

# 2008

## USTA LEAGUE TENNIS REGULATIONS

### MAJOR REGULATION CHANGES FOR 2008

1. District/Area, Section and National Championship Benchmarks may not be appealed the first year received. This will impact the 2008 championship players.
2. Re-write of Self-rate Grievance procedures separating out from generic grievances.
3. Clarification that a coordinator or a member of a championship committee may file a grievance at any time.
4. Administrative Grievances should go to the next highest level of administration with the Section League Grievance Appeal being the final authority.
5. Players who qualify on two teams advancing to the same NTRP national championship must declare which team they will represent.
6. Mixed doubles players must have participated in 2 matches at the local level (1 default will count) in order to advance to Section Championships and below.
7. Mixed doubles players must have participated in 3 matches through Section Championships (no default will count) in order to advance to National Championships.
8. Regulation clarifies that Mixed and Super Senior players must be able to COMBINE and compete at championship level.

**THE USE OF THE  
NATIONAL TENNIS RATING PROGRAM  
AND  
NTRP COMPUTER RATINGS  
IN THE  
USTA LEAGUE TENNIS PROGRAM**

The National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) is the official system for determining the levels of competition for the USTA League Tennis Program. The USTA NTRP Computer Rating System assigns ratings based on play in the local league and at championship level during the current league year.

1. The National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) Guidelines define the characteristics of the various NTRP skill levels.
2. The USTA NTRP Computer Rating System is the official system to determine computer ratings for players throughout the country who participate in the USTA League Tennis Program. It is a mathematical system that assigns computer ratings to players by direct and indirect comparison of match results obtained from USTA League Tennis, select NTRP tournaments and Open and Adult/Senior Age Division tournaments.
3. A computer-derived rating is valid for two (2) years for individuals 60 years of age and older prior to or during the championship year and for three (3) years for all others, or until another computer rating is generated. (**See Valid Computer Rating Chart – inside back cover**)
4. Players with a computer rating must enter at that rating or higher. (See Valid Computer Rating Chart)
5. Players in the USTA League Tennis Program without a computer rating must self-rate in accordance with the NTRP Guidelines. Factors such as a player's on-court performance, tennis background and any additional information should be considered in the self-rating decision. When players are rating themselves, if they question at which level they should play, they should place themselves in the higher NTRP level of play.  
**Note:** Players who are good athletes or intend to spend a great deal of time taking lessons and practicing should be aware that their improvement may be significant enough to surpass their original self-rating by the time they reach the end of the local league season or championship level. To avoid NTRP disqualification, these players should enter at a higher level of play at the beginning of the local league season.
6. Players without a computer rating are required to declare a self-rating on TennisLink when entering the program regardless of the NTRP level they enter. They begin to generate a dynamic rating after their first match with a computer rated player.
7. In the USTA League Tennis – Adult and Senior divisions, dynamic ratings will be calculated at regular intervals for all participants during local league competition, at the end of the local league season and either during or at the end of area and section championships.
8. At USTA League Tennis – Adult and Senior national championships, players will continue to generate dynamic ratings through their last match played but there will be no dynamic NTRP disqualification at national championships.

9. After the USTA League Tennis – Adult and Senior national championships, benchmark and year-end computer ratings will be calculated using USTA NTRP Computer Rating System Procedures approved by the USTA League Tennis Committee.

10. In the mixed doubles division, computer ratings will be calculated for participants who play in that division exclusively. Year-end ratings will be based on the final dynamic rating generated from local league and championship level competition.

# USTA LEAGUE TENNIS REGULATIONS

January 2008 - December 2008

## 1.00 GENERAL

**The Regulations in 1.00 GENERAL shall apply to all USTA League Tennis Divisions. Any authority delegated by these regulations to the section, unless otherwise stated, may be delegated by the section to a lower authority.**

**1.01 NAME.** The USTA Board of Directors has approved the adoption of rules and regulations for USTA League Tennis that shall be known as the USTA League Tennis Regulations.

**1.02 APPLICABILITY.** The USTA LEAGUE TENNIS REGULATIONS shall apply to the USTA League Tennis Program.

The RULES OF TENNIS and TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS, including those for wheelchair play, shall apply to all matches played in the USTA League Tennis Program except as modified herein. In all matches played without officials, the USTA official publication "THE CODE" shall be observed. The USTA Point Penalty System shall be used at all championship levels.

**1.03 USTA LEAGUE PROGRAM.** The USTA League Tennis Program is a team competition for men, women and for mixed doubles at specified NTRP levels of play. The purpose of the program is to provide organized recreational play, emphasizing local competition, with advancement for winning teams from local competition to area, section or national championships to determine annually USTA League Tennis National Championship teams in each approved level of competition.

The USTA League Tennis Program shall be conducted without regard to race, creed, color or national origin.

**1.04 OFFICIAL LEAGUE REGISTRATION.** TennisLink is the official system for registering teams for the USTA League Tennis Program. All teams must register for the USTA League Tennis Program by completing a team roster using the TennisLink system. The section must establish deadlines and procedures for registering teams on TennisLink.

If a local league permits teams to add players after the commencement of play, a player's name must be added to the amended roster (using TennisLink) prior to the player's participation in a team match. Players shall not be added to the team roster during local league flight play-offs or at any championship.

**1.05 OFFICIAL SCORE REPORTING AND STANDINGS SYSTEM.** TennisLink is the official system for reporting scores and providing standings for the USTA League Tennis Program. The section must establish deadlines and procedures for reporting scores on TennisLink. After match scores have been entered on TennisLink, they must be confirmed by the opposing team within 48-hours of the initial entry or the initial score will be considered valid automatically.

**1.06 OFFICIAL LEAGUE RATING PROGRAM.** The National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) is the official system for rating levels of competition for the USTA League Tennis Program.

**1.07 OFFICIAL BALL.** Any USTA approved ball may be used for USTA League Tennis matches.

**1.08 WAIVER OF RULES AND PROCEDURES PROHIBITED.** Except where a waiver is specifically permitted by a USTA League Tennis Regulation or by a USTA League Tennis Procedure, no USTA League Tennis Regulation or USTA League Tennis Procedure shall be waived by any Section Association or by any local, area or Section League Coordinator or Grievance or Grievance Appeal Committee. Any violation of this Regulation shall be subject to such sanctions as may be imposed by the USTA League Tennis Committee (including, for example, the disqualification of any teams involved in any such waivers). Such sanctions are not subject to appeal.

**1.09 AMENDMENTS.** These USTA LEAGUE TENNIS REGULATIONS may be amended by the USTA League Tennis Committee with the approval of a committee comprised of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the USTA League Tennis Committee and the National League Administrator. All proposed amendments shall be in writing and shall be forwarded to the USTA League Tennis Committee at least ten days before any meeting of the USTA League Tennis Committee. Without the approval of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the USTA League Tennis Committee and the National League Administrator, no amendments to these USTA LEAGUE TENNIS REGULATIONS shall become effective prior to January 1st of the next USTA League Tennis Year.

**1.10 SANCTION.** Local league competition is sanctioned in accordance with USTA Regulation IX. C. 2.

**1.11 MEMBERSHIP.**

**1.11A** Any individual who competes in the USTA League Tennis Program must be domiciled within the boundaries of a USTA Section Association (or participate through a USTA direct Member Club). Residents of foreign countries who meet membership and age requirements may be invited by a USTA section to participate in the program provided that all such matches are played within the section.

**1.11B** All individuals who compete in the USTA League Tennis Program must be current members in good standing for the local league season.

**1.11C** Any individual who progresses to championship level in the USTA League Tennis Program must be a current member through each championship progression.

**1.12 PLAYER AGREEMENT.** All players participating in the USTA League Tennis Program, as a condition of their participation, agree to abide and be bound by the USTA Constitution and By-Laws; the USTA Regulations; the Rules of Tennis (unless modified by these USTA LEAGUE TENNIS REGULATIONS); the USTA LEAGUE TENNIS REGULATIONS and the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship.

**1.13 WAIVER OF CLAIMS.** Players participating in the USTA League Tennis Program acknowledge the risks associated with playing competitive tennis, accept those risks voluntarily, and in consideration of their acceptance in the Program assume all risks for bodily injury, waive all claims for injury and property damage and release and hold harmless the USTA 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.

**1.14 USTA LEAGUE TENNIS COMMITTEE.** The USTA League Tennis Program shall be governed by the USTA League Tennis Committee appointed by the President of the USTA and subject to the control and direction of the USTA Board of Directors.

**1.15 USTA NATIONAL LEAGUE ADMINISTRATOR.** The USTA National League Administrator, under the employ of the USTA, shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the USTA League Tennis Program including the interpretation of the USTA LEAGUE TENNIS REGULATIONS.

