

# 2025 MSITA Rules

Mid-South Illinois

## 2025 MSITA Local League Rules Adult, Mixed, Combo, & Tri-Level

### **Governing Rules**

2025 USTA League Regulations, USTA/Midwest Section Standing Orders, and MSITA 2025 USTA League Rules shall apply to the 2025 Mid-South Illinois Tennis Association USTA League Programs. The rules can be found on the USTA, Midwest Section and MSITA websites. The Rules of Tennis and Tournament Regulations shall apply to all matches played in the USTA League Program except as modified. In all unofficiated matches the USTA official publication “The Code” shall be observed.

Interpretation of the MSITA USTA League Rules is within the authority of the MSITA District USTA League Coordinator and the MSITA USTA League Committee.

### **USTA League Age Groups**

Adult 18 & Over	2 Singles	3 Doubles	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5
	1 Singles	2 Doubles	2.5 & 5.0
Adult 40 & Over	1 Singles	3 Doubles	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5
Adult 55 & Over		3 Doubles	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0
Adult 65 & Over		3 Doubles	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0
Mixed 18 & Over		3 Doubles	6.0, 7.0, 7.5, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0
Mixed 40 & Over		3 Doubles	6.0, 7.0, 7.5, 8.0, 9.0
Mixed 55 & Over		3 Doubles	6.0, 7.0, 8.0
Combo Adult 18 & Over		3 Doubles	5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5
Combo Mixed 18 & Over		3 Doubles	5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5
Tri-Level		3 Doubles	4.5 (4.5, 4.0, 3.5 courts)
Tri-Level		3 Doubles	4.0 (4.0, 3.5, 3.0 courts)
Tri-Level		3 Doubles	3.5 (3.5, 3.0, 2.5 courts)

# 2025 MSITA Rules

Mid-South Illinois

## **Adult 40 & Over:**

- League winners will play 1 Singles court and 4 Doubles courts at District and beyond.

## **Mixed Combo:**

- Local league winners will advance to a Sectional playoff the following year in March or April in Wisconsin.

## **Tri-Level:**

- Local league winners at the 4.5 and 4.0 will advance to District. State, Sectional, and National championships will follow. The 3.5 winners may or may not advance to a championship.

## **Championship Play:**

District Championships will be played when:

- Teams from the West Local League and the East Local League have competing teams. With the Adult 18 & Over leagues and the Adult 40 & Over leagues, the West Leagues are the traveling league and the East leagues are the Champaign leagues. Adult 18&O, 40&O District is played early in August.
- In the Combo Leagues, the West Leagues are the Winter season and the East Leagues are the Fall seasons. Combo Districts are held the following January.
- If a winning team cannot play in the District Championship, the teams in descending order will be given the option of playing. Each team that wins a local league or Flight playoff is responsible for the MSITA District team fee. This fee will be billed to any winning team choosing not to advance to a MSITA District Championship if a replacement team cannot be found. Teams with unpaid fees could be ineligible for MSITA league play.
- The MSITA district reserves the right to invite Wild Card Teams to compete in district championship events. These teams will be determined based on overall win percentage during the applicable league seasons.
- **If a team advancing to State or Sectionals chooses not to go and a replacement team cannot be found, the team could be held responsible for the Championship entry fee. Teams with unpaid fees could be ineligible for MSITA league play.**
- **Teams are responsible for Flight Playoff, District, & State fees.**
- **MSITA will pay the Sectional entry fee for teams advancing from a District and/or State Championship. Provided at least 50% or more of its members are Mid-South Illinois residents, MSITA will pay half of the Sectional entry fee for teams advancing from local league play directly to Sectionals.**
- **Provided at least 50% or more of its members are Mid-South Illinois residents, MSITA will pay the entry fee or up to \$500, whichever is less, for teams advancing to Nationals.**

# 2025 MSITA Rules

Mid-South Illinois

## ***USTA Team registration fee:***

The fee for team registration for 2025 is \$24.

