



USTA ADULT LEAGUE PLAY REGULATIONS 2009

All USTA Tennis Leagues in USTA Eastern, Inc. shall follow the regulations set forth in the USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS and in addition be governed by USTA Eastern, Inc. and the local league regulations. All Local League Regulations must be submitted to and approved by the Eastern Section Adult League Committee. At all Championship levels, the USTA Regulations take precedence over the Eastern Section Regulations and/or local league regulations. Teams/players participating in championships should be familiar with USTA Regulations.

I. **REGISTRATION/TEAM ROSTER**

- A.** USTA membership must be current through the National League Season end date for Adult, Masters, Tri-Level and Mixed Doubles Leagues.
- B.** A player is not eligible to participate in a team match unless they are listed on an official roster. Players must register for their teams through the Tennis Link web site (<http://national.usta.com>).

II. **NTRP**

- A.** If a player is under the age of 60 during the 2009 Championship year and does not have a computer rating from 2006, 2007 or 2008, they must declare their self-rating when they register for their team on Tennis Link. If a player is 60 years of age or older during the 2009 Championship year and does not have a computer rating from 2007 or 2008 they must declare their self-rating when they register for their team on Tennis Link.

B. NTRP RATING CHANGES.

Captains and players are responsible for checking the Eastern website (<http://eastern.usta.com>) for final ratings after December 1, 2008. Except for championship benchmarks, players who have been moved up or down may appeal by using the automated process available through Tennis Link. Any player whose rating is under appeal may not participate in any league match in a level below their final rating while their appeal is pending.

A championship benchmark may not be appealed following the championship year it is received except for a permanently disabling injury/illness. If an intervening permanent disabling injury or illness indicates that a benchmark rating may be too high, this appeal will be referred to the Section Medical Appeals Committee (see Section II. C. below)

The Section strongly encourages players to participate at their correct NTRP level to ensure competitive match play. A local league must limit the number of players that appear on a team roster to at least 60% at level. Section League Coordinator may also grant a waiver of this requirement upon written request of a Local League Coordinator. A local league may limit the total number of players on a roster.

C. MEDICAL APPEALS

A player may appeal his/her NTRP rating, including benchmark ratings generated from championship play, if a permanent disabling illness or injury has occurred after year-end or early start ratings have been

generated (refer to 3.05B(2) and (3)). A team captain, another player, a spouse, or a physician may NOT submit an appeal on behalf of a player. Medical appeals must be filed in writing with the Eastern Section Medical Appeals Committee, using forms available on the Eastern website (<http://eastern.usta.com>), and must be accompanied by evidence sufficient to demonstrate that a player's medical condition is (1) permanent and (2) disabling. Medical Appeal Procedures and the list of required information that must be provided to substantiate a medical appeal is available for review on the Eastern web site. Medical appeals may be filed at any time and will be reviewed by the Eastern Section Medical Appeals Committee. If the Section Medical Appeals Committee finds that the injury/illness cited in the appeal is permanently disabling, the appeal and any supporting documentation will be forwarded to the National Medical Appeal Committee for a final decision.

III. PLAYER PARTICIPATION

- A.** No individual player is eligible to play for any championship team unless he/she is listed on the team roster and has played on that same championship team in at least two matches during the local league season. A default may count as one of the local qualifying matches. Players may NOT be added to a team roster for flight playoffs. For a player to qualify for any area championship (through sectionals) 2 local matches are required; one (1) default may count toward the required 2 matches. In order to advance to a national championship an individual player must have participated in 3 matches on the championship team excluding defaults. (Refer to Appendix for clarification).
- B.** Team members may represent public or private facilities.
- C.** A player may play on more than one team in a local league as long as the teams do not play each other during the local season.
- D.** Team members may play on more than one level within a division (adults or masters) providing it is a higher level than their rated level and is no more than one level above their rating. The team must keep within the local guidelines regarding the percentage of players at level.
- E.** Players who play on two teams who win their local flights and go on to championships (region, section or national) may play on both teams in the same championship provided they are at different NTRP levels and if the championship schedule permits. Requests to reschedule championship matches to accommodate players on multiple participating teams will not be accepted.
- F.** Players who play on two or more teams at the same NTRP level in different regions in the Eastern Section must declare which team they will represent should more than one team qualify for a region or section championship.
- G.** If two teams are scheduled for region or section championship matches and those teams share at least 50% of their eligible players, the teams must choose which region they will represent and notify the regional coordinator no later than 48 hours following the conclusion of the deciding match.

