

## Ruston REGULATIONS

### For USTA League Tennis Adult and Mixed Divisions; USTA Southern Combo Division and Tri Level Division League Year 2023

**1.0 GENERAL** The Regulations in 1.00 GENERAL in conjunction with USTA National and USTA Southern regulations shall apply to all League Divisions (Adult and Mixed); as well as Southern Combo and Tri-Level.

#### 1.02 Governance

**1.02A Waiver of Rules and Procedures Prohibited** Printed below are the Ruston Regulations as authorized by the USTA League Tennis Regulations, USTA Southern Section Regulations, and USTA Louisiana Regulations.

**1.02B Amendments** Ruston League Coordinators may amend these Ruston Regulations with approval from the Ruston League Council.

**1.02C Written Interpretation** The Local League Coordinator and/or Local League Council shall have the authority to interpret the Ruston Regulations.

#### 1.04B Administration.

**1.04B(3)c Local League Coordinators.** Local league administrators who include Local League Coordinators and Board of Directors of the local Community Tennis Associations are responsible for administering and promoting the USTA League Programs in their area.

**1.04B(3)c(i) League Code of Ethics.** All league administrators will adhere to the USTA Southern Section League Tennis Officials Code of Ethics ([http://www.southern.usta.com/USA-League-Tennis-Pages/9305\\_USTA\\_Southern\\_Section\\_League\\_Tennis\\_Officials\\_Code\\_of\\_Ethics\\_\\_As\\_of\\_21804/](http://www.southern.usta.com/USA-League-Tennis-Pages/9305_USTA_Southern_Section_League_Tennis_Officials_Code_of_Ethics__As_of_21804/))

**1.04B(3)c(ii) League Coordinator Responsibilities.** Establish procedures and regulations for all aspects of their local league that are not covered by the national, sectional or state regulations. A copy of the local regulations must be submitted to the State League Coordinator for review prior to the leagues team captain's meeting.

USTA League Tennis Regulations (National, Southern Section, State, Local) are available on louisianatennis.com prior to the start of local league competition.

**1.04B(3)c(iii) Captains Meeting.** A mandatory team captain's meeting must be held prior to the start of league play for each local league program. Topics to be covered include local regulations (provide internet links to National, Sectional, State regulations), championships eligibility requirements, and deadlines. Local league coordinators should review all regulations and procedures with new team captains. The captains meeting may be held by any of the following methods: in person, conference call, video call, webinar or email communications

#### 1.04C Official Information System

League	Registration Start Date (team registration opens)	Initial Roster Deadline (team registration Closes)	End Player Registration (Last day to add players to existing teams)	League Season Start Date	League Season End Date
18 & Over Adult	1/08/23	1/30/23	5/19/23	2/11/23	5/19/23
40 & Over Adult	1/08/23	1/30/23	4/17/23	2/11/23	4/17/23
55 & Over Adult	1/08/23	1/30/23	3/31/23	2/11/23	3/31/23
18 & Over Mixed Doubles	5/05/23	6/04/23	8/12/23	6/18/23	8/12/23
40 & Over Mixed Doubles	5/05/23	6/04/23	8/12/23	6/18/23	8/12/23
55 & Over Mixed Doubles	5/05/23	6/04/23	8/12/23	6/18/23	8/12/23
18 & Over Tri Level	4/12/23	5/22/23	7/30/23	5/23/23	7/30/23
40 & Over Tri Level	4/12/23	5/22/23	7/30/23	5/23/23	7/30/23
55 & Over Tri Level	4/12/23	5/22/23	7/30/23	5/23/23	7/30/23

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18 & Over Combo	7/20/23	8/14/23	8/12/23	8/22/23	10/27/23
40 & Over Combo	7/20/23	8/21/23	8/12/23	9/08/23	10/20/23
55 & Over Combo	7/20/23	8/14/23	8/12/23	8/22/23	10/27/23

**1.04C(1)a Team Registration.** The deadline date must be prior to the start of the local league season and must be no later than one (1) month of the state championship with local league schedules published with times and facilities of local league matches. Local teams must be included in the local league schedule if the teams have fulfilled this requirement.

