

# 2011 USTA FLORIDA LEAGUE TENNIS REGULATIONS

**Note: 2011 substantive regulation changes are underlined.**

The USTA League Tennis Regulations have full force and applicability at all levels of play in USTA Florida League Tennis. Local Rules and Regulations may be developed to supplement the National and Section Regulations and may not contradict the National or Section established rules and regulations. USTA League Tennis Regulations (National and Section) are available on the USTA Florida website: [www.ustaflorida.com](http://www.ustaflorida.com) Printed below are the Section Regulations of USTA Florida covering those items that the National Regulations authorize the Section to promulgate.

## **1.00 GENERAL**

**The regulations in 1.00 GENERAL shall apply to all USTA League Tennis divisions.**

**1.04 Official League Registration.** *TennisLink* is the official and exclusive system for registering teams and players, reporting scores, and providing standings for the USTA League Tennis Program. Each player's name must be listed on the team roster, as shown on *TennisLink*, prior to participation in any match. Each player will be required to pay the applicable league registration fee when registering for a team at the local level. Additional fees may be charged for local leagues and region and section championships.

**1.05 Official Score Reporting and Standings.** Match results must be reported in *TennisLink* within 48 hours following the completion of the final individual match in a team match. After match scores have been reported in *TennisLink*, the opposing team must either confirm or dispute the match within 48 hours of the initial entry or the initial score will be considered valid automatically; and, no appeals, complaints, and/or grievances related to those scores will be allowed. An exception will be made only in those cases where an incorrect player was recorded in a match in *TennisLink*; in which case, a League Coordinator will be allowed to effect correction.

**1.06 Official League Rating Program.** Players with a valid computer rating (including an "early start rating") established according to the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System must enter a USTA League Tennis Division at that rating or higher.

A player without a computer rating is required to declare a self-rating on *TennisLink* when first entering the USTA League Tennis Program. In making the self-rating decision, the player should consider the NTRP Guidelines (including the General & Experienced Player Guidelines) posted on the *TennisLink* website; on-court performance against established league players; relevant tennis history including frequency of play and instruction; and general fitness. A player's self-rating shall apply to all divisions of USTA League Tennis until superceded by a computer generated rating (including an "early start rating") established according to the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System.

**1.17 Section League Coordinator.** The Section League Coordinator for USTA Florida is the current Director of USTA League Tennis. The Director of USTA League Tennis shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration of all USTA League Tennis programs within USTA Florida. Interpretation of the USTA Florida League Tennis Regulations is a joint responsibility of the Section League Coordinator and the Chair of the Leagues Council's Rules and Regulations Committee. In the absence of the Chair of the Rules and Regulations Committee, the Section League Coordinator may, if deemed necessary, issue an interim interpretation.

**1.19 Local League Coordinators.** The Section League Coordinator shall appoint Local League Coordinators to implement and administer USTA League Tennis within USTA Florida. See the USTA Florida website for a listing of Local League Coordinators.

**1.20 Team Captain.** The team captain or designee shall be the official spokesperson for the team. All communications will be directed to the team spokesperson.

**1.23 Local League Season.** The Local League Coordinator shall determine and define the time frame of the local league season in order to meet section deadlines and shall formulate local league regulations with final approval by the section office. Local league play ends upon completion of the last scheduled match in a flight's round robin or, if applicable, upon completion of the last scheduled match in the season's flight playoff. Refer to Section 3.01H(5)d for the eligibility requirements to progress to a local league flight playoff.

## **2.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

**The regulations in 2.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES shall apply to all USTA League Tennis divisions.**

**2.01A Grievance and Grievance Appeal Committees.** Prior to the beginning of the local league season, each Region shall have a Grievance Committee and a Grievance Appeal Committee, each of which shall consist of no less than three persons, including a Chairperson. No person may be a member of both the Grievance Committee and the Grievance Appeal Committee. The names of the members of both committees must be submitted to the Section League Coordinator for final approval.

