



***2021/2022 USTA  
EASTERN/Metro  
TRI LEVEL  
LEAGUE  
REGULATIONS***

***December 14, 2021***

## 2021/2022 USTA EASTERN/METRO TRI-LEVEL DOUBLES REGULATIONS

All Eastern Tri-Level Leagues shall follow these regulations and the USTA Eastern Adult League Play Regulations as documented herein and follow “The Code”.

Administrative errors shall be corrected by the SLC. Clerical error should not determine the outcome of a league. SLC has authority to determine how an affected match will be corrected.

- Women’s and Men’s team, any three adjacent levels (i.e., 4.5-4.0-3.5, 4.0-3.5-3.0, 3.5-3.0-2.5).
- Lower rated players are permitted to “play up” one court. (For example: a 4.0 may play up to 4.5 or a 3.0 player may play up to 3.5 but not to 4.0). Players may not play on a court below their rating.
- Each team shall have a minimum of six (6) registered players but are encouraged have additional players.
- Each match will consist of three doubles matches, one at each level. Format is order of strength – e.g., 1<sup>st</sup> doubles 4.5, 2<sup>nd</sup> doubles 4.0, 3<sup>rd</sup> doubles 3.5. If there is a default, players are not required to move up to a higher level court.
- A Match Tiebreak will be used in lieu of a third set (1<sup>st</sup> to 10 by 2)
- To qualify for Regional or Sectional Championships a player must have played a minimum of 1 match (defaults do not count)
- Winning teams may advance to a Sectional Championship for the 4.5-4.0-3.5 level and 4.0-3.5-3.0 level. Sectional winners may be eligible to participate in a national invitational tournament; eligibility criteria for the invitational tournament are at the discretion of the National Tournament Director and not the Eastern Section.
- Metro leagues will use Time Limitation Rules for all local league matches as follows:  
Matches cannot be extended over the 2 hour time period. Please do not try to talk club staff into letting you play on. This will jeopardize the league being able to use the clubs.
  - a. Unfinished Matches (matches not completed within 2 hours)
  - b. **FIVE MINUTE RULE:** if 5 minutes or more remain before the end of the match, players MUST start and attempt to complete the next game/tiebreak. If less than 5 minutes remain, do NOT start a new game/tiebreak.
  - c. A game or a tiebreak in progress should be completed unless circumstances make it impossible to do so (players are waiting to use the court, club maintenance staff is waiting for the courts or the club turns off the lights).
  - d. Official Match Clock - If a clock is visible from the courts, then players must go by the time on that clock. If clocks are not present on the court, the captains must clearly define the match start and ending device for each court at the time of scorecard exchange. (A cell phone may be used for timekeeping purposes only.)
- Scoring for Unfinished matches is as follows:
  - a. In the match (10 pt) tiebreak: Every attempt should be made to finish the match tiebreak. If it is impossible to finish the tiebreak, then the match is a tie with split sets. An incomplete match tiebreak does not count.
  - b. Split sets, with no time left to start the match tiebreak: The points for that court are split.
  - c. If the 2<sup>nd</sup> set is unfinished: Only completed games count.
  - d. The team that won the first set, and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> set the score is tied or on serve, wins all the points.
  - e. The team that won the first set and is ahead in the 2<sup>nd</sup> set by 1 break or more, wins all the points.
  - f. The team that won the first set but is losing the 2<sup>nd</sup> set by 1 break or more, points are split.
  - g. A game in progress at the end of the time period is not counted.

- **Ratings:**

Players shall start local league play using their 2019 year end rating or a valid self rating.

**4.5-4.0-3.5 level:** To advance to the National Invitational Tournament a player must have a valid “C” rating after 2021 Year End Ratings have been published. More specific details of rating are outlined below under “Accepted Rating Types for 2022 National Invitational.” The same eligibility requirements will apply for participation in Regionals and Sectionals.

- 2019 Computer rated players (C ratings only) may continue to play at their 2019 C rating for Regionals and Sectionals unless the player is bumped up two levels when 2021 year end ratings are published. If a player is bumped up two levels they shall play at their 2021 year end C rating.
- 2019 S, M, A and T players shall only advance to regionals and sectionals if they receive a 2021 year end C rating, and then they shall play at their 2021 year end C rating.
- Players who appeal their 2021 year end rating are not eligible to play at their appealed level. Players are only eligible to play at the C rating initially received when 2021 year end ratings were published.
- All players who had a 2019 “C” rating must play at that level for Regionals, Sectionals and the National Invitational, even if they were bumped down in 2021 YE ratings.

