

DRAFT




70 West Red Oak Lane
White Plains, NY 10604-3602
www.usta.com

2012 USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS



(To be printed on inside back cover)

		VALID NTRP COMPUTER RATINGS	
2012 <u>League</u> Year	Players who are less than 60 years old during the 2012 <u>League</u> 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. X indicates the years of valid computer rating in TennisLink.		
	Players who will be 60 years or older during the 2012 <u>League</u> 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. X60 indicates the years of valid computer rating in TennisLink.		
Last Year played	2009	2010	2011
Adult 18 & over	X	X	X
Adults 60 & over		X60	X60
<p>TennisLink will automatically remove expired computer and self-ratings thereby allowing individuals to self-rate. Players with expired ratings will not be allowed to self-rate at a lower level than their last valid NTRP rating. However, they will have the opportunity to file a self-rate appeal.</p>			
<p>Computer ratings are valid based on the above table.</p>			
<p>Self-ratings are valid for 2 years from the date issued or until replaced by a dynamic or computer rating.</p>			

(To be printed inside back cover)

NTRP DYNAMIC DISQUALIFICATION	
<p>Each NTRP Level is followed by a letter indicating the type of rating.</p> <p>The following identifies who can and cannot be NTRP dynamically disqualified.</p>	
Who <u>cannot</u> be NTRP dynamically disqualified?	
NTRP Level followed by the following letter:	
C	Computer Rated Players *
B	Benchmark Players *
<p>* Any player that entered an Early Start League at an NTRP Level lower than their current year-end rating is subject to NTRP dynamic disqualification.</p>	
M	Mixed Doubles Players **
T	Tournament Players **
<p>** Year-end “M” and “T” rated players, upon entering the Adult or Senior League Divisions, must self-rate and automatically become “S” rated players and therefore become subject to NTRP dynamic disqualification.</p>	
Who <u>can</u> be NTRP dynamically disqualified? Participants in Adult and Senior League Divisions:	
NTRP Level followed by the following letter:	
A	Appealed – all granted appeals including Medical
S	Self-rated players
D	Dynamic or NTRP Complaint Disqualified
E	Dynamic rated players for Early Start Leagues
C	Exceptions to C Year-End ratings as noted above *
B	Exceptions to B Year-End ratings as noted above *
<p>Players participating in the Adult and Senior League Divisions who are promoted as a result of NTRP dynamic disqualification will be immediately required to participate at their new NTRP level in all USTA League Programs.</p>	

(To be printed page facing inside back cover)

2012 MATCHES REQUIRED TO ADVANCE TO CHAMPIONSHIPS				
USTA League Division	SECTION CHAMPIONSHIP LEVEL AND BELOW		NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP	
	LOCAL MATCHES REQUIRED	DEFAULTS	ALL MATCHES REQUIRED THROUGH SECTION CHAMPIONSHIP	DEFAULTS
	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 Doubles	2 matches	1 default may count	3 matches	NO defaults
Super Senior	Section option	Section Option	3 matches	NO defaults
RETIRED matches shall count for all players				

USTA LEAGUE

MAJOR REGULATION CHANGES FOR 2012

1.04E(1) Domicile and Residency Requirements.

Sections may create residency requirement rules to encourage and foster local league play.

2.01A Levels of Play.

Sections have the authority to choose straight or combined NTRP levels (3.0, 3.5, 4.0 or 4.5 or 6.0, 7.0, 8.0 9.0) for Super Seniors.

2.05E Players 70 and over promoted at year end. Change allows a player who is 70 years of age or older and promoted at year end, to appeal such rating based on his/her three most recent year-end ratings, rather than on the three prior consecutive years.

