

# 2014 USTA FLORIDA LEAGUE TENNIS REGULATIONS

**Note: 2014 substantive regulation changes are in red.**

The USTA League Regulations have full force and applicability at all levels of play in USTA Florida League Tennis. Local Rules and Regulations may be developed to supplement the National and Sectional regulations but may not contradict the National or Section-established rules and regulations. USTA League Regulations (National and Sectional) are available on the USTA Florida website: [www.ustaflorida.com](http://www.ustaflorida.com) Printed below are the Sectional Regulations of USTA Florida covering those items that the National Regulations authorize the section to establish.

## **1.00 GENERAL**

**The regulations in 1.00 GENERAL shall apply to all USTA League divisions.**

**1.04B(3)a Sectional League Coordinator.** The Sectional League Coordinator for USTA Florida is responsible for the day-to-day administration of all USTA League programs within USTA Florida. Interpretation of the USTA Florida League Regulations is a joint responsibility of the Sectional League Coordinator and the Chair of the Leagues Committee's Rules and Regulations Subcommittee. In the absence of the Chair of the Rules and Regulations Subcommittee, the Sectional League Coordinator may, if deemed necessary, issue an interim interpretation.

**1.04B(3)c Local League Coordinators.** The Sectional League Coordinator shall appoint Local League Coordinators/Contractors to implement and administer USTA Leagues within USTA Florida. See the USTA Florida website for a listing of Local League Coordinators/Contractors.

**1.04B(4) Team Captain.** The team captain or designee shall be the official spokesperson for the team. All communications will be directed to the team spokesperson.

**1.04C(1) Official League Registration.** *TennisLink* is the official and exclusive system for registering teams and players, reporting scores, and providing standings for the USTA League Program. Each player's name must be listed on the team roster, as shown on *TennisLink*, prior to participation in any match. Each player will be required to pay the applicable league registration fee when registering for a team at the local level. Additional fees may be charged for local leagues and championships.

**1.04C(2) Official Score Reporting and Standings System.** Match results must be reported in *TennisLink* within 48 hours following the completion of the final individual match in a team match. After match scores have been reported in *TennisLink*, the opposing team must either confirm or dispute the match within 48 hours of the initial

entry or the initial score will be considered valid automatically; and, no NTRP dynamic disqualification reviews, complaints, grievances, and/or appeals related to those scores will be allowed. An exception will be made only in those cases where an incorrect player was recorded in a match in TennisLink; in which case, a League Coordinator/Contractor will be allowed to effect correction.

**1.04D(3) Local League Season.** The Local League Coordinator shall determine and define the time frame of the local league season in order to meet **national**/sectional deadlines and shall formulate local league regulations with final approval by the sectional office.

**1.04D(5) Team.** A *team* shall be defined as a group of individuals on a roster that meet the criteria for a team in a division and **age group** and have been issued an authorized TennisLink team number within a specific championship year. Each team in the Adult Division, 18 & Over, 40 & Over, and 55 & Over **age groups**, must maintain its roster with at least 75 percent of its players at the team level. For purposes of this 75 percent rule, the higher level players on teams in the Adult 18 & Over **age group** in the 5.0 Plus (+) NTRP Level, and the Adult 40 & Over **age group** in the 4.5 Plus (+) NTRP Level will be considered part of the given NTRP level. The Local League Coordinator/Contractor may limit the number of players on a team roster, **and/or establish a domiciliary requirement.**

**1.04D(7) Cell Phones.** All player cell phones must be silent during match play. Any player or doubles team whose cell phone(s) emit(s) an audible sound violate(s) this regulation and shall incur the following penalties: first offense – point; second offense – game; third offense – default.

## **1.04G PLAYER PARTICIPATION**

**1.04G(3)** A player may participate on more than one team at any NTRP level within the same **age group** in the same season, provided it is in a different area, unless precluded by local league regulations.

**1.04G(4)** A player may participate in more than one NTRP level within an **age group** in the same local league during the same season.

**1.04G(6)** A player is eligible to progress to a local league flight playoff 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.

**1.04G(7)** A player who qualifies on more than one team in two different NTRP levels entered in the same championship or local league flight playoff may participate on both teams; however, no scheduling consideration will be given to the player. A player may not participate on more than one team at the same NTRP level in the same

championship or local league flight playoff; the player must declare which team is to be represented. In the absence of a declaration, the first match played will determine the team represented.