**Louisiana Regulation:** Team name format shall be as follows:

Captain's LAST NAME/AGE GROUP/LEVEL/LEAGUE/FACILITY (MAX 4 LETTERS). Example: Smith/55/3.5/WD/ST

**1.04C(1)b Player Additions.** All player additions to existing registered team rosters must be made no later than 14 days prior to the state championship, including local leagues played during a state championship.

#### **1.04C(1)c League Fees & Financial Statement.**

**1.04C(1)d** .The local Community Tennis Associations are responsible for making available a financial statement to the local team captains at the conclusion of each league year.

Any fees paid to the local league coordinator, level coordinators, league assistants, and/or league secretary must be itemized on the financial report.

**1.04C(1)e Enrollment Fees.** The 2023 Ruston league year enrollment fees.

Any increase to Local League head tax must be approved by the USTA Louisiana Adult League Committee prior to the start of the leagues team registration.

League	USTA Louisiana Head Tax	Ruston Head Tax	TennisLink Fee	Enrollment Fee
18 & Over Adult	\$15.00	\$9.00	\$3.15	\$27.15
40 & Over Adult	\$15.00	\$9.00	\$3.15	\$27.15
55 & Over Adult	\$10.00	\$9.00	\$3.15	\$22.15
18 & Over Mixed Doubles	\$15.00	\$9.00	\$3.15	\$27.15
40 & Over Mixed Doubles	\$15.00	\$9.00	\$3.15	\$27.15
55 & Over Mixed Doubles	\$10.00	\$9.00	\$3.15	\$22.15
18 & Over Tri Level	\$15.00	\$9.00	\$3.15	\$27.15
40 & Over Tri Level	\$15.00	\$9.00	\$3.15	\$27.15
55 & Over Tri Level	\$10.00	\$9.00	\$3.15	\$22.15
18 & Over Combo	\$15.00	\$9.00	\$3.15	\$27.15
40 & Over Combo	\$15.00	\$9.00	\$3.15	\$27.15
55 & Over Combo	\$10.00	\$9.00	\$3.15	\$22.15
Flexible Format	\$2	\$9.00	\$3.15	\$14.15

#### **1.04C(1)f. Local League Refunds.**

- Local League player refunds will only be issued for the following: league did not make, injury, illness, or permanent move from local league area.
- If player participated in a later league where registration could have been transferred, a refund will not be issued.

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- Refund request must be made prior to the state championship for league in which refund is being requested.
- Refund request must be documented via email to the LLC and that request may be required for refund.
- Local league coordinators may move player registration to another league/team if player has not played any matches on team which requesting refund. Transfer of player registration can only be between 18/40 age group registrations to 18/40 age group team, 55 age group to 55 age group team.
- Refunds will be administered once a year in December for all qualifying refunds request that could not be transferred

**1.04C(2) Official Score Reporting and Standings System** The initial entry of match scores into TennisLink should take place within 48 hours of the completion of the match. After match scores have been entered in TennisLink, they must be confirmed by the opposing team within 48 hours of the initial entry or the initial score will automatically be considered valid. Failure to comply may subject teams to a grievance and/or double default.

#### 1.04D Local League.

**1.04D(3) Local League Season.** All local league matches should be completed two (2) weeks prior to the state championship.

- Any Local League whose matches are published in TennisLink beyond the Local League deadline date set by USTA Louisiana will be ineligible to advance to the league's USTA Louisiana State Championship.

**1.04D(4).** In order to promote more than two team leagues there will be a limit on the number of players that can be added to a roster. The maximum # = (minimum # on roster \* 2) - 2. For example if a team has a minimum of eight then twice that number is sixteen then subtract two and the maximum number on the roster is fourteen. This is true for all leagues except Tri Level and the maximum will be twice the minimum number plus two.

1.04D(4)a. If the league is grossly impacted by the COVID pandemic, we will submit a request to amend the 1.04D(4) maximum number of players.

