

NASHVILLE

USTA TENNESSEE

2026 Local League Regulations

Local League Coordinators

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General League Information - Applies to All Leagues

- All players participating in the USTA League Program, as a condition of their participation, agree to abide by and be bound by the USTA Constitution, the National, Sectional, District and Local USTA League Regulations; and the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship which can be found in Friend at Court and The Code.
- There are links to National regulations, Friend at Court in the Helpful Hints section of these regulations.
- Nashville local league includes Davidson, Robertson, Sumner, Williamson and Cheatham counties. All matches take place within these counties.
- Adams Tennis Complex (ATC) in Murfreesboro is an exception to this rule only for teams declaring ATC as their home facility. Teams that have not declared ATC as their home facility may not schedule ATC indoors or outdoors for makeup matches or alternative courts, unless both captains agree.

<u>League</u>	<u>Local Registration Opens</u>	<u>Legal Team Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Last Day to Add Individual</u>	<u>Local Schedule Released</u>	<u>Local Playoff Dates</u>	<u>League Play Deadline</u>	<u>2026 State Championship Dates</u>
18 & Over	January 1, 2026	February 2, 2026	April 27, 2026	10 days prior to 1 st match	TBD	May 27, 2026	18 & Over Even/ 40 & Over Odd June 12-14, 2026 (Murfreesboro)
40 & Over		February 2, 2026	April 27, 2026	10 days prior to 1 st match	TBD		18 & Over Odd/40 & Over Even June 19-21, 2026 (Memphis)
55 & Over		February 2, 2026	April 13, 2026	10 days prior to 1 st match	TBD	May 13, 2026	May 29-31, 2026 (Chattanooga)
65 & Over		April 20, 2026	TBD	10 days prior to 1 st match	NA	August 26, 2026	Sept. 11-13, 2026 (Knoxville)
Mixed Doubles	March 1, 2026	April 30, 2026	July 19, 2026	10 days prior to 1 st match	NA	August 7, 2026	August 21-23, 2026 (Chattanooga)

Combo Doubles	June 1, 2026	July 8, 2026	Sept. 16, 2026	10 days prior to 1 st match	TBD	Sept. 30, 2026	<u>Combo 18 & 55</u> November 6-8, 2026 (Memphis)
Combo Doubles	June 1, 2026	July 8, 2026	Sept. 16, 2026	10 days prior to 1 st match	TBD	Sept. 30, 2026	<u>Combo 40 & 65</u> October 23-25, 2026 (Knoxville)
Tri-Level	March 1, 2026	April 30, 2026	July 19, 2026	10 days prior to 1 st match	TBD	August 26, 2026	Sept. 11-13, 2026 (Knoxville)
2027 Early Start League	August 1, 2026	Sept. 6, 2026	Nov. 23, 2026	10 days prior to 1 st match	TBD	Dec. 15, 2026	TBD

Registration & Eligibility

- TennisLink is used to complete registration of teams and players. Players must be registered before they participate in their first match.
- TennisLink is the official system for reporting scores and providing standings.
- NTRP Rating Entry: Players without a current NTRP rating must self-rate in TennisLink. A Self-rating is valid for 2 years or until replaced by a year-end computer rating. Failure to provide accurate information will subject the player and/or the captain to sanctions and disqualifications.
- Self-rated players are eligible for appeal.
- Self-rated players and players that were granted an appeal are subject to disqualification.
- Players must reach the minimum age requirement either prior to or during the calendar year for the league in which they wish to participate.
 - *For all leagues, players must be at least 18 years of age before registering*
- All participants must be current USTA members, valid throughout the entire season including advancement opportunities.
- It is against USTA regulations for a player to have 2 USTA memberships.
- Players may play on multiple teams but may not register on more than one team in the same local area, age division, and NTRP level.
- Players are allowed to play at their current NTRP level and/or one level above it.
- Tennessee has no residency requirements.
- Divisions with only 2 teams have a 40% “at level” requirement.

Fees & Refunds

- Each player pays a league fee per team, plus a non-refundable TennisLink processing fee.

