2020 USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS

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July 30, 2019

(To be printed on inside back cover)

<table>
<tr><th colspan="4">VALID NTRP COMPUTER
RATINGS FOR 2020</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">2020 League Year</td><td colspan="3">Players who are 59 years or under during the 2020 League Year will have their most current computer rating displayed in TennisLink. They must self-rate if their NTRP rating is older than 3 years.

*Exception: A player who receives a published (M) or (T) rating and chooses to participate in the Adult Division will be required to self-rate even if the (M) or (T) rating is less than 3 years old.

X indicates the years of valid computer rating in TennisLink for play in 2020</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Players who will be 60 years or older during the 2020 League Year will have their most current computer rating displayed in TennisLink. They must self-rate if their NTRP rating is older than 2 years.

*Exception: A player who receives a published (M) or (T) rating and chooses to participate in the Adult Division will be required to self-rate even if the (M) or (T) rating is less than 2 years old.

X indicates the years of valid computer rating in TennisLink for play in 2020.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Last Year Computer Rating Received</td><td>2017</td><td>2018</td><td>2019</td></tr>
<tr><td>Age 59 or Under during 2020 League Year</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>X</td></tr>
<tr><td>Age 60 or Over during 2020 League Year</td><td></td><td>X</td><td>X</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">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 of the NTRP rating level assigned.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Computer ratings are valid based on this table.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Self-ratings are valid for 2 years from the date issued or until replaced by a dynamic or computer rating.</td></tr>
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(To be printed on inside back cover)

NTRP DYNAMIC DISQUALIFICATION

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

Who *cannot* be NTRP dynamically disqualified?

NTRP Level followed by the letter:

	C	Computer Rated Players *
	M	Mixed Exclusive Players **
	T	Tournament Players **

Who *can* be NTRP dynamically disqualified? Participants in the Adult Division:

	NTRP Level followed by the letter:	
	A	Appealed – all granted appeals including Medical and Promoted Players 60 or Over
	S	Self-rated Players
	D	Dynamic or NTRP Grievance Disqualified Players
	C	Exceptions to C year-end ratings as noted *

Players participating in the Adult Division 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.
Exceptions:

* Players who entered an Early Start League at an NTRP Level lower than their current year-end rating are subject to NTRP dynamic disqualification.

** Year-end (M) and (T) rated players are required to self-rate to enter the Adult Division, automatically become (S) rated players and therefore become subject to NTRP dynamic disqualification.

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(To be printed on page facing inside back cover)

MATCHES REQUIRED TO ADVANCE TO CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR ADULT AND MIXED DIVISIONS

SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AND BELOW			NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	
LOCAL MATCHES REQUIRED	**DEFAULTS THAT COUNT**		**TOTAL MATCHES REQUIRED THROUGH SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP**	**DEFAULTS THAT COUNT**
To advance to **any** championship level through Sectional Championship	To advance to **any** championship level through Sectional Championship		To advance to National Championship	To advance to National Championship
2 matches on the same team	1 default received shall count		All players other than self-rated and computer-rated appealed players: 3 matches on the same team	1 default received shall count
Section Option to require Self-rated and computer-rated appealed players to play 4 matches on the same team	Section Option to declare if 1 default received shall or shall not count		Self-rated and computer-rated appealed players 4 matches on the same team	No default received shall count
RETIRED matches shall count for all players.				

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USTA LEAGUE
MAJOR REGULATION CHANGES FOR 2020

1. 1.04A Changing Adult 40 & Over format for National Championships to 1 singles, 3 doubles. Conforming changes to the following regulations: 1.04D(4); 2.01A(1)b, c, e, f; 2.03A(5); 2.03D; 2.03E; 2.03H(2)e; 2.03K; 3.03B(3)a.

2. 1.04E(3) Players must be 18 years of age prior to participating in the USTA League program.

3. 1.04F(1) Clarifying language regarding players re-entering leagues with expired NTRP ratings.

4. 2.01A Below level players are not allowed to play #1 positions when participating in plus (+) level matches

5. 2.03A(4) Eligibility to advance to National Championships for self-rated and computer-rated appealed players requires playing at least four (4) matches on the same team at the same level in the same Age Group. No defaults received count.

6. 2.03E Sectional Associations may use alternate scoring methods to determine championship winners.

7. 2.03H Sectional Associations may determine the order of tie-break procedures for their championships; tie-break procedures for National Championships are clarified.

8. 2.03K The Championship Committee has the authority to file a grievance when match default(s) given by a team has a material impact on the Championship's standings.

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(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 the USTA League. The USTA NTRP Computer Rating System assigns ratings based on play in the local league and at championships and select NTRP tournaments.

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 the USTA League. It is a mathematical system that assigns computer ratings to players by direct and indirect comparison of match results obtained from the USTA League and select NTRP tournaments.

3. A valid NTRP rating level is in effect for two years for individuals 60 years of age or older prior to, or during, the League Year and for three years for individuals 59 years of age or under, or until another valid NTRP rating level is generated. (See *Valid NTRP Computer Ratings Table* – inside back cover)

4. Players with a valid NTRP rating level must enter at that level or higher. (See *Valid NTRP Computer Ratings Table* – inside back cover)

5. Players in the USTA League without a valid computer rating must self-rate in accordance with the *General & Experienced Player Guidelines – Supplement to 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 during the local league season or championship play. To avoid NTRP Dynamic Disqualification, these players should enter at a higher NTRP level of play at the beginning of the local league season.

6. In the USTA League Adult Division, 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, District/Area through Sectional Championships.

7. At the USTA League Adult Division National Championships, players will continue to generate dynamic ratings through their last match played, but there will be no NTRP Dynamic Disqualifications at National Championships.

8. After the USTA League Adult Division National Championships, year-end NTRP published levels will be calculated using USTA NTRP Computer Rating System Procedures approved by the USTA League Committee.

9. In the USTA League Mixed 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 unless the player has a valid Computer (C) rating from a previous year.

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USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS
2020 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/Area or Local League does not have a regulation in place to address an issue and there is a national regulation on that issue, the Section, District/Area or Local League must follow the national regulation.

1.01 NAME. The USTA Board of Directors has approved the adoption of rules and regulations for the 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 the USTA League (unless modified by these USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS). 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 Sectional, District/Area or Local Association or by any Sectional, District/Area or Local League Coordinator**.** Any violation of this Regulation shall be subject to such penalties as may be imposed by the USTA League Committee. Such penalties 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 10 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. (See *1.04D(2)*).

1.02C Written Interpretation. A committee comprised of the Chair and Vice Chair of the USTA League Committee and the National League Administrator has the authority and the responsibility to provide written interpretations of USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS in the *USTA League Questions and Answers (Interpretations)*.

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.

1.02E Committees. Each committee referenced in the USTA League Regulations shall consist of a minimum of three members, including a chair. All decisions shall be by majority vote. The members of a committee may be the same as, or different in whole or in part from, the committee first approved.

1.03 NON-DISCRIMINATION. Discrimination in the USTA League is prohibited as specified in the Bylaws of the United States Tennis Association.

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1.04 USTA LEAGUE.