**2.02A(2) Grievance Complaints.** A complaint against the administration of a local league shall be filed in writing with the Section League Coordinator and processed by the Section League Grievance Committee. A complaint against the Section League Coordinator shall be filed in writing with the USTA Florida Executive Director. The complaint shall be considered by a committee comprised of the Executive Director, the Associate Executive Director of USTA Florida, and the Chair or Vice Chair of the Leagues Council, whose decision shall be final and binding.

**2.02A(2)a Grievance Complaints at Region and Section Championships.** All grievances filed at a region or section championship, except NTRP grievances, must be accompanied by a nonrefundable, cash, payment of \$50.00. There is no charge for filing a NTRP grievance.

### **3.00 ADULT, SENIOR, AND SUPER SENIOR LEAGUE REGULATIONS**

The regulations in 3.00 ADULT, SENIOR, AND SUPER SENIOR LEAGUE apply to all three divisions, except where noted.

#### **3.01 Local League.**

**3.01B Team.** A *team* shall be defined as a group of individuals on a roster that meet the criteria for a team in a division and have been issued an authorized TennisLink team number within a specific championship year. Each team in the Adult, Senior, and Super Senior divisions must maintain its roster with at least 75 percent of its players at the team level. The Local League Coordinator may limit the number of players on a team roster. The Local League Coordinator may also establish a domiciliary requirement to limit the number of, but not prohibit, out-of-area players.

**3.01B(1) Dress Code.** Proper tennis attire is required for all league matches from local through championship levels.

**3.01B(2) Cell Phones.** All player cell phones must be turned off during match play. A player or doubles team violating this regulation shall incur the following penalties: first offense - point; second offense - game; third offense - default.

**3.01G Scoring and Rest.** USTA Florida authorizes the use of all USTA approved scoring methods that are compatible with the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System. Other match formats include: best of three tie-break sets with a set tie-break; pro-set matches; a single set with a set or match tie-break at 6-all; or any other USTA approved scoring methods that are compatible with the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System. No-ad scoring can be used with any of the above scoring methods.

**3.01H(2) Team Match and Scoring.** The Local League Regulations shall state the method of determining the winner of the local league, which shall be compatible with the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System (See 3.01G). A “retirement” for USTA Florida league purposes includes refusing to continue to play for reasons other than injury, illness, or personal emergency.

**3.01H(4)a Team Lineups.** Team matches must proceed on court in the following order: The #1 singles must go on before the #2 singles (Adult Division). The #1 doubles must go on before the #2 doubles, and the #2 doubles must go on before the #3 doubles. Default time is defined as 15 minutes after the scheduled match time. Each local league shall include in its local rules appropriate procedures for rainouts or other adverse weather conditions.

**3.01H(4)b Team Defaults.** For each team match, a majority of the individual matches must be played or the entire team match must be defaulted.

**3.01H(4)c Scoring of Team Defaults.** If a team defaults an entire team match for any reason during the local league season, then that match and any other matches played by the defaulting team in that round robin tier/segment shall be null and void and shall be removed from the standings. Those players from the team receiving the team default will be credited with a default received for purposes of advancement. In the event of a default by both teams, no players will be credited with a default received.

**3.01H(5) Player Participation.**

**3.01H(5)a.** A player may play only one NTRP level above the player's current NTRP level.

**3.01H(5)b.** A player may participate in more than one NTRP level within a division in the same local league during the same season.

**3.01H(5)c.** A player may participate on more than one team at any NTRP level within the same division in the same season, provided it is in a different area, unless precluded by local league regulations.

**3.01H(5)d.** A player is eligible to progress to a local league flight playoff if that player has played on that same team in at least two (2) matches during its local league season. A maximum of one (1) default received by the player during local league competition shall count for advancing. A retired match shall count for all players involved.

