2020 Section League Regulations

(updates approved 10-30-19)
(Note: this is the league portion only of the entire Intermountain Section Regulations)

11.
LEAGUES

A. *Local/District League Competition* 1) Eligibility a) USTA membership All individuals who compete in the USTA League Tennis Program must be current members in good standing for the local league season as defined by the District. Any individual who progresses to championship level in the USTA League Tennis program must be a current member through each championship progression. b) Organizational Membership Any team which competes in the USTA League Tennis Program in the Intermountain Section must be affiliated with a club or organization of the USTA in good standing. An independent team may itself become a member organization for this purpose.

2) Reporting of District Participation District League Coordinators must review a report of player participation in their District showing numbers of teams and numbers of players at each level for men and women containing both district totals and breakdowns for geographic areas. This report must be reconciled with the Section League Coordinator. 3) Local League Regulations & Operating Procedures

a) As per regulation 1.00 in the USTA League Tennis National

Regulations, the ITA delegates authority to Districts in certain matters including, but not limited to: (1) Establishing deadlines and procedures for registering teams for local league play on TennisLink in compliance with regulation 1.04C(1). (2) Establishing deadlines for the initial entry of local league match scores into TennisLink in compliance with regulation 1.04C(2). (3) Determining dates for the local league seasons and district championship events in compliance with Section deadlines and regulations 1.04D(3) and 1.04D(4). (4) The Intermountain Section will have no residency requirements for local league play. Exception: A district may regulate residency requirements for teams (flights) that play a local league in a condensed or week-end format. 1.04E(1) (5) Establishing NTRP self-rate appeal committees for local league play in compliance with regulation 1.04F(1)g. (6) Authorizing usage of other USTA -approved scoring methods compatible with the USTA League NTRP Computer Rating System for local league play and district championship events in compliance with regulations 2.01C(3) and 2.03C. (7) Establishing rules to determine when a full team default occurs and for scoring of full team defaults in local league play in compliance with regulations 2.03K and 2.03L. (8) Appointing an NTRP Dynamic Review Committee for local league play in compliance with regulation 2.04D(1). (9) Determining what actions to take when the combination of individual match defaults by the two teams in a team match would result in a

situation where a majority of individual matches would not be played in compliance with regulation 2.01C(2). (10) Developing procedures for additional matches within
flighted leagues in compliance with National Regulations 2.01C(1)a, 2.01C(1)b, and 2.01C(1)c. (11) Authorize participation in more than one NTRP level within an Age Group in the same local league during the same season.

(12) Authorize participation on more than one team within an Age Group in the same NTRP level in the same season provided it is in separate local leagues. b) Each local league shall have a written set of operating procedures that are consistent with and reflective of those set forth in these regulations; they may include rules specific to the needs of the league provided that they do not conflict with the USTA League Tennis Regulations or these regulations. c) Each District League Coordinator shall submit to the Section League Coordinator, for review prior to the start of the league season, copies of all such operating procedures applicable to league competition within his/her District. d) The District League Coordinators shall ensure that every player

who participates in USTA League Tennis competition is given an opportunity to read all operating procedures, USTA League Regulations and ITA league regulations, which apply to him/her. They shall do so, either through direct distribution of said materials to all players, or by written or electronic provision in those operating procedures requiring each team captain to distribute them to all team members.

(13) Determining the option to require, for eligibility to progress to championship level below Sectional Championships, Self-Rated and Valid Computer Rated Appealed players to play up to four matches, on the same team at the same NTRP level in the same Age Group during its local league season and is otherwise eligible. Districts shall also have the option to declare if one default received by the player during local league competition shall or shall not count for advancing. 2.03A(3)b

(14) Determining the competition, team match and scoring formats for championship competition below Section Level. 2.03D (1)

(15) Establishing alternate scoring methods to determine championship winners below Section Level. 2.03E

(16) Determining the order of tie-break procedures for championships below Section Level. 2.03H