**1.06 Medical Timeout in an Unofficial League Match.** Any player whose physical condition does not permit continued play may take a medical timeout. Such a timeout may not exceed eight (8) minutes to include evaluation and treatment. At the end of this time period or upon completion of treatment, whichever first occurs, the player must either continue play or retire. Only one medical timeout is permitted per player in any individual match (including the warm-up period). No coaching is permitted during a medical timeout. Under this procedure, a re-warm-up period is not permitted.

## **2.00 USTA LEAGUES REGULATIONS**

**2.01A NTRP Levels of Play.** For the 55 & Over **age group** of the Adult Division, a straight NTRP rating format (3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5) shall be used to determine the level of play in all local leagues and all championships within the section.

For the Mixed 18 & Over age group, either a combined rating format (6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, and 10.0) or a straight rating format (2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, and 5.0) may be used for **local league play**. All Championship levels of play are offered at the combined levels except for the 2.5 which is authorized at the straight level of play only.

For the Mixed 40 & Over age group, and the Mixed 55 & Over age group, either a combined rating format (6.0, 7.0, 8.0, and 9.0) or a straight rating format (3.0, 3.5, 4.0, and 4.5) may be used for **local league play**. All Championship levels of play are offered at the combined levels of play.

**2.01C(3) Match Scoring.** USTA Florida authorizes only the following scoring methods for local league play: (1) best of two tiebreak sets with a match tiebreak in lieu of a third set or (2) best of three tiebreak sets with a set tiebreak at 6-all. The Coman tiebreak procedure shall be used for all tiebreaks. No-ad scoring may be used with either of the above scoring methods.

The method of determining the winner of the local league **competition shall be:**  
**Individual Matches.** Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.  
**Sets.** Loser of the fewest number of sets.  
**Games.** Loser of the fewest number of games.  
**Head-to-Head.** Winner of head-to-head match.

**2.01C(5) Team Lineups.** Team matches must proceed on court in the following order: The #1 singles must go on before the #2 singles (Adult Division). The #1 doubles must go on before the #2 doubles, and the #2 doubles must go on before the #3 doubles. Default time is defined as 15 minutes after the scheduled match time. Each

local league shall include in its local rules appropriate procedures for rainouts or other adverse weather conditions.

**2.01C(6) Team Match Procedure:** In local league competition a team must have the minimum number of eligible players available to field the majority of positions required for play to constitute a team match. In the Adult 18 & over age group 2.5 & 5.0+ - two (2) of the three (3) positions must be played. The Adult 18 & Over age group 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, & 4.5 and the Adult 40 & Over age group - three (3) of the five (5) positions must be played. The Adult 55 & Over, the Mixed 18 & Over, the Mixed 40 & Over, the Combo 18 & Over, and the Combo 50 & Over age groups must play two (2) of the three (3) positions. In the event of a default by both players or doubles team, both sides will be given a 0-6, 0-6 loss and neither receives credit for a win.

**2.01C(7) Scoring of Team Defaults.** If a team defaults an entire team match **for any reason** during the local league season, then that match and any other matches played by the defaulting team in that round robin tier/segment shall be null and void when determining standings. Those players from the team receiving the team default will be credited with a default received for purposes of advancement. In the event of a default by both teams, no players will be credited with a default received.

## **2.02 PROGRESSION.**

**2.02A(1) 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. When an area has multiple season flights at the same NTRP level and gender in the same Division and **Age Group**, that area must have a flight playoff if the winning team player rosters are not identical in make-up. If the captain of a season winning team is unable to field a team for the flight playoff, the second place team in that flight would advance to the flight playoff.

An area also may have a playoff competition after the completion of the round robin competition in which every team played every other team an equal number of times. All teams competing in the round robin competition also must play in the playoff tournament in either a championship flight or a consolation flight.

All local league playoffs must be completed and winning teams declared after the completion of the round robin competition and prior to the commencement of the next local league season of play. Championships beyond the local level will be determined administratively.

## **2.03 CHAMPIONSHIPS.**

**2.03A Team Eligibility and Entry Fees.** At all championships, the minimum number of team members required at a National championship [refer to National regulation 2.03A(5)], 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. This requirement cannot be waived. Entry fees will not be refunded to teams that withdraw from any championship after the tournament schedule is first published. The fees for championships, which are assessed per player per team, will be determined administratively and announced in the specific championship information.

**2.03B Postponement, Rescheduling or Cancellation.** Should any event occur, which potentially could result in the postponement, rescheduling, or cancellation of a championship, tournament officials in conjunction with the Leagues Committee shall review, time permitting, the issues and circumstances causing the potential postponement, rescheduling, or cancellation; make appropriate decisions based on the facts; and communicate such in a timely manner.

