



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (Interpretations)

*For 2005 League Year*

*(updated 6/13/05)*

*(most recent change/additions are underlined and in blue)*

The questions and answers in this document are interpretations or clarifications of the USA League Tennis Regulations. The sections are required to abide by these interpretations.

If a Section, District or Local League does not have a regulation in place to handle an issue and there is a national Championship regulation on that issue, the Section, District or Local League must follow the Championship regulation.

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                                | SECTION | Start Page |
|--------------------------------|---------|------------|
| CHAMPIONSHIPS PROCEDURES ..... | A.....  | 2          |
| ELIGIBILITY .....              | B.....  | 5          |
| GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES .....     | C.....  | 8          |
| LOCAL LEAGUE PROCEDURES .....  | D.....  | <u>12</u>  |
| MATCH PLAY .....               | E.....  | <u>15</u>  |
| NTRP DISQUALIFICATIONS.....    | F.....  | <u>18</u>  |
| NTRP RATINGS .....             | G.....  | <u>20</u>  |

| <b>CHAMPIONSHIPS PROCEDURES</b>  |  |   |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| 1/1/98<br><br>Updated<br>1/25/04 | <p>When a player is disqualified during a <b>championship</b>, is only the player's last match considered a loss, or are all previous matches considered as losses?</p> <p>For questions dealing with Local disqualification - See either Local Procedures or NTRP Disqualification.</p> | <p>It depends on the basis for the disqualification during the championship. (See Local League Procedures Section for how the same issues are handled at the Local level.)</p> <p><b>Eligibility DQ:</b><br/>Regulations 2.02D(4)b states “during round robin,” all matches played by the disqualified player; 2.02D(4)c states “in single elimination” the last individual match played by the player .</p> <p><b>Dynamic DQ:</b><br/>The scoring procedure is determined by the option chosen by the section regarding disqualification <u>during or after</u> the championships. The section option should be provided to all captains. See Regulation 3.04D(2)</p> <p><b>Grievance upheld</b> involving other issues – the Grievance Committee may direct the correction of any violations by reasonable means, including suspension of a player or team. . .</p> |
| 1/1/98                           | <p>If as a result of a forfeit a player is credited with a 6-0, 6-0 win, and if such player is subsequently disqualified, would such win then become a loss?</p>   | <p>Yes, if the 6-0, 6-0 win occurred during round robin competition.<br/>No, if the 6-0, 6-0 win occurred during single elimination competition, since only the last individual match played shall be considered a loss.<br/><i>See Regulation: 3.03K</i></p>   |
| 1/1/98                           | <p>May a sectional association permit a team, other than the winning team at a specific level of competition, to participate in the next level of competition?</p>   | <p>Yes. If the winning team cannot participate in the next level of competition, a sectional association may select the second place team; and if the second place team is unable to participate, then a sectional association may select another team which in the judgment of the sectional association is best qualified.<br/><i>See Regulation: 3.02C</i></p>   |
| 1/1/98                           | <p>Does the use of a wild card team in area or sectional championships conflict with any USA League Regulation?</p>  | <p>No. In accordance with the guidelines set forth in the League Championships Wild Card Procedures, a sectional association may adopt wild card procedures for its area and sectional championships.<br/><i>See Regulation: 3.03A(1)</i></p>   |

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 1/1/98<br><br>Updated<br>1/1/04                                | In the event that a tournament uses two different scoring methods and a tie develops, how does the championships committee break the tie?   | In the event the Championships Committee alters the format from regular scoring to a pro-set or other acceptable format, so there is a combination of the two scoring methods and a tie develops, all matches will be converted to best of 2 or 3 tie-break sets using the Conversion Chart Procedures provided by the national office. TennisLink will only accept one scoring method during a championship event. The converted scores as published in TennisLink will be the official score and tie-break process. |
| 1/1/98   | Within USA League Regulation dealing with Scoring a Team Forfeit, what is the definition of "in contention?"  | Interpretation: "In contention has been defined as "Any team that has a mathematical chance to win or place second in the event at the time the default occurs."  |
| 1/1/98   | Can a team advance to a championship level from a "team tournament"?  | In order to allow a team to advance to a championship level from a "team tournament", they must meet the requirements of a local league. Of course teams/players must also meet the basic requirements of age, membership, match requirements, or NTRP computer rating. The requirements of a local league are listed in the following regulations.<br><i>See Regulations: 1.11, 3.01A, 3.01H(1), 3.03A(2), 5.01A, 5.01H(1), 5.03A(1), 6.03A(1)</i>   |
| 1/13/99<br><br>Updated<br>9/1/02                               | If a local league or area/district has only one team at a Division (Adult, Senior or Mixed) can they go directly to the District/Sectional Championships?   | NO.<br>They must play a local league first. If there is only one team in each of the districts they could play their local league at the sectional championships and the winner advance.  |
| 8/5/02<br><br>also<br>found in<br>Sect. B-<br>Eligibil-<br>ity | What happens when a team has finished an Early Start League for the following season before they compete in the current year sectional championships and then win the sectional championship and the opportunity to advance to Nationals? Regulation 3.03A(5) and 3.07C require that team split up for the next year – in this case the next year is almost finished. | The team won their next year's early start local league before their current year sectional championships. They win sectionals and advance to current year national championships. As the team had no way of knowing they would be advancing to nationals the section should request a waiver for them to stay together following this national championship year. Whether they repeat winning Sectionals next year or not, they must split up for the next available championship league year.                       |