IV. COMPETITION FORMAT

The format for competition may be round robin or single elimination or a combination of the two. Each team match shall consist of such number of individual matches of singles, doubles, or any combination as determined by the local league.

- A.** Teams are encouraged to field their players for each team match in order of strength. Local regulations may require a point system for scorekeeping to discourage stacking.
- B.** Each team must have a captain or acting captain familiar with local league rules present at every match. The captains, or their designees, must fill out the scorecard, exchange the cards simultaneously prior to the start of match play, record the scores as each match finishes, and sign both cards. If, after the scorecards have been exchanged but prior to the first point of an individual match being played, a player becomes unable to play due to injury, illness or tardiness, a substitution may be made using a rostered player. No other player changes are allowed for unplayed matches on that scorecard. The original line up

may not be changed (except as noted above) even though one or more individual matches may not be concluded on the date and time initially scheduled.

- C.** Scorecards from both captains are to be entered online and confirmed in Tennis Link within 24 hours after the match. Some local leagues may, in addition, require that scorecards from both captains be sent to the Local League Coordinator or other designated person, within 24 hours of the completion of the match.
- D.** It is the responsibility of both captains to contact each other at least 48 hours in advance to verify the time and place of a scheduled match and to make certain that a complete team will be fielded. It is the responsibility of the home captain to inform the visiting captain of any dress code required by the host site.
- E.** There is a fifteen minute default rule (inclusive of warm up time) in effect for all local matches. Warm-ups may take no more than ten minutes including service practice; warm up time may be limited to 5 minutes when a player arrives on court after the scheduled start time for the match. . In cases of extenuating circumstances a Local League Coordinator may extend the default time. These circumstances would include, but not be limited to, extreme weather travel conditions, such as snowstorms, bridge or tunnel closings, fires, tornadoes and major street closings. All championships, beginning with the District championships, will follow the fifteen-minute default rule. In cases of extenuating circumstances the Tournament Director may extend the default time. These circumstances would include, but not be limited to, extreme weather/travel conditions, such as snowstorms, bridge or tunnel closings, fires, tornadoes and major street closings.
- F.** Teammates, spectators, or coaches may not volunteer advice on line calls, scoring, or on the conduct of the match. It is the home team's responsibility to control the spectators' conduct during match play.
- G.** A minimum of four eligible team members who are on the team roster received by the league coordinator must be available to compete or the entire match shall be forfeited.

V. MATCH PLAY

- A.** Regular matches will be scheduled and played according to the league schedule, if possible. Rained out matches or stoppage of play due to circumstances beyond the control of the players should be rescheduled as soon as possible and must be played using the original line up cards exchanged on the originally scheduled date and time. Agreements for rescheduled matches must be submitted in writing by both captains to the Local League Coordinator, unless the league coordinator reschedules the match.
- B.** Play must be continuous throughout the match. A 2-minute break is allowed following each set. A 10-minute rest between the second and third sets is allowed if one team requests it, if third sets are played out.
- C.** All matches will be 2 out of 3 sets, 12-point set tiebreak (first to 7 points) if games reach 6-all in any set. Local leagues may use no-ad scoring in the third set or they may use a match tiebreak (first to 10 by 2) in lieu of the third set. Scoring system should be determined before the local league season begins.
- D.** Two team leagues must play a minimum of three matches to be eligible for playoffs at the next level. An entire forfeited match will **not** count as a match played.
- E.** In the event of rain or stoppage of play due to circumstances beyond the control of the players:
 - 1. Completed individual matches will stand as played.
 - 2. An incomplete match shall be continued by the same players and resumed at the exact point where it was discontinued - set, game, point - as existed when play was halted. (Any point played is always counted and never replayed.) If players (s) are unavailable to continue the match on the rescheduled date then the individual match will be scored as either a retirement in favor of the team whose players are available or a double default if both teams are missing a player.
 - 3. All matches should be rescheduled and played as a team, if possible.

4. If teams have assembled to play and the beginning of the match is delayed by rain or wet courts or other circumstances beyond the control of the players, teams must wait no longer than one hour past the original time for the start of the first match to determine whether or not courts are playable. If the courts are not playable after 1 hour, teams are free to leave and reschedule the match, unless both teams agree to wait longer.

