



USTA ADULT LEAGUE PLAY REGULATIONS 2012

All USTA Tennis Leagues in USTA Eastern, Inc. shall follow the regulations set forth in the USTA LEAGUE PLAY REGULATIONS, local league regulations, "The Code: Players Guide for Unofficial Matches" and in addition be governed by USTA Eastern, Inc. All Local League Regulations must be submitted to and approved by the Eastern Section Adult League Committee. The USTA Eastern Adult League Play Regulations shall take precedence over local league regulations. At all Championship levels, the National USTA Regulations take precedence over the Eastern USTA League Play Regulations and/or local league regulations. Teams/players participating in championships should be familiar with National USTA Regulations.

I. REGISTRATION/TEAM ROSTER

- A.** USTA membership must be current through the National League Season end date for Adult, Senior, Super Senior, Tri-Level and Mixed Doubles Leagues.
- B.** A player is not eligible to participate in a team match unless they are listed on an official roster. Players must register for their teams through the TennisLink web site: <http://tennislink.usta.com/LEAGUES/HomePage.aspx>.

II. NTRP

- A.** If a player is under the age of 60 during the 2012 League year and does not have a computer rating from 2009, 2010 or 2011, they must declare their self-rating when they register for their team on TennisLink. If a player is 60 years of age or older during the 2012 League year and does not have a computer rating from 2010 or 2011 they must declare their self-rating when they register for their team on TennisLink.

Tournament players (designated by a T) and those who play exclusively in the Mixed Doubles Division (designated by an M) who subsequently choose to play in the Adult, Senior and/or Super Senior Divisions must enter those divisions by using a valid computer or benchmark rating from a previous year or if the player does not have a valid computer or benchmark rating by self-rating, with the minimum rating being the higher of the self-rating or mixed exclusive rating. (104F (1) b and c.)

Self-ratings are valid for 2 years from the date issued or until replaced by a dynamic or computer rating. TennisLink will automatically remove expired computer and self ratings thereby allowing individuals to self-rate. Players with expired rating will not be allowed to self-rate at a lower level than their last valid NTRP rating. However, they will have the opportunity to file a self-rate appeal (See Appendix A: Valid NTRP Computer Ratings). (104F (1) d and e.)

B. NTRP RATING CHANGES.

The Section strongly encourages players to participate at their correct NTRP level to ensure competitive match play. Captains and players are responsible for checking the TennisLink website:

<http://tennislink.usta.com/leagues/reports/NTRP/FindRating.aspx>) after November 28, 2011 for final year-end ratings. Except for championship benchmarks (designated by a B), players who have been moved up or down may appeal by using the automated process available through TennisLink. Any player whose rating is under appeal may not participate in any league match in a level below their final rating while their appeal is pending.

A championship benchmark may not be appealed following the championship year it is received except for a permanently disabling injury/illness. If an intervening permanent disabling injury or illness indicates that a benchmark rating may be too high, this appeal will be referred to the Section Medical Appeals Committee (see Section II. C. below).

Players 70 years of age and older may be able to appeal if they meet certain criteria. Please refer to National Regulation 2.05E.

Players participating in the Adult and Senior League Divisions who are promoted as a result of NTRP dynamic disqualification will be immediately required to participate at their new NTRP level in all USTA League Programs. Please refer to Appendix B for further information about NTRP disqualification and an explanation of the types of ratings.

Rosters: For all local leagues at least 60% of the number of players that appear on a team roster must be at level. Except in 2 team leagues the Section League Coordinator may grant a waiver of this requirement upon written request of a Local League Coordinator. Two team leagues must comply with 60% of their players at level.

C. MEDICAL APPEALS

A player may appeal his/her NTRP rating, including benchmark ratings generated from championship play, if a permanent disabling illness or injury has occurred after year-end or early start ratings have been generated (Reg. 2.05.D). A team captain, another player, a spouse, or a physician may NOT submit an appeal on behalf of a player. Medical appeals must be filed in writing with the Eastern Section Medical Appeals Committee, using forms available on the Eastern website (<http://eastern.usta.com>), and must be accompanied by evidence sufficient to demonstrate that a player's medical condition is (1) permanent and (2) disabling. Medical Appeal Procedures and the list of required information that must be provided to substantiate a medical appeal is available for review on the Eastern web site. Medical appeals may be filed at any time and will be reviewed by the Eastern Section Medical Appeals Committee. If the Section Medical Appeals Committee finds that the injury/illness cited in the appeal is permanently disabling, the appeal and any supporting documentation will be forwarded to the National Medical Appeal Committee for a final decision.

III. PLAYER PARTICIPATION

A. Qualifying for Championship Play: No individual player is eligible to play for any championship team unless he/she is listed on the team roster and has played on that same championship team in at least two matches during the local league season. A default may count as one of the local qualifying matches. Players may NOT be added to a team roster for flight playoffs. For a player to qualify for any area championship (through section championships) 2 local matches are required; one (1) default may count toward the required 2 matches. In order to advance to a national championship an individual player must have participated in 3 matches on the championship team excluding defaults. (Refer to Appendix C for clarification).

B. Age: Each rostered player must be eighteen (18) years of age prior to, or during the calendar year in which such player plays his/her first local league match.

C. Residency: A team may not advance to championship play if less than fifty percent (50%) of the qualified players on the final team roster reside in (using the address registered in TennisLink) or work in (designated work location for tax purposes) the area being represented by the team. The team captain is ultimately responsible for compliance with this requirement. A roster is considered final on the league season end date or when the maximum roster size is achieved whichever occurs first. A waiver of these requirements may be granted subject to a vote of the Adult League Committee.

For purposes of this section, an ineligible player is defined as the last out-of-area player to register on the roster (as determined by his/her registration date). All matches played by an ineligible player will be scored as a default in determining final standings.