|                                   |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| 1/1/02                            | How many matches may a team play per day during championship?  | Championships using best of 2 tie-break sets with a 3 <sup>rd</sup> set tie-break may schedule no more than three matches per day per team. A minimum of 30 minutes rest (Senior Divisions – 1 hour) will be provided between matches. If a team/player enters more than one Division or event then these limitations shall apply separately to each. No consideration shall be given by the tournament staff in scheduling matches.<br><i>See Regulations and Procedures Implementation of Set or Match Tie-break in Lieu of a Third Set.</i> |
| 8/5/02                            | We have a two team league, both teams have the required amount of players registered. The one team forfeited all their matches to the other team. May the winning forfeited team progress to championship?       | No.<br>No league has actually taken place. This is all paper with no attempt to play.  |
| 1/1/98<br><br>Updated<br>1/25/04  | Can a player play on only one team in the championship season?   | Players who qualify on more than one team for championship competition may be required by their sections to choose which team they will represent.<br>If the Section permits participation on more than one team, no consideration shall be given by the tournament staff in scheduling matches.<br><i>See Regulations 3.01H(5)d, 5.01H(5)d and 6.01H(5)d</i>  |
| 7/29/02<br><br>Updated<br>1/25/04 | If an individual is <u>dynamically</u> disqualified at a championship in which (s)he had also qualified at a higher level, can they then elect to participate at the higher level during that same championship? | <u>Yes, IF the section permits participation on more than one championship team per event.</u><br><i>See regulation 3.01H(5)d, 5.01H(5)d and 6.01H(5)d</i>   |

|                                  | <b>ELIGIBILITY</b>  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| 1/1/98<br>Updated<br>6/18/01     | If two players on the roster of a 4.5 adult area championships team were unable to compete in the 4.5 adult sectional and national championships, could these two players and three teammates who played a match in the 4.5 adult national championships play on the same adult team in the succeeding league year? | No.<br><br>All players on the roster of a team that advanced to nationals must be part of this procedure. National Championship <b>teams</b> must move up one level as a team or disperse to form new teams with no more than three (2 for 2.5 and 5.0) <b>rostered players</b> on any single team for the following league year.<br><i>See Regulation: 3.03A(5), 4.05 and 5.03A(5)</i>   |
| 1/1/98<br>Updated<br>1/2/02      | Can a team play at a national championships in the adult division and not have to split up if the same team qualifies for senior division the next year or visa versa (naturally, the NTRP ratings must allow for this to happen.)?   | Yes. The split up regulation only applies if the team is participating in the same division.<br>However, two adult division teams merging together could have no more than 3 players total whose names appeared on final local league rosters of teams at national championships.<br><i>See Regulation 3.03A(5)</i>   |
| 4/10/99<br><br>Updated<br>9/1/02 | What happens if more than the allowed number of players who were on the roster at a national championship appear on a given roster the next year?   | If a team violates USA League Tennis Regulations by submitting a roster with more than the allowable number of players that were on the roster at a National Championships the previous year, any player registered beyond the three (2 for 2.5, 5.0) allowed will be disqualified and all matches played by those players will be considered losses.<br><br>For example, if a 4.0 team submits a roster with 5 players that were on a team roster at the 4.0 National Championships the prior league year, the last 2 of those players to register shall be declared ineligible and any matches played forfeited. If the team roster includes the minimum number of players still eligible to play, the team will be permitted to finish the local season with the adjusted roster.<br>Resulting forfeits will count towards two match eligibility requirements for opposing players. Actual scores of forfeited matches will be input for the purpose of generating NTRP ratings. (See Regulations 3.03A, 3.06C and 4.05) |

