



**2010 NEW ENGLAND SECTION REGULATIONS
02.02.10:REV2**

**DIVISIONS
ADULT – SENIOR – SUPER SENIOR – MIXED and SENIOR MIXED DOUBLES**

**EASTERN CONNECTICUT - EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS - MAINE
NEW HAMPSHIRE - NORTHERN CONNECTICUT - RHODE ISLAND - SOUTHERN
CONNECTICUT - VERMONT- WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS**

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www.ustanewengland.com 110 Turnpike Road Westborough, MA 01581 508-366-3450 x29, x30

1. GENERAL

- A. *Section Regulations*: These regulations shall be known as the New England USTA League Regulations. The current year's updates to these regulations are underlined. All references to gender will be "he" and "his."
- B. *Other Regulations*: The New England USTA League Regulations, which are supplemental and subordinate to the National USTA League Regulations, shall apply to USTA League in the New England Section. Local Areas in New England consist of the following: Eastern Massachusetts/Cape Cod, Maine, New Hampshire, Northern Connecticut, Southern Connecticut/Eastern Connecticut, Rhode Island, Western Massachusetts and Vermont.
Within a local area separate local leagues may exist. Local League Regulations may be implemented to supplement the National and Section Regulations. The local regulations must not contradict established National or Section Regulations. The Section must approve Local League Regulations 30 days prior to the start of the local league.
- C. *Player Conduct*: A player will be sanctioned for flagrant misconduct, as defined by the "Friend at Court." Such a player will be prohibited from playing in the remainder of that event and for the rest of the season, forfeiting all fees paid for the event and season. Penalties for conduct violations, including flagrant misconduct, are to be determined by the Grievance Committee of that local area/championship event. A captain committing flagrant misconduct may be prohibited from captaining a USTA League team for a period of time as determined by the Grievance Committee.
Note: A USTA League championship year includes all seasons (Winter, Summer, Spring and Fall) played as qualifying rounds for a specific year's Championships, including play that may begin within the prior year. In New England a championship year begins September 1 and ends August 31 following the Section Championships. Waivers may be submitted to the Section League Coordinator for approval for leagues whose local season ends after August 31.
- D. *Player Registration*: Players must register for the USTA League program via TennisLink. Registration fees include a \$3.00 TennisLink user fee per player per team and \$10.00 section fee per player per team. The local area may impose an additional participation fee. All local fees must be approved by the Section League Coordinator. While a team captain may register members of the team, it is recommended that each player process his own registration.

2. USTA LEAGUE PERSONNEL

- A. *USTA League Committee*: The New England USTA League Committee shall govern the USTA League program. The USTA New England President appoints the chairperson of the New England USTA League Committee. The chairperson will recommend individuals to serve on the Committee with input from the Section League Coordinator and each USTA New England State Association.
- B. *Section League Coordinator*: The Director of Competitive Tennis and USTA League Manager, under the employment of USTA New England shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the USTA League program including the interpretation of the New England USTA League Regulations. The Section League Coordinator and the New England USTA League Committee shall be responsible for the enforcement of these regulations and may, in the interest of fair play, provide exemptions or exceptions where they are permitted within the USTA League Regulations.
- C. *Local League Coordinator*: Each Local League Coordinator, appointed by the Section League Coordinator, shall be responsible for the implementation and administration of USTA League in his respective area. Communications will be handled primarily via email.
- D. *Team Captain*: Each team shall appoint one or two captains to handle administrative affairs, to represent the team in all aspects of USTA League and to receive information regarding local and championship play. In the elected captain's absence, he must appoint a co-captain who will be responsible for the team captain responsibilities. The team captain and co-captain shall each forward his name, mailing address, e-mail address and home, cell and business phone numbers to the Local League Coordinator.