D. Representation: Team members may represent public or private facilities.

E. Playing on Multiple teams: A player may play on more than one team in a local league as long as the teams do not play each other during the local season.

F. Playing in Multiple Divisions: Team members may play on more than one level within a division (Adults or Senior) providing it is a higher level than their rated level and is no more than one level above their rating. The team must keep within the local guidelines regarding the percentage of players at level.

G. Player Declaration Prior to Championship Play: Players who play on two or more teams at the same NTRP level in different areas (districts and/or regions) in the Eastern Section must declare which team they will represent prior to the start of any local league playoff or any area, district, regional or section championship should more than one team qualify to advance.

The player declaration is made once they play in a local league playoff or area, district, regional or section championship playoff match and remains in effect for as long as that team advances. If a player declares for a team and that team is eliminated, the player is then eligible to re-select and play for a different team as long as they meet eligibility requirements for that team. They will continue with that team as long as that team advances. All matches played by an ineligible player will be scored as a default in determining standings and/or advancement. For purposes of this section, an ineligible player is a player who has declared for a team and then plays a match for a different team prior to their original team being eliminated.

However, a player who plays local league playoff matches in a region with multiple districts/areas at the same level with different league ending dates will declare the region they will represent at the time of local league

playoffs. Once a player plays a local league playoff match in one region s/he may not play a playoff match in a different region until the **first local playoff team** has been eliminated.

- H. Minimum Roster Size for Championships:** A minimum of 8 players (Adult **Division** 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5) or 5 players (Adult **Division** 2.5 and 5.0) must be available to participate in any level of championship play and all championship matches must be played. **Teams must register, designate the rostered players who will attend and pay the team fee for sectional championships via the Eastern Section web site no later than the Monday preceding the first scheduled day of championship play or an alternate team will be selected.** Teams who do not comply are subject to further sanctions and penalties which may include, but are not limited to, team split up, suspension of captain, players, and/or team, and loss of eligibility for future championship play.

IV. COMPETITION FORMAT

The format for competition may be round robin or single elimination or a combination of the two. Each team match shall consist of such number of individual matches of singles, doubles, or any combination as determined by the local league.

- A.** Teams are encouraged to field their players for each team match in order of strength. Local regulations may require a point system for scorekeeping to discourage stacking.
- B.** Each team must have a captain or acting captain, familiar with local league rules, present at every match. The captains, or their designees, must fill out the scorecard, exchange the cards simultaneously prior to the start of match play, record the scores as each match finishes, and sign both cards. If, after the scorecards have been exchanged but prior to the first point of an individual match being played, a player becomes unable to play due to injury, illness or disqualification, a substitution may be made using a rostered player. No other player changes are allowed for unplayed matches on that scorecard. The original line up may not be changed (except as noted above or as noted in Section F below) even though one or more individual matches may not be concluded on the date and time initially scheduled.
- C.** Scorecards must be exchanged simultaneously between captains at least 5 minutes prior to the match start time. Teams must present a line up at this time even if all players are not yet present**. Once scorecards are exchanged, changes to the line-up can ONLY be made if there is an illness or injury during the warm up.

** Defaults must occur from the bottom up. If a doubles player is missing at the end of the warm-up, the line-up must be adjusted and that team **placed in** the 3rd doubles position. The 2nd and 3rd doubles teams (**as designated on the scorecard exchanged**) for the team with the missing player may then be moved up 1 position e.g. if the first doubles team is missing a player those players must be **placed in third doubles and the 2nd doubles team moved up to first and the 3rd doubles team moved up to 2nd.** No other changes in **either team's** line-up are allowed. **Similarly,** a missing singles player must be placed in the 2nd singles position. **Third (3rd)** doubles and/or 2nd singles must be the first courts defaulted.

- D.** Scorecards from both captains are to be entered online and confirmed in TennisLink within 24 hours after the match. Some local leagues may, in addition, require that scorecards from both captains be sent to the Local League Coordinator or other designated person, within 24 hours of the completion of the match.
- E.** It is the responsibility of both captains, **and their designees,** to contact each other at least 48 hours in advance to verify the time and place of a scheduled match and to make certain that a complete team will be fielded. It is the responsibility of the home captain to inform the visiting captain of any dress code required by the host site.
- F.** There is a fifteen-minute default rule (inclusive of warm up time) in effect for all local matches. Warm up time is limited to 5 minutes when a player arrives on court after the scheduled start time for the match. In cases of extenuating circumstances a Local League Coordinator may extend the default time. These circumstances would include, but not be limited to, extreme weather travel conditions, such as snowstorms, bridge or tunnel closings, fires, tornadoes and major street closings.

All championships, beginning with the District championships, will follow the fifteen-minute default rule. In cases of extenuating circumstances the Tournament Director may extend the default time. These circumstances would include, but not be limited to, extreme weather/travel conditions, such as snowstorms, bridge or tunnel closings, fires, tornadoes and major street closings.

- G.** **Players, teammates, spectators, or coaches who interfere and/or are disruptive at matches are considered to have violated the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship. This includes conduct before, during and after completion of the match.** Teammates, spectators, or coaches may not volunteer advice on line calls, scoring, or on the conduct of the match. It is the responsibility of the teams, to control spectators' conduct at all matches.

- H. A minimum of four eligible team members/3 courts (3 players for 2.5 and 5.0/2 courts) that are on the team roster received by the league coordinator must be available to compete and play an eligible match or the entire match shall be forfeited.

