


# USTA LEAGUE

## MAJOR REGULATION CHANGES FOR 2011

1. 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 percent of its players at the designated NTRP level of play.
2. A player may play only one NTRP level above the player's current NTRP level in the Adult and Senior Divisions.
3. Players who play exclusively in the Mixed Doubles Division and choose to participate in the Adult, Senior, and/or Super Senior Divisions the next year must enter those divisions by self-rating with the minimum rating being the higher of the self-rating or mixed exclusive rating.
4. Each Section Association shall designate a committee to handle Self-Rate Appeals for those that appeal their assigned self-rating.
5. Any player who is 70 years of age or older prior to, or during, the calendar year in which such player plays his/her first local league match and has achieved the same rating level or lower for the three prior years, without benefit of appeal, will be granted an appeal if they are promoted at year-end.
6. A Super Senior player is eligible to advance to National Championships competition if that player has played on that same team in at least three (3) matches through Section Championships. No defaults received by the player during all league competition shall count for advancing. A retired match shall count for all players involved.

		<h2 style="color: blue;">VALID NTRP COMPUTER RATINGS</h2>	
<p style="color: red;">2011 Championship Year</p>	<p>Players who are less than 60 years old during the 2011 championship year will have their most current computer or start ratings on file in TennisLink. They must self-rate if their NTRP rating is older than 3 years.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">X indicates the years of valid computer rating in TennisLink.</p>		
	<p>Players who will be 60 years or older during the 2011 championship year will have their most current computer or start rating on file in TennisLink. They must self-rate if their NTRP rating is older than 2 years.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">X60 indicates the years of valid computer rating in TennisLink.</p>		
Last Year played	2008	2009	2010
Adult	X	X	X
Adults 60 & over		X60	X60
<p><b>TennisLink will automatically remove expired computer and self, ratings thereby allowing individuals to self rate. <u>Players with expired ratings will not be allowed to self-rate at a lower level than their last published NTRP rating. However, they will have the opportunity to file a self-rate appeal.</u></b></p>			
<p><b>Computer ratings</b> are valid based on the above chart.</p>			
<p><b>Self-ratings</b> are valid for 1 year from the month issued or until replaced by a dynamic or computer rating.</p>			

**2011 Regulation 2.04**

**No dynamic disqualification of Year-end Computer (C) or Benchmark (B) players**

Each NTRP Level is followed by a letter code indicating the type of rating.

The following identifies who can and cannot be dynamically disqualified.

Who cannot be dynamically disqualified based on three strikes

NTRP Level followed by the following character

**C** Computer Players

**B** Benchmark Players

Who can be dynamically disqualified based on three strikes

NTRP Level followed by the following character

**A** Appealed – all granted appeals

**S** Self-rated players

**M** Mixed exclusive players

**T** Tournament exclusive players

**D** Dynamic rated players

<b>2011 MATCHES REQUIRED TO ADVANCE</b>				
	ANY CHAMPIONSHIP LEVEL		NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP	
	LOCAL MATCHES REQUIRED	DEFAULTS	ALL MATCHES through SECTION CHAMPS	DEFAULTS
USTA League Division	To advance to any championship level through Section Championship	Defaults received counting to advance to any championship level through Section Championship	To advance to National Championship	Defaults received counting to advance to National Championship
Adult	2 matches	1 default may count	3 matches	NO defaults
Senior	2 matches	1 default may count	3 matches	NO defaults
Mixed	2 matches	1 default may count	3 matches	NO defaults
Super Senior	Section option	Section Option	3 matches	NO defaults
	A RETIRED match shall count for all players			

**THE USE OF THE  
NATIONAL TENNIS RATING PROGRAM  
AND  
NTRP COMPUTER RATINGS  
IN  
THE USTA LEAGUE**

The National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) is the official system for determining the levels of competition for USTA League. The USTA NTRP Computer Rating System assigns ratings based on play in the local league and at championship level during the current league year.

1. The National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) Guidelines define the characteristics of the various NTRP skill levels.
2. The USTA NTRP Computer Rating System is the official system to determine computer ratings for players throughout the country who participate in USTA League. It is a mathematical system that assigns computer ratings to players by direct and indirect comparison of match results obtained from USTA League and select NTRP tournaments.
3. A NTRP published level is valid for two (2) years for individuals 60 years of age and older prior to, or during, the championship year and for three (3) years for all others, or until another NTRP published level is generated. (See Valid Computer Rating Chart – inside back cover)
4. Players with a NTRP published level must enter at that rating or higher. (See Valid Computer Rating Chart – inside back cover)
5. Players in USTA League without a computer rating must self-rate in accordance with the NTRP Guidelines. Factors such as a player's on-court performance, tennis background, and any additional information should be considered in the self-rating decision. When players are rating themselves, if they question at which level they should play, they should place themselves in the higher NTRP level of play.  
**Note:** Players who are good athletes or intend to spend a great deal of time taking lessons and practicing should be aware that their improvement may be significant enough to surpass their original self-rating by the time they reach the end of the local league season or championship level. To avoid NTRP disqualification, these players should enter at a higher level of play at the beginning of the local league season.
6. Players without a NTRP published level are required to declare a self-rating on TennisLink when entering the program regardless of the NTRP level they enter. They begin to generate a dynamic rating after their first match with a **C**omputer or **B**enchmark rated player.
7. In the USTA League Adult and Senior divisions, dynamic ratings will be calculated at regular intervals for all participants during local league competition, at the end of the local league season, and either during, or at the end of, Area through Section Championships.
8. At the USTA League Adult and Senior National Championships, players will continue to generate dynamic ratings through their last match played; but, there will be no dynamic NTRP disqualification at National Championships.
9. After the USTA League Adult and Senior National Championships, benchmark and year-end NTRP published level will be calculated using USTA NTRP Computer Rating System Procedures approved by the USTA League Committee.
10. In the Mixed Doubles Division, a NTRP published level will be calculated for participants who play in that division exclusively. Year-end ratings will be based on the final dynamic rating generated from local league and championship level competition.

## **USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS**

### **2011 Championship Year**

#### **1.00 GENERAL**

**The Regulations in 1.00 GENERAL shall apply to all USTA League divisions. Any authority delegated by these regulations to the Section, unless otherwise stated, may be delegated by the Section to a lower authority.**

**1.01 NAME.** The USTA Board of Directors has approved the adoption of rules and regulations for USTA League that shall be known as the USTA League Regulations.

**1.02 GOVERNANCE.** The USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS shall apply to the USTA League Program (USTA League). The RULES OF TENNIS and TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS, including those for wheelchair play, shall apply to all matches played in USTA League except as modified herein. In all matches played without officials, the USTA official publication, *THE CODE*, shall be observed. The USTA Point Penalty System shall be used at all championship levels.

**1.02A Waiver of Rules and Procedures Prohibited.** Except where a waiver is specifically permitted by a USTA League Regulation or by a USTA League Procedure, no USTA League Regulation or USTA League Procedure shall be waived by any Section Association or by any Local, Area or Section League Coordinator or Grievance or Grievance Appeal Committee. Any violation of this regulation shall be subject to such sanctions as may be imposed by the USTA League Committee (including, for example, the disqualification of any teams involved in any such waivers). Such sanctions are not subject to appeal.

**1.02B(1) Amendments.** These USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS may be amended by the USTA League Committee with the approval of a committee comprised of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the USTA League Committee and the National League Administrator. All proposed amendments shall be in writing and shall be forwarded to the USTA League Committee at least ten days before any meeting of the USTA League Committee. Without the approval of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the USTA League Committee and the National League Administrator, no amendments to these USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS shall become effective prior to January 1st of the next USTA League Year.

