match shall be recorded as a forfeit.

C. 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 or if a player is injured or becomes ill prior to the start of the league match, which includes 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.

D. 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**

may be responsible for full payment of that court unless the facility has been notified in advance of the cancellation.

6. SCORECARDS

A. Captains must 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. Please verify all players listed are registered below. Do not print until before the match as players may be added on the day of the match.

B. Captains must confirm the scores with the opposing Captain at the completion of the match and keep a hard copy of each of their scorecards.

C. Scores **MUST** be entered and confirmed within 48 hours of the completion of a match. It is preferred the Home Team Captain enter the score and the Visiting Team confirm the score. Score confirmation or score disputes **MUST BE MADE WITHIN 48 HOURS** of the scheduled match time. In the case of a dispute, **click on dispute and e-mail the details immediately to the LLC.**

Scores for the last match of the season must be entered within 4 hours of the completed match in order to confirm winners.

SECTION III. FORMAT OF PLAY AND SCORING

1. TEAM MATCH FORMAT

A. Each team match shall consist of five individual matches: two singles and three doubles matches. (For the 2.0, 2.5 and 5.0 levels each team match shall consist of three individual matches: one singles and two doubles matches.) In order for a team match to be counted in the standings, teams must play three (3) or more individual courts, (two for the 2.0, 2.5 and 5.0 levels).

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 (except in the levels that are flighted). Two team leagues will play a minimum of three (3) matches.

D. Divisions with 22 or more teams will be flighted into 2 flights. Divisions with 7 or less teams will vote on number of matches to be played. Divisions with 8-11 teams will play a double round robin. Divisions with 12-21 teams will play a single round robin.

E. Defaults (forfeits) and disqualifications shall be scored according to USTA League Tennis Regulations.

2. INDIVIDUAL MATCH FORMAT

A. If a team knowingly begins a team match without a full complement of players for the lineup (e.g. 6 players rather than 8) said team **must** forfeit from the bottom. For example, a team with 6 players could either forfeit #3 doubles or both singles courts.

B. 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 either side of your assigned court.**

C. Matches will be the best 2 out of 3 sets, with the Set Tie-Break to be used at 6 all in each set. In lieu of the third set, a Match 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 IN THE COMAN TIEBREAK FORMAT. (See attached sheet for explanation of the Coman Tiebreak System.)**

Reminder: there is no rest after the first game of any set. If your set score ends up even, i.e. 6-0, 6-2, etc...go ahead and take a set break before starting the 2nd set.

D. Coaching is not permitted.

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. In each match, the Home team shall provide a new can of USTA approved balls.

F Captains must collect court fees prior to the scheduled team match. **Court fees will be \$16.00 per player for Adults and \$15.00 per player for Seniors.**

G. At NO time are CELL PHONES, BEEPERS, BLACKBERRIES or any other electronic device allowed or used on the tennis court during a match. ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES MUST BE TURNED OFF DURING THE 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 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. 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.

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 the tie-break, play shall be continuous and the players shall change ends without a rest period.

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 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.

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) Inclement weather is defined as unsuitable driving conditions in regards to snow and ice.

2) In the event of inclement weather, the LLC and the Louisville Adult League Committee will make the decision to play or cancel matches. This decision will be posted on the local league's website at www.louisvilleleagueteennis.com and on Facebook.

SECTION VI. PROGRESSION

1) The division winner shall be the team having won the most team matches in its division competition. In the event of a tie for division winner and/or second and third place positions, 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 winner

2) Teams advancing to the USTA Kentucky Championship from the local level shall be determined as follows:

Adult

- a. 2 teams at local level = 1 team
- b. 3-12 teams at local level = 2 teams
- c. 13-22 teams at local level = 3 teams
- d. 23+ teams at local level = 4 teams

Senior

- 2-10 teams = 2 teams
- 11-20 teams = 3 teams
- 21 + = 4 teams

In levels where there is flighting, if there are uneven flights the winner of each flight will advance. For the 3rd place team, it will be determined by the highest percentage of wins. For example, in the 13-22 teams with 3 teams advancing, the top team from each flight will advance and the 3rd team to advance will be determined by the highest percentage, i.e. best record.

For 23+ teams, the top 2 teams in each flight will advance.

3) In order to advance out of local league championship, an individual player must have participated in 2 matches on that specific team, with no more than 1 default counting. To generate

a computer rating though, a player must have played twice during the entire league year. Forfeits do not count toward computer ratings.

