



USTA SOUTHERN SECTION REGULATIONS
for USTA League Tennis
Adult, Senior, Mixed Doubles, & Super Senior Divisions
League Year 2012 – as of 01-12-12

Subject to change based on National Regulation changes

MAJOR REGULATION CHANGES FOR 2012

1.04E(1) Domicile and Residency Requirements.

Sections may create residency requirement rules to encourage and foster local league play.

2.01A Levels of Play

Sections have the authority to choose straight or combined NTRP levels (3.0, 3.5, 4.0 or 4.5 or 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0) for Super Seniors.

2.05E Players 70 and over promoted at year end. Change allows a player who is 70 years of age or older and promoted at year end, to appeal such rating based on **his/her three most recent yearend ratings**, rather than on the three prior consecutive years.

3.03A(6)

Regardless of any other regulation, a league coordinator, a member of the Championships Committee, a Grievance Committee, or a Grievance Appeal Committee, may file a grievance at any time **except for an NTRP Grievance. This change clarifies that an NTRP Grievance may not be filed at any time to prevent a conflict with national regulation 3.03E(3).**

Application:

USTA League Tennis National and Southern Regulations have full force and applicability at all levels of play in USTA League Tennis in the USTA Southern Section and there is no authorization to modify, amplify or change them by local or State League Coordinators, or Grievance or Grievance Appeals Committees. USTA League Tennis Regulations (National and Southern) are available on the USTA Southern Section website:

www.southerntennis.com. Printed below are the USTA Southern Section League Regulations as authorized by the USTA League Tennis National Regulations.

(Note: Paragraphs included herein are numbered according to pertinent paragraphs of the 2012 USTA League Tennis Regulations and should be applied in conjunction with those paragraphs.)



1.00 GENERAL

1.02 GOVERNANCE

1.02B Amendments. These USTA Southern Section Regulations may be amended by the Section Adult Leagues Committee.

1.02C Written Interpretation. The Sectional League Coordinator, in conjunction with USTA Southern Section Adult Leagues Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman, shall have the authority to interpret the USTA League Tennis Southern Section Regulations.

1.04 USTA LEAGUE

1.04B(1) USTA League Committee. The USTA Southern Section League Program shall be governed by the Adult Leagues Committee appointed by the President of the USTA Southern Section and subject to the control and direction of the USTA Southern Section Board of Directors.

1.04B(6) Championships Committees. Each state association within the Southern Section is responsible for appointing championship committees within their area in accordance with USTA Regulation 1.04B (6).

1.04C OFFICIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

1.04C(1) Official League Registration. Each state must establish deadlines and procedures for registering teams on TennisLink. Players who submit an appeal to their self-rating through the Tennis Link system before their local league deadline for registering players will be permitted to register up to seven days after the notification of final self-rating.

1.04C(2) Official Score Reporting and Standings System. Scores must be reported in TennisLink within 48 hours of the completed team match. TennisLink will automatically confirm scores 48 hours after the team match is initially reported in TennisLink if not confirmed by opposing captain.

1.04D LOCAL LEAGUE

1.04D(3) Local League Season. All local leagues shall obtain approval of the State League Coordinator for the dates of the local league season(s) within the Southern Section. In the event a local league is not concluded on the date published in TennisLink, then the end date in TennisLink should be amended to reflect the date of the last match played.

1.04D(4) Area, District and Section Championship Events. Each state shall determine the dates of the championships within the state. Each championship event ends on the date published in TennisLink as the championship end date. In the event a championship is not concluded on the date published in TennisLink, then the end date in TennisLink should be amended to reflect the date of the last match played.

1.04D(5) Team. State Associations may limit the number of players that appear on a team roster and/or the number of players on that roster that are at a specific NTRP level.



1.04E PLAYER REQUIREMENTS.

1.04 E (1) Domicile and Residency Requirements. States may create residency requirement rules to encourage and foster local league play.

1.04E(3) Age

DIVISION	MINIMUM AGE
Adult	18
Mixed	
Senior	50
Senior Mixed	
Super Senior 60	60
Super Senior 70	70

1.04G PLAYER PARTICIPATION

1.04G(1) Participation. League players may play in the USTA League Adult, Senior, Super Senior, Mixed Doubles and Senior Mixed Doubles divisions during the same local league season.

1.04G(4) The State may authorize participation in more than one NTRP level within a division in the same local league during the same season.

1.04G(5) A player may play on more than one team within a division in the same season provided it is in a separate local league. The State has the authority to accept or deny participation.