**Note:** National Regulations supercede Eastern regulations and shall be followed. For Regionals and Sectional Championships, Eastern will follow the player eligibility, including any future changes, for the National Invitational Tournament

All other levels: self-rated players may play, and at the 4.0-3.5-3.0 level, are allowed to advance to Sectional Championships based on the following parameters:

- 2019 Computer rated players (C ratings only) may continue to play at their 2019 C rating for Regionals and Sectionals unless the player is bumped up two levels when 2021 year end ratings are published. If a player is bumped up two levels they shall play at their 2021 year end C rating.
- 2019 S, M, A and T may continue at their current rating only if they did not receive a 2021 rating. S, M, A and T players who did receive a 2021 rating must switch to that rating on 1/1/22.

#### Accepted Rating Types for 2022 National Invitational

**Computer “C” Rated Players:** Players must have a valid “C” rating after 2021 Year End Ratings have been published in order to participate in the Tri Level National Invitational to be held in 2022.

**Question:** If a “C” Computer generated player who competes in 2021 gets bumped up when Year End ratings are released, can they still participate at the NTRP level they played at in 2021?

**Example:** 3.5 “C” Computer rated player gets bumped up to 4.0 “C”. Can they still play in the invitational at 3.5 “C”?

**Answer:** Yes, as a “C” Computer generated player, this player MAY play in the Tri-Level National Invitational held in 2022 at the NTRP level they played at in 2021.

**However, SHOULD A PLAYER MOVE UP TWO LEVELS AT YEAR END THEY MUST PLAY AT THEIR NEW HIGHEST LEVEL INSTEAD OF THEIR ORIGINAL ROSTERED LEVEL.**

Example a 3.5C rated player earns a 4.5C rating with 2021 Year End Ratings they must play at the 4.5 level.

Question: If a "C" rated player appeals their 2021 Year End Rating Down and is now showing as an "A" appealed player, are they able to play at their lower appealed rating?

Answer: No. If a player earned a "C" year end rating in 2021 and they appealed their rating down through tennislink and now have a valid "A" rating, they will be allowed to play but at the "C" rating level they earned in 2021.

For example if a player earned a 4.0 C rating and they appeal their rating down to a 3.5 A, they **may** play at the Tri Level invitational as a 4.0 rated player.

"S" Self rated, "A" Appealed, "M" Mixed, or "T" Tournament players may only play if they earn a "C" Computer year-end rating when 2021 Year End Rating are published and they must play at the "C" rating level that they earned with the 2021 Year End Ratings.

Question: If a "S" Self rated, "A" Appealed, "M" Mixed, or "T" Tournament player who competed in 2021 gets bumped up at 2021 Year End Ratings, can they still participate at the NTRP level they played at in 2021?

Example: A 3.5 "S" Self rated, "A" Appealed, "M" Mixed, or "T" Tournament player gets bumped up to 4.0 "C". Can they still play in the 2022 event at the 3.5 level?

Answer: No. A "S" Self rated, "A" Appealed, "M" Mixed, or "T" Tournament player **MAY ONLY PLAY IF THEY EARNED A "C" COMPUTER YEAR-END RATING IN 2021 AND THEY MUST PLAY AT THE "C" COMPUTER RATING LEVEL THAT THEY EARNED DURING 2021 YEAR END RATINGS.**

Example: A "S" Self rated, "A" Appealed, "M" Mixed, or "T" Tournament player gets bumped up to 4.0 "C" they must play at the 4.0 NTRP level at the Tri Level Invitational held in 2022. Please note that a "S" Self rated, "A" Appealed, "M" Mixed, or "T" Tournament 4.5 player who got bumped up to 5.0 "C" **WOULD NOT** be eligible to play in the event held in 2022.

**All players who had a 2019 "C" rating must play at that level for Regionals, Sectionals and the National Invitational, even if they were bumped down in 2021 YE ratings.**

**Question:** If a "C" Computer generated player who competes in 2021 gets bumped down when Year End ratings are released, do they still participate at the NTRP level they played at in 2021?

**Answer:** Yes, a "C" Computer generated player who is bumped down with YER will play in the Tri-Level National Invitational held in 2022 at the NTRP level they played at in 2021.

**Example:** 4.5 "C" Computer rated player gets bumped down to 4.0 "C" with 2021 YER, that player would play as a 4.5 rated player in the Invitational held in 2022.