**1.16 SECTION ASSOCIATIONS.** The USTA has seventeen section associations; the names and territories of which are defined in the USTA By-Laws. Each section association is responsible for the development and implementation of the USTA League Tennis Program within its geographic territory in accordance with the USTA LEAGUE TENNIS REGULATIONS.

**1.17 SECTION LEAGUE COORDINATORS.** Each section association shall appoint a Section League Coordinator to implement and administer the USTA League Tennis Program.

**1.18 AREA LEAGUE COORDINATORS.** Each Section League Coordinator may appoint area league coordinators to implement and administer the USTA League Tennis Program. Any such area shall have such geographic boundaries as the section association may determine. The Section League Coordinator must approve all such appointments.

**1.19 LOCAL LEAGUE COORDINATORS.** Each Section League Coordinator may appoint Local League Coordinators to implement and administer the USTA League Tennis Program. The Section League Coordinator must approve all such appointments.

**1.20 TEAM CAPTAIN.** Each team shall appoint a team captain to handle administrative affairs and to represent the team in USTA League Tennis Program matters.

**1.21 CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEES.** A championships committee of at least three members (one of whom is a USTA Certified Referee or Umpire) shall govern each championship. At least one member of the championships committee shall be in attendance at all times during

play. The championships committees, except for the national championships, shall be appointed by the section associations. The Chairman of the USTA League Tennis Committee shall appoint the championships committees for the national championships.

**1.22 USTA LEAGUE TENNIS YEAR.** The League Year shall be January 1 through December 31, except that the USTA League Tennis Committee may authorize the commencement of a local league season prior to January 1 subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by the Committee.

**1.23 LOCAL LEAGUE SEASON.** Each section shall determine the dates for the season(s) of the local leagues within its section.

**1.24 GENERAL.** League players may play in the USTA League Tennis - Adult, Senior, Super Senior and Mixed Doubles Divisions during the same local league season.

## **2.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

**The Regulations in 2.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES shall apply to all USTA League Tennis Divisions.**

### **2.01 COMMITTEES.**

**2.01A Grievance Committees.** All Grievance Committees shall consist of no less than three persons, including a chairman, to adjudicate grievances. The members of the Committee may be the same as, or different in whole or part from, the committee first approved.

**2.01A(1) Local.** With the approval of the section association, each local league may appoint a Local League Grievance Committee. The members of the Committee are to be approved by the Section League Coordinator.

**2.01A(2) Area and Section.** Each section association shall appoint an Area and/or Section League Grievance Committee. The members of the Committee are to be approved by the Section League Coordinator.

#### **2.01A(3) Championships Grievance Committees**

**2.01A(3)a Area and Section Championships.** Each section association shall appoint an Area and/or Section League Championship Grievance Committee. The members of the committee are to be approved by the Section League Coordinator.

**2.01A(3)b National Championships.** The Chairman of the USTA League Tennis Committee shall appoint National League Championships Grievance Committees. The members may be the same as, or different in whole or in part from, the members of the National League Championships Committee.

**2.01B Grievance Appeal Committees.** All Grievance Appeal Committees shall consist of no less than three persons, including a chairman, to consider appeals from the Grievance Committees. No member of a Grievance Appeal Committee may be a member of a Grievance Committee. The members of the Committee may be the same as, or different in whole or part from, the committee first approved.

**2.01B(1) Local.** With the approval of the section association, each local league may appoint a Local League Grievance Appeal Committee. The members of the Committee are to be approved by the Section League Coordinator.

**2.01B(2) Area and Section.** Each section association shall appoint an Area and/or Section League Grievance Appeal Committee. The members of the committee are to be approved by the Section League Coordinator.

**2.01B(3) National .** The Chairman of the USTA League Tennis Committee shall appoint a National League Grievance Appeal Committee.

#### **2.01B(4) Championship Grievance Appeal Committees.**

**2.01B(4)a Area and Section Championships.** Each section association shall appoint an Area and/or Section League Championship Grievance Appeal Committee. The members of the committee are to be approved by the Section League Coordinator.

**2.01B(4)b National Championships.** The Chairman of the USTA League Tennis Committee shall appoint National League Championships Grievance Appeal Committees. The members may be the same as, or different in whole or in part from, the members of the National League Championships Committee.

### **2.02 GRIEVANCE COMPLAINTS.**

#### **2.02A General Procedures.**

**2.02A(1)** All complaints alleging a violation of the USTA Constitution and By-Laws; the USTA Regulations; the Rules of Tennis or other USTA regulations (unless modified by these USTA LEAGUE TENNIS REGULATIONS); the USTA LEAGUE TENNIS REGULATIONS or standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship, shall be filed in writing with the USTA League Tennis Grievance Committee responsible for enforcement.

**2.02A(2)** A complaint against the administration of the League should be filed and heard at the next higher level in the same manner as any other complaint, with the Section being the final authority.

**2.02A(3)** Any complaint against the National League Administrator shall be filed in writing with the USTA League Tennis Committee. The decision of the USTA League Tennis Committee shall be final and binding.

**2.02A(4)** All complaints with regard to any aspect of the USTA League Tennis Program except those contained in 2.02C(3) shall be processed through the USTA League Tennis Program Grievance and Grievance Appeal Committees at the appropriate level (i.e, local, area, section, or national.) Decisions of Grievance Appeal Committees shall be final and binding except with regard to suspensions of individuals or teams for a period of 12 months or more. (See 2.03B(3))

**2.02A(5)** A complaint against an individual or team may only be filed by (a) the team captain of the team who has competed in the match where the alleged violation occurred, (b) a league coordinator or (c) a member of a championships committee.

**2.02A(6)** Regardless of any other regulation, a league coordinator or a member of a championship committee, may file a grievance at any time.

**2.02A(7)** Play During Grievance Procedures: An individual or team may continue to play during a grievance investigation and hearing but must understand that if upheld, all matches played during that time may be defaulted.

#### **2.02B Local League Procedures.**

**2.02B(1)** All complaints alleging a violation by an individual or team during local league competition shall be filed in writing with the Local or District League Coordinator or designee having jurisdiction. The complaint must be filed prior to the commencement of the next team match in that flight involving such individual or team, or within twenty-four hours after the end of local league play, whichever occurs first.

**2.02B(2)** Upon receipt of the complaint, the Local or District League Coordinator or designee shall immediately send a copy to the chairman of the appropriate League Grievance Committee and to the party(ies) against whom the complaint has been filed.

**2.02B(3)** A complaint regarding failure to meet eligibility may be filed by a team captain, league coordinator or member of a championship committee at any time.

**2.02B(3)a** For eligibility matters of simple fact (e.g. age, USTA membership, TennisLink registration) a USTA League coordinator may declare a player ineligible and disqualify that player without filing a grievance. (See 1.04, 1.11, 3.01C, 3.01D, 4.01, 5.01C, 5.01D, 6.01C and 6.01D)

**2.02B(3)b** All other complaints must go to the appropriate league grievance committee.

#### **2.02B(4) Scoring of Eligibility Disqualification in Local League.**

**2.02B(4)a** In the event of an eligibility disqualification **during the local league season** and up to 24 hours after the end of local league season, all matches played by the player shall be considered defaults and those matches shall be considered wins for the opposing players or doubles teams and scored (6-0, 6-0). In case of an eligibility disqualification in single elimination, the last individual match played by the player shall be considered a win for the opposing player or doubles team and scored (6-0, 6-0). If a double disqualification results in a tie, the local tie-break procedure shall be used to determine the winner of the team match. If no such local tie-break procedure exists, use 3.03I-Championship Procedures, in order to determine a winner of that team match.

**2.02B(4)b** In the event of an eligibility disqualification **after the 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.

#### **2.02C Championship Procedures.**

**2.02C(1)** All complaints alleging a violation during championships competition shall be in writing and delivered to the duly appointed site director within thirty 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.

**2.02C(2)** At the time a complaint is filed, a copy of such complaint shall be sent to the party(ies) against whom the complaint has been made.

**2.02C(3)** A complaint regarding failure to meet eligibility may be filed by a team captain, league coordinator or a member of a championship committee at any time.

#### **2.02C(4) Scoring of Eligibility Disqualification for Championships.**

**2.02C(4)a** In the event of an eligibility disqualification **prior to or after the conclusion of a championship event**, 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.



**2.02C(4)b** In the event of an eligibility disqualification in a round robin format **during the championship event**, the player will not be allowed to continue or advance **on that team** and all matches played by the player shall be considered losses and those matches shall be considered wins for the opposing players or doubles teams and scored (6-0, 6-0).

**2.02C(4)c** In case of a disqualification in single elimination format during the championship event, the last individual match played by the player shall be considered a win for the opposing player or doubles team and scored (6-0, 6-0). If a double disqualification results in a tie, the tie-break procedure shall be the same as 3.03I in order to determine a winner of that team match.