VI. FORFEITURE/DEFAULT

- A. At the discretion of the Local League Coordinator, a team that forfeits an entire team match without just cause **may** be penalized to the extent that all matches for the season will be considered null and void for that one season, and the team members will not be allowed to participate in league play the following season. At the discretion of the tournament committee, a team that forfeits an entire team match without just cause at any level of Championships may be penalized to the extent that all matches at that Championship level will be considered null and void, and the team members will not be allowed to participate in league play the following season. The playing of an ineligible player for the second time by the same team, during the course of the league season constitutes the forfeiture of a team match without just cause.
- B. At the discretion of the Local League Coordinator a team using ineligible players may be penalized by forfeiting ALL points for ALL matches scheduled for that team. Any captain or player who falsifies a name on a scorecard will incur further penalties, at the discretion of the LLC.

Ineligible players are:

1. players who are not current members of the USTA
2. players who do not appear on the team roster
3. players who play under assumed names
4. those who falsify information.

The following definitions apply:

Forfeiture: The knowledge, in advance of a team match, that the team will not be able to field a player or players. It is common courtesy for the captain to notify the opposing captain regarding not being able to field the full team.

Default: The failure to field a player and/or players for a given match when it occurs after the scorecards have been exchanged due to illness/ injury (prior to warm-up with no subs available) or tardiness.

VII. LOCAL GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

- A. All complaints alleging a violation by an individual or team during local league competition must be submitted in writing to the Local League Coordinator, the Chairman of the Local League Grievance Committee, if applicable, and to the player(s) or team(s) referenced in the complaint in accordance with timelines established in local league rules. A local league coordinator may file a grievance at any time.
- B. The Local League Coordinator, with the approval of the Sectional Grievance Committee, has the right to suspend the playing privileges of a captain, player, or team whose behavior has been disruptive and/or found to not be in compliance with the regulations. 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 to the National League Grievance Appeal Committee.
- C. The Local Grievance Committee shall send a copy of the letter of grievance along with its written decision to the Eastern Section League Coordinator and the Chairman of the Section Grievance Committee.

- D.** A complaint against an individual or team pertaining to local league competition may only be filed by (a) the team captain of the team who has competed in the match where the alleged violation occurred or (b) the Local League Coordinator or (c) the Section League Coordinator.
- E.** The complaint must be filed prior to the commencement of the next team match in that flight involving such individual or team or within 24 hours after the end of the local league season, whichever occurs first.
- F.** For complaints regarding eligibility (e.g. age, USTA membership, misrepresentation of identity, etc) other than self-rate eligibility complaints, the Local League Coordinator may declare a player ineligible and disqualify that player without filing a grievance prior to the disqualification. All other complaints must go to the appropriate league grievance committee.
- G.** In the event of an eligibility disqualification during the local league season and up to 24 hours after the end of local league play (the league season end date in Tennis Link), all matches played by the player shall be considered defaults and those matches shall be considered wins for the opposing team and scored 6-0.6-0. In the event of a disqualification after 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.
- H.** A local grievance committee may institute a fee for filing a grievance, refunded if the grievance is awarded.
- I.** A complaint against the administration of a local league should be filed and heard at the next higher level with the Section being the final authority.
- J.** Complaints regarding self-rate eligibility or an appeal of a decision rendered by the Local Grievance Committee must be filed directly with the Chairperson of the Section Grievance Committee in the manner specified in Section VIII. A copy of the complaint/appeal must also be provided to the Local League Coordinator simultaneously with submission to the Section Grievance Committee.

VIII. SELF RATE GRIEVANCE AND DYNAMIC NTRP DISQUALIFICATIONS

- A. Self-Rate Grievances** - A captain, coordinator or member of a championship committee may file a Self Rate Grievance if they believe a player is competing one level or more below their actual skill level (excluding players who have been granted a medical appeal) or a captain knowingly condones player entry at a level below their actual skill level. Players with a valid NTRP rating are not subject to self-rate grievances. A self-rate grievance during local league play shall be filed in writing with the local league coordinator having jurisdiction.

The Section League Grievance Committee shall handle all self-rate grievances. These grievances must be submitted to the Chairperson of the Section Grievance Committee on the Self Rate Grievance Form (available on the Eastern web site). Requests that are incomplete or not timely will be rejected. The subject of the self rate grievance must submit a completed USTA Self-Rate Player Background Form to the Chairperson of the Section Grievance Committee, if requested by the Chairperson; the grievance may be automatically granted where the player fails to submit a completed Background Form. After review of the grievance, and any supporting documentation, the Section Grievance Committee will issue a written decision documenting any actions they deem appropriate which may include disqualification, suspension from league play, or other league sanctions. Captains or others who condone inappropriate self-rating may be subject to possible sanctions, including disqualification removal from a team or suspension (may no longer captain on a specific team or generally precluded from captaining teams).