**3.01H(5)e.** A player who qualifies on more than one team in two different NTRP levels entered in the same championship may participate on both teams; however, no scheduling consideration will be given to the player. A player may not participate on more than one team at the same NTRP level in the same championship; the player must declare which team is to be represented. In the absence of a declaration, the first match played will determine the team represented.

**3.01J Medical Timeout in an Unofficial League Match.** Any player whose physical condition does not permit continued play may take a medical timeout. Such a timeout may not exceed eight (8) minutes to include evaluation and treatment. At the end of this time period or upon completion of treatment, whichever first occurs, the player must either continue play or retire. Only one medical timeout is permitted per player in any individual match (including the warm-up period). No coaching is permitted during a medical timeout. Under this procedure, a re-warm-up period is not permitted.

### **3.02 Progression.**

**3.02A 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. If the winning team at any level of competition is unable to compete further, the second place team may advance.

**3.02B Region Championships.** Area team winners in the Adult Division will compete at one of the regional championships to be determined administratively each year.

In order to determine the team that will compete at the next championship level, an area shall have a playoff tournament if the area has flights within the same level, or more than one local league per level (because of a large geographic area or day league vs. night league) or split local league season (fall league vs. spring league winners). An area also may have a playoff competition after the completion of the round robin competition in which every team played every other team an equal number of times. All teams competing in the round robin competition also must play in the playoff tournament in either a championship flight or a consolation flight. All local league playoffs must be completed and winning teams declared after the completion of the round robin competition and prior to the commencement of the next local league season of play.

**3.02C Section Championships (Note: This section applies to all divisions).** Region team winners in the Adult Division will compete at the section championship. All area winners in the Senior, Super Senior, Mixed Adult, Mixed Senior, and the Combo Doubles (Adult and Senior) divisions will participate in a section championship.

Should any event occur, which potentially could result in the postponement, rescheduling, or cancellation of a region or section championship, tournament officials in conjunction with the Leagues Council shall review, time permitting, the issues and circumstances causing the potential postponement, rescheduling, or cancellation; make appropriate decisions based on the facts; and communicate such in a timely manner.

If a region or section championship cannot be completed for any reason, tournament officials in consultation with the Leagues Council may determine the teams advancing to the next championship level.

### **3.03 Region and Section League Championships.**

**3.03A Team Eligibility and Entry Fees.** At all region and section championships, the minimum number of required team members who were on the final roster of their local league team at the conclusion of local league play must be available and eligible to combine and compete. This requirement cannot be waived. The minimum number of required team members in the Adult Division is eight (8) for all levels except for the 2.5 and 5.0 levels, where the minimum number is five (5). For all other divisions, the minimum number of required team members is six (6). Entry fees will not be refunded to teams that withdraw from any region or section championship after the tournament schedule is first published. The fees for region and section championships, which are assessed per player per team, will be determined administratively and announced in the specific championship information.

**3.03C Scoring, Rest and Suspended Play.** All matches played at the USTA Florida region and section championships shall be the best of two tiebreak sets with a set tiebreak (using the Coman tiebreak procedure) at 6-all. In the event of split sets, a match tiebreak (using the Coman tiebreak procedure) shall be played in lieu of a third set. No coaching is allowed at any time. If an emergency or other condition dictates, tournament officials may authorize any other approved USTA format or method of scoring compatible with the USTA NTRP Computer System (See 3.01G) or use alternate sites and court surfaces in order to complete play on schedule.

If a player plays multiple matches in a day at a region or section championship, that player is entitled to a minimum rest period between matches: Adult divisions - 30 minutes; Senior and Super Senior divisions - one hour.

**3.03C(1) Rainouts or Suspended Play.** Play is continuous until such time as tournament officials declare that play has been suspended. Players should not leave the championship site until the tournament officials have officially issued a statement as to when play will be resumed. An individual match has officially started when the warm-up period has been completed and the first service attempt has occurred.

**3.03C(1)(a) No Individual Matches Have Started Play.** If line-ups have been submitted to the tournament desk and subsequently the team match has been declared suspended by tournament officials and no individual matches have started play, a new line-up may be presented at the start of the rescheduled team match.