#### **2.02D Grievance Committee Action.**

**2.02D(1)** Following the receipt of a complaint, the appropriate USTA League Tennis Grievance Committee shall, as soon as reasonable, (a) cause such investigation of the alleged violation to be made as the Committee deems appropriate, and if it deems the same to be necessary shall (b) arrange for a hearing at which the parties involved shall have the right to appear personally and present evidence.

**2.02D(2)** The USTA League Tennis Grievance Committee shall have the power to dismiss the complaint or to direct the correction of any violations by reasonable means, including the suspension of an individual or team. (See 1.08)

**2.02D(3)** The USTA League Tennis Grievance Committee shall prepare a written decision setting forth the basis for its decision and the deadline for any written appeal and promptly deliver copies to the parties involved.

**2.02D(4)** The decision of the USTA League Tennis Grievance Committee shall be by majority vote.

#### **2.02E Self-Rate Grievance**

**2.02E(1)** Players who enter the USTA League Tennis program by inappropriately self-rating at an NTRP level lower than their actual skill level are considered to have violated the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship. These players may be subject to a Self-Rate Grievance. USTA League Tennis Regulation 2.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES, with the following exceptions and modifications, shall apply to Self-Rate Grievances.

**2.02E(2)** Players with a valid NTRP computer rating are not subject to Self-Rate Grievances.

**2.02E(3)** Any league captain, coordinator or member of a championship committee may file a Self-Rate Grievance.

**2.02E(4)** A player who inappropriately self-rates, and captains and others who condone inappropriate self-rating, may be subject to possible sanctions, including disqualification and suspension.

**2.02E(5)** Self-Rate Grievances may be filed at any time up to forty-eight (48) hours after the conclusion of a self-rated player's Section Championships. No Self-Rate Grievances will be accepted at National Championships.

**2.02E(6) Local League Competition** – Self-Rate Grievances shall be filed in writing with the Local/Area/District League Coordinator or designee having jurisdiction. Self-Rate Grievances shall be handled by the self-rated players' Section League Grievance Committee.

**2.02E(7) Championship Competition** – Self-Rate Grievances shall be filed in writing with the duly appointed site director or designee having jurisdiction. Self-Rate Grievances shall be handled by the self-rated players' Section League Grievance Committee. Each section shall have the option to adjudicate Self-Rate Grievances prior to, during or after a championship event.

**2.02E(8)** A Self-Rate Grievance disqualification occurs when the Section League Grievance Committee reaches such decision and sends notification to the parties involved. The date and time that the Section League Grievance Committee sends notification controls the assessment of sanctions, including the scoring of matches, which shall be administered in accordance with USTA League Tennis Regulations 2.02B(4) and 2.02C(4), concerning scoring of eligibility disqualifications.

**2.02E(9)** The Section League Grievance Committee decision may be appealed in accordance with USTA League Tennis Regulation 2.03 GRIEVANCE APPEALS.

### **2.03 GRIEVANCE APPEALS.**

#### **2.03A General Procedures.**

**2.03A(1)** Any party to the complaint may appeal the decision of the Grievance Committee within the time fixed by the Grievance Committee. Upon receipt of an appeal of the decision of the Grievance Committee, the Grievance Appeal Committee shall act promptly to resolve the appeal.

**2.03A(2) Play During Grievance Appeal Procedures.**

**2.03A(2)a** If the grievance was upheld, the individual is subject to all sanctions imposed by the Grievance Committee during the appeal process.

**2.03A(2)b** If the grievance was denied and appealed by the filer, the individual may participate during his/her appeal process, but must understand that if the decision of the Grievance Committee is reversed, all matches played during that time may be defaulted.

**2.03A(3)** The party appealing shall file written notice of appeal with the appropriate coordinator or designee, who shall send it to the: chairman of the appropriate Grievance Appeal Committee; chairman of the Grievance Committee whose decision is being appealed; Local, District or Section League Coordinator; and to the other party(ies) involved in the complaint.

**2.03A(4)** The parties appealing shall have an opportunity to submit in writing facts and arguments in support of their respective positions.

**2.03B Grievance Appeal Committees Action.**

**2.03B(1)** The Grievance Appeal Committees shall not be required to hold any hearing except as provided in 2.03B(2). Its decision may be based entirely on the findings of fact by the Grievance Committee whose decision is being appealed and on the facts and arguments submitted in writing by the parties to the appeal.

**2.03B(2)** If the Grievance Committee did not hold a hearing, the Grievance Appeal Committee shall do so, provided any party involved in the complaint so requests in writing. However, the Committee may hear such further evidence as it, in its absolute discretion, deems appropriate.

**2.03B(3)** The Grievance Appeal Committee shall have the power to affirm, modify or reject the decision of the Grievance Committee. If the Grievance Committee has imposed a penalty, the Grievance Appeal Committee may not impose a harsher penalty.

**2.03B(4)** A copy of the Grievance Appeal Committee's written decision setting forth the basis of its decision shall be promptly sent to all interested parties and such decisions shall be final and binding. The following exception shall apply: Any individual or team suspended for a period of 12 months or more may appeal the final decision of the Grievance Appeal Committee to the National League Grievance Appeal Committee within the deadline established by the Grievance Appeal Committee. The administration may not appeal the decision of the Grievance Appeal Committee.

**2.03B(5)** The decision of the Grievance Appeal Committee shall be by majority vote.

**2.03C National League Grievance Appeal Committee Action.**

**2.03C(1)** The National League Grievance Appeal Committee shall hear appeals from individuals/teams who have been suspended for a period of 12 months or more by a local, district or section Grievance Appeal Committee. Upon receipt of an appeal of the decision of the Grievance Appeal Committee, the National Grievance Appeal Committee shall act promptly to resolve the appeal.

**2.03C(2)** The National League Grievance Appeal Committee shall have the power to conduct such investigation as deemed necessary and to affirm, modify or reject the decision of the Grievance Appeal Committee, but may not impose any harsher penalties.

**2.03C(3)** The National League Grievance Appeal Committee shall notify the affected player(s)/captain(s) and local, district or section individuals or teams and the Grievance Appeal Committee in writing of its decision.

**2.04 GENERAL PROCEDURES FOR GRIEVANCE AND GRIEVANCE APPEAL COMMITTEES.**

**2.04A Telephone Conference Calls.** If one or more members of a Grievance Committee or Grievance Appeal Committee cannot be present at a hearing, such members may, at the discretion of the chairman, participate by means of a telephone conference call. If any witness cannot be present at a hearing to present evidence, such witness may, at the discretion of the chairman, be permitted to do so by means of a telephone conference call.

**2.04B Written Requirement.** The requirement that a notice or other document be in writing is satisfied if it is sent by a telegram, fax, e-mail or equivalent communication.

### **3.00 ADULT LEAGUE REGULATIONS**

**All USTA League Tennis Regulations in 1.00 GENERAL and 2.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES and the following procedures shall apply to the USTA League Tennis – Adult Division.**

#### **3.01 LOCAL LEAGUE.**

**3.01A Number of Teams.** A local league is a team competition in a specified geographic area that applies specific local league regulations and consists of NTRP level(s) with a minimum of two or more teams per level. A local league may choose to divide any or all NTRP levels into flights. Where flights are used, a playoff structure **may** be established to determine a champion for each NTRP level. (See 3.01H – Competition Format)

**3.01B Team.** A team shall consist of a minimum of eight players of the same gender eligible to compete at a specific level of competition. Team members shall not have a higher NTRP rating than the NTRP level in which the team is competing. The section association may limit the number of players that appear on a team roster and the number of players on that roster that are at a specific NTRP level.

**3.01C Age.** Each player shall have reached nineteen (19) years of age prior to or during the calendar year in which such player plays in his/her first local league match.

**3.01D Entry.** A player without a computer rating must self-rate to enter the program. A player with a current NTRP computer rating must use that rating to enter the program.

**3.01D(1)** Players entering the USTA League Tennis Program are defined as having an NTRP computer rating on file in TennisLink or as new/returning players without a computer rating. Computer ratings are derived in accordance with USTA NTRP Computer Rating System Procedures. Once a player is assigned a computer rating, it is valid for up to three years or until another computer rating is generated. (See Valid Computer Rating chart – inside back cover)

**3.01D(2)** Players who do not have a computer rating on file in TennisLink shall self-rate in accordance with the National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) Guidelines and complete the self-rating process on TennisLink when registering for a team. Failure to do so, or omission of information regarding a player's tennis history, will subject the player, the captain and/or others who condoned inaccurate self-rating to sanctions and disqualification.