B. *Grievance Procedures* 1) Section League Grievance and Appeal Committees The Section League

Coordinator shall appoint a grievance committee consisting of no less than three members, including a chairperson. The committee shall be responsible for grievances in accordance with USTA League Tennis Regulation 2.00 Grievance Procedures. The Section League Coordinator shall also appoint a League Grievance Appeal Committee, composed of not less than three members including a chairperson, to hear appeals of decisions made by the League Grievance Committee. An individual may not simultaneously serve on both committees. All grievances must be filed in writing and forwarded to the USTA Intermountain Tennis Association. In addition, an administration fee of $50 shall be simultaneously sent to the USTA Intermountain Tennis Association in care of the Section League Coordinator. The fee shall be refunded if the grievance is upheld. 2) Local and District League Grievance
Committees Each local league may, subject to the approval of the Section League Coordinator, appoint a Local League Grievance Committee consisting of no less than three persons, including a Chair. The Committee shall be responsible for adjudicating grievances. Each District shall, subject to the approval of the Section League Coordinator, appoint a District League Grievance Committee, consisting of no less than three persons, including a Chair, to adjudicate grievances arising at District Championships. The members thereof may be the same as, or different in whole or in part from, the members of the Championship Committee for the District Championship. 3) Local and District League Appeal Committees Subject to the approval of the Section League Coordinator, each local league may appoint a Local League Appeal Committee consisting of no less than three persons, including a Chair, to consider appeals from rulings of the Local League Grievance Committee. Each district shall, subject to the approval of the Section League Coordinator, appoint a District League Appeal Committee, consisting of no less than three persons, including a Chair, to consider appeals from rulings of the District League Grievance Committee. No member of an appeal committee may be a member of a Grievance Committee. 4) Appeals An appeal from a decision of a Local League Grievance Committee shall be filed with the Local League Appeal Committee. An appeal from a decision of a District League Grievance Committee shall be filed with the District League Committee through the District league coordinator. 5) Reporting of Grievance and Appeal Proceedings District League Coordinators must file copies of all local and District league grievance and appeal proceedings with the Section League Coordinator.

C. *Sectional Championships*

1) Sectional Championship Committee **and Championship Format**

The Sectional Championships shall be directed by the Sectional Championships Committee consisting of a USTA certified referee or umpire, the ITA Adult Programs Committee Chairman and the Section League Coordinator or Appointed Designee. **The Section shall follow the National Championship Competition Format at Section Level Events.**

2) Site Selection

a) The Section League Coordinator shall select the site for the Sectional League Championships and shall ensure that adequate courts, hotel accommodations, banquet facilities and transportation are

secured. b) Each year the Section League Coordinator will schedule and conduct a discussion of possible sites for the following year's Sectional Championships with the Adult Recreation & Competition Committee. 3) Conducting the Sectional Championship(s) The Sectional League Championship is conducted by the Section League Coordinator or appointed designee. 4) Scoring For the USTA League Tennis Sectional Championships (Adult Division – 18 & over, 40 & over, 55 & over Age Groups and Mixed Doubles Division – 18 & over Age Groups) and the ITA Mixed Doubles Sectional Championship, all matches will be the best of two sets, with regular scoring and a set tiebreak (first to 7 points by a margin of 2) at 6-all in each set. In the event of split sets, a match tiebreak (first to10 points by a margin of 2) shall be played in lieu of a third set with no rest period or coaching allowed. 5) District League Coordinator Attendance All District League Coordinators shall be prepared to attend and assist with Sectional Championship events. Attendance will be on an as-needed basis, as determined and coordinated by the Section League Coordinator. The ITA will pay a per diem allowance plus travel and lodging expenses for the District League Coordinators asked to attend. 6) Eligibility

a) No individual player is eligible to compete for a team participating in the Sectional Championships unless he/she has met the minimum participation requirements specified. b) Each team participating in the Sectional Championships
must have been the champion of the preceding level of competition in its NTRP rating category. However, if, for any reason that winning team does not compete in this Championship, the District League Coordinator may designate the second place team to compete in its place. c) Each team participating in the Championship must have available and eligible to play a minimum of eight qualified players (five for 5.0 and 2.5 teams) who were on the team's final roster. The Section Championships Committee has the authority, by majority vote, to reduce that number to not less than six (three for 5.0 and 2.5 teams). d) Prior to the Sectional Championship, each District League Coordinator must forward to the Section League Coordinator the following for each team participating in the event from his/her District: (1) A roster indicating the number of matches required for eligibility for the team and the number of matches played during the local league season by each individual on the roster. (2) USTA membership Expiration Dates of all players on the roster.

(3) Captains' contact information, including phone and e-mail address. 7) Team Notice of Intent to Play a) No later than three days after completion of District Championships or local league, each team qualifying to compete in the Section Championship must notify the District League Coordinator that it will or will not participate in the tournament. The District League Coordinator must in turn, notify the Section League Coordinator of teams attending Sectional Championship. b) Failure to Attend – If a team gives notice that it will participate but then fails to do so, penalties may by administered with the maximum penalty being disqualification of all of its members who had agreed to participate from all league play for the following year. The Championship Committee named for the event where the violation occurs shall decide

upon the penalty. This decision may be appealed to the ITA Section League Grievance Committee. c) Attendance with fewer than minimum number of eligible players –

