

# ASCENSION TENNIS REGULATIONS For USTA League Tennis Adult and Mixed Divisions; USTA Southern Combo Division and Tri Level Division

## League Year **2022**

**1.00 GENERAL** The Regulations in 1.00 General, 2.00 USTA Leagues Regulations and 3.00 Grievance Procedure in conjunction with USTA National and USTA Southern regulations shall apply to all USTA League Divisions (Adult and Mixed); as well as USTA Southern Combo and Tri-Level.

**1.02 Governance**

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

**1.02B Amendments** These Ascension Tennis Association Regulations may be amended by the Ascension Tennis Association League Council with approval from the Ascension Tennis Association Executive Board.

**1.02C Written Interpretation** The Local League Coordinators have the authority to interpret the Ascension Tennis Association League Regulations.

**1.04A USTA League Program**

Division	Age Group	Minimum # of Players	Gender	Match Format	Team Point Awarded for	NTRP LEVEL
Mixed	18 & Over: 7.0	3 men and 3 women able to combine and compete	Men and Women	3 Doubles	2 Individual Wins	Combined NTRP rating levels of partners shall not exceed the team NTRP level.  NTRP difference between partners shall 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 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5	6 players able to combine and compete	Same Gender	3 Doubles	2 Individual Wins	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 2.5, 3.0, 3.5 (W) 3.0, 3.5, 4.0	6 players able to combine and compete	Same Gender	3 Doubles – one doubles court from each level	2 Individual Wins	Current NTRP level and/or up to one level higher than the player’s current NTRP level.

**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 Ascension Tennis Association 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. USTA League Tennis Regulations (National, Southern Section, State, Local) are available on [www.ascensiontennis.com](http://www.ascensiontennis.com) or [louisianatennis.com](http://louisianatennis.com).

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**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 which include National, Sectional, State regulations, championships eligibility requirements, and deadlines. Local league coordinators should review all regulations and procedures with new team captains.

### 1.04C(1)a Official Information System

Summer Leagues	Registration Start Date (team registration opens)	Initial Roster Deadline (team registration closes)	End Player Registration (last day to add players to existing teams)	League Start Date	League End Date
Women's 18 & Over Tri-level 3.5, 3.0, 2.5	06/01/2022	06/19/22	08/05/22	07/06/22	08/05/22
Men's 18 & Over Tri-level 4.0, 3.5, 3.0	06/01/2022	07/19/22	08/05/22	07/06/22	08/05/22
Mixed 18 & Over 7.0	06/01/2022	07/03/22	08/05/22	07/11/22	08/19/22

Fall Leagues	Registration Start Date (team registration opens)	Deadline for Team Captains (team registration closes)	End Player Registration (last day to add players to existing teams)	League Start Date	League End Date
Women's 18 & Over Combo	08/07/22	08/28/22	10/14/22	09/06/22	10/21/22
Men's 18 & Over Combo	08/07/22	08/28/22	10/14/22	09/06/22	10/14/22

### 1.04C(1)b Official Information System

#### Team Registration

See Chart 1.04C for specific league.

Ascension Tennis Association League Council may authorize an extension to the team registration deadline to optimize scheduling. 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.

**1.04C(1)c Player Additions Deadline** All player additions to existing registered team rosters must be made no later than 14 days prior to the state championship except for local leagues played during a state championship. See Chart 1.04C above for specific league.

#### 1.04C(1)d League Fees & Financial Statement

The CLTA 2022 League financial statement will be available upon request. Additional copies of the financial statement are available from the CTA.

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.