League	Fee	Last day to request refund
Adult Leagues (18, 40, 55)	\$27	June 14, 2026
Mixed Doubles	\$27	August 23, 2026
Adult 65 & Over	\$27	September 13, 2026
Tri-Level	\$27	September 13, 2026
Combo	\$27	October 25, 2026
USTA Early Start League	\$27	December 15, 2026

- Refunds: Available for players who did not play in a match and are not advancing to a championship. Requests must be made within four days after the State League Play Deadline. (Noted separately for each league)

Team Captain Responsibilities

- Each team must appoint a captain with valid email and phone number in TennisLink.
- A captain can only captain one team per age division/level.
- When registering a team, the captain must use the format: Last Name/City (e.g., Smith/Nashville).
- Captains are responsible for communication with the local league coordinator, score entry, and resolving disputes and/or filing grievances.
- It is the captain's responsibility to recruit enough players to have a complete line-up at match time.
- It is the captain's responsibility to have each team member read and understand current local USTA League Regulations.
- The home captain is responsible for informing the opposing captain 4 days prior to the match date about how matches will be played if the site uses split court times. Staggered courts will be played consecutively. If captain contact is not made, it is assumed that all lines of the match will be played at the scheduled date, time and facility.
 - For example, if the home captain of a 3.0 team does not contact the opposing team and the opposing team arrives to play all lines of a match at the scheduled time of 9:00 am and there are only three courts available, two lines will be defaulted by the home team, unless the opposing team captain agrees to stagger the courts.
- Captains will preference a site for their team's home matches. Captains must confirm site usage with the Tennis Director/Facility Coordinator immediately after the league schedule has been published. Not reserving courts and hoping to walk on courts that have not been reserved may result in a home team default if courts are unavailable.

- Playing on a personal court at a residential home is only allowed if both captains agree.
- Evening teams are expected to reserve lit courts.
- If a home team playing on a WEEKNIGHT cannot provide all courts at their stated home facility at match time, it is the home team's responsibility to provide those courts at an alternate facility. If the home team cannot provide the remaining courts at match time, they may ask the visiting team for assistance. Any court fees incurred by the visiting team securing courts will be split between all players. Only if captains agree, can evening matches be staggered.

Possible Scheduling Criteria

- Flights may be combined if one flight has three or fewer teams. Every effort will be made to keep flights playing on their designated day, but some evening or weekend play may be necessary.
- Any match may be played prior to the originally scheduled match, if both captains agree.
- Weekday evening matches played in Hendersonville, Murfreesboro, The Farm & Forge or The Grove will have an official start time at 7:00 pm to allow for traffic. Matches can start earlier if captains agree.
- Weekday evening matches played at a facility that closes at 8:00 pm, such as Hadley Park and The Tennis Complex at Maryland Farms, will have an official start time at 6:00 pm. Matches can start earlier if captains agree.
- The LLC reserves the right to alter the start times and stagger matches that have multiple teams declaring the same home facility. For example, matches may have start times at 9:00 am, 11:00 am or 1:00 pm during the weekday and weekend matches can be scheduled between 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.
- If there are more matches than weeks of play, teams may be scheduled for two matches per week. Weekend teams may also be scheduled during the weeknight.
- If zoned home courts are not available at the team's listed home facility, a different facility in the same zone may be scheduled instead.
 - Nashville Zone - Centennial Sportsplex, Hadley Park, Lipscomb University, Memorial Park at Drakes Creek in Hendersonville.
 - Brentwood Zone - Crockett Park, Granny White Park, Maryland Farms Tennis Complex.
 - Franklin Zone - Franklin Rec Center, Grassland Park, Bethesda Rec Center, Jim Warren Park.
- Rescheduling because of Championship Conflict - Local play may be scheduled during a USTA Tennessee, Southern or National Championship League event, which could cause scheduling conflicts for players registered for a Championship. League divisions of 18 & Over and 40 & Over 3.0-4.5 teams with at least 7 players, 18 & over 2.5 teams with at least 4 players and 55 & Over 3.0-9.0 teams with at least 5 players, that are also registered for a USTA Championship may reschedule the Local match. The players

must be registered on the Championship team for the Local team to be eligible to reschedule their match. The captain of the team that needs to reschedule, must notify the opposing team captain at least 7 days prior to the scheduled match. Then, both captains must notify the LLC by email, including a list of players registered for the Championship, that the match is to be rescheduled. The same rules that apply to rainout reschedules will apply to this type of reschedule. All matches must be completed by local deadlines.