V. MATCH PLAY

- A. Regular matches will be scheduled and played according to the league schedule, if possible. Rained out matches or stoppage of play due to circumstances beyond the control of the players should be rescheduled as soon as possible and must be played using the original line up cards exchanged on the originally scheduled date and time. Agreements for rescheduled matches must be submitted in writing by both captains to the Local League Coordinator, unless the league coordinator reschedules the match.
- B. Play must be continuous throughout the match. A 2-minute break is allowed following each set. A 10-minute rest between the second and third sets is allowed if one team requests it, if third sets are played out.
- C. All matches will be 2 out of 3 sets, 12-point set tiebreak (first to 7 points) if games reach 6-all in any set. Local leagues may use no-ad scoring in the third set or they may use a match tiebreak (first to 10 by 2) in lieu of the third set. Scoring system should be determined before the local league season begins.
- D. Two team leagues must play a minimum of three matches to be eligible for playoffs at the next level. An entire forfeited match will **not** count as a match played. (See also section VI. Below)
- E. In the event of rain or stoppage of play due to circumstances beyond the control of the players:
 1. Completed individual matches will stand as played.
 2. An incomplete match shall be continued by the same players and resumed at the exact point where it was discontinued - set, game, point - as existed when play was halted. (Any point played is always counted and never replayed.) If players (s) are unavailable to continue the match on the rescheduled date then the individual match will be scored as either a retirement in favor of the team whose players are available or a double default if both teams are missing a player.
 3. All matches should be rescheduled and played as a team, if possible.
 4. If teams have assembled to play and the beginning of the match is delayed by rain or wet courts or other circumstances beyond the control of the players, teams must wait no longer than one hour past the original time for the start of the first match to determine whether or not courts are playable. If the courts are not playable after 1 hour, teams are free to leave and reschedule the match, unless both teams agree to wait longer.

VI. FORFEITURE/DEFAULT

- A. At the discretion of the Local League Coordinator, a team that forfeits an entire team match without just cause may be penalized to the extent that all matches for the season will be considered null and void **when determining team standings for that league year**; the team members will not be allowed to participate in league play the following season. At the discretion of the tournament committee, a team that forfeits an entire team match without just cause at any level of Championships may be penalized to the extent that all matches at that Championship level will be considered null and void **when determining championship standings**; the team members will not be allowed to participate in league play the following **league year**. **Playing an ineligible player for the second time by the same team during the course of the league year will constitute forfeiture of a team match without just cause.**

Captains/teams are expected to play a valid match when forfeiture of said match will affect the outcome of local league standings. The Local League Coordinator has final discretion in rescheduling of matches.

- B. At the discretion of the Local League Coordinator a team using ineligible players may be penalized by forfeiting ALL points for ALL matches scheduled for that team in **determining season ending standings for that league year**. Any captain or player who falsifies a name on a scorecard will incur further penalties, at the discretion of the Local League Coordinator.

Ineligible players include, **but are not limited to (see also III.C. and G.):**

1. players who are not current members of the USTA
2. players who do not appear on the team roster
3. players who play under assumed names
4. those who falsify information, **or**
5. players with existing ratings who obtain a second USTA number to re-rate.

The following definitions apply:

Forfeiture: The knowledge, in advance of a team match, that the team will not be able to field a player or players. It is common courtesy for the captain to notify the opposing captain regarding not being able to field the full team.

Default: The failure to field a player and/or players for a given match when it occurs after the scorecards have been exchanged due to illness/ injury (prior to warm-up with no subs available) or tardiness.

VII. LOCAL GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

- A.** All complaints alleging a violation by an individual or team during local league competition must be submitted in writing to the Local League Coordinator and the Chairman of the Local League Grievance Committee, if applicable, and to the player(s) or team(s) referenced in the complaint in accordance with timelines established in local league rules. Except for NTRP grievances, a Local League Coordinator may file a grievance at any time.
- B.** The Local League Coordinator with the prior approval of the Local Grievance Committee, or, where there is no Local Grievance Committee, by the Section Grievance Committee, has the right to suspend the playing privileges of a captain, player, or team whose behavior has been disruptive and/or found to not be in compliance with the regulations. Any individual or team suspended by any Local, Area, or Section Grievance Appeal Committee for a period of 12 months or more may appeal the final decision to the National League Grievance Appeal Committee.
- C.** The Local Grievance Committee shall send a copy of the letter of grievance along with its written decision to the Eastern Section League Coordinator and the Chairman of the Section Grievance Committee.
- D.** A complaint against an individual or team pertaining to local league competition may only be filed by (a) the team captain of the team who has competed in the match where the alleged violation occurred or (b) the Local League Coordinator or (c) the Section League Coordinator.
- E.** The complaint must be filed prior to the commencement of the next team match in that flight involving such individual or team or within 24 hours after the end of the local league season, whichever occurs first. (Flight playoffs are considered an extension of the local league season.)
- F.** For complaints regarding eligibility (e.g. age, USTA membership, misrepresentation of identity, etc) other than self-rate eligibility complaints, the Local League Coordinator may declare a player ineligible and disqualify that player without filing a grievance prior to the disqualification. All other complaints must go to the appropriate League Grievance Committee.
- G.** In the event of an eligibility disqualification during the local league season and up to 24 hours after the end of local league play (the league season end date in TennisLink), all matches played by the player shall be considered defaults and those matches shall be considered wins for the opposing team when determining standings and scored 6-0.6-0. In the event of a disqualification after conclusion of the local league season by more than 24 hours, the team will remain eligible to participate and retain points received up to the disqualification but the ineligible player will not be allowed to continue or advance.
- H.** A local grievance committee may institute a fee for filing a grievance, refunded if the grievance is awarded.
- I.** A complaint against the administration of a local league should be filed and heard at the next higher level with the Section being the final authority. League administrators are expected to make every effort to avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest when enforcing or modifying regulations.
- J.** Complaints regarding self-rate eligibility or an appeal of a decision rendered by the Local Grievance Committee must be filed directly with the Chairperson of the Section Grievance Committee in the manner specified in Section VIII. A copy of the complaint/appeal must also be provided to the Local League Coordinator simultaneously with submission to the Section Grievance Committee.