**3.01D(3)** Players with a computer rating must enter at that NTRP level or higher.

**3.01E Levels of Play.** The USTA League Tennis - Adult Division championship levels are NTRP levels 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, and 5.0. Levels of play for the USTA League Tennis - Adult Division are described in terms of "maximum" ratings. Players cannot have a rating higher than the NTRP level in which they are competing. It is not necessary for all of the players on a team to be of the same rating. However, if there is a mixture of abilities, the team may compete only at the NTRP level of the highest rated player.

**3.01F Men and Women.** Men's and women's leagues shall be separate at each approved level of competition. The local league shall determine which approved levels shall be available for men and women in local league competition.

**3.01G Scoring and Rest.** It is recommended that all matches be the best of two tie-break sets with a match tie-break in lieu of a 3<sup>rd</sup> set. There will be no coaching during the 2-minute set breaks. The tie-break shall be scored as 1 set and 1 game for tie-break purposes. For play at or below the section level, the section association may authorize the use of other USTA approved scoring methods and other scoring methods that are compatible with the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System. Other match formats include: best of three tie-break sets with a set tie-break at 6-all, pro-set matches, a single set with a set or match tie-break at 6-all. No-Ad scoring can be used with any of the above scoring methods.

#### **3.01H Competition Format.**

**3.01H(1) Round Robin.** Each NTRP level within a local league shall play at least one round robin competition wherein every team plays every other team. Any NTRP level may be divided into flights and each team shall play every other team in its flight. The flight winners **may** enter a playoff structure to establish a local league champion for that NTRP level. Any NTRP level with only two or three teams is required to play a minimum of three matches.

**3.01H(2) Team Match and Scoring.** Each team match in a local league shall consist of such number of individual matches of singles, doubles or any combination thereof, as

determined by the local league. The method of awarding points in order to determine the winning team of a local league team match and the winner of the local league competition may be the same as that used in championships competition or may be another method compatible with the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System selected by the local league. (See 3.03D and 3.03E.) The scoring in the event of a default or disqualification shall be 6-0, 6-0. (See 3.03O for scoring in the event of retirements.)

**3.01H(3) Individual Match.** An individual match is any singles match or any doubles match played as part of a team match.

**3.01H(4) Team Lineups.** The team captains for each team shall exchange their team line-up cards simultaneously prior to the beginning of the team match. No substitution may be made in an individual 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 and except under such further circumstances as the section authorizes. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute player is entitled to a five (5) minute warm-up. The default principles in 3.03L – Team Defaults shall be applicable, with such modifications as a section association may authorize.

**3.01H(5) Player Participation.**

**3.01H(5)a** A player may play on one team in a NTRP level within this division in the **same** local league during the **same** season. In local leagues where NTRP levels are divided into flights, players may not play in more than one flight.

**3.01H(5)b** A section may authorize participation in more than one NTRP level within this division in the **same** local league during the **same** season.

**3.01H(5)c** A player may play on more than one team within this division in the **same** season provided it is in **separate** local leagues. **The section has the authority to accept or deny participation.**

**3.01H(5)d** Players who qualify to advance to championships on more than one team may be required by their section to choose which team they will represent.

**3.01H(5)e** At any national championship, if a player qualifies for two or more teams at the same NTRP level for an event, the individual must declare which team he/she will represent. In the absence of a declaration, the first match played will determine which team he/she will represent.

**3.01H(5)f** An individual may play in either one singles or one doubles match within each team match.

**3.01H(6) Coaching.** Coaching will be permitted during the rest period only if the scoring method is the best of three tie-break sets and there is a 10-minute rest period between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> sets.

**3.01I Local League Champions.** At the conclusion of local league competition, the Local League Coordinator shall certify to the Section League Coordinator the results of the local league competition and the name(s) and address(es) of the team captain(s). Local league competition must be concluded prior to the deadline set by the section association.

**3.02 PROGRESSION**

**3.02A Local League Competition.** Each team that wins a specific level of local league competition shall be entitled to advance to the next level of competition.

**3.02B Area Championships.** Each section association shall determine and announce a method of progression suitable for its geographic boundaries for advancement of its local league teams to section league championships. Such progression may include one or more championships below the section championships.

**3.02C Section Championships.** Each section association shall hold a section league championship in each section approved level for men and for women, on or before the date specified by the USTA League Tennis Committee, to determine its section champion. The winning team at each level shall be eligible to compete in the USTA League Tennis National Championships. If the winning team at any level of competition is unable to compete further towards the national championships, then the Section League Coordinator may select the second place team for such further competition, etc.

**3.02D National Championships.** The team winning the national championship in each level of competition shall be the USTA League Tennis National Champion.

### **3.03 AREA, SECTION AND NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS.**

**In all championships after local league competition, the following shall apply:**

#### **3.03A Eligibility.**

**3.03A(1)** The Area or Section has the authority to determine the progression of teams to its Championship competition by (1) determining a champion of the preceding level of competition in its NTRP category or (2) the use of the Championship Wildcard Procedures. Champions of the preceding level of competition must be included in the progression.

**3.03A(2)** A player is eligible to progress to championship level competition if that player has played on that same team in at least two matches during its local league season. A maximum of one default received by the player during local league competition shall count for advancing. A retired match shall count toward advancing for all players involved.

**3.03A(3)** A player is eligible to advance to national championship competition if that player has played on that same team in at least three (3) matches through section championships. No defaults received by the player during all league competition shall count for advancing. A retired match shall count for all players involved.

**3.03A(4)** At all championships, a minimum of eight team members who were on the final roster of their local league team at the conclusion of local league play must be available and eligible to compete. The Championships Tournament Committee, by majority vote, can reduce that number to not less than four.

**3.03A(5)** All team members must be members of the USTA at the time of each competition.

**3.03A(6) Move-up/Split-up.** National championship rostered team members may move up one level as a team or must disperse to form new teams. The new teams may have no more than three (3) players who were on the final roster at the conclusion of local league play of any team or combination of teams that advanced to the national championships. This applies to any player who participated in any match for that team during the championship year, including defaults received. If a section has a regulation that limits the number of players on a roster that are at a specific level, the section must suspend that regulation for one year for any team that participated at the national championships the previous year and chooses to move up one level.

**3.03B Official League Championships Entry.** An official copy of the final USTA TEAM ROSTER FOR LEAGUES shall be submitted by the team captain or coordinator to the Championships Committee at each level of league championships prior to the deadline announced for entry into the event.

**3.03C Scoring and Rest.** It is recommended that all matches be the best of two tie-break sets with a match tie-break in lieu of a 3<sup>rd</sup> set. There will be no coaching during the 2-minute set breaks. The tie-break shall be scored as 1 set and 1 game for tie-break purposes. For play at or below the section level, the section association may authorize the use of other USTA approved scoring methods and other scoring methods that are compatible with the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System. Other match formats include: best of three tie-break sets with a set tie-break at 6-all, pro-set matches, a single set with a set or match tie-break at 6-all. No-Ad scoring can be used with any of the above scoring methods.

**3.03D Competition Format.** The Championships Committee shall determine the format for the competition. It may be round robin competition, single elimination competition or a combination of the two.

**3.03D(1) Round Robin.** If round robin competition is used, then each team shall play every other team in its flight and the team with the most team points shall be the champion in its flight. The use of flights requires a playoff structure to establish a champion.

**3.03D(2) Single Elimination.** If single elimination competition is used, then each team shall be drawn in a tournament format in accordance with the USTA Tournament Regulations.

**3.03E Team Match and Scoring.** A team match will consist of two individual singles and three individual doubles matches. The team winning the majority of those five individual matches will be awarded one team point. (See 3.06B – Adult 2.5 and 5.0 and 4.04A – Senior)

**3.03F Participation.** An individual player may play in only one position within each team match.

**3.03G Substitutions.** No substitution may be made in an individual 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, and except under such further circumstances as the championships committee may authorize. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute player is entitled to a five (5) minute warm-up.

**3.03H Coaching.** Coaching will be permitted during the rest period only if the scoring method for the championships level is the best of three tie-break sets and there is a 10 minute rest period between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> sets.

**3.03I Procedures in the Event of a Tie.** In the event of a tie, whether in round robin or single elimination competition, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:

**3.03I(1) Individual Matches.** Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.

**3.03I(2) Sets.** Loser of the fewest number of sets.

**3.03I(3) Games.** Loser of the fewest number of games.

**3.03I(4) Head-to-Head.** Winner of head-to-head match.

**3.03I(5) A method to be determined by the championships committee:** procedure to be announced prior to commencement of championship competition.

**3.03J Individual Defaults.** An individual default occurs when a player fails to appear on time, or is **disqualified** by a tournament official for misconduct.

**3.03K Scoring of Individual Defaults.** **Individual** defaults will be scored as a 6-0, 6-0 win for the player or doubles team receiving the default and a 0-6, 0-6 loss for the player or doubles team that defaulted the match. In the event of a default by both players or doubles teams, both sides will be given a 0-6, 0-6 loss and neither receives credit for a win. If a double default results in a tie, the tie-break procedure shall be the same as 3.03I **Procedures In the Event of a Tie** in order to determine a winner of that team match.