Any captain who attends a Sectional Championship without the minimum number of players able and eligible to participate may have a grievance filed against him or her which may result in suspension from league participation for the captain and/or any team members at fault as determined by the Section League Grievance Committee This decision may be appealed to the ITA Section League Grievance Appeal Committee. 8) Roving Officials Roving USTA certified referees or umpires may be appointed by the Tournament Director, and may be present during the Championship. 9) Alternate Formats The Section Championships Committee may use alternative USTA approved scoring formats in order to complete the Tournament on schedule in the event that weather or other conditions interfere. 10) Sectional League Championship Grievance Committee The Sectional Championships Committee shall appoint a Sectional Championship League Grievance Committee, which shall adjudicate grievances arising during the Championship. The membership of the Committee may be the same as, or different in whole or in part, from that of the Sectional Championships Committee. 11) Sectional League Championship Appeal Committee The Sectional Championships Committee shall appoint a Sectional League Championship

Appeal Committee, which shall rule on appeals from the Sectional League Championship Grievance Committee. No member of the Sectional League Championship Appeal Committee may be a member of the Sectional League Championship Grievance Committee.

D. *NTRP Procedures*

1) NTRP Grievances at District and Section Championships Any grievance against a player's NTRP rating will be adjudicated after the championship Event.

2) Below the District Championships level (i.e. at the local level) Any player that reaches the disqualified level three times shall be disqualified and will not progress to championship level of competition. All previous matches shall be considered a loss or losses and that individual match or all previous matches shall be considered a win or wins for the opponents season. 3) Championship NTRP Dynamic Disqualifications

a) Dynamic ratings will be calculated for all Adult Division players

through all District and Section Championship events. Through the conclusion of the championship event, any player meeting the criteria of NTRP Dynamic Disqualification will be notified and disqualified with matches reversed as appropriate. Refer to 18.G.3)b) and national regulations 2.04E(2)a and 2.04E(2)b. b) In the event of an NTRP disqualification during a Championship event in single elimination competition, the last individual match played by the disqualified player or doubles team shall be considered a loss for that player or team and shall be considered a win for the opponent(s). In the event

of such a disqualification during a Championship event in a round robin format, all matches played by the disqualified player or doubles team shall be considered losses for that player or team and shall be considered wins for the opponent(s). 4) NTRP Observers at District and Section Championships Verifiers may only be assigned as observers, and administrators of the DNTRP system.

E. *USTA League Tennis Adult Division – 18 & over, 40 & over, 55 & Over Age*

Groups All Age Groups within the USTA League Tennis Adult Division competition will comply with all USTA and ITA League Regulations. NTRP approved levels of play for all age groups shall correspond with USTA league regulation 1.04A. The 55 & over age group shall utilize combined NTRP levels. See chart; “USTA League Program Organization At The National Level”. 1) Participation

a) At any District or Sectional 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 or she will represent. In the absence of a declaration, the first match played will determine which team he or she will represent. Players who qualify to advance to any Sectional Championship for two or more teams at different NTRP levels may do so but should be aware that no special consideration for match scheduling will be given. It is recommended that the player choose a “primary” team. Players rostered on more than one team advancing to National Championships will be subject to national regulations.

F. *USTA League Tennis Mixed Doubles Division – 18 & Over Age Group and 40 & Over Age Group* All Age Groups with the USTA League Tennis Mixed Doubles Division will comply with all USTA and ITA League regulations. NTRP approved levels of play for these age groups shall correspond with USTA league regulation 1.04A. See chart; “USTA League Program Organization At The National Level”. 1) Participation. At any District or Sectional 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 or she will represent. In the absence of a declaration, the first match played will determine which team he or she will represent. Players who qualify to advance to any Sectional Championship for two or more teams at different NTRP levels may do so but should be aware that no special consideration for match scheduling will be given. It is recommended that the player choose a “primary” team. Players rostered on more than one team advancing to National Championships will be subject to national regulations.

G. *ITA Mixed Doubles League Tennis:* ITA Mixed Doubles League Tennis will comply with all USTA and ITA general regulations as well as those outlined in 2.00 in the USTA League Regulations. 1) Levels of play for the ITA Mixed Doubles League will be 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, and 9.5. 2) Minimum NTRP level for 5.5 is 2.5; 6.5 is 2.5; 7.5 is 3.0; 8.5 is 3.5; 9.5 is

4.0. 3) Teams will consist of a minimum of six players. Each player must play at

least two local league matches during the local league season in order to qualify to compete with the team in the District League Championships, if held, and Section League Championships. 4) At any District or Sectional 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 or she will represent. In the absence of a declaration, the first match played will determine which team he or she will represent. Players who qualify to advance to any Sectional Championship for two or more teams at different NTRP levels may do so but should be aware that no special consideration for match scheduling will be given. It is recommended that the player choose a “primary” team