

2014 OPERATING PROCEDURES USTA TEXAS SECTION TENNIS LEAGUES

All USTA Tennis Leagues in the USTA Texas Section shall follow the regulations set forth in the USTA League Regulations and in addition be governed by the USTA Texas Operating Procedures and local league operating procedures.

1. There must be at least 8 players per team in the Adult 18 & Over and 40 & Over leagues with the exception of the 2.5, 5.0, 5.5 and Open division, which must have at least 5 players per team. The Adult 55 & Over, Adult 65 & Over, 18 & Over Mixed, 40 & Over Mixed, 55 & Over Mixed, Tri-Level and Combo leagues must have at least 6 players per team.

2. With the exception of the Qualifying Tournament, the following leagues must have a minimum of three teams to advance to Sectionals:

- Adult 18 & Over League- 3.5 & 4.0 levels
- Adult 40 & Over League -3.5 & 4.0 levels

The following leagues must have a minimum of two teams to advance to Sectionals:

- Adult 18 & Over League - 2.5, 3.0, 4.5 & 5.0 levels
- Adult 40 & Over League 3.0 & 4.5 levels
- Adult 55 & Over League- all levels
- Combo League –all levels
- Mixed 18 & Over League – all levels
- Mixed 40 & Over League – all levels
- Mixed 55 & Over League – all levels
- Qualifying Tournament - all levels

The following leagues may send a team to Sectionals without having a local league:

- Adult 65 & Over League – all levels
- Ladies Lone Star League
- Tri-Level League – all levels

3. A local league has the option to limit the number of players on a roster that at a specific NTRP level.

4. All USTA Texas Leagues shall register on Tennis Link. Minimum team rosters must be registered by the following dates: Mixed 40 & Over League must be registered on Tennislink by May 1, 2014; Adult 18 & Over League by July 1, 2014; Adult 40 & Over League by July 15, 2014; Mixed 18 & Over League by August 15, 2014; Adult 55 & Over League by August 15, 2014; Combo League by September 15, 2014; Adult 65 & Over League by September 15, 2014; Mixed 55 & Over League by September 15, 2014; Tri-Level League by November 15, 2014. Schedules for teams advancing to Sectionals will be based on the registered leagues by the dates listed above.

5. National Championship Teams. No team may have on its roster more than three players (two for 2.5 and 5.0+) who were on the roster of any team, or combination of teams, that advanced to, or qualified for, any National Championship the previous year. The only EXCEPTION is that if more than three players (two for 2.5 and 5.0+) wish to play together again as a team, in whole or in part, they must move up one NTRP team level and may not combine with players who were rostered on any other team that advanced to, or qualified for, any National Championship the previous year. These requirements apply to league participation in any and all Divisions, Age Groups and/or NTRP team levels. Move-Up/Split- Up requirements only apply to players who participated in any match for that team during the championship year, including defaults received. If a Section has a regulation that limits the number of players on a roster that are at a specific level, the Section must suspend that regulation for one year for any team that advanced to, or qualified for, any National Championship the previous year and chooses to move up one NTRP team/level. Local rules limiting the number of players at a specific level will be suspended for one year for the National Championship participating team.

6. Players who qualify to play on more than one team for championship competition within a division (i.e. Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Mixed being a division) are required to choose which team they will represent at a championship.

7. If a local league does not have a specific rule in place to cover a full team default, it must follow the National/Sectional Championship Regulation 2.03L, which states: "If a team defaults an entire team match for any reason during round robin play, that team is ineligible to continue play at that championship. All matches of the defaulting team already played shall be null and void when determining standings but will be used for ratings and advancement purposes. If all teams with a mathematical chance to advance have played the defaulting team in good faith, those matches shall stand as played when determining standings." If there are several round robins within the local competition, this guideline concerns the round robin in question only.

8. In the event of a local disqualification from a particular level of play, self rated players will have all matches taken away, while computer-rated players with an A will only have their last match taken away. However, at the Sectional level and local championship level, the Section chooses to calculate dynamic ratings and disqualify those players who meet the criteria for NTRP disqualification following the conclusion of the championship. All points earned by disqualified players at the championship will stand.

9. When two players on a team show up that are members of two different doubles teams, the Section authorizes, in this case, that the two players may play together at the higher position in order to avoid an additional forfeit.

10. A player must play two qualifying matches prior to a local championship with only one default counting.

11. In order to advance to a National Championship in the Adult or Mixed leagues, an individual player must have participated in 3 matches during all competition on the specific team with no defaults counting. A retired match shall count for all players involved.

12. The spread between players of an individual doubles pair may not exceed 1.0 in the Mixed Doubles, Adult 55 & Over, Adult 65 & Over or Combo League.

13. To encourage play, when a team which is scheduled to play a Sectional tournament pulls out within 14 days of the tournament or leaves a Sectional Championship, causing a full team forfeit before completing all scheduled matches, all players on the forfeiting team can play in their local league the following year but cannot advance to any Texas Sectional Championships for a period of 12 months, including the Sectional Championship they dropped out of for the following year. The local league coordinator for the city or area in whose league the team played will be notified of the year suspension for all players on the team. The players through their local league coordinator may appeal their suspension within 14 days of notification to the Section Appeals Committee who may grant relief under extenuating circumstances.

14. A team may have only one player from outside the 50 mile radius of the center of a large city, Fort Worth, Dallas, San Antonio, Austin and Houston. Teams from all other cities can have a maximum of two players from outside the 50 mile radius of the center of the city. If a player does not have the specific league in one of our designated areas, (i.e. Abilene, Amarillo, Austin), he/she can play in another city without it counting as part of the out of city maximum.

15. All USTA Sectional or National Championship matches played by League players will take precedence over the local league matches. Teams and or players who advance to USTA League Championships have the right to request that their lines in a local match be played at some time other than the originally scheduled date. Only players who will attend the Sectional Championships as members of their team and play or serve as an alternate (i.e. a singles player or a member of a doubles team) may request a rescheduling of a local match. Captains of the players advancing are to notify their opposing captain of the conflict as soon as they know of a conflict with their advancement to a Sectional or National Championship.

VERIFICATION

1. If a player was a Super Champ in the 16's or 18's in past five years, he/she must self rate at or above a 4.5 NTRP level; former high school players cannot play below the 3.0 level.

2. The years of valid rating starting with the 2007 championship year will be reduced from five (5) years to three (3) years for those individuals 59 and under and from three (3) years to two (2) years for those individuals 60 years and over. If intervening circumstances (such as disabling injury or illness) indicate that such a rating may be too high, the player may request a reconsideration of such rating in accordance with procedures established by the section.

3. Players new to the league may self rate on Tennis Link. Self-rate Grievances must go to the Section League Grievance Committee.

4. If, during the league season, a player is moved to a higher level of play, he/she must meet the two match eligibility requirement prior to the local playoffs at the higher level to advance to sectionals with that higher level team

5. No dynamic disqualification of year-end computer (C) or benchmark (B) players. Who can be dynamically disqualified? NTRP published level followed by A (appeal-all), S (self-rated), D or E (dynamic rating-usually an Early Start Rating moved down) in the adult divisions through the section championships.

6. For Tri-Level (if you had a local league), Combo and Mixed 55 & Over players must play at least one match locally to be eligible to play in the Section Championships.