



2012 Rule Change Synopsis for Pacific  
Northwest Section  
Adopted September 19, 2011

1. Registration Fee Refund Policy – Player registration fees, **excluding TennisLink Fee, will be refunded if cancellation of a team or League occurs, or for substantiated medical reasons prior to the deadline posted in the Local League Captains Letter** (see amended PNW Regulation 1.4).
2. In Adult, Senior, **Super Senior**, Mixed and Senior Mixed Doubles divisions, 50% of the players on a team roster must reside (using the address registered with TennisLink) in the local area as outlined in the USTA Pacific Northwest Year Book. Go to [pnw.usta.com](http://pnw.usta.com), link to About Us, and then link to Organizational Members to view a complete list of the boundaries. Waiver exceptions to the boundaries are: Northern Oregon: Hood River and the Dalles clubs and residents compete in Eastern Washington; SW Washington: Bainbridge Athletic Club and Bainbridge residents compete in NW Washington; NW Washington: Bally's Federal Way and residents of Algona, Auburn, Enumclaw, Federal Way, Milton and Pacific compete in SW Washington. All matches played by an ineligible player will be scored as a default. An ineligible player is determined by his or her registration date and is the last player(s) who resides out of area. **70+ Leagues are exempt from the PNW residency rule.** (See amended PNW regulation 3.1(a)).
3. For the 2012 season, **on an expanded trial basis**, a player may play in an Adult Weekday League and a separate Adult Weekend/Evening League at the same level in the following: SW Washington Women's Adult 4.0 and **NW Washington Women's Adult 2.5, 3.0, 3.5 and 4.0** (see revised PNW rule 3.4(d)1).



## 2012 Pacific Northwest Section USTA League Rules and Regulations Adopted September 19, 2011

### PACIFIC NORTHWEST

The rules below are supplementary and subordinate to the 2012 National USTA League Tennis Regulations and apply to all teams playing in the Pacific Northwest Section. These Regulations may change during the 2012 season if approved by USTA Pacific Northwest League Committee due to corrections or necessary rule clarifications. Please contact your Local Area Coordinator for information about the latest changes. The USTA Rules of Tennis and The Code also fully apply.

As a condition of your participation in the USTA League Tennis Program you agree to abide and be bound by the rules and regulations and to the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship.

Information pertaining to **Match Start times, Late Arrival, Order of Play, Court Time Constraints, Match Rescheduling, and Reporting Match Scores** is found in your Captain's Letter. Official Time used will be the time indicated by cellular phone.

#### 1.0 General Information.

- 1.1 Format - All Leagues will play best of 2 sets with a match tie-break in lieu of a third set (first to 10 by 2), when needed.
- 1.2 Levels of Play – All Leagues will follow the National Championship format. See National Regulation 2.01A.
- 1.3 Local League Season - The local league season will end after the last match scheduled for a flight is played, or, after the last match is played at local league playoffs, whichever occurs last.
- 1.4 Registration Fee Refund Policy – Player registration fees, **excluding TennisLink fee, will be refunded if cancellation of a team or League occurs, or for substantiated medical reasons prior to the deadline posted in the Local League Captains Letter.**
- 1.5 Team Defaults – Refer to National Regulation 2.03K.
  - 1.5(a) Team Defaults occurring during Local League and at the Sectional Championships will be considered Sportsmanship violations and will be referred to the Section Grievance Committee for appropriate action(s).
  - 1.5(b) The team incurring a Team Default may not be advanced to next level of championships.
  - 1.5(c) Scoring of team Defaults in Multiple Round Robin flight:  
Regardless of which round of the multiple round robin season the Team Default occurs in:
    - i. The team incurring a Team Default will have its matches removed for that particular round of play, as determined by the match date (e.g. the earliest match date will be considered the first round robin, the second match date, the second, in order). The defaulted team will have its matches count in the non-defaulted round robin play, and the results will affect standings.
    - ii. The team incurring the Team Default is also subject to penalties imposed by the Section Grievance Committee.
  - 1.5(d) Scoring of Team Defaults – Refer to National Regulation 2.03L.
- 1.6 Senior Mixed Division – USTA Pacific Northwest Senior Mixed Doubles Leagues will follow the USTA Adult Mixed Doubles rules as outlined in National League Regulations 2.00. The minimum number of matches played to be eligible for Sectionals is one (defaulted matches can count). The minimum number of matches played to be eligible for a National tournament is two (one default can count.)

