



2016 TRI-ONE DOUBLES LEAGUE

RULES AND REGULATIONS

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TRI-LEVEL - USTA HAWAII PACIFIC SECTION REGULATIONS & OAHU DISTRICT TENNIS ASSOCIATION TRI-ONE RULES

1. GENERAL

Tri-Level is not a recognized USTA League National program. Tri-Level is a format which consists of three doubles positions, each at a different NTRP level to form the 'Team' (ex: 3.5, 4.0, and 4.5). Each doubles position is single-gender for men and women and players compete against the same ability & gender. USTA Hawaii Pacific (along with other participating sections) is represented at the Section Tri-Level Championships using the Tri-Level 'By NTRP Level' format. The local area has the option to offer either Tri-Level 'Team' or Tri-Level 'By NTRP Level'. Advancement to the National Invitational will be "By NTRP Level."

Applicability. The USTA Hawaii Pacific Section League Regulations and The Rules of Tennis and Tournament Regulations shall apply to all matches played in the Oahu District Tennis Association (ODTA) Tri-One Doubles League (League) except as modified herein. All matches played without officials shall observe the USTA official publication THE CODE.

Waiver of Claims. Players participating in the League acknowledge the risks associated with playing competitive tennis, accept those risks voluntarily, and, in consideration of their acceptance in the League, assume all risks for bodily injury, waive all claims for injury and property damage, and release and hold harmless the USTA, ODTA, USTA Hawaii Pacific Section, and the host facility, their officials, employees, and agents with respect to any injury or loss caused by negligence or otherwise to the fullest extent permitted by law.

1.1. Tri-Level – 'Team': a 'Team' is comprised of a doubles team (minimum 6 players) at each of the following levels: 3.5, 4.0, 4.5. A player can only play in one position for each team match (no repeats).

1.2. Tri-Level – 'By NTRP Level': a team is comprised of a doubles team (minimum 2 players) at a single NTRP level and gender. 'By NTRP Level' requires fewer players to create a 'Team' and if court availability is a concern, this format requires one court for match play per 'single level team'.

ODTA Tri-One Rule 1.2(a) - By NTRP Level: 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5 levels of play for separate men's and women's divisions. A team shall consist of minimum **two**, maximum six players. **No more than four rostered players may advance to the Section Tri-Level Qualifier and BNP Paribas Open Tri-Level Invitational Championships, unless Section waiver is approved.**

1.3 Tri-Level – Direct Advancement: a District may apply for a waiver if they are unable to form a Tri-Level league 'By NTRP Level' or 'Team.' Waivers must be approved by the Section League Committee and Section League Coordinator.

2. ELIGIBILITY

2.1 To be eligible to play for a team, each player must be a USTA member and such membership must extend through the end of the local season.

2.2 Minimum Age Requirement: Players must turn 18 within the current calendar year.

2.3 Registration & score reporting is managed by TennisLink. Each player must be registered on his/her team roster or in his/her tournament qualifier on TennisLink before playing a match.

ODTA Tri-One Rule 2.3(a) - Transferring Players. Players may not be transferred from one team to another after the minimum roster deadline, unless approved by the District League Coordinator (DLC).

ODTA Tri-One Rule 2.3(b) - Adding Players. Players may be added to a team roster after the player registration deadline during league competition (not during Flight Playoffs or Section Tri-Level Qualifier) if the number of players available for local league matches permanently falls below the minimum number due to injury or other unforeseen and extenuating circumstance provided approval to do so is given by the Section League Coordinator.

ODTA Tri-One Rule 2.3(c) - Refund. Partial refunds of league fees will be issued provided the request is made on or before the Player Registration deadline.

2.4. Each player must use, whichever is most recent, a valid computer NTRP Year End (YE) rating or must self-rate. A player cannot self-rate if he/she has a valid YE rating. (Note: The Hawaii Pacific Section does not allow players to advance to Tri-Level Section Qualifier with a self-rating.)

ODTA Tri-One Rule 2.4(a) - Entry. A player with a current "C", "B" or "M" NTRP computer rating must use that rating to register for the League.

Self-rated players are not eligible to compete in the League unless the self-rated player is expected to receive a year-end rating designation of "C", "B" or "M" based on participation in the current year's Adult and Mixed Divisions. *Refer to Regulation 5.4 for Championship restrictions.*

2.5. Championship levels of play are 3.5, 4.0 & 4.5.

2.6. Each doubles team will compete against same ability & gender.

2.7. A player may play only one NTRP level above the player's current NTRP level.

2.8. Each player must play 1 match (no default counting) to advance unless Section waiver is approved.

2.9. Local areas may field a 'Team' with all 3 levels or use the 'By NTRP level'. The USTA Hawaii Pacific team who advances to the BNP Paribas Open Tri-Level Championships in Indian Wells will be a Tri-Level 'By NTRP' level team representing individual Section Qualifier doubles teams at each of the 3 levels and both genders.