|                                   |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| 5/25/00<br><br>Updated<br>2/23/03 | Can a player whose league has a waiver to start early (before January) register and play if he/she has not reached the required age (19 or 50) but will turn eligible during the league year?  | <p>The player may register but not participate in a match until January 1 of the year in which they reach the eligible age.</p> <p>A waiver to start the league season early is in effect for most of the sections.</p> <p>No waiver has been requested or given to allow participation before reaching the required age.</p> <p>NOTE: TennisLink will allow the registration if the first match is on or after January 1<sup>st</sup>.</p> <p>TennisLink will prevent the registration of an age-restricted player if the first league match is before January 1<sup>st</sup>. The section will have to leave registration open past January 1<sup>st</sup> if they wish to allow these individuals to participate.</p> <p><i>See Regulations: 3.01C; 4.01, 5.01C and 6.01C - Age</i></p> |
| 1/1/98<br><br>Updated<br>9/01/02  | If USTA Membership expiration occurs during championships competition, and if no renewal application is filed prior to such expiration, will such player become an ineligible player?  | <p>Yes.</p> <p>Note: If, of course, it is determined prior to the commencement of any competition that a player does not have a current USTA membership, the player can and must immediately apply for a membership renewal or be disqualified.</p> <p>TennisLink will supply the championship staff with a report of all participants needing renewal and the event staff should work to see no player is disqualified for this reason.</p> <p><i>See Regulations: 1.11C and 3.03A(4)</i></p>   |
| 1/1/98<br><br>Updated<br>9/1/02   | If a player's name or domicile is misrepresented, or the player misrepresents or fails to disclose relevant facts relating to participation in the USA League Tennis Program, does the player become ineligible and subject to disqualification? | <p>Yes.</p> <p>It is essential that a player truthfully disclose all facts relevant to USA League Tennis Program participation. Failure to do so can result in disqualification.</p>   |
| 7/12/99<br><br>12/8/99            | If a player is winning 4-2 in the first set and then retires, does this count for the person's computer rating?" This player already successfully completed one match earlier in the season.   | <p>ADVANCEMENT: The match will count for advancement for all players involved regardless of how many points/ games were played.</p> <p><i>See 3.03A(2); 3.03O</i></p> <p>NTRP YEAR-END RATING: No. Computer Methodology states "Defaults or retirements in which neither player(s) wins six (6) or more games are not part of the rating calculation." In the case stated the match would not count as the 2<sup>nd</sup> match</p>  |

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
|  |   | played. The player would not receive a published year-end rating because the retired match did not have either player with 6 games won.  |
| 7/27/99  | We are considering implementing a rule that would limit the number of players returning on the same team that participated at Sectionals the previous year. Just like the National rule, is this permissible under the rules?   | Yes.<br>That would be an amplification and you could do it.  |
| 10/1/01  | Is a NTRP computer rated player who chooses to “play up” in either USA League Tennis programs or NTRP Tournaments violating that portion of Regulation 1.12 – PLAYER AGREEMENT, dealing with “. . . good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship.”?   | Any individual with a valid NTRP computer rating participating under the USA League Tennis Regulations and USTA NTRP Computer Rating System Procedures established by the USA League Tennis Committee cannot be questioned on “sportsmanship or fair play” issues because they elect to “play up.” The NTRP system will correctly adjust their rating (if necessary) when the final calculations are completed at the end of the league year.<br>• See interpretation on handling self-rated players significantly underrating their ability – found under Grievance Procedures.<br>(See <i>NTRP Ratings - Section N</i> ) |
| 8/5/02<br>Also found<br>in Sect. A-<br>CHAMP-<br>IONSHIP | What happens when a team has finished an Early Start League for the following season before they compete in the current year sectional championships and then win the sectional championship and the opportunity to advance to Nationals? Regulation 3.03A(5) and 3.07C require that team split up for the next year – in this case the next year is almost finished. | The team won their next year’s early start local league before their current year sectional championships. They win sectionals and advance to current year national championships. As the team had no way of knowing they would be advancing to nationals the section should request a waiver for them to stay together following this national championship year. If they repeat winning Sectionals next year or not, they must split up for the next available championship league year.   |
|  |   |  |

# GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <p>1/1/98</p> <p>Updated<br/>9/1/02</p> | <p>Must the League Grievance Committee hold a hearing before rendering a decision?</p>         | <p>No.</p> <p>The League Grievance Committee shall cause such investigation of the alleged violation to be made as it deems appropriate. If the League Grievance Committee then concludes that the facts clearly require a dismissal of the complaint or clearly establish a violation, the League Grievance Committee can render a decision without a hearing.</p> <p><i>See Regulation <a href="#">2.02E</a></i></p> <p>If League Grievance Committee deems a hearing is warranted and arrange a hearing, the parties involved have the right to appear personally or by teleconference call and present evidence before the committee. The League Grievance Committee's decision shall be in writing and copied to all parties involved in the complaint. The decision of the League Grievance Committee shall be by majority vote.</p> <p><b>LEAGUE GRIEVANCE APPEAL COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>An important factor here is the League Grievance Appeal Committee does not have to meet unless the League Grievance Committee did not hold a hearing, in which case the League Grievance Appeal Committee must meet if requested in writing by <u>any of the parties involved in the appeal.</u></p> <p>The parties to the appeal have the opportunity to submit in writing the facts/ arguments in support of their respective position.</p> <p><i><u>See Regulation: 2.03B(2)</u></i></p> <p>The League Grievance Appeal Committee has the power to affirm, modify or reject but may not impose any harsher penalty of the decision of the Grievance Committee, and a written copy of its final and binding decision shall be promptly sent to all interested parties.</p> <p><i>See Regulation: <a href="#">2.03B(3)</a></i></p> |
| <p>1/1/98</p>                           | <p>How soon after the Grievance Committee has rendered a decision must an appeal be filed?</p> | <p>The appeal must be filed within the time fixed by the League Grievance Committee in its findings.</p> <p>Generally speaking the time should not exceed</p>   |