**1.02B(2) Written Interpretation.** The written interpretation of USTA League Regulations is the responsibility of a committee comprised of the Chair and Vice Chair of the USTA League Committee and the National League Administrator.

**1.02B(3) Glossary of Terms.** For purposes of these regulations, certain words and phrases are defined in a glossary included herein. This glossary has been prepared as a reference to many terms included in these regulations. The definitions provided have been drawn from these regulations and, in some cases, other documents published by the USTA.

**1.03 NON-DISCRIMINATION.** USTA League shall be conducted without regard to race, creed, color or national origin.

#### **1.04 USTA LEAGUE.**

**1.04A USTA League Program.** The USTA League is a team competition for men, women and for mixed doubles at specified National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) levels of play. The purpose of the program is to provide organized recreational play, emphasizing local competition, with advancement for winning teams from local competition to Area, Section or National championships to determine annually USTA League National Championship teams in each approved level of competition.

#### **1.04B Administration.**

**1.04B(1) USTA League Committee.** USTA League shall be governed by the USTA League Committee appointed by the President of the USTA and subject to the control and direction of the USTA Board of Directors.

**1.04B(2) USTA National League Administrator.** The USTA National League Administrator, under the employ of the USTA, shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the USTA League.

**1.04B(3) Section Associations.** The USTA has seventeen Section Associations; the names and territories of which are defined in the USTA By-Laws. Each Section Association is responsible for the development and implementation of the USTA League within its geographic territory in accordance with the USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS.

**1.04B(4) Section League Coordinators.** Each Section Association shall appoint a Section League Coordinator to implement and administer the USTA League.

**1.04B(4)a Area League Coordinators.** Each Section League Coordinator may appoint area league coordinators to implement and administer the USTA League. Any such area shall have such geographic boundaries as the Section Association may determine. The Section League Coordinator must approve all such appointments.

**1.04B(4)b Local League Coordinators.** Each Section League Coordinator may appoint Local League Coordinators to implement and administer the USTA League. The Section League Coordinator must approve all such appointments.

**1.04B(5) Team Captain.** Each team shall appoint a team captain to handle administrative affairs and to represent the team in USTA League matters.

**1.04B(6) Championships Committees.** A Championships Committee of at least three members (one of whom is a USTA Certified Referee or Umpire) shall govern each championship. At least one member of the Championships Committee shall be in attendance at all times during play. The Championships Committees, except for the National Championships, shall be appointed by the Section Associations. The Chair of the USTA League Committee shall appoint the Championships Committees for the National Championships.

**1.04C OFFICIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM.** TennisLink is the official information system of the USTA League.

**1.04C(1) Official League Registration.** TennisLink is the official system for registering teams and players for the USTA League. The player's name must be listed on the team roster, as shown on TennisLink, prior to participation in any match. This includes any player who is added to a team roster after the commencement of local league play. Each Section will establish deadlines and procedures for registering teams on TennisLink. Players shall not be added to the team roster during local league flight play-offs or at any championship.

**1.04C(2) Official Score Reporting and Standings System.** TennisLink is the official system for reporting scores and providing standings for the USTA League. The Section must establish deadlines and procedures for reporting scores on TennisLink. After match scores have been entered on TennisLink, they must be confirmed by the opposing team within 48-hours of the initial entry or the initial score will be considered valid automatically.

#### **1.04D LOCAL LEAGUE.**

**1.04D(1) Definition.** A local league is a team competition in a specified geographic area that applies specific local league regulations and consists of NTRP level(s) with a minimum of two or more teams per level. A local league may choose to divide any or all NTRP levels into flights. Where flights are used, a playoff structure may be established to determine a champion for each NTRP level (See 2.01C – *Competition Format*).

**1.04D(2) Sanction.** Local league competition is sanctioned in accordance with USTA Regulation IX. B.

**1.04D(3) USTA League Year.** The League Year shall be January 1 through December 31, except that the USTA League Committee may authorize the commencement of a local league season prior to January 1, subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by the committee.

**1.04D(4) Local League Season.** Each Section shall determine the dates for the season(s) of the local leagues within its Section. The local league season ends on the date published in TennisLink as the league season end date.

**1.04D(5) Area, District and Section Championship Events.** Each section shall determine the dates of the championships within the Section. Each championship event ends on the date published in TennisLink as the championship end date. In the event a championship is not concluded on the date published in TennisLink, then the end date in TennisLink should be amended to reflect the date of the last match played.

**1.04D(6) Team.** A team shall consist of players eligible to compete at a specific level of competition in accordance with the table below. A section may limit the number of players that appear on a team roster. A section may also limit the number of players at a specific NTRP Level.

DIVISION	MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS	GENDER	NTRP LEVEL
Adult	8	Same Gender	Shall not exceed stated NTRP level
Adult 2.5 and 5.0	5		
Senior	6		
Super Senior	6	Same Gender	Combined NTRP player level shall not exceed stated NTRP level
Mixed	3 men 3 women	Men and Women	
Mixed 2.5	3 men 3 women	Men and women	Shall not exceed stated NTRP Level

**1.04D(7)** If an adult or senior division league consists of only two teams in a level of play, each team must maintain its roster with at least 60 percent of its players at the designated NTRP level of play.

**1.04E PLAYER REQUIREMENTS.**

**1.04E(1) Domicile.** Any individual who competes in the USTA League must be domiciled within the boundaries of a USTA Section Association (or participate through a USTA direct Member Club). Residents of foreign countries who meet membership and age requirements may be invited by a USTA Section to participate in the program provided that all such matches are played within the Section.

**1.04E(2) Membership.** All individuals who compete in the USTA League must be current members in good standing through the local league season.

**1.04E(3) Age.** Each player shall have reached the age prior to or during the calendar year in which such player plays in his/her first local league match in accordance with the following table:.

DIVISION	MINIMUM AGE
Adult	18
Adult 2.5 and 5.0	
Mixed	
Senior	50
Super Senior	60

**1.04E(4) Player Agreement.** All players participating in the USTA League Program, as a condition of said participation, agree to abide and be bound by the USTA Constitution and By-Laws; the USTA Regulations; the Rules of Tennis (unless modified by these USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS); the USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS and the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship.

**1.04E(5) Waiver of Claims.** Players participating in USTA League acknowledge the risks associated with playing competitive tennis, accept those risks voluntarily, and in consideration of their acceptance in the Program, assume all risks for bodily injury, waive all claims for injury and property damage and release and hold harmless the USTA and the host facility, their officials, employees and agents with respect to any injury or loss caused by negligence or otherwise to the fullest extent permitted by law.

**1.04F OFFICIAL LEAGUE RATING PROGRAM.** The National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) is the official system for rating levels of competition for USTA League.

**1.04F(1) Entry.** A player without a NTRP published level must self-rate to enter a program. A player with a current NTRP published level must use that rating to enter the program.