**3.03L Team Defaults.** A team must have a minimum of four eligible players available for play in each match or the entire match must be defaulted. A team may default a maximum of two positions in a match without defaulting the entire match. In such cases, defaults shall be determined by the team captain in accordance with the following:

**3.03L(1) Singles.** The No. 2 singles must be defaulted before the No. 1 singles.

**3.03L(2) Doubles.** The No. 3 doubles must be defaulted before the No. 2 doubles and the No. 2 doubles must be defaulted before the No. 1 doubles.

**3.03M Scoring of Team Defaults.** If a team defaults an entire team match for any reason during round robin play, then all matches of that team played or to be played, shall be null and void. If all teams in contention for the Championships have already played the defaulting team in good faith, the matches stand as played. The section may impose further sanctions or penalties on said team.

**3.03N Retirement.** A retirement occurs when an individual match has started and a player (doubles team) is unable to continue due to injury, loss of condition or emergency.

**3.03O Scoring of Retirements.** In case of a retirement, the non-retiring player (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 player or 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.

### **3.04 LEAGUE NTRP DISQUALIFICATION AND REVIEW PROCEDURES**

**The Regulations in this section apply only to the USTA League Tennis - Adult and Senior Divisions.**

**3.04A NTRP Disqualification Procedures.** Dynamic ratings will be calculated for all players during local league competition and at every level of championship competition below national championships, to determine if any players have reached the NTRP disqualification criteria using the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System Procedures. Players will be NTRP disqualified if they reach the disqualification level three (3) times based on all matches reported in the national database for USTA League Tennis – Adult and Senior Divisions.

**3.04A(1) Local League NTRP Disqualification.** Players will be notified by the Section League Coordinator or designee and have the right to a review in accordance with the procedures in 3.04B – NTRP Disqualification Review Procedures.

**3.04A(2) Championship NTRP Disqualification.** The section shall choose one of the following options at each championship event:

**3.04A(2)a** Run dynamic calculations and produce ratings throughout the championship. Through the conclusion of the championship event, notify and disqualify those players that meet the criteria for NTRP disqualification and reverse appropriate matches played.

**3.04A(2)b** Run dynamic calculations following the conclusion of the championship, calculate dynamic ratings and disqualify those players that meet the criteria for NTRP disqualification. Disqualified players will be notified by the Section League Coordinator or designee and have the right to a review in accordance with procedures in 3.04B – NTRP Disqualification Review Procedures. A disqualified player becomes a benchmark. (See 3.05B).

**3.04A(2)c** Individuals who receive their third strike while participating in another Division, but following the conclusion of their section championship for a given year and Division, will be allowed to advance to nationals if they otherwise qualify.

**3.04A(3)** Following an NTRP disqualification, the player may not play at the **disqualified NTRP level of play** (and any lower level of play) in either singles or doubles for the remainder of the championship league year and for the succeeding league year.

**3.04A(4)** Players who are NTRP disqualified may be allowed to move up and participate on another team at a higher NTRP level during that same local league season provided the roster add-on date has not ended.

**3.04A(5)** In the local leagues and at area or section championships, if the NTRP disqualification of a player is not upheld by the NTRP Review Committee, a second NTRP disqualification will be considered if warranted by additional data.

### **3.04B NTRP Disqualification Review Procedures.**

**3.04B(1)** Reviews are considered based solely on missing or incorrect information.

**3.04B(2) Local.** If the team captain or the player disqualified in the local league desires to request a review of the NTRP disqualification, he/she must request, in writing, to the Section League Coordinator or designee, a review before the NTRP Review Committee of the nearest jurisdiction within the deadline set by the administrator.

**3.04B(3) Championship.** If the team captain or the player disqualified during or after the conclusion of championship competition desires a review of the disqualification, he/she must request, in writing, a review before the NTRP Review Committee of the nearest available jurisdiction within the deadline set by the chairman of the championships committee.

**3.04B(4)** The request for a review shall be delivered to the chairman of the NTRP Review Committee. A review shall be held as soon as reasonable.

### **3.04C NTRP Review Committees.**

**3.04C(1)** NTRP Review Committees may be appointed in the local league and at area and section championships to consider reviews to NTRP disqualifications. Each committee shall be appointed with the approval of the Section League Coordinator.

**3.04C(2)** The members of any NTRP Review Committee may be the same as, or different in whole or in part, from the members of any other local, area or section committees.

**3.04C(3)** The decision of the NTRP Review Committee shall be by majority vote. The Committee shall immediately notify the affected players and team captains in writing of its decision.

**3.04C(4)** There shall be no further right of appeal from the decision of any NTRP Review Committee.

**3.04C(5)** The NTRP Review Committees for all local leagues and championships shall observe the review and disqualification procedures approved by the USTA League Tennis Committee.

### **3.04D Scoring Procedures.**

**3.04D(1) Local.** In the event of a disqualification from a particular level of play, the section shall determine and publish in its regulations what matches, if any, shall be considered

losses. The disqualified matches shall be considered 6-0, 6-0 wins for the opposing player or doubles team.

**3.04D(2) Championship.**

**3.04D(2)a NTRP Disqualification throughout championship competition in a round robin format or segment:** If the section chooses to run dynamic ratings and disqualify throughout the championship, 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.

**3.04D(2)b NTRP Disqualification throughout championship competition in single elimination or segment:** If the section chooses to run dynamic ratings and disqualify throughout the championship, the last individual match played by the player shall be considered a loss and that individual match shall be considered a win for the opposing player or doubles team.

**3.04D(2)c NTRP Disqualification following conclusion of championship competition:** If the section chooses to calculate dynamic ratings and disqualify those players that meet the criteria for NTRP disqualification following the conclusion of the championship, all points earned by disqualified players at the championships will stand.

**3.05 YEAR-END NTRP COMPUTER RATINGS AND APPEAL PROCEDURES**

**3.05A Year-end Computer Ratings.** When year-end NTRP computer ratings are determined in accordance with USTA NTRP Computer Rating System Procedures for players (including those designated as supplemental benchmarks), such ratings shall be the minimum NTRP computer ratings of players:

**3.05A(1)** For three (3) consecutive years or until a new NTRP computer rating is generated for individuals who are less than 60 years of age through the championship year (See Valid Computer Rating Chart)

**3.05A(2)** For two (2) consecutive years or until a new NTRP computer rating is generated for individuals 60 years of age and older prior to or during the championship year (See Valid Computer Rating Chart)

**3.05B Appeal of Year-end Computer Ratings.** Year-end NTRP computer ratings may be appealed and granted or denied in accordance with USTA NTRP Computer Rating System Procedures.

**3.05B(1)** The Section League Coordinator or designee will be responsible for review of all appeals except medical. The Section League Coordinator or designee will notify each individual if their appeal is granted or denied within the parameters established in the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System Procedures.

**3.05B(2)** If intervening permanent disabling injury or illness indicate that a rating may be too high, the player may request a reconsideration of such rating in accordance with USTA NTRP Computer Rating System Procedures.

**3.05B(3)** The section association may use the NTRP Review Committee described in 3.04C(1) NTRP Review Committees to adjudicate medical appeals or utilize a separate committee that shall follow USTA NTRP Computer Rating System Procedures.

**3.05C Championship Benchmarks.** A championship benchmark may not be appealed following the championship year it is received except for medical reasons. If intervening permanent disabling injury or illness indicates that a championship benchmark rating may be too high, the Section League Coordinator may request a reconsideration of a championship benchmark rating by the designated medical appeal committee with national benchmarks being referred to the National League Administrator. A year-old championship benchmark may be appealed in accordance with the NTRP Computer Rating System Procedures.

**3.06 NTRP 2.5 AND 5.0 REGULATIONS.**

**All USTA League Tennis Regulations in 1.00 GENERAL, 2.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES and 3.00 ADULT LEAGUE REGULATIONS, with the following exceptions, shall apply to the 2.5 and 5.0 level.**

**3.06A Team.** A 2.5 and 5.0 team shall consist of a minimum of five players of the same gender eligible to compete.



**3.06B Team Match & Scoring.** In all championships after local league competition, the team match format will consist of one singles and two doubles matches. The team winning the majority of those three individual matches will be awarded one team point.

**3.06C Eligibility.**

**3.06C(1)** At all championships, a minimum of five team members who were on the final roster of their local league team at the conclusion of local league play must be available and eligible to compete. The Championships Tournament Committee, by majority vote, can reduce that number to not less than three.