3. LOCAL LEAGUES - GENERAL

- A. A local league shall consist of a minimum of three teams. On limited occasions, a Local League Coordinator may apply in writing to the Section League Coordinator for a two-team league. The local league must apply for a two-team league waiver for each championship year. A local league must play at least one round-robin competition wherein every team plays every other team. In two-team and three-team leagues, each team must play a minimum of four team matches. NOTE: Two-team local leagues do not receive funded first-place trophies. If they are to receive trophies, a funding method must be determined locally.
- B. The Section League Coordinator must approve all local league divisions into flights. If teams from multiple flights within a given level play each other, these flights will be considered as one flight when determining the number of teams that qualify for the District Championships, unless otherwise approved in advance of the start of the local season.
- C. A local league may elect to limit its team rosters by number of players on the roster and/or number of players on the roster at a specific NTRP rating. Percentages may not be used.
- D. Each local league determines its specific registration deadlines. Each team may be allowed to add players to its roster during the local league season if the local league allows this regulation. Any team or league intending to participate in a championship year must declare their intent and be approved by the Section by June 15th. Each team member must have a valid USTA membership which extends through the end of the local league season. Any player

that is added to the team roster must meet all eligibility requirements (a valid NTRP computer rating or self-rating, USTA membership, minimum age) prior to playing in his first USTA League match. Players who do not meet all the eligibility requirements, within the specified deadlines, may be disqualified.

- E. Each local area, subject to the restrictions set by the National and Section Regulations and approved by the Section League Coordinator, determines the length of the local league season. Each local league season's play must be completed at least 14 days prior to its respective District (for Adult divisions) or Section Championship event (for Senior, Super Senior, Mixed Doubles and Senior Mixed Doubles divisions). Exceptions to this rule must be approved by the Section.
- F. *Player Participation*: If one or more of the following three situations applies to any player or team, he must complete the Player Intent Form (PIF) and both captains must sign the PIF prior to registering for the second or subsequent team. The form must be mailed to USTA New England Attn: Competitive Tennis, 110 Turnpike Rd, Westborough MA 01581. A division is defined as Adult, Senior, Mixed, Senior Mixed and Super Senior.
1. *Multiple NTRP Levels* - A local league may authorize a player to compete in more than one NTRP level in the same division in the same local league during the same season. If the local league allows this regulation, the player must complete the PIF.
 2. *Multiple Seasons within the Same Local Area* - Any player may compete in multiple seasons in the same local area in the same division at the same or different NTRP level. A team that has already qualified for a Championship competition from the first local league season can play in a second season in the same local area at the same NTRP level; however the team cannot qualify again in the second season. The players of the qualified team must complete the PIF.
 3. *Separate Local Areas*
 - a) A player may compete on more than one team in the same division *in the same season* at the same or different NTRP level provided it is within separate local areas. If the local league allows this regulation, the player must complete the PIF.
 - b) A player may compete *in multiple seasons* in separate local leagues in the same division at the same or different NTRP levels, if the local league allows this regulation. However, if a player has already qualified on a team for a Championship level competition from the first local league, he must complete the PIF.
 4. In the event a player is on the roster of more than one team that qualified for the next level of competition and the PIF has not been submitted according to guidelines, the player will only be eligible to play on the team for which he registered first.
 5. The PIF can be changed after the original submission if both captains agree and there is no conflict of captain interest. Any PIF change must be submitted for approval to the section in writing by the player and both captains no later than 5 days prior to the championship event.
 6. A player may play on one team, and one team only, in a championship event (Districts or Section) for each division (Adult, Senior, Mixed, Senior Mixed and Super Seniors). All four District Championships are considered one championship event.
 7. In the event a team competes directly (in the same flight or play off semi/finals) against another team at a championship level that shares common players, the losing common players cannot advance with the winning team, regardless of whether they played in a match directly against the winning team.