## **2.0 Early Start Ratings (ESR).**

- 2.1 Early Start Ratings (ESR) are published in July at the conclusion of the Senior/Super Senior Sectional Championships to notify players of a change, or probable change, in their year-end rating. Players who receive an ESR must use this rating when registering for any league whose season begins prior to the publication of the year-end ratings. A player may continue to play on a team using their ESR through the completion of the ES League.
- 2.2 Players who are found to have valid year end computer ratings that place them above the level at which they are competing in and Early Start Rating League may continue their participation UNLESS their year-end rating reaches the “clearly above level mark.” If it does, they too must adjust to that new level. See National Regulation Rule Interpretation 2.05 Year End NTRP Computer Ratings and Appeal Procedures.

## **3.0 Eligibility.**

### **3.1 PNW Residency Rule.**

- 3.1(a) In Adult, Senior, **Super Senior**, Mixed and Senior Mixed Doubles divisions, 50% of the players on a team roster must reside (using the address registered with TennisLink) in the local area as outlined in the USTA Pacific Northwest Year Book. Go to [pnw.usta.com](http://pnw.usta.com), link to About Us and then link to Organizational Members to view a complete list of the boundaries. Waiver exceptions to the boundaries are: Northern Oregon: Hood River and The Dalles clubs and residents compete in Eastern Washington; SW Washington: Bainbridge Athletic Club and Bainbridge residents compete in NW Washington; NW Washington: Bally's Federal Way and residents of Algona, Auburn, Enumclaw, Federal Way, Milton and Pacific compete in SW Washington. All matches played by an ineligible player will be scored as a default. An ineligible player is determined by his or her registration date and is the last player(s) who resides out of area. **70+ Leagues** are exempt from the PNW residency rule.
- 3.1(b) For USTA Adult League only, a team that has five (5) or more players residing outside the local area must play an equal number of local area players a minimum of one match each. Violations are subject to local area grievance and disqualification.

### **3.2 NTRP Level.**

- 3.2(a) Players may play in a league at their NTRP level or one level higher. See National Regulation 1.04G(3).
- 3.2(b) **Returning USTA League Players.** Players returning to league play who are prompted to self-rate when registering may self-rate no lower than .5 of their previous NTRP rating. Violations are subject to local area grievance and disqualification.

### **3.3 50% In Level Rule.**

- 3.3(a) Adult and Senior Leagues Only: Unless otherwise waived, the PNW limits the number of players that appear on a team roster at a specific NTRP level. At the time of the first local league match and all subsequent matches 50% of the players on the team roster must be rated “in level.” All matches played by an ineligible player will be scored as a default. An ineligible player is determined by his or her registration date and is the last player or players who are under-level. Teams that have advanced to National Championships are exempt from complying with the 50% in level rule for one year.
- 3.3(b) If an Adult or Senior League consists of only two teams in a level of play, each team must maintain its roster with at least 60% of its players at the designated NTRP level of play. See National Regulation 1.04D(6).

### **3.4 Playing on Multiple Teams.**

- 3.4(a) The Section authorizes players to compete at more than one NTRP level within a division in the same season and local league area.
- 3.4(b) The Section authorizes players to play on more than one team within a division in the same season provided it is in separate local leagues.
- 3.4(c) When local leagues are divided into flights, players may not play in more than one flight at the same level. See National Regulation 1.04G(2)A.