**3.06C(2) Move-up/Split-up.** National championship rostered team members may move up one level as a team or must disperse to form new teams. The new teams may have no more than two (2) players who were on the final roster at the conclusion of local league play of any team or combination of teams that advanced to the national championships. This applies to any player who participated in any match for that team during the championship year, including defaults received. If a section has a regulation that limits the number of players on a roster that are at a specific level, the section must suspend that regulation for one year for any team that participated at the national championships the previous year and chooses to move up one level.

**3.06D Team Defaults.** In all championships after local league competition, a team must have a minimum of three (3) eligible players available for play in each team match or the entire match shall be defaulted. A team may default a maximum of one position in a match without defaulting the entire match. In such cases, defaults shall be determined by the team captain in accordance with the following: Either the singles or the No. 2 doubles may be defaulted.

#### **4.00 SENIOR LEAGUE REGULATIONS.**

**All USTA League Tennis Regulations in 1.00 GENERAL, 2.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES and 3.00 ADULT LEAGUE REGULATIONS, with the following exceptions, shall apply to the USTA League Tennis – Senior League Division.**

**4.01 AGE.** Each player shall have reached fifty (50) years of age prior to or during the calendar year in which such player plays his/her first local league match.

**4.02 TEAM.** A senior league team shall consist of a minimum of six (6) players of the same gender eligible to compete.

**4.03 LEVELS OF PLAY.** The levels of league play are 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, and 4.5.

#### **4.04 AREA, SECTION AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**4.04A Team Match and Scoring.** In all championships after local league competition, the team match format will consist of three (3) doubles matches. The team winning the majority of those three individual matches will be awarded one team point.

#### **4.04B Eligibility.**

**4.04B(1)** At all championships, a minimum of six (6) team members who were on the final roster of their local league team at the conclusion of local league play must be available and eligible to compete. The Championships Tournament Committee, by majority vote, can reduce that number to not less than four.

**4.04B(2) Move-up/Split-up.** National championship rostered team members may move up one level as a team or must disperse to form new teams. The new teams may have no more than three (3) players who were on the final roster at the conclusion of local league play of any team or combination of teams that advanced to the national championships. This applies to any player who participated in any match for that team during the championship year, including defaults received. If a section has a regulation that limits the number of players on a roster that are at a specific level, the section must suspend that regulation for one year for any team that participated at the national championships the previous year and chooses to move up one level.

**4.04C Team Defaults.** In all championships after local league competition, a team must have a minimum of four eligible players available for play in each team match or the entire team match shall be defaulted. A team may default a maximum of one position in a match without defaulting the entire match: Said position shall be the No. 3 doubles.

## **5.00 MIXED DOUBLES LEAGUE REGULATIONS**

**All USTA League Tennis Regulations in 1.00 GENERAL, 2.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES and the following regulations shall apply to the USTA League Tennis – Mixed Doubles Division.**

### **5.01 LOCAL LEAGUE**

**5.01A Number of Teams.** A local league is a team competition in a specified geographic area that applies specific local league regulations and consists of NTRP level(s) with a minimum of two or more teams per level. A local league may choose to divide any or all NTRP levels into flights. Where flights are used, a playoff structure **may** be established to determine a champion for each NTRP level.

**5.01B Team.** A team shall consist of a minimum of six players (three women, three men) eligible to compete at a specific level of competition. The section may limit the number of players that appear on a team roster and the number of players that are at a specific NTRP level.

**5.01C Age.** Each player shall have reached nineteen (19) years of age prior to or during the calendar year in which such player plays in his/her first local league match.

**5.01D Entry.** A player without a computer rating must self-rate to enter the program. A player with a current NTRP computer rating must use that rating to enter the program. (See Valid Computer Rating Chart – inside back cover)

**5.01D(1)** Players entering the USTA League Tennis Program are defined as having an NTRP computer rating on file in TennisLink or as new/returning players without a computer rating. Once a player is assigned a computer rating derived in accordance with the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System Procedures, that computer rating is valid for up to three years or until another rating is generated. (See Valid Computer Rating Chart)

**5.01D(2)** Players who do not have a computer rating on file in TennisLink shall self-rate in accordance with the National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) Guidelines and complete the self-rating process on TennisLink when registering for a team. Failure to do so or omission of information regarding a player's tennis history, will subject the player, the captain and/or others who condoned inaccurate self-rating to sanctions and disqualification.

**5.01D(3)** Any player NTRP disqualified from the USTA League Tennis - Adult or Senior division may not play at the disqualified NTRP level of play in the USTA League Tennis – Mixed Doubles division (and any lower level of play) for the remainder of the championship league year and for up to three years unless a new NTRP computer rating is generated. A NTRP disqualified player becomes a benchmark. (See 3.04A(3)- Following a NTRP disqualification.) In combined Mixed Doubles leagues, the NTRP ratings of the disqualified player and partner may not surpass the level entered.

**5.01D(4)** A player may not be "dynamically NTRP" disqualified from the USTA League Tennis – Mixed Doubles division; however a player is subject to Self-rate Eligibility Grievances.

**5.01D(5)** Mixed Doubles results will not be part of generating a player's year-end rating except for those players who play in the USTA League Tennis – Mixed Doubles Division exclusively. Players who play exclusively in the USTA League Tennis – Mixed Doubles Division and choose to participate in the USTA League Tennis – Adult and/or Senior Divisions the next year must enter at their USTA League Tennis – Mixed Doubles Division year-end rating or higher.

**5.01D(6)** Players with a computer rating must enter at that NTRP level or higher.

#### **5.01E Levels of Play.**

**5.01E(1)** For league play, individual sections have the right to conduct the program using straight NTRP levels (3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 and 5.0) or combined (6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0 and 10.0.) Each individual mixed doubles team's combined NTRP ratings may not exceed the level entered.

**5.01E(2)** The NTRP difference between members of an individual doubles pair may not exceed 1.0.

**5.01F Mixed Doubles.** The local league shall determine which approved levels will be available for mixed doubles teams in local league competition.

**5.01G Scoring and Rest.** It is recommended that all matches be the best of two tie-break sets with a match tie-break in lieu of a 3<sup>rd</sup> set. There will be no coaching during the 2-minute set breaks. The tie-break shall be scored as 1 set and 1 game for tie-break purposes. For play at or below the section level, the section association may authorize the use of other USTA approved

scoring methods and other scoring methods that are compatible with the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System. Other match formats include: best of three tie-break sets with a set tie-break at 6-all, pro-set matches, a single set with a set or match tie-break at 6-all. No-Ad scoring can be used with any of the above scoring methods.

#### **5.01H Competition Format.**

**5.01H(1) Round Robin.** Each NTRP level within a local league shall play at least one round robin competition wherein every team plays every other team. Any NTRP level may be divided into flights and each team shall play every other team in its flight. The flight winners **may** enter a playoff structure to establish a local league champion for that NTRP level. Any NTRP level with only two or three teams is required to play a minimum of three matches.

**5.01H(2) Team Match and Scoring.** Each team match in a local league shall consist of such number of individual matches of mixed doubles as determined by the local league. The method of awarding points in order to determine the winning team of a local league team match and the winner of the local league competition may be the same as that used in championships competition or may be another method compatible with the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System, selected by the local league. The scoring in the event of a default or disqualification shall be 6-0, 6-0.

**5.01H(3) Individual Match.** An individual match is any mixed doubles match played as part of a team match.

**5.01H(4) Team Lineups.** The team captains for each team shall exchange their team line-up cards simultaneously prior to the beginning of the team match. No substitution may be made in an individual 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 and except under such further circumstances as the section authorizes. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute player is entitled to a five (5) minute warm-up. The default principles in 3.03L – Team Defaults shall be applicable, with such modifications as a section association may authorize.

#### **5.01H(5) Player Participation**

**5.01H(5)a** A player may play on one team in a NTRP level within this division in the **same** local league during the **same** season. In local leagues where NTRP levels are divided into flights, players may not play in more than one flight.

**5.01H(5)b** A section may authorize participation in more than one NTRP level within this division in the **same** local league during the **same** season.

**5.01H(5)c** A player may play on more than one team within this division in the **same** season provided it is in **separate** local leagues. **The section has the authority to accept or deny participation.**

**5.01H(5)d** Players who qualify to advance to championships on more than one team may be required by their section to choose which team they will represent.

**5.01H(5)e** At any national championship, if a player qualifies for two or more teams at the same NTRP level for an event, the individual must declare which team he/she will represent. In the absence of a declaration, the first match played will determine which team he/she will represent.

**5.01H(5)f** An individual may play in one doubles match within each team match.

**5.01H(6) Coaching.** Coaching will be permitted during the rest period only if the scoring method is the best of three tie-break sets and there is a 10-minute rest period between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> sets.