1.04G(6) Players who qualify for the Adult/Senior Section Championships may advance on only one Adult Division and one Senior Division team. Players who qualify for the Mixed Doubles Section Championships may advance on only one Adult Mixed and one Senior Mixed team. Players who qualify for the Super Senior Section Championships may advance on only one Super Senior 60 and one Super Senior 70 team. (Exception: players may participate on a 5.0 and a 5.5 or Open team provided that each team that he or she is rostered on has at least five unique players registered to play at the Section Championships.) Players may advance to more than one State's Championships provided they have qualified to advance in each state. If eligible players do not participate at the State Championships, they may participate in the Section and/or National Championships. A state has the authority to regulate advancement on more than one adult and/or senior team and on more than one Super Senior team to the State Championships. No accommodations for scheduling will be made at Section Championships.

2.00 USTA LEAGUES REGULATIONS

All USTA League Regulations in 1.00 GENERAL and 3.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES and the following procedures shall apply to USTA League – Adult, Senior, Mixed Doubles, and Super Senior Divisions.



2.01A Levels of Play. USTA Southern League levels are in accordance with the following table:

DIVISION	DIVISION LEVEL	EVENTS BELOW NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	COMMENT
Adult	2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0	2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0	2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0	Players cannot have a rating higher than the NTRP level in which the player is competing
Senior	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	
Mixed Doubles	2.5, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0	2.5, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0	2.5, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local leagues have the option to play using straight NTRP level or combined level. In mixed league there is an option to play 2.5 straight level in addition to the combined levels. Using straight NTRP level, players cannot have a rating higher than the NTRP level in which they are competing. Using combined NTRP level, the combined NTRP level of the doubles team cannot exceed the combined NTRP ratings level entered. The NTRP difference between members of an individual doubles team may not exceed 1.0
Senior Mixed	Straight 2.5 and combined 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0	Straight 2.5 and combined 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0	Senior Mixed Not part of the Nat'l program	
Super Senior	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	<u>3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5</u> Or 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0	
Super Senior 70	2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0	2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0	Super Senior 70 Not part of the Nat'l program	

2.01C Competition Format.

2.01C(3) Match Scoring. Each state association may determine the method of scoring for local league competition.

2.01C(5) Team Lineups. An individual match is started when the first ball is put in play. After the start of an individual match, if injury to or illness of, a player occurs, the opponents will be awarded a retirement for that individual match only. If a disqualification occurs the opponents will be awarded a default. The default principles in 2.03K shall be applicable, with the Sectional modifications that:

- In the event of illness, injury, disqualification, or no-show of a player prior to the start of an individual match (once the lineup has been exchanged), a team may substitute a player in the affected position within the 15-minute default time, using a player not already listed on the lineup. If no such substitution can be made, the affected position only will be defaulted in local leagues.
- In the event that a team match must be re-scheduled and starting times are staggered, where opponents are not available and ready to play, defaults will be awarded in the affected position only.



- c. States will decide how to regulate rescheduling of team matches due to rain or inclement weather or pass that authority to their local leagues.
- d. Two players will play together in the higher position when both of their partners do not show in order to avoid two defaults.
- e. States may decide how to score team defaults at the local level. If the state or local league does not have a specific rule in place to cover a full team default it must follow the national championship regulation 2.03L.
- f. The following applies to the Adult 2.5 and 5.0 teams at Section Championships: if a player is injured or becomes ill after the lineup has been submitted and the captain must change the lineup in order to prevent a team match default, the opposing captain may also change their lineup. This only applies to the 2.5 and 5.0 levels as the lineup change will affect both singles and doubles positions.

2.02 PROGRESSION.

2.02B(1) State Championships. The format for winning teams to progress from local league competition to Section League Championships is as follows:

The States shall determine the progression from local league to State Championship. The States shall identify to the Section their winning teams at each level.

The State Associations shall hold State League Championships for the Adult and Senior Divisions on or before the 1st day of July 2012 to determine its State Champions for those divisions.

The State Associations shall hold State League Championships for the Mixed Doubles Division on or before the 30th day of September, 2012 to determine its State Champions for that division.

The State Associations shall hold State League Championships for the Super Senior Division on or before the 11th day of November, 2012 to determine its State Champions.

Any State who cannot comply with any of these dates must seek the permission of the Sectional League Coordinator and Adult Leagues Committee. If teams are brought in early to the Section Championships in Adult, Senior, and Mixed Doubles for local league play, the above-mentioned dates would not apply.

2.03 STATE, SECTION AND NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS.

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

2.03A Eligibility. Players who play in a local league prior to January 1, 2012 and whose published rating at the time of registration was in level may advance to championship play with that team at that level unless their NTRP rating reaches the disqualification mark for that level.