**1.04F(1)a** Players entering USTA League are defined as having an NTRP published level on file in TennisLink or as a new/returning player without a NTRP published level. Rating levels are derived in accordance with USTA NTRP Computer Rating System Procedures. Once a player is assigned a NTRP published level, it is valid for all leagues except super seniors for up to three years or until another NTRP published level is generated. For the Super Senior program only a NTRP published level is valid for up to two years. (See *Valid Year-End NTRP Published Level Chart* - – inside back cover)

**1.04F(1)b** Mixed doubles results will not be part of generating a player's year-end rating, except for those players who play in the USTA League Mixed Doubles Division exclusively. Players who play exclusively in the USTA League Mixed Doubles Division and choose to participate in the USTA League Adult, Senior, and/or Super Senior divisions the next year must enter those divisions by self-rating with the minimum rating being the higher of the self-rating or mixed exclusive rating.

**1.04F(1)c** Players who do not have a NTRP published level on file in TennisLink shall self-rate in accordance with the NTRP Guidelines and complete the self-rating process on TennisLink when registering for a team. Failure to do so, or omission of information regarding a player's tennis history, will subject the player, the captain and/or others who condoned inaccurate self-rating to sanctions and disqualification.

**1.04F(1)d** Each Section Association shall designate a committee to handle Self-Rate Appeals for those that appeal their assigned self-rating. This committee shall consist of no less than three persons, including a chair. This Committee may be the same, in whole or part, as the Section League Grievance Committee which handles NTRP grievances. All decisions regarding Self-Rate Appeals shall be made by majority vote and are final and binding. (See *General & Experienced Player Guidelines – Supplement to the NTRP Guidelines.*)

**1.04F(1)e** A player with a NTRP published level must enter league play in accordance with the following:

DIVISION	NTRP PLAYING LEVEL
Adult	At NTRP published level and/or up to one level higher than current NTRP published level
Adult 2.5 and 5.0	
Mixed Doubles, straight NTRP level	
Senior	
Super Senior, straight NTRP level	
Mixed Doubles, combined NTRP levels	Combined level may not exceed NTRP level. NTRP difference between partners may not exceed 1.0.
Super Senior, combined NTRP levels	

**1.04G PLAYER PARTICIPATION.**

**1.04G(1) Participation.** League players may play in the USTA League Adult, Senior, Super Senior and Mixed Doubles divisions during the same local league season.

**1.04G(2)a** A player may play on one team in a NTRP level within this division in the same local league during the same season. In local leagues where NTRP levels are divided into flights, a player may not play in more than one flight.

**1.04G(2)b** A player may play only one NTRP level above the player’s current NTRP level.

**1.04G(2)c** A Section may authorize participation in more than one NTRP level within this division in the same local league during the same season.

**1.04G(2)d** A player may play on more than one team within this division in the same season provided it is in separate local leagues. The section has the authority to accept or deny participation.

**1.04G(2)e** Players who qualify to advance to championships on more than one team may be required by the Section to choose which team they will represent.

**1.04G(2)f** At any National Championship, if a player qualifies for two or more teams at the same NTRP level for an event, the individual must declare which team he/she will represent. In the absence of a declaration, the first match played will determine which team he/she will represent.

**1.04G(2)g** A player may play in only one match within each team match.

**1.05 OFFICIAL BALL.** Any USTA approved ball may be used for USTA League matches.

**2.00 USTA LEAGUES REGULATIONS**

All USTA League Regulations in 1.00 GENERAL and 3.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES and the following procedures shall apply to USTA League – Adult, Senior, Mixed Doubles, and Super Senior Divisions.

**2.01A Levels of Play.** USTA League levels are in accordance with the following table:

DIVISION	DIVISION LEVEL	CHAMPIONSHIP LEVEL	COMMENT
Adult	2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0., 4.5, 5.0	2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0., 4.5, 5.0	Players cannot have a rating higher than the NTRP level in which the player is competing
Senior	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	
Mixed Doubles	2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0 <b>Or</b> 2.5, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0 10.0	2.5, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local leagues have the option to play using straight NTRP level or combined level. In mixed league there is an option to play 2.5 straight level in addition to the combined levels.</li> <li>• Using straight NTRP level, players cannot have a rating higher than the NTRP level in which they are competing.</li> <li>• Using combined NTRP level, the combined NTRP level of the doubles team cannot exceed the combined NTRP ratings level entered.</li> <li>• The NTRP difference between members of an individual doubles team may not exceed 1.0</li> </ul>
Super Senior	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 <b>Or</b> 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0	

**2.01B Men, Women and Mixed Doubles.** Men’s and women’s leagues shall be separate at each approved level for the Adult, Senior and Super Senior divisions. The local league shall determine which approved levels shall be available for men, women and mixed doubles in local league competition.

**2.01C Competition Format.**

**2.01C(1) Round Robin.** Each NTRP level within a local league shall play at least one round robin competition wherein every team plays every other team. Any NTRP level may be divided into flights and each team shall play every other team in its flight. The flight winners may enter a playoff structure to establish a local league champion for that NTRP level. Any NTRP level with only two or three teams is required to play a minimum of three matches.

**2.01C(2) Team Match.** Each team match in a local league shall consist of such number of individual matches of singles, doubles, or any combination thereof as determined by the local league.

**2.01C(3) Match Scoring.** It is recommended that all matches be the best of two tiebreak sets with a match tiebreak in lieu of a third set. The tiebreak shall be scored as 1-set and 1-game for tiebreak purposes. For play at or below the section level, the Section Association may authorize the use of other USTA approved scoring methods and other scoring methods that are compatible

with the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System. Other match formats include: best of three tiebreak sets with a set tiebreak at 6-all, pro-set matches, a single set with a set or match tiebreak at 6-all. No-Ad scoring can be used with any of the above scoring methods. 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 may be the same as that used in championships competition or may be another method compatible with the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System selected by the local league. (See 2.03D – *Competition Format* and 2.03E – *Team Match and Scoring*.) The scoring in the event of a default or disqualification shall be 6-0, 6-0. (See 2.03N for scoring in the event of retirements.)

**2.01C(4) Individual Match.** An individual match is defined as any singles match or any doubles match played as part of a team match.

**2.01C(5) Team Lineups.** The team captains for each team shall exchange their team line-up cards simultaneously prior to the beginning of the team match. No substitution may be made in an individual match after the lineup has been presented, except for injury to, illness of, or disqualification of a player prior to the start of such match and except under such further circumstances as the section authorizes. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute player is entitled to a five (5) minute warm-up. The default principles in 2.03K – *Team Defaults* shall be applicable, with such modifications as a Section Association may authorize.

**2.01D COACHING.** Coaching will only be permitted during the rest period only if the scoring method is the best of three tiebreak sets and there is a 10-minute rest period between the second and third sets.

## **2.02 PROGRESSION.**

**2.02A(1) Local League Competition.** Each team that wins a specific level of local league competition shall be entitled to advance to the next level of competition.

**2.02A(2) Local League Champions.** At the conclusion of local league competition, the Local League Coordinator shall certify to the Section League Coordinator the results of the local league competition and the name(s) and address(es) of the team captain(s). Local league competition must be concluded prior to the deadline set by the Section Association.

**2.02B Area Championships.** Each Section Association shall determine and announce a method of progression suitable for its geographic boundaries for advancement of its local league teams to Section League Championships. Such progression may include one or more championships below the Section Championships.

**2.02C Section Championships.** Each Section Association shall hold a Section League Championship in each Section-approved level for each division, on or before the date specified by the USTA League Committee, to determine its Section champion. The winning team at each level shall be eligible to compete in the USTA League National Championships. If the winning team at any level of competition is unable to compete further towards the National Championships, then the Section League Coordinator may select the second place team for such further competition, etc.

