



MIDDLE STATES

## 2015 USTA Middle States Section Regulations

The USTA League Program in 2015 is as follows. It is composed of two Divisions: Adult and Mixed. The age groups for play at the national include 18, 40 & 55 & Over for the Adult division and 18 & 40 & Over for Mixed Doubles division. USTA Middle States will also offer Adult 65 & Over and Mixed 55 & Over.

USTA League Tennis National and Section Regulations have full force and applicability at all levels of play in USTA League Tennis in the USTA Middle States Section (USTA MS) and there is no authorization to modify, amplify or change them by local or area league coordinators, or Grievance or Grievance Appeals Committees. These rules apply to all age groups.

The Section League Coordinator, in conjunction with USTA Middle States Section League-Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman, shall have the authority to interpret the USTA Middle States Section Regulations.

USTA League Regulations (National and Middle States) are available on the USTA MS Web site: [www.middlestates.usta.com](http://www.middlestates.usta.com). Across the top, choose Adult Participation; then USTA League Tennis. Look for the links at the bottom of the page. Printed below are the USTA MS League Regulations as authorized by the USTA League National Regulations and the USTA Middle States League Committee.

**It is expected that captains and players will treat coordinators with respect when communicating with them – either in person or in e-mail. Respectful treatment of each other will add to an enjoyable league experience. Consequences such as suspension from league play will result if players deviate from this expectation.**

### **GENERAL**

**OFFICIAL LEAGUE REGISTRATION:** Each district shall establish deadlines and procedures for registering teams/players on TennisLink. All leagues (including those that will be played at section championship) must have the minimum number of players registered by April 1 for Mixed 18 & Over, July 1 for Adult 18 & Over and Adult 40 & Over and August 1 for Adult 55 & Over and Mixed 40 & 55 & Over. All players must register through TennisLink before playing in a team match. If a player has difficulty registering before a match, he/she must notify the coordinator in writing – email - before match play for the match to count. The player will be disqualified if he/she does not notify the coordinator. A player may transfer to a different team up to the final date for registration provided that individual has not played a match or received credit for a default. Players who submit an appeal to their self-rating through the TennisLink system before their local league deadline to register players will be permitted to register if the appeal is granted.

**OFFICIAL SCORE REPORTING AND STANDINGS SYSTEM:** All scheduled matches must be completed and scores 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. Both captains are responsible to report or confirm match scores. Wherever possible, matches should be played on the originally scheduled date.

All matches must be completed and scores reported by the deadline established by district rules. Teams that do not comply with this requirement may not advance to any championship level. Entering fictitious scores will result in severe penalties.

**AMENDMENTS** These USTA MS Section Regulations may be amended by the Section League Committee.

**LEAGUE COMMITTEE:** The USTA MS section league program shall be governed by the USTA MS League Committee appointed by the president of the USTA MS section and subject to the control and direction of the USTA MS section Board of Directors. All coordinators (Area and Local) shall receive their direction from the Section League Coordinator.

**LOCAL LEAGUE SEASON:** All local leagues shall obtain approval of the Section League Coordinator for the dates of the local league season(s) within the Middle States section. The Local League Coordinator shall establish match schedules. In case of staggered matches, team captains must agree in advance (in writing – e-mail) on start time for each individual match. The host captain has the final say if no agreement can be reached. Generally, two (2) hours should be allotted for each court match.

**EARLY START LEAGUES** "Sections that begin league play prior to January 1 of the year in which they progress to the National Championships must adopt one of three options in reference to players who are found to have year-end computer ratings that place them above the NTRP level at which they began to play in their Early Start League. See 2.05B3(b) in the national rulebook on line.

**GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES:** Grievance forms are available on the Middle States Web site. All district regulations will include the names of grievance and grievance appeal committee members. These names will be published on the district web sites. The section shall approve all League Grievance and Grievance Appeal Committees. Sanctions imposed by grievance decisions will be applicable to all Divisions (Adult and Mixed) in the USTA MS section league program. For example, if a player is suspended in the adult division,

he/she cannot play in the mixed division sponsored by USTA MS. All grievances must be sent to the Area League Coordinator for each district.

**NTRP GRIEVANCES.** The USTA MS section will administer NTRP Grievances. Complaints should be first delivered to Sally Baird, [baird@ms.usta.com](mailto:baird@ms.usta.com), who will forward to the Middle States NTRP Grievance Committee Chairman. This committee will have jurisdiction over grievances filed against any player and/or captain who enters or condones entering at one level when their actual skill level is at the top of the next NTRP level or higher. NTRP Grievances filed within two weeks of the start date of the player's and/or captain's District 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.

## **MATCH PROCEDURES**

**SCORING AND Scoring.** Each district may determine the match format and method of scoring for local league competition.

### **Point Penalty System**

1. The USTA Point Penalty System for lateness will be in effect unless amended in district rules.
2. The PPS will be in effect at all championships starting with Area/District.