If a player's rating is lowered during the Mixed Doubles league season, the player must continue to use the rating submitted on the roster for that season.



2.03A(3) In a local league where two league seasons are played, with a winner declared for each season, a player must have played two matches during the same local league season in which his/her team qualified for further competition. A team winning both seasons without identical rosters for both seasons must choose which season's roster of players will represent the local league at championship competition.

2.03A(4) A player is eligible to advance to championship competition if that player has played the minimum number of required matches on that same team in the same division in accordance with the table below. A retired match shall count toward advancing for all players involved.

Division	Any Championship Level		National Championship	
	Minimum local matches played for State and Section Championships	Defaults received counting to advance	Minimum matches through Section Championships	Defaults received counting to advance
Adult	2	1	3	0
Senior				
Mixed				
	Minimum matches to advance to Section Championships for States with 2 or more teams			
Super Senior 60	1 Local or State Championship match	1	3	0
Super Senior 70	1 Local or State Championship match	1	Not a part of National Program	
Senior Mixed				

If there is no local and/or state competition offered for the Adult, Senior, or Mixed Doubles Divisions, one team per state per level may be permitted to play a local league prior to the Section Championships beginning. If teams are brought in early to the Section Championships for local league play, all teams will be provided wildcards to advance to the Section Championships.

If there is no local and/or state competition offered for the Senior Mixed Division or Super Senior Division, one team per state per level may advance directly to the Section Championships. The one match requirement may be waived at the discretion of the Tournament Committee for players whose teams are advancing to the Section Championships through local or state play.



2.03C Scoring and Rest. At the Southern Section Championships, all matches will be the best of two tiebreak sets with a match tiebreak in lieu of a third set. There will be a two minute set break at the end of each set with no coaching. The Match tiebreak shall be scored as 1 set and 1 game for tiebreak procedures in the event of a tie. State Associations in the Southern Section have the authority to determine the method of scoring for State Championships.

2.03D Competition Format. Section Championships format shall be round robin in all levels of competition. A full draw is comprised of two flights with five teams each: the nine state champion teams and a wildcard team. Each team shall play every other team in its flight and the team with the most team points shall be champion in its flight. Levels with two flight winners will offer a single elimination finals match to determine the champion. If a state has two teams in the same level, the referee will place those teams in separate flights provided there are two flights in that level.

The Section may issue wildcards as necessary to fill the draw. If less than four teams are entered in a NTRP level draw within 21 days of event, the draw for the NTRP level will be cancelled unless otherwise authorized by the Tournament Committee.

Dates and Locations:

The 2012 USTA League Tennis Southern Section Championships will be held in Mobile, AL, July 28- August 5, 2012.

Additional levels offered that do not require matches played prior to advancement to the Section Championships: Men's 5.5 and above, Women's Open, Senior Men's and Women's 2.5. Deadline for registration will be set by Southern administration.

The 2012 USTA League Tennis Southern Section Mixed Doubles Championships will be held October 12-14, 2012 in Macon, GA. Deadline for registration of Senior Mixed teams advancing directly to Section Championships will be set by Southern administration.

The 2012 USTA League Tennis Southern Section Super Senior Championships will be held November 30-December 2, 2012, location TBA. The deadline for registration of Super Senior teams advancing directly to Section Championships is 10/31/12.

2.03L Scoring of Team Defaults. A team forfeiting an entire team match during championship play may receive further penalties imposed by the Tournament Committee.

2.04 LEAGUE NTRP DISQUALIFICATION AND REVIEW PROCEDURES

2.04B(2) Championship NTRP Disqualification. The Southern Section chooses the following option for our championship events.



2.04B(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. A disqualified player will be notified by the Section League Coordinator or designee and have the right to a review in accordance with procedures in National Regulation 2.04C – *NTRP Disqualification Review Procedures*. A disqualified player becomes a benchmark.

2.04B(4) Disqualified players may register on a higher-level team if a team agrees and there is time to register prior to the end of local round robin competition. State regulations for deadlines and roster limits would be waived if a team is found and time permits.

2.04D NTRP REVIEW COMMITTEES. All NTRP Reviews will be handled by the Southern Oversight Group.

2.04E SCORING PROCEDURES.