1.04D(6): Courts for Local League Play. Courts for Local League Play. "Home teams" will have the choice of court surface for which they wish to play their home matches. Court surface must be the same surface for all individual lines unless prior agreement between both captains. The use of tennis-related blended lines is permitted on courts used for local league matches. The use of other lines for another sport, such as Pickleball, is not permitted on courts used for local league matches

#### 1.04E Player Eligibility

**1.04E(1) Domicile and Residency Requirements.** USTA Louisiana will have no residency requirements for local league play. Exception: Any team playing a local league at a state championship and/or advance directly to a state championship (if applicable for the Adult 65 & Over league) and/or play in a single-weekend local league tournament may have players from other areas as long as the majority of players reside in the State of Louisiana.

Ruston leagues will be played at the following locations:

- Choudrant High School
- Squire Creek Country Club
- RPAR Sports Complex (Ruston High Courts)

**1.04E(2) Electronic Devices.** A player may not use electronic devices such as cell phones, smart watches, digital messaging systems, radios, mp3 players, or any device capable of receiving communication during USTA League (FAC USTA Comment 30.1.). If a cellphone rings during a point, the opponent may stop the point and claim the point based on deliberate hindrance (FAC USTA Comment 26.3).

#### 1.04F Official League Rating Program

**1.04F(1) Entry** Players who do not have a valid NTRP rating level on file in TennisLink shall self- rate in accordance with the General & Experienced Player Guidelines – Supplement to the NTRP Guidelines and complete the self-rating process on TennisLink when registering for a team. Players who allow someone else to complete the self-rating process

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for them will be ultimately responsible and held accountable for information submitted or omitted. Failure to self-rate in accordance with the Guidelines, or omission of information regarding a player's tennis history, will subject the player as well as the captain and/or others who completed, assisted, condoned and/or approved an inappropriate self-rating to penalties under the League Suspension Point System. Players whose self-ratings are determined to be inaccurate or inappropriate shall be disqualified. (See Reg. 3.03E(1)a).

NTRP RATING LEVEL FOR ENTRY INTO LEAGUE PLAY		
DIVISION	Age Group	PLAYER’S NTRP RATING LEVEL
Adult	Straight NTRP levels 18 & Over 40 & Over 55 & Over *65 & Over	Current NTRP rating level and/or up to one level above the player’s current NTRP level.
	Combined NTRP levels 55 & Over *65 & Over	Combined NTRP rating levels of partners shall not exceed the team NTRP Level. NTRP rating level difference between partners may not exceed 1.0 The minimum NTRP Level for: 6.0 is 2.5; 7.0 is 3.0; 8.0 is 3.5; 9.0 is 4.0
Mixed	18 & Over *2.5 Straight NTRP levels	Limited to 2.0 and 2.5 NTRP rated players
	18 & Over 40 & Over **55 & Over Combined NTRP Levels	Combined NTRP rating levels of partners shall not exceed the team NTRP level. NTRP rating level difference between partners may not exceed 1.0 The minimum NTRP Level for: 6.0 is 2.5; 7.0 is 3.0; 8.0 is 3.5; 9.0 is 4.0; 10.0 is 4.5
*Combo	18 & Over 2.5 Straight NTRP level	Limited to 2.0 and 2.5 NTRP rated players
	18 & Over 40 & Over 55 & Over Combined NTRP Levels	Combined NTRP rating levels of partners shall not exceed the team NTRP level. The maximum NTRP Level for: 5.5 is 3.0; 6.5 is 3.5; 7.5 is 4.0; 8.5 is 5.0; 9.5 is 5.5; 10.5 is 6.0
Tri Level	**18 & Over Div I – 2.5,3.0,3.5 Div II – 3.0, 3.5,4.0 Div III – 3.5,4.0,4.5	Current NTRP rating level and/or up to one level above the player’s current NTRP level  When using straight NTRP rating levels, player’s NTRP rating level shall not exceed the court NTRP level.  NTRP rating level difference between partners shall not exceed 1.0
	**40 & Over Div II – 3.0, 3.5,4.0 Div III – 3.5,4.0,4.5	
	**55 & Over Div II – 3.0, 3.5,4.0	
*Assigned and/or additional Divisions, Age Groups and Levels that USTA Southern will use. **Assigned and/or additional Divisions, Age Groups and Levels that USTA Louisiana will use.		

Self-ratings are valid for two years from the date issued or until replaced by a dynamic or computer rating. If there is a change in their playing experience the player may appeal their rating up at that time or they may be promoted by the Sectional coordinator.

