

# 2021 USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS COVID-NECESSITATED Championship Requirements and Progression Amendments

## Background

As COVID restrictions are lifting, many players have returned, or will, to compete in USTA Leagues. The USTA League Program provides organized recreational play, emphasizing local competition. The League program also provides an opportunity for advancement for winning teams from local competition to District/Area and Sectional Championships, culminating with USTA League National Championships.

As the pace and level of the lifting of COVID restrictions varies across the country, National League staff and volunteers (with input from players, local USTA staff, facilities and others) have evaluated how to best facilitate the most opportunities for League play, for the greatest number of players. This evaluation included how to support the best Championships experience for advancing teams and players.

Please see the following summary of what has changed, and what has not, for the USTA League Program for the Championship Year 2021 (including references to corresponding sections of the 2021 USTA League Regulations).

## CHANGES (Approved April 20, 2021)

- **Competition Format and Progression Requirements**
  - **2.01C(1)d** Each Sectional Association may adjust the Competition Format requirements specified in 2.01C(1), including 2.01C(1)a, b or c, to establish a local league champion for that NTRP level. These adjustments may take any form deemed most appropriate by that Sectional Association.
  - **2.02A(3)** Each Sectional Association may adjust the Progression requirements specified in 2.02A(1) Local League Competition and 2.02A(2) Local League Champions. These adjustments may take any form deemed most appropriate by that Sectional Association to advance a team to the next level of competition if otherwise eligible. Any team that has already won their local league competition must be included in the progression.
- **Championships**
  - **2.02B(3)a** If a Sectional Association is unable to hold a Sectional League Championship in each National approved NTRP level for each Division and Age Group, on or before the date specified, the Sectional Association may determine its Sectional champions in any manner deemed most appropriate by that Sectional Association which meets the requirements under 2.03A(2) Participation and 2.03A(3)a Participation and 2.03A(4).
- **Required Matches**
  - **2.03A(2) Participation.** A player may participate in only one individual match within each team match.
  - **2.03A(3) Below National Championships**
    - **2.03A(3)a** In the Adult and Mixed Divisions, each Section may determine a player's eligibility to progress to championship level competition below National Championships. Such determination must meet all requirements under 1.04E, 1.04F and 1.04G.

No Section may require, for eligibility to progress to championship level competition below National Championships, that any player, other than a Self-Rated or Valid Computer Rated Appealed player, play more than two 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 have the option to declare if a maximum of one default received by such 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*.)



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- **Required Matches continued**

- **2.03A(4)** In the Adult and Mixed Divisions all players are eligible to advance to National Championship competition if that player has played on the same team in at least two matches at the same NTRP level in the same Age Group through Sectional Championships and is otherwise eligible. No default 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*.)

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 <b>any</b> championship level through Sectional Championship	To advance to <b>any</b> championship level through Sectional Championship	To advance to National Championship	To advance to National Championship
Section Option to determine  May not exceed 2 matches on the same team	Section Option to determine  May not exceed 1 default <u>received</u> shall count	All players:  2 matches on the same team	No default <u>received</u> shall count
Section Option to require Self-rated and computer-rated appealed players to play up to 4 matches on the same team	Section Option to declare if 1 default <u>received</u> shall or shall not count	No additional matches are required for self-rated and computer-rated appealed players for eligibility for 2021 National Championships	
RETIRED matches shall count for all players.			

- **Move-Up/Split-Up** – To conform with the reduction in required matches for eligibility to advance to a National Championship:
  - **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 two (2) or more matches (with no default received) for that team during the championship year.

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### UNCHANGED

- **Team requirements** – regarding NTRP rating level (including between partners) and roster limits (1.04D(4) and 1.04F(1)).
- **Player Participation Eligibility** – including playing in more than one Division during the same local season, on multiple teams, in multiple flights and at multiple NTRP levels (1.04G).
- **Match Scoring and Formats** – Sectional Associations retain the option to authorize the use of any scoring method compatible with the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System for play at the Section level and below.
- **Championship Competition Format** (Section Level Events and Below) – Sectional Associations shall determine the competition, team match and scoring formats for their championship competitions (2.03D).
- **Team Match and Scoring** – 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 (2.03E).
- **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; stated procedures will be followed for players that reach the NTRP Dynamic Disqualification criteria (2.04B).
- **Year-end Computer Ratings** – All current regulations including duration of validity of ratings, and requirements for Early Start League Players remain the same (2.05B)
- **Ratings Appeals** – the Appeal requirements and process remain the same (2.05C and 2.05D).
- **Promotion of Player 60 or Over** – All regulations remain the same (2.05E).  
**Move-Up/Split-Up** – 2.06A will apply to teams advancing to or qualifying for any 2021 National Championship and only to players who participated in two (2) or more matches (with no default received) for that team during the championship year. Sections options under 2.06B remain the same.