



2021 USTA Tennessee League Regulations  
**JACKSON WEST-TN TENNIS ASSOCIATION (JWTTA)**

Local League Coordinator:

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Adult 18& Over Adult 40 & Over Adult 55 & Over Adult 65 & Over Mixed Leagues Tri-Level Combo

**Regulations written in BLUE text are specific to JWTTA leagues and may not apply in other local areas.**

**I. Dates**

| <u>League</u> | <u>Local Registration Opens</u> | <u>Local Team Registration Close (Deadline for legal team roster minimum)</u> | <u>Local Last Day to Add Individual</u> | <u>Local Schedule Released</u> | <u>Local Playoff Dates</u> | <u>Tennessee League Play Deadline</u> | <u>State Championship</u>  |
|---------------|---------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 18 & Over     | January 1, 2021                 | March 25, 2021  | May 19, 2021                            | N/A                            | N/A                        | May 26, 2021                          | 18 & Over Even/ 40 & Over Odd<br><b>June 11-13, 2021</b><br>(Murfreesboro, TN)     |
| 40 & Over     |                                 | March 25, 2021  | May 19, 2021                            | N/A                            | N/A                        |                                       | 18 & Over Odd/40 & Over Even/Open<br><b>June 25-27, 2021</b><br>(Murfreesboro, TN) |
| 55 & Over     |                                 | March 25, 2021  | April 28, 2021                          | N/A                            | N/A                        | May 5, 2021                           | May 21-23, 2021<br>(Knoxville, TN)   |
| 65 & Over     |                                 | June 25, 2021   | August 18, 2021                         | N/A                            | N/A                        | August 25, 2021                       | Tbd  |

- a. **Local play will begin as soon as needed to get all matches completed by the State League Play Deadline.**
- b. **Matches will be scheduled by the captains in cooperation with each other. If the captains cannot agree, then the Local League Coordinator will schedule the matches.**
- c. **It is the captain’s responsibility to keep players informed of match times and locations. It is the Captain’s responsibility to ensure that any player added to a team after league play has started will have enough matches to qualify for advancement.**

**II. League Regulations**

- a. Where not otherwise stated, USTA League National, Southern, and Tennessee Regulations have full force and applicability.
- b. **JWTTA defines itself as all of West Tennessee except for the Greater Memphis Area (Shelby County), which includes the following counties: Madison, Lake, Obion, Weakley, Carroll, Henderson, Decatur, Perry, Wayne, Hardin, McNairy, Hardeman, Haywood, Crockett, Chester, Henderson, Dyer, and Gibson.** Teams competing in the **JWTTA** Local Leagues must play in facilities that reside within the defined area.
- c. All participants must be current members of the USTA. Players must be 18 years of age prior to participating in the USTA League program. Each player over the age of 18 shall have



reached the required minimum age prior to or during the calendar year in which such player participates in his or her first local league. Each player must pay a **\$25** league fee for each team that he/she is joining and shall be paid at the time of registration. There will also be a \$3 fee paid to TennisLink at the time of registration. Total fee on TennisLink will be **\$28** per registrant per team. **Adult 65 & over will pay \$16 plus \$3 Tennislink fee for a total of \$19 per registrant per team.**

- d. Players requesting a refund must do so through by contacting the LLC. A refund may not be requested more than four days after the State League Play Deadline. All refunds will consist of the amount paid by a player for the USTA League (excluding Tennislink Fees) minus a \$4 fee that goes to the Local League Coordinator. Only players that did not play a match in the league season are not advancing to a state championship are eligible to request a refund.
- e. USTA Adult Leagues in **JWTTA** are offered in the following divisions:

| <u>Division</u> | <u>League Type</u> | <u>NTRP Levels</u>             | <u>League Format</u>   | <u>Minimum Number of Players Required For Legal Team</u> | <u>Maximum number of players allowed on team roster</u> |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|--|---|
| Adult           | 18 & Over          | 2.5, 5.0, Open                 | 1 Singles<br>2 Doubles | 5  | 12  |
|                 |                    | 3.0, 3.5, 4.0,<br>4.5          | 2 Singles<br>3 Doubles | 8  | 18  |
|                 | 40 & Over          | 3.0, 3.5,<br>4.0,4.5           | 1 Singles<br>3 Doubles | 7  | 16  |
|                 |                    | Open                           | 3 Doubles              | 6  | 14  |
|                 | 55 & Over          | 3.0, 3.5, 4.0,<br>9.0 combined | 3 Doubles              | 6  | 14  |
|                 | 65 & Over          | 3.0, 3.5, 4.0,<br>9.0 combined | 3 Doubles              | 6  | 14  |