- Rescheduling because of School Breaks and Holidays - Local play may be scheduled during Spring Break, Fall Break and holidays. Matches that can be rescheduled during these times will be defined by the LLC at the beginning of the season.
- If a team's match is not finished by the time the next scheduled match starts, the players will have to vacate the courts if the incoming captains request it. Please use some discretion to let them continue if they are almost finished. The unfinished match will be continued according to the inclement weather policy if one or both next scheduled match captains want courts available at their scheduled time.

Match Play

- USTA League matches are non-officiated.
- Matches may be played on any surface.
- Completed written lineups showing all individual matches must be simultaneously exchanged, in order to start the match.
- Rule regarding lateness/tardiness for a match: players more than 15 minutes late for a match may be subject to a match default; however, if players/captains agree to start after the default time, the match results will stand.
- Substitutions are allowed for illness/injury before 1st point is played, if the team makes the substitution before the 15-minute default rule is enforced.
- No coaching allowed during matches or breaks. *Coaching is communication, advice, or any instruction of any kind and by any means, which is either audible or visible to a player.*
- Cell phones, pagers and smart watches must be silenced or covered. Cell phones and pagers should be turned off during the match. Smart watches and fitness trackers may be worn during the match, however, if an opponent suspects communication of any kind, they may ask that it be disconnected.
- Home teams pay the court fees for regular season matches, and visiting teams provide new balls for each match.
- Warmups are limited to 5 minutes.
- Scoring: Best of two sets with match tiebreak in lieu of third set (Coman procedure).
- Set break: 2-minute set break at end of each set.

- Matches shall be the best of two sets with a set tiebreaker (first to 7 by 2) used when tied at 6 all in a set. In lieu of a 3rd set, when sets are tied 1-1, a Match Tiebreak (first to 10 by 2) will be played. [Coman Tiebreak Procedure](#) is used in all tiebreaks.
- Divisions may be separated into two or more flights with a playoff at the conclusion of local play to determine the local champion. Players are permitted to participate in only one flight per NTRP level.
- For scheduling purposes, Local Leagues may use either a full round robin, partial round robin, or a combination of both as approved formats and different schemes for each level if necessary.
- Players who register for more than one division should be aware that local schedules are created based on court availability. While coordinators make every effort to minimize overlap, *there is no guarantee that conflicts will not occur*. Players are responsible for managing their own availability, and teams should plan accordingly.
- Teams may continue to add players according to local league's regulations. No individual may register for a local team roster after the State League Play Deadline.
- To generate a year-end computer rating, a player must have played three times during the year's rating period. Defaults do not count toward computer rating.

Defaults & Forfeits

- Majority of courts must be played for the match to be considered *legal*.
- Forfeited matches are recorded as 6-0, 6-0 for the receiving team.
- Scoring Retirements: Once a match has begun and one player retires, the match score is recorded as (i.e. 6-2, 2-1, 15-15 retired)
- Full Team Defaults: At the end of the season, if a full team default (including any match deemed not legal) and the defaulted match changes the standings between 1st and 4th place then there is an impact on advancement to Championships as follows:
 - The defaulting team will be removed from the standings.
 - All matches they played will still count toward dynamic ratings and advancement purposes only.
 - The defaulting team will no longer be eligible to advance.

Weather Interruptions

- If play is interrupted by weather, darkness or other factors beyond the control of players, completed individual matches will stand as played.
- If rain or inclement weather forces the cancellation and/or re-scheduling of a local league team match, for any lines that had not begun play, the lineups may be altered if necessary.
- A match may be rescheduled if courts or conditions are unplayable for more than 30 minutes.

