

USTA SOUTHERN USTA KENTUCKY

2024 Southern & Kentucky Tri-Level Regulations

Updated: December 11, 2023 - Updated: December 13, 2023

Play is governed by the RULES OF TENNIS, "The Code" as contained in the 2024 Friend at Court, and the following USTA Southern Tri-Level Regulations. **USTA Southern will adhere to the USTA League National and/or Southern Regulations on items not mentioned in the USTA Southern Tri-level Regulations.** General regulations and procedures for the program are listed below and/or Championship Procedures. Each State of the USTA Southern Section may supplement these regulations as is required for play within their State. Local and/or State regulations shall not be in conflict with the Southern Tri-Level Regulations. No Southern Tri-Level Regulation or Procedure may be waived by a State Association or by any local, state or sectional league coordinator or Grievance or Grievance Appeal Committee. Any violation of these regulations shall be subject to such sanctions as may be imposed by League Grievance or Grievance Appeal Committee procedures outlined in the USTA League Regulations. USTA Southern is the final authority on such actions unless otherwise specified in Bylaws of the USTA or USTA Southern.

1. All participants must be current members of the USTA and register through Tennis Link.

2. **Team Composition:** A team shall consist of a minimum of six (6) players which are able to combine to form an eligible pairing for each of the three (3) lines for a team match.

3. **Team Match & Scoring:** The team match format of play will be 3 lines of doubles per team match. It is recommended that all matches be the best of three tiebreak sets with a match tiebreak in lieu of a third set. Local leagues may decide to use other USTA approved scoring methods that are compatible with the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System.

4. **Levels Offered:** Levels offered are Men's and Women's Tri-Level 18 & Over 5.0-4.0, 4.5-3.5, 4.0-3.0 and 3.5-2.5; Tri-Level 40 & Over 4.5-3.5 and 4.0-3.0; and Tri-Level 55 & Over 4.0-3.0.

Kentucky Regulation: Local Leagues may offer differing levels and divisions of Tri-Level, including Mixed Doubles format. These additional levels/divisions will not advance beyond Local League play. Initial roster deadline for all Local Leagues is July 21, 2024. This includes any teams that combine and play in a Regional or Combined Area.

A team shall consist of a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 21 players. Local League Regulations may limit the number to less than 21.

5. **NTRP Rating & Scorecard Overview:** Players may register for a Tri-Level team roster with a computer ("C"), self ("S"), mixed-exclusive ("M"), tournament-exclusive ("T"), computer appealed ("A"), and/or Dynamic ("D") rating. For players that do not have a rating on file, he/she shall self-rate in accordance with the National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) Guidelines and complete the self-rating process on TennisLink when registering for a team. Failure to do so or omission of information regarding a player's tennis history will subject the player, the captain and/or others who condoned inaccurate self-rating to an NTRP Grievance and possible suspension points.

A player may not be dynamically promoted based on match results from Southern Tri-Level program, but **match results will be calculated in year-end NTRP computer ratings.** A player may be dynamically promoted mid-year from play in the Adult and/or Mixed Doubles League program.

6. **Scorecard Placement & Defaults:** Players may play "up" one level (.5) within a Tri-Level match line-up. *For example, a Tri-Level 18 & Over 4.0-3.0 team may place a 3.0 player in the #2 (3.5) and/or #3 (3.0) positions only.*

A team may not default a higher line on a scorecard unless there is no in-level pairing to list. *For example, a Tri-Level 40 & Over 4.0-*

3.0 team only has two 3.5 players and two 3.0 players for the team match. The team is permitted to default the #1 line (4.0) and list the 3.5 players in the #2 line (3.5) and 3.0 players in the #3 line (3.0). If a team defaults an entire match (as described in USTA League Regulation 2.03K) in local play, states may decide whether to allow further play by that team and how matches played by that team should be used in determining standings. A state may not authorize a local league to make such determination. If the state does not have a specific rule in place regarding such team defaults, it must follow USTA League Regulation 2.03L.