4. LOCAL LEAGUES - ADMINISTRATION

- A. *Local League Regulations*: Each local league shall determine, in writing, prior to the commencement of the local league, its Local League Regulations. These regulations must include the following:
1. Format for team matches, including tiebreak procedures; no match – team or individual – may end in a tie or split points.
 2. Length of each match with time limit procedures, when applicable, length/dates of league season(s) and in-level NTRP requirements.
 3. List of members of the Local Grievance and Grievance Appeal Committees; the Section League Coordinator must approve each appointment.
 4. League deadlines for submission of materials.
- B. *League Certification*: In order for a local league to be certified for play, the Local League Coordinator must apply in writing annually by completing the League Certification Form 30 days prior to the start of the season, attend the annual USTA League Workshop and provide the following material via email to the Section League Coordinator. All items must be approved by the Section League Coordinator.
1. League rules (refer to 4, A., 1-4)
 2. Date of the Captains' meeting
 3. Names, addresses, email and phone numbers of all local personnel involved in the administration of local leagues.
 4. Contact person, address, phone number and directions for all participating clubs.
 5. A breakdown of local player fees and complete local league budget of revenues and expenses.
 6. Copy of the Captains' packet

7. Schedule must be published on TennisLink and reflect the actual match dates and facility associations.

8. Summary of previous season's activity.

9. Minutes for all league meetings submitted on the USTA New England official form.

Items B.1 and B.2 must be provided prior to the start of the local season. Items B.3- B.7 must be provided within ten days after the commencement of local league play. Item B.8 must be provided within 30 days of the respective season-ending Championship. The LLC will submit (Item B.9) Meeting Minutes for all local meetings within a reasonable timeframe of the meeting.

C. Early Start League (ESL) Rosters: The LLC is responsible for verifying that all ESL rosters reflect the current Championship Season Year End rating level and administering any subsequent action.

D. *Captains' Meeting*: Prior to the start of the local league season there shall be a meeting of the team captains with the Local League Coordinator and the Section League Coordinator (when available). Such a meeting shall be at a time and place convenient to the parties involved and shall be attended by team captains or a team representative. If a representative is not available, it is the responsibility of the captain of the absent team to contact the Local League Coordinator for the pertinent information prior to or immediately following the meeting.

E. *Winners' Information*: Local League Coordinators must provide a list of the local winners (team number, captain and co-captain's name, email address, phone numbers) on the designated Section form to the Section office within 5 days following the completion of the local league or within the timeframe specified by the Section League Coordinator.

5. MATCH REGULATIONS – GENERAL

A. *Warm-ups*: The warm-up, including serves, begins at the scheduled time the match is to be played, regardless of whether the players are on the court or not, and shall not exceed ten minutes. Local leagues with a time limit may choose to shorten this to no less than five minutes. In cases where a player is late for the match, the Point Penalty System will be enforced with the late player losing the toss plus one game for each five minutes he is late. Penalties begin at the scheduled time of the match. The match is a default at 15:01 minutes late and considered a 6-0, 6-0 win for the player(s) present. If the late player arrives five minutes past the scheduled start time but before the default time, he is to receive a 5-minute injury prevention warm-up. Waiting doubles players may warm-up with each other at the scheduled match time. Waiting singles player may begin warm-up, at the scheduled match time, with any person not scheduled to be on court at the same time. Refer to Friend at Court for a specific outline of the Point Penalty System.

B. *Continuous Play*: Play must be continuous throughout the match. There is no rest after the first game of any set but players will change ends. If a 10-point match tiebreak is played in lieu of a third set, a two-minute rest, with no coaching, may be taken between the second set and the tiebreak. A ten-minute rest (with no coaching) between the second and third sets should be honored upon request. Local leagues with a time limit may waive or shorten this allotted rest period and indicate the chosen procedures in the local rules.