4) State Championship Dates. All dates and locations are subject to change by the State Tournament Committee, but are currently listed as follows:

- a. Senior Championship – May 18-20, 2012, Location TBD
- b. Adult Championship
 - June 22-24, 2012 – 3.0, 4.0, 5.0 Men & Women, Louisville, KY
 - June 23-25, 2011 – 2.5, 3.5, 4.5 Men & Women, Louisville, KY

5) Vacancies created in the State Championship due to a wild card shall be filled using the next best championship team as determined by the percentage of wins during both local league playoff seasons. Please note that the first wild card will be awarded to the host city for any qualified level. Should there be no eligible team, a wild card will be selected by the Tournament Committee using the format established by the State Adult League Committee. (See KY Reg L.2.03A(1))b).

SECTION VII. FORFEITS, RATINGS & DISQUALIFICATIONS

1) If a team forfeits an entire team match (3 courts or more) (2 courts for the 2.0, 2.5 and 5.0 levels), or 4 individual courts total for teams that have 10 or less matches in the season; 6 individual courts for teams with 11-15 matches; and 8 individual courts for teams with 16+ matches, 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 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 penalty to the team and/or Captain.

In addition, if any team forfeits 2 courts in a consecutive 4 match period, a warning will be issued to that team. Should this occur a second time, a grievance WILL be filed against the team and the Grievance Committee shall impose a penalty dictated by said Committee.

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 current published rating at the time of registration on a team. All computer ratings are administered by USTA Kentucky within the stated NTRP guidelines and are published in TennisLink.

4) Any player who has been dynamically disqualified, or whose published rating is above the disqualification level is no longer protected through the championships and must immediately cease participation at that level.

5) Any self-rated player who is dynamically disqualified from a level of play during the local league season will have all matches at that level considered losses and scored 6-0, 6-0.

6) A disqualified player may join a team at their new level. No refund will be given to a disqualified player, however the LLC can place a disqualified player on another team at their higher level without having to pay again.

7) APPEAL PROCESS – NTRP Appeals for computer rated players are to be submitted on TennisLink under Find NTRP Rating Info. This appeal is granted or denied automatically based on the mathematical criteria established by the USTA. If a player’s computer rating appeal is granted (up or down), that rating will be used for all future registrations until a new rating is published. Ratings will not change on current rosters unless the player or captain requests the change to the LLC. Please note: Appeals MUST be submitted prior to the player’s first league match. NO 2011 year end Benchmark “B” rating type may appeal their rating for one (1) year.

8) NO Championship Benchmark (District/Area, Sectional or National)(B), and no Year-end Computer (C) can be dynamically disqualified during the 2012 season. Players who can be dynamically disqualified include NTRP published level followed by (A) appeal – all, (S) self-rated, (M) Mixed Exclusive or (T) Tournament Exclusive.

SECTION VIII. LOCAL LEAGUE GRIEVANCES

1) All complaints alleging a violation of USTA League Tennis Regulations or standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship shall be filed in writing with the LLC.

2) 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. Grievances shall be sent to the LLC who will then forward them on to the Grievance Committee.

3) A copy of each complaint shall be sent to the party(ies) against whom the complaint has been made by the LLC.

For full Grievance Procedures refer to Section 3.0 of the 2012 USTA League Tennis Regulations.

SECTION IX. SELF-RATE NTRP GRIEVANCES

NOTE: The process of self-rating shall be administered by TennisLink and the Southern Sectional Office. Players who do not have a computer rating on file in TennisLink shall self-rate in accordance with the National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) Guidelines and declare their self-rating on TennisLink when registering for a team.

1) A complaint may be filed by a Captain or LLC 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 NTRP grievance must provide documentation to support his/her complaint at the time of the filing. The complaint will then be handled at the Southern level.

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These USTA Louisville Rules & Regulations may be found at:
www.louisvilleleaguetenis.com under Rules, Adult.

Links to the following information can also be found at:
www.louisvilleleaguetenis.com under Rules:

- National USTA League Tennis Regulations
- Southern Section Regulations
- USTA Kentucky State Regulations
- USTA's Dynamic National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP)
- Rules of Tennis
- Glossary of Terms

**USTA Louisville Committees
2012**

Tennis Association of Louisville Kentucky (TALK)

President – Karen Kutz
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Secretary – Janice Clark
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Legal Liaison – Jonathan Amlung

Grievance and Grievance Appeal

Chairperson – Karen Kutz
Committee Members:
Judy Davenport
Lisa Hennekes
Mark Prieto
Robin Smith

Grievance Appeal

Appeals Chair – Stan Sims
Committee Members:
Gerry Canter
Tim Collins
Maureen Bates
Nancy Jones