- In the event of precipitation at match time, the match will be played if either team can provide indoor courts with a starting time no later than 1 hour from the original scheduled match time. Court costs and/or guest fees will be split between both teams. Indoor court costs, including any guest fees, should not exceed an average of \$20 per player unless both captains agree to a higher fee.
- When a match is delayed by rain or wet courts and indoor courts are not available, teams must wait 30 minutes to determine if play can resume, unless both captains agree sooner. If courts are not playable after 30 minutes, the match will be rescheduled unless captains agree to wait longer.
- If a team make-up match is required, the team captains will agree on a date for the make-up to be played within 72 hours of the scheduled match. A good faith effort must be made to reschedule. This would include sharing 3+ days/times that work for your team. Captains may also give the players the authority to set their own individual court time and location. Captains agreeing to let individual lines make up the match must share lineup information (at least one name and a phone number per line) simultaneously or the player information be given to the LLC to share with the captains within 48 hours of the scheduled match. The agreed date under either method is the new scheduled match time. Failure to play on this date will result in a default for each individual match not present. Should neither team be present, the double default rule will apply.
- Make-up matches shall be scheduled no later than 15 days after the date of the original scheduled match. Both team captains will inform the LLC of the new match date. If captains are unable to agree on a date, the match will automatically be scheduled for the original match time on the 15th day from the originally scheduled date. If the home facility cannot accommodate a match on this date, an alternate site will be used and the home team is responsible for the court cost. If that make-up match is rained out, the match will be played on the next day at the original match time (weekend team matches need to be adjusted to play in the evening if the make-up day is Monday-Friday) and so on until the match is completed. Rainouts that occur the last week or weekend for playoffs or league play, will be scheduled by LLC.
 - For example, if captains cannot agree on a make-up date within the 15 days of a match scheduled on Sunday, June 1, the match will be played on Monday, June 16 in the evening.
- If the air temperature is below 40°F (not wind chill) or above 93°F (not heat index) at match time, the match may be rescheduled. If both captains agree, the match will be played. The decision to reschedule or move the match indoors must be made prior to the start of play. Once the match has begun outdoors, regardless of temperature, it must be completed outdoors. Rescheduled matches will use the 15-day make-up rule. The official temperature shall be determined by The Weather Channel (either the website or app).
- For any lines that had not begun play, the lineups may be altered if necessary.
- Matches may be completed on a different surface when necessary.

- For example, if a match begins outdoors on clay and is interrupted, it may be completed indoors.

Score Entry & Disputes

- Captains enter and confirm scores in TennisLink. All scores are final after *48 hours*.
- Corrections require email to LLC with match ID number and description of changes.
- Disputes must be made in TennisLink and LLC notified by email within 48 hours.
- **Tiebreak Procedures for League Standings**

If two or more teams are tied in the league standings at the conclusion of the regular season, the following procedures will be used to determine the final standings. The tie will be broken by applying each procedure in sequence until the tie is resolved:

1. **Individual Matches:** The team with the greatest number of individual match victories throughout the entire competition will be ranked higher.
2. **Head-to-Head Results:** If the teams remain tied, the winner of the head-to-head match between the tied teams will be ranked higher.
3. **Fewest Sets Lost:** If the tie persists, the team that has lost the fewest number of sets during all matches played will be ranked higher.
4. **Fewest Games Lost:** If still tied, the team that has lost the fewest number of games in all matches will be ranked higher.
5. **Game Winning Percentage:** If necessary, the team with the highest game winning percentage (calculated as total games won divided by total games played) will be ranked higher.
6. **Playoff:** If two teams are still tied for first place after game winning percentage tiebreak, a playoff match will be held between the tied teams prior to the State League Play Deadline.

Advancement & Championships

- Players must meet match requirements to advance (e.g., two matches played, one default counts).
- Advancement charts specify the number of teams advancing based on local participation.
- Go to Ustatn.com for championship information.
- Beginning in 2026, players who play at Sectionals or Nationals in Adult 18/40 may not appeal their rating down.