### 1.04C(1)e Enrollment Fees

Fall Leagues	USTA Louisiana Head Tax	(Local League) Head Tax	Tennis Link Fee	Enrollment Fee
18 & Over Mixed Doubles	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$3.00	\$28.00
18 & Over Tri Level	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$3.00	\$28.00
18 & Over Combo	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$3.00	\$28.00
40 & Over Combo	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$3.00	\$28.00

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### **1.04C(1)f Facility Fees**

- All applicable court fees are due by the leagues scheduled captains meeting.
- Late fees may be imposed to teams not paying applicable court fees by the due date.
- It is the team's responsibility to obtain fee amounts pertaining to any facility. Fees must be paid in full to the facility before a team will be allowed to play their first match.
- The team is ineligible for league play until all league fees/court fees have been paid. Returned Checks.
- Any returned check must be cleared within 7 days of notification.
- The team is ineligible for league play until the fees have been paid. Official Score Reporting and Standings System.

### **1.04C(1)g 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.
- 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. If completed match scores are not recorded on TennisLink within 48 hours of the completion of the match, the Local League Coordinator may issue a warning via email to both team captains to enter match scores by a specified date and time. If scores are not entered on TennisLink by the specified date and time, the match may be recorded and confirmed on TennisLink as a double default. Local Area Team Default penalties may be applied.

### **1.04D Local League Season**

#### **1.04D(1) Local League Matches**

- All local league matches shall be completed two (2) weeks prior to the state championship.
- See Chart 1.04C for each Division's league season dates.
- 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.

### **1.04E 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 may have players from other areas if most players reside in the State of Louisiana.

**1.04E(2) Age.** 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.

Players wishing to participate in Ascension Tennis Association USTA League from East Baton Rouge Parish, Ascension Parish, Livingston Parish, and St. James Parish may register to play at the following USTA sites: Gonzales Municipal Courts on Burnside Ave.

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### 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).
- A player must enter league play in accordance with the table 104A.
- 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.

#### 1.04F(2) Court Conduct

- Any captain, player or fan verbally or physically abusing an opposing player, player on the same team or any other individual may be asked to leave the facility.
- In cases of extreme unsportsmanlike conduct, the Local League Council may take additional disciplinary action. A grievance may be filed, and the League Suspension Point System will be used. Team captains are responsible for informing their players and spectators of possible consequences for unsportsmanlike conduct. 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).

### 1.04G PLAYER PARTICIPATION ELIGIBILITY

- 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

See Chart 1.04A for NTRP Levels of Play.

When using straight NTRP levels, a player cannot have an NTRP rating higher than the NTRP level in which the player is competing.

### 2.01C Competition Format

#### 2.01C(1) Team Match

For each team match, most of the individual matches must be played to constitute a valid team match.

#### 2.01C(2) Partial Round Robin

Each NTRP level within a local league may play a partial round robin competition wherein every team plays the same number of matches against randomly selected opponents. A minimum of the top two teams shall progress to a single elimination playoff to establish a local league champion for that NTRP level.

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## **2.01C(3) Minimum Required Courts**

Division	Age Group	Match Format	Team Point Awarded for
Mixed	18 & Over: 7.0	3 Doubles	2 Individual Wins
Combo	18 & Over 5.5, 6.5, 7.5	3 Doubles	2 Individual Wins
Tri-Level	18 & Over 2.5, 3.0, 3.5 (W) 18 & Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0	3 Doubles – one doubles court from each level	2 Individual Wins

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(4) Match Scoring and Formats**

- 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 (10point) 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 tiebreakers and match tiebreakers.
- The team winning most of the individual matches shall be awarded one team point.
- In the event of a tie of Team Points, 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**

The 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 illness, injury, disqualification, 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 (5) minute warm-up.
- Warm-up. Ascension Tennis local league shall observe a ten (10) minute warm-up, which includes serves.
- Default time is fifteen (15) minutes past scheduled match time when courts are available. If courts are not available at match time, the 15-minute default clock begins when first court for the team match becomes available.
- Defaulted Individual Court. In the event of a defaulted line, if the players choose to play the line for fun, then the team receiving the default shall make it clearly known that the court will be played in fun and the line will be entered in TennisLink as a default with the recipient of the default entering their players on the scorecard and the opponents' players left blank

## **2.01C(6) Team Defaults**

Louisiana Regulation: When a team default (As defined by 2.03K Team Default regulation) occurs in local league play the Local League Coordinator shall submit to the State League Coordinator a recommendation on how the default should be handled. Exception for two team leagues: No team may advance beyond local league play if a team default occurs regardless of the number of team matches scheduled.