If a championship cannot be completed for any reason, tournament officials in consultation with the Leagues Committee may determine the teams advancing to the next championship level.

**2.03C Scoring, Rest and Suspended Play.** All championship matches shall be the best of two tiebreak sets with a match tiebreak in lieu of a third set. The Coman tiebreak procedure shall be used for all tiebreaks. No coaching is allowed at any time. If an emergency or other condition dictates, tournament officials may authorize any other approved USTA format or method of scoring compatible with the USTA NTRP Computer System or use alternate sites and court surfaces in order to complete play on schedule.

If a player plays multiple matches in a day at a championship, that player is entitled to a minimum rest period between matches: The 18 & Over and 40 & Over **age group** of the Adult and the Mixed divisions and the Combo 18 & Over League Type - 30 minutes. The Adult and Mixed divisions, 55 & Over **age group**, and the Adult 65 & Over **age group** and all other league programs - one hour.

**2.03C(1) Rainouts or Suspended Play.** Play is continuous until such time as tournament officials declare that play has been suspended. Players should not leave the championship site until the tournament officials have officially issued a statement as to when play will be resumed. An individual match has officially started when the warm-up period has been completed and the first service attempt has occurred.

**2.03C(1)a No Individual Matches Have Started Play.** If line-ups have been submitted to the tournament desk and subsequently the team match has been declared suspended by tournament officials and no individual matches have started play, a new line-up may be presented at the start of the rescheduled team match.

**2.03C(1)b Match Started, Suspended, and Resumed – Same Day.**  
If the team match has started and play has been suspended and will be resumed on the same day, at a rescheduled time, match play will resume with the same players in the same positions, where play stopped at the exact score, set and game point (any point

played is always counted and never replayed). All completed games, sets and individual matches will stand as played. Any individual match indicated as a default on the initial line-up will remain as a defaulted match. No player changes may be made.

**2.03C(1)c Match Started, Suspended, and Resumed – Another Day.** If the team match has started and play has been suspended and rescheduled for another day, a new line-up may be presented for any individual match that has not started and for any individual match indicated as a default on the initial line-up. Individual matches that started will resume play at the point play was suspended.

**2.03K Team Defaults.** Unless there is a valid excuse, any player or team leaving a championship tournament without completing all matches could face suspension from league play for the following season(s).

**2.04 NTRP DYNAMIC DISQUALIFICATION AND REVIEW PROCEDURES.**  
The regulations in this section are applicable only to the USTA League Adult Division.

**2.04B NTRP Dynamic Disqualification Procedures.** Player dynamic NTRP ratings are automatically calculated in the National database throughout the season using the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System procedures. In general, year-end computer-rated (C) and benchmark (B) players are not subject to NTRP dynamic disqualification (Refer to the NTRP Dynamic Disqualification table in the National regulations for exceptions.). Players with other rating types are subject to NTRP dynamic disqualification if they reach the disqualification level three times based on all matches reported in the National database.

**2.04B(1) Local League NTRP Dynamic Disqualification.** If a NTRP disqualification occurs during concurrent Adult Division local league seasons, the disqualification shall affect the matches played by the disqualified player in **those age groups**. If the seasons are not concurrent or over-lapping, the NTRP dynamic disqualification shall affect the matches played by the disqualified player in the season in which the NTRP dynamic disqualification occurred. If a player is disqualified in the Adult Division while playing in the Mixed Division or any other sectional (non-National) age group below the sectional championship level, the player upon receiving notification shall play at the higher level. The matches played by the NTRP dynamically disqualified player shall be considered losses, and those matches shall be considered wins for the opposing player or doubles team and scored as 6-0, 6-0.

If a player is competing in more than one NTRP level, results from the higher level matches are considered in dynamic ratings and may cause strikes disqualifying a player at the lower NTRP level. In this case, if a player is NTRP dynamically disqualified from playing the lower level, all matches played at the lower level will be considered losses and shall be considered wins for the opposing player or doubles team.



Players who are NTRP dynamically disqualified may be allowed to move up and participate on another team at a higher NTRP level during the same league season provided the local league allows additions to the roster during the season. At the time of registration for the new team, the player will be required to pay the applicable league registration fee and any other applicable local league fees.

**2.04B(2) Championship NTRP Dynamic Disqualification.** During a local league playoff, dynamic calculations will be run following the conclusion of the playoff; and, players who have met the criteria for NTRP dynamic disqualification will be disqualified. All matches played by that player during the local league playoff will stand; however, the player may not advance.