A self-rate grievance during championship competition shall be filed with the duly appointed site director or designee having jurisdiction at any time up to 48 hours after the conclusion of a self-rated player's Section Championships. The Section Grievance Committee has the right to determine when self rate grievances pertaining to championship level play will be adjudicated; the date and time that the Section Grievance Committee sends notification controls the assessment of sanctions, including scoring of matches in accordance with USTA regulations 2.02B(4) and 2.02 C(4).

Appeals - The decision of the Section League Grievance Committee pertaining to self rate grievances may be appealed only if new information becomes available or the party filing the appeal can demonstrate that the decision is not supported by the record and/or contains errors of rule or material fact. Appeals must be filed with the Chairperson of the Section Grievance Appeal Committee within the time frame specified in the written decision of the Section Grievance Committee. All appeals must be accompanied by a fifty dollar (\$50) filing fee payable to USTA Eastern; fees will be refunded if the appeal is upheld.

B. Sectional NTRP Appeals Committee

The Sectional League Coordinator shall appoint a Sectional NTRP Appeals Committee, to consider appeals from self-rated players.

C. NTRP Disqualification at the local level

Self-rated players may be disqualified from playing at their registered skill level if their dynamic NTRP rating exceeds the level established by the National NTRP Committee (the strike level) three times during the championship year. If a player is disqualified, his last match only will be considered a loss and he becomes ineligible for any future play at that level for the remainder of the league season. Appeals will not be considered except for administrative errors. Computer rated and benchmark players are not subject to dynamic disqualification (see 3.04 A).

D. NTRP Disqualification at District, Regional, and Section Championships

The Eastern Section will run dynamic ratings during its District, Regional, and Section Championships and disqualify those players who meet the NTRP disqualification criteria (three strikes). All matches played by the player shall be considered losses and those matches shall be considered 6-0, 6-0 wins for the opposing player or doubles team. If the Scorekeeper is unable to connect to TennisLink in "real time" during a championship event, upon notice to that effect to the Tournament Committee, that Tournament Committee may make an irrevocable election to suspend Rule 3.04A(2) a and instead follow the procedure outlined in Rule 3.04A(2) b for the event in question.

E. NTRP Disqualification at Championships

At all Championships except Nationals a self-rated player may be disqualified. Disqualification reviews are considered based solely on missing or incorrect information in Tennis Link.

IX. GRIEVANCES – ADMINISTRATIVE POWERS AND PROCEDURES

A. A complaint may be filed by a team captain against a player, captain or team for specific behavior occurring during the current championship season. A complaint may be filed by a local league coordinator, the sectional league coordinator or a championship tournament official against a player, captain or team alleging a violation of the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship, which includes egregious, disruptive or abusive behavior that interferes with the administration of the league at any time.

B. Suspension of captain, player or team

- (1) The Local League Coordinator or the Section League Coordinator, with the prior approval of the Local Grievance Committee, or, where there is no Local Grievance Committee, by the Section Grievance Committee, has the right to summarily suspend the captain, player or team whose behavior has been found not to be in compliance with the regulations and/or violates the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship, including egregious, disruptive or abusive behavior that interferes with the administration of the league.

- (2) The decision whether to grant the suspension approval set forth in subsection B (1) above, shall be made by a majority vote of the available Grievance Committee members, or by a single committee member where the other members are not immediately available and shall be made as soon as practicable but no later than 48 hours after the suspension request from the Local League Coordinator, the Section League Coordinator or tournament official.
- (3) A captain, player and/or team shall be notified of any such suspension in writing by the committee that gave the approval for the suspension as soon as practical but no later than 48 hours following the suspension decision, and shall include a notice to the captain, player and/or team of their right to file a petition to review the suspension to the committee that approved the suspension within 48 hours of the notification of suspension.
- (4) This section shall not apply to Self Rate Grievances and dynamic NTRP disqualifications as described in Section VIII above.