Kentucky Regulation: Follows USTA Kentucky League Regulation 2.01C(6)E.

7. **Appealed Ratings:** Players who submit an appeal to their self-rating through the Tennis Link system before their local league deadline for registering players will be permitted to register up to seven days after the notification of final self-rating.

- If a player's rating is **appealed down** during or after the Tri-Level local season, the player should notify applicable Local League Coordinator to make update on TennisLink roster. Previous matches by the player would stand.
- If a player's rating is **appealed up** during or after the Tri-Level local season, player must immediately play at the new appealed rating. The player should notify applicable Local League Coordinator to make update on TennisLink roster. Adjusted rating will be used for duration of championship year. Previous matches by the player would stand.

8. **State Championship:** State associations may regulate how many matches, if any, qualify a player to advance to state championship. State associations may determine advancement on more than one team within an age group only if they are different NTRP levels.

Kentucky Regulation: Tri-Level 18 & Over and Tri-Level 40 & Over players must have played one match or received one default on the same team which player is advancing to be eligible to play at the state championship. Teams must play in a local league. If there is only one team in a division/level, the local league coordinator can assist in one of the following options:

- **Arrange for Local at State (LAS)**
 - o Single teams from different areas across Kentucky play a shortened format one day prior to the state championship at the location of the state championship. All teams stay and participate in the championship.
- **Arrange for team to play in the Combined or Regional Area.**
 - o Single teams from other areas across Kentucky agree to meet at agreeable location to play an approved format to qualify all players.

Tri-Level 55 & Over Division may advance direct to the state championship if there is no Local League available in their area at their NTRP level.

9. **Southern Championship Advancement Process:** If the winning team at any level of State Championship competition is unable to compete further towards the Sectional Championships, then the State League Coordinator may select the second-place team for such further competition. The Section may issue wildcards as necessary to fill the draw. If less than four teams are entered in a NTRP level draw within 21 days of event, the draw for the NTRP level may be cancelled unless otherwise authorized by the Championship Committee.

10. State Championship Advancement Process & Deadlines:

States shall determine the progression from local league to the State Championship. States shall conclude their State League Championships to determine its State Champions and identify to the Section their winning teams at each level by September 24, 2024.

Kentucky Regulation: Local Leagues must conclude play on or before August 18, 2024.

11. Southern Championship Advancement Requirement:

Players must play in at least one local or state championship match in order to advance to the Tri-Level League Championship. The one match requirement pertains to the team and age division for which player is advancing. A default received counts towards advancement in this program.

Players who qualify for a Tri-Level 18 & Over, Tri-Level 40 & Over and/or Tri-Level 55 & Over teams (s) 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 Sectional Championships for teams with players that may be competing on two or more teams during a Sectional Championship.** If matches are scheduled concurrently in the above-mentioned scenarios, then teams are expected to provide full line-ups for all team matches. Please refer to Championship Procedures for full details on the Southern Tri-Level League Championship.

Kentucky Regulation: Players may advance on more than one team if qualified, however must be different age division and/or NTRP Level. No scheduling accommodations for players or teams they play on will be made.

Local Leagues may allow a single team registered in a Tri-Level 55 & Over, play in the 40 & Over division for local competition. The team advances to the state championship in the 55 & Over age division and all standings in lower division count as played. This does NOT QUALIFY a team advancement to Tri-Level Sectionals Championship. Teams must play at Kentucky State Championship in Tri-Level 55 & Over Age Division and all players must play required one match or receive one default at state to be eligible to advance to Tri-Level Sectionals. Matches played in the local league in the 40 & Over League do NOT apply toward advancement to Tri-Level Sectionals.

The Southern Tri-Level League Championship will be hosted on **October 11 – 14, 2024** in Mobile, AL.

Kentucky State Championship date: September 6-7, 2024, location TBD.