

**Ruston REGULATIONS**  
**For USTA League Tennis Adult and Mixed Divisions; and non-advancing leagues if specified in**  
**invitational/Section/District rules.**  
**League Year 2026**

**1.0 GENERAL**

The Regulations in 1.00 GENERAL in conjunction with USTA National and USTA Southern and USTA Louisiana regulations shall apply to all League Divisions (Adult and Mixed). Regulations apply to all National Championships. Regulations shall apply to National Invitationals and non-advancing leagues if specified in invitationals/Section/District rules.

**1.02 Governance**

**1.02A Waiver of Rules and Procedures Prohibited** Printed below are the Ruston League 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 Coordinators and/or Local League Council shall have the authority to interpret the Ruston Regulations.

**1.04B Administration.**

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

**1.04B(3)c(i) League Code of Ethics.** All league administrators (CTA Board Members/Local League Coordinators) 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/District League Coordinator for review prior to the league's 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 captain's 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	1/26/26	2/8/26	4/24/26	2/9/26	5/8/26
40 & Over Adult	1/26/26	2/8/26	3/27/26	2/9/26	4/10/26
55 & Over Adult	1/26/26	2/8/26	3/20/26	2/9/26	4/3/26
18 & Over Mixed Doubles	5/11/26	6/20/26	7/24/27	6/21/26	8/7/26
40 & Over Mixed Doubles	5/11/26	6/20/26	7/17/26	6/21/26	7/31/26
55 & Over Mixed Doubles	5/11/26	6/20/26	7/24/26	6/21/26	8/7/26
18 & Over Tri Level	5/18/26	6/27/26	7/17/26	6/28/26	8/21/26

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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
40 & Over Tri Level	5/18/26	6/27/26	7/17/26	6/28/26	8/21/26
55 & Over Tri Level	5/18/26	6/27/26	7/17/26	6/28/26	8/21/26
18 & Over Combo	8/3/26	8/23/26	10/9/26	8/24/26	10/23/26
40 & Over Combo	8/3/26	8/23/26	10/2/26	8/24/26	10/16/26
55 & Over Combo	8/3/26	8/23/26	10/9/26	8/24/26	10/23/26

**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 6 weeks prior to the start of state championship. Any league playing over multiple championship weekends, deadline is (3) weeks prior to the start of the first scheduled championship for that league. Local teams must be included in the local league schedule if the teams have fulfilled this requirement. (see chart above)

**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

Failure to register a team in TennisLink by the established deadline date may result in the team being declared ineligible for the USTA League Program. The Local League Coordinator may amend local league team registration deadline dates in order to optimize flights.

**1.04C(1)b Player Additions.** All player additions to existing registered team rosters must be prior to the end of the local league season but no later than (3) weeks prior to the state championship, including local leagues played during a state championship.

Local leagues may set a deadline date that is more than (3) weeks prior to the state championship for player additions to existing teams.

Player addition deadline date must be prior to the start of any local league playoff.

Player registration dates/deadlines: (see chart above).

#### **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 2026 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 league's team registration.

League	USTA Louisiana Head Tax	TennisLink Fee	Ruston Head Tax	Enrollment Fee
18 & Over Adult	\$15.00	\$3.15	\$0	\$18.15
40 & Over Adult	\$15.00	\$3.15	\$0	\$18.15
55 & Over Adult	\$10.00	\$3.15	\$0	\$18.15

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League	USTA Louisiana Head Tax	TennisLink Fee	Ruston Head Tax	Enrollment Fee
18 & Over Mixed Doubles	\$15.00	\$3.15	\$0	\$18.15
40 & Over Mixed Doubles	\$15.00	\$3.15	\$0	\$18.15
55 & Over Mixed Doubles	\$10.00	\$3.15	\$0	\$13.15
18 & Over Tri Level	\$15.00	\$3.15	\$0	\$18.15
40 & Over Tri Level	\$15.00	\$3.15	\$0	\$13.15
55 & Over Tri Level	\$10.00	\$3.15	\$0	\$13.15
18 & Over Combo	\$15.00	\$3.15	\$0	\$18.15
40 & Over Combo	\$15.00	\$3.15	\$0	\$18.15
55 & Over Combo	\$10.00	\$3.15	\$0	\$13.15
Flexible Format	\$2	\$3.15	\$0	\$5.15

**1.04C(1)f. USTA Louisiana Head Tax 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 a player participated in a later league where registration could have been transferred, a refund will not be issued.
- Refund requests must be made prior to the state championship for the league in which the refund is being requested.
- Refund requests 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 the player has not played any matches on a team which is requesting a 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 refund requests that could not be transferred
- Each local league area has authority to decide how to handle their local league head tax refunds.