3.03A(6)

This change clarifies that an NTRP Grievance may not be filed at any time to prevent a conflict with Reg. 3.03E(3): NTRP Grievances may be filed at any time up to 48 hours after the conclusion of the Section Championship of the player against whom the NTRP Grievance was filed. NTRP Grievances will not be accepted at National Championships

(To be printed inside front cover)

**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 championship 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 valid NTRP rating level is in effect for two (2) years for individuals 60 years of age and older prior to, or during, the league year and for three (3) years for all others, or until another valid NTRP rating level is generated. (See *Valid Computer Rating Table* – inside back cover)
4. Players with a valid NTRP rating level must enter at that rating or higher. (See *Valid Computer Rating Table* – inside back cover)
5. Players in USTA League without a valid 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. 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.
7. 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 NTRP dynamic disqualification at National Championships.
8. After the USTA League Adult and Senior National Championships, benchmark and year-end NTRP published levels will be calculated using USTA NTRP Computer Rating System Procedures approved by the USTA League Committee.
9. In the Mixed Doubles Division, an NTRP 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.
10. In the Super Senior Division, following the benchmark process after the Adult and Senior National Championships, match results from Super Senior and all other local league play will be calculated to produce a year-end NTRP rating.

USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS

2012 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.

If a Section, District or Local League does not have a regulation in place to address an issue and there is a National Championship Regulation on that issue, the Section, District or Local League must follow the National Championship Regulation.

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 FRIEND AT COURT - *The USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations*, including Wheelchair Rules of Tennis, 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 Regulations 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 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.

1.02C Written Interpretation. The written interpretation of USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS in *USTA League Question and Answers (Interpretations)* is the responsibility of a committee comprised of the Chair and Vice Chair of the USTA League Committee and the National League Administrator.

1.02D 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. Discrimination in USTA League is prohibited as specified in the Bylaws of the United States Tennis Association.

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 USTA League 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. USTA League is approved by USTA without necessity of sanction (See *FRIEND AT COURT XVII B.*)

USTA NATIONAL LEAGUE PROGRAM ORGANIZATION		
DIVISION	LEAGUE FORMAT	NTRP LEVELS
Adult 2.5 and 5.0	1 – Singles 2 – Doubles	2.5; 5.0
Adult	2 – Singles 3 – Doubles	3.0; 3.5; 4.0; 4.5
Senior	3 – Doubles	3.0; 3.5; 4.0; 4.5
Super Senior	3 – Doubles	6.0; 7.0; 8.0; 9.0
Mixed Doubles	3 – Doubles	2.5; 6.0; 7.0; 8.0; 9.0;10.0

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 17 Section Associations; the names and territories of which are defined in the USTA Bylaws. 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 Championship 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 Championship 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 Reg. 2.01C – *Competition Format*).

1.04D(2) 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(3) 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(4) 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(5) 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 on a team at a specific NTRP level. The composition of a team must be as shown in the following table:

TEAM COMPOSITION			
DIVISION	MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS	GENDER	NTRP LEVEL
Adult	8	Same Gender	Player's NTRP rating level shall not exceed the team NTRP level
Adult 2.5 and 5.0	5		
Senior	6		
Super Senior	6	Same Gender	Combined NTRP rating levels of partners shall not exceed team NTRP level NTRP difference between partners shall not exceed 1.0
Mixed Doubles	3 men 3 women	Men and Women	
Mixed Doubles 2.5	3 men 3 women	Men and women	Player's NTRP rating level shall not exceed the team NTRP level

1.04D(6) Two Team Leagues. 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 and Residency Requirements.

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 USTA League Program provided that all such matches are played within the Section. Sections may create residency requirement rules to encourage and foster local league play.

1.04E(2) Membership. All individuals who compete in the USTA League must be current USTA members in good standing through the local league season. Any individual who progresses to a championship level in the USTA League must be a current USTA member through each championship progression.