VIII. NTRP GRIEVANCE AND DYNAMIC NTRP DISQUALIFICATIONS

- A. NTRP Grievances** - A captain, coordinator or member of a championship committee may file a NTRP Grievance if they believe a player is competing one level or more below their actual skill level (excluding players who have been granted a medical appeal) or a captain knowingly condones player entry at a level below their actual skill level. A player with a valid NTRP Computer (C) rating, or Benchmark (B) rating or granted an Automatic Appeal rating of a Computer (C) rating is not subject to an NTRP grievance. An NTRP grievance during local league play shall be filed in writing with the Local League Coordinator who will forward to the appropriate parties.

The Section League Grievance Committee shall handle all NTRP grievances. These grievances must be submitted to the Chairperson of the Section Grievance Committee on the Self Rate Grievance Form (available on the Eastern web site). Requests that are incomplete, not on the proper form, or not timely will be rejected. The subject of the NTRP grievance must submit a completed USTA Self-Rate Player Background Form to the Chairperson of the Section Grievance Committee, if requested by the Chairperson; the grievance may be automatically granted where the player fails to submit a completed Background Form. After review of the grievance, and any supporting documentation, the Section Grievance Committee will issue a written decision documenting any actions they deem appropriate which may include disqualification, suspension from league play, or other league sanctions. Captains or others who condone inappropriate self-rating may be subject to possible sanctions, including disqualification, removal from a team, or suspension (may no longer captain on a specific team or will be generally precluded from captaining teams). Captains or others who fail to comply with directives set forth in a decision of the Section Grievance Committee or Section Grievance Appeal Committee may be subject to additional sanctions.

An NTRP grievance during championship competition (district, area, regional and section championships) shall be filed with the duly appointed site director or designee having jurisdiction. Scoring of matches in these instances shall be in accordance with USTA regulations Reg. 2.04E (2) a or b. or alternatively Reg. 2.04 E.2.c.

Appeals - The decision of the Section Grievance Committee pertaining to NTRP grievances may be appealed only if new information becomes available or the party filing the appeal can demonstrate that the decision is not supported by the record and/or contains errors of rule or material fact. Appeals must be filed with the Chairperson of the Section Grievance Appeal Committee within the time frame specified in the written decision of the Section Grievance Committee. All appeals must be accompanied by a fifty-dollar (\$50) filing fee payable to USTA Eastern; fees will be refunded if the appeal is upheld.

B. Section NTRP Appeals Committee

The Section League Coordinator shall appoint a Section NTRP Appeals Committee, to consider appeals from self-rated players.

C. NTRP Disqualification at the local level

Self-rated players may be disqualified from playing at their registered skill level if their dynamic NTRP rating exceeds the level established by the National NTRP Committee (the strike level) three times during the championship year. If a player is disqualified, all matches generating strikes at the DQ level will be considered a loss and (s) he becomes ineligible for any future play at that level for the remainder of the league season. Appeals will not be considered except for administrative errors. Computer rated and benchmark players are not subject to dynamic disqualification (See Appendix A).

D. NTRP Disqualification at District, Area, Regional, and Section Championships

(1) In accordance with Reg. 2.04B(2) the Eastern Section shall choose one of the following options at each Section Championship and below:

- a. Run dynamic calculations and produce ratings throughout the championship. Through the conclusion of the championship event, notify and disqualify any player that meets the criteria for NTRP Dynamic Disqualification and reverse appropriate matches played, or
- b. Run dynamic calculations following the conclusion of the championship and disqualify those players that meet the criteria for NTRP Dynamic Disqualification. An NTRP Dynamically Disqualified player will be notified by the Section League Coordinator or designee and have the right to a review in accordance with the procedures in Reg. 2.04C *NTRP Dynamic Disqualification Review Procedures*.

(2) Scoring Procedures (Reg. 204E):

- a. NTRP Dynamic Disqualification Throughout Championship Competition in a Round Robin Format or Segment: all matches played by the player shall be considered losses and those matches shall be considered 6-0, 6-0 wins for the opposing player or doubles team, or

- b. NTRP Dynamic Disqualification Throughout Championship Competition in a Single Elimination or Segment: the last individual match played by a dynamically disqualified player shall be considered a loss and that individual match shall be considered a win for the opposing player or doubles team, or
- c. NTRP Dynamic Disqualification Following Conclusion of Championship Competition: all points earned by dynamically disqualified players at the championships will stand.

E. NTRP Disqualification at Championships

At all Championships except Nationals a self-rated player may be disqualified. Disqualification reviews are considered based solely on missing or incorrect information in TennisLink (See 2.04C (2)).

Following an NTRP Dynamic Disqualification, the player may not play at the disqualified NTRP level of play (and any lower level of play) for the remainder of the championship league year and for the succeeding league year.