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#### 1.04G PLAYER PARTICIPATION ELIGIBILITY.

**1.04G(6).** Any player who qualifies to advance to the USTA Louisiana State Championship in the Adult, Mixed, Southern Combo or Tri Level division may advance on more than one team within an age group only if they are different NTRP Levels.

No accommodations for scheduling will be made at the USTA Louisiana Championships for teams with players that may be competing on two or more teams during a state championship.

#### 2.00 USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS

##### 2.01A NTRP Levels of Play

**2.01A(1)** When using straight NTRP levels, a player cannot have an NTRP rating higher than the NTRP level in which the player is competing

DIVISION	Age Group	Levels offered for men and women	LEAGUE FORMAT	Points Awarded For
Adult	18 & Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5	3.0,3.5,4.0	2 singles/ 3 doubles	Point awarded for 3 individual wins
	18 & Over 2.5 & 5.0+	2.5	1 singles / 2 doubles	Point awarded for 2 individual wins
	40 & Over	3.0,3.5,4.0	1 singles/ 3 doubles	Point awarded for 3 individual wins
	55 & Over	3.0, 3.5	3 doubles	Point awarded for 2 individual wins
	65 & Over	Not offered	n/a	
Mixed	18 & Over	2.5,6.0,7.0,8.0	3 doubles	Point awarded for 2 individual wins
	40 & Over	6.0,7.0,8.0	3 doubles	
	55 & Over	6.0,7.0,8.0	3 doubles	
Combo	18 & Over	5.5,6.5,7.5	3 doubles	Point awarded for 2 individual wins
	40 & Over	5.5,6.5,7.5	3 doubles	
	55 & Over	5.5,6.5,7.5	3 doubles	
Tri Level	18 & Over	2.5,3.0,3.5 3.0,3.5,4.0	3 doubles	Point awarded for 2 individual wins
	40 & Over	3.0,3.5,4.0	3 doubles	
	55 & Over	3.0,3.5,4.0	3 doubles	

**2.01C(2)a.** For each team match, a majority of the individual matches must actually be played to constitute a valid team match. When the combination of individual match defaults given by the two teams in the team match results, or would result, in a situation where the majority of the individual matches would not be played, captains shall notify the Local League Coordinator who will reschedule the remaining un-played individual matches.

**2.01C(3) Match Scoring and Formats** See chart above.

- Match scoring shall be the best of three tiebreak sets with a set tiebreak at 6-all. In the event of split sets, a match tie-break (10-point) shall be played in lieu of a third set.
- There will be a two minute set break at the end of each set with no coaching.
- Coman tiebreak procedure will be used in set tie-breaks and match tie-breaks.

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- The team winning the majority of the individual matches shall be awarded one team point.
- **4 court match:** If tied 2-2, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following methods to do so: a) least sets lost; then least games lost; then game winning percentage; then winner of 1st court doubles.
- In the event of a tie, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so: Winner of the most individual matches (courts); then winner of Head-to-head (only if all tied teams have played each other and one team defeated all the teams that are tied); then least sets lost; then least games lost; then highest game winning percentage; then a coin toss.
- If a Local League has a playoff, championship procedures must be used in the event of a tie. Please refer to national regulation 2.03H.
- USTA Southern permits each local league to continue using the same local league team format through local league playoffs. Said team format for local league playoff structure shall be listed in each applicable local league regulations. All other requirements for "championship" play must be followed for local league playoffs.

#### 2.01C(5) Team Lineups.

**2.01C(5)c.** Team captains shall exchange their lineups simultaneously prior to the start of team match. No substitution may be made in an individual match after the lineup has been presented, except for injury, illness or no-show of a player prior to the start of an individual match. A team may substitute a player in the affected position within the 15 minute default time, using a player not already listed on the lineup. The substitute player is entitled to a five minute warm-up.

Each local league will decide how to regulate rescheduling of team matches due to rules for making up matches rescheduled due to rain, inclement weather and/or USTA League-related conflicts.

One hour before the scheduled match the captains will talk and decide what to do. They will let the Local League Coordinator know what has been decided and/or the date/time of the new match. If they can't agree then the Local League Coordinator will make a determination if the match can be played and if the match can't be played then the Local League Coordinator will set a new date/time for the match. All matches must be made up at least two weeks prior to state tournament.