1.04A USTA League Program. The USTA League is a team competition for men, women and mixed genders 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 District/Area, Sectional and National Championships to determine annually USTA League National Championship teams in each approved level of competition. The USTA League is approved by USTA without necessity of a sanction application (See *FRIEND AT COURT* XVII B).

USTA LEAGUE PROGRAM ORGANIZATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL			
DIVISION	**AGE GROUP**	**LEAGUE FORMAT**	**NTRP LEVELS**
Adult	18 & Over	1 – Singles 2 – Doubles	2.5 women, 5.0+
	18 & Over	2 – Singles 3 – Doubles	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5
	40 & Over	1 – Singles 3 – Doubles	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5+
	55 & Over	3 – Doubles	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0
Mixed	18 & Over	3 – Doubles	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0
	40 & Over	3 – Doubles	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0

1.04B Administration.

1.04B(1) USTA League Committee.
The 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 shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the USTA League.

1.04B(3) Sectional Associations. The USTA has 17 Sectional Associations, the names and territories of which are defined in the USTA Bylaws. Each Sectional 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(3)a Sectional League Coordinators. Each Sectional Association shall appoint a Sectional League Coordinator to implement and administer the USTA League.

1.04B(3)b District/Area League Coordinators. Each District/Area may have a District/Area League Coordinator to implement and administer the USTA League. The District/Area shall have such geographic boundaries as the Sectional Association may determine.

1.04B(3)c Local League Coordinators. Each Local League may have a Local League Coordinator to implement and administer the USTA League.

1.04B(4) Team Captain. Each team shall appoint a captain to manage team activities and to represent the team in USTA League matters**.**

1.04B(5) Championships Committees. A Championship Committee, one of whom may be 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 Sectional and District/Area Associations at their respective championships. The Chair of the

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USTA League Committee shall appoint the Championship 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. A player's name must be listed on the team roster, as shown in 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 shall establish deadlines and procedures for registering teams in 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. Each Section should establish deadlines and procedures for reporting scores in TennisLink. Unless otherwise established by a Section, the initial entry of match scores into TennisLink must take place within 48 hours of the completion of the match. After match scores have been entered in TennisLink, they must be confirmed by the opposing team within 48 hours of the initial entry or the initial score will automatically be considered valid.

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 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 Sectional Association shall determine the dates for the season(s) of the local leagues within its Section. The local league season ends on the date entered in TennisLink as the league season end date.

1.04D(4) Team. A team shall consist of players eligible to compete at a specific NTRP level of competition in accordance with the following table. A Section may limit the number of players on a team who have an individual NTRP level lower than the team NTRP level. A Section may also limit the number of players who appear on a team roster, but may not have fewer than the minimum number of players as shown in the following table:

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TEAM COMPOSITION				
DIVISION	**AGE GROUP**	**MINIMUM NUMBER OF PLAYERS**	**GENDER**	**NTRP LEVEL**
Adult	18 & Over 2.5 women & 5.0+	5	Same Gender	A player's NTRP rating level shall not exceed the team NTRP level except for 18 & Over 5.0+ and 40 & Over 4.5+.
	18 & Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	8	Same Gender	
	40 & Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5+	7	Same Gender	
	55 & Over Straight Levels 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 **OR** Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0	6	Same Gender	When using straight NTRP levels, a player's NTRP rating level shall not exceed the team NTRP level. Combined NTRP rating levels of partners shall not exceed the team NTRP level. NTRP rating level difference between partners shall not exceed 1.0. The minimum NTRP Level for: 6.0 is 2.5; 7.0 is 3.0; 8.0 is 3.5 9.0 is 4.0.
Mixed	18 & Over Straight Levels, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0 **OR** Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0,10.0 40 & Over Straight Levels 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 **OR** Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0	3 men 3 women	Men and Women	When using straight NTRP levels, a player's NTRP rating level shall not exceed the team NTRP level. Combined NTRP rating levels of partners shall not exceed the team NTRP level. NTRP rating level difference between partners shall not exceed 1.0. The minimum NTRP Level for: 6.0 is 2.5; 7.0 is 3.0; 8.0 is 3.5 9.0 is 4.0; 10.0 is 4.5.

1.04D(5) Two Team Leagues. If any Adult Division Age Group consists of only two teams in a level of play, each team must maintain its roster with at least 40 percent of its players at the designated NTRP level of play. The exception is the Adult Division 55 & Over Age Group that uses combined NTRP rating levels and will not be required to comply with this Regulation.

1.04E Player Eligibility.

1.04E(1) Domicile and Residency Requirements. Any individual who competes in the USTA League must be domiciled within the boundaries of a USTA Sectional 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

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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. Players must be 18 years of age prior to participating in the USTA League program. Each player over the age of 18 shall have reached the required minimum age prior to or during the calendar year in which such player participates in his or her first local league.

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 USTA LEAGUE 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); and the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship.

1.04E(5) Waiver of Claims. Players participating in the USTA League acknowledge the risks associated with playing competitive tennis, accept those risks voluntarily, and in consideration of their acceptance in the USTA League 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 the 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) rated player or a Mixed Exclusive (M) rated player who does not have a valid computer (C) rating from a previous year and chooses to participate in the Adult Division, must self-rate to be assigned a new rating, reassigned to their last expired rating or a higher rating based on their playing history to enter the USTA League Program as shown in the following table:

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NTRP RATING LEVEL FOR ENTRY INTO LEAGUE PLAY		
DIVISION	**AGE GROUP**	**PLAYER'S NTRP RATING LEVEL**
Adult	18 & Over 40 & Over 55 & Over Straight NTRP Levels	Current NTRP level and/or up to one level higher than the player's current NTRP level. 18 & Over 5.0+ level may have up to two players from the next higher NTRP level on a team roster 40 & Over 4.5+ level may have up to three players from the next higher NTRP level on a team roster
	55 & Over Combined NTRP Levels	Combined NTRP rating levels of partners shall not exceed the team NTRP level. NTRP rating level difference between partners shall not exceed 1.0. The minimum NTRP Level for: 6.0 is 2.5; 7.0 is 3.0; 8.0 is 3.5; 9.0 is 4.0.
Mixed	18 & Over 40 & Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0 Straight NTRP Level	Current NTRP level and/or up to one level higher than the player's current NTRP level.
	18 & Over 40 & Over Combined NTRP Levels	Combined NTRP rating levels of partners shall not exceed the team NTRP level. NTRP difference between partners shall not exceed 1.0. The minimum NTRP Level for: 6.0 is 2.5; 7.0 is 3.0; 8.0 is 3.5; 9.0 is 4.0;10.0 is 4.5.

1.04F(1)a Rating levels are derived in accordance with the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System Procedures. Once a player is assigned a valid Computer (C) NTRP rating level, it is valid for the Adult and Mixed Divisions for all players 59 years of age or under for three consecutive years or until another NTRP published rating level is generated. For players 60 years of age or over, a valid Computer (C) NTRP rating level is valid to play in the Adult and Mixed Divisions for two consecutive years or until another NTRP published rating level is generated. (See Reg.1.04F(1)b and c and *Valid NTRP Computer Ratings Table* -– inside back cover).