**1.04C(2) Official Score Reporting and Standings System** The initial entry of match scores into TennisLink must 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 shall be completed (3) weeks prior to the state championship. Any league playing over multiple championship weekends, deadline is (3) weeks prior to the start of the first scheduled championship for that league.

- All local leagues shall obtain the approval of the State League Coordinator for the dates of the local league season(s).
- 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 unless your local league has granted approval by USTA Louisiana due to extenuating circumstances.

**1.04D(4).** To promote more than two-team leagues, there will be an initial maximum limit on the number of players that can be added to a roster and is subject to change if and only if reviewed and approved by that League coordinator(s). The limit is calculated by using local requirements. The local requirement for a minimum roster will be the same as the USTA national requirement for minimum team composition, as outlined per the league and age group. The local requirement for a maximum roster = (minimum roster \* 2) - 2. For example, if a team has a local minimum of eight, then

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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, where the maximum roster = (minimum roster \*2) + 2.

**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 51% 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(3) 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 cell phone 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 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).

**1.04F(1)a** Players with a Mixed, Tournament or Self-rating who receive a new self-rating that places them at a higher NTRP level at which they are competing must immediately adjust to their new NTRP level. Prior team matches played are valid. Players shall not continue participating at the lower NTRP level.

**1.04(1)b** Players who are granted an appeal up must immediately adjust to their new NTRP level. Prior team matches played are valid. Players shall not continue participating at the lower NTRP level.

NTRP RATING LEVEL FOR ENTRY INTO LEAGUE PLAY		
DIVISION	Age Group	PLAYER'S NTRP RATING LEVEL
Adult	<b>Straight NTRP levels</b> 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.
	<b>Combined NTRP levels</b> 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

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NTRP RATING LEVEL FOR ENTRY INTO LEAGUE PLAY		
DIVISION	Age Group	PLAYER'S NTRP RATING LEVEL
Mixed	<b>Straight NTRP levels</b> 18 & Over 2.5, 3.0,3.5,4.0,4.5 40 & Over 3.0,3.5,4.0,4.5 **55 & Over 3.0,3.5,4.0	Limited to 2.0 and 2.5 NTRP rated players  Current NTRP rating level and/or up to one level higher than the player's current NTRP level.
	<b>Combined NTRP Levels</b> 18 & Over – 10.0 *55 & Over – 9.0	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 – 3.5, 3.0, 2.5, Div II – 4.0, 3.5, 3.0 Div III – 4.5, 4.0, 3.5 Div IV – 5.0, 4.5, 4.0	Current NTRP rating level and/or up to one level above the player's current NTRP level When using straight NTRP rating levels, the player's NTRP rating level shall not exceed the court NTRP level.
	*40 & Over Div II – 4.0, 3.5, 3.0 Div III – 4.5, 4.0, 3.5	
	*55 & Over Div II – 4.0, 3.5, 3.0	
**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.

**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**

**2.01 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.

**2.01B(1) – Team Match**

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, 4.5	2 singles/ 3 doubles	3 individual wins
	18 & Over 2.5 & 5.0	2.5 and 5.0	1 singles / 2 doubles	2 individual wins