- 3.4(d) Players who qualify on more than one team for the Sectional Championships may compete on one or all teams provided they are at different NTRP levels; no special scheduling will be done to accommodate the player.
- 3.4(d)1 For the 2012 season, on **an expanded trial basis**, a player may play in an Adult Weekday League and a separate adult Weekend/Evening League at the same level in the following: SW Washington Women's Adult 4.0 and **NW Washington Women's Adult 2.5, 3.0, 3.5 and 4.0.**
- 3.4(d) 2 No more than three (3) players may play together on any Weekday Adult League and separate Weekend /Evening Adult League roster.
- 3.4(d) 3 For the 2 local leagues mentioned above, if a player is on a Weekday League team and a separate Weekend/Evening League team in the same division, level and flight, and both teams qualify for the Local Playoffs, the player must select (first team match) which team they will play for through the end of the Local playoffs. The player is allowed to join any of the other teams at the conclusion of the Local playoffs to compete in the Sectional Championships.
- 3.4(e) Players who qualify on more than one team for the Sectional Championships may compete on one or all teams provided they are at different NTRP levels; no special scheduling will be done to accommodate the player.
- 3.4(f) Players who qualify on more than one team for the Sectional Championships at the same NTRP level must declare which team they will play for through the end of the Sectional Championships. This must be done prior to the first match of any teams with said player on the roster at the Sectional Championships. The player is allowed to join any of the other teams at the conclusion of the Sectional Championships to compete in the National Championships.

3.5 **Player Identification.** Players should be prepared to show Government Issue photo I.D. when asked.

#### 4.0 **Roster Additions.**

- 4.1 Players may be added to a roster up and until the registration deadline date specified by the Local League Coordinator in the Captain's Letter. The player must meet all other eligibility requirements.
  - 4.1(a) Players added to a roster after the team's first match must play the requisite number of matches defined in 5.1 prior to the Local League Playoffs.
- 4.2 A players name must be listed on the TennisLink team roster prior to participating in any match.
- 4.3 Players who have been advanced to the next level by DNTRP disqualification may be added to a team after the registration deadline provided they meet all other eligibility requirements.

#### 5.0 **Advancement Qualifications.**

5.1 **Player Eligibility.** A player is eligible to progress to Sectional and then to National competition(s) if that player has played the required number of matches shown in the chart below:

| <b>Minimum # of Matches Needed for player to be eligible.</b><br><i>(Numbers in parentheses are allowed number of default matches that count towards eligibility.)</i> | # Of matches required to be eligible for <b><u>Local Area Playoffs</u></b> IF Player is on the roster PRIOR to the team's first match. | # Of matches required to be eligible for <b><u>Local Area Playoffs</u></b> IF Player added to roster AFTER the team's first match is played. | # Of matches required to be eligible for <b><u>Sectionals</u></b> IF Player is on the roster PRIOR to the team's first match. <u>Matches played at the Local League playoffs may be counted.</u> | # Of matches required to be eligible for <b><u>Sectionals</u></b> IF Player added to roster AFTER the team's first match is played. <u>Matches must be played prior to Local League playoffs.</u> | # Of matches required to be played through Sectionals to be eligible for <b><u>USTA National Championships.</u></b> (See 2012 National table on inside of back cover). |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| Adult League   | 0  | 2 (1)  | 2 (1)  | 2 (1)   | 3 (0)  |
| Senior League  | 0  | 2 (1)  | 2 (1)  | 2 (1)   | 3 (0)  |
| <u>Super Seniors</u>   | <u>0</u>   | 2 (1)  | 0  | 2 (1)   | 3 (0)  |
| <u>Adult Mixed</u>   | 0  | 2 (1)  | 2 (1)  | 2 (1)   | 3 (0)  |
| Senior Mixed   | 0  | 2 (1)  | 1 (1)  | 2 (1)   | 2 (1)  |

**5.2** Team progression to Sectionals – The Sectional Tournament Director will determine the size of the Sectional Tournament draw for each Division, Gender and NTRP Level. The provisions of the USTA National Rule 2.03 (Area, Section and National Championships) will be followed.

- 5.2(a) Local Area Champions will be included in the progression. If the Local Area Champion team is unable to attend, then the Local Area Finalist will be the alternate team advanced to Sectionals. Should the Local Area Finalist be unable to attend the Sectional Tournament, then that place in the draw will be filled by the next eligible team from the Sectional Wild Card Chart.
- 5.2(b) The Sectional Tournament Director has the authority to limit the Sectional Tournament Draw size for each Division, Gender, and NTRP level, as long as the above guidelines are met.
- 5.2(c) A single team in a particular league cannot advance directly to Sectionals. [See National Regulation 1.04D(1)] In the event that all attempts to field a second team within an Area fail, every effort should be made to have the single team play in another Area local league to fulfill their local league eligibility requirements. The out of Area team will participate in the host's Local League, and playoffs if eligible. The first and second place teams in the standings after playoff matches will advance to Sectionals. The out of Area team is exempted from PNW Residency Regulation 3.1.