**2.02D National Championships.** The team winning the National Championship in each level of competition in the Adult, Senior, Mixed, and Super Senior divisions, shall be the USTA League National Champion.

## **2.03 AREA, SECTION AND NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS.**

In all championships after local league competition, the following shall apply:

### **2.03A Eligibility.**

**2.03A(1)** The Area or Section has the authority to determine the progression of teams to its Championship competition by (1) determining a champion of the preceding level of competition in its NTRP category or (2) the use of the Championship Wildcard Procedures. Champions of the preceding level of competition must be included in the progression.

**2.03A(2) Participation.** An individual player may play in only one position within each team match.

**2.03A(3)** A player is eligible to progress to championship level competition if that player has played on that same team in the same division in at least two matches during its local league season. A maximum of one default received by the player during local league competition shall count for advancing. A retired match shall count toward advancing for all players involved.

**2.03A(4)** A player is eligible to advance to national championship competition if that player has played the minimum number of required matches on that same team in the same division through Section Championships in accordance with the table below.

DIVISION	MINIMUM MATCHES PLAYED THROUGH SECTION CHAMPIONSHIPS	DEFAULTED MATCHES COUNTED FOR MINIMUM MATCH REQUIREMENT	RETIRED MATCHES COUNTED FOR MINIMUM MATCH REQUIREMENT?
Adult	3	0	YES
Senior			
Mixed Doubles			
<u>Super Senior</u>			

**2.03A(5)** At all National Championships, a minimum number of team members as shown in the table below, who were on the final roster of their local league team at the conclusion of local league play must be available and eligible to compete or to combine and compete, as appropriate. The Championships Committees at events below the national level, by majority vote, can reduce that number to not less than minimum noted in the table below.

DIVISION	MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS AT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	MINIMUM NUMBER WITH APPROVED WAIVER AT EVENTS BELOW NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
Adult 3.0 – 4.5	8	4
Adult 2.5 and 5.0	5	3
Senior	6	4
Mixed Doubles	3 women 3 men	4
Super Senior	6	4

**2.03B Official League Championships Entry.** An official copy of the final USTA TEAM ROSTER FOR LEAGUES shall be submitted by the team captain or coordinator to the Championships Committee at each level of league championships prior to the deadline announced for entry into the event.

**2.03C Scoring and Rest.** It is recommended that all matches be the best of two tiebreak sets with a match tiebreak in lieu of a 3<sup>rd</sup> set. The tiebreak shall be scored as 1-set and 1-game for tiebreak purposes. For play at or below the section level, the Section Association may authorize

the use of other USTA approved scoring methods and other scoring methods that are compatible with the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System. Other match formats include: best of three tiebreak sets with a set tiebreak at 6-all, pro-set matches, a single set with a set or match tiebreak at 6-all. No-Ad scoring can be used with any of the above scoring methods.

**2.03D Competition Format.** The Championships Committee shall determine the format for the competition. It may be round robin competition, single elimination competition or a combination of the two.

**2.03D(1) Round Robin.** If round robin competition is used, then each team shall play every other team in its flight and the team with the most team points shall be the champion in its flight. The use of flights requires a playoff structure to establish a champion.

**2.03D(2) Single Elimination.** If single elimination competition is used, then each team shall be drawn in a tournament format in accordance with the USTA Tournament Regulations.

**2.03E Team Match and Scoring.** A team match will consist of the matches as shown in the table below. The team winning the majority of those individual matches will be awarded one team point.

DIVISION	TEAM MATCH	TEAM POINT AWARDED FOR
Adult 3.0 – 4.5	2 Singles 3-Doubles	3 Individual wins
Adult 2.5 and 5.0	1-Singles 2-Doubles	2 individual wins
Senior	3-Doubles	
Mixed Doubles		
Super Senior		

**2.03F Substitutions.** No substitution may be made in an individual match after the lineup has been presented, except for injury to, illness of, or disqualification of a player prior to the start of such match, and except under such further circumstances as the Championships Committee may authorize. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute player is entitled to a five (5) minute warm-up.

**2.03G Coaching.** Coaching will be permitted during the rest period only if the scoring method for the championships level is the best of three tiebreak sets and there is a 10-minute rest period between the second and third sets.

**2.03H Procedures in the Event of a Tie.** In the event of a tie, whether in round robin or single elimination competition, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:

**2.03H(1) Individual Matches.** Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.

**2.03H(2) Sets.** Loser of the fewest number of sets.

**2.03H(3) Games.** Loser of the fewest number of games.

**2.03H(4) Head-to-Head.** Winner of head-to-head match.

**2.03H(5) A method to be determined by the championships committee.** Procedure to be announced prior to commencement of championship competition.

**2.03I Individual Defaults.** An individual default occurs when a player fails to appear on time, or is disqualified by a tournament official for misconduct.

**2.03J Scoring of Individual Defaults.** Individual defaults will be scored as a 6-0, 6-0 win for the player or doubles team receiving the default and a 0-6, 0-6 loss for the player or doubles team that defaulted the match. In the event of a default by both players or doubles teams, both sides will be given a 0-6, 0-6 loss and neither receives credit for a win. If a double default results in a tie, the tiebreak procedure shall be the same as 2.03H *Procedures In the Event of a Tie* in order to determine a winner of that team match.

**2.03K Team Defaults.** In all championships after local league competition, a team must have a minimum number of eligible players available for play in each team match in accordance with the table below or the entire match must be defaulted. The maximum number of positions that may be defaulted without defaulting the entire match is also noted. When defaults are necessary, the defaults shall be determined by the team captain in accordance with the table.

DIVISION	MINIMUM NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE PLAYERS AVAILABLE PER MATCH	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF POSITIONS THAT CAN BE DEFAULTED	POSITION(S) AND ORDER OF MATCH DEFAULTS
Adult 3.0 – 4.5	4	2	<u>Singles:</u> No. 2 Singles before No. 1 Singles <u>Doubles</u> No. 3 Doubles before No. 2 Doubles, and No. 2 Doubles before No. 1 Doubles
Adult 2.5 and 5.0	3	1	Singles <b>Or</b> No. 2 Doubles
Senior	4	1	No. 3 Doubles
Mixed Doubles	4 players that are eligible and able to combine		
Super Senior			

**2.03L Scoring of Team Defaults.** If a team defaults an entire team match for any reason during 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. The section may impose further sanctions or penalties on said team.

**2.03M Retirement.** A retirement occurs when an individual match has started and a player/doubles team is unable to continue due to injury, loss of condition or emergency.

**2.03N Scoring of Retirements.** In case of a retirement, the non-retiring player/doubles team shall be credited with such number of additional games as would have been won if the match was completed and the non-retiring player or doubles team won every subsequent game. For NTRP computer data entry in TennisLink, mark as *retired* and submit actual scores of match at the point of retirement.

## 2.04 NTRP DISQUALIFICATION AND REVIEW PROCEDURES.

**2.04A Applicability.** The Regulations in this section are applicable in accordance with the following:

DIVISION	APPLICABILITY
Adult	Computer (C) and Benchmark (B) are <b>NOT</b> subject to dynamic disqualification. Other players <b>ARE</b> subject to dynamic disqualification
Senior	
Mixed Doubles	Players' levels <b>shall</b> be affected by NTRP disqualification in adult or senior division
Super Senior	

**2.04B NTRP Disqualification Procedures.** Dynamic ratings will be calculated for all adult and senior division players during local league competition and at every level of championship competition below National Championships, to determine if any players have reached the NTRP disqualification criteria stated in the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System Procedures. Year-end computer (C) and benchmark players (B) are not subject to dynamic NTRP disqualification. All other players (S, A, M, T, D) will be NTRP disqualified if they reach the disqualification level three (3) times based on all matches except retirements reported in the national database for USTA League Adult and Senior divisions.