C. Appeals

The decision of the Section League Grievance Committee pertaining to administrative grievances may be appealed if the party filing the appeal can demonstrate that either proper procedures were not followed or that the decision is not supported by the record and/or contains errors of rule or material fact. Appeals must be filed with the Chairperson of the Section Grievance Appeal Committee within the time frame specified in the written decision of the Section Grievance Committee. All appeals must be accompanied by a fifty dollar (\$50) filing fee payable to USTA Eastern; fees will be refunded if the appeal is upheld.

X. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES FOR ALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- A.** A team entry fee may be charged to all teams that compete at Districts, Regionals, and Sectional Championships to offset court costs and other necessary expenses.
- B.** The following paperwork must be forwarded to the Section League Coordinator prior to Section Championships
 - Entry form and fee (by team captain)
 - Media Information form (by team captain)
- C.** The following paperwork must be submitted for teams not involved in playoffs but advancing to Sectionals to the Sectional League Coordinator, at least two weeks prior to Section Championships:
 - Entry form and fee (by team captain)
 - Media Information form (by team captain)



USTA MASTERS AND GRAND MASTERS LEAGUE PLAY REGULATIONS 2009

All USTA Eastern Adult League Regulations, with the following exceptions, shall apply to the Masters or Grand Masters League Divisions.

I. **AGE REQUIREMENT** –

- A. Masters** - All players shall have reached 50 years of age or older within the calendar year in which such player plays his/her first local league match.
- B. Grand Masters** - All players shall have reached 60 years of age or older within the calendar year in which such player plays his/her first local league match.

II. **TEAM** -

- A. Masters** - A local league shall consist of a minimum of six players of the same gender eligible to compete. Levels of play are 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, and 4.5.
- B. Grand Masters** - A local league shall consist of a minimum of six players of the same gender eligible to compete. Levels of play are 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, and 9.0. The combined ratings of the doubles team may not exceed the level they are playing.

III. **MEMBERSHIP** - Each team member shall be a USTA member through the end of National League Season end date.

IV. **TEAM CAPTAIN** - Each team shall have a team captain or co-captains to represent and handle the affairs of the team.

- A.** The team captain is responsible for making sure that all players who compete in matches are registered in Tennis Link prior to match play, and have valid computer or self ratings.

V. **FORMAT** - A local league shall play at least one round robin competition wherein every team plays every other team, and each team must play a minimum of three team matches. A league with only two teams must play at least three matches. In all championships after local league competition, the team match format shall be three doubles matches and the team winning the majority of those three individual matches shall be awarded one team point.

VI. **PARTICIPATION** - A player is limited to 2 Masters or 2 Grand Masters teams per local league season and the teams must be in different flights; players may participate on an Adult team as well during the same season. If

a player receives a higher computer rating for either category at the completion of the season, the player must play at the higher level for Masters, Grand Masters, and Adults the following season.

VII. SCORING – Local leagues may choose a scoring method, which shall be used throughout the local league season:

A. Regular scoring, 2 out of 3 sets, 12-point tiebreaker. A local league may determine an alternate scorekeeping method to be used, e.g. match tiebreaker in lieu of third set, No ad scoring, 9 point tiebreaker, etc.

VIII. ELIGIBILITY - A minimum of four team members who were on the final roster of their local league must be available and eligible to compete at area championships and above. No player may be added to the team roster after completion of local league play. For a Masters player to qualify for any area championship (through sectionals) 2 local matches are required (1 default may count toward this requirement); for a Grand Masters player to qualify for any area championship 1 match is required (one default may count toward this requirement). Refer to Appendix for clarification regarding retirements and/or defaults.

IX. CHAMPIONSHIPS - Winning teams shall advance to a Regional Championship, and if applicable, to Section and National Championships.

A. In order to advance to a national championship a Masters player must have participated in 3 matches on the championship team (no defaults may count toward this requirement).; a Grand Masters player must have participated in 2 matches (no defaults may count toward this requirement.) Refer to Appendix for clarification regarding retirements and/or defaults.

B. Individuals who receive their third strike while participating in another division but following the conclusion of their Masters or Grand Masters championships for a given year will be allowed to advance to the appropriate Nationals at their NTRP disqualified level if they otherwise qualify.



EASTERN

USTA EASTERN 2008-09 MIXED DOUBLES REGULATIONS

All Eastern Mixed Doubles Leagues shall follow the regulations set forth by USTA National League Regulations and the Rules of Tennis and Tournament Regulations. All USTA Eastern Adult League Regulations, with the following exceptions, shall apply to all Mixed Doubles Divisions.