During championships beyond local league playoffs, dynamic calculations will be run throughout the championship and players who have met the criteria for NTRP dynamic disqualification will be disqualified. All matches played by that player during that championship shall be considered losses; and, those matches shall be considered wins for the opposing player or doubles team and scored as 6-0, 6-0.

## **2.04C NTRP DYNAMIC DISQUALIFICATION AND REVIEW PROCEDURES**

**The regulations in this section are applicable only to the USTA Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, and Adult 55 & Over Age Groups.**

**2.04C NTRP Dynamic Disqualification Review Procedures.** NTRP dynamic disqualification reviews are considered based solely on missing or incorrect data. Any match confirmed by the 48-hour rule [See 1.04C(2)] will not be considered for NTRP dynamic disqualification review purposes for any player who is NTRP dynamically disqualified. A request for a NTRP dynamic disqualification review must be in writing to the Sectional League Coordinator. The review will be conducted by the section's NTRP Dynamic Disqualification Review Committee, whose decision is final and binding.

## **2.05 YEAR-END NTRP COMPUTER RATINGS AND APPEAL PROCEDURES.**

**2.05B Year-end Computer Ratings.** Year-end NTRP computer ratings are effective upon incorporation into the TennisLink system. Each year a player who plays three (3) or more matches in the Adult Division, except for the 65 & Over and 70 & Over **age groups**, will generate a year-end computer NTRP rating.

A Mixed Exclusive year-end NTRP rating will be generated for players who participate in the Mixed Division only. To generate a rating, at least three (3) matches must be played.

**2.05B(3)c Early Start Leagues.** A player, who competes in a league season that starts prior to year-end NTRP ratings ("Early Start League") and whose rating is subsequently raised, may continue to play with the lower rating through December 31 of that calendar year and all points played through December 31 will stand unless that player is NTRP dynamically disqualified under the USTA NTRP Computer Rating

System. If a player is dynamically disqualified under the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System, all matches played by that player shall be considered losses; and, those matches shall be considered wins for the opposing player or doubles team and scored as 6-0, 6-0.

**2.05C Appeal of Year-end Ratings.** Players who wish to appeal a computer rating may do so through TennisLink. If the player does not appeal or the appeal is denied, the player must play at the higher rating. The player may not play at the prior, lower, rating until the appeal has been granted.

**2.05D Medical Appeals.** Players who wish to appeal because of an intervening permanent disabling injury or illness must file a written appeal, in accordance with the appeal guidelines, with the USTA Florida office. Such an appeal must be accompanied by a \$50.00 processing fee which is nonrefundable.

### **3.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

**The regulations in 3.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES shall apply to all USTA League programs.**

**3.03A(2) Administrative Grievances.** A grievance pertaining to the administration of a local league shall be filed in writing with the Sectional League Coordinator and processed by the section's Leagues Grievance Subcommittee. A grievance against the Sectional League Coordinator and/or a section-level leagues coordinator shall be filed in writing with the Chair of the section's Leagues Committee. The decision of the section's Leagues Committee shall be final and binding.

**3.03A(2)a Grievances at Championships.** All grievances filed at a championship, except NTRP grievances, must be accompanied by a nonrefundable, cash, payment of \$50.00. There is no charge for filing a NTRP grievance.

#### **3.03B Local League Procedures.**

**3.03B(1)a Local League Grievances.** All local league grievances filed, must be accompanied by a nonrefundable, \$25.00 check or money order. There is no charge for filing a NTRP grievance.

### **SECTIONAL (NON-NATIONAL) LEAGUE PROGRAMS**

#### **5.50 MIXED 55 & OVER AGE GROUP, LEAGUE REGULATIONS.**

**All USTA League Regulations and USTA Florida League Regulations apply to these leagues with the following exceptions:**



**5.51 Age.** The minimum age for participation in the Mixed 55 & Over **Age Group**, shall be age 55. Each player shall have reached the appropriate age prior to or during the calendar year in which such player plays the first local league match.

**5.52 Team.** A team shall consist of a minimum of six team members (three women and three men) who are eligible to combine and compete at a specific level of competition.

**5.53 Levels of Play.** For the Mixed 55 & Over **Age Group**, either a combined rating format (6.0, 7.0, 8.0, and 9.0) or a straight rating format (3.0, 3.5, 4.0, and 4.5) may be used for **local league play**. All championship levels of play are offered at the combined levels of play. The combined NTRP ratings of each doubles team may not exceed the level in which they are competing; and, the NTRP rating difference between the members of an individual doubles pair may not exceed 1.0.

**5.54 Format.** Each team match will consist of three doubles matches.

**5.55 Disqualification Procedures.** None, unless that player has been dynamically disqualified under the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System.

