

# USTA League Glossary

**Appeal:** Request for reconsideration of a previous decision, determination or finding.

**Benchmark rating:** A year-end rating determined by the USTA NTRP computer rating system using a combination of a player's dynamic rating and their rating derived at championships (District, Section or National). A championship benchmark rating may not be appealed following the championship year it is received except for medical reasons.

**Benchmark player:** A player who advanced to championship or was disqualified by whom other players' NTRP computer ratings are calculated. Player is assigned a year-end rating which is an average of their Final Dynamic Rating and their Match Ratings at the championship event to which they progressed.

**Computer NTRP rating:** A year-end rating assigned to Adult, Senior and Super Senior League players in 100<sup>th</sup> of a point that reflects level of ability.

**Coman Tiebreak Procedure:** The same as the traditional tiebreak except that ends are changed after the first point, then after every four points, and at the conclusion of the tiebreak. The scoring is the same as a traditional set (first to 7 by 2) or match (first to 10 by 2) tiebreak. Beneficial in doubles as players continue to serve from the same side as during the set, and beneficial outdoors as wind/sun conditions are shared more evenly. Coman Tiebreak Procedure is used for **any** tie-break.

**Dynamic Rating:** A dynamic rating is the result of the player's current match averaged with up to three of the player's most recent dynamic results generated and may change with each match played. Dynamic ratings are not disclosed to players. The Final Dynamic Rating is the regular daily ratings which are calculated as matches are played during the year. In the MV Section, year-end dynamic rating calculations generally include NTRP Tournament matches.

**Dynamic Disqualification:** If a player's dynamic results in an Adult or Senior match are outside the NTRP parameters for the player's current rating level, the player will receive a "strike". Three such "strikes" will promote the player IMMEDIATELY to the next higher NTRP level and the promoted player may not continue playing at the lower NTRP level.

- Computer and Benchmark rated players are not subject to Dynamic Disqualification.
- Self-rated players will have wins reversed for matches that generated strikes.
- Self-rated, Mixed Exclusive, Tournament Exclusive and Appeal players are subject to Dynamic Disqualification.

**Early Start League:** Any league that commences play prior to January 1 of the league season.

**Early Start Rating:** An early start rating is a tentative rating for exclusive use by players who register for an Early Start League prior to publication of year-end ratings. An Early Start Rating is the rating based on the most current dynamic rating at the time of publication. ESR does not include summer tournament play or the year-end benchmarking comparison. It does include all League competition through Section Championship.

**Grievance:** Written formal complaint regarding an alleged violation of a regulation or procedure.

**NTRP:** National Tennis Rating Program

**NTRP Level:** Generic term advising the minimum NTRP level in increments of 0.5 at which a player may participate.

**NTRP Disqualification criteria:** Having reached disqualification level three times, as designated in the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System Procedures, during the local League competition and/or any level of championship competition below the national championships in the adult or senior division.

**Retirement:** Occurs when an individual match has started and a player is unable to continue due to injury, loss of condition or emergency. Retirements are entered in TennisLink with the actual final game count for NTRP calculation purposes and the system will automatically credit the individual receiving the retirement with sufficient games as to make them the winner of the match.

**Self-rated player:** A player without a current NTRP rating registers for a team by completing the self-rate procedure. A minimum start level is assigned after the player answers questions about tennis experience. A player may play only one (0.5) NTRP level above his or her published self-rate or computer rating. If the applicant feels the minimum start level is too LOW, he or she should select an appropriate higher level. If the applicant feels the minimum rating assigned is too HIGH he or she can immediately file an appeal.

**USTA section:** One of seventeen defined areas that comprise the USTA. Iowa is part of the Missouri Valley Section. The seven Districts comprising the MV Section are Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas, HOA (Kansas City), St. Louis, and Oklahoma.

**Year-End Rating:** A NTRP level assigned at the conclusion of the League championship year that reflects level of ability. In the MV Section, year-end ratings take effect January 1. A year-end rating is valid for 3 years (2 yrs for players over age 60) or until another rating is generated. Year-end ratings are published annually and types include Computer, Benchmark, Tournament exclusive, and Mixed exclusive.