**5.3** Championship NTRP Disqualification – The PNW Section will run dynamic NTRP calculations and produce ratings throughout the championship when possible. Through the conclusion of the championship event, the PNW Section will notify and disqualify those players that meet the criteria for NTRP disqualification. Following disqualification, the player may not play at the disqualified level of play (and any lower level of play) for the remainder of the championship league year and for the succeeding league year. All matches played by the disqualified player will be considered 6-0, 6-0 losses for a round robin tournament. The last match played by the disqualified player will be considered a 6-0, 6-0 loss in a single elimination tournament. See National Regulation 2.01C(3).

**5.4** The PNW Section endorses the USTA National Championships Procedure to determine the fourth team for semifinal play in a three flight Round Robin. (See National Regulations document)

## **6.0 Move-up/Split-up Rule.**

The Section enforces the move-up/split up rule for all leagues including Super Seniors and Senior Mixed Doubles. See National Regulation 2.06. Teams affected are restricted to (3) players who were on the final roster at the conclusion of local league play who may play together on the same team the following year at that level.

## **7.0 DNTRP Disqualification.**

- 7.1 National Regulation 2.04 League NTRP Disqualification and Review Procedures will be enforced.
- 7.2 If as a result of Dynamic NTRP rating recalculations, a S -self-rated, T – Tournament rated player, M – Mixed Exclusive, D – Dynamic Rated, AA -Automatic Appealed, AM - Medical Appealed, AX – Automatic Appeal Mixed Exclusive player reaches the disqualification level three times, the player will automatically advance to the next higher level and all matches played at the disqualified level will be considered as a loss. C- Computer Rated and B-Benchmark Rated players are not subject to Dynamic Disqualification.

## **8.0 Sportsmanship.**

- 8.1. Any player may request up to two Line Assistants to stand, silently, one at each net post, to assist in line calls and foot faults. The duties of the Line Assistant are restricted to confirming or over-ruling line calls and may do so ONLY when asked by a player on the court. Line Assistants cannot unilaterally over-rule line calls or call foot faults. If two Line Assistants disagree on a call, a let is played.
- 8.2 Zero Tolerance/Ineligibility – Examples of player ineligibility which do not require a grievance to be filed include, but are not limited to:
  - Players who are not current members of the USTA.

- Players who do not appear on the official team roster.
- Players who play a match under another player's name.
- Players who falsify or omit information when self rating.

## 9.0 **Grievance and Grievance Appeal Procedures** – Refer to National Regulations 3.00

- 9.1 Local League Grievance Fee; \$50. Local League Appeal Fee: \$20.
- 9.2 Appeals must be filed within 24 hours from notification of the grievance decision.

## 10.0 **One Doubles League Rules**

### 10.1 Local League

- 10.1(a) Team - A team consists of a Doubles team with no more than 6 players per team during the local league season. Prior to each progressive championship round, 4 players will be identified on the playoff roster prior to the first match of the tournament. All matches played in the championship round must be played by two of the 4 players on that playoff roster. Should the team advance to the next championship round, a new list of 4 players must be submitted. All players appearing on a playoff list must meet eligibility requirements for that level of play.
- 10.1(b) Number of Teams - A local league is a Doubles competition in a specified Area with a format of two or more teams. In the event every effort has been made to find a second team, single teams may advance to Sectionals with the approval of the Sectional League Coordinator.
- 10.1(c) Levels of Play - Doubles teams shall use straight NTRP levels (3.5, 4.0 and 4.5). Local leagues may authorize a player to play one level higher than the player's rating however at the time of the first match 50% of the team must be rated within the level they are playing
- 10.1(d) Scoring - Any USTA approved scoring method that is compatible with the USTA NTRP Computer Rating system may be used.