Local League Advancement Chart

Local Teams	Teams Advancing to State
2-11	1
12-22	2
23+	3

Grievances & Committees

- The fee for filing a Sportsmanship or Administrative grievance will be \$75, and shall be filed with the Local League Coordinator. The filing fee will be refunded if the grievance is upheld.
- No filing fee for NTRP grievances.
- Medical appeals have a filing fee to Southern of \$100.

Committee Structure for Local Rules and Grievances

- The Local Rules & Regulations Committee is responsible for overseeing the enforcement and interpretation of league regulations. The committee members include: Tanya Capeling, Holly Fisher, Elizabeth Walker, Barbara Hooper, Pat-Yung-Okamoto and Jeanne Jones.
- Local Grievance Committee is tasked with reviewing grievances submitted during league play. This committee is chaired by Terryann Nelson and includes Bryce Curry and Tanya Capeling as members.
 - Should a party wish to appeal a decision made by the Grievance Committee, the decision is referred to the Local Grievance Appeal Committee. This committee is chaired by Roger Ross and includes Myra O'Dell and Rob Gosselin as members.
- Please note that the composition of both the Grievance and Grievance Appeal Committees may be altered at the discretion of the USTA Tennessee Adult League Committee Chairperson. This includes the substitution of individual members or other changes as deemed necessary.
- USTA Suspension Point System will be utilized for any grievances that are upheld.

Helpful Links and Contacts

- USTA, USTA Southern and USTA Tennessee Regulations - <https://www.ustatn.com/adult-local-league-regulations/>
- Friend at Court – <https://www.usta.com/content/dam/usta/2025-pdfs/2025-friend-at-court.pdf>
- USTA Tennessee Website – <https://www.ustatn.com/>
- USTA Southern Website – <https://southernchampionships.com/>

Adult League

Adult League Registration

- If only one team registers by the deadline for any level, a two-week extension is granted to meet the National minimum of two teams.
- If an Adult division age group consists of only two teams in a level of play, each team must maintain its roster with at least 40% of its roster at the designated NTRP level of play.
- Division 4.5 and 5.0: Each team must maintain at least 30% of players rated at that NTRP Level.
- When there are three or more teams in a division, there is no minimum number of players required at the designated NTRP level. For instance, a team registered as 3.0 may consist entirely of 2.5 level players.

Divisions & Format

Division	NTRP Levels	Format	Min Players	Max Players
18 & Over	2.5, 5.0	1 Singles, 2 Doubles	5	12
18 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	2 Singles, 3 Doubles	8	18
40 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	1 Singles, 3 or 4 Doubles	9	20
55 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	3 Doubles	6	14
65 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0 combined	3 Doubles	6	14

Divisions that play their “Local League” at USTA TN State League Championships

Adult 18 & Over

- Adult 18 & Over 5.0 Men and Women
- The above levels must meet the State deadline of May 29, 2026 for team and individual registration. All players must be registered in TennisLink by May 29th, for team and individual registration with a local fee of \$4.00.

Adult 55 & Over

- Adult 55 & Over 3.0 Men and 9.0 Combined M/W – These divisions will play the local league at the USTA Tennessee State League Championship. These levels must meet the State deadline of May 15, 2026, for team and individual registration with a local fee of \$4.00. Every player needs to complete their registration in TL no later than May 15th.

Adult 65 & Over

- If a city has multiple teams in a division, it must hold a local league and send the winner to the state championship. If there is only one team in a division, that team advances directly to the state championships.
- One match required for advancement – Defaults count toward advancement for eligible players, retired matches count for all players.

Local Playoffs

- 2026 Nashville Playoff Procedures are attached to these regulations.
- Players in Adult 18, 40, and 55 & Over must play in two matches to qualify for advancement. A player may advance on more than one team within an age group only if they are at different NTRP levels and are qualified for that team.