- i. **18 & Over** -
- Adult 18 & Over 2.5 Men, 5.0, and Open divisions – these divisions will play their local league at the USTA Tennessee State League Championship. These levels must meet the State deadline of **May 26, 2021** for team and individual registration. No players may be added to a local roster after **May 26, 2021**.
- ii. **40 & Over** -
- Adult 40 & Over Open division – this division will play it's local league at the USTA Tennessee State League Championship. These levels must meet the State deadline of **May 26, 2021** for team and individual registration. No players may be added to a local roster after **May 26, 2021**.
- iii. **55 & Over** -
- Adult 55 & Over 9.0 – the NTRP rating level difference between doubles partners may not exceed 1.0.
  - Adult 55 & Over 3.0 Men and 9.0 Men – this division will play it's local league at the USTA Tennessee State League Championship. This level must meet the State deadline of **May 5, 2021** for team and individual registration. No players may be added to a local roster after **May 5, 2021**.
- iv. **65 & Over** -
- Adult 65 & Over 9.0 – the NTRP rating level difference between doubles partners may not exceed 1.0.
- f. Divisions may be divided into two or more flights with a playoff at the end of local play to determine the **JWTTA** champion.



- g. If only one team is registered at deadline for any level, an extension of two weeks will be given to meet the National requirement of a minimum of 2 teams.

### **III. Team Regulations**

- a. Each team shall appoint a captain to manage team activities and to represent the team in USTA League matters. The Captain is the person who is to communicate with the LLC and serves as the liaison between the players and the LLC, and therefore captains must have a valid email address and phone number listed in TennisLink.
- b. Captains **MUST** use the following format to name teams: TN/City/Captain's Last Name. For example: (TN/Nashville/Ontog).
- c. If any Adult Division Age Group consists of only two teams in a level of play, each team must maintain its roster with at least 40 percent of its players at the designated NTRP level of play. The exception is the Adult Division 55 & Over Age Group that uses combined NTRP rating levels and will not be required to comply with this Regulation. This regulation does not apply to the 65 & Over Age Group.
- d. USTA Tennessee will have no residency requirements for teams that are in leagues with local play.
  - i. For teams that advance directly to the State Championship or play their local league at the State Championships, USTA Tennessee requires that at least 2 players of the team be residents of the local area from which that team is advancing.
- e. USTA Tennessee limits the number of players that may appear on a team roster. Please see the table in Local Regulation II.e for the maximum number of players on a roster in each league.

### **IV. Individual Regulations**

- a. Each player will use his/her most current NTRP Computer Rating on file in TennisLink. Players who do not have a computer rating on file in TennisLink shall self-rate in accordance with the National Tennis Rating Program. Self-ratings are valid for two years from the date issued or until replaced by a dynamic or computer rating. NTRP computer generated ratings are good for 3 years for those players 59 years old or under, and 2 years for those 60 years of age or older.
- b. A player may play at their current NTRP level and/or up to one level above the current NTRP level.
- c. Players may play on different age levels and NTRP levels as long as they are eligible. Team captains are responsible for making sure that all team members meet eligibility criteria. Players not meeting the above eligibility criteria will be ineligible and any matches they have played will be forfeited. A player who participates in the USTA League in violation of any eligibility provision shall be subject to an Eligibility Grievance.

### **V. League Play**

- a. Lineups are to be exchanged at the scheduled match time, or before, if captains agree and are ready to play. A player may participate in only one individual match within each team match.
- b. In the event of illness, injury, disqualification, or no-show of a player prior to the start of an individual match (once the lineup has been exchanged), 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. If no such substitution can be made, the affected position only will be defaulted in local leagues.
- c. There is no coaching in any form allowed in USTA Adult League matches. Cell phones must be turned off or silenced during play.