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DIVISION	Age Group	Levels offered for men and women	LEAGUE FORMAT	Points Awarded For
	40 & Over	3.0,3.5,4.0, 4,5	1 singles/ 3 doubles	3 individual wins
	55 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0 Combined	3 doubles	2 individual wins
Mixed	18 & Over	Straight 2.5,3.0,3.5,4.0,4.5 and 10.0 combined	3 doubles	2 individual wins
	40 & Over	3.0,3.5,4.0,4.5		
	55 & Over	3.0,3.5,4.0 and 9.0 combined		
Combo	18 & Over	2.5, 5.5,6.5,7.5, 8.5	3 doubles	2 individual wins
	40 & Over	5.5,6.5,7.5, 8.5		
	55 & Over	5.5,6.5,7.5, 8.5		
Tri Level	18 & Over	*18 & Over Div I – 3.5, 3.0, 2.5, Div II – 4.0, 3.5, 3.0 Div III – 4.5, 4.0, 3.5 Div IV – 5.0, 4.5, 4.0	3 doubles	2 individual wins
	40 & Over	Div II – 4.0, 3.5, 3.0 Div III – 4.5, 4.0, 3.5		
	55 & Over	Div II – 4.0, 3.5, 3.0		

\*\*Assigned and/or additional Divisions, Age Groups and Levels that USTA Louisiana will use.

**2.01C(3).** Each local league will establish a procedure for ensuring the minimum required # of courts are played with the combination of individual match defaults given by two teams in the team match results, or would result in a situation where the majority of the individual matches would not be played. In this case, captains shall notify the Local League Coordinator who will reschedule the remaining un-played individual matches.

**2.01C(4) Match Scoring and Formats** - see chart above

It is recommended that all matches be the best of three tiebreak sets with a match tiebreak in lieu of a third set. The match tiebreak shall be scored as one set and one game for tiebreak purposes. For play at or below the Sectional level, the Sectional Association may authorize the use of other USTA approved scoring methods and other scoring methods that are compatible with the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System.

- 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.
- 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.

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**2.01C(6) Team Lineups.**

**2.01C(6)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. In the event a match is rescheduled AFTER it has started, the default will stand in the local league. If a match is rescheduled BEFORE it has started AND captains choose to exchange lineups for players to schedule their own courts, those players are considered the committed and intended match players. No changes can be made to the lineup prior to the start of the match unless agreed upon by the two captains except for allowed substitutions stated in 2.01C(6)c..

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 three (3) weeks prior to the 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 21 days prior to the state tournament.

**2.01C(6)e Team Defaults.** Louisiana Regulation: USTA Louisiana adopts the following regarding teams defaulting an entire team match during local league competition:

- 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 USTA Louisiana Adult League Committee may file a grievance and impose further penalties on the defaulting team. Such penalties will follow the League Suspension System (See Regulation 3.03A(7) and 3.03D(4)).

**2.02 Progression**

**2.02A(1) Local Competition** All local matches should be completed three (3) weeks prior to the USTA Louisiana State Championship. At the conclusion of the local league competition and/or local playoff, the Local League Coordinator shall notify the State League Coordinator of teams advancing to the state championships.

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

**2.02A(2) Local Champion**

See the 2026 USTA Louisiana Championship Procedures for deadline dates and deposit hold requirements for advancing teams to guarantee spot in the state championship draw.

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Please refer to the 2026 USTA Louisiana Championship Procedures for full championship details including registration information, dates, location and procedures.

**2.03B(1)** At National Championships, a captain shall not represent more than one team in the same age group and NTRP level. The captain will be required to only represent one team and must identify which team prior to the start of the championship. All captains must be declared prior to the start of the championship.

**2.03B(2)** For championship play at or below the Sectional level, the Sectional Association may authorize a captain to represent more than one team.

**Southern Regulation:** Southern does not authorize a captain to represent more than one team during championship competition.

**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 (listed at end of regulations). 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 (listed at end of regulations). 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. The Ruston Coordinators' contact information is at the 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.

**2026 USTA Ruston League Committees:**

**Ruston Coordinators:**

League Coordinators/ Council:

**Adult and Mixed Doubles Coordinator:** Chris Taylor [taylorc0792@yahoo.com](mailto:taylorc0792@yahoo.com) 318-278-0582

**Combo and Tri-Level Coordinator:** Joan McMaster [joanielsu@hotmail.com](mailto:joanielsu@hotmail.com) 318-564-5024

**Grievance and Grievance Appeals Committees will be chosen from the following:** Daniel Richardson, Katie Hall, Stephanie Novakovich, Bobby Goulart, Katherine Reigelman, and Gail Nelson.