1.04F(1)b Mixed results will not be part of generating a player's year-end rating, except for those players who participate in the Mixed Division exclusively. A player who plays in the Mixed Division exclusively will receive a published Mixed Exclusive (M) rating level at year-end unless they have a valid Computer (C) rating level from a previous year on file in TennisLink. A published (M) rating level is valid to play in the Mixed Division exclusively and will be in effect for players 59 years of age or under for three consecutive years and for players 60 years or older for two consecutive years or until another published NTRP rating level is generated. A player who plays exclusively in the Mixed Division and subsequently chooses to participate in the Adult Division must enter by using a valid Computer (C) rating from a previous year. If such player does not have a valid (C) rating from a previous year, he or she must self-rate with the minimum NTRP rating level being the higher of the self-rating or valid Mixed Exclusive (M) rating.

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1.04F(1)c A player who plays exclusively in NTRP tournaments and subsequently chooses to participate in the Adult Division must enter that Division by using a valid Computer (C) rating from a previous year. If such player does not have a valid (C) rating from a previous year, he or she must self-rate with the minimum rating being the higher of the self-rating or valid 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. Players who allow someone else to complete the self-rating process for them will be ultimately responsible and held accountable for information submitted or omitted. Failure to self-rate in accordance with the *Guidelines*, or omission of information regarding a player's tennis history, will subject the player as well as the captain and/or others who completed, assisted, condoned and/or approved an inappropriate self-rating to penalties and suspension. Players whose self-ratings are determined to be inaccurate or inappropriate shall be disqualified. (See Reg. 3.03E(1)a).

1.04F(1)e Self-ratings are valid for two years from the date issued or until replaced by a dynamic or computer rating. If there is a change in their playing experience the player may appeal their rating up at that time or they may be promoted by the Sectional coordinator.

1.04F(1)f 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 level. However, when assigned an NTRP rating level by TennisLink, the player will have the opportunity to file a Self-Rate Appeal.

1.04F(1)g Each Sectional Association shall designate a committee to handle Self-Rate Appeals for those who appeal their assigned self-rating level. This committee may be the same, in whole or part, as the Sectional League Grievance Committee that handles NTRP Grievances. Players who appeal their rating and anyone acting on their behalf will abide by the Self-Rate Appeals Committee's decision without further right to appeal same, except that the Committee may reconsider its decision in the event there has been a clear factual error made by the Committee. Players granted an appeal of their self-rating may be subject to NTRP Grievance based only on newly discovered or missing information not previously considered. (See *General & Experiences Player Guidelines – Supplement to the NTRP Guidelines*.)

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

1.04G Player Participation Eligibility.

1.04G(1) League players may play in the USTA League Adult and Mixed Divisions during the same local league season.

1.04G(2) A player may play on only one team in an NTRP level within an Age Group 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 on more than one team in an NTRP level within an Age Group in the same season provided it is in separate local leagues. The Section has the authority to accept or deny participation.

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

1.04G(5) A player may play up to one NTRP level higher than the player's current NTRP level.

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 or 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 or she will represent. In the absence of a declaration, the first match played will determine which team he or she will represent.

1.04G(8) A player may participate in only one individual match within each team match.

1.04G(9) A player who participates in the USTA League in violation of any provision of Section 1.04G *Player Participation Eligibility*, shall be subject to an Eligibility Grievance as defined in Section 3.02D *Eligibility Grievance*.

1.05 Official Ball. In USTA League matches, a standard Type 2 USTA approved ball shall be used. The use of any USTA “transition” ball is prohibited.

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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 and Mixed Divisions except for Reg. 2.04 NTRP DYNAMIC DISQUALIFICATION AND REVIEW PROCEDURES which shall apply only to the USTA League Adult Division.

2.01 LOCAL COMPETITION.

2.01A NTRP Levels of Play.

2.01A(1) When using straight NTRP levels, a player cannot have an NTRP rating higher than the NTRP level in which the player is competing except in the 5.0+ NTRP level of the Adult Division, 18 & Over and in the 4.5+ NTRP level of the Adult Division, 40 & Over. Adult Division, 18 & Over 5.0+ team rosters may include up to two (2) players from the next higher NTRP level. Adult Division, 40 & Over 4.5+ team rosters may include up to three (3) players from the next higher NTRP level.

In Plus (+) NTRP levels utilizing four or less individual matches constituting a team match:

2.01A(1)a In Plus (+) NTRP levels utilizing four or less individual matches within a team match, no more than one Plus (+) level player shall be allowed to play in a team match and shall be required to play in a #1 position, either singles or doubles.

2.01A(1)b In the 5.0+ level a player who is rated 4.5 is not eligible to play in the #1 singles position.

2.01A(1)c In the 4.5+ level a player who is rated 4.0 is not eligible to play in the #1 singles position.

In Plus (+) NTRP levels utilizing five individual matches constituting a team match:

2.01A(1)d Two (2) Plus (+) level players may play in a team match and shall be required to play in either (i) both in the #1 doubles position or (ii) one player in the #1 singles position and one player in the #1 doubles position.

2.01A(1)e In the 5.0+ level a player who is rated 4.5 is not eligible to play in either #1 position.

2.01A(1)f In the 4.5+ level a player who is rated 4.0 is not eligible to play in either #1 position.

Note: If the NTRP ratings of the players available and on-site for a team match would result in an individual match default at the #1 position(s), a lower level player may play at the #1 position(s), provided no available at level player is playing below the #1 position(s). In such case(s) 2.01A(1)b, 2.01A(1)c, 2.01A(1)e, or 2.01A(1)f shall be waived.

2.01A(2) When using combined NTRP levels, the combined NTRP rating levels of the doubles team cannot exceed the combined NTRP level in which the players are competing;

2.01A(3) The NTRP difference between members of an individual doubles team may not exceed 1.0.

2.01A(4) USTA League NTRP levels in the local league and at championships are approved in accordance with the following table:

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NTRP LEVELS OF PLAY				
DIVISION	**AGE GROUP**	**LOCAL LEAGUES**	**ALL CHAMPIONSHIPS BELOW NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**	**NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**
Adult	18 & Over	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 women, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0+
	40 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5+	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5+	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5+
	55 & Over	Straight Levels 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 **OR** Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0	Straight Levels 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 **OR** Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0	Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0
Mixed	18 & Over	Straight Levels 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0 **OR** Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0	Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0	Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0
	40 & Over	Straight Levels 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0 **OR** Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0	Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0	Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0

2.01B Men, Women and Mixed Doubles. Men's and women's leagues shall be separate at each approved NTRP level in the Adult Division. Leagues in the Mixed Division are comprised of a man and a woman who combine to play in each individual match. The local league shall determine which of these approved NTRP levels in Reg. 2.01A(4) shall be available for men, women and mixed genders 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. When any NTRP level consists of only two teams, each team is required to play a minimum of three team matches, which is a triple round robin. When any NTRP level consists of only three teams, each team is required to play a minimum of four team matches, which is a double round robin. 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.

2.01C(1)a Each Sectional Association may permit additional matches, selected randomly, within a flight.

2.01C(1)b Each Sectional Association may permit additional cross-flight matches in which each team in one flight plays an equal number of matches in the other flight, selected randomly if not a full round robin.

2.01C(1)c Each Sectional Association may permit the top teams in a flight to play an additional round robin to determine advancement, and the teams without a mathematical chance to advance may play an additional round robin.