2.04E(1) Local. If a self-rated player or a player with a granted medical appeal is disqualified for that particular level of play, all matches played by that individual player shall be considered losses and scored (6-0, 6-0). All players who have computer rated appeals (A), or dynamic ratings (D), who are subject to disqualification, will not be subject to match reversal if disqualified. Players not disqualified by conclusion of local league round robin play will be eligible to compete in entire local playoff. Dynamic ratings will be calculated at the end of the local playoff to inform any disqualified players that they may not advance to the state championships. Points earned by disqualified players will stand. Local play occurring at the State Championships: Players will be permitted to play in the entire event but, if a disqualification occurs when the ratings are run at the conclusion of the tournament, those matches will be handled in the following manner: If the play is a Round Robin, matches for the DQ'd players are reversed. Matches played during a playoff, by winners advancing from multiple Round Robins are not reversed.

2.04E(2) Championship. Dynamic ratings will be calculated following the State and Section Championships. Points earned by disqualified players will stand. The disqualified player will not be eligible to advance to the next level of competition.

2.05 YEAR-END NTRP COMPUTER RATINGS AND APPEAL PROCEDURES.

2.05A Applicability. The regulations in this section are applicable to the Adult, Senior, Super Senior, and Mixed divisions. Players may appeal their NTRP rating in accordance with the procedures of the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System and their State Appeal Procedures. Match results from NTRP Tournaments in TennisLink will NOT be included in the 2011 year-end ratings.

2.05D(1) USTA Southern shall utilize a Section Appointed Medical Review Committee to evaluate all medical appeals; and, if the injury/illness is deemed permanently disabling, the appeal will be forwarded to the National Review Committee through the Section League Coordinator for a final decision.

2.06 Move-up/Split-up.

2.06A Super Senior teams that compete at State, Section or National Championships are not required to



disperse to form a new team for the following league year.

3.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

3.01 ADMINISTRATION

3.01(A) Grievance Committees. All local and state league regulations will include the names of grievance and grievance appeal committee members and will be distributed to captains prior to beginning of the local league season. Distributions via captains' packets and/or websites are acceptable. Each state shall approve all Local and State League Grievance and Grievance Appeal Committees. Grievance decisions that impose sanctions will be upheld throughout the USTA Southern Section.

3.03 GRIEVANCE COMPLAINTS.

3.03A(2) All grievances against administration at the local, state or sectional level where the complaint alleges that a coordinator or committee has violated National, Sectional, State or Local Regulations will be handled by the USTA Southern Section Leagues Grievance and Grievance Appeal Committees. Decisions of Grievance Appeal Committees shall be final and binding, provided the decisions are not in conflict or in violation of national, sectional, state and/or local regulations. (See USTA Regulation 1.02A).

3.03A(4) Grievances shall be handled by USTA League Tennis Grievance and Appeal Committees at the appropriate level (i.e. Local, State, or Section). Grievance actions may be moved to the next higher organizational level for action, as deemed necessary by the appropriate governing body.

3.03D(2) The Grievance Committee that wants to sanction a party not named in the grievance complaint must formally file a grievance against them.

3.03D(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 the decision through the appropriate Section, State or Local League Coordinator who will deliver copies to parties involved.

3.03E(6) NTRP Grievance Complaint. The USTA Southern Section will administer NTRP Grievance Complaints. These complaints should be first delivered to the Local League Coordinator who will forward to the State League Coordinator who will forward to the Southern NTRP Grievance Committee Chairman. This committee will have jurisdiction over grievances filed against any player and/or captain who commits or condones entering at an NTRP level lower than their actual skill level.

3.03E(7) NTRP Grievances filed within 21 days of the start date of the player's and/or captain's State or Section Championships will be administered after the event unless the section authorizes the administration of the grievance prior to that time. If the grievance is not administered until after the event, points won by players will stand. Disqualified players and/or captains that are suspended will not be eligible to advance to the next level of championship play.



2011 and 2012 USTA Southern Section Adult League Committees –

Bonnie Vandegrift - Chairman
Kathy Hinrichs - Vice Chairman
John Liles - OL
John Sheffield - ED
Judith Anderson
| Cookie Guarini
Dodie Hanchett
Joe Murphy
Leslie Shields
Bee Stewart
Sue-Ann Stuntz
Steve Sumners
Nancy Vineyard
| Chris Walling-Staff
Dene Owen-Staff

FlexLeague Subc.
Kathy Hinrichs - Chair
Carla Catalano
Sherri Crosby
Vicki Nash
Chris Walling-Staff
Dene Owen-Staff

NTRP Oversight Subc.
Sue-Ann Stuntz - Chair
Debbie Swindoll
Michael Vandegrift

Sectional Champ. Subc.
Dodie Hanchett - Chair
Cookie Guarini
Michael Mathes
Chaney Mills
BJ Johnson

The Southern Grievance and Grievance Appeal Committee are formed as necessary using members of the Adult League Committee and Subcommittees and then other members as selected by the Adult League Committee Chair.