|                                   |   |  |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
|                                   |   | such period of time as reasonably required by the appealing party to file a written notice of appeal containing facts and arguments in support thereof. Even more important is whether any delay will adversely affect the progress of the event.<br><i>See Regulation: 2.02D(3) and .2.03A</i>  |
| 1/1/98<br><br>Updated<br>9/1/02   | Who appoints the local, area and sectional league Grievance Committees and Appeal Committees?   | With the approval of the sectional association, a local league may appoint a Local League Grievance Committee and a Local League Appeal Committee.<br><i>See Regulation: 2.01A(1) and 2.01B(1)</i><br>If a sectional association has area league competition, it shall appoint Area League Grievance Committees and Area League Appeal Committees.<br><i>See Regulations: 2.01A(2) and 2.01B(2)</i><br>Each sectional association shall appoint a Sectional League Grievance Committee and Sectional League Appeal Committee.<br><i>See Regulation: 2.01A(2) and 2.01B(2)</i><br>Members for all these committees are to be approved by the Sectional League Coordinator             |
| 2/6/03                            | Rule 2.02A(2) states that "a complaint against the Administration of the League shall be filed and heard in the same manner as any other complaint."<br><br>Doesn't the local league Administration have a conflict of interest in those instances where it has a substantial role in nominating and selecting Grievance Committee members? | In all cases, the Sectional League Coordinator must approve the members of a subordinate Grievance Committee (Rule 2.01A(1)-(2)).<br>Rule 2.02A(2) is intended to affirm that the same basic procedural rights and requirements pertain to grievances against the Administration. However, the appearance of a conflict may exist where a Grievance Committee organized by the Administration attempts to resolve a complaint filed against that same Administration. In such cases, grievances should be referred to the next higher level of authority for disposition (Area, District, Section). All efforts must be made to avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest. |
| 2/28/03<br><br>Updated<br>5/12/04 | Can any action be taken against an individual or captain who enters or condones entering at one NTRP level when the player's actual skill level is at the top of the next NTRP level or higher?   | The 2005 Reg. 2.02B states that such individuals may be subject to grievance complaint and possible disqualification.<br><br>If matches are to be reversed, the section shall follow all the time and scoring constraints listed under 2005 Regulation 2.02C(4) and 2.02D(4) Scoring of Eligibility Disqualification. The Section League Grievance Committee may establish additional  |

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| Updated<br>1/25/04   |  | penalties as they deem appropriate including but not limited to disqualification, suspension from league play or other league sanctions. The section shall have the option to administer fair play grievances prior to, during or after championship play.<br>The Section League Grievance Committee decision may be appealed in accordance with Regulation 2.03 of USA League Tennis Regulations.  |
| 5/18/04  | Eligibility disqualifications are unique in that we handle an established penalty in two different ways – if within 24-hours of local league season – remove all matches; if after conclusion of local league by more than 24 hours, matches stand but individual may not advance. What controls the penalty phase of an eligibility disqualification? | Certain eligibility issues such as membership are cut and dry – you were a member or you were not, at the time match was played.<br>NTRP Self Rate eligibility issues require time to research. <u>The date the League Grievance Committee makes their decision will control the penalty phase.</u>   |
| 1/25/04<br><br>12/1/04<br>relocated<br>from Fair<br>Play<br>question<br>in this<br>section | Can an individual play during a grievance and/or grievance appeal?   | <b>Play during Grievance procedures:</b><br>An individual may continue to play during <b>any</b> grievance investigation and hearing but must understand that if upheld, all matches played during that time may be defaulted.<br><b>Play during Appeal procedures:</b><br>If the grievance is upheld, the individual may not play during his/her appeal process.<br>If the grievance is denied and appealed by the filer, the individual may play 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.<br><u>2005 Regulation 2.02A(5) and 2.03A(2) clearly state this issue.</u> |
| 6/13/05  | How is a NTRP Self-Rate Grievance to be handled?   | An issue of self-rate abuse or NTRP Self-Rate Grievance is handled as a regular grievance.<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It must be filed in writing by the complaining party.</li> <li>• It must be adjudicated by the Section League Grievance Committee. It may not be handled by a local or district league grievance committee unless a waiver has been specifically requested and approved by the USA League Tennis Committee.</li> <li>• <b>A NTRP Self-Rate grievance is handled as an eligibility issue and therefore there is no deadline</b></li> </ul>  |