- d. USTA Tennessee Adult league matches in **JWTTA** shall be:
- i. **Best of two sets with a Set Tiebreak (first to 7 by 2) used at 6 all in each set. After each set there is a two-minute rest period allowed. No coaching will be allowed during set breaks. After the first game of each set, players change ends without a rest period (continuous play). All other changeovers within a set will have a 90-second rest period. In lieu of a third set, a Match Tiebreak (first to 10 by 2) shall be played. The Coman Tiebreak Procedure will be used for all Set Tiebreaks and Match Tiebreaks in local league and State Championship matches.**
  - ii. **With the exception of 2.5, 5.0, Adult 40, and Open divisions, a team wins a team match if it wins three or more individual matches (courts). In 2.5, 5.0, Adult 40, and Open divisions, a team wins the team match if it wins two or more individual matches (courts).**
  - iii. **Teammates, spectators, and coaches may not comment on the line calls or scoring while a match is being played.**
  - iv. **Captains will agree on which team will provide new balls for the first match, and the teams will alternate providing balls each match.**
  - v. **Teams will split the cost of indoor matches if weather conditions make it impossible to play outdoors and both captains have agreed to move indoors.**
- e. In the event of a tie in a team match or in league standings, the tie will be broken by the first of the procedures listed below.
- i. For a tie in league standings at the end of the season:
    1. Individual Matches. Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.
    2. Head-to-head. Winner of head-to-head match.
    3. Sets. Loser of the fewest number of sets.
    4. Games. Loser of the fewest number of games
    5. Game Winning Percentage: Total games won divided by total games played.
    6. **If two teams are still tied for first place after games lost tiebreak, then a team playoff match will be held between the tied teams prior to the end of league deadline.**
  - ii. For a tie in a team match:
    1. Sets. Loser of the fewest number of sets.
    2. Games. Loser of the fewest number of games.
    3. Game Winning Percentage. Total games won divided by total games played.
    4. Final tiebreaker: The team that wins #1 Doubles wins the match.
- f. Captains are responsible for entering and/or confirming match scores on Tennis Link. Captains need to verify and confirm the recorded match scores. All recorded scores will be final 48 hours from match time. If a mistake is made when entering scores and you have clicked out of scorecard on TennisLink, you will have to email the LLC with the match number and correction. **Only the LLC can make a change to the scorecard.** Any disputes must be made on TennisLink and the LLC must be notified by email before the 48 hours is up.
- i. If scores are not entered into Tennislink within 48 hours, both captains may be subject to a local grievance and sanctions imposed by the Local Grievance Committee.



- g. If a team plays a local match without a full lineup, forfeits must be taken according to the following:
  - For leagues playing the 1 Singles/2 Doubles format, 1 Singles/3 Doubles, or 1 Singles/4 Doubles, forfeits must occur at either #1 singles or the lowest doubles position.
  - For leagues playing the 2 Singles/3 Doubles formats, forfeits must occur at either #3 doubles or #2 singles.
  - For leagues playing the 3 Doubles format, forfeits must occur at #3 Doubles.
- h. If a team shows up without the minimum # of players required for the team match based on the number of players present, or to be present, it will be a full team default in favor of the opponents. Please refer to National regulation 2.01C(5) on team default procedures.
- i. If a match is begun and a player has to retire due to injury or illness, the match score to the point of default will be recorded on the scorecard (i.e.; 6-2, 2-1, 15-15, retired).
- j. If a match must be forfeited, the name(s) of the forfeiting player(s) are not written on the scorecard. Only the names of the player(s) receiving the default. The written score shall be 6-0,6-0; as if the match had been played.
- k. If a captain knows ahead of time that he/she will forfeit an entire team match, he/she must notify the Local League Coordinator and the opposing team captain. If a team forfeits an entire team match and that forfeit affects the outcome of the local league, then all matches played by the forfeiting team will be removed from the standings. If the forfeiting team has no effect on the outcome of the local league, matches played by that team will stand and that team may be eligible to advance.
- l. 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, the line-up would stand only for those positions that had already started (first service attempt) their match. All other positions, even those that were in warm-up may be changed including defaulted courts.
  - i. **If a makeup match is required, the team captains shall agree on a date for the makeup match. The individual courts do not have to be made up at the same time. Once the captains have agreed on a match date and time, that date and time be emailed to the LLC by both team captains. If the captains cannot agree on a date and time for the makeup match, the LLC will set the date and time.**
- m. For each team match, a majority of individual matches must actually be played to constitute a valid team match. In a situation where the majority of individual matches would be not played (not a “valid” team match) the first course of action would be for both captains to agree on what individual matches, based on the number of players present, or to be present, can be played to constitute a valid team match. Once that is determined, both captains will re-exchange scorecards. If both captains cannot come to an agreement on what lines will be played to constitute a valid team match, based on the number of players present, or to be present, then the following individual matches will be assigned in sequential order to be played:

| <u>Format</u>       | <u>Required Matches In Sequential</u>  | <u>Minimum Number Of Players Required For Each Team In A Valid Team Match</u> |
|---------------------|--|---|
| 2 Singles/3 Doubles | #1 and #2 singles, and #1 doubles (priority); #2 doubles if enough players present | 4   |



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|---------------------|---|---|
| 1 Singles/3 Doubles | #1 singles and #1 doubles and #2 doubles (priority) | 5 |
| 1 Singles/2 Doubles | #1 singles and #1 doubles                           | 3 |
| 1 Singles/4 Doubles | #1 singles, #1 doubles, and #2 doubles              | 5 |
| 3 Doubles           | #1 and #2 doubles                                   | 4 |

n. If both teams have enough players to play the match and it's discovered after-the-fact that a majority of the matches were not played to constitute a valid team match, both captains need to come to an agreement of what lines will be played to make the team match valid. If captains cannot come to an agreement then the individual match(es) to be played will be assigned in sequential order in the above-mentioned table. If a captain does not comply with this regulation, then it may be considered a full team default in favor of the opponents. If a team shows up without the minimum # of players required for the team match based on the number of players present, or to be present, it will be a full team default in favor of the opponents. Please refer to national regulation 2.01C(5) on team default procedures.