**5.01I Local League Champions.** At the conclusion of local league competition, the Local League Coordinator shall certify to the Section League Coordinator the results of the local league competition and the name(s) and address(es) of the team captain(s). Local league competition must be concluded prior to the deadline set by the section association.

### **5.02 PROGRESSION.**

**5.02A Local League Competition.** Each team that wins a specific level of local league competition shall be entitled to advance to the next level of competition.

**5.02B Area Championships.** Each section association shall determine and announce a method of progression suitable for its geographic boundaries for advancement of its local league

teams to section league championships. Such progression may include one or more championships below the section level.

**5.02C Section Championships.** Each section association shall hold a section league championship in each section approved level for mixed doubles on or before the date specified by the USTA League Tennis Committee, to determine its section champion. The winning team at each level shall be eligible to compete in the USTA League Tennis National Championships. If the winning team at any level of competition is unable to compete further towards the national championships, then the Section League Coordinator may select the second place team for such further competition, etc. The USTA League Tennis Committee shall decide which sections will comprise a region.

**5.02D National Championships.** The team winning the national Eastern and national Western championship in each level of competition shall be the USTA League Tennis National Mixed Doubles Champions.

### **5.03 AREA, SECTION AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS.**

#### **5.03A Eligibility.**

**5.03A(1)** The Area or Section has the authority to determine the progression of teams to its Championship competition by (1) determining a champion of the preceding level of competition in its NTRP category or (2) the use of the Championship Wildcard Procedures. Champions of the preceding level of competition must be included in the progression.

**5.03A(2)** A player may play in only one position within each team match.

**5.03A(3)** At all championships, a minimum of six team members (three women and three men) who were on the final roster of their local league team must be available and eligible to combine and compete. The Championships Tournament Committee, by majority vote, can reduce that number to not less than four.

**5.03A(4)** A player is eligible to progress to championship level competition if that player has played on that same team in at least two (2) matches during its local league season. A maximum of one (1) default received by the player during local league competition shall count for advancing. A retired match shall count for all players involved. (See Retirement in glossary)

**5.03A(5)** A player is eligible to advance to National Championship competition if that player has played on that same team in at least three (3) matches through section championships. No defaults received by the player during all league competition shall count for advancing. A retired match shall count for all players involved. (See Retirement in Glossary)

**5.03A(6)** Move-up/Split-up. The section shall have the right to decide whether a team who competes at any championship level must move up a level or disperse to form new teams for the following league year and under what conditions.

**5.03B Official League Championships Entry.** An official copy of the final USTA TEAM ROSTER FOR LEAGUES shall be submitted by the team captain or coordinator to the Championships Committee at the first level of league championships prior to the deadline announced for entry into the event.

**5.03C Scoring and Rest.** It is recommended that all matches be the best of two tie-break sets with a match tie-break in lieu of a 3<sup>rd</sup> set. There will be no coaching during the 2-minute set breaks. The tie-break shall be scored as 1 set and 1 game for tie-break purposes. For play at or below the section level, the section association may authorize the use of other USTA approved scoring methods and other scoring methods that are compatible with the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System. Other match formats include: best of three tie-break sets with a set tie-break at 6-all, pro-set matches, a single set with a set or match tie-break at 6-all. No-Ad scoring can be used with any of the above scoring methods.

**5.03D Competition Format.** The Championships Committee shall determine the format for the competition. It may be round robin competition, single elimination competition or a combination of the two.

**5.03D(1) Round Robin.** If round robin competition is used, then each team shall play every other team in its flight and the team with the most team points shall be champion in its flight. The use of flights requires a playoff structure to establish a champion.

**5.03D(2) Single Elimination.** If single elimination competition is used, then each team shall be drawn in tournament format in accordance with the USTA Tournament Regulations.

**5.03E Team Match and Scoring.** In all championships after local league competition, the team match format will consist of three individual doubles matches. The team winning the majority of those three individual matches will be awarded one team point.

**5.03F Participation.** An individual player may play in only one position within each team match.

**5.03G Substitutions.** No substitution may be made in an individual 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, and except under such further circumstances as the championships committee may authorize. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute player is entitled to a five (5) minute warm-up.

**5.03H Coaching.** Coaching will be permitted during the rest period only if the scoring method for the championship level is the best of three tie-break sets and there is a 10 minute rest period between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> sets.

**5.03I Procedures in the Event of a Tie.** In the event of a tie, whether in round robin or single elimination competition, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:

**5.03I(1) Individual Matches.** Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.

**5.03I(2) Sets.** Loser of the fewest number of sets.

**5.03I(3) Games.** Loser of the fewest number of games.

**5.03I(4) Head-to-Head.** Winner of head-to-head match.

**5.03I(5)** A method to be determined by the championships committee; procedure to be announced prior to commencement of championship competition.

**5.03J Individual Defaults.** An individual default occurs when a player fails to appear on time, or is disqualified by a tournament official for misconduct.

**5.03K Scoring of Individual Defaults.** Individual defaults will be scored as a 6-0, 6-0 win for the doubles team receiving the default and a 6-0, 6-0 loss for the doubles team that defaulted the match. In the event of a default by both opposing teams, both sides will be given a 6-0, 6-0 loss and neither receives credit for a win. If a double default results in a tie, the tie-break procedure shall be the same as 5.03I – Procedure in the Event of a Tie in order to determine a winner of that team match.

**5.03L Team Defaults.** A team must have a minimum of four players available and eligible to combine and compete for play in each match or the entire match must be defaulted. A team may default one position in a match without defaulting the entire match. Said position shall be the No. 3 doubles.

**5.03M Scoring of Team Defaults.** If a team defaults an entire team match for any reason during round robin play, then all matches of that team played or to be played, shall be null and void. If all teams in contention for the Championships have already played the defaulting team in good faith, the matches stand as played. The section may impose further sanctions or penalties on said team.

**5.03N Retirement.** A retirement occurs when an individual match has started and a player (doubles team) is unable to continue due to injury, loss of condition or emergency.

**5.03O Scoring of Retirements.** 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.

## **5.04 YEAR-END NTRP COMPUTER RATINGS AND APPEAL PROCEDURES**

**The Mixed Doubles Division is subject to Regulation 3.05 – YEAR-END NTRP COMPUTER RATINGS AND APPEAL PROCEDURES where applicable.**

## **6.00 SUPER SENIOR LEAGUE REGULATIONS**

All USTA League Tennis Regulations in 1.00 GENERAL, 2.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES and the following regulations shall apply to the USTA League Tennis – Super Senior Division.

### **6.01 LOCAL LEAGUE**

**6.01A Number of Teams.** A local league is a team competition in a specified geographic area that applies specific local league regulations and consists of NTRP level(s) with a minimum of two or more teams per level. A local league may choose to divide any or all NTRP levels into flights. Where flights are used, a playoff structure **may** be established to determine a champion for each NTRP level. (See 6.01H – Competition Format)

**6.01B Team.** A team shall consist of a minimum of six players of the same gender eligible to compete at a specific level of competition. The section may limit the number of players that appear on a team roster and the number of players that are at a specific NTRP level.

**6.01C Age.** Each player shall have reached sixty (60) years of age prior to or during the calendar year in which such player plays in his/her first local league match.

**6.01D Entry.** A player without a computer rating must self-rate to enter the program. A player with a current NTRP computer rating must use that rating to enter the program (see Valid Computer Rating Chart).

**6.01D(1)** Players entering the USTA League Tennis - Super Senior Program are defined as having an NTRP computer rating on file in TennisLink or as new/returning players without a computer rating. Once a player is assigned a computer rating, derived in accordance with the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System Procedures, that computer rating is valid for two years or until another rating is generated. (See Valid Computer Rating Chart - inside back cover)

**6.01D(2)** Players who do not have a computer rating on file in TennisLink shall self-rate in accordance with the National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) Guidelines and complete the self-rating process on TennisLink when registering for a team. Failure to do so, or omission of information regarding a player's tennis history, will subject the player, the captain and/or others who condoned inaccurate self-rating to sanctions and disqualification.

**6.01D(3)** Any player NTRP disqualified from the USTA League Tennis – Adult or Senior divisions may not play at the disqualified NTRP level of play in the USTA League Tennis – Super Senior Division (and any lower level of play) for the remainder of the league year and for up to two years unless a new NTRP computer rating is generated. A NTRP disqualified player becomes a benchmark. In combined leagues, the NTRP rating of the disqualified player and partner may not surpass the level entered.

**6.01D(4)** A player may not be “dynamically NTRP” disqualified from the USTA League Tennis – Super Senior division; however a player is subject to Self-rate Eligibility Grievances.

**6.01D(5)** Super Senior match results will be a part of generating a player's year-end rating.

#### **6.01E Levels of Play.**

**6.01E(1)** The sections may conduct either straight NTRP levels (3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5) or combined NTRP levels (6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0) for their local seasons. The championship levels of play will be the combined NTRP levels of 6.0, 7.0, 8.0 and 9.0. Each individual super senior doubles team's combined NTRP ratings may not exceed the level entered.