IX. GRIEVANCES – ADMINISTRATIVE POWERS AND PROCEDURES

- A.** A complaint may be filed by a team captain against a player, captain or team for specific behavior occurring during the current championship season. A complaint may be filed by a Local League Coordinator, the Section League Coordinator or a championship tournament official against a player, captain or team alleging a violation of the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship, which includes egregious, disruptive or abusive behavior that interferes with the administration of the league at any time.
- B.** Suspension of captain, player or team
 - (1) The Local League Coordinator, with the prior approval of the Local Grievance Committee, or, where there is no Local Grievance Committee, by the Section Grievance Committee, has the right to summarily suspend the captain, player or team whose behavior has been found not to be in compliance with the regulations and/or violates the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship, including egregious, disruptive or abusive behavior that interferes with the administration of the league. The Administrative Grievance filed by the Local League Coordinator within 24 hours will determine length of suspension. Any appeal is filed with the Committee that granted the suspension. Failure to comply with directives set forth in a decision issued by a Local or Section Grievance Committee is a violation of the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship and therefore can be the subject of a new grievance.
 - (2) The Section League Coordinator, with the prior approval of the Section Grievance Committee, has the right to summarily suspend the captain, player or team whose behavior has been found not to be in compliance with the regulations and/or violates the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship, including egregious, disruptive or abusive behavior that interferes with the administration of the league. The Administrative Grievance filed by the Section League Coordinator within 24 hours will determine length of suspension. Any appeal is filed with the Committee that granted the suspension.
 - (3) The decision whether to grant the suspension approval set forth in subsection B (1) above, shall be made by a majority vote of the available Grievance Committee members, or by a single committee member where the other members are not immediately available and shall be made as soon as practicable but no later than 48 hours after the suspension request from the Local League Coordinator, the Section League Coordinator or tournament official.
 - (4) A captain, player and/or team shall be notified of any such suspension in writing by the committee that gave the approval for the suspension as soon as practical but no later than 48 hours following the suspension decision, and shall include a notice to the captain, player and/or team of their right to file a petition to review the suspension to the committee that approved the suspension within 48 hours of the notification of suspension.
 - (5) This section shall not apply to NTRP Grievances and dynamic NTRP disqualifications as described in Section VIII. above.

C. Appeals

The decision of the Section League Grievance Committee pertaining to administrative grievances may be appealed if the party filing the appeal can demonstrate that either proper procedure were not followed or that the decision is not supported by the record and/or contains errors of rule or material fact. Appeals must be filed with the Chairperson of the Section Grievance Appeal Committee within the time frame specified in the written decision of the Section Grievance Committee. All appeals must be accompanied by a fifty-dollar (\$50) filing fee payable to USTA Eastern; fees will be refunded if the appeal is upheld.

X. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES FOR ALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- A.** If the team that qualifies, based on local play, to represent its region at Sectional Championships is unable or unwilling to participate in Sectional Championships the second place team in that division in the region will be invited to participate. If the second place team cannot participate then another team from that region or another region in the Section will be chosen to participate based on a random draw of eligible teams.
- B.** A team entry fee may be charged to all teams that compete at Districts, Regionals, and Section Championships to offset court costs and other necessary expenses.
- C.** The following paperwork must be completed online prior to Section Championships
 - Entry form and fee (by team captain)
 - Media Information form (by team captain)
- D.** At least two weeks prior to Section Championships the following must be submitted to the Section League Coordinator by ***teams not involved in playoffs but advancing to Section Championships***:
 - Entry form and fee (by team captain)
 - Media Information form (by team captain)
- E.** All complaints alleging a violation during championships competition shall be in writing and delivered to the duly appointed site director or designee prior to whichever occurs first (a) within 30 minutes of the completion of the involved team's match or (b) the commencement of the involved teams next match, whether or not the involved player participates (303.C.(1)).



USTA EASTERN SENIOR AND SUPER SENIOR LEAGUE PLAY REGULATIONS 2012

All USTA Eastern Adult League Play Regulations, with the following exceptions, shall apply to the Senior or Super Senior League Divisions.

I. AGE REQUIREMENT –

- A. Senior** - All players shall have reached 50 years of age or older within the calendar year in which such player plays his/her first local league match.
- B. Super Senior** - All players shall have reached 60 years of age or older within the calendar year in which such player plays his/her first local league match.

II. TEAM -

- A. Senior** - A local league shall consist of a minimum of six players of the same gender eligible to compete. Levels of play are 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, and 4.5.
- B. Super Senior** - A local league shall consist of a minimum of six players of the same gender eligible to compete. Levels of play are 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, and 9.0. The combined ratings of the doubles team may not exceed the level they are playing. For combination levels the ratings of the players on any doubles team may not be further apart than 1-point increments.

III. MEMBERSHIP - Each team member shall be a USTA member through the end of National League Season end date.

IV. TEAM CAPTAIN - Each team shall have a team captain or co-captains to represent and handle the affairs of the team.

- A.** The team captain is responsible for making sure that all players who compete in matches are registered in TennisLink prior to match play, and have valid computer or self-ratings.

V. FORMAT - A local league shall play at least one round robin competition wherein every team plays every other team, and each team must play a minimum of three team matches. A league with only two teams must play at least three matches. In all championships after local league competition, the team match format shall be three doubles matches and the team winning the majority of those three individual matches shall be awarded one team point.

VI. PARTICIPATION

- A.** A player is limited to 2 Senior or 2 Super Senior teams per local league season and the teams must be in different flights; players may participate on an Adult team as well during the same season.
- B.** If a player receives a higher computer rating for either category at the completion of the season, the player must play at the higher level for Senior, Super Senior, and Adults the following season.
- C.** Players who play exclusively in the Mixed Doubles Division and then subsequently chose to play in the Adult, Senior and/or Super Senior Divisions the next year must enter those divisions by self-rating, with the minimum rating being the higher of the self-rating or mixed exclusive rating.

VII. SCORING – Local leagues may choose a scoring method, which shall be used throughout the local league season:

- A.** Regular scoring, 2 out of 3 sets, 12-point tiebreaker. A local league may determine an alternate scorekeeping method to be used, e.g. match tiebreaker in lieu of third set, No ad scoring, 9 point tiebreaker, etc.

VIII. ELIGIBILITY - A minimum of four eligible team members/2 courts on the team roster must be available and eligible to compete for each local scheduled match or the entire match shall be forfeited. No player may be added to the team roster after completion of local league play. For a Senior player to qualify for any area championship (through section championships) 2 local matches are required (1 default may count toward this requirement); for a Super Senior player to qualify for any area championship 1 match is required (no defaults may count toward this requirement). Refer to Appendix **C** for clarification regarding retirements and/or defaults.