***Facility Court Costs for Traveling Winter Leagues is \$20 and summer league fees are \$15/match.***

***Atkins Tennis Center fees are \$20/match year-round. Clubs furnish the balls.***

## ***Grievances and NTRP Appeals:***

- Players can appeal their current NTRP rating anytime on TennisLink.
- A grievance complaint is a written complaint alleging a violation of a regulation, rule, procedure, or the standards of good conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship.
- Grievance complaint matters may include such issues as eligibility, NTRP eligibility, conduct, match procedures and administrative decisions/actions. NTRP dynamic disqualifications (“three strikes”) are not grievance matters but may be reviewed by the NTRP Review Committee. An NTRP grievance against a player’s rating should be sent to USTA/Midwest Section c/t Chad Docktor with a \$100.00 fee. During championship competition, grievance complaints must be filed with the duly appointed site director within thirty (30) minutes of completion of the team match, or prior to the commencement of the next team match involving the individual or team, whichever occurs first.
- Grievance filers should be encouraged to be specific in their written complaint about what regulations, rules, procedures or standards of good conduct and good sportsmanship were violated, and what actions or results they are requesting. Also, it is helpful to the Grievance Committee if filers include contact information for parties and witnesses in the complaint.
- Only a captain, League Coordinator or member of the championship committee may file a grievance. A grievance must be addressed to the Chair of the MSITA League Grievance Committee and filed with the USTA MSITA District USTA League Coordinator (DLC), Joann Blair. The complaint must be filed prior to the commencement of whichever occurs first (a) the involved team’s next match in that flight, whether or not the involved player participates or (b) within twenty-four hours after the end of local league season, the filing must be hand-delivered or emailed to the USTA MSITA DLC, accompanied by a \$100 fee.
- If the grievance is granted, the fee will be refunded.

## ***Format, Local League and District Championship:***

- Best of two sets with a third set Match Tiebreak if required. The Coman Tiebreak Procedure will be used for the Set and Match Tiebreak.
- If all the teams in a league prefer to play a different format for the local league or for scoring, they can do so with DLC approval.
- A COMAN TIE BREAK PROCEDURE is located in the “Friend at Court” and will be used for the 7 point set tie break and 10 point match tie break at the Local League Level.

# 2025 MSITA Rules

Mid-South Illinois

## **Traveling Team Delay:**

- If a traveling team runs into a problem en route (weather, accident, etc;) the home team needs to be informed as soon as possible. The home team should work with the traveling team to either reschedule the match or try to accommodate their late arrival.
- **Line-ups need to be exchanged by match start time. Team members arriving more than 15 minutes later than the scheduled start time will forfeit the courts. If the captain is not present, he/she must designate someone to be acting captain. When a team is short players and must default court(s), the captain is asked to notify the opposing captain at least 24 hours in advance. Calling 24 hours prior to the match relieves the defaulting team the financial responsibility for the defaulted court(s).**

## **Order of Play:**

### **Adult 18 & Over:**

- If there are fewer than five courts available for a match, the order of play shall be in the following sequence: No. 1 singles, No. 1 doubles, No. 2 doubles, No. 2 singles, No. 3 doubles. Minimum number of courts for local round robins is three courts. **Adult 40 & Over:**
- Order of play: No. 1 singles, No. 1 doubles, No. 2 doubles, No. 3 doubles. At least three courts must be played for the match to be valid.

## **Scheduling/Rescheduling Procedure:**

- Once captains have agreed to the schedule, matches may be rescheduled for any reason, date, time, or place if the two opposing captains agree, and the date is approved by the MSITA DLC. The match MUST be completed before the end of the local league season. **The home team decides whether the matches will be played indoors or outdoors.** In the event of inclement weather, the home team should have indoor courts as a backup, or a rain date must be listed on the schedule. Those teams not having access to indoor courts will not be penalized if match play is postponed or rescheduled due to weather conditions. However, if the home team does have indoor courts, and has not made accommodations for indoor courts in the case of inclement weather, then the home team MAY have to default individual matches based on court availability for that scheduled match and/or the availability of acceptable dates to reschedule the match or individual matches with the visiting team.
- The 18 & Over leagues will start as soon as the clubs have availability. The Pekin leagues will begin play in mid-April; the other clubs will begin play in May.
- When traveling league matches are scheduled for outdoors, rain dates will be noted on the schedule.
- If an individual match has not started and the match must be rescheduled, the line-up for such match may be changed.
- If time runs out before a scheduled match is finished and the players are asked to give up the court time, the players will need to agree to a time to finish the match. The match must be completed by the end of the local

# 2025 MSITA Rules

Mid-South Illinois

league season. If the players cannot agree on a date and time, each team will give the DLC suggestions for a make-up date. The DLC will work with both teams to find a time when the court(s) can be completed.