**VI. Championships**

- a. Players who qualify for an Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over and/or Adult 65 & Over team(s) may advance on more than one team within an age group only if they are different NTRP levels and have qualified separately for each team. **No accommodations for scheduling will be made at any Championship for teams with players that may be competing on two or more teams during a championship.**
- b. To be eligible to compete in a USTA Tennessee League State Championship, players must play in the number of matches listed in the table below:

| MATCHES REQUIRED TO ADVANCE TO CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR ADULT AND MIXED DIVISIONS |  |  |                                       |
|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AND BELOW  |  | NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS   |                                       |
| LOCAL MATCHES REQUIRED   | DEFAULTS THAT COUNT  | TOTAL MATCHES REQUIRED THROUGH SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP  | DEFAULTS THAT COUNT                   |
| To advance to <b>any</b> championship level through Sectional Championship | To advance to <b>any</b> championship level through Sectional Championship | To advance to National Championship  | To advance to National Championship   |
| 2 matches on the same team*  | 1 default <u>received</u> shall count                                      | All players other than self-rated and computer-rated appealed players:<br><br>3 matches on the same team | 1 default <u>received</u> shall count |





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|   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| Section Option to require Self-rated and computer-rated appealed players to play up to 4 matches on the same team | Section Option to declare if 1 default <u>received</u> shall or shall not count | Self-rated and computer-rated appealed players<br><br>4 matches on the same team | No default <u>received</u> shall count |
|---|---|--|--|

**A retirement counts as a match played for all players involved.**

- c. Adult 65 & Over requires 1 local or state match to advance to sectional championship play with 1 default counting. For teams that are advancing to the sectional championships through local or state play, the one match requirement may be waived at the discretion of the Championship Committee for up to a maximum of two players per team.
- d. If there is no local and/or state competition offered for Adult 65 & Over, one team per state per NTRP level may advance directly to the sectional championships.
- e. Any local league having two (2) or more teams at any 65 & Over level must play a local league. If there is only one (1) team signed up at a level, that team may advance directly to the State Championship.
- f. The number of advancing from **JWTTA** is determined by the chart below:

| <u>Division</u>                               | <u>Number Of Local Teams At A Specific NTRP Level</u> | <u>Number Of Local Teams Advancing to State League Championship</u> |
|---|---|---|
| Adult 18 & Over/40 & Over/55 & Over/65 & Over | 2 - 13  | 1   |
|   | 14 - 23   | 2   |
|   | 24+   | 3   |
|   | 2+  | 1   |

**VII. Grievances**

- a. General/Sportsmanship Grievances and Administrative Grievances are filed with the Local League Coordinator. Please submit via email, including a \$25.00 fee. The LLC will give the grievance to the USTA Tennessee Grievance Committee. Should the Grievance Committee find in favor of the person filing the grievance, the \$25.00 will be refunded. Forms for grievances may be obtained from the Local League Coordinator.

**VIII. Committees**

- a. **JWTTA Regulations Committee: Cyndi Bryant, Linda Swope, Sara Barnett, Angela Melton**
- b. USTA Tennessee Grievance Committee: Terryann Nelson (Chair), Debbi Booton, Jackie Mills
- c. USTA Tennessee Grievance Appeals Committee: Roger Ross (Chair), Paul Fultz, Barbara Hooper
- d. Grievance and Grievance Appeal Committee members may change or individual members substituted at the discretion of the USTA Tennessee Adult League Committee Chairperson.



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**IX. Other Resources**

- a. USTA, USTA Southern, and USTA Tennessee Regulations - [www.ustatn.com/adult-tennis/adult-leagues/](http://www.ustatn.com/adult-tennis/adult-leagues/)
- b. USTA Tennessee Website - [www.ustatn.com](http://www.ustatn.com)
- c. USTA Southern Website - [www.southern.usta.com](http://www.southern.usta.com)
- d. JWTTA Website - [www.jwttatennis.com](http://www.jwttatennis.com)