IX. CHAMPIONSHIPS - Winning teams shall advance to a Region, Section or National Championship, if applicable.

- A.** In order to advance to a National Championship a Senior player must have participated in 3 matches on the championship team (no defaults may count toward this requirement). A Super Senior is eligible to advance to National Championships competition if that player has played on the same team in at least three (3) matches through Section Championships. No defaults received by the player during all league completion shall count for advancing. Refer to Appendix **C** for clarification regarding retirements and/or defaults.
- B.** Individuals who receive their third strike while participating in another division but following the conclusion of their Mixed, Senior Mixed, Senior or Super Senior championships for a given year will **not** be allowed to advance to the appropriate Nationals at their NTRP disqualified level if they otherwise qualify.
- C.** If the team that qualifies, based on local play, to represent its region at Section Championships is unable or unwilling to participate in Sectional Championships the second place team in that division in the region will be invited to participate. If the second place team cannot participate then another team from that region or another region in the section will be chosen to participate based on a random draw of eligible teams.
- D.** CHAMPIONSHIP: A minimum of 6 players (Senior 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, Super Senior 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, and 9.0) must be available to participate at any level of championship play. There must be 4 eligible players for every match at any championship level. All championship matches must be played. Teams who do not comply are subject to further sanctions and penalties which may include, but are not limited to, team split up, suspension of captain, players, and/or team, and loss of eligibility for future championship play.
- E.** A Super Senior team that participates in National Championships, or teams that qualify to advance to National Championships but do not participate, in three consecutive years will be required to move up to the next NTRP level as a team or disperse to form new teams the following year. No more than four (4) players on the team rosters in the national championship years will be allowed to remain on the roster in the year following the third national championship year.



USTA EASTERN 2011-2012 MIXED DOUBLES REGULATIONS

All Eastern Mixed Doubles Leagues shall follow the regulations set forth by USTA National League Regulations and the Rules of Tennis and Tournament Regulations. All USTA Eastern Adult League Play Regulations, with the following exceptions, shall apply to all Mixed Doubles Divisions.

I. FORMAT:

- A.** Mixed Doubles League levels are as follows: 5.0, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, and 10.0. The total of the ratings of the two players of each doubles team may not exceed the level they are playing. To participate in a 5.0 league, a player must have a computer or self-rating of 2.5.
- B.** Two 3.0 players would play on a 6.0 team; a 3.0 and a 3.5 must play on a 7.0 team.
- C.** For the 5.0 leagues each player in the doubles team must have a 2.5 rating; the other levels are combination levels in which the ratings of players on any doubles team may not be further apart than 1-point increments. For example, on an 8.0 team, a 3.0 player may not play with a 5.0 player, but a 3.5 may play with a 4.5 player.
- D.** Each League shall consist of a minimum of two (2) teams. Any leagues consisting of two teams must play a minimum of three matches.
- E.** Each team shall have a minimum of six (6) players, (three men, three women), and may have additional players.
- F.** Each team must have use of three courts for home matches.
- G.** Each match will consist of three mixed doubles matches; for a match to be considered an eligible match a minimum of two courts must be played.

II. NTRP RATINGS:

- A.** Early Start Leagues (leagues that begin before 2011 year end ratings are published) will use 2011 Early Start computer ratings (as of September 1, 2011) for players for their mixed local season as well as mixed championships. The date a player registers for an Early Start League will determine the rating used for early start league play. If a player registers for an Early Start League before year end ratings have been published, they will be allowed to finish the league season with the early start rating they had at the time they registered unless their 2011 year end rating reaches the "clearly above level mark". If the year end rating is higher than the rating used to register for the Early Start League AND the year end rating is 'clearly above level' then the player must move up to the higher level immediately. Matches already played will be valid. If a player registers for an Early Start League after year-end ratings have been published, that player must use their final year-end rating for the Early Start League.
- B.** Any mixed leagues that start after year end ratings are published must use the final 2011 computer ratings, which will be those derived from the 2011 league year, including national championships.
- C.** If a player is under the age of 60 during the 2012 Championship year and does not have a computer rating from 2009, 2010 or 2011, they must declare their self-rating when they register for their team on TennisLink. If a player is 60 years of age or older during the 2012 Championship year and does not have a computer rating from 2010 or 2011 they must declare their self-rating when they register for their team on TennisLink.

- D. In the Mixed Doubles Division, an NTRP level will be calculated for participants who play in that Division exclusively (M). Year-end ratings will be based on the final dynamic rating generated from local league and championship level completion unless the player has a valid computer (C) or benchmark (B) rating from a previous year.
- E. Players who play exclusively in the Mixed Doubles Division and then subsequently chose to play in the Adult, Senior and/or Super Senior Divisions the next year must enter those divisions by self-rating, with the minimum rating being the higher of the self-rating or mixed exclusive rating.

III. ALL TEAM MEMBERS MUST:

- A. Register to play on their team through the TennisLink website <http://tennislink.usta.com/LEAGUES/HomePage.aspx> prior to playing their first match.
- B. Be members of the USTA through the end of the National Tournament.
- C. Have reached the age of 18 years prior or during the calendar year of the league season.

IV. PLAYER PARTICIPATION

- A. No individual player is eligible to play for any championship team unless he/she is listed on a team roster for their local league season. Players may NOT be added for flight playoffs. To qualify to participate in any area Mixed Doubles Championship (District, Region or Section); a player must have participated in at least two team matches (1 default may count) during the local league season with the same team. To qualify for National championships a player must have participated in 3 matches (no defaults) and must be a USTA member through the conclusion of the National Championship Tournament. (Refer to Appendix C for clarification on retirements and/or defaults).
- B. Team members may represent public or private facilities.
- C. Team members may play on more than one NTRP level within a division (adult or senior mixed), providing it is a higher level than their rated level and is no more than one level above their rating. The team member must keep within the local guidelines regarding the percentage of players at level.
- D. A player may play on more than one team per season as long as it is not the same league level in the same local league. The section has the right to accept or deny participation.
- E. Players who play on two teams may play on both teams in the same region or section championship provided they are different NTRP levels.
- F. **Residency:** A team may not advance to championship play if less than fifty percent (50%) of the qualified players on the final team roster reside in (using the address registered in TennisLink) or work in (designated work location for tax purposes) the area being represented by the team. The team captain is ultimately responsible for compliance with this requirement. A roster is considered final on the league season end date or when the maximum roster size is achieved whichever occurs first. A waiver of these requirements may be granted subject to a vote of the Adult League Committee.