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

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the local league. Each team must have the minimum number of players available to play the majority of individual matches. If one team does not have the minimum number of players, the opposing team will be credited with a total team default, and will win each individual match 6-0 6-0. If neither team has the required minimum number of players, the match shall be scored as a double team default, and neither team will receive credit for a win. In the case of a team default or double team default any individual matches actually played will count only for NTRP ratings and eligibility for advancement and cannot count for determining standings.

If both teams have the minimum number of players available to play, but the combination of individual defaults by the two teams would result in the majority of matches not being played, the teams must follow the procedure(s) established by the Sectional Association, to ensure that a majority of individual matches are played.

Each Sectional Association shall establish procedures to determine the 1) flight standings in the event of a team default or double team default and 2) actions to take when the combination of individual defaults given by the two teams in the team match results, or would result, in a situation where the majority of the individual matches are not played. If no such procedures have been established, the match will result in a double team default.

2.01C(3) Match Scoring and Formats. It is recommended that all matches be the best of three tiebreak sets with a match tiebreak in lieu of a third set. The match tiebreak shall be scored as one set and one game for tiebreak purposes. For play at or below the Sectional level, the Sectional 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 and timed matches. No-Ad scoring can be used with any of the 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 championship 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* for championship competition.) The scoring in the event of a default or disqualification shall be 6-0, 6-0. Retirements shall be scored as described in 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 Line-Ups. The team captain for each team shall exchange their team line-up simultaneously prior to the beginning of the team match. No substitution may be made in an individual match after the line-up 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 a Sectional Association may authorize. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute player is entitled to a five minute warm-up. The default principles in Reg. 2.03K *Team Defaults* and *2.03L Scoring of Team Defaults* shall be applicable.

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 if otherwise eligible.

2.02A(2) Local League Champions. At the conclusion of local league competition, the Local League Coordinator shall certify to the Sectional 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 Sectional Association.

2.02B Championships.

2.02B(1) District/Area Championships. Each Sectional Association shall determine and announce a method of progression suitable for its geographic boundaries for advancement of its local league teams to Sectional League Championships. Such progression may include one or more championships below the Sectional Championships.

2.02B(2) District/Area and Sectional Championship Events. Each Sectional Association shall determine the dates of the championships within the Section. Each championship event ends on the date entered 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.

2.02B(3) Sectional Championships. Each Sectional Association shall hold a Sectional League Championship in each National approved NTRP level for each Division and Age Group, on or before the date specified by the USTA League Leadership, to determine its Sectional champions. The winning team at each NTRP level and Age Group shall be allowed to compete in the USTA League National Championships if otherwise eligible. If the winning team at any NTRP level of competition is unable to compete further towards the National Championships, then the Sectional League Coordinator may select the second place team for such further competition, etc.

2.02B(4) National Championships. The team winning the National Championship in each NTRP level of competition in each Age Group of the Adult and Mixed Divisions shall be the USTA League National Champion.

2.03 DISTRICT/AREA, SECTIONAL AND NATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS.

2.03A Eligibility.

2.03A(1) The District/Area or Section has the authority to determine the progression of teams to its championship competition by determining a champion of the preceding level of competition in its NTRP category or by using the *Championships Wildcard Procedures*. Champions of the preceding level of competition must be included in the progression if otherwise eligible.

2.03A(2) Participation. A player may participate in only one individual match within each team match.

2.03A(3)a In the Adult and Mixed Divisions, a player is eligible to progress to championship level competition below National Championships if that player has played on the same team in at least two matches at the same NTRP level in the same Age Group during its local league season and is otherwise eligible. A maximum of one default received by the player during local league competition shall count for advancing. Retired matches shall count toward advancing for all players involved in both USTA League Divisions. (See *Matches Required to Advance to Championships Table.)*

2.03A(3)b Sections shall have the option to require, for eligibility to progress to championship level competition below National 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. Sections 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(4) In the Adult and Mixed Divisions, all players other than Self-Rated and Valid Computer Rated Appealed Players are eligible to advance to National Championship competition if that player has played on the same team in at least three matches at the same NTRP level in the same Age Group through Sectional Championships and is otherwise eligible. A maximum of one default received by the player during local league or championship competition shall count for advancing.

All Self-Rated and Valid Computer Rated Appealed players are eligible to progress to National Championship competition if that player has played on the same team in at least four matches at the same NTRP level in the same Age Group during its local league season and is otherwise eligible. No defaults received by the player during local league or championship competition shall count for advancing.

Retired matches shall count toward advancing for all players involved in both USTA League Divisions. (*See Matches Required to Advance to Championships Table.*)

2.03A(5) At all Championships, a minimum number of team members as shown in the following table, 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 required minimum number of team members may be reduced with an approved waiver, but to not less than the minimum as noted in the following table. At Sectional Championship level and below, the Championship Committee may grant such a waiver. At the National Championships a committee comprised of the USTA League Chair, Vice-Chair and the National League Administrator may grant such a waiver.

MINIMUM NUMBER OF TEAM MEMBERS REQUIRED AT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS			
DIVISION	**AGE GROUP**	**MINIMUM NUMBER AT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**	**MINIMUM NUMBER WITH APPROVED WAIVER AT ALL CHAMPIONSHIPS**
Adult	18 & Over 2.5 women & 5.0+	5	3
	18 & Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	8	4
	40 & Over	7	5
	55 & Over	6	4
Mixed	18 & Over 40 & Over	3 Men 3 Women	2 Men 2 Women

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 Championship Committee at each level of league championships prior to the deadline announced for entry into the event.

2.03C Scoring. It is recommended that all matches be the best of three tiebreak sets with a match tiebreak in lieu of a third set. The tiebreak shall be scored as one set and one game for tiebreak purposes. For championship play at or below the Sectional level, the Sectional 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, or a single set with a set or match tiebreak at 6-all. No-Ad scoring may be used with any of the these scoring methods.

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2.03D Championship Competition Formats.

2.03D(1) Championship Competition Format at Section Level Events and Below. The Sectional Association shall determine the competition, team match and scoring formats for the championship competitions.

2.03D(2) Competition Format at National Championships. The USTA League Committee shall determine the competition, team match and scoring formats for National Championships.

2.03E Team Match and Scoring. A team match will consist of the matches as shown in the following table. The team winning the majority of individual matches will be awarded one team point at National Championships. Sectional Associations may either follow the National Championships scoring format or determine a method of awarding points in order to determine the winning team of a championship competition. For each team match, a majority of the individual matches must actually be played by the two teams to constitute a valid team match. The Championship Committee has the authority to determine the actions to take when the combination of individual match defaults given by the two teams in the team match would result in a situation where the majority of the individual matches would not be played.