**2.04B(1) Local League NTRP Disqualification.** Players will be notified by the Section League Coordinator or designee and have the right to a review in accordance with the procedures in 2.04C – *NTRP Disqualification Review Procedures*.

**2.04B(2) Championship NTRP Disqualification.** The Section shall choose one of the following options at each championship event:

**2.04B(2)a** Run dynamic calculations and produce ratings throughout the championship. Through the conclusion of the championship event, notify and disqualify any player that meets the criteria for NTRP disqualification and reverse appropriate matches played.

**2.04B(2)b** Run dynamic calculations following the conclusion of the championship, calculate dynamic ratings and disqualify those players that meet the criteria for NTRP disqualification. A disqualified player will be notified by the Section League Coordinator or designee and have the right to a review in accordance with procedures in 2.04C – *NTRP Disqualification Review Procedures*. A disqualified player becomes a benchmark. (See 2.05C(1) – *Appeal of year-end Ratings through Section Championships*.)

**2.04B(3)** Following an NTRP disqualification, the player may not play at the disqualified NTRP level of play (and any lower level of play) in either singles or doubles for the remainder of the championship league year and for the succeeding league year. In any division using combined levels, the combined NTRP rating of the disqualified player and partner may not surpass the level entered.

**2.04B(4)** Players who are NTRP disqualified may be allowed to move up and participate on another team at a higher NTRP level during that same local league season provided the roster add-on date has not ended.

**2.04B(5)** In the local leagues and at Area or Section Championships, if the NTRP disqualification of a player is not upheld by the NTRP Review Committee, a second NTRP disqualification will be considered if warranted by additional data.

**2.04C NTRP DISQUALIFICATION REVIEW PROCEDURES.**

**2.04C(1)** Reviews are considered based solely on missing or incorrect information.

**2.04C(2) Local.** If the team captain or the player disqualified in the local league desires a review of the NTRP disqualification, a written request must be submitted to the Section League Coordinator or designee, asking for a review before the NTRP Review Committee of the nearest jurisdiction within the deadline set by the administrator.

**2.04C(3) Championship.** If the team captain or the player disqualified during or after the conclusion of championship competition desires a review of the disqualification, he/she must request, in writing, a review before the NTRP Review Committee of the nearest available jurisdiction within the deadline set by the chair of the championships committee.

**2.04C(4)** The request for a review shall be delivered to the chair of the NTRP Review Committee. A review shall be held as soon as reasonable.

#### **2.04D NTRP REVIEW COMMITTEES.**

**2.04D(1)** NTRP Review Committees may be appointed in the local league and at Area and Section championships to consider reviews to NTRP disqualifications. Each committee shall be appointed with the approval of the Section League Coordinator.

**2.04D(2)** The members of any NTRP Review Committee may be the same as, or different in whole or in part, from the members of any other Local, Area or Section committees.

**2.04D(3)** The decision of the NTRP Review Committee shall be by majority vote. The Committee shall immediately notify the affected players and team captains in writing of its decision.

**2.04D(4)** There shall be no further right of appeal from the decision of any NTRP Review Committee.

**2.04D(5)** The NTRP Review Committees for all local leagues and championships shall observe the review and disqualification procedures approved by the USTA League Committee.

#### **2.04E SCORING PROCEDURES.**

**2.04E(1) Local.** In the event of a disqualification from a particular level of play, the Section shall determine and publish in its regulations what matches, if any, shall be considered losses. The disqualified matches shall be considered 6-0, 6-0 wins for the opposing player or doubles team.

#### **2.04E(2) Championship.**

**2.04E(2)a NTRP Disqualification throughout championship competition in a round robin format or segment:** If the section chooses to run dynamic ratings and disqualify throughout the championship, all matches played by players shall be considered losses and those matches shall be considered 6-0, 6-0 wins for the opposing player or doubles team.

**2.04E(2)b NTRP Disqualification throughout championship competition in single elimination or segment:** If the section chooses to run dynamic ratings and disqualify throughout the championship, the last individual match played by players shall be considered a loss and that individual match shall be considered a win for the opposing player or doubles team.

**2.04E(2)c NTRP Disqualification following conclusion of championship competition:** If the Section chooses to calculate dynamic ratings and disqualify those players following the conclusion of the championship, all points earned by disqualified players at the championships will stand.

#### **2.05 YEAR-END NTRP COMPUTER RATINGS AND APPEAL PROCEDURES.**

**2.05A Applicability.** The regulations in this section are applicable to the Adult, Senior, Super Senior, and Mixed divisions.

**2.05B Year-end Computer Ratings.** When year-end NTRP computer ratings are determined in accordance with USTA NTRP Computer Rating System Procedures for players (including those designated as supplemental benchmarks), such ratings shall be the minimum NTRP published levels of players:

**2.05B(1)** For three (3) consecutive years or until a new NTRP published level is generated for players who are less than 60 years of age through the championship year (See *Valid Computer Rating Chart*)

**2.05B(2)** For two (2) consecutive years or until a new NTRP published level is generated for players 60 years of age and older prior to or during the championship year (See *Valid Computer Rating Chart*)

**2.05C(1) Appeal of Year-end Ratings through Section Championships.** Year-end NTRP published computer ratings may be appealed or denied through TennisLink except for those noted in 2.05C(2) below.

**2.05C(2)** Any player who is 70 years of age or older prior to, or during, the calendar year in which such player plays his/her first local league match and has achieved the same rating level or lower for the three prior years, without benefit of appeal, will be granted an appeal if they are promoted at year-end.

**2.05D Medical Appeals.** If an intervening, permanently disabling injury or illness indicates that a player's current computer rating may be too high, the player may request a medical appeal of such rating in accordance with USTA League NTRP Medical Appeal Procedures.

**2.05(D1)** Each Section Association shall designate a Medial Review Committee(s) to evaluate medial appeals. The Committee shall consist of at least three persons, one of whom shall serve as chair. The members of the Committee are to be approved by the Section League Coordinator. The members of the Committee may be the same as, or different in whole or part from, the Committee first Approved.

**2.05D(2)** The Section designated Medial Review Committee shall have the authority to deny the appeal and such decision shall be final and binding. If said Committee deems the medial appeal should have further consideration, it will be forwarded to the National Medial Appeal Committee for a final decision.

**2.05D(3)** The decision of the Section designated Medial Review Committee shall be by majority vote.

**2.05D(4)** The Chair of the USTA League Committee shall appoint a National Medical Appeal Committee to evaluate all medial appeals forwarded from the Section Associations. The Committee shall consist of a least three persons, one of whom shall serve as chair. The members of the Committee may be the same as, or different in whole or part from, the Committee first approved. No members of the National Medial Appeal Committee shall have been a members of the Section designated Review Committee who forwarded the medial appeal.

**2.05D(5)** The National Medical Appeal Committee shall have the authority to either grant or deny the appeal. All decisions of the Committee are final and binding.

**2.05D(6)** Decisions of the National Medical Appeal Committee shall be by majority vote.

**2.05D(7)** An NTRP Rating received from a granted medial appeal will be valid until a new computer rating is published or the player is eligible to self-rate.