**3.03C(1)(b) Match Started, Suspended, and Resumed – Same Day.** If the team match has started and play has been suspended and will be resumed on the same day, at a rescheduled time, match play will resume with the same players in the same positions, where play stopped at the exact score, set and game point (any point played is always counted and never replayed). All completed games, sets and individual matches will stand as played. Any individual match indicated as a default on the initial line-up will remain as a defaulted match. No player changes may be made.

**3.03C(1)(c) Match Started, Suspended, and Resumed – Another Day.** If the team match has started and play has been suspended and rescheduled for another day, a new line-up may be presented for any individual match that has not started and for any individual match indicated as a default on the initial line-up. Individual matches that started will resume play at the point play was suspended.

**3.03M Team Defaults.** Unless there is a valid excuse, any player or team leaving a championship tournament without completing all matches could face suspension from league play for the following season(s).

**3.03O Retirement.** A “retirement” for USTA Florida league purposes includes refusing to continue to play for reasons other than injury, illness, or personal emergency.

**3.04 Adult and Senior League NTRP Disqualification and Review Procedures.** The regulations in this section apply only to the **USTA League Tennis Adult and Senior divisions.**

**3.04A NTRP Disqualification Procedures.** Player Dynamic NTRP ratings are automatically calculated in the national database throughout the season using the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System procedures. Year-end computer-rated (C) and benchmark (B) players are not subject to dynamic NTRP disqualification. Self-rated (S), mixed exclusive year-end (M), tournament exclusive year-end (T), all appeal granted (A), and dynamic rated (D) players will be NTRP disqualified if they reach the disqualification level three times based on all matches reported in the National database for USTA League Tennis Adult and Senior divisions.

**3.04A(1) Local League NTRP Disqualification.** If a NTRP disqualification occurs during concurrent Adult and/or Senior local league seasons, the disqualification shall affect the matches played by the disqualified player in both divisions. If the seasons are not concurrent or over-lapping, the NTRP disqualification shall affect the matches played by the disqualified player in the season in which the NTRP disqualification occurred. If a player is disqualified in another division while playing in a Mixed, Super Senior, or Combo Doubles (Adult and Senior) division below the section championship level, the player upon receiving notification shall play at the higher level.

The matches played by the NTRP disqualified player shall be considered losses, and those matches shall be considered wins for the opposing player or doubles team and scored as 6-0, 6-0.

If a player is competing in more than one NTRP level, results from the higher level matches are considered in dynamic ratings and may cause strikes disqualifying a player at the lower NTRP level. In this case, if a self-rated, mixed exclusive, tournament exclusive, appeal granted, or dynamic rated player is NTRP disqualified from playing the lower level, all matches played at the lower level will be considered losses and shall be considered wins for the opposing player or doubles team.

Players who are NTRP disqualified may be allowed to move up and participate on another team at a higher NTRP level during the same league season provided the local

league allows additions to the roster during the season. At the time of registration for the new team, the player will be required to pay the applicable league registration fee and any other applicable local league fees.

**3.04A(2) Championship NTRP Disqualification.** During a local league playoff, dynamic calculations will be run following the conclusion of the playoff and players who have met the criteria for NTRP disqualification will be disqualified. All matches played by that player during the local league playoff will stand; however, the player may not advance.

During region and section championships, dynamic calculations will be run throughout the championship and players who have met the criteria for NTRP disqualification will be disqualified. All matches played by that player during that championship shall be considered losses; and, those matches shall be considered wins for the opposing player or doubles team and scored as 6-0, 6-0.

**3.04B NTRP Disqualification Review Procedures.** NTRP disqualification reviews are considered based solely on missing or incorrect information in TennisLink. Players who are NTRP disqualified as a result of a match confirmed by the 48-hour rule (See 1.05) will not be considered for appeal purposes. A request for a NTRP disqualification review must be in writing to the Section League Coordinator. The review will be conducted by the Section NTRP Review Committee, whose decision is final and binding.