**6.01E(2)** The NTRP difference between members of an individual doubles team may not exceed 1.0.

**6.01F Men and Women.** Men's and Women's leagues shall be separate at each approved level of competition. The local league shall determine which approved levels shall be available for men and women in local league competition.

**6.01G Scoring and Rest.** It is recommended that all matches be the best of two tie-break sets with a match tie-break in lieu of a 3<sup>rd</sup> set. There will be no coaching during the 2-minute set breaks. The tie-break shall be scored as 1 set and 1 game for tie-break purposes. For play at or below the section level, the section association may authorize the use of other USTA approved scoring methods and other scoring methods that are compatible with the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System. Other match formats include: best of three tie-break sets with a set tie-break at 6-all, pro-set matches, a single set with a set or match tie-break at 6-all. No-Ad scoring can be used with any of the above scoring methods.

### **6.01H Competition Format.**

**6.01H(1) Round Robin.** Each NTRP level within a local league shall play at least one round robin competition wherein every team plays every other team. Any NTRP level may be divided into flights and each team shall play every other team in its flight. The flight winners may enter a playoff structure to establish a local league champion for that NTRP level. Any NTRP level with only two or three teams is required to play a minimum of three matches.

**6.01H(2) Team Match and Scoring.** Each team match in a local league shall consist of such number of individual matches as determined by the local league. The method of awarding points in order to determine the winning team of a local league team match and the winner of the local league competition may be the same as that used in championships competition or may be another method compatible with the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System, selected by the local league. The scoring in the event of a default or disqualification shall be 6-0, 6-0.

**6.01H(3) Individual Match.** An individual match is any super senior singles or doubles match played as part of a team match.

**6.01H(4) Team Lineups.** The team captains for each team shall exchange their team line-up cards simultaneously prior to the beginning of the team match. No substitution may be made in an individual 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 and except under such further circumstances as the section authorizes. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute player is entitled to a five (5) minute warm-up. The default principles in 3.03L – Team Defaults shall be applicable, with such modifications as a section association may authorize.

#### **6.01H(5) Player Participation.**

**6.01H(5)a.** A player may play on one team in a NTRP level within this division in the **same** local league during the **same** season. In local leagues where NTRP levels are divided into flights, players may not play in more than one flight.

**6.01H(5)b.** A section may authorize participation in more than one NTRP level within this division in the **same** local league during the **same** season.

**6.01H(5)c.** A player may play on more than one team within this division in the **same** season provided it is in **separate** local leagues. **The section has the authority to accept or deny participation.**

**6.01H(5)d.** Players who qualify to advance to championships on more than one team may be required by their section to choose which team they will represent.

**6.01H(5)e.** At any national championship if a player qualifies for two or more teams at the same NTRP level for an event, the individual must declare which team he/she will represent. In the absence of a declaration, the first match played will determine which team he/she will represent.

**6.01H(5)f.** An individual may play in one match within each team match.

**6.01H(6) Coaching.** Coaching will be permitted during the rest period only if the scoring method for the championships level is the best of three tie-break sets and there is a 10 minute rest period between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> sets. (See 6.03C.)

**6.01I Local League Champions.** At the conclusion of local league competition, the Local League Coordinator shall certify to the Section League Coordinator the results of the local league competition and the name(s) and address(es) of the team captain(s). Local league competition must be concluded prior to the deadline set by the section association.

### **6.02 PROGRESSION.**

**6.02A Local League Competition.** Each team that wins a specific level of local league competition shall be entitled to advance to the next level of competition.

**6.02B Area Championships.** Each section association shall determine and announce a method of progression suitable for its geographic boundaries for advancement of its local league teams to section league championships. Such progression may include one or more championships below the section level.

**6.02C Section Championships.** Each section association shall hold a section league championship in each section approved level for men and for women.



## **6.03 AREA, SECTION AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

### **6.03A Eligibility.**

**6.03A(1)** The area or section has the authority to determine the progression of teams to its Championship competition by (1) determining a champion of the preceding level of competition by NTRP category or (2) the use of the Championship Wildcard Procedures. Champions of the preceding level of competition must be included in the progression.

**6.03A(2).** An individual player may play in only one position within each team match.

**6.03A(3)** A player is eligible to advance to National Championship competition if that player has played on that same team in at least two (2) matches through section championships. A maximum of one defaulted match received shall count for advancing. A retired match shall count for all players involved.

**6.03A(4)** At all championships, a minimum of six team members who were on the final roster of their local league team at the conclusion of local league play must be available and eligible to combine and compete at championships. The Championships Tournament Committee, by majority vote, can reduce that number to not less than four.

**6.03A(5)** All team members must be members of the USTA at the time of each competition.

**6.03A(6). Move-up/Split-up.** The section shall have the right to decide whether a team who competes at championship level must move up a level or disperse to form new teams for the following league year and under what conditions.

**6.03B Official League Championship Entry.** An official copy of the final USTA Team Roster for Leagues shall be submitted by the team captain or coordinator to the Championship Committee at the first level of league championships prior to the deadline announced for entry into the event.

**6.03C Scoring and Rest.** It is recommended that all matches be the best of two tie-break sets with a match tie-break in lieu of a 3<sup>rd</sup> set. There will be no coaching during the 2-minute set breaks. The tie-break shall be scored as 1 set and 1 game for tie-break purposes. For play at or below the section level, the section association may authorize the use of other USTA approved scoring methods and other scoring methods that are compatible with the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System. Other match formats include: best of three tie-break sets with a set tie-break at 6-all, pro-set matches, a single set with a set or match tie-break at 6-all. No-Ad scoring can be used with any of the above scoring methods.

**6.03D Competition Format.** The Championships Committee shall determine the format for the competition. It may be round robin competition, single elimination competition or a combination of the two.

**6.03D(1) Round Robin.** If round robin competition is used, then each team shall play every other team in its flight and the team with the most team points shall be champion of its flight. The use of flights requires a playoff structure to establish a champion.

**6.03D(2) Single Elimination.** If single elimination competition is used, then each team shall be drawn in tournament format in accordance with the USTA Tournament Regulations.

**6.03E Team Match & Scoring.** In all championships after local league competition, the team match format shall be three individual doubles matches. The team winning the majority of those three individual matches will be awarded one team point.

**6.03F Participation.** An individual player may play in only one position within each team match.

**6.03G Substitutions.** No substitutions may be made in an individual 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, and except under such further circumstances as the championship committee may authorize. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute player is entitled to a five (5) minute warm-up.

**6.03H Coaching.** Coaching will be permitted during the rest period only if the scoring method for the championships level is the best of three tie-break sets and there is a 10 minute rest period between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> sets.

**6.03I Procedures in the Event of a Tie.** In the event of a tie, whether in a round robin or single elimination competition, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:

**6.03I(1) Individual Matches.** Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.

**6.03I(2) Sets.** Loser of the fewest number of sets.

**6.03I(3) Games.** Loser of the fewest number of games.

**6.03I(4) Head –to-Head.** Winner of head-to-head match.

**6.03I(6) A method to be determined by the championship committee:** procedures to be announced prior to commencement of championship competition.

**6.03J Individual Defaults.** An individual default occurs when a player fails to appear on time, or is disqualified by a tournament official for misconduct.

**6.03K Scoring of Individual Defaults.** Individual defaults will be scored as a 6-0, 6-0 win for the doubles team receiving the default and a 6-0, 6-0 loss for the doubles team that defaulted the match. In the event of a default by both opposing teams, both sides will be given a 6-0, 6-0 loss and neither receives credit for a win. If a double default results in a tie, the tie-break procedure shall be the same as 6.03I – Procedure in the Event of a Tie in order to determine a winner of that team match.

**6.03L Team Default.** A team must have a minimum of four players available and eligible to combine and compete for play in each match or the entire match must be defaulted. A team may default one position in a match without defaulting the entire match. Said position shall be the No. 3 doubles.

**6.03M Scoring of Team Defaults.** If a team defaults an entire team match for any reason during round robin play, then all matches of that team played or to be played, shall be null and void. If all teams in contention for the Championships have already played the defaulting team in good faith, the matches stand as played. The section may impose further sanctions or penalties on said team.

**6.03N Retirement.** A retirement occurs when an individual match has started and a doubles team is unable to continue due to injury, loss of condition or emergency.

**6.03O Scoring of Retirements.** 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.

## **6.04 YEAR-END NTRP COMPUTER RATINGS AND APPEAL PROCEDURES**

**The Super Senior Division is subject to Regulation 3.05 – YEAR-END NTRP COMPUTER RATINGS AND APPEAL PROCEDURES where applicable.**