For purposes of this section, an ineligible player is defined as the last out-of-area player to register on the roster (as determined by his/her registration date). All matches played by an ineligible player will be scored as a default in determining final standings.

- G. **Player Declaration Prior to Championship Play:** Players who play on two or more teams at the same NTRP level in different areas (districts and/or regions) in the Eastern Section must declare which team they will represent prior to the start of any local league playoff or any area, district, regional or section championship should more than one team qualify to advance.

The player declaration is made once they play in a local league playoff or area, district, regional or section championship playoff match and remains in effect for as long as that team advances. If a player declares for a team and that team is eliminated, the player is then eligible to re-select and play for a different team as long as they meet eligibility requirements for that team. They will continue with that team as long as that team advances. All matches played by an ineligible player will be scored as a default. For purposes of this section, an ineligible player is a player who has declared for a team and then plays a match for a different team prior to their original team being eliminated.

However, a player who plays local league playoff matches in a region with multiple districts/areas at the same level with different league ending dates will declare the region they will represent at the time of local league playoffs. Once a player plays a local league playoff match in one region s/he may not play a playoff match in a different region until the first local playoff team has been eliminated.

V. THE TEAM CAPTAIN MUST:

- A.** Make sure all players are registered through TennisLink and listed on an official roster and have valid ratings before participating in any match.
- B.** Make sure every player listed on the roster is eligible for play at that level/division.
- C.** Contact the opposing captain at least 48 hours prior to the match to discuss the site and confirm that there are no forfeits.
- D.** Be present at every match or assign someone in his/her place to be the acting captain; designees must be familiar with mixed doubles rules.
- E.** Exchange lineups simultaneously, prior to starting play, and record scores of each match. Sign the scorecards after checking that the scores are written correctly. Both team captains are responsible for inputting scores into TennisLink within 24 hours. Penalties may occur if scores are not input in a timely manner. Captains may forfeit their right to dispute a scorecard if they do not confirm match results in TennisLink.

VI. THE LOCAL LEAGUE COORDINATOR WILL:

- A.** Form the Leagues based on levels 5.0, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, and 10.0.
- B.** Make sure scores are confirmed by both captains on TennisLink within 48 hours.
- C.** Provide the schedule for local teams; suggest 2 hours/match.

VII. THE AREA LEAGUE COORDINATOR WILL:

- A.** Contact the other local league coordinators and arrange area playoffs, in consultation with the Eastern office.
- B.** Submit the awards order form for area awards to the Eastern office.

VIII. MATCH REGULATIONS:

- A.** There is a fifteen-minute default rule (inclusive of warm up time) in effect for all local matches. Warm-ups may take no more than ten minutes including service practice; warm up time **is** limited to 5 minutes when a player arrives on court after the scheduled start time for the match. **** Defaults must occur from the bottom up. For example, if a first or second doubles player is missing at the end of the warm-up, the line-up must be adjusted and that team put into the 3rd doubles position.** All championships, beginning with the District championships, will follow the fifteen-minute default rule. In cases of extenuating circumstances a Local League Coordinator may extend the default time. These circumstances would include, but not be limited to, extreme weather/travel conditions, such as snowstorms, bridge or tunnel closings, fires, tornadoes and major street closings.
- B.** All matches will be 2 out of 3 sets; a 12-point tiebreak (first to 7 by 2 points) will determine the winner if games reach 6-all in any set. Local leagues may use alternate scoring methods, e.g. no-ad scoring in the third set or they may use a match tiebreak in lieu of the third set (first to 10 by 2 points). The scoring system should be determined before the local league season begins.
- C.** Play must be continuous throughout the match. A 2-minute break is allowed following each set. A 10-minute rest between the second and third sets is allowed if one team requests it, AND third sets are played out.

IX. SCORING:

- A.** The method of awarding points in order to determine the winning team of a local league match and/or the winner of the local league competition may be the same as that used in championships competition or may be another method selected by the local league.
- B.** If the championship scoring format is used, one team court point would be awarded to each winning team and the final score would be written as 3-0, or 2-1.
- C.** The team with the most team match points will be the league winner. In the event of a tie, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures:
 1. Individual matches-Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.
 2. Sets - Loser of the fewest number of sets.
 3. Games - Loser of the fewest number of games.

Forfeited matches. The non-forfeiting party shall be credited with a 6-0, 6-0 win.

X. NTRP

- A.** Any player disqualified from Adult or Senior competition may not play at the disqualified NTRP level of play or lower for the remainder of the year and for the succeeding league year.
- B.** Individuals who receive their third strike while participating in another division but following the conclusion of their Mixed Section Championships for a given year will **not** be allowed to advance to the Mixed Doubles Nationals at their NTRP disqualified level if they otherwise qualify.
- C.** A player may not be disqualified based on match results from the Mixed Doubles division. Mixed Doubles will not be a part of generating a player's year-end rating except for those players who play in the Mixed Doubles Division exclusively.

XI. CHAMPIONSHIPS

- A.** If the team that qualifies, based on local play, to represent its region at Sectional Championships is unable or unwilling to participate in Sectional Championships the second place team in that division in the region will be invited to participate. If the second place team cannot participate then another team from that region or another region in the section will be chosen to participate based on a random draw of eligible teams.
- B.** All matches will be the best of two out of three sets, with regular scoring, and a set tiebreak at 6-all in each set. In the event of split sets, a match tiebreak (first to 10 points, win by 2) shall be played in lieu of a third set, with no coaching allowed at any time during the match.
- C. CHAMPIONSHIP:** A player is eligible to advance to National Championships competition if that player has played on that same team in at least (3) three matches through Section Championships. No defaults received by the player during all league completion shall count for advancing to National Championships.