### **3.05 Year-End NTRP Computer Ratings and Appeal Procedures.**

**3.05A Year-end Computer Ratings.** Year-end NTRP computer ratings are effective upon incorporation into the TennisLink system. Each year a player who plays three (3) or more matches in USTA Adult, Senior, and/or Super Senior divisions will generate a computer NTRP rating.

A player, who competes in a league season that starts prior to year-end NTRP ratings (“Early Start League”) and whose rating is subsequently raised, may continue to play with the lower rating through December 31 of that calendar year and all points played through December 31 will stand unless that player is dynamically disqualified under the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System. If a self-rated, mixed exclusive, tournament exclusive, appeal granted, or dynamic rated player is dynamically disqualified under the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System, all matches played by that player shall be considered losses; and those matches shall be considered wins for the opposing player or doubles team and scored as 6-0, 6-0.

**3.05B Appeal of Year-end Ratings.** Players who wish to appeal a computer rating may do so through TennisLink. If the player does not appeal or the appeal is denied, the player must play at the higher rating. The player may not play at the prior, lower, rating until the appeal has been granted.

Players who wish to appeal because of an intervening permanent disabling injury or illness must file a written appeal, in accordance with the appeal guidelines, with the USTA Florida office. Such an appeal must be accompanied by a \$50.00 processing fee which is nonrefundable.

**5.00 MIXED DOUBLES ADULT LEAGUE REGULATIONS.**

**All USTA League Tennis Regulations and USTA Florida League Tennis Regulations apply to the Mixed Doubles Adult Division with the following exceptions:**

**5.01E Levels of Play.** A combined NTRP rating format (6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, and 10.0) is used to determine the level of play. The combined NTRP ratings of each doubles team may not exceed the level in which they are competing; and the NTRP rating difference between the members of an individual doubles pair may not exceed 1.0. In addition, the 2.5 straight level of play may be used.

**5.50 MIXED DOUBLES SENIOR LEAGUE REGULATIONS.**

**All USTA League Tennis Regulations and USTA Florida League Tennis Regulations apply to the Mixed Doubles Senior Division with the following exceptions:**

**5.51 Age.** The minimum age for participation in the Mixed Doubles Senior Division shall be age 50. Each player shall have reached the age of 50 prior to or during the calendar year in which such player plays the first local league match.

**5.52 Eligibility.** A team that advances beyond the section championship must have a minimum of six team members (three women and three men) who are on the final roster of their local league team available and eligible to combine and compete. At this time, there is no move-up or split-up rule for this Division.

**A Mixed Exclusive Year-end NTRP Rating will be generated for players who participate in a Mixed Doubles Adult and/or Mixed Doubles Senior League ONLY. To generate a rating, at least three (3) matches must be played.**

## **6.00 SUPER SENIOR LEAGUE REGULATIONS.**

**All USTA League Tennis Regulations and USTA Florida League Tennis Regulations apply to the Super Senior Division with the following exceptions:**

**6.01E Levels of Play.** A straight NTRP rating format (3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5) shall be used to determine the level of play in all local leagues. The championship levels of play will be the combined levels of 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, and 9.0. Each individual doubles team's combined NTRP ratings may not exceed the level entered; and the NTRP rating difference between the members of an individual doubles pair may not exceed 1.0.

### **6.03 Area and Section Championships.**

**6.03A(6)** At this time, there is no move-up or split-up rule for this Division.

**6.03A(7)** This division generates a year-end computer rating only.

## **6.50 SUPER 70 LEAGUE REGULATIONS.**

**All USTA League Tennis Regulations and USTA Florida League Tennis Regulations apply to the Super 70 League with the following exceptions:**

**6.51 Age.** The minimum age for participation in the Super 70 League shall be 70. Each player shall have reached the age of 70 prior to or during the calendar year in which such player plays the first local league match.