1.04E(3) Age. Each player shall have reached the required minimum 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:

MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENTS	
DIVISION	MINIMUM AGE
Adult	18
Mixed Doubles	
Senior	50
Super Senior	60

1.04E(4) Player Agreement. All players participating in the USTA League, as a condition of said participation, agree to abide and be bound by the USTA Constitution and Bylaws; the FRIEND AT COURT - *The USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations* including THE CODE and Wheelchair 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 valid NTRP rating level in TennisLink, a returning player with an expired NTRP rating level, a Tournament Exclusive (T) player and players with Mixed Exclusive (M) ratings who wish to enter another league division must self-rate to enter the USTA League Program. (See Reg 1.04F(1)b and 1.04F(1)c.) A player with a valid NTRP rating level in TennisLink must use that rating to enter the USTA League Program as shown in the following table and as described in 1.04F(1)b and 1.04F(1)c:

NTRP RATING LEVELS FOR ENTRY INTO LEAGUE PLAY	
DIVISION	PLAYER NTRP PLAYING LEVEL
Adult	At current NTRP level and/or up to one NTRP level above the player’s current NTRP level
Mixed Doubles, straight NTRP level	
Senior	
Super Senior, straight NTRP level	
Mixed Doubles, combined NTRP levels	Combined NTRP levels of partners shall not exceed team NTRP level. NTRP difference between partners shall not exceed 1.0.
Super Senior, combined NTRP levels	

1.04F(1)a Players entering USTA League are defined as having a valid NTRP rating level on file in TennisLink or as a new/returning player without a valid NTRP rating level. Rating levels are derived in accordance with the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System Procedures. Once a player is assigned a valid NTRP rating level, it is valid for all Divisions, except Super Senior, for up to three years or until another NTRP published level is generated. For the Super Senior Division, a valid NTRP rating level is only in effect for up to two years. (See *Valid NTRP Computer Ratings Table* — 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 participate 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 Doubles exclusive “M” rating.

1.04F(1)c Players who play exclusively in NTRP tournaments and generate a Tournament Exclusive “T” rating and choose to participate in the USTA League Adult, Mixed Doubles, 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 Tournament exclusive “T” rating.

1.04F(1)d Players who do not have a valid NTRP rating level on file in TennisLink shall self-rate in accordance with the *General & Experienced Player Guidelines – Supplement to 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. Self-ratings are valid for 2 years from the date issued or until replaced by a dynamic or computer rating.

1.04F(1)e TennisLink will automatically remove expired computer and self-ratings thereby allowing individuals to self-rate. Players with expired ratings will not be allowed to self-rate at a lower level than their last valid NTRP rating. However, they will have the opportunity to file a self-rate appeal.

1.04F(1)f 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)g Valid NTRP Computer Ratings: (See *Valid Computer Rating Table – inside back cover*.)

1.04G Player Participation.

1.04G(1) 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 player may play on only one team in an NTRP level within a 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(3) A player may play up to one NTRP level above the player's current NTRP level.

1.04G(4) A Section may authorize participation in more than one NTRP level within a Division in the same local league during the same season.

1.04G(5) A player may play on more than one team within a Division in the same season provided it is in separate local leagues. The Section has the authority to accept or deny participation.

1.04G(6) A player who qualifies to advance to championships on more than one team may be required by the Section to choose which team he/she will represent.

1.04G(7) 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(8) 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, 3.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES and the following Regulations in this section 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:

NTRP LEVELS OF PLAY			
DIVISION	NTRP LEVEL	ALL CHAMPIONSHIPS BELOW NATIONALS	NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
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	2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0
Senior *	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5
*Adult and Senior: A player cannot have an NTRP rating level higher than the NTRP level in which he/she is competing			
Mixed Doubles**	2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0 Or 2.5, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0	2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0 Or 2.5, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0	2.5, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0
Super Senior**	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 Or 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0	<u>3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5</u> Or 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0
<p>** Mixed Doubles and Super Senior</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local leagues have the option to play using straight NTRP levels or combined NTRP levels. In Mixed Doubles there is an option to play 2.5 straight level in addition to the combined levels. Using straight NTRP levels, players cannot have an NTRP rating higher than the NTRP level in which they are competing. Using combined NTRP levels, the combined NTRP ratings of the doubles team cannot exceed the combined NTRP rating level entered. The NTRP difference between members of an individual doubles team may not exceed 1.0 			

2.01B Men, Women and Mixed Doubles. Men’s and women’s leagues shall be separate at each approved NTRP level for the Adult, Senior and Super Senior Divisions. The local league shall determine which approved NTRP 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 Reg. 2.03D *Competition Format* and Reg. 2.03E *Team Match and Scoring*.) The scoring in the event of a default or disqualification shall be 6-0, 6-0. (See Reg. 2.03N *Scoring 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 5 minute warm-up. The default principles in Reg. 2.03K *Team Defaults* shall be applicable, with such modifications as a Section Association may authorize.