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  |  | <p><b>for filing the complaint.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regulations specifically state what the penalty will be in the case of a complaint being upheld during the local league season, <u>which will be defined as the deadline established on TennisLink as the League Season End Date.</u></li><li>• Penalties are assessed based on the date of the Grievance Committee <u>decision</u>, thus determining whether handled under local league season or championship.</li></ul> |
|--|--|--|

## LOCAL LEAGUE PROCEDURES

|                                  |  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| 1/1/98                           | Can a sectional association limit the number of players who can play up on a single team?  | Yes. The sectional 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.<br><i>See Regulations: 3.01B, 5.01B, 6.01B</i>   |
| 1/1/98                           | Can a sectional association increase the minimum number of players necessary to form a team?   | No. A sectional association may only recommend such action, e.g., for the purpose of preventing forfeits.<br><i>See Regulations: 3.01B, 5.01B, 6.01B</i>   |
| 1/1/98                           | Can a local league use a team match format consisting of five individual doubles matches?  | Yes. 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.<br><i>See Regulation: 3.01H(2), 5.01H(2) and 6.01H(2)</i>   |
| 1/1/98<br><br>Updated<br>1/25/04 | In determining the winner of a team match and the winner of the competition, can the local league use methods different from the methods in championship competition?  | Yes. The determination of such winners may be the same as that used in championship competition or other methods selected by the local league. <u>However, the method needs to work within the TennisLink program.</u><br><i>See Regulation: 3.01H(2)</i>  |
| 1/1/98<br><br>1/25/04<br>Updated | Can the section determine if players will be permitted to meet eligibility requirements during a local league playoff?<br><br>What is the difference between a local league play-off and an area championship? | During a local league playoff, the <b>section shall determine</b> if players <b>will be permitted</b> to meet the requirements of participation in further championships (two match requirement).<br><br>The difference is players may not qualify to advance during any championship competition. Any matches played as part of a local league playoff below area/district championship may be considered local league <b>or</b> part of championship, based upon the procedures published by the Section.<br><i>See Regulations: <u>1.14 – players may not be added during local league playoff or any championship</u></i><br><i>3.01A, 3.01H(1), 3.03A(1), 5.01A and 5.01H(1) and 6.01H(1)</i> |

|                                   |  |   |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| 2/23/00<br><br>Updated<br>12/1/04 | Does a player have to choose which team (s)he will represent at a local league playoff if on 2 or more teams?  | <u>The Section or District (if passed down) may institute regulations restricting participation on more than one team in a local league playoff. You must check with your Section or District to determine whether they treat local league play-off as part of championship and restrict participation on more than one team or if they treat as a local league.</u><br><u>See 3.01H(5)d</u>  |
| 12/3/99<br><br>Updated<br>9/1/02  | Regulation <u>3.03M</u> Championship Scoring a Team Forfeit states:<br>“If a team forfeits 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. . . .”<br>Is the local league required to follow this regulation if no alternative rule is in place at the section, district or local level? | Yes. If the section, district or local league does not have a specific rule in place to cover a full team default it must follow the national championship regulation.<br><br>Remember, the objective is to play the match. The Section is encouraged to put a procedure in place.<br>If they elect to use the championship rule, they should be aware that if all teams in contention have played the defaulting team – those scores will stand.   |
| 9/5/02                            | Does an LLC have the right to stipulate to captains what positions they must forfeit should the team show up to a match with less than the minimum number?   | <u>No</u> . The captain defaulting will make that decision. However, the captain must forfeit from the bottom up. 2 <sup>nd</sup> singles before 1 <sup>st</sup> ; 3 <sup>rd</sup> doubles before 2 <sup>nd</sup> , etc.<br>(See Regulation 3.03L)  |
| 1/1/98<br><br>Updated<br>12/1/04  | During local round robin competition a player is disqualified. Is only such player's last match considered a loss, or are all previous matches considered as losses?   | It depends on the basis for the disqualification during the local league play. (See Championship Procedures Section for how the same issues are handled during championship.)<br><b><u>Eligibility DQ:</u></b><br>Regulations 2.02 <u>C</u> (4) a, b and c. Review this section as penalty varies based on stage of local league.<br><b><u>Dynamic DQ:</u></b><br><i>Reg. 3.04D(1)</i> states that each Section will establish what, if any matches shall be considered losses and under what circumstances – may be different for computer rated players vs. Self-rated players. The section option should be provided to all captains.<br><br><b><u>Grievance upheld</u></b> involving other issues: The Grievance Committee may direct the correction of any violations by reasonable means, including suspension of a player or team.<br><i>See Regulation 2.02E(2)</i> |

