



Excerpts from USTA Eastern League Regulations Grievance & Appeal Procedures

VII. LOCAL GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

- A.** All complaints alleging a violation by an individual or team during local league competition must be submitted in writing to the Local League Coordinator, the Chairman of the Local League Grievance Committee, if applicable, and to the player(s) or team(s) referenced in the complaint in accordance with timelines established in local league rules. A local league coordinator may file a grievance at any time.
- B.** The Local League Coordinator with the prior approval of the Local Grievance Committee, or, where there is no Local Grievance Committee, by the Section Grievance Committee, has the right to suspend the playing privileges of a captain, player, or team whose behavior has been disruptive and/or found to not be in compliance with the regulations. Any individual or team suspended by any Local, Area, or Section Grievance Appeal Committee for a period of 12 months or more may appeal the final decision to the National League Grievance Appeal Committee.
- C.** The Local Grievance Committee shall send a copy of the letter of grievance along with its written decision to the Eastern Section League Coordinator and the Chairman of the Section Grievance Committee.

A complaint against an individual or team pertaining to local league competition may only be filed by (a) the team captain of the team who has competed in the match where the alleged violation occurred or (b) the Local League Coordinator or (c) the Section League Coordinator.

The complaint must be filed prior to the commencement of the next team match in that flight involving such individual or team or within 24 hours after the end of the local league season, whichever occurs first. (Flight playoffs are considered an extension of the local league season.)

For complaints regarding eligibility (e.g. age, USTA membership, misrepresentation of identity, etc) other than self-rate eligibility complaints, the Local League Coordinator may declare a player ineligible and disqualify that player without filing a grievance prior to the disqualification. All other complaints must go to the appropriate league grievance committee.

In the event of an eligibility disqualification during the local league season and up to 24 hours after the end of local league play (the league season end date in Tennis Link), all matches played by the player shall be considered defaults and those matches shall be considered wins for the opposing team and scored 6-0.6-0. In the event of a disqualification after conclusion of the local league season by more than 24 hours, the team will remain eligible to participate and retain points received up to the disqualification but the ineligible player will not be allowed to continue or advance.

A local grievance committee may institute a fee for filing a grievance, refunded if the grievance is awarded.

A complaint against the administration of a local league should be filed and heard at the next higher level with the Section being the final authority.

Complaints regarding self-rate eligibility or an appeal of a decision rendered by the Local Grievance Committee must be filed directly with the Chairperson of the Section Grievance Committee in the manner specified in Section VIII. A copy of the complaint/appeal must also be provided to the Local League Coordinator simultaneously with submission to the Section Grievance Committee.

VIII. NTRP GRIEVANCE AND DYNAMIC NTRP DISQUALIFICATIONS

NTRP Grievances - A captain, coordinator or member of a championship committee may file a NTRP Grievance if they believe a player is competing one level or more below their actual skill level (excluding players who have been granted a medical appeal) or a captain knowingly condones player entry at a level below their actual skill level. A player with a valid NTRP Computer (C) rating, or Benchmark (B) rating or granted an Automatic Appeal rating of a Computer (C) rating is not subject to an NTRP grievance. An NTRP grievance during local league play shall be filed in writing with the local league coordinator who will forward to the appropriate parties.

The Section League Grievance Committee shall handle all NTRP grievances. These grievances must be submitted to the Chairperson of the Section Grievance Committee on the Self Rate Grievance Form (available on the Eastern web site). Requests that are incomplete, not on the proper form, or not timely will be rejected. The subject of the NTRP grievance must submit a completed USTA Self-Rate Player Background Form to the Chairperson of the Section Grievance Committee, if requested by the Chairperson; the grievance may be automatically granted where the player fails to submit a completed Background Form. After review of the grievance, and any supporting documentation, the Section Grievance Committee will issue a written decision documenting any actions they deem appropriate which may include disqualification, suspension from league play, or other league sanctions. Captains or others who condone inappropriate self-rating may be subject to possible sanctions, including disqualification, removal from a team, or suspension (may no longer captain on a specific team or will be generally precluded from captaining teams). Captains or others who fail to comply with directives set forth in a decision of the Section Grievance Committee or Section Grievance Appeal Committee may be subject to additional sanctions.

An NTRP grievance during championship competition (district, area, regional and section championships) shall be filed with the duly appointed site director or designee having jurisdiction at any time up to 48 hours after the conclusion of a self-rated player's Section Championships. The Section Grievance Committee has the right to determine when self rate grievances pertaining to championship level play will be adjudicated; the date and time that the Section Grievance Committee sends notification controls the assessment of sanctions, including scoring of matches in accordance with USTA regulations 2.02B(4) and 2.02 C (4).