Tri-Level Doubles

Divisions & Format Offered

Format: 3 Doubles

Roster Minimum – 6

Roster Maximum - 18

TN Division	NTRP Levels
18 & Over	5.0–4.0, 4.5–3.5, 4.0–3.0, 3.5–2.5
40 & Over	4.5–3.5, 4.0–3.0, 3.5–2.5
55 & Over	4.5–3.5, 4.0–3.0, 3.5–2.5
65 & Over	4.0–3.0

- Tri-Level Doubles teams must have at least 6 players, forming 3 separate eligible doubles pairs. Each match consists of three men's or women's doubles courts, with the winning team taking 2 out of 3 courts.

Divisions offered at the Southern Sectionals:

League	Divisions	NTRP Levels
Tri-Level	18 & Over	5.0-4.0, 4.5-3.5, 4.0-3.0, 3.5-2.5
	40 & Over	4.5-3.5 and 4.0-3.0
	55 & Over	4.0-3.0

Local Play

- One match required for advancement – Defaults count toward advancement for eligible players, retired matches count for all players.
- Local areas that have not registered a team at any level by the registration deadline may be granted an additional 30 days to form a team, unless the State League Play Deadline occurs first.
- If only one team is registered in a division at the deadline, that team may advance directly to the state championship.

Combo Doubles

Divisions & Format Offered

Division	NTRP Levels	Format	Min Players	Max Players
18 & Over	2.5, 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5, 10.5	3 Doubles	6	18
40 & Over	5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5	3 Doubles	6	18
55 & Over	6.5, 7.5, 8.5	3 Doubles	6	18
65 & Over	6.5, 7.5, 8.5	3 Doubles	6	18

Maximum NTRP rating allowed per division

NTRP Level	Max Individual Rating
5.5	3.0
6.5	3.5
7.5	4.0
8.5	5.0
9.5	5.5
10.5	6.0

- A team consists of at least six players who form three separate eligible teams.
- The winning team in each team match is the one that wins at least two out of three individual matches.
- Local areas that do not have a team signed up at any level of play at the registration deadline may have an additional 30 days except when the State League Play Deadline occurs first, to form a team.
- Combo Doubles offers direct advancement for teams that have no local competition.
- Deadline for a direct advancing team to be registered in TennisLink: October 3rd
- Local play advancement qualification requires 1 match with a default counting.

Mixed Doubles

- **Mixed Doubles:** A team shall consist of a minimum of 6 players able to combine to form 3 separate eligible teams. One team has 1 male and 1 female, and their rating is within the NTRP level they are registering for. The winning team from each match will have won at least 2 or 3 of the courts in that match.
- Match Format will be the best of 3 sets. A set tiebreak shall be used at 6-all in each set. A match tiebreak is played (first to 10 by 2) to break the tie. Coman tiebreak is played.
- Southern Mixed Doubles are played as straight levels (i.e. in the 3.5 level, both the female and male partner will have a NTRP rating of 3.5, however a 3.0 player could play up in the 3.5 position. The only division that is combined is the 10.0 division in Mixed 18 & Over. (A partnership would be a 4.5 and a 5.5)

Divisions & Format Offered

Division	NTRP Levels	Format	Min Players	Max Players
18 & Over	2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, (10.0 combined)	3 Doubles	6	18
40 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	3 Doubles	6	18
55 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	3 Doubles	6	18
65 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0	3 Doubles	6	18

TN Mixed Doubles Advancement Requirements – TN Championships

- **Mixed 18 & Over 10.0** will play their local league at the TN State Championships. This level must meet the TN deadline of August 8, 2026, for team and individual registration with a local fee of \$4.00. No players may be added after August 8th.
- **Mixed Doubles 18 & Over/ 40 & Over**
 - Minimum of 2 matches played during local play
 - 1 default may count toward the requirement
 - If only one team is registered at the local deadline for any division an extension of 2 weeks will be given to meet the National requirement of a minimum of 2 teams per division.
- **Mixed Doubles 55 & Over/ 65 & Over**
 - Minimum of 1 match played during local play to advance.
 - If only one team is registered in a division, that team may advance directly to the TN Championships.

2027 Adult Early Start League (ESL)

Divisions & Format Offered

Division	NTRP Levels	Format	Min Players	Max Players
18 & Over ESL	2.5 women	1 Singles, 2 Doubles	5	14
18 & Over ESL	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	2 Singles, 3 Doubles	8	20

If only one team is registered at the local deadline for any division an extension will be given to meet the National requirement of a minimum of 2 teams per division.