C. *Scoring*: All matches will be best-of-three sets with a 7-point set tiebreak if games are tied at 6-6 in any set. Local leagues may use no-ad, 8-game pro-sets or the best-of-two sets and a 10-point match tiebreak in lieu of the third set as alternative scoring methods. The scoring system must be determined before the start of the local league season. If a time limit is enforced for local league matches, the Section League Coordinator must approve the scoring system when it varies from the full scoring as mentioned above. No match – team or individual – may end in a tie or split points. Each team in each flight will play each other team at least once. The method of awarding points to determine the winning team of a team match and the winner of the local league competition may be the same as that used in championship competition or may be another method selected by the local league and approved through the section office. One option is to award each individual match a one point value; the team that has accumulated the most individual points at the end of the team match will be the winner and receive one team point while the losing team receives zero team points. Another option is to identify the flight winner as the team with the most individual matches won during the local league season. In the case of a tie at the end of the local season, the USTA League tiebreak procedures will be used to break the tie.

D. *Scorecard Entry*: Either captain can enter the scorecard on TennisLink and the opposing captain must confirm or dispute the scorecard. Scorecards must be entered and confirmed within 48 hours upon completion of the match. TennisLink will automatically confirm a scorecard after 48 hours if the opposing captain does not confirm or dispute it. The right to dispute a match for standing purposes will be lost in the event TennisLink confirms the scorecard.

6. MIXED DOUBLES, SENIOR MIXED DOUBLES AND SUPER SENIOR – GENERAL

A. *Valid Ratings*: All players must have valid NTRP ratings prior to participation in USTA League play. For Mixed, if a player has played two or more matches as an exclusive mixed player he will generate an exclusive mixed ratings identified with an "M" on the NTRP rating list.

B. *Levels of Play*: The Local and Championship levels for league play are the combined NTRP levels of 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0 and 10.0 (Mixed only). Each individual doubles team's combined NTRP rating may not exceed the level entered. The NTRP difference between members of an individual doubles pair may not exceed 1.0.

C. *Match Format*: Each team match shall consist of three individual doubles matches.

- D. *Age Eligibility*: Each player shall have reached the age of 19 (for the mixed division), 50 (for the Senior Mixed division) or 60 (for the Super Senior division) during the League calendar year.
- E. *Scoring*: The best-of-three sets with a 7-point set tiebreak scoring system will be used in all local league play. Each local area may adopt an alternative scoring system (refer to Rule 5, C for alternate scoring methods). The Section Championship will use best-two-of-three sets with a 10-point match tiebreak in lieu of a third set. A 7-point set tiebreak will be played if games are tied at 6-6 within any set.
- F. *Championships*: A player must play a minimum of 2 matches (1 default may count) during the local league season as a rated player in order to qualify for championship play. In order to advance to National Championships a player must have played a minimum of 3 matches with no defaults (Mixed). The local winners (refer to Rule 10, B, 2 for eligibility) will advance to the Section Championship held in June (Mixed), August (Super Senior) and September (Senior Mixed). The winner of the Section Championship will advance to the National Championships. The Mixed Senior Section Champions will advance to the National Invitational.

7. WILDCARD AND REPLACEMENT TEAM PROCEDURES

If a winning team or runner-up is unable to attend a championship, the Tournament Director together with the Section League Coordinator will select a replacement team(s) according to the TennisLink tiebreak procedures. These procedures also will be used to determine wildcard team(s). The Section League Coordinator reserves the right of final approval of all replacement and wildcard teams.

- A. *TennisLink Tiebreak Procedure*: The team will be selected based on the following criteria in this order: most team wins; most individual position wins, fewest sets lost, fewest games lost, random draw.
- B. *Local Wildcard and Replacement Teams for a District or Section Championship*: The criteria for selecting a team will be determined by the number of local league seasons, number of local flights and number of teams within a local flight.
- C. *District Wildcard Teams for a Section Championship*: If determined necessary by the Section League Coordinator, a wildcard team will be selected from all eligible District Championship teams according to the TennisLink tiebreak procedures.
- D. *District Replacement Teams for a Section Championship*: District champion replacement teams will be selected in the following rank order:
 1. In a round-robin event of one flight, the next highest place team (i.e. second, then third, etc.) from that District.
 2. In a multiple-flight, single-elimination final and/or semi-final, the second-place team, followed by the third and fourth place teams, if those positions were determined by a playoff.
 3. In a multiple-flight, single-elimination semi-final (where third and fourth places were not determined by a playoff), the second-place team, or if necessary, a random draw of the remaining flight winners.