3. TRI-LEVEL LEAGUE SEASON TIMELINE

3.1. December 31st – District Team advancement Deadline – Local Leagues must be completed by this deadline

3.2. January/February - Sectional Championship date and location can be found on the Championship Calendar on www.hawaii.usta.com. One winner (Tri-Level 'Team' or the individual 'By NTRP Level' team) from the local area advances to the Sectional Qualifier.

3.3. March - BNP Paribas Open Tri-Level Championship at Indian Wells Tennis Garden in Indian Wells, California.

4. MATCH FORMAT AND SCHEDULE

4.1. Best of two sets with a match tiebreak in lieu of the third. Districts may authorize approved alternative scoring methods to be used during local league play.

ODTA Tri-One Rule 4.1(a) - Match Scoring. Best of two sets, with regular scoring and a set tie-break (first to 7, win by 2) at 6-all in each set and a match tie-break (first to 10, win by 2) in lieu of a third set in the event of a split set. The switching of sides for service during any tiebreak shall follow the Coman Tiebreak procedure.

Under the Coman Tiebreak procedure, players change sides after the first point and after every four points thereafter.

ODTA Tri-One Rule 4.1(b) - Competition Format. Each NTRP level shall play at least one round robin competition. Any NTRP level may be divided into flights and each team shall play every other team in its flight. When any NTRP level consists of only two teams, each team is required to play a minimum of three team matches which is a triple round robin. When any NTRP level consists of only three teams, each team is required to play a minimum of four team matches which is a double round robin.

4.2. Rules concerning registration fees, method to determine the flight winner & match ending rules are governed by local regulations.

ODTA Tri-One Rule 4.2(a) - Team Scoring. A team match will consist of one doubles match. One team point shall be awarded for each match won. The team with the most team points shall be entitled to advance to the next level of competition. In the event of a tie, the tie will be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:

- a. Individual matches. Winner of the most individual matches.
- b. **Head-to-head. Winner of head-to-head match.**
- c. Sets. Loser of the fewest number of sets in flight/sub-flight.
- d. Games. Loser of the fewest number of games in flight/sub-flight.
- e. Coin toss.

ODTA Tri-One Rule 4.2(b) - Team Lineup. The team captains or designees shall exchange the team lineup simultaneously prior to the beginning of the match.

No substitution may be made in a match after the lineup has been presented, except for injury to, illness of, or disqualification of a player, prior to the start of such match or during the 5-minute warm-up period. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute player is entitled to a five-minute warm-up.

ODTA Tri-One Rule 4.2(c) - Penalty for Lateness. The lateness penalty clock starts when the match is scheduled, a court is available, and a player has not arrived.

5:00 Minutes or Less	5:01 – 10:00 Minutes	10:01 – 15:00 Minutes	More than 15 Minutes
Loss of Toss Plus 1 Game	Loss of Toss Plus 2 Games	Loss of Toss Plus 3 Games	Default

ODTA Tri-One Rule 4.2(d) - Continuous Play and Rest Periods. The warm-up time at the beginning of each match shall consist of five minutes, including serves. The warm-up time starts when the first ball is hit. Play shall be continuous after the first game of each set and during a tie-break, and the players shall change ends without a rest period.

A Set Break of a maximum of 120 seconds shall be taken at the end of each set, including the second set of a split set.

ODTA Tri-One Rule 4.2(e) - Coaching. There shall be no coaching at anytime. **Cell phones and other electronic communication devices may not be used anytime during a match (including warm-up, change-overs and set breaks).**

ODTA Tri-One Rule 4.2(f) - Defaults and Disqualifications. A team must have two eligible players available for play in each team match.

A defaulted match shall count as a match played for the doubles team receiving the default, but not for the doubles team who defaulted. The score shall be reported as 6-0, 6-0 for the non-defaulting team. In the event of a default by both opposing doubles teams, both sides will be given a 0-6, 0-6 loss, and neither receives credit for a win. If a double default or double disqualification results in a tie, the local league tiebreak procedure shall be used to break the tie.

ODTA Tri-One Rule 4.2(g) - Retired Match. A retired match shall count for all doubles teams involved. In case of a retirement, the non-retiring doubles team shall be credited with such number of additional games as would have been won if the match was completed, and the non-retiring doubles team won every subsequent game. For NTRP computer data entry in TennisLink, mark as *retired* and submit actual scores of match at the point of retirement. The winning (non-retiring) team's scores are to be entered first.