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
|  | <p>When does the local league season end?<br/>Important because of possible grievance penalties for eligibility issues.</p> | <p>The local league season ends on the date published in TennisLink as the League Season End Date.</p> <p>If a Grievance Committee does not render a decision on a self-rate (eligibility question) grievance prior to the end of the local season by more than 24 hours, the player's team may not be penalized by removal of matches.</p> |
|--|---|---|

| <b>MATCH PLAY</b>                |  |   |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| 1/1/98                           | If after the team captains have exchanged their team match cards, a player is injured during the warm-up in an individual match, can a substitution be made for the injured player?  | <p>Yes. A substitution can be made in this situation because the first point of the individual match had not been played. Even if another individual match in the team match had begun, a substitution can still be made in any individual match that has not begun when there has been an injury to, illness of, or a disqualification of a player or any criteria authorized by the section. A Section may authorize further situations in which a substitution may be made.</p> <p><i>See Regulation: 3.01H(4)</i></p>   |
| 1/1/98<br><br>1/25/04<br>Updated | What happens when two players on a team don't show up that are members of two different doubles teams?   | <p>The section or championships committee may authorize that in this case, the two players be able to play together at the higher position in order to avoid an additional forfeit. For example, if the two players came from the number one doubles team and the number three doubles team, these players would play at number one doubles, the number two doubles team would remain the same and the forfeit would occur at the number three doubles position.</p> <p>The key word is for the section to AUTHORIZE and this should be done in its section regulations.</p> <p><i>See Regulation 3.01H(4)</i></p>  |
| 7/14/03                          | What happens when a captain expects/states that the #1 position (singles or doubles) will be there shortly, so the opposing captain permits the other positions (#2 and/or #3) to go on the court and start/complete matches, and then the team(or person) doesn't show up and a default is recorded at the #1 position? | <p>Regulation 3.03L Championship Procedures covers this issue as to how forfeits are to be taken. The #2 singles before the #1 singles; the #3 Doubles before the #2 and the #2 doubles before the #1 doubles. Championship regulations/procedures apply unless a section has developed its own regulation/procedure.</p> <p>That said, if due to unforeseen circumstances, the captains allow (either by word or failure to prevent) a lower position to start out of sequence and later the higher match ends up a default – all matches stand as played.</p> <p>RATIONALE: The captains accepted the conditions under which the match was played when (s)he permitted the lower positions to start – All matches played in good faith stand.</p> |

|                              |  |  |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| 1/1/98                       | Is coaching permissible in a league match? If so, when?  | When playing the best of three sets, coaching is only permitted between the second and third sets if there is a rest period between such sets. Such coaching is not in conflict with the Rules of Tennis. It is recommended that all matches be the best of two sets, with regular scoring and a set tie-break at 6-all in each set. In the event of split sets, a set or match tie-break shall be played in lieu of a third set with the two minute set break with no coaching allowed. |
| 1/1/98                       | What occurs if a player(s) is on the wrong court in an individual team match?  | If the discovery occurs before the first set has been completed players are to go to the correct courts and begin the matches over. If the discovery occurs after the first set is completed, the matches <u>will be</u> completed <u>as started</u> and count as matches played in good faith.  |
| 1/1/98<br>Updated<br>9/23/03 | How should “known defaults” be handled both at the local level and at championships?   | In the spirit of good sportsmanship and fair play, the opposing team(s) should be advised of a known default. The defaulting captain will still be able to designate at what position (2 <sup>nd</sup> singles or 3 <sup>rd</sup> doubles) a known default will occur.   |
| 1/13/00                      | Can a Section or District require play in order of strength? An individual team in the 8.0 Division which has a combined NTRP of 7.5 would play below other individual teams with an 8.0 NTRP. | No.<br>A local rule requiring playing in order of strength is in violation of the national regulations. Any rule dealing with this issue needs to be removed from your section, area, or local rules.  |
| 1/1/98<br>Updated<br>9/1/02  | Are all matches in the USA League Tennis Program, whether in local, area, sectional or national competition, sanctioned by the USTA?   | Yes. The USA League Tennis Program has been approved by the USTA without any sanction application.<br><br><i>See USTA Regulations V. Sanctioning Regulations; C. Sanction Fees . 2 Tennis Leagues</i>  |
| 2/1/02                       | Can you do cross flight matches that will affect standings? Some teams from Flight A playing some teams from Flight B.   | Reg. 3.01H(1) Round Robin states “Each NTRP level within a local league shall play at least one round robin competition wherein every team plays every other team.<br>Flights may not randomly select other teams to play. The principle of teams all having equal opportunity would come into dispute.<br>A local league that is looking for more match play but does not have sufficient time to complete a 2 <sup>nd</sup>  |



|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  |  | <p>full round robin segment may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Expand the time for the local league and do a double round robin.</li><li>• Do smaller flights that would allow a double round robin</li><li>• Complete an initial full round robin and then have the top 4 teams (example) play an additional round robin and the bottom 4 teams play an additional accommodation round robin.</li><li>• Do a local league play-off where the top 4 teams in two different flights play a full round robin and the last 4 teams do the same.</li></ul> |
|--|--|--|