**5.56 Move-up/Split-up.** There is no move-up/split-up rule for these league types.

**6.50 ADULT 65 & OVER **AGE GROUP**, LEAGUE REGULATIONS.**  
**All USTA League Regulations and USTA Florida League Regulations apply to this league with the following exceptions:**

**6.51 Age.** The minimum age for participation in this **Age Group** shall be 65. Each player shall have reached the age of 65 prior to or during the calendar year in which such player plays the first local league match.

**6.52 Team.** A team shall consist of a minimum of six team members of the same gender eligible to combine and compete at a specific level of competition.

**6.53 Levels of Play.** The levels of play shall be the combined NTRP levels of 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, and 9.0. The combined NTRP ratings of each doubles team may not exceed the level in which they are competing; and, the NTRP rating difference between the members of an individual doubles pair may not exceed 1.0.

**6.54 Format.** Each team match will consist of three doubles matches of the same gender.

**6.55 Disqualification Procedures.** None, unless that player has been dynamically disqualified under the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System.

**6.56 Year-end Rating.** A player playing exclusively in this league will not generate a year-end rating. The player will need to self-rate as required if participating exclusively in this league.

**6.57 Move-up/Split-up.** There is no move-up/split-up rule for this **age group**.

**7.50 ADULT 70 & OVER **AGE GROUP**, LEAGUE REGULATIONS**  
**All USTA League Regulations and USTA Florida League Regulations apply to this league with the following exceptions:**

**7.51 Age.** The minimum age for participation in this **Age Group** shall be 70. Each player shall have reached the age of 70 prior to or during the calendar year in which such player plays the first local league match.

**7.52 Team.** A team shall consist of a minimum of six team members of the same gender eligible to combine and compete at a specific level of competition.

**7.53 Levels of Play.** For local league play, each area shall have the right to conduct the program using straight NTRP levels (2.5, 3.0, 3.5, and 4.0) or combined levels (5.0, 6.0, 7.0, and 8.0 or 5.5, 6.5, and 7.5). The combined NTRP ratings of each doubles team may not exceed the level in which they are competing; and, the NTRP rating difference between the members of an individual doubles pair may not exceed 1.0.

**7.54 Format.** Each team match shall consist of three doubles matches of the same gender.

**7.55 Disqualification Procedures.** None, unless that player has been dynamically disqualified under the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System.

**7.56 Year-end Rating.** A player playing exclusively in this league will not generate a year-end rating. The player will need to self-rate as required if participating exclusively in this league.

**7.57 Championship Tournament.** A championship tournament is not a part of this program.

**8.50 COMBO 18 & OVER, AND COMBO 50 & OVER AGE GROUPS, LEAGUE REGULATIONS.**

**All USTA League Regulations and USTA Florida League regulations apply to these leagues with the following exceptions:**

**8.51 Age.** The minimum age for participation in the Combo 18 & Over **Age Group** shall be age 18. The minimum age for participation in the Combo 50 & Over **Age Group** shall be 50. Each player shall have reached the appropriate age prior to or during the calendar year in which such player plays the first local league match.

**8.52 Team.** A team shall consist of a minimum of six team members of the same gender eligible to combine and compete at a specific level of competition.

**8.53 Levels of Play.** A combined NTRP rating format is used to determine the level of play. In the Combo 18 & Over **Age Group**, the combined levels of play are 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5, and 10.5. In the Combo 50 & Over **Age Group**, the combined levels of play are 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, and 8.5. The combined NTRP ratings of each doubles team may neither exceed the level nor be more than 1.0 less than the level in which they are competing. The NTRP rating difference between the members of an individual doubles pair may not exceed 0.5.

**8.54 Format.** There shall be a men's **age group** and a women's **age group** in both the Combo 18 & Over **Age Group** and the Combo 50 & Over **Age Group**. Each team match will consist of three men's or women's doubles matches.

**8.55 Disqualification Procedures.** None, unless that player has been dynamically disqualified under the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System.

**8.56 Year-end Rating.** A player playing exclusively in these leagues will not generate a year-end rating. The player will need to self-rate as required if participating exclusively in these leagues.

**8.57 Sectional Championships.** A player may compete in the Combo Sectional Championships at the rating at which the player initially registered for the league unless that player has been dynamically disqualified under the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System.

In order to advance to either a local league flight playoff or the Combo Sectional Championships, the player must have played on that same team in a least two (2) matches during its local league season. No defaults received during local league competition shall count for advancing. A retired match shall count for all players involved.

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