2.01D Coaching. When the scoring method is the best of three tiebreak sets and a 10 minute rest period is taken between the second and third sets, coaching is permitted only during this rest period.

2.02 PROGRESSION.

2.02A Local League.

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 Championships.

2.02B(1) 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.

2.02B(2) Section Championships. Each Section Association shall hold a Section League Championship in each Section-approved NTRP 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 NTRP level shall be eligible to compete in the USTA League National Championships. If the winning team at any NTRP 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.

2.02B(3) National Championships. The team winning the National Championship in each NTRP level of competition in the Adult, Senior, Mixed Doubles, and Super Senior Divisions, shall be the USTA League National Champion.

2.03 AREA, SECTION AND NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS.

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 participate in only one position within each team match.

2.03A(3) In Adult, Senior and Mixed Doubles Divisions 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. In the Super Senior Division the Section has the option to determine eligibility for advancement to all championships below the National level. Retired matches shall count toward advancing for all players involved in all USTA League Divisions.

2012 MATCHES REQUIRED TO ADVANCE TO ANY CHAMPIONSHIP BELOW NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS			
DIVISION	MINIMUM MATCHES PLAYED	DEFAULTED MATCHES COUNTED FOR MINIMUM MATCH REQUIREMENT	RETIRED MATCHES COUNTED FOR MINIMUM MATCH REQUIREMENT
Adult	2	1	ALL
Senior			
Mixed Doubles			
Super Senior	Section Option	Section Option	

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. Retired matches shall count toward advancing for all players involved.

2012 MATCHES REQUIRED TO ADVANCE TO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS			
DIVISION	MINIMUM MATCHES PLAYED THROUGH SECTION CHAMPIONSHIPS	DEFAULTED MATCHES COUNTED FOR MINIMUM MATCH REQUIREMENT	RETIRED MATCHES COUNTED FOR MINIMUM MATCH REQUIREMENT
Adult	3	0	ALL
Senior			
Mixed Doubles			
Super Senior			

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 the minimum noted in the table below.

MINIMUM NUMBER OF TEAM MEMBERS REQUIRED AT CHAMPIONSHIPS		
DIVISION	MINIMUM NUMBER AT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	MINIMUM NUMBER WITH APPROVED WAIVER AT SECTION CHAMPIONSHIP LEVEL AND BELOW
Adult 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	8	4
Adult 2.5 and 5.0	5	3
Senior	6	4
Mixed Doubles	3 Women 3 Men	2 Women 2 Men
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 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.

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 individual matches will be awarded one team point.

TEAM MATCH AND SCORING		
DIVISION	TEAM MATCH	TEAM POINT AWARDED FOR
Adult 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	2-Singles 3-Doubles	3 individual matches won
Adult 2.5 and 5.0	1-Singles 2-Doubles	2 individual matches won
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. When the scoring method is the best of three tiebreak sets and a 10 minute rest period is taken between the second and third sets, coaching is permitted only during this rest period.

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 Reg. 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 below.

ALLOWABLE DEFAULTS AT ALL CHAMPIONSHIPS			
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, 3.5, 4.0, 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 Or No. 2 Doubles
Senior	4	1	No. 3 Doubles
Mixed Doubles	4 players who 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 when determining standings. 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, emergency or refusal to play.

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 DYNAMIC DISQUALIFICATION AND REVIEW PROCEDURES.