<table>
<tr><th colspan="3">TEAM MATCH AND SCORING AT ALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS</th></tr>
<tr><th>DIVISION AND
AGE GROUP</th><th>TEAM MATCH</th><th>ONE TEAM POINT
AWARDED FOR</th></tr>
<tr><td>Adult 18 & Over
3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5</td><td>2-Singles
3-Doubles</td><td>3 individual matches won</td></tr>
<tr><td>Adult 40 & Over</td><td>1-Singles
3-Doubles</td><td>3 individual matches won;
If tied 2-2, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following methods to do so:
a) Sets: Loser of the fewest number of sets.
b) Games: Loser of the fewest number of games.
c) Game Winning Percentage: Total games won divided by total games played</td></tr>
<tr><td>Adult 18 & Over
2.5 women & 5.0+</td><td>1-Singles
2-Doubles</td><td rowspan="2">2 individual matches won</td></tr>
<tr><td>Adult 55 & Over
Mixed 18 & Over
Mixed 40 & Over</td><td>3-Doubles</td></tr>
</table>

2.03F Substitutions. No substitution may be made in an individual match after the line-up 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 Championship Committee may authorize. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute player is entitled to a five 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:

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2.03H(1) For Sectional Championships and below, in the event of a tie, the Sectional Association has the authority to determine the order of the following procedures that will be used to break the tie. The tiebreak procedure order will be published by the Sectional Association. If a Section, District/Area or Local League does not have a regulation in place to address a tie, the Section, District/Area or Local League must follow the national regulation.

2.03H(2) For National Championships, in the event of a tie, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:

2.03H(2)a Individual Matches. Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.
2.03H(2)b Head-to-Head. Winner of head-to-head match only if all tied teams have played each other and one team defeated all the teams that are tied.
2.03H(2)c Sets. Loser of the fewest number of sets.
2.03H(2)d Games. Loser of the fewest number of games.
2.03H(2)e Game Winning Percentage: Total games won divided by total games played
2.03H(2)f 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. For the purpose of determining standings, 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 in 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 following table 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 defaulting team captain in accordance with the following table:

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ALLOWABLE DEFAULTS AT ALL CHAMPIONSHIPS				
DIVISION	**AGE GROUP**	**MINIMUM NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE PLAYERS REQUIRED TO BE AVAILABLE PER MATCH**	**MAXIMUM NUMBER OF POSITIONS THAT CAN BE DEFAULTED**	**REQUIRED POSITION(S) AND ORDER OF MATCH DEFAULTS**
Adult	18 & Over 2.5 women & 5.0+	3	1	No. 1 Singles **Or** No. 2 Doubles
	18 & Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 40 & Over 3.0, 3.5 4.0, 4.5+ (using 5-court format)	4	2	Singles: No. 2 Singles before No. 1 Singles Doubles No. 3 Doubles before No. 2 Doubles, and No. 2 Doubles before No. 1 Doubles
	40 & Over 3.0, 3.5 4.0, 4.5+ (using 4-court format)	5	1	No. 1 Singles Doubles No. 3 Doubles before No. 2 Doubles, and No. 2 Doubles before No. 1 Doubles
Adult	55 & Over	4 players who are eligible to combine and compete	1	No. 3 Doubles
Mixed	18 & Over 40 & Over			

2.03K(1) The Championship Committee has the authority to file a grievance and recommend the actions to take when multiple match default(s) given by one team result in a situation that may materially impact the championship's standings. Team penalties may include but are not limited to, non-advancement, disqualification or suspension. (See Regulation 3.03A(7)).

2.03L Scoring of Full Team Defaults. If a team defaults an entire team match for any reason during round robin play, that team is ineligible to continue play at that championship. All matches of the defaulting team already played shall be null and void when determining standings but will be used for ratings and advancement purposes. If all teams with a mathematical chance to advance have played the defaulting team in good faith, those matches shall stand as played when determining standings. The Sectional Association may impose further penalties on the defaulting 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, for the purpose of determining standings, 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/doubles team won every subsequent game. For NTRP computer data entry in TennisLink, mark as *retired* and submit actual scores of the match at the point of retirement.

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2.04 NTRP DYNAMIC DISQUALIFICATION AND REVIEW PROCEDURES.

2.04A Applicability. The Regulations in this section are applicable only to the USTA League Adult Division.

2.04B NTRP Dynamic Disqualification Procedures. Dynamic ratings will be calculated for all Adult Division players during local league competition and at every level of championship competition including 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 *NTRP Dynamic Disqualification Table* – inside back cover, will be dynamically disqualified if they reach the disqualification level three times based on all matches except retirements received.

2.04B(1) Local League NTRP Dynamic Disqualification. Players who are NTRP dynamically disqualified will be notified by the Sectional 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 NTRP Dynamic Disqualifications processed at National Championships. Players who are NTRP dynamically disqualified at any championship including Nationals will be notified by the Sectional League Coordinator or designee and have the right to a review in accordance with procedures in Reg. 2.04C *NTRP Dynamic Disqualification Review Procedures*. The Section shall choose one of the following options for NTRP Dynamic Disqualifications at each Sectional Championship 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 who meets the criteria for NTRP Dynamic Disqualification and reverse appropriate matches played. (See Regs. 2.04E(2)a and b for championship scoring procedures when NTRP Dynamic Disqualifications are done throughout the championship competition.)

2.04B(2)b Run dynamic calculations after the conclusion of the championship and disqualify those players who meet the criteria for NTRP Dynamic Disqualification. Matches played will stand. (See Reg. 2.04E(2)c for championship scoring procedures when NTRP Dynamic Disqualifications are done after the conclusion of championship competition.)

2.04B(3) After an NTRP Dynamic Disqualification, the player may not play at the disqualified NTRP level of play or any lower NTRP level of play in either singles or doubles for the remainder of the Championship Year and for the succeeding Championship Year including any subsequent National Championships the player is qualified for. In any Division using combined levels, the combined NTRP rating of the disqualified player and partner may not surpass the level of competition. A player who has been moved up as a result of an NTRP Dynamic Disqualification in the Adult Division must immediately adjust his/her NTRP level of play in the Mixed Division.

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 registration has not closed.

2.04B(5) Individuals who receive their third strike while participating in an Early Start League (ESL) must immediately adjust their NTRP level of play. Such players may not participate at the disqualified NTRP level in a previous year's championship for which they may have qualified.

2.04B(6) In the local leagues and at District/Area or Sectional 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.

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

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 Sectional 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 written request for a review shall be delivered by the recipient 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, Sectional 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 or designee. The written request for a review shall be delivered by the recipient 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) The Sectional Association shall appoint an NTRP Dynamic Disqualification Review Committee at the Sectional level and at championships below the National Championships to consider reviews of NTRP Dynamic Disqualifications. The Sectional Association may delegate such authority to the District/Area which may not be further delegated. The committees shall be appointed with the approval of their respective 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 Sectional, District/Area Committees or Championship Committees below the National level.

2.04D(3) The Committee Chair or designee 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 Done Throughout Championship Competition When Using a Round Robin Format or Segment. If the Section chooses to calculate 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 Done Throughout Championship Competition When Using a Single Elimination or Segment. If the Section chooses to calculate dynamic

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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 6-0, 6-0 win for the opposing player or doubles team.

2.04E(2)c NTRP Dynamic Disqualification Done After Conclusion of Championship Competition. If the Section chooses to calculate dynamic ratings and disqualify after the conclusion of the championship, all points earned by dynamically disqualified players at the championship will stand but the disqualified players will not be allowed to continue or advance.

2.05 YEAR-END NTRP COMPUTER RATINGS AND APPEAL PROCEDURES.

2.05A Applicability. Regulations in this section are applicable to the Adult and Mixed 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, such ratings shall be the minimum NTRP rating levels of players.