If a team advances to a state or above championship, the Local League Coordinator will work with the captains to reschedule the match(s). All matches must be completed and entered in TennisLink no later than fourteen days prior to the state tournament.

**2.01C(5)e Team Defaults** - Louisiana Regulation: USTA Louisiana adopts the following regarding teams defaulting an entire team match during local league competition:

- The defaulting team may be ineligible to advance beyond local league as determined by the **Adult League Council** based upon the facts and circumstances presented by the local league coordinator.
  - Team remains obligated to play the remainder of all local league matches. These matches will be recorded in TennisLink for the purposes of satisfying match play requirements for opponents and NTRP calculations.
  - All matches of a defaulting team may be removed from the stats and standings in TennisLink (if multiple round robins, the defaulting team may be removed from that round of play) UNLESS:
    - All teams with a mathematical chance to advance have already played the defaulting team in good faith, the matches shall stand as played when determining standings.
    - Extenuating circumstances presented by the Local League Coordinator may be considered by the USTA Louisiana Adult League Council prior to the team being removed from standings.
- **In addition**, the local league coordinator may recommend the filing of a grievance with the local grievance committee.

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#### 2.02 Progression

**2.02A(1) Local Competition** All local matches should be completed two (2) weeks prior to the USTA Louisiana State Championship.

The team with the most team points in the final standing as listed in TennisLink will be declared the winner.

**2.02A(2) Local Champion** Advancing teams are required to register and pay entry fee for at least the leagues minimum number of players online through the championship website 10 days prior to the start of the state championship to guarantee spot in the state championship draw. Please refer the 2023 USTA Louisiana Championship Procedures for full championship details including registration information, dates, location and procedures.

#### 2.05C Appeal of Year-End Ratings.

Year-end NTRP valid computer rating levels may be appealed or denied through TennisLink except for 2.05D *Medical Appeals*.

#### 3.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

##### **3.01 ADMINISTRATION 3.01 ADMINISTRATION.**

All local league regulations will include the names of grievance and grievance appeal committee members and will be distributed to captains prior to the beginning of the local league season. Grievance decisions that impose sanctions will be upheld throughout the USTA Southern Section.

**3.01A(1) Local.** Each local league shall appoint a Local League Grievance Committee. USTA Louisiana shall approve all Local League Grievance Committee. Additional members may be added as needed.

**3.01B(1) Local Grievance Appeals Committee** Each local league shall appoint a Local League Grievance Appeals Committee. USTA Louisiana shall approve all Local League Grievance Committee. Additional members may be added as needed.

#### 3.03 Grievance Complaints

**3.03B(1) Local League Procedures** All local grievances, appeals and NTRP complaints and appeals will be submitted to the Leagues Local League Coordinator. Coordinator contact information is at bottom of these regulations.

**3.03E(4) NTRP Grievance Complaint** NTRP Grievances shall be filed in writing with the Local/District/Area League Coordinator or designee having jurisdiction. NTRP Grievances shall be administered by the USTA Southern Grievance Committee.

#### 2023 USTA Ruston League Committees:

##### **Ruston Coordinators:**

League Administrator: Katie Hall [katiechall@mac.com](mailto:katiechall@mac.com) 318-503-9345

League Coordinators/ Council:

Women's Spring Coordinator: Daniel Richardson [danielrichardson@squirecreek.com](mailto:danielrichardson@squirecreek.com) 806-584-6463

Men's Spring Coordinator: Gail Nelson [gnelson@aep.latech.edu](mailto:gnelson@aep.latech.edu) 318-278-0898

Mixed Coordinator: Gail Nelson [gnelson@aep.latech.edu](mailto:gnelson@aep.latech.edu) 318-278-0898

Trilevel Coordinator: Joan McMaster [joanielsu@hotmail.com](mailto:joanielsu@hotmail.com)

Combo Coordinator: Linda Causey [lindacausey54@hotmail.com](mailto:lindacausey54@hotmail.com) 318-512-5665

**Grievance and Grievance Appeals Committees will be chosen from the following:** David Benson, Scott Smith, Stephanie Novakovich, Rachel Patterson, Katherine Reigelman