8. USTA NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS

A. *Districts*: The USTA League Committee and the Section League Coordinator will determine the Districts in the New England section each year. The District alignment is as follows with the host sites underlined:

- Green District – Western Massachusetts, Maine and Vermont
- Red District – Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Northern Connecticut (women)
- Blue District – Eastern Massachusetts and Cape Cod
- White District – WOMEN; Southern Connecticut and Eastern Connecticut women; MEN; Northern Connecticut, Southern Connecticut and Eastern Connecticut

The purpose of these districts is to create a playoff structure that will allow USTA New England to establish the number of teams competing at the Section Championships at each level. District divisions may be re-aligned by the League Tennis Committee for better distribution of players, general event improvements and/or administrative reasons. The District Championship host site and tournament director contact information will be posted on www.ustanewengland.com.

- B. *Number of Teams at Championships*: The number of teams that qualify for each District Championship will be decided by June 30. Each Local League Coordinator must confirm the number of teams he has eligible for the District Championships within 5 days following the end of the local league season, and must provide the captain's name and contact information of the winning teams to the USTA New England section office.
- C. *Qualifying for Championships*: A player must play a minimum of 2 matches (1 default may count) during the local league season as a rated player in order to qualify for championship play. In order to advance to National Championships a player must have played a minimum of 3 matches with no defaults. Each local league shall qualify its winning team and/or runner-up for further play based on the following criteria. Refer to Section 8 for the wildcard and replacement team procedure.
 1. A local league with flights of two, three or four teams shall send the winning team to its District Championship (applicable only to the Adult division).
 2. A local league with flights of five or more teams shall send both the winner and the runner-up to its District Championship (applicable only to the Adult division).