2.05B(1) A year-end NTRP computer rating is valid for three consecutive years or until a new valid NTRP level is published for players who are 59 years of age or under through the League year, except for players with a published Mixed Exclusive "M" or Tournament "T" rating who choose to participate in the Adult Division. (See *Valid Computer Ratings Table* - inside back cover).

2.05B(2) A year-end NTRP computer rating is valid for two consecutive years or until a new valid NTRP level is published for players 60 years of age or older prior to or during the League year, except for players with a published Mixed Exclusive "M" or Tournament "T" rating who choose to participate in the Adult Division. (See *Valid Computer Ratings Table* - inside back cover).

2.05B(3) Early Start League players must abide by the following procedures when they receive a year-end computer rating that places them at a higher NTRP level at which they are competing:

2.05B3(a) Players who are found to have valid computer ratings, after the appeal process, that place them at the *clearly above level* mark must immediately adjust to their new NTRP level. Prior team matches played are valid.

2.05B3(b) Players who are found to have valid computer ratings, after the appeal process, that place them at a higher level at which they are competing may continue their participation at the lower NTRP level through the conclusion of any Early Start League in progress or until such other date or championship level as determined by the Section. They shall not be permitted to advance to any National Championship at the lower NTRP level. Prior team matches played are valid.

2.05B3(c) Players on a 2.5 team who are found to have valid computer ratings, after the appeal process, that place them higher than the 2.5 NTRP level may continue their participation through all championships at the 2.5 level UNLESS their year-end rating reached the *clearly above level* mark. If it did, they must immediately adjust to their new NTRP level. Prior team matches played are valid.

2.05C Appeal of Year-End Ratings. Year-end NTRP valid computer rating levels may be appealed or denied through TennisLink except for 2.05D *Medical Appeals*.

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

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of such rating level in accordance with *USTA League NTRP Medical Appeal Procedures – Questions and Answers.*

2.05D(1) Each Sectional Association shall designate a Medical Review Committee(s) to evaluate medical appeals. The members of the Committee are to be approved by the Sectional League Coordinator.

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 Chair of the USTA League Committee shall appoint a National Medical Appeal Committee to evaluate all medical appeals forwarded from the Sectional Associations. No member of the National Medical Appeal Committee shall have been a member of the Section designated Medical Review Committee who forwarded the medical appeal.

2.05D(4) 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(5) 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 Promotion of Players 60 or Over and 65 or Over

2.05E(1) Any player who is 60 years of age or older prior to, or during, the calendar year in which such player plays his or her first local league match and has achieved the same rating level or lower for his or her three most recent year-end ratings, without benefit of appeal of the player's year-end rating, will automatically be granted an appeal (A rating) if promoted, subject to 2.05E(3) below. NTRP Dynamic Disqualification procedures as outlined in 2.04B(3) apply.

2.05E(2) All players age 65 or over, if promoted, will automatically be granted an appeal (A rating) of their current rating back to their previous valid year-end rating, subject to 2.05E(3) below. NTRP Dynamic Disqualification procedures as outlined in 2.04B(3) apply.

2.05E(3) Any player who is *clearly above level* under the applicable Computer Methodology procedures, as defined in the Glossary, will be denied an appeal of his or her year-end rating under 2.05E(1) and 2.05E(2).

2.06 MOVE-UP/SPLIT-UP.

2.06A National Championship Teams.

2.06A(1): Move-Up - Teams and team members that advanced to, or qualified for, any National Championship may play together as a team, in whole or in part, if they move up one NTRP team level.

2.06A(2): Split-Up - No more than three (3) players who were on the roster of any team that advanced to, or qualified for, any National Championship team the previous year may play together in the same Division, same Age Group and at the same NTRP team level as the National Championship team(s), if their NTRP rating allows. Split-Up requirements only apply to players who participated in three (3) or more matches (including one default) for that team during the championship year.

2.06A(3): 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 advanced to, or qualified for, any National Championship the previous year and chooses to move up one NTRP team level.

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2.06B Section Options for Move-Up/Split-Up.

2.06B(1) All Championships Below Nationals. Sections shall have the right to decide whether a team who competes at any championship level below the National Championships must move-up or disperse to form new teams for the next championship year and under what conditions.

2.06B(2) Sections shall have the option to restrict crossover between Adult and Mixed Divisions and/or between some or all Age Groups notwithstanding Section 2.06A.

2.07 CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYERS.

A championship player's computer rating achieved as a result of play in National Championships may not be appealed down after the Championship Year it is received except as in Reg. 2.05D *Medical Appeals* and Reg. 2.05E *Promotion of Players 60 or Over and 65 or Over.*

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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. Any Section may, but shall not be required to, honor the sanction(s) imposed in another Section (at the conclusion of the original Section's grievance period and process). Sections choosing to honor the sanction(s) of another Section shall mirror the original sanction exactly; no appeals of any kind will be accepted in the honoring Section(s).

3.01A Grievance Committees.

3.01A(1) Local. Each local league shall appoint a Local League Grievance Committee.

3.01A(2) Sectional and District/Area. Each Sectional Association shall appoint a Sectional Association League Grievance Committee and each District/Area shall appoint a District/Area League Grievance Committee.

3.01A(3) Championships Grievance Committees.

3.01A(3)a Sectional and District/Area Championships. Each Sectional Association shall appoint a Sectional Association League Championship Grievance Committee and each District/Area shall appoint a District/Area League Championship Grievance Committee.

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

3.01B Grievance Appeal Committees. No member of a Grievance Committee may serve as a member of a Grievance Appeal Committee that is considering an appeal of a grievance that was adjudicated by the Grievance Committee on which that person served.

3.01B(1) Local. Each local league shall appoint a Local League Grievance Appeal Committee.

3.01B(2) Section and District/Area. Each Sectional Association shall appoint a Sectional Association League Grievance Appeal Committee and each District/Area shall appoint a District/Area League Grievance Appeal Committee.

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 Section and District/Area Championships. Each Sectional Association shall appoint a Sectional Association League Championship Grievance Appeal Committee and each District/Area shall appoint a District/Area League Championship Grievance Appeal Committee.

3.01B(4)b National Championships. The Chair of the USTA League Committee shall appoint National League Championship Grievance Appeal Committees. The members may be the same as, or different in whole or in part from, the members of the National League Championship Committees.

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3.02 GRIEVANCE TYPES.

3.02A General Grievance. Any grievance, other than those defined in Regulation 3.02B *Administrative Grievance*, 3.02C *National League Grievance,* 3.02D *Eligibility Grievance* and 3.02E *NTRP Grievance*, alleging a violation of (i) the USTA Constitution and Bylaws; (ii) the USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS; (iii) 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); or (iv) the standards of good conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship, shall constitute a General Grievance.

3.02B Administrative Grievance. Any grievance pertaining to administration of the League Program at any level shall constitute an Administrative Grievance. Captains and committee members are not subject to Administrative Grievances.

3.02C National League Grievance The only National League Grievance that can be filed is an Administrative Grievance against the National League Administrator**.**

3.02D Eligibility Grievance. Any grievance, other than an NTRP Grievance, contending that a player and/or team has failed to meet eligibility requirements to participate in the USTA League, shall constitute an Eligibility Grievance.