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

2.04B NTRP Dynamic 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 dynamic disqualification criteria stated in the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System Procedures. Players subject to NTRP dynamic disqualification as described in the table below will be dynamically disqualified if they reach the disqualification level three (3) times based on all matches except retirements.

NTRP DYNAMIC DISQUALIFICATION		
<p>Each NTRP Level is followed by a letter indicating the type of rating.</p> <p>The following identifies who can and cannot be dynamically disqualified.</p>		
Who <u>cannot</u> be NTRP dynamically disqualified?		
NTRP Level followed by the following letter:		
C	B	Computer Rated Players *
<p>* Any player that entered an Early Start League at an NTRP Level lower than their current year-end rating level is subject to NTRP dynamic disqualification.</p>		
M	T	Mixed Doubles Players **
<p>** Year-end "M" and "T" rated players, upon entering the Adult or Senior League Divisions, must self-rate and automatically become "S" rated players and therefore become subject to NTRP dynamic disqualification.</p>		
Who <u>can</u> be NTRP dynamically disqualified? Participants in Adult and Senior League Divisions:		
NTRP Level followed by the following letter:		
A	Appealed – all granted appeals including Medical	
S	Self-rated players	
D	Dynamic or NTRP Complaint Disqualified	
E	Dynamic rated players for Early Start Leagues	
C	Exceptions to C Year-End ratings as noted above *	
B	Exceptions to B Year-End ratings as noted above *	
<p>Players participating in the Adult and Senior League Divisions who are promoted as a result of NTRP dynamic disqualification will be immediately required to participate at their new NTRP level in all USTA League Programs.</p>		

2.04B(1) Local League NTRP Dynamic 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 Reg. 2.04C – *NTRP Dynamic Disqualification Review Procedures*.

2.04B(2) Championship NTRP Dynamic Disqualification. There will be no dynamic disqualifications at National Championships. The Section shall choose one of the following options at each Section Championships and below:

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 Dynamic Disqualification and reverse appropriate matches played.

2.04B(2)b Run dynamic calculations following the conclusion of the championship and disqualify those players that meet the criteria for NTRP Dynamic Disqualification. An NTRP Dynamically Disqualified player will be notified by the Section League Coordinator or designee and have the right to a review in accordance with procedures in Reg. 2.04C *NTRP Dynamic Disqualification Review Procedures*. An NTRP Dynamically Disqualified player becomes a benchmark.

2.04B(3) Following an NTRP Dynamic 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 Dynamically 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 Dynamic Disqualification of a player is not upheld by the NTRP Dynamic Disqualification Review Committee, a second NTRP Dynamic Disqualification will be considered if warranted by additional data.

2.04C NTRP Dynamic Disqualification Review Procedures. Reviews are considered based solely on missing or incorrect information.

2.04C(1) Local. If the team captain or the player disqualified in the local league desires a review of the NTRP Dynamic Disqualification, a written request must be submitted to the Section League Coordinator or designee, asking for a review before the NTRP Dynamic Disqualification Review Committee of the nearest jurisdiction within the deadline set by the administrator. The request for a review shall be delivered by the recipient of the written request to the Chair of the NTRP Dynamic Disqualification Review Committee. A review shall be held as soon as reasonable.

2.04C(2) Championship. If the team captain or the player disqualified during or after the conclusion of championship competition desires a review of the disqualification, a written request must be submitted to the Tournament Director, Section League Coordinator or designee, asking for a review before the NTRP Dynamic Disqualification Review Committee of the nearest available jurisdiction within the deadline set by the Chair of the Championships Committee. The request for a review shall be delivered by the recipient of the written request to the Chair of the NTRP Dynamic Disqualification Review Committee. A review shall be held as soon as reasonable.

2.04D NTRP Dynamic Disqualification Review Committees.

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

2.04D(2) The members of any NTRP Dynamic Disqualification 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 Dynamic Disqualification 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 of the decision of any NTRP Dynamic Disqualification Review Committee.