### **Penalties for Lateness (*Friend at Court*)**

**5 minutes or less:** Loss of toss + 1 Game; **5.01 – 10 minutes:** Loss of toss + 2 Games; **10.01 – 15 minutes:** Loss of toss + 3 Games; **More than 15 minutes:** Default

Warm-up: Warm-up including serves must be taken before the match begins. Warm-up should be no longer than 10 minutes. Warm-up is never forfeited because of lateness.

**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. Any team that defaults an entire team match may not advance to championship level. Teams forfeiting an entire team match may receive further penalties. Results of defaulted matches stand. **If a team is knocked out of championships because of a full-team default, there will be a playoff match between the two teams involved.**

For each team match, a majority of the individual matches must actually be played by the 2 teams to constitute a valid team match. In accordance with National Regulation 2.01C(2), **If the majority of courts in team matches are not played, the results entered will not count for advancement.**

**Team Lineups:** Team captains shall exchange lineups simultaneously PRIOR to the scheduled start time of a team match. An individual match is started when the first ball is put in play (first serve attempt). After the start of an individual match, if injury to, illness of, or disqualification of a player occurs, the opponents will be awarded a default for that individual match only. The default principles in 2.03K in the national rulebook shall be applicable, with the section modifications that:

1. In the event of illness, injury, or disqualification 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.
2. When a match is postponed to another day and an individual match has not started (as defined above) a captain may change the lineup for any such match. Announced defaults may be reinstated.
3. In the event of rain, completed individual matches will stand as played. Incomplete matches must be continued by the same players and resumed at the exact score as they stood when halted (any point played is always counted and never replayed). If teams have assembled to play and the beginning of the match is delayed by rain or wet courts, teams must wait no longer than one hour past the originally scheduled time for the start of the first match to determine if the courts are playable. If courts are still not playable after one hour has elapsed, teams are free to leave and reschedule unless BOTH captains agree to wait longer.
4. Postponements: Matches may be rescheduled for the following reasons only:
  - \*Rain or Snow
  - \*Unexpected court availability issues
  - \*USTA league playoff matches. Local league matches will be rescheduled upon request if a team has 4 players in a 5 court program, 2 players in a 3 court program involved in a district, section, or national championship. **Teams should play as many courts as possible on the scheduled day. Players that are unavailable because of the championship must play in the remaining rescheduled courts.** The championship must be within Middle States – district or section. Six days notice in writing (email) to the opposing captain is suggested.
  - \*Teams may reschedule on their own if both captains agree. Agreement in writing is recommended (E-mail) for your

own protection.

5. Two doubles players will play together in the higher position when both of their partners do not arrive in time in order to avoid two defaults.

A player may play on more than one team at the same NTRP level as long as they are playing in different districts. Areas may limit the number of team members from one team permitted to play together on a team in another district. Areas imposing such restrictions are responsible for identifying and monitoring such activity in their area. Areas are responsible for establishing and imposing penalties upon those players who violate area rules. Players who qualify may play at more than one level at any championship. The schedule will not be written to accommodate playing at more than one level. If eligible players do not participate at the district championships, they may participate in the section and/or national championships.

If no district championship is held, the winner will be the No. 1 team in the final standings in TennisLink. TennisLink uses national rule: 2.03H "Procedures in the Event of a Tie in the national rulebook to break ties. **For 2015, Head to Head for local leagues will move up after Courts Won.** The Area League Coordinators shall identify to the section their winning teams at each level.

## **CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The Coman Tie-break Procedure will be used at all championship levels for both the set tiebreak and the match tiebreak.

**Teams must be able to play all courts in a championship. A waiver may be granted if you apply to the championships committee.**

For championships, see 2:03H in the national rulebook to determine the Procedures in the Event of a Tie: Individual Matches, Head to Head; least number of sets lost; least number of games lost. Head to Head moves ahead of least number of sets lost, after Individual Matches.

The format for winning teams to progress from local league competition to Section League Championships is as follows:

**Teams may play in leagues that are offered in different seasons. If a team wins the local league in more than one season, the team will have to choose which team will advance. If no more than 3 players are common to both teams, both teams can advance. There may be a local league playoff among flights winners to determine representative to districts.**

**DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS:** The area shall determine the progression from local league to Section Championship. This process – including the structure for any playoffs or championships (flight, area, for example) - shall be distributed in writing to team captains prior to the start of the local league season.

1. **District Championship:**

Comprised of flight winners (did not play each other during the local league season) and wild cards as necessary to optimize round robin or tournament play.

2. **Flight Championship:**

Comprised of multiple teams from the same flight or multiple flights (may have played each other during the local season).

## **Wild Card Procedure**

In any district where an additional team is needed to even out the flights, the following procedure will be used to determine who will receive the wild card invitation. Second place teams in all flights will be considered for the wild card.. After that, see below:

If all teams in contention played the same number of matches with the same schedule format (e.g., all teams played a double round robin, or all teams played against the same number of teams, the team with the best statistics in TennisLink will be the wild card).