I. FORMAT:

- A.** Mixed Doubles League levels are as follows: 5.0, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, and 10.0. The total of the ratings of the two players of each doubles team may not exceed the level they are playing. To participate in a 5.0 league, a player must have a computer or self-rating of 2.5.
- B.** Two 3.0 players would play on a 6.0 team; a 3.0 and a 3.5 must play on a 7.0 team.
- C.** For the 5.0 league each player in the doubles team must have a 2.5 rating; the other levels are combination levels in which the ratings of players on any doubles team may not be further apart than 1-point increments. For example, on an 8.0 team, a 3.0 player may not play with a 5.0 player, but a 3.5 may play with a 4.5 player.
- D.** Each League shall consist of a minimum of two (2) teams. Any leagues consisting of two teams must play a minimum of three matches.
- E.** Each team shall have a minimum of six (6) players, (three men, three women), and may have additional players.
- F.** Each team must have use of three courts for home matches.
- G.** Each match will consist of three mixed doubles matches; for a match to be considered an eligible match a minimum of two courts must be played.

II. NTRP RATINGS:

- A.** Early start leagues (leagues that begin before 2008 year end ratings are published) will use 2008 Early Start computer ratings (as of September 17, 2008) for players for their mixed local season as well as mixed championships. If player's ratings are changed following publication of final ratings, they will be allowed to finish the season with the rating they had at the time they registered.
- B.** Any mixed leagues that start after year end ratings are published must use the final 2008 computer ratings, which will be those derived from the 2008 league year, including national championships. Any player that registers on a Mixed Doubles team after the final computer ratings have been issued must use their final year-end rating for Mixed Doubles even though the Mixed League is an Early Start League.

- C.** If a player is under the age of 60 during the 2009 Championship year and does not have a computer rating from 2006, 2007 or 2008, they must declare their self-rating when they register for their team on Tennis Link. If a player is 60 years of age or older during the 2009 Championship year and does not have a computer rating from 2007 or 2008 they must declare their self-rating when they register for their team on Tennis Link.
- D.** Players who play Mixed Doubles only will receive a computer rating following the publication of final adult and master's ratings in November 2008.

III. ALL TEAM MEMBERS MUST:

- A.** Register to play on their team through the Tennis Link web site (<http://national.usta.com>) prior to playing their first match.
- B.** Be members of the USTA through the end of the National Tournament.
- C.** Have reached the age of 19 years prior or during the calendar year of the league season.

IV. PLAYER PARTICIPATION

- A.** No individual player is eligible to play for any championship team unless he/she is listed on a team roster for their local league season. Players may NOT be added for flight playoffs. To qualify to participate in any area Mixed Doubles Championship (District, Region or Section), a player must have participated in at least two team matches (1 default may count) during the local league season with the same team. To qualify for National championships a player must have participated in 3 matches (no defaults) and must be a USTA member through the conclusion of the National Championship Tournament. (Refer to Appendix for clarification on retirements and/or defaults).
- B.** Team members may represent public or private facilities.
- C.** Team members may play on more than one NTRP level within a division (adult or masters mixed), providing it is a higher level than their rated level and is no more than one level above their rating. The team member must keep within the local guidelines regarding the percentage of players at level.
- D.** A player may play on more than one team per season as long as it is not the same league level in the same local league. The section has the right to accept or deny participation.
- E.** Players who play on two teams may play on both teams in the same region or section championship provided they are different NTRP levels.
- F.** Players who play on two or more teams at the same level in different regions in the Eastern Section must declare which team they will represent should more than one team qualify for a region or section championship.

V. THE TEAM CAPTAIN MUST:

- A.** Make sure all players are registered through Tennis Link and listed on an official roster and have valid ratings before participating in any match.
- B.** Make sure every player listed on the roster is eligible for play at that level/division.

- C.** Contact the opposing captain at least 48 hours prior to the match to discuss the site and confirm that there are no forfeits.
- D.** Be present at every match or assign someone in his/her place to be the acting captain; designees must be familiar with mixed doubles rules.
- E.** Exchange lineups simultaneously, prior to starting play, and record scores of each match. Sign the scorecards after checking that the scores are written correctly. Both team captains are responsible for inputting scores into Tennis Link within 24 hours. Penalties may occur if scores are not input in a timely manner. Captains may forfeit their right to dispute a scorecard if they do not confirm match results in Tennis Link.