## NTRP DISQUALIFICATIONS

|         |   |   |
|---------|---|---|
| 8/18/99 | <p>The rules state that NTRP disqualification is not part of the Mixed Doubles Division. If a player is disqualified at the Adult or Senior Divisions, are they allowed to participate at the DQ'ed level in Mixed Doubles Division for the remainder of the league year?</p> | <p>No. Even though the Mixed Doubles Division does not allow disqualification, it must follow the rules (<i>Reg. 5.01E</i>) in relation to playing at the correct level. A player who has been moved up as a result of a disqualification in the Adult or Senior Divisions must <u>immediately adjust</u> his/her NTRP level of play in the Mixed Doubles Division.</p> <p>The player will have two options:</p> <p>Option #1:<br/>If a combined NTRP level team, he/she may continue on that team by adjusting the levels. (9.0 combined team—dq'ed 4.5 player now at 5.0 must play with no greater than a 4.0 player)</p> <p>Option #2:<br/>If a single NTRP level team, he/she must move up to the appropriate NTRP level or sit out the balance of that season depending on the section's regulations. (A player on a combined NTRP level team may also choose to move up if the section allows.)</p> <p>In the Mixed Doubles Division, all matches played up until the notification of the disqualification will be counted. Any match played at the disqualified level following notification of the disqualification will be counted as defaults for the individual team match of the disqualified player and 6-0, 6-0 wins for the opponents in those individual matches.</p> |
| 1/25/02 | <p>Just how far back does a NTRP disqualification go during a local league play-off? What matches need to be reversed?</p>  | <p>Each individual tier involved in a local league play-off progression will be considered a separate tier. Any disqualification occurring during these separate tiers will affect only matches in that particular tier. No matches will be reversed in previous tiers of the local league play-off.</p>  |
| 3/21/01 | <p>If a player is NTRP disqualified during the Adult Local league, what happens to the matches in other Divisions?</p>  | <p>If a local NTRP disqualification occurs during concurrent Adult and/or Senior local league seasons, the disqualification shall affect the matches played by the disqualified player in both Divisions.</p> <p>If the seasons are not concurrent or over-lapping, the NTRP disqualification shall affect the matches played by the disqualified player in the season in which the NTRP DQ occurred.</p> <p>If a player is disqualified while playing in a Mixed Division, the player shall immediately play at the higher level.</p> <p>All of this is based upon the knowledge that the Section now determines the penalties to be imposed.</p> <p><i>See Mixed Reg. 5.01D Note</i></p>  |

|                                   |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| 4/1/02                            | Does the section have to hold a hearing on a Dynamic NTRP Disqualification where no error in match results or other missing information is provided?                   | <p>No.</p> <p>The request for a “hearing” has officially been changed to a request for a review. Regulations clearly state that there will be no consideration of a review without proof of missing or incorrect information.</p> <p>If an individual or captain can produce missing or incorrect information that information will be reviewed and the player and captain notified of the impact of the additional information on the player’s ratings, either resulting in no change or the reversal of the NTRP disqualification.</p> |
| 6/23/03<br><br>Updated<br>12/1/04 | What matches, if any, should be reversed during local league or championship play when an individual is NTRP disqualified during participation at a higher NTRP level. | <p><u><a href="#">Reversals will be based on the Section’s choices stated in the section regulations.</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">If any match(s) are to be reversed, they will be at the DQ’ed level.</a></u></p> <p>If they opt to remove only the last match played, it will be the last match played at the DQ’ed level.</p> <p>Rational is that there would have been no DQ if the individual had not been playing at a lower level than their ability indicated.</p>   |