The recommendation should support the answer to the following question:

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Should the team default stand (scored as a 6-0, 6-0 loss on each individual match forfeited) thus allowing the team to remain eligible to advance beyond local competition?

If the answer is yes: The default will stand, allowing the team to advance beyond local play.

If the answer is no:

- For leagues playing a single round robin:
  - The team will be removed from standings in round robin play unless all teams with a mathematical chance to advance have already played the defaulting team in good faith, in which case, the matches shall stand as played when determining standings.
- For leagues playing multiple round robins (choose one):
  - The team will be removed from standings in the affected round only, or
  - The team will be removed from standings in all round robins
- The defaulting team may be ineligible to advance beyond local league but 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 for all players involved

The State League Coordinator, upon review of the facts and circumstances presented by the Local League Coordinator shall approve or deny the local league recommendation.

### 2.01C(7) Inclement Weather

- Local league matches may not be postponed till one hour before scheduled match.
- The host captain is responsible for contacting the park/club pro at scheduled site to determine court playability. If park/club pro is unable to determine court conditions, both captains will be required to visit the site to make determination of court playability.
- If match is in progress, teams must wait one-half hour before rescheduling match.
- If rain delays the start of a match and match cannot be started within 30 minutes of scheduled match time, the match should be rescheduled.
- When rolling courts is required, each team is responsible for rolling their ½ of courts being used. If facility deems one side of court playable and opposing team refused to roll their ½ of courts, default principles shall be applicable.
- When rain or inclement weather forces the cancellation and re-scheduling of a team's match. Line-ups would stand only for those individual matches that have already started (first serve attempt) their match. All other individual matches, even those that were in warm-up, may be changed including defaulted courts.
- Local league matches will be canceled when the temperature (including wind chill) is below 40 degrees Fahrenheit at the start of the scheduled match unless both team captains agree to play.

### 2.02 Progression

#### 2.02A(1) Local Competition

All local matches should be completed two (2) weeks prior to the USTA Louisiana State Championship.

Championship procedures must be used in the event of a tie. Please refer to national regulation 2.03H.

- **Levels with single flight.** Will be based on order of finish in final local league standings as reported on TennisLink.
- **Levels with two flights.** Either single elimination finals between both first-place teams; single elimination between both first-place teams and between both second place teams; round robin playoff between first and second place teams in each flight.
- **Levels with three flights.** Round robin playoff between first place teams in each flight and team with next best record recorded in TennisLink.
- **Team Replacement for Playoffs.** If a team elects not to advance to local league playoffs that team may be replaced by team with the next best record as recorded in TennisLink from the same flight.

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## **2.02 Local Champion.**

### **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. See USTA Louisiana Championship Website for additional details and deadline dates for player registration.

### **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.**

#### **3.01A(1) Local**

Ascension Tennis Association will choose a grievance committee from the names listed at the end of these regulations. Additional members may be added as needed.

#### **3.01A(2) Local Grievance Appeals Committee**

Grievance appeal committees will be chosen from the names listed at the end of these 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 league coordinator listed at the end of these regulations. The decision of the USTA League Grievance Committee shall conform to the USTA League Suspension Point System, which shall be established prior to each League Year by the USTA National League Committee.

#### **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.

### **2022 Ascension Tennis Association Council:**

**Local League Coordinators:** Brett Prejean ([atagonzales.tennis@gmail.com](mailto:atagonzales.tennis@gmail.com))

**Ascension Tennis Association President:** Donna Rybicki ([donnawrybicki@gmail.com](mailto:donnawrybicki@gmail.com))

**Grievance Committees:** Chad Thibodaux, Drury Ingram, Donna Rybicki, Roxanne Skias, Ray Williams

**Grievance Appeals Committees:** Jessica Hodgkins, Devaney Pitre, Freddie Williams, Dave Clemmons, Amalia Theriot