3.02E NTRP Grievance. Any grievance contending that a player's NTRP level is lower than his/her actual skill level shall constitute an NTRP Grievance. (See Reg. 3.03E(1) *Players Subject to NTRP Grievances.*)

3.03 GRIEVANCES.

3.03A General Procedures.

3.03A(1) Any grievance alleging a violation of (i) the USTA Constitution and Bylaws; (ii) the USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS; (iii) 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); or (iv) the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship, shall be filed in writing with the USTA League Grievance Committee responsible for enforcement. Exceptions to filing a grievance with the USTA League Grievance Committee responsible for enforcement are noted in Regs. 3.03A(3) and 3.03A(4) regarding filing a grievance against a Sectional League Coordinator or the National League Administrator and in Regs. 3.03B(3)a regarding eligibility.

3.03A(2) An Administrative Grievance at the District/Area level or below shall be filed at the next level with the Sectional Association being the final authority. An Administrative Grievance may be filed by a captain, Local, District/Area League Coordinator, Sectional League Coordinator or a member of a Championship Committee. An Administrative Grievance shall be filed within one year of the incident leading to the grievance, or the grievance shall be barred.

3.03A(3) Any Administrative Grievance against a Sectional League Coordinator shall be filed in writing with the Sectional League Committee. The decision of the Sectional League Committee shall be final and binding.

3.03A(4) Any Administrative Grievance 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(5) Any grievance with regard to any aspect of the USTA League, except those governed by Regs. 3.03A(3) or 3.03A(4) regarding a grievance against a Sectional League Coordinator or the National League Administrator or in Reg. 3.03B(3)a regarding eligibility, shall be processed through the USTA League Grievance and Grievance Appeal Committees at the appropriate level (i.e.,

Local, District/Area, Sectional 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).)

3.03A(6) Any grievance 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 Championship Committee, except for Administrative Grievances, Eligibility Grievances and NTRP Grievances, which may be filed as stated in Regs. 3.03A(2), 3.03B(3), 3.03C(3) and 3.03E(2).

3.03A(7) Regardless of any other regulation, a league coordinator or a member of a Championship Committee may file a grievance at any time, except for Administrative Grievances and NTRP Grievances. (See Regs. 3.03A(2) and 3.03E(3).)

3.03A(8) 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 reversed.

3.03B Local League Procedures.

3.03B(1) Any grievance alleging a violation by an individual or team during local league competition shall be filed in writing with the Local or District/Area League Coordinator or designee having jurisdiction. The grievance 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 24 hours after the end of the local league season, except for Administrative Grievances (See Reg. 3.03A(2), Eligibility Grievances (See Reg. 3.03B(3), and NTRP Grievances (See Reg. 3.03E(3).)

3.03B(2) Upon receipt of the grievance, the Local or District/Area League Coordinator or designee shall immediately send a copy to the Chair of the appropriate League Grievance Committee, or other Committee as designated in these USTA League Regulations, and to the party(ies) against whom the grievance has been filed.

3.03B(3) Any grievance regarding failure to meet eligibility requirements may be filed by a team captain, league coordinator or member of a Championship Committee at any time.

3.03B(3)a For eligibility matters of simple fact (e.g., age, USTA membership, TennisLink registration, below-level player in a plus (+) league) 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*, and 1.04F *Official League Rating Program, and 2.01A1(b, c, e, f. NTRP Levels of Play).*

3.03B(3)b All other grievances must go to the appropriate League Grievance Committee or other Committee as designated in these USTA League Regulations.

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 the local league season, all matches played by the disqualified 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 for determining standings. In case of an eligibility disqualification in single elimination, the last individual match played by the disqualified player shall be considered a win for the opposing player or doubles team and scored 6-0, 6-0 for determining standings. 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, Reg. 2.03H *Procedures in the Event of a Tie* shall be used in order to determine a winner of the team match.

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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) Any grievance alleging a violation during championship competition shall be in writing and delivered to the duly appointed site director or designee prior to whichever occurs first: (a) within 30 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, except for Administrative Grievances (See Reg. 3.03A(2)), Eligibility Grievances (See Reg. 3.03B(3)) and NTRP Grievances (See Reg. 3.03E(3)).

3.03C(2) At the time a grievance is filed, a copy of the grievance shall be sent by the Championship Committee to the party(ies) against whom the grievance has been made.

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

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

3.03C(4)a Eligibility Disqualification That Occurs Prior To or After the Conclusion of a Championship Event. 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 Eligibility Disqualification That Occurs During a Championship Event When Using a Round Robin Format or Segment. 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 for determining standings. If a double disqualification results in a tie, the tiebreak procedure shall be the same as in Reg. 2.03H *Procedures in the Event of a Tie,* in order to determine a winner of that team match.

3.03C(4)c Eligibility Disqualification That Occurs During a Championship Event When Using a Single Elimination Format or Segment. In case of a disqualification in single elimination format during the championship event, the player will not be allowed to continue or advance on that team and 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 for determining standings. If a double disqualification results in a tie, the tiebreak procedure shall be the same as in 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) Upon the receipt of a grievance and as soon as reasonable, the League Grievance Committee shall investigate the alleged violation as it deems appropriate. If the Committee deems necessary, it shall arrange for a hearing at which the parties involved shall have the opportunity to present evidence.

3.03D(2) The USTA League Grievance Committee shall have the power to dismiss or deny the grievance or to direct the correction of any violations by reasonable means, including the suspension of an individual or team. This is applicable to any party to the grievance as long as such party has been given the opportunity to review and present evidence.

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3.03D(3) The 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 send copies to the parties involved.

3.03E NTRP Grievances.

3.03E(1) Players Subject to NTRP Grievances.

3.03E(1)a Any self-rated player who is playing at an NTRP level lower than his/her actual skill level is subject to an NTRP Grievance. If an NTRP Grievance Committee determines that the self-rated player has an inaccurate or inappropriate self-rating, the player shall be disqualified and have his/her NTRP level adjusted by the NTRP Grievance Committee. Scoring of matches played by the disqualified player, per Reg. 3.03E(6), may be administered in accordance with Reg. 3.03B(4) *Scoring of Eligibility Disqualification in Local League* and Reg. 3.03C(4) *Scoring of Eligibility Disqualification for Championships.* The NTRP Grievance Committee may additionally impose other penalties against a player who has inappropriately self-rated, including suspension. Also, a captain or others who have completed, assisted, condoned or approved inappropriate self-rating will be subject to such penalties as the NTRP Grievance Committee may decide, including suspension.

3.03E(1)b A player with a valid NTRP Computer (C) rating or granted an Automatic Appeal (A) rating of a Computer (C) rating is not subject to an NTRP Grievance. Players 60 or over and players 65 or over who are promoted and granted an appeal per Reg. 2.05E are also not subject to an NTRP Grievance. Any other player is subject to an NTRP Grievance including players with granted Medical Appeals.