### 10.2 Eligibility

- 10.2(a) Requirements - Each player shall have a current USTA membership, current computer rating or Self-rating and have reached the age of eighteen (18) prior to or during the calendar year in which such player plays in his/her first local league match. Players must participate in one match (defaults count) in order to advance to Sectionals. Single team leagues will be exempt from the one match played rule and may add to their roster up until the first match of Sectional Championships for that level and gender.
- 12.2(a)1 Self Rated Players - Players who do not have a current computer rating will be eligible to self-rate via the On-line self rate questionnaire.
- 12.2(a)2 Self rated players will be governed by the USTA dynamic disqualification policy. Self rated players must receive a year-end rating in order to be eligible to advance to the BNP Paribas Tri-Level National Championships.
- 12.2(a)3 Self rated players whose year-end ratings are advanced to a higher level and outside of appealable range will not be eligible to advance to the BNP Paribas Tri-level national championship.
- 10.2(b) Roster Additions - Players may be added to the roster up until the deadline specified by the Local League Coordinator. A player who is added to the roster following the first match of the season is eligible to advance to Sectionals provided they play at least one match.

### 10.3 Competition Format

- 10.3(a) Round Robin - Each Doubles team shall play at least one round robin competition wherein every team plays every other team. Any Doubles format with only two or three teams is required to play a minimum of three matches. This does not apply to single team leagues.

### 10.4 Scoring

- 10.4(a) Team Match and Scoring - Each team match in a local league shall consist of such number of individual matches of Doubles (by levels) as determined by the local league. The method of awarding points in order to determine the winning team of a local league team match and the winner of the local league competition is the same method as determined by the Tennis Link

system of scoring used in the USTA League Tennis program.

- 10.4(b) **Scoring of Team Default** - If a team defaults a match for any reason during the round robin play, 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 defaulting team in good faith, the matches stand as played.

## 11.0 Super 70 Plus League Rules

The USTA Pacific Northwest 70+ League consists of three (3) doubles teams at the 6.0 and 7.0 levels, and two (2) doubles teams at the 8.0 level who compete against other teams at the same level and gender. Teams within a flight or level will schedule their own matches, which may be played indoors or outdoors, and enter their scores into Tennislink. Local League Coordinators may, by area, choose to schedule matches where a flight contains three (3) or more teams. Winners from the local leagues will advance to Super 70 Sectional championships.

### 11.1 Local League

#### 11.1(a) Team

A team consists of a minimum of six (6) players of the same gender eligible to compete at a specific level of competition. At the 8.0 level, a team consists of a minimum of four (4) players of the same gender eligible to compete at that level.

#### 11.1(b) Number of Teams

A local league is team competition in a specified geographic area with a format of two (2) or more teams. In the event every effort has been made to find a second team, single team league may advance to Sectionals with the approval of the Sectional League Coordinator.

#### 11.1(c) Age

Each player shall have reached 70 years of age during the calendar year in which such player plays in his/her first local league match.

#### 11.1(d) Levels of Play

Teams shall use combined NTRP levels (6.0, 7.0 and 8.0) for their local season, the NTRP difference between members of an individual team shall not exceed 1.0.

#### 11.1(e) Scoring

All matches shall be the best of three (3) tiebreak sets with a match tiebreak in lieu of a third set. USTA-approved scoring method will be used.

### 11.2 Eligibility

#### 11.2(a) Requirements

Each player shall have a current USTA membership, current computer rating or self-rating.

11.2(a)1 Players who do not have a current computer rating are eligible to self-rate via the on-line self-rate questionnaire.

11.2(a)2 Players on the roster prior to the first match are not required to play a match in order to advance to Sectionals. Players added to the roster after the first match must play a minimum of one (1) match (defaults count) to be eligible to advance to Sectionals. Players may be added to the roster until the deadline specified by the Local League Coordinator in Tennislink.

11.2(a)3 Single team leagues are exempt from the one (1) match requirement, and may add to their roster until the first round of Sectional Championship competition.

### 11.3 Competition Format

#### 11.3(a) Round Robin

Each doubles team shall play at least one round robin competition wherein each team plays every other team. The Local League Coordinator may determine the total number of round robins to be played.

### 11.4 Team Lineups

#### 11.4(a) Lineup Exchange

Team captains shall exchange line-up cards simultaneously. Once the line-ups have been exchanged, substitutions may only be made due to injury or illness during the

warm-up.

11.5 Team Defaults

11.5(a) Default Results

If a team defaults a match during round robin play, all matches of that team played, or to be played, will be null and void. If all teams in contention for sectional championships have already played the defaulting team in good faith, matches shall stand as, played.