ODTA Tri-One Rule 4.2(h) - Rescheduling of a Team Match. A scheduled team match may be rescheduled by the captains if, and only if **all** of the following criteria are met:

- both team captains are in mutual agreement to the date, time, and location of the rescheduled team match, and
- the rescheduled match is played within two weeks of the original match date.

Both team captains shall notify the LLC of the date, time, and location of the rescheduled match.

If both team captains cannot agree to the date, time, and location of the rescheduled team match, the team match must be played as originally scheduled.

Note: A team match may be rescheduled by the LLC if the LLC deems the change necessary.

ODTA Tri-One Rule 4.2(i) - Rained-Out Team Match. A team match may be deferred from its scheduled time and location due to inclement weather. The home team captain shall decide, in consultation with the captain of the visiting team, what constitutes "unplayable" weather. In the event the teams have assembled to play, and the beginning of the team match has been delayed by rain or wet courts, the teams do not have to wait for more than one hour past the

original scheduled start time; however, both teams may agree to wait longer. If a team match is postponed due to unplayable weather, the match shall be deemed a "rained-out" team match.

In the event of a rained-out team match, the teams do not have to exchange scorecards. However, both captains may agree to exchange scorecards at a predetermined time before the match to facilitate rescheduling the match. Once scorecards are exchanged, no substitutions are permitted except as specified in these regulations. The rained-out match must be re-scheduled within two-weeks of the original team match date.

However, if the rained-out match is the last team match of the season, it must be made up within one week. Team members need not be present at the time a team match is deemed unplayable, and a decision is made to postpone a match. However, if a match is delayed and not postponed, players shall be subject to the requirements specified in these regulations.

Both team captains shall notify the LLC of the date, time, and location of the rescheduled match.

If teams which are not in contention to advance must play makeup matches due to inclement weather or unforeseen extenuating circumstances at the end of the local league season, these teams may request a waiver from making up these matches without penalty provided the makeup matches were to occur within two weeks of the original match. The Section League Coordinator will determine whether to grant the waiver. These teams involved must mutually agree to do this, and their not playing should have no impact on the team standings for teams in contention.

ODTA Tri-One Rule 4.2(j) - Sportsmanship. When there are disagreements involving line-calls and foot faults, two line assistants may be used; one for each team. The Line Assistants are to stand silently and unobtrusively at each net post to assist in line calls and foot faults. The duties of the Line Assistants are restricted to confirming or over-ruling line calls made by the players and may do so ONLY when asked by a player in the match. Line Assistants cannot unilaterally make line calls, over-rule line calls or call foot faults. If two Line Assistants disagree on a call, a let is played.

ODTA Tri-One Rule 4.2(k) - Score Reporting. TennisLink is the official system for reporting scores and providing standings for the League. The captain or designee of the winning team shall report scores within 72 hours of the day team match is played or default the win, i.e., the winning team shall lose one (1) team match point.

After match scores have been entered on TennisLink, scores must be confirmed by the opposing team within 48 hours of the initial entry or the initial score will automatically be considered valid. Opposing captains are urged to confirm scores as soon as possible within the 48-hour period.

ODTA Tri-One Rule 4.2(l) - Progression. Flight playoffs will be single elimination when there are two or more flights in a playing level. The winner of a flight playoff will advance to the Section Tri-Level Qualifier. Teams will advance to flight playoffs according to the following:

- a. **When there are two or four flights** in a level, first and second place teams will advance to the flight playoff.
- b. **When there are three flights** in a level, second place teams will first play a round-robin and the winner of the round-robin will advance to flight playoff with the first place teams.
- c. **Single Elimination Flight Playoff Semi Final Matches** will be scheduled as follows:
- d. **Two Flights** (4 teams): First place team of Flight A will play second place team of Flight B; first place team of Flight B will play second place team of Flight A.
- e. **Three Flights** (4 teams): The three first place teams and the winner of the round-

robin (see b. above) will be randomly matched up, however, the second place team will not be matched up against the first place team of its flight.

- f. **Four Flights** (8 teams): The four first place teams will be randomly matched up against the four second place teams, however, a second place team will not be matched up against the first place team of its flight.
- g. **Final & Consolation Rounds.** The winners of the semi final matches will advance to the final round to determine the District Flight Champion.
- h. **The individual match scoring** for flight playoffs will be the same as used for local league competition.

4.3. The local area will generate their respective local match schedule.

ODTA Tri-One Rule 4.3(a) - Court Facilities. The Tennis Court Rules (Appendix I) apply for Oahu District Tennis Association league matches to be played at public school, community college, and City and County of Honolulu Parks and Recreation tennis facilities.