Appeals - The decision of the Section League Grievance Committee pertaining to NTRP grievances may be appealed only if new information becomes available or the party filing the appeal can demonstrate that the decision is not supported by the record and/or contains errors of rule or material fact. Appeals must be filed with the Chairperson of the Section Grievance Appeal Committee within the time frame specified in the written decision of the Section Grievance Committee. All appeals must be accompanied by a fifty-dollar (\$50) filing fee payable to USTA Eastern; fees will be refunded if the appeal is upheld.

Section NTRP Appeals Committee

The Section League Coordinator shall appoint a Section NTRP Appeals Committee, to consider appeals from self-rated players.

NTRP Disqualification at the local level

Self-rated players may be disqualified from playing at their registered skill level if their dynamic NTRP rating exceeds the level established by the National NTRP Committee (the strike level) three times during the championship year. If a player is disqualified, all matches generating strikes at the DQ level will be considered a loss and (s) he becomes ineligible for any future play at that level for the remainder of the league season. Appeals will not be considered except for administrative errors. Computer rated and benchmark players are not subject to dynamic disqualification (see 3.04 A).

NTRP Disqualification at District, Area, Regional, and Section Championships

The Eastern Section will run dynamic ratings during its District, Regional, and Section Championships and disqualify those players who meet the NTRP disqualification criteria (three strikes). All matches played by the player shall be considered losses and those matches shall be considered 6-0, 6-0 wins for the opposing player or doubles team. If the Scorekeeper is unable to connect to TennisLink in "real time" during a championship event, upon notice to that effect to the Tournament Committee, that Tournament Committee may make an irrevocable election to suspend Rule 3.04A(2) a and instead follow the procedure outlined in Rule 3.04A(2) b for the event in question.

NTRP Disqualification at Championships

At all Championships except Nationals a self-rated player may be disqualified. Disqualification reviews are considered based solely on missing or incorrect information in Tennis Link.

GRIEVANCES – ADMINISTRATIVE POWERS AND PROCEDURES

- A.** A complaint may be filed by a team captain against a player, captain or team for specific behavior occurring during the current championship season. A complaint may be filed by a Local League Coordinator, the Section League Coordinator or a championship tournament official against a player, captain or team alleging a violation of the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship, which includes egregious, disruptive or abusive behavior that interferes with the administration of the league at any time.
- B.** Suspension of captain, player or team
 - (1) The Local League Coordinator, with the prior approval of the Local Grievance Committee, or, where there is no Local Grievance Committee, by the Section Grievance Committee, has the right to summarily suspend the captain, player or team whose behavior has been found not to be in compliance with the regulations and/or violates the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship, including egregious, disruptive or abusive behavior that interferes with the administration of the league. The Administrative Grievance filed by the Local League Coordinator within 24 hours will determine length of suspension. Any appeal is filed with the

Committee that granted the suspension. Failure to comply with directives set forth in a decision issued by a Local or Section Grievance Committee is a violation of the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship and therefore can be the subject of a new grievance.

- (2) The Section League Coordinator, with the prior approval of the Section Grievance Committee, has the right to summarily suspend the captain, player or team whose behavior has been found not to be in compliance with the regulations and/or violates the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship, including egregious, disruptive or abusive behavior that interferes with the administration of the league. The Administrative Grievance filed by the Section League Coordinator within 24 hours will determine length of suspension. Any appeal is filed with the Committee that granted the suspension.
- (3) The decision whether to grant the suspension approval set forth in subsection B (1) above, shall be made by a majority vote of the available Grievance Committee members, or by a single committee member where the other members are not immediately available and shall be made as soon as practicable but no later than 48 hours after the suspension request from the Local League Coordinator, the Section League Coordinator or tournament official.
- (4) A captain, player and/or team shall be notified of any such suspension in writing by the committee that gave the approval for the suspension as soon as practical but no later than 48 hours following the suspension decision, and shall include a notice to the captain, player and/or team of their right to file a petition to review the suspension to the committee that approved the suspension within 48 hours of the notification of suspension.
- (5) This section shall not apply to NTRP Grievances and dynamic NTRP disqualifications as described in Section VIII above.

C. Appeals

The decision of the Section League Grievance Committee pertaining to administrative grievances may be appealed if the party filing the appeal can demonstrate that either proper procedures were not followed or that the decision is not supported by the record and/or contains errors of rule or material fact. Appeals must be filed with the Chairperson of the Section Grievance Appeal Committee within the time frame specified in the written decision of the Section Grievance Committee. All appeals must be accompanied by a fifty-dollar (\$50) filing fee payable to USTA Eastern; fees will be refunded if the appeal is upheld.