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

3.03E(3) NTRP Grievances may be filed against a player at any time up to 48 hours after the conclusion of the Sectional Championship of the player's team, whether or not the player participated. 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/District/Area League Coordinator or designee having jurisdiction. NTRP Grievances shall be administered by the Sectional League NTRP 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 administered by the Sectional League NTRP 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 Sectional League NTRP Grievance Committee reaches such decision and sends notification to the parties involved. The date and time that the Sectional League NTRP Grievance Committee sends notification controls the assessment of penalties, 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) After an NTRP Grievance Disqualification, the player may not play at the disqualified NTRP level of play or any lower NTRP level of play in either singles or doubles for the remainder of the Championship Year and for the succeeding Championship Year. In any Division using combined levels, the combined NTRP rating of the disqualified player and partner may not surpass the maximum permitted combined level for that Division. A player who has been moved

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up as a result of an NTRP Grievance Disqualification in the Adult Division must immediately adjust his/her NTRP level of play in the Mixed Division.

3.03E(8) After an NTRP Grievance Disqualification in an Early Start League (ESL), the player must immediately adjust his/her NTRP level of play. The player may not participate at the disqualified NTRP level in a previous year's championship for which the player may have qualified.

3.03E(9**)** The Sectional League NTRP 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(ies) to the grievance 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) The party(ies) appealing shall file a written notice of appeal with the appropriate coordinator or designee, who shall send it to the Chair of the appropriate Grievance Appeal Committee, the Chair of the Grievance Committee whose decision is being appealed, the Local, District or Sectional League Coordinator, and to the other party(ies) involved in the grievance.

3.04A(3) The party(ies) appealing shall have an opportunity to submit, in writing, facts and arguments in support of their respective positions. All information submitted shall be provided to all parties.

3.04A(4) Play During Grievance Appeal Procedures.

3.04A(4)a If the grievance was upheld, the individual is subject to all penalties imposed by the Grievance Committee during the appeal process.

3.04A(4)b If the grievance was dismissed or denied and then appealed, the party(ies) may participate during the appeal process but must understand that the decision of the Grievance Committee may be remanded for reconsideration.

3.04B Grievance Appeal Committee Action.

3.04B(1) The Grievance Appeal Committee 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 party(ies) 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 grievance 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, remand for cause, or reject the decision of the Grievance Committee. The Grievance Appeal Committee shall not impose a harsher penalty than that imposed by the Grievance Committee. For the purpose of clarification, should the Grievance Committee elect to not impose a penalty, the Grievance Appeal Committee may not impose a penalty; however, the Grievance Appeal Committee may, for cause, remand the matter to the original Grievance Committee or a new Grievance Committee for reconsideration.

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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, District/Area, or Sectional 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.

3.04C National League Grievance Appeal Committee Action.

3.04C(1) The National League Grievance Appeal Committee shall hear appeals from individuals/teams suspended for a period of 12 months or more by a Local, District/Area, or Sectional 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 by the Committee in its absolute discretion and to affirm, modify, remand for cause or reject the decision of the Grievance Appeal Committee, but may not impose a harsher penalty. (See Reg. 3.04B(3).) However, the National League Grievance Appeal Committee may, for cause, remand the matter to the original Grievance Committee or a new Grievance Committee for reconsideration.

3.04C(3) A copy of the National League Grievance Appeal Committee's written decision setting forth 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 mail, fax, e-mail or equivalent communication.

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GLOSSARY.

Area: See District.
Appeal: Request for reconsideration of a previous decision, determination or finding.
Championship Level: Any USTA League competition held after local league competition.
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: An alternative procedure that may be used with the Set Tiebreak or Match Tiebreak where ends are changed after the first point, then after every four points, and at the end 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. (See FRIEND AT COURT – Part 3: USTA Reg. I.E.(1)c.)
Competition Format: Round robin, unflighted, single elmination or a combination of these.
Computer Rating: A rating assigned to players 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.
District: Geographic boundaries fixed by a Sectional Association within their Section that represents a subdivision of the Sectional Association. This term may be interchanged with the terms Area, State, Region and Territory**.**
Division: National League Programs (Adult and Mixed) offered and administered by the USTA and any other USTA League sanctioned program offered in a Section, District or Area, 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: Requirements 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.
Forfeits: See Default
Grievance: A written formal complaint regarding an alleged violation of a regulation or procedure.
Inaccurate self-rating: A self-rating that occurred as a result of no willful intent on behalf of the player whether by the player or one acting on behalf of the player (i.e., captain, coach, etc.).
Inappropriate self-rating: A self-rating that occurred as a result of willful intent to misrepresent a player's level of play, whether by the player or one who condones or acts on behalf of the player (i.e., captain, coach, etc.).
Individual Match: Any singles or doubles match played as part of a team match.
League Coordinator: A person appointed or hired to implement and administer USTA League.
League Progression: Local league team winners have the opportunity to advance through District/Area, Sectional and National Championships competition.
Level of Play: NTRP skill levels offered in the USTA League Program.
Local: Geographic boundaries fixed by a District within their District.
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.
Match Tiebreak: First to 10 by a margin of 2. (See FRIEND AT COURT – Part 3: USTA Reg. I.E.1.b.)
Mixed: A team comprised of a man and woman who combine to play.

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New Player: An individual who is playing in the Championship Year of his/her first year of competition in the USTA League Program.
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 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.
Plus (+) NTRP Level: An NTRP level which allows a team roster to include a specified number of players from the **next** higher NTRP level.
Plus (+) Player: A player who is allowed to register on a specific NTRP Plus (+) level roster with a rating that is at the **next** higher NTRP level.
Rating: See Computer Rating, Dynamic Rating, NTRP Level, Self-Rating.
Remand: To send the grievance back to either the original Grievance Committee or a new Grievance Committee, as the Grievance Appeal Committee deems appropriate, for reconsideration.
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 or 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 tiebreak 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 (e.g., 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 (i.e., 2-6, 6-3, 1-0 or 2-6, 6-3, 6-0 depending on scoring format) for determining standings.
Returning Player: An individual who has played in a previous Championship Year and is now going to play in the current Championship Year.
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. I.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 matches or any combination as determined by the local league.
National Championship Team Match: Adult 18 & Over Group (3.0, 3.5, 4,0, 4.5 Levels) – 2 singles, 3 doubles; Adult 18 & Over Age Group (2.5 women & 5.0+ NTRP levels) - 1 singles, 2 doubles; Adult 40 & Over Age Group (3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5+ Levels) – 1 singles, 3 doubles; Adult 55 & Over Age (6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0 or 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 NTRP Levels) – 3 doubles; Mixed 18 & Over (6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0 and 10.0 NTRP Levels) and 40 & Over (6.0, 7.0, 8.0 and 9.0 NTRP Levels) Age Groups - 3 doubles.

Tiebreak Procedures: Process to determine the winner of a team competition if the teams are tied.
Transition ball: Any Stage 3 (Red), Stage 2 (Orange) and Stage 1 (Green) ball.
USTA League Leadership: A committee comprised of the Chair and Vice Chair of the USTA League Committee and the National League Administrator.
USTA Section: One of 17 defined areas that comprise the USTA.
Valid Computer Rating: An NTRP computer rating that has not expired and is based on accurate player history.
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 USTA League Program.

Waiver of Rules: Except where specifically permitted, no USTA League Regulation or Procedure may be disregarded.
Willful Intent: An act is done willfully and knowingly when the individual intends to do it and knows the

nature of the act will achieve the intended result.
Year-End Rating Level: A published NTRP level generated after the Adult Division National Championships each year

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