## NTRP RATINGS

|                                  |  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| 1/1/98<br><br>Updated<br>12/1/04 | Who appoints local, area and sectional NTRP Review Committees?   | <p>With the approval of the sectional association, a local league may appoint a Local League NTRP Review Committee. If a sectional association has area championships, the sectional association may appoint Area League Championships NTRP Review Committees. Each Section Association shall appoint a Sectional League Championships NTRP Review Committee.</p> <p><i>See Regulation 3.04.C</i></p> <p>Members for all these committees are to be approved by the Sectional League Coordinator</p>   |
| 1/1/98<br><br>Updated<br>12/1/03 | What happens to players with above level computer ratings whose local league play begins prior to January 1 <sup>st</sup> of the year they progress to National Championships? | <p>Sections that begin league play prior to January 1 of the year in which they progress to the National Championships may adopt one of the following two options in reference to players who are found to have computer ratings which place them above the level at which they began to play:</p> <p>Option 1: Players who are found to have valid computer ratings after the appeal process that place them above the level at which they are competing will be moved to the next level. Prior team matches played are valid</p> <p>Option 2: Players who are found to have valid computer ratings that place them above the level at which they are competing may continue their participation at that level UNLESS their year-end rating reaches the “clearly above level mark.” If it does, they too must adjust to that new level.</p> <p>All players in both Options will be subject to disqualification at all levels through Sectional championships.</p> |
| 5/9/02<br><br>1/25/04<br>Updated | In local leagues where less than <u>20%</u> of the league has valid computer ratings do we assign all players a start rate?  | <p>Any player that has a computer rating will use it.</p> <p>Only assign the designated start rate (based on NTRP Computer Methodology) to those self-rated players in the <b>specific flight</b> within a local league that has less than <u>20%</u> computer rated players.</p>  |
| 2/5/03                           | Can a section adjust a self-rating before match play begins?   | <p>The section does not have the authority to change an individual’s personal self-rating unless they personally request it. IF the player requests the change, Yes, using the Section’s best judgment.</p> <p>Rationale: There is nothing in the NTRP Computer Methodology denying this ability. It speaks only to "being</p>   |

|                                   |  |   |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
|                                   |  | <p>lowered upon request if two matches were seen .10 below the next level down."</p> <p>If USA League Tennis has not provided a regulation or procedure that would dictate or prohibit a Section's action, they may handle as they see fit unless and until.</p>  |
| 2/5/03                            | Can the section adjust ratings of Mixed doubles players who do not produce a dynamic as a result of exclusive mixed play?  | <p>The section does not have the authority to change an individuals personal self-rating unless they personally request it.</p> <p>IF the player requests the change, Yes, the section can, using their best judgment.</p> <p>We have no way of producing Mixed Dynamic until the end of the league year. Current Methodology provides no means to establish their rating so again the section may handle as they see fit on a case by case basis.</p> <p><a href="#">Where obvious abuse has occurred a Section administrator may file a grievance.</a></p>  |
| 4/24/03                           | What rating can I use when registering for a league?   | <p>Players must use their most current rating on file (be it early start dynamic or year-end) when registering for any league. Year-end computer ratings, established earlier than the usual November date, within a given section ( example - Southern) must be used by that player in all Sections when registering for a league.</p>   |
| 6/6/03<br><br>Updated<br>9/16/03  | Player is ready to enter the 2004 league season. Needs to appeal. What year methodology is used to determine appeal – year under which the rating was generated or year under which the rating will be used? | <p>Sections will use the Methodology in effect for the year in which the rating will be used. This would also apply to Early Start Dynamic appeals. A published Early Start dynamic will replace the previous computer rating, including national benchmarks.</p> <p>With NTRP ratings remaining in effect for up to five years, any other Interpretation exposes players to a multitude of possible rule differences.</p> <p>Sections might also review and evaluate their NTRP appeal deadline, opting to be more flexible as the subjective decisions requiring discussion and evaluation have been removed in favor of an objective standard that must be followed – the player is either above or below the NTRP number allowing appeal to be granted.</p> |
| 8/25/03<br><br>Updated<br>12/1/04 | What can you do when an individual self-rates low (3.5) and then starts play at a higher level (4.0) that produces 3 strikes at the lower level? Do you have to wait until they roster and play a match to   | <p>Regulation 3.04A states an individual will be disqualified if they reach the disqualification level 3 times based on all matches reported in the national database for Adult and Senior Divisions.</p> <p>TennisLink will identify on the “At DQ” report an individual that has acquired 3 strikes at his/her self-rated level <a href="#">regardless of being rostered at that level on any team. The Section will</a></p>  |

|          |  |  |
|----------|--|--|
|          | DQ them?   | <u>notify the individual that a disqualification has occurred at the self-rate level and that the Section has adjusted the player's self-rating. The individual must now participate at that adjusted self-rate level. This is not an NTRP disqualification as the individual never participated at that level. It will be handled as an "appeal to move up" requested by the section.</u> |
| 12/19/03 | Can a Dynamically disqualified player appeal a Year-End Rating and be granted the appeal if the final Year-End NTRP number is within the .05 appeal guidelines (or meets other established Methodology guidelines that may apply?) | Yes. The year-end rating of a dynamically disqualified player is appealed. Methodology states the dynamic DQ'ed will use that DQ number or the year-end, whichever is higher. In either case the individual would not be brought down to less than one level above the start/self rate that produced the disqualification.   |