2.04D(5) The NTRP Dynamic Disqualification 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 an NTRP Dynamic 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 Dynamic 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 a dynamically disqualified player 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 Dynamic 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 a dynamically disqualified player 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 Dynamic Disqualification Following Conclusion of Championship Competition. If the Section chooses to calculate dynamic ratings and disqualify following the conclusion of the championship, all points earned by dynamically 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 Doubles Divisions.

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

2.05B(1) A year-end NTRP computer rating is valid for three (3) consecutive years or until a new valid NTRP level is published for players who are less than 60 years of age through the League year (See *Valid Computer Rating Table* inside back cover.)

2.05B(2) A year-end NTRP computer rating is valid for two (2) consecutive years or until a new valid NTRP level is published for players 60 years of age and older prior to or during the League year (See *Valid Computer Rating Table* inside back cover.)

2.05C Appeal of Year-end Ratings. Year-end NTRP valid computer ratings levels may be appealed or denied through TennisLink except Medical Appeals and players 70 and over. See Reg. 2.05D and 2.05E.

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

2.05D(1) Each Section Association shall designate a Medical Review Committee(s) to evaluate medical 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 Medical Review Committee shall have the authority to deny the appeal and such decision shall be final and binding. If said Committee deems the medical appeal should have further consideration, it will be forwarded to the National Medical Appeal Committee for a final decision.

2.05D(3) The decision of the Section designated Medical 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 medical appeals forwarded from the Section Associations. The Committee shall consist of at 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 Medical Appeal Committee shall have been a member of the Section designated Review Committee who forwarded the medical 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 level received from a granted medical appeal will be valid until a new NTRP computer rating level is published or the player is eligible to self-rate.

2.05E Players 70 and over promoted at year end. 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 his/her three most recent year-end ratings, without benefit of appeal, will be granted an appeal promoted at year-end. This appeal must be submitted through the Section League Coordinator or designee

2.06 MOVE-UP/SPLIT-UP.

2.06A National Championship Teams. 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.

MOVE-UP/SPLIT-UP REQUIREMENTS			
DIVISION	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS FOR NEW TEAMS AT SAME LEVEL	NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	ALL CHAMPIONSHIPS BELOW NATIONALS
Adult 3.0 – 4.5	3	National Championship and National Championship Eligible Teams	Section Option
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 disperse to form new teams	

2.06B All Championships below Nationals. 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 as in Reg. 2.05D *Medical Appeals* and Reg. 2.05E *Players 70 and over promoted at year end*.

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 with 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. Any complaints, other than those defined in Regulation Sections 3.02B *NTRP Grievance*, 3.02C *Eligibility Grievance*, 3.02D *Administrative Grievance*, and 3.02E *National League Grievance*, alleging a violation of the USTA Constitution and Bylaws; the FRIEND AT COURT – *The USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations* including THE CODE and Wheelchair Rules of Tennis (unless modified by these USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS); the USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS; or standards of good conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship shall constitute a General Grievance.

3.02B NTRP Grievance. A grievance contending that a player's NTRP level is lower than the actual skill level shall constitute an NTRP Grievance. (Refer to Reg. 3.03E(1) and 3.03E(2).)

3.02C Eligibility Grievance. Any complaint, other than an NTRP Grievance, contending that a player has failed to meet eligibility requirements to participate in USTA League shall constitute an Eligibility Grievance.

3.02D Administrative Grievance. Any complaint pertaining to administration of a league at any level below the national level shall constitute an Administrative Grievance

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 Bylaws; the USTA Regulations; the *Friend at Court – The USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations* including *The Code* and wheelchair rules of tennis (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 Reg. 3.03B(3) and Reg. 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 Reg. 3.04B(4) *Scoring of Eligibility Disqualification in Local League.*)

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, a member of a Championships Committee, a Grievance Committee, or a Grievance Appeal Committee may file a grievance at any time except for an NTRP Grievance.

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 Regs. 1.04C(1) *Official League Registration*, 1.04E(2) *Membership*, 1.04E(3) *Age*, 1.04F *Official League Rating Program*.)