**2.06 Move-up/Split-up.**

**2.06A** National championship rostered team members, and teams that qualify to advance to National Championships, but do not participate, may move up one level as a team or must disperse to form new teams in accordance with the table below. The new teams that are at the same level as the National championship team are limited to the number of players who were on the final roster at the conclusion of local league play of any team or combination of teams that advanced to the national championships in accordance with the table below. This applies to any player 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 participated at the national championships the previous year and chooses to move up one level.

DIVISION	NUMBER OF PLAYERS FOR NEW TEAMS AT SAME LEVEL	MOVE-UP/SPLIT UP RULES APPLIES
Adult 3.0 – 4.5	3	National Championship and National Championship Eligible Teams
Adult 2.5 and 5.0	2	
Senior	3	
Mixed Doubles	3	
Super Senior	Section Option	Section shall have the right to decide whether a team must move-up or disperser to form new teams

**2.06B** A Section shall have the right to decide whether a team who competes at any championship level must move-up or disperse to form new teams for the following league year and under what conditions.

**2.07 Championship Benchmarks.** A championship benchmark computer rating may not be appealed following the championship year it is received except for a Medical Appeal. (See 2.05D *Medical Appeals*).

### **3.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

**The Regulations in 3.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES shall apply to all USTA League divisions.**

**3.01 ADMINISTRATION.** All grievances within the USTA League shall be administered in accordance the provisions of this section.

**3.01A Grievance Committees.** All grievance committees shall consist of no less than three persons, including a committee chair, to adjudicate grievances. The members of the Committee may be the same as, or different in whole or part from, the Committee first approved.

**3.01A(1) Local.** With the approval of the Section Association, each local league may appoint a Local League Grievance Committee. The members of the Committee are to be approved by the Section League Coordinator.

**3.01A(2) Area and Section.** Each Section Association shall appoint an Area and/or Section League Grievance Committee. The members of the Committee are to be approved by the Section League Coordinator.

#### **3.01A(3) Championships Grievance Committees.**

**3.01A(3)a Area and Section Championships.** Each Section Association shall appoint an Area and/or Section League Championship Grievance Committee. The members of the Committee are to be approved by the Section League Coordinator.

**3.01A(3)b National Championships.** The Chair of the USTA League Committee shall appoint National League Championships Grievance Committees. The members may be the same as, or different in whole or in part from, the members of the National League Championships Committee.

**3.01B Grievance Appeal Committees.** All grievance appeal committees shall consist of no less than three persons, including a committee chair, to consider appeals of grievance committees' decisions. No member of a Grievance Appeal Committee may be a member of a Grievance Committee. The members of the Committee may be the same as, or different in whole or part from, the Committee first approved.

**3.01B(1) Local.** With the approval of the Section Association, each local league may appoint a Local League Grievance Appeal Committee. The members of the Committee are to be approved by the Section League Coordinator.

**3.01B(2) Area and Section.** Each Section Association shall appoint an Area and/or Section League Grievance Appeal Committee. The members of the Committee are to be approved by the Section League Coordinator.

**3.01B(3) National.** The Chair of the USTA League Committee shall appoint a National League Grievance Appeal Committee.

#### **3.01B(4) Championship Grievance Appeal Committees.**

**3.01B(4)a Area and Section Championships.** Each Section Association shall appoint an Area and/or Section League Championship Grievance Appeal Committee. The members of the Committee are to be approved by the Section League Coordinator.

**3.01B(4)b National Championships.** The Chair of the USTA League Committee shall appoint National League Championships Grievance Appeal Committees. The members may be the

same as, or different in whole or in part from, the members of the National League Championships Committee.

### **3.02 GRIEVANCE TYPES**

**3.02A General Grievance.** General grievances are any complaints alleging a violation of the USTA Constitution and By-Laws; the USTA Regulations; the Rules of Tennis or other USTA regulations (unless modified by these USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS); USTA League REGULATIONS or standards of good conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship other than the those defined in Sections 3.02B – *NTRP Grievance*, 3.02C – *Eligibility Grievance*, 3.02D – *Administrative Grievance*, and 3.02E – *National League Grievance* below.

**3.02B NTRP Grievance.** A grievance contending that a player's stated NTRP level is lower than the actual skill level shall constitute a NTRP Grievance. Players who enter USTA League by inappropriately self-rating at an NTRP level lower than their actual skill level, and captains and others who condone such inappropriate self-rating, are considered to have violated the standards of good conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship. NTRP Grievances may be filed against the players and/or captains and others that assisted or otherwise condoned the inappropriate rating.

**3.02C Eligibility Grievance.** Any complaint other than a NTRP Grievance contending that players have failed to meet eligibility requirements to participate in league tennis shall constitute a an Eligibility Grievance.

**3.02D Administrative Grievance.** An administrative grievance is any complaint pertaining to administration of a league at any level below the national level.

**3.02E National League Grievance.** Any complaint filed against the National League Administrator shall constitute a National League Grievance.

### **3.03 GRIEVANCE COMPLAINTS.**

#### **3.03A General Procedures.**

**3.03A(1)** All complaints alleging a violation of the USTA Constitution and By-Laws; the USTA Regulations; the Rules of Tennis or other USTA regulations (unless modified by these USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS); the USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS or standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship, shall be filed in writing with the USTA League Grievance Committee responsible for enforcement.

**3.03A(2)** A complaint against the administration of the league should be filed and heard at the next higher level in the same manner as any other complaint, with the Section being the final authority.

**3.03A(3)** Any complaint against the National League Administrator shall be filed in writing with the USTA League Committee. The decision of the USTA League Committee shall be final and binding.

**3.03A(4)** All complaints with regard to any aspect of the USTA League except those contained in 3.03B(3) and 3.03C(3) dealing with eligibility, shall be processed through the USTA League Grievance and Grievance Appeal Committees at the appropriate level (i.e., Local, Area, Section, or National.) Decisions of Grievance Appeal Committees shall be final and binding except with regard to suspensions of individuals or teams for a period of 12 months or more. (See 3.04B(3))

**3.03A(5)** A complaint against an individual or team may only be filed by (a) the team captain of the team who has competed in the match where the alleged violation occurred, (b) a league coordinator or (c) a member of a Championships Committee.

**3.03A(6)** Regardless of any other regulation, a league coordinator or a member of a Championships Committee, a Grievance Committee, or a Grievance Appeal Committee may file a grievance at any time.

**3.03A(7) Play During Grievance Procedures:** An individual or team may continue to play during a grievance investigation and hearing but must understand that if upheld, all matches played during that time may be defaulted.

### **3.03B Local League Procedures.**

**3.03B(1)** All complaints alleging a violation by an individual or team during local league competition shall be filed in writing with the Local or District League Coordinator or designee having jurisdiction. The complaint must be filed prior to the commencement of whichever occurs first: (a) the involved team's next match in that flight, whether or not the involved player participates or (b) within twenty-four hours after the end of the local league season.

**3.03B(2)** Upon receipt of the complaint, the Local or District League Coordinator or designee shall immediately send a copy to the Chair of the appropriate League Grievance Committee and to the party(ies) against whom the complaint has been filed.

**3.03B(3)** A complaint regarding failure to meet eligibility may be filed by a team captain, league coordinator or member of a Championships Committee at any time.