**6.52 Levels of Play.** For local league play, each area shall have the right to conduct the program using straight NTRP levels (2.5, 3.0, 3.5, and 4.0) or combined levels (5.0, 6.0, 7.0, and 8.0 or 5.5, 6.5, and 7.5). The combined NTRP ratings of each doubles team may not exceed the level in which they are competing; and the NTRP rating difference between the members of an individual doubles pair may not exceed 1.0.

**6.53 Disqualification Procedures.** None, unless that player has been disqualified under the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System.

**6.54 Year-end Rating.** A player playing exclusively in this division will not generate a year-end rating. The player will need to self-rate each year if participating exclusively in this division.

**6.55 Section Level Tournament.** At this time, a tournament at section level is not a part of this program.

**7.50 COMBO DOUBLES (ADULT AND SENIOR) LEAGUE REGULATIONS.** All USTA League Tennis Regulations and USTA Florida League Tennis regulations apply to the Combo Doubles Adult and Senior leagues with the following exceptions:

**7.51 Format.** There shall be a men's division and a women's division in both the Adult Division and the Senior Division. Each team match will consist of three men's or women's doubles matches.

**7.52 Levels of Play.** A combined NTRP rating format is used to determine the level of play. In the Adult Combo Doubles Division, the combined levels of play are 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5, and 10.5. In the Senior Combo Doubles Division, the combined levels of play are 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, and 8.5. The combined NTRP ratings of each doubles team may neither exceed the level nor be more than 1.0 less than the level in which they are competing. The NTRP rating difference between the members of an individual doubles pair may not exceed 0.5.

**7.53 Disqualification Procedures.** None, unless that player has been disqualified under the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System.

**7.54 Year-end Rating.** A player playing exclusively in this division will not generate a year-end rating. The player will need to self-rate each year if participating exclusively in this division.

**7.55 Section Championships.** Refer to 3.02C. A player may compete in the Combo Doubles Section Championships (Adult and Senior) at the rating at which the player initially registered for the league unless that player has been disqualified under the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System.

In order to advance to either a local league flight playoff or the Combo Doubles Section Championships (Adult and Senior), the player must have played on that same team in a least two (2) matches during its local league season. No defaults received during local league competition shall count for advancing. A retired match shall count for all players involved.

## USTA FLORIDA TRI-LEVEL LEAGUE GUIDELINES.

### Tri-Level (18 and older):

If you want to play with friends but are all at different NTRP levels or if you are having a hard time getting enough people together to form a team, Tri-Level is for you. Play doubles with your friends in a USTA Florida Tri-Level league. For example, one 3.0 doubles, one 3.5 doubles and one 4.0 doubles forms a Tri-Level team. This socially competitive league is a great way to enjoy the camaraderie of friends in the ultimate team experience.

The USTA Florida Tri-Level League is designed to be adaptive to the individual needs of each facility. Playing levels and format can be tailor-made to deliver a quality program for any community. The Tri-Level League also targets smaller cities and facilities specifically, in order to provide players with an organized, fun and competitive program.

### Guidelines

- Play occurs with three matches, each at a different NTRP level.
- Doubles partners are same level.
- Minimum age is 18 years old.
- NTRP based —valid computer or self rating required.
- USTA membership required.
- Register and report results through TennisLink.
- Tri-Level is a division offered by USTA Sections. USTA Sections can be represented at an Invitational Championship in Indian Wells, CA.
- To advance to the Tri-Level Championship Tournament, you can't be a self-rated player.

### General Overview

- A team match consists of 3 individual doubles matches: one doubles match at each of the three levels.
- Any format may be used: 2 out of 3 sets, 8 game pro-set, no-ad scoring, etc.
- Players may play at their NTRP rated level or higher, but they may not play at a lower level.

### Advantages

- Format and playing levels are all flexible to fit specific needs.
- Facility based program; 3 courts needed per match.
- Stay on your same team forever! Friends, family, and co-workers stay together and they play together!
- Participation does not affect a player's NTRP rating.