The Early Start League advances 1 team per level to the TN State Championships in June of 2027. The deadline to accept the bid is April 1, 2027, and if the first-place team does not accept the bid, then the LLC may offer that spot to the #2 or #3 team. (In this case, those teams have until April 8th to accept the spot.

If an ESL team accepts its bid, later withdraws after the April 1st deadline, the team forfeits its deposit and may be subject to a grievance.

Southern Regulations beginning for 2025 ESL – Players that receive a year-end computer rating that places them at a higher NTRP level at which they were competing during local play, will not be allowed to advance to the USTA Southern or National Championships.

The players may continue their participation at the lower NTRP level through conclusion of TN State Championships unless their rating is found to be “out of level”. If that is the case, a notification would be emailed to them.

Matches required to advance to championships for ESL Adult League

- State Championships
 - 2 matches played on advancing team
 - 1 Default received shall count
 - Retirements count for all players on the court
- Sectional Championships
 - 2 matches played on advancing team
 - 1 Default received shall count
 - Retirements count for all players on the court
- National Championships
 - 3 matches played on the advancing team for a computer rated player
 - One default received counts as one of those 3
 - For Self-rated and computer rated appealed players- 4 matches required with no defaults counting as one of the four.
 - Retirements count for all players

If an Adult division age group consists of only two teams in a level of play, each team must maintain its roster with at least 40% of its roster at the designated NTRP level of play.

When there are three or more teams in a division, there is no minimum number of players required at the designated NTRP level. For instance, a team registered as 3.0 may consist entirely of 2.5-level players.

In 2027 ESL at the 4.5 level, each team must have 30% of their players rated as a 4.5. If at the deadline it is found that a team does not meet that requirement, a coordinator may give a 7-day extension to find additional 4.5 players. If none are available, the team will be pulled from TennisLink and refunds will be issued.

Staggering Lines: Staggering occurs when a facility does not have enough physical courts to start all lines simultaneously, requiring players to wait for their teammates to finish. Staggered lines must be played consecutively.

A team may not claim a default for a staggered line until:

- A physical court has become available; and
- The opposing players have been absent for at least 15 minutes.

For evening matches, staggering is permitted if the additional court(s) will be available by 7:00 p.m. Captains may agree to play later if the facility will remain open for at least 90 minutes after the staggered line begins.

Fixed Court Times: Each court has a designated match start time, with court start times no more than one hour apart. Matches do not depend on completion of the previous match.

Nashville Playoff Procedures

- If there are two or more flights in a division, there will be a local league playoff. Weekday playoff teams that play against Weeknight or Weekend teams will play the playoff in the weeknight and/or weekend.
- Depending on the number of teams in each division, it may be necessary to have a semi-playoff within the Weekday flights and a semi-playoff within the Weeknight/Weekend Flights. The winning teams of the semi-playoff will play in the final playoff. The Division winning team(s) will advance to the State Championship. ESL advances only one team per division. If any flight #1 team declines the invite to the playoffs, the #2 team may be asked.
- In a flight that has 7 or more teams, two teams may be invited to the playoffs. Only divisions with two or three flights may have a 2nd place team invited to the playoffs, depending on the number of bids the division will have to the State Championship.
- To be eligible to play in the playoffs, each player must have played the minimum number of matches required for advancement. Adult, Mixed League and ESL that number is two. For Combo Doubles and Tri-Level Doubles, players must have played at least one time to advance to playoffs.
- Home teams are determined by the Games Won Percentage found in the standings. Home teams may be assigned by the LLC if there are fewer than 3 days until a playoff and participants have not been determined. This is done to secure courts in a timely manner. The Playoff courts do not have to be the same as the stated home facility.

- Opponents in the playoff matches are randomly scheduled by the LLC. Seeding opponents will only take place when Partial Round Robin matches are played during the regular season.
- The rules committee will interpret the intent of the above procedure, should it be necessary.