- D. *Championship Format*: The competition format for all District Championships will be determined by the District Tournament Director prior to the start of play and will be based on the number of teams in the District Championship and the availability of courts. However, each match will consist of two singles and three doubles positions except for the 2.5 and 5.0 levels, which will consist of one singles and two doubles positions. All Championships will be scheduled as a combination of round-robin and single-elimination play (for flight playoffs) and approved by the Section League Coordinator. The first-place team receives the District Championship trophies. If a flight becomes a two-team flight, and it is impossible to re-draw the schedule or replace a team, the two remaining teams will play the best-two-of-three team matches at the times allotted in the schedule.
- All matches will be best-two-of-three sets, with a 10-point match tiebreak in lieu of a third set. A 7-point set tiebreak will be played if games are tied at 6-6 within any set. Each District Tournament Director may petition the Section League Coordinator to use an approved alternative scoring method in the event of inclement weather or inadequate court time available to support the tournament.
- E. *Invitation and Eligibility Materials*: Each team that has been invited to play in the District Championship must reply to the invitation by email, pay the team entry fee within the stated deadline, and provide the requested contents of the Team Packet. The team captain shall be responsible for accepting the invitation for his team and informing the appropriate District Tournament Director. The Team Packet consists of the team fee (which is non-refundable); a copy of the team roster from TennisLink confirming that each player is on the roster, that each player has played two local matches (one default may count) and that each player has a USTA membership valid through the Championship date; and the media questionnaire. This information must be confirmed before players go on court. Any player with incomplete information may be deemed ineligible until valid documentation is provided. All players must bring a government approved photo ID to the Championship event. Any changes in team line-ups must be received at least 30 minutes before the next scheduled match and be approved by the Tournament Director. The Point Penalty System for lateness as described in Friend at Court may be enforced for failure to submit the team line-up 30 minutes before the scheduled match time during a Championship event. A team captains' meeting may be scheduled prior to the start of play. If there is no team captains' meeting the Tournament Director and team captain are jointly responsible for the dissemination of pertinent team information. At this meeting each team captain will report to the registration desk, at which time he will provide any missing information from the Team Packet.
- F. *Match Times*: All teams should anticipate play on any of the three scheduled days of a championship tournament - Friday and Saturday (7:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.) and Sunday (7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.). Matches may begin on Thursday if deemed necessary by the Tournament Director. The last match on Sunday may not be scheduled later than 3:00 p.m. unless the Tournament Director receives prior approval from the Section League Coordinator. Team captains must report to the tournament desk 45 minutes prior to their scheduled match time. All District Championship matches are scheduled on a "followed by" basis, meaning that as each match finishes another match will be assigned to each court. The tournament desk may call matches for any open court up to 30 minutes prior to the published match time. Positions may be called in the following order: 1st Singles, 2nd Singles, 1st Doubles, 2nd Doubles, 3rd Doubles. The order that matches are called may be changed at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Any team or individual failing to be available for a called match (including ones called up to 30 minutes prior to the published match time) may be assessed late penalties based on the Point Penalty System. Teams or individuals may be defaulted at 15:01 minutes late. Appeals of a defaulted match based on lateness must be in writing to the Tournament Grievance Committee. Refer to the USTA League Regulations for grievance procedures. Only the team captain or designee may represent the teams to the tournament desk or to the Grievance Committee.
- G. *Alternative Scoring*: In the event that rain or other unforeseen circumstances severely delays the tournament, the Tournament Committee may make any alternate plans necessary, including the use of no-ad scoring or pro-set scoring, to complete play on schedule.
- H. *Winners' Information*: District Tournament Directors must provide a list of the winners (captain's name, phone numbers, e-mail address and complete Tournament Packet with player eligibility documents) on the designated form to the Section Tournament Director within two (2) days of the end of District Championship play.

9. USTA NEW ENGLAND SECTION CHAMPIONSHIPS

- A. *Invitations*: When a team has qualified for its Section Championship, the team captain must contact the respective championship Tournament Director and accept the invitation by email within 5 days following the local league season or the Adult District Championships (if applicable). The team captain must also forward the team entry fee to the Tournament Director prior to the stated deadline.
- B. *Eligibility*: Each Senior, Mixed, Senior Mixed and Super Senior local league shall qualify its winning team and/or runner-up (as a section wildcard) for further play based on the following criteria. Refer to Section 8 for the wildcard and replacement team procedure.
1. Local leagues in all divisions with flights of two, three or four teams shall send the winning team to the Section championship.
 2. Local leagues in all divisions with flights of five or more teams shall send both the winner and the runner-up.
- C. *Championship Format*: The match format for the Adult Section Championships is a round-robin competition of four teams per NTRP level. Each match will consist of two singles and three doubles positions except the 2.5 and 5.0

levels, which will consist of one singles and two doubles positions. The Mixed, Senior Mixed, Senior and Super Senior Section Championship matches will consist of three doubles positions. If a flight becomes a two-team flight, and if it is impossible to re-draw the schedule or replace the teams, the two remaining teams will play either a single match or the best-two-of-three team matches at the times allotted in the schedule.