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 Reg. 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 or designee prior to whichever occurs first: (a) within thirty minutes of the completion of the involved team's match or (b) the commencement of the involved team's next match, whether or not the involved player participates.

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 Reg. 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 Reg. 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 subject to NTRP Grievances

3.03E(1)a A player who enters 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 an NTRP Grievance.

3.03E(1)b A player with a valid NTRP Computer (C) rating, or Benchmark (B) rating or granted an Automatic Appeal (A) rating of a Computer (C) rating is not subject to an NTRP grievance. Any other player is subject to an NTRP grievance including players that entered an Early Start League at an NTRP level lower than their current year-end rating and players with granted medical appeals.

3.03E(1)c A player who inappropriately self-rates, and captains and others who condone inappropriate self-rating, may have an NTRP Grievance filed against them and be subject to possible sanctions, including disqualification and suspension.

3.03E(2) Any league captain, coordinator or member of a Championships Committee may file an NTRP Grievance.

3.03E(3) NTRP Grievances may be filed at any time up to 48 hours after the conclusion of the Section Championship of the player against whom the NTRP Grievance was filed. NTRP Grievances will not be accepted at National Championships.

3.03E(4) 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 Section League Grievance Committee of the player against whom the NTRP Grievance was filed.

3.03E(5) 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 Section League Grievance Committee of the player against whom the NTRP Grievance was filed.

Each Section shall have the option to adjudicate NTRP Grievances prior to, during or after a championship event.

3.03E(6) 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*.

3.03E(7) 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 Reg. 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. (See Reg. 1.02A - *Waiver of Rules and Procedures Prohibited*.) If the Grievance Committee has imposed a penalty, the Grievance Appeal Committee may not impose a harsher penalty.

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, Area, 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 Procedures

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES					
	MEMBERS	APPROVED/ APPOINTED BY	WHEN TO FILE	WHERE TO FILE	WHO CAN FILE
GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE	Minimum 3 including chair	Section Association, with approval of Section League Coordinator	<i>Whichever occurs first in:</i> <u>Local League:</u> Next match of involved player's team OR within 24 hours after end of local league season. See Reg. 3.03B(1) <u>Championships:</u> Within 30 minutes of completion of the team match OR prior to next match of involved player's team. See Reg. 3.03C(1)	<u>Local League:</u> Local/area/district league coordinator or designee having jurisdiction <u>Championships:</u> Site director or designee having jurisdiction	Team Captains who played team, League Coordinators, Members of Championship Committees
GRIEVANCE APPEAL COMMITTEE	Minimum 3 including chair, none of whom served on the Grievance Committee	Section Association, with approval of Section League Coordinator	Time established by Grievance Committee	Local/area/district league coordinator or designee having jurisdiction	Party to the complaint
NTRP GRIEVANCE	Section League Grievance Committee	Section League Committee Chair with approval of Section League Coordinator	Anytime up to 48 hours after completion of Section Championship of player against whom the NTRP Grievance was filed	Coordinator having jurisdiction	Any League captain, coordinator, or member of a Championships Committee
NATIONAL LEAGUE GRIEVANCE APPEAL	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 after local league competition or playoffs.

Championship Year: The timeframe beginning with the first local league including Early Start League and ending with the conclusion of the national championship.

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 100th 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.

Domicile: A legal concept involving residency. It is that place where a person has a true, fixed permanent home or that person's home for the indefinite future. A person can only have one domicile at a time.

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 local playoff structure may be established to determine a champion.

Local Playoff: Part of local league competition.

Match tiebreak: First to 10 by a margin of 2. (See FRIEND AT COURT– Part 3: USTA Reg. E.1.b.)

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.

Residency: A place where a person is actually living, as distinguished from the person's domicile, or a place where one temporarily lives. Domicile and residence may coincide. A person can have more than one residency while he/she can have only one domicile.

Rest period: A maximum of 10 minutes with coaching permitted between the second and third 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 2 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 2. (See FRIEND AT COURT– Part 3: USTA Reg. E. 1.a)

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 17 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.