



***2021/2022 USTA
EASTERN/New Jersey
TRI LEVEL
LEAGUE
REGULATIONS***

December 14, 2021

2021/2022 USTA EASTERN/NEW JERSEY 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”.

- 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., 1st doubles 4.5, 2nd doubles 4.0, 3rd 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 (1st 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.
- New Jersey leagues will use Time Limitation Rules for all local league matches as follows:
There is a “two hour” match limit for all matches. The time limitation rule becomes effective at 1 hour and 45 minutes as follows:

At 15 minutes before the end of the match - Finish the Game! After the game is finished, based on the score, follow the appropriate steps below:

If you are in the middle of a set follow steps a-d:

- a. If a team is ahead by two (2) games, they win the set.
- b. If a team is ahead by only one (1) game, one more game is played. If they win the game, they win the set. If the other team wins the game and the set is now tied, a set tiebreak is played (first to 7 by 2 points).
- c. After determining the winner of the set in progress, if one team has won more sets (even if it is only one set), that team wins the court. If sets are tied, a set tiebreak is played (first to 7 by 2 points).
- d. This should be entered as a “Timed Match” with the correct set score (examples: 6-3, 5-3).

If sets are split, a set tiebreak is played (first to 7 by 2 points). All tiebreaks, when the timed match procedure is in effect, shall be first to 7 by 2 points.

If at the 2:00 hour mark the match is not completed, the team ahead in the match tiebreak is the winner. If the tiebreak is tied, a deciding point is played with the server in the same rotation. Before serving, the server must announce and ask for confirmation that the next point is a “sudden death” point. If the sudden death point announcement is not made, that point still stands as played. Play another point with the server in the same rotation. If the same team wins the point the match is over. If the other team wins the point (and the match is now tied again), play one more point with the server in the same rotation to decide the winner. This should be entered as a “Timed Match”.

Note: Before the match begins, both teams are required to agree to the use of a time piece, i.e., “game clock,” to determine default time as well as commencement of the “time limitation rule.”

- **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.

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.

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

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.