- D. *Eligibility Materials:* The Team Packet consists of the team fee (which is non-refundable); a copy of the team roster from TennisLink confirming that each player is on the roster, that each player has a USTA membership valid through the Championship date; the media questionnaire; and the banquet reservation form and fee (if applicable). This information must be confirmed before players go on court. Any player with incomplete information may be deemed ineligible until valid documentation is provided. All players must bring a government approved photo ID to the Championship event. Any changes in team line-ups must be received at least 30 minutes before the next scheduled match and be approved by the Tournament Director. The Point Penalty System for lateness as described in Friend at Court may be enforced for failure to submit the team line-up 30 minutes before the scheduled match time during a Championship event. A team captains' meeting may be scheduled prior to the start of play. If there is no team captains' meeting the Tournament Director and team captain are jointly responsible for the dissemination of pertinent team information. At this meeting each team captain will report to the registration desk, at which time he will provide any missing information from the Team Packet.
- E. *Match Times:* All teams should anticipate play on any of the three scheduled days of a championship tournament - Friday and Saturday (7:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.) and Sunday (7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.). Matches may begin on Thursday if deemed necessary by the Tournament Director. The last match on Sunday may not be scheduled later than 3:00 p.m. unless the Tournament Director receives prior approval from the Section League Coordinator. Team captains must report to the Tournament Desk one hour prior to scheduled time of play. All Section Championship matches are scheduled on a "followed by" basis, meaning that as each match finishes another match will be assigned to each court. The Tournament Desk may call matches for any open court up to 30 minutes prior to the published match time. Positions may be called in the following order: 1st Singles, 2nd Singles, 1st Doubles, 2nd Doubles, 3rd Doubles. The order that matches are called may be changed at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Any team or individual failing to be available for a called match (including matches called up to 30 minutes prior to the published match time) may be assessed late penalties based on the Point Penalty System. Teams or individuals may be defaulted at 15:01 minutes late. Appeals of a defaulted match based on lateness must be in writing to the Tournament Grievance Committee. Refer to the USTA League Regulations for grievance procedures. Only the team captain or designee may represent his team to the Tournament Desk or to the Grievance Committee.
- F. *Alternative Scoring:* In the event that rain or other unforeseen circumstances severely delays the tournament the Tournament Committee may make any alternate plans necessary, including the use of no-ad scoring or pro-set scoring, to complete play on schedule.
- G. *Alternative Formats:* The Section League Coordinator or the Championship Committee shall have the authority to modify the format of the District and Section Tournaments in the event that there are more or fewer teams than anticipated, defaults, unforeseen weather conditions, a need for additional teams (using wildcard procedures), or any other reason which would necessitate a change in the announced format.
- H. *Move Up/Split Up:* A first-place Section Championship team that chooses not to compete at the National Championship level must move up one level as a team or disperse to form new teams with no more than three (3) players (levels Adult Division 3.0-4.5, Senior 3.0-4.5 and Mixed 6.0-10.0) and two (2) players (levels 2.5 and 5.0) who were on the final roster at the conclusion of local league play on any single team for the following league year.

10. CHAMPIONSHIP REGULATIONS - GENERAL

- A. *Defaults:* All players and teams are prohibited from defaulting in any of the District or Section Championships (whether during the course of a match or prior to its commencement) except for illness, injury or personal emergency. A request for a waiver to compete with defaults must be submitted to the event tournament director prior to the championship event and participation at the event is dependant upon approval of the waiver. Failure to complete a match or a tournament can result in loss of future rights to participate in the USTA League program in New England. Penalties will be given at the discretion of the Section League Coordinator and the USTA League Committee. Local Leagues may enforce this rule as written or with other default penalties pre-approved by the Section League Coordinator and USTA League Committee and stated in the Local rules.
- B. *Withdrawals:* If a team withdraws from the round-robin tournament after play has begun, then all matches of that team, played or to be played, shall be null and void. If all teams in contention for the Championships have already played the forfeiting team in good faith, the matches stand as played. If all teams in the flight have played or are in the process of playing the withdrawing team, the match points are awarded.
- C. *Scoring:* All matches will be best-two-of-three sets, with a 10-point match tiebreak in lieu of a third set. A 7-point set tiebreak will be played if games are tied at 6-6 within any set. The Tournament Committee may authorize no-ad and/or pro-set scoring in the event of inclement weather or inadequate court time to support the tournament.
- D. *Score Reporting:* When a team finishes its match, a player from each team shall report his score and both captains are responsible for verifying the scores and signing the match cards. If the captain does not sign the completed scorecard he forfeits the right to dispute the match.