**3.03B(3)a** For eligibility matters of simple fact (e.g. age, USTA membership, TennisLink registration) a USTA league coordinator may declare a player ineligible and disqualify that player without filing a grievance. (See 1.04C(1), 1.04E(2), 1.04E(3), 1.04F)

**3.03B(3)b** All other complaints must go to the appropriate League Grievance Committee.

### **3.03B(4) Scoring of Eligibility Disqualification in Local League.**

**3.03B(4)a** In the event of an eligibility disqualification during the local league season and up to 24 hours after the end of local league season, all matches played by the player shall be considered defaults and those matches shall be considered wins for the opposing players or doubles teams and scored (6-0, 6-0). In case of an eligibility disqualification in single elimination, the last individual match played by the player shall be considered a win for the opposing player or doubles team and scored (6-0, 6-0). If a double disqualification results in a tie, the local tiebreak procedure shall be used to determine the winner of the team match. If no such local tiebreak procedure exists, use 2.03H-*Procedures in the Event of a Tie*, in order to determine a winner of that team match.

**3.03B(4)b** In the event of an eligibility disqualification after the 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.

### **3.03C Championship Procedures.**

**3.03C(1)** All complaints alleging a violation during championships competition shall be in writing and delivered to the duly appointed site director within thirty minutes of completion of the team match, or prior to the commencement of the next team match involving the individual or team, whichever occurs first.

**3.03C(2)** At the time a complaint is filed, a copy of such complaint shall be sent to the party(ies) against whom the complaint has been made.

**3.03C(3)** A complaint regarding failure to meet eligibility may be filed by a team captain, league coordinator or a member of a Championship Committee at any time.

**3.03C(4) Scoring of Eligibility Disqualification for Championships.**

**3.03C(4)a** In the event of an eligibility disqualification prior to or after the conclusion of a championship event, 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.

**3.03C(4)b** In the event of an eligibility disqualification in a round robin format during the championship event, the player will not be allowed to continue or advance on that team and all matches played by the player shall be considered losses and those matches shall be considered wins for the opposing players or doubles teams and scored (6-0, 6-0).

**3.03C(4)c** In case of a disqualification in single elimination format during the championship event, the last individual match played by the player shall be considered a win for the opposing player or doubles team and scored (6-0, 6-0). If a double disqualification results in a tie, the tiebreak procedure shall be the same as 2.03H - *Procedures in the Event of a Tie*, in order to determine a winner of that team match.

**3.03D Grievance Committee Action.**

**3.03D(1)** Following the receipt of a complaint, the appropriate USTA League Grievance Committee shall, as soon as reasonable, (a) cause such investigation of the alleged violation to be made as the Committee deems appropriate; and, if it deems the same to be necessary, shall (b) arrange for a hearing at which the parties involved shall have the right to appear personally and present evidence.

**3.03D(2)** USTA League Grievance Committee shall have the power to dismiss or deny the complaint or to direct the correction of any violations by reasonable means, including the suspension of an individual or team. (See 1.02A – *Waiver of Rules and Procedures Prohibited*.)

**3.03D(3)** USTA League Grievance Committee shall prepare a written decision setting forth the basis for its decision and the deadline for any written appeal and promptly deliver copies to the parties involved.

**3.03D(4)** The decision of the USTA League Grievance Committee shall be by majority vote.

**3.03E NTRP Grievance.**

**3.03E(1)** Players who enter the USTA League by inappropriately self-rating at an NTRP level lower than the player's actual skill level is considered to have violated the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship. These players may be subject to a NTRP grievance. USTA League Regulation 3.00 - *GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES*, with the following exceptions and modifications, shall apply to NTRP grievances.

**3.03E(2)** A player with a valid NTRP **C**omputer (C) rating, or **B**enchmark (B) rating or granted an **A**utomatic Appeal rating of a Computer (C) rating is not subject to a NTRP grievance. Any other player is subject to a NTRP grievance.

**3.03E(3)** Any league captain, coordinator or member of a Championships Committee may file a NTRP grievance.

**3.03E(4)** A player who inappropriately self-rates, and captains and others who condone inappropriate self-rating, may be subject to possible sanctions, including disqualification and suspension.

**3.03E(5)** NTRP Grievances may be filed at any time up to forty-eight (48) hours after the conclusion of a self-rated player's Section Championships. NTRP grievances will not be accepted at National Championships.

**3.03E(6) Local League Competition.** NTRP grievances shall be filed in writing with the Local/Area/District League Coordinator or designee having jurisdiction. NTRP grievances shall be handled by the self-rated players' Section League Grievance Committee.

**3.03E(7) Championship Competition.** NTRP grievances shall be filed in writing with the duly appointed site director or designee having jurisdiction. NTRP grievances shall be handled by the self-rated players' Section League Grievance Committee. Each Section shall have the option to adjudicate NTRP grievances prior to, during or after a championship event.

**3.03E(8)** NTRP grievance disqualifications occur when the Section League Grievance Committee reaches such decision and sends notification to the parties involved. The date and time that the Section League Grievance Committee sends notification controls the assessment of sanctions, including the scoring of matches, which shall be administered in accordance with USTA League Regulations 3.03B(4) - *Scoring of Eligibility Disqualification in Local League* and 3.03C(4) - *Scoring of Eligibility Disqualification for Championships*, concerning scoring of eligibility disqualification.

**3.03E(9)** The Section League Grievance Committee decision may be appealed in accordance with USTA League Regulation 3.04 - *GRIEVANCE APPEALS*.

### **3.04 GRIEVANCE APPEALS.**

#### **3.04A General Procedures.**

**3.04A(1)** Any party to the complaint may appeal the decision of the Grievance Committee within the time fixed by the Grievance Committee. Upon receipt of an appeal of the decision of the Grievance Committee, the Grievance Appeal Committee shall act promptly to resolve the appeal.

#### **3.04A(2) Play During Grievance Appeal Procedures.**

**3.04A(2)a** If the grievance was upheld, the individual is subject to all sanctions imposed by the Grievance Committee during the appeal process.

**3.04A(2)b** If the grievance was dismissed or denied and appealed by the filer, the individual may participate during his/her appeal process, but must understand that if the decision of the Grievance Committee is reversed, all matches played during that time may be defaulted.

**3.04A(3)** The party appealing shall file written notice of appeal with the appropriate coordinator or designee, who shall send it to the: Chair of the appropriate Grievance Appeal Committee; chair of the Grievance Committee whose decision is being appealed; Local, District or Section League Coordinator; and to the other party(ies) involved in the complaint.

**3.04A(4)** The parties appealing shall have an opportunity to submit in writing facts and arguments in support of their respective positions.

**3.04B Grievance Appeal Committees Action.**

**3.04B(1)** The Grievance Appeal Committees shall not be required to hold any hearing except as provided in 3.04B(2). Its decision may be based entirely on the findings of fact by the Grievance Committee whose decision is being appealed and on the facts and arguments submitted in writing by the parties to the appeal.

**3.04B(2)** If the Grievance Committee did not hold a hearing, the Grievance Appeal Committee shall do so, provided any party involved in the complaint so requests in writing. However, the committee may hear such further evidence as it, in its absolute discretion, deems appropriate.

**3.04B(3)** The Grievance Appeal Committee shall have the power to affirm, modify or reject the decision of the Grievance Committee. If the Grievance Committee has imposed a penalty, the Grievance Appeal Committee may not impose a harsher penalty. (see 1.02A - *Waiver of Rules and Procedures Prohibited.*)

**3.04B(4)** A copy of the Grievance Appeal Committee's written decision setting forth the basis of its decision shall be promptly sent to all interested parties and such decisions shall be final and binding. The following exception shall apply: 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 of the Grievance Appeal Committee to the National League Grievance Appeal Committee within the deadline established by the Grievance Appeal Committee. The administration may not appeal the decision of the Grievance Appeal Committee.