A minimum of 6 players must be available to participate at any level of championship play. There must be 4 eligible players for every match at any championship level. All championship matches must be played. Teams who do not comply are subject to further sanctions and penalties which may include, but are not limited to, team split up, suspension of captain, players, and/or team, and loss of eligibility for future championship play.



USTA EASTERN 2012 TRI-LEVEL DOUBLES REGULATIONS

All Eastern Tri-Level Leagues shall follow the regulations set forth in USTA National Regulations, the USTA Eastern Adult League Play Regulations and follow "The Code".

- Women's and Men's team, any three adjacent levels (i.e., 4.5-4.0-3.5, 4.0-3.5-3.0, 3.5-3.0-2.5).
- Lower rated players are permitted to "play up" one court. (For example: a 4.0 may play up to 4.5 or a 3.0 player may play up to 3.5). At least one player must be "at level" on each court. Players may not play on a court below their rating.
- "Self-rated" players may play in tri-level leagues with certain limitations:
 - 4.5-4.0-3.5 level: only players with a current computer rating or Early Start rating are allowed to advance. The Early Start Rating takes precedence over 2010 or 2011 computer ratings. If a self-rated player will receive a year end "M" or "T" rating they are allowed to advance.
 - All other levels: self-rated players may play, and at the 4.0-3.5-3.0 level, are allowed to advance to section championships (See Appendix C).
- Each team shall have a minimum of six (6) registered players (2 at each level) but are encouraged to have additional players.
- Each match will consist of three doubles matches, one at each level. Format is order of strength – e.g., 1st doubles 4.5, 2nd doubles 4.0, 3rd doubles 3.5. If there is a default, players are not required to move up to a higher level court.
- 3rd Set – 10 point Super Tiebreak (1st to 10, win by 2)
- Players are required to play at least once to qualify for Section Championships.
- There will be section championships for the 4.5-4.0-3.5 level (01/14-15/2012 in Schenectady) and 4.0-3.5-3.0 level (April 28 -29, 2012 in Saratoga). National Championships for 4.5-4.0-3.5 level will be held during the PNB Paribas Open in Indian Wells, California March 17-18.

Each NTRP Level is followed by a letter indicating the type of rating. The following identifies who can and cannot be NTRP dynamically disqualified.

**Who cannot be dynamically disqualified?
NTRP Level followed by the following letter:**

- C Computer Rated Players***
B Benchmark Players*

* Any player that entered an Adult or Senior Early Start League at an NTRP Level lower than their current year-end rating is subject to NTRP dynamic disqualification.

- M Mixed Doubles Players****
T Tournament Players**

** Year End (M) and (T) rated players who are required to self-rate to enter the Adult or Senior League Divisions automatically become (S) rated players upon entering those divisions and therefore become subject to NTRP dynamic disqualification.

**Who can be dynamically disqualified?
Participants in Adult and Senior League Divisions:
NTRP Level followed by the following letter:**

- A Appealed - all granted appeals including Medical**
S Self-rated Players
D Dynamically or NTRP Complaint Disqualified
E Dynamic rated players for Early Start Leagues
C Exceptions to C Year-End ratings as noted above*
B Exceptions to B Year-End ratings as noted above*

Players participating in the Adult and Senior League Divisions who are promoted as a result of NTRP dynamic disqualification will be immediately required to participate at their new NTRP level in all USTA League Programs.

APPENDIX B: VALID NTRP COMPUTER RATINGS

2012 League Year	<p>Players who are less than 60 years old during the 2012 League Year will have their most current computer or start ratings on file in TennsLink. They must self-rate if their NTRP rating is older than 3 years.</p> <p>X Indicates the years of valid computer ratings in TennisLink.</p>		
	<p>Players who will be 60 years or older during the 2012 League Year will have their most current computer or start rating on file in TennsLink. They must self-rate if their NTRP rating is older than 2 years.</p> <p>X60 Indicates the years of valid computer ratings in TennisLink.</p>		
Last Year Played	2009	2010	2011
Adult	X	X	X
Adult 60 & Over		X60	X60
<p>TennisLink will automatically remove expired computer and self-ratings thereby allowing individuals to self-rate. Players with expired ratings will not be allowed to self-rate at a lower level than their last valid NTRP rating. However, they will have the opportunity to file a self-rate appeal.</p>			
<p>Computer ratings are valid based on the above chart.</p>			
<p>Self-ratings are valid for 2 years from the month issued or until replaced by a dynamic or computer rating.</p>			

APPENDIX C: 2012 MATCHES REQUIRED TO ADVANCE TO CHAMPIONSHIPS

USTA League Division	SECTION CHAMPIONSHIP LEVEL AND BELOW		NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP	
	LOCAL MATCHES REQUIRED	DEFAULTS	ALL MATCHES REQUIRED THROUGH SECTION CHAMPIONSHIP	DEFAULTS
	To advance to any championship level through Section Championship	Defaults received counting to advance to any championship level through Section Championship	To advance to National Championship	Defaults received counting to advance to National Championship
Adult	2 matches	1 default may count	3 matches	NO defaults
Senior	2 matches	1 default may count	3 matches	NO defaults
Mixed	2 matches	1 default may count	3 matches	NO defaults
Super Senior	2 matches	1 default may count	3 matches	NO defaults

NATIONAL INVITATIONALS				
Senior Mixed	2 matches	1 default received may count	TBD	TBD
Tri Level*	1 match	NO defaults	TBD	TBD

RETIRED MATCHES SHALL COUNT FOR ALL PLAYERS

*Self-rated players may not participate in this National Invitational