- E. A team that declines a championship invitation for two consecutive years must then declare their intention to advance upon registering for the current league season to their local league coordinator.
- F. *Returned Check Fee:* A \$25.00 fee will be charged for each check returned for uncollected funds. The person who wrote the check will not be allowed to compete or captain in any future USTA League programs until the debt has been reconciled.
- G. If for any reason a team is unable to participate in the USTA New England Championships, notify the tournament director immediately by email and phone. A team that does not make contact by the confirmation deadline to accept their tournament bid may be replaced by a wild card team. A \$100 penalty will be imposed on a team that withdraws after the confirmation deadline has passed. A team that withdraws 48 hours or less from the start of the championship event will be responsible for 100% of their team fee. In all cases of withdrawal, the team may also be deemed ineligible for play in the following USTA League local season.

11. NTRP RATINGS, APPEAL AND DISQUALIFICATIONS PROCEDURES

- A. *Valid Rating:* A player who registers for Early Start Leagues between September 1 and the date the Year-End ratings are released will use his Early Start League Rating. A player who does not have a valid computer rating must self-rate.
- B. *Early Start League Rating:* Dynamic Ratings are published following the New England USTA League Section Championships. The early start league rating will be considered 'Early Start League Ratings' for local leagues where players register and league matches begin before the 'Year End Ratings' are published.
- C. Early Start League Ratings are protected for players registered on an early start league roster once Year End Ratings are published. To qualify as an Early Start League teams must be registered, a schedule generated and matches started before Nov 1st. The ratings of computer rated players (not self rated players) registered on an Early Start League team are protected for that championship year. No further action is required. All registrations for Early Start League rosters and any other rosters after Year End ratings are published will default to the Year End rating.
- D. *Oversight:* The Section will establish an NTRP Review Board, which must be approved by the Section League Coordinator and the USTA League Committee. The NTRP Review Board shall be responsible for processing medical appeals and Fair Play Grievance Disqualifications. Guidelines and procedures are established and approved by the USTA and New England USTA League Committees.
- E. *Appeals:* NTRP medical appeals must be completed by the player in writing and submitted on the official USTA Medical Appeal Form. Borderline NTRP Appeals apply to any computer rated player who is within .05 above or below the level for which the appeal is being requested. A Benchmark rating (national, section or district) is not eligible for appeal for 1 year after they have been earned. A player is prohibited from playing at any level below his current rating until a USTA New England administrator informs him that his appeal was granted. A \$25.00 fee (made payable to USTA New England) must be submitted with the required medical appeal documentation to appeal an NTRP Rating for permanent medical injury or condition that affects a player's ability to play tennis at the assigned level.
- F. *Disqualification:*
 1. Refer to USTA League Regulation 3.04. All self-rated players, no matter what division, are subject to Fair Play Grievance disqualification.
 2. If a player is disqualified, he will be prohibited from further play at that NTRP level for the remainder of the league season and all matches played will be scored as a 6-0, 6-0 win for his opponents.
Exception: If a self rate player who registers for an Early Start Local League team between 09/01 and 12/01 and is disqualified by the 3 strike rule he/she will be prohibited from further play at that NTRP level for the remainder of the league season and all matches played will stand. The no match removal exception is valid only through the end of the Early Start League season.
 3. A \$50.00 fee (made payable to USTA New England) will be charged to file a Fair Play Grievance on the official grievance form. If the grievance is upheld the \$50.00 will be refunded.
 4. At the Championship Level, if a player is disqualified in a single-elimination competition, the last individual match played shall be considered a loss (6-0, 6-0) and that individual match shall be considered a win for the opposing player. In a round-robin competition, all matches played by the player shall be considered losses (6-0, 6-0) and those matches shall be considered wins for the opposing players or teams.
 5. The Section Grievance Committee will review all dynamic 3-strike and Fair Play disqualifications. Team and/or captain penalties may be imposed as deemed necessary.