When the flights have different formats, we will take the percentage of match wins vs matches played; add the percentage of individual courts won vs the number of individual courts played and average them. If one team has the best average by at least 5%, that team will advance. If not the top two will have a playoff

**SECTION CHAMPIONSHIPS:** Section Championships format shall be round robin in all levels of competition. Each team shall play every other team in its flight and the team with the most team points shall be champion in its flight. In the event of a tie in team points, the winner shall be decided by using 2.03H in the national rulebook. Each team shall be scheduled for a minimum of three (3) matches in either a championship or a local league played during championships.

**Wild Card Procedure** If a team pulls out of the championship after the schedule is published, we will name a wild card to take that opening as follows. If there is an opening at more than one level, this process will be repeated for each level of play.

1. Ask second place team If that team does not accept:

2. Pull a district name at random and invite the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team from that district and proceed alphabetically until all districts have responded or until a team accepts (If we pull Delaware and they cannot send a team, we will ask Eastern Penn, etc.)

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

**LOCAL LEAGUE PROCEDURES:** 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. District regulations for deadlines and roster limits would be waived if a team is found and time permits.

**Scoring Procedures**

**During Local League:** If a player (rating type A, S, M, T) is disqualified for that particular level of play, the matches that generated the strikes for the lower level played will be considered losses for the disqualified player and shall be considered wins for the opposing player or doubles team.

**In championship play,** the section chooses National Regulation option **2.04B(2)a**. Run dynamic calculations and produce ratings throughout the championship. For those players that meet the criteria for NTRP dynamic disqualification, all matches will be reversed for disqualified players (2.04E(2)a). In single elimination formats only the last match will be reversed (2.04E(2)b). Only players with the following rating types A, S, M, T or D are subject to disqualification. The deadline for filing a Request for Review of Dynamic DQ at championships is one hour from the time of notification

**National Championships**

**New Move-Up/Split-Up Rule:**

**Adult Divisions: Teams that advanced to, or qualified for, any adult national championship may play together if they move up one NTRP level. These players may combine and play at any level for which they are eligible in the mixed division.**

**Mixed Divisions: Teams that advanced to, or qualified for, any mixed national championship may play together if they move up one NTRP level. These players may combine and play at any level for which they are eligible in the adult division.**

**No more than 3 players (2 for 2.5 and 5.0) who were on the roster of any team or combination of teams that advance to or qualified for national championships may play together on the same team in any age group in the same division. This rule only applies to players who participated in three or more matches (excluding defaults received) for that team during the championship year.**

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

Match results from tournaments will not be included in year-end calculation of ratings except for NTRP tournaments.

Players who want to appeal their self-rating must complete the on-line appeal form available on the last screen during the self-rate process. **The NTRP Appeal Committee will investigate the information provided in the self-rate appeal form as soon as possible.** Medical appeals shall be sent to Sally Baird, baird@ms.usta.com, who will forward them to the Section Medical Appeals Committee.

**2015-2016 USTA Middle States Section League Committees**

USTA Middle States League Committee: Chair: Jon Feinstein, - Staff Liaison: Sally Baird

NTRP Appeal Committee - : Sally Baird, Jay Witmer, Jon Feinstein

Middle States Grievance Committees & Grievance Appeal Committees are formed as necessary first utilizing members of the USTA MS League Committee and Subcommittees and then other committee members selected by the Middle States League Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Medical Appeals Committee:	Wilson Pipkin	Jon Morris	Sally Baird
NTRP Grievance Committee:	Dave Tolbert	Ruth Roulston	Joe McKeown
NTRP Grievance Appeal Committee:	Kris Nonnenmacher	Maryann Lyons	Jon Feinstein

<b>Championship</b>	<b>Team Format (all Championships)</b>	<b>Matches required for districts/section</b>	<b>Matches required for Nationals</b>	<b>Location (Sectional)</b>	<b>Date (Sectional)</b>
Mixed 18 & Over	3 doubles – combined rating (max 1.0 apart)	2 played, 1 may be received default	3 played	Landisville	June 5-7
Adult 18 & Over	3.0,3.5, 4.0,4.5: 2 singles, 3 doubles; 2.5, 5.0+ - 1 singles 2 doubles	2 played, 1 may be received default	3 played	Princeton, NJ	August 21-23
Adult 40 & Over	3.0,3.5, 4.0,4.5+: 2 singles, 3 doubles	2 played, 1 may be received default	3 played	Princeton, NJ	September 11-13
Mixed 40 & Over;	3 doubles – combined rating (max 1.0 apart)	2 played, 1 may be received default	3 played	Landisville	September 25-27
Adult 65 & Over	3 doubles	2 played, 1 may be by default received	2 played, 1 may be by default received	Landisville	Sept. 25-27
Adult 55 & Over	3 doubles – combined rating (max 1.0 apart).	2 played, 1 may be received default	3 played	Landisville	September 18-20