VI. THE LOCAL LEAGUE COORDINATOR WILL:

- A.** Form the Leagues based on levels 5.0, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, and 10.0.
- B.** Make sure scores are confirmed by both captains on Tennis Link within 48 hours.
- C.** Provide the schedule for local teams; suggest 2 hours/match.

VII. THE AREA LEAGUE COORDINATOR WILL:

- A.** Contact the other local league coordinators and arrange area playoffs, in consultation with the Eastern office.
- B.** Submit the awards order form for area awards to the Eastern office.

VIII. MATCH REGULATIONS:

- A.** There is a fifteen minute default rule (inclusive of warm up time) in effect for all local matches. Warm-ups may take no more than ten minutes including service practice; warm up time may be limited to 5 minutes when a player arrives on court after the scheduled start time for the match. All championships, beginning with the District championships, will follow the fifteen-minute default rule. In cases of extenuating circumstances a Local League Coordinator may extend the default time. These circumstances would include, but not be limited to, extreme weather/travel conditions, such as snowstorms, bridge or tunnel closings, fires, tornadoes and major street closings.
- B.** All matches will be 2 out of 3 sets; a 12-point tiebreak (first to 7 by 2 points) will determine the winner if games reach 6-all in any set. Local leagues may use alternate scoring methods, e.g. no-ad scoring in the third set or they may use a match tiebreak in lieu of the third set (first to 10 by 2 points). The scoring system should be determined before the local league season begins.
- C.** Play must be continuous throughout the match. A 2-minute break is allowed following each set. A 10-minute rest between the second and third sets is allowed if one team requests it, AND third sets are played out.

IX. SCORING:

- A.** One team court point is awarded to each winning team.
- B.** Final score would be written as 3-0, or 2-1. The winning team for the match receives one (1) team match point. The team with the most team match points will be the league winner. In the event of a tie, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures:
 - 1. Individual matches-Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.
 - 2. Sets - Loser of the fewest number of sets.
 - 3. Games - Loser of the fewest number of games.
- C.** Defaulted matches. In case of a default, the non-defaulting party shall be credited with such number of games as would have been won if the match was completed and the non-defaulting party won every subsequent game.
- D.** Forfeited matches. The non-forfeiting party shall be credited with a 6-0, 6-0 win.

X. NTRP

- A.** Any player disqualified from Adult or Masters competition may not play at the disqualified NTRP level of play or lower for the remainder of the year and for the succeeding league year.
- B.** Individuals who receive their third strike while participating in another division but following the conclusion of their Mixed Section Championships for a given year will be allowed to advance to the Mixed Doubles Nationals at their NTRP disqualified level if they otherwise qualify.
- C.** A player may not be disqualified based on match results from the Mixed Doubles division. Mixed Doubles will not be a part of generating a player's year-end rating except for those players who play in the Mixed Doubles Division exclusively.

XII. CHAMPIONSHIPS:

- A.** All matches will be the best of two out of three sets, with regular scoring, and a set tiebreak at 6-all in each set. In the event of split sets, a match tiebreak (first to 10 points, win by 2) shall be played in lieu of a third set, with no coaching allowed at any time during the match.

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Each NTRP Level is followed by a letter code indicating the type of rating. The following identifies who can and cannot be dynamically disqualified.

Who cannot be dynamically disqualified based on three strikes:

NTRP followed by

C Computer Player

B Benchmark

Who can be dynamically disqualified based on three strikes:

NTRP Level followed by

A Appealed -all granted appeals

S Self-rated players

M Mixed exclusive players

T Tournament exclusive players

D Dynamic rated players

APPENDIX

<u>2009</u> MATCHES REQUIRED TO ADVANCE FOR EASTERN				
	<i>ANY CHAMPIONSHIP LEVEL</i>		<i>NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP</i>	
	LOCAL MATCHES REQUIRED	DEFAULTS	MATCHES through SECTION CHAMPIONSHIPS	DEFAULTS
USTA League Division	To advance to any championship level through Section Championship	Defaults counting to advance to any championship level through Section Championship	To advance to National Championship	Defaults counting to advance to National Championship
Adult	2 matches	1 default may count	3 matches	NO defaults
Masters (Seniors)	2 matches	1 default may count	3 matches	NO defaults
Mixed	2 matches	1 default may count	3 matches	NO defaults
Grand Masters (Super Senior)	1 match	NO defaults	2 matches	1 default may count
A RETIRED Match shall count for all participants				