The following shall apply to scheduling of matches for Private Court and "Reserve A Court" teams:

Private Court Teams. All matches (visitor and home) are to be scheduled at the private facility. When both teams in a match have a private court, the match shall be scheduled at the facility of the "home team", unless the opposing team is a Reserve A Court (RAC) team. *Private courts are those facilities where court usage has been granted exclusively to a specific team, e.g., Beretania Club, Kailua Racquet Club, The Oahu Club, Waialae Iki 5, Hickam, and certain non-RAC school facilities.*

Reserve A Court Program Teams. All matches (visitor and home) shall be scheduled at the RAC facility regardless of whether the opposing team has a private court facility.

5. HPS TRI-LEVEL LEAGUE SECTION QUALIFIER

5.1. Players must have a current **USTA membership** and a valid **USTA Year End NTRP "C," "M" or "B" year-end rating**.

5.2. **Section Championship NTRP Requirements:** a. **Self-Rated Players:** Self-rated players are NOT allowed to advance to HPS Tri-Level Championships. (NOTE: Due to regulations imposed by the privately run BNP Paribas Tri-Level Invitational Championship Tournament)

5.3. **NTRP Computer Rating Requirements:** Only "C" or "B" or "M" rated players may advance to Section Championships. Because Section Championships are held in January/February of the year following the Championship Year in which local leagues are played, players will retain their NTRP Computer Rating of the Championship year in which the local league was played for Section Championships. (Example Player "X" had a 3.5 Computer 2013 year-end rating and played Tri-Level at 3.5 in July of 2014. His 2014 Year-end Rating moved him to a 4.0 Computer NTRP rating. Player "X" may compete at 3.5 at the 2014 Tri-Level Championships held in January of 2015, and visa versa applies if Player "X" had a 2013 Year End Computer rating of 4.0, played 2014 Tri-Level at 4.0 and earned a 3.5 2014 Year-End NTRP rating, he is required to play 2014 Tri-Level Championships at 4.0.)

5.4. Self-Rated Players turned "C" or "M" Rating Players: If a District allows self-rated players to compete locally in Tri-Level and that self-rated player generates a "C" or "M" rating at year end they must play at the Sectional Qualifier at the higher level of the two. (Example Player "X" self-rated as a 4.5 in 2014 and played Tri-Level as a 4.5 in September of 2014. His 2014 Year-end Rating moved him to a 5.0 Computer NTRP rating. Player "X" is no longer eligible to participate at Sectionals. Player "X" self-rated as a 4.5 in 2014 and played Tri-Level as a 4.5 in September of 2014. His 2014 Year-end Rating moved him to a 4.0 Computer NTRP rating. Player "X" may compete at the Tri-Level Qualifier but must play at the 4.5 level.) Please Note: Given the time of year that local leagues run their Tri-Level league, in order to generate a year-end rating a Tri-Level "S" rated player will have had to participate in one of the Adult or Mixed League Divisions and met the match requirement prior to the cutoff date to generate a valid year-end rating.

5.5. Tiebreaking Procedures during Section Qualifier: The Section will utilize the USTA National League tiebreaking procedures when determining teams advancing to the National Invitational.

5.6. Match format will be a round robin format with the best of two sets with a match tiebreak in lieu of the third set as the official scoring method.

APPENDIX I
TENNIS COURT RULES
OAHU DISTRICT TENNIS ASSOCIATION

The following rules apply for all Oahu District Tennis Association league matches to be played at public school, community college, and City and County of Honolulu Parks and Recreation tennis facilities. *Private Club rules shall apply for all matches played at club courts.*

1. NO LITTERING – Remove and dispose all litter after your match.
2. NO SPECTATORS allowed inside court area while a match is being played unless agreed upon by both teams.
3. NO DOGS or Animals allowed. *The Honolulu Police Department (911) will respond when a violation is reported.*
4. NO USE of Tobacco Products on school/college premises and City & County park facilities.
5. NO DRINKING of Alcoholic Beverages. *The Honolulu Police Department (911) will respond when a violation is reported.*
6. NO Glass Bottles or other glass products allowed on courts.
7. NO Skateboarding, Rollerblading, Biking, Baby Carriages, Shoes with Hard Soles/Cleats/Raised Heels allowed on courts.
8. NO LOITERING on school/college premises after the last match of the day. *The Honolulu Police Department (911) will respond when a violation is reported.*
9. Additional Special Rule for Leeward Community College: Do not open the umbrellas on the picnic tables. Call Security at 455-0611 to report No Dogs/Animals and Alcohol violations.
10. Additional Special Rule for Kaiser High School: NO GUM Chewing and NO EATING allowed inside court area.