**3.04B(5)** The decision of the Grievance Appeal Committee shall be by majority vote.

**3.04C National League Grievance Appeal Committee Action.**

**3.04C(1)** The National League Grievance Appeal Committee shall hear appeals from individuals/teams suspended for a period of 12 months or more by a Local, District or Section League Grievance Appeal Committee. Upon receipt of an appeal of the decision of the Grievance Appeal Committee, the National League Grievance Appeal Committee shall act promptly to resolve the appeal.

**3.04C(2)** The National League Grievance Appeal Committee shall have the power to conduct such investigation as deemed necessary and to affirm, modify or reject the decision of the Grievance Appeal Committee, but may not impose any harsher penalties.

**3.04C(3)** A copy of the National League Grievance Appeal Committee's written decision setting for the basis of its decision shall be promptly sent to all interested parties including the Grievance Appeal Committee. Such decision shall be final and binding.

**3.05 GENERAL PROCEDURES FOR GRIEVANCE AND GRIEVANCE APPEAL COMMITTEES.**

**3.05A Teleconference Participation.** If one or more members of a Grievance Committee or Grievance Appeal Committee cannot be present at a hearing, such members may, at the discretion of the chair, participate by means of a telephone conference call, video teleconferencing, or other approved remote participation. If any witness cannot be present at a hearing to present evidence, such witness may, at the discretion of the chair, be permitted to do so by means of a telephone conference call, video teleconferencing or other approved remote participation.

**3.05B Written Requirement.** The requirement that a notice or other document be in writing is satisfied if it is sent by a telegram, fax, e-mail or equivalent communication.

**3.05C Summary Table: Grievance Procedure Guide.**

	<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>APPROVED/ APPOINTED BY</b>	<b>WHEN TO FILE</b>	<b>WHERE TO FILE</b>	<b>WHO CAN FILE</b>
<b>GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE</b>	Minimum 3 including chair	Section League Coordinator	Time set by local league or Section rules	Local/area coordinator or designee or coordinator having jurisdiction	Team Captains who played team; League Coordinators, Members of Championship Committees
<b>GRIEVANCE APPEAL COMMITTEE</b>	Minimum 3 including chair	Section League Coordinator	Times established by Grievance Committee	Designee established by local, area, or section	Party to the complaint
<b>NTRP GRIEVANCE</b>	Section League Grievance Committee	Section League Committee Chair	Anytime up to 48 hours after completion of Section Championship	Coordinator having jurisdiction	Any League captain, coordinator, or member of a Championships Committee
<b>NATIONAL LEAGUE GRIEVANCE APPEAL</b>	Minimum 3 including chair	Chair USTA League Committee	Time established by Grievance Appeal Committee	National League Administrator	Party to the complaint

## GLOSSARY

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

**Area:** Geographic boundaries within a USTA section. May be interchanged with the terms District, State, CTA, Region, etc.

**Benchmark rated player:** A player, who advanced to championship or was disqualified, by whom other players' NTRP computer ratings are calculated.

**Benchmark rating:** A computer rating determined by the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System for a player using a combination of their dynamic rating and their rating derived at championships.

**Championship level:** Any USTA League competition held beyond local league competition or playoffs.

**Coman Tiebreak Procedure:** The same as the present 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 or match Tiebreak. Beneficial in doubles as players continue to serve from the same side as during the set.

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

**Competitive:** A match where the outcome is unpredictable.

**Compatible:** A match where the outcome is predictable, with the higher rated player winning routinely.

**Default:** When a player or team fails to appear or is removed by an administrator or tournament official for misconduct or violation of regulations.

**Disqualification:** Action taken to remove from a team a player deemed ineligible to participate.

**Division:** Any one of the four National league programs offered and administered by the USTA (USTA League– Adult, USTA League– Senior, USTA League– Mixed Doubles and USTA League– Super Senior) and any other USTA Area, District or Section sanctioned program identified as part of TennisLink and entered as part of the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System.

**Dynamic rating:** A rating associated with a player that has the potential to change with every match played by the player.

**Early Start League:** A local league season that commences prior to January 1 of the league year.

**Eligibility:** Qualifications to play.

**Flight:** A group of teams competing at a specified NTRP level within a local league or Championship competition where every team in that group plays every other team to declare a winner. When flights are established, a playoff must be held at Championship level to determine a champion in that NTRP level. Below championship level, the playoff may be held to determine a champion in that NTRP level.

**Forfeits:** See Default

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

**Individual match:** Any singles or doubles match played as part of a team match.

**League coordinator:** Person appointed or hired to implement and administer the League.

**League progression:** Local league team winners have the opportunity to advance through area, sectional and national championships competition.

**Level of play:** NTRP skill levels offered in the Program.

**Local league:** A team competition in a specified geographical area that applies specific local league regulations and consists of NTRP level(s) with a minimum of two or more teams per NTRP level. A local league may choose to divide any or all NTRP levels into flights. Where flights are used, a playoff structure may be established to determine a champion.

**Match tiebreak:** First to 10 by a margin of two. (See [www.usta.com](http://www.usta.com) – Rules, #27)

**New player:** One who does not have an NTRP computer rating (generated within the last three years).

**NTRP:** National Tennis Rating Program

**NTRP Level:** Generic term advising the minimum NTRP level in increments of .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.

**NTRP Computer Methodology Procedures:** The document establishing procedures governing the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System.

**Player:** The individual USTA Member who registers on a team.

**Rating:** See Computer rating, Benchmark rating, Self-rating, Dynamic rating and NTRP Level.

**Rest period:** A maximum of ten minutes with coaching permitted between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> set when playing best of three tie-break sets.

**Retirement:** Occurs when an individual match has started and a player is unable to continue due to injury, loss of condition, emergency or [refusal to play](#). Retirements are entered in TennisLink with the final game count for NTRP calculation purposes (2-6, 1-3) and the system will automatically credit the individual receiving the retirement with sufficient games as to make them the winner of the match (2-6, 6-3, 1-0).

**Round robin:** Each team plays every other team in its flight.

**Self-rating:** A rating for a new player entering the program determined in accordance with the National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) Guidelines during the on-line player registration process.

**Set break:** The two minute period between the completion of the last game of a set and the beginning of a succeeding set.

**Set tiebreak:** First to 7 by a margin of two. (See [www.usta.com](http://www.usta.com) – Rules, #27)

**Start of a Match:** First service attempt on an individual court.

**Team:** Individuals rostered together including non-playing captains

**Team match: (Local team match)** Number of individual singles and doubles or any combination as determined by the local league. **(Championship team match)** Adult leagues - 2 singles, 3 doubles; Adult leagues (2.5 and 5.0 NTRP level) - 1 singles, 2 doubles; Senior leagues - 3 doubles; Mixed Doubles league – 3 doubles; Super Senior leagues – 3 doubles.

**Tiebreak procedures:** Process to determine the winner of a Round Robin or Single Elimination in the team competition if the teams are tied.

**USTA section:** One of seventeen defined areas that comprise the USTA.

**Waiver of claims:** As a condition of participation each player gives up the right to any demand for injuries sustained in traveling to or from or participating in the Program.

**Waiver of rules:** Except where specifically permitted, no USTA League Regulation or Procedure may be disregarded.

**Year-end rating:** A published NTRP level generated at the end of the league year.