## ***Line-ups:***

- Both team captains will exchange line-ups simultaneously at the scheduled match time.
- No substitution may be made in an individual match after the line-up has been presented except for injury to, illness of, or disqualification of a player prior to the start of the match.
- In the event of a 'no show' a rostered player may be substituted in the position of the missing player. The line-up cannot be changed.
- If a player arrives late, but during the warm-up time, he/she is entitled to the time remaining from the initial warm-up or 5 minutes, whichever is longer.
- If a team wishes to progress to the next level, all the courts for a match would need to be held on the same day. If an outdoor match is rained out, the individual courts could be made up on different days. **If an indoor match needs to be rescheduled due to inclement weather or extenuating circumstances, the courts can be played on different days with League Committee approval.**

## ***Injury:***

- During match play, a period of 10 minutes is allowed for each injury, after which the player shall either continue or retire. If the injured player chooses to retire, the match shall be awarded to the opponent. Scores are entered on TennisLink as they stood at the time of the retirement. Captains should select "retired" instead of "completed" when entering scores.

## ***Team Defaults:***

Division & Age Group	Minimum number of players	Maximum number of positions that can be defaulted	Required positions and order of match defaults
<b>Adult 18 &amp; Over 2.5</b>	3	1	#1 Singles or #2 Doubles
<b>Adult 18 &amp; Over 3.0,3.5,4.0,4.5</b>	4	2	<u>Singles:</u> #2 before #1 <u>Doubles:</u> #3 before #2, #2 before #1
<b>Adult 40 &amp; Over</b>	5	1	#1 Singles or #3 Doubles

# 2025 MSITA Rules

Mid-South Illinois

<b>Adult 55 &amp; Over</b>	4	1	#3 Doubles
<b>Adult 65 &amp; Over</b>	4	1	#3 Doubles
<b>Mixed 18 &amp; Over</b>	4	1	#3 Doubles
<b>Mixed 40 &amp; Over</b>	4	1	#3 Doubles
<b>Combo Doubles</b>	4	1	#3 Doubles
<b>Tri-Level</b>	4	1	#3 Doubles

## ***Total Team Defaults:***

- Whole team defaults are discouraged and not allowed without District League Coordinator approval.
- If a team defaults an entire team match during round robin play, the non-defaulting team will be awarded one team match point and all individual points. Previously played matches will stand as played. Teams defaulting an entire match may be charged \$50 and may be prohibited from playing the following season.
- Once schedules are distributed, matches may be changed if the changing captain gives the opposing captain three (3) dates and lets the opposing captain pick the match date from those three. After captains agree to schedules, both captains need to agree on any changes. If they cannot, the match stays as scheduled. Any match changes must be approved by the MSITA DLC.

## ***Scorecards:***

- Blank scorecards are available on TennisLink, (national.usta.com) and should be used for each scheduled match. Each scorecard includes a current list of eligible players and the match number. Captains need to make sure the match number coincides with the other captain's scorecard and they must also check the player on the roster for eligibility.

## ***Failure to Report Scores:***

- USTA League match scores must be reported by either team within 48 hours of the completion of the match. The MSITA District League Coordinator will run the match reports daily. The consequences for failure to report match scores are as follows:
  1. A written warning issued to the teams for the first offense.
  2. All subsequent violations will result in the individual team match not counting toward -league standings (match results would still be used to generate player dynamic ratings.)

# 2025 MSITA Rules

Mid-South Illinois

## ***Starting Time:***

An individual match starts at the moment at which a ball is delivered in service.

## ***Procedures in the Event of a Tie:***

In the event of a tie with the local league team standings, the tie shall be broken by the first of all the following procedures that breaks the tie:

1. **Individual Matches.** Winner of the most individual league matches.
2. **Head-to-Head.** Winner of head-to-head matches.
3. **Sets.** Loser of the fewest number of sets.
4. **Games.** Loser of the fewest number of games.
5. The fewest number of sets lost in the head-to-head matches.
6. The fewest number of games lost in the head-to-head matches.

## ***Procedures in the Event of Tie for Adult 40 & Over matches:***

1. **Individual Matches.** Winner of the most individual league matches.
2. **Head-to-Head.** Winner of head-to-head matches.
3. **Sets.** Loser of the fewest number of sets.
4. **Games.** Loser of the fewest number of games.
5. The fewest number of sets lost in the head-to-head matches.
6. The fewest number of games lost in the head-to-head matches.
7. Winner of #1 doubles court.

## ***Cellular phones:***

- All cellular phones and other electronic devices are banned from tennis courts during USTA League matches. **A player may claim a let for a cell phone or pager of an opponent and then claim a point for each subsequent disturbance under the Hindrance Rule.**