



## WESTCHESTER/ROCKLAND REGION

### 2022 FALL/WINTER TRI-LEVEL DOUBLES

### LOCAL LEAGUE REGULATIONS

**All captains and players are responsible for following these rules & regulations.**

#### **GOVERNING RULES:**

USTA Adult leagues are divided into layers of organization: National, Sectional (Eastern), Regional (**Westchester/Rockland**), and then Divisions. Three levels of rules apply: The USTA League Tennis Regulations (National), the USTA Eastern rules (Section), and the Local Rules (Westchester/Rockland) in order of precedence. In addition, the USTA Code of Conduct applies. The local rules are to be read in a manner consistent with the Section and National rules and are not intended to supplant those rules. The local rules are intended to identify only the most essential portions of the National and Section rules and only depart from those rules (available at [2022 National and Eastern Regulations](#)) as authorized by the USTA. For the purposes of local leagues, players should refer to the appropriate section (The Code) in "[2022 Friend At Court](#)" for unofficiated matches.

Clerical error should not determine the outcome of a league. Section League Coordinator (SLC) has authority to determine how an affected match will be corrected. All interpretations of local or sectional rules are to be referred to SLC and Chair of the Adult Competition Committee.

#### **FORMAT AND GENERAL INFORMATION:**

Trilevel Leagues:

Women's and Men's Teams: 1st doubles: 4.5; 2nd doubles: 4.0; 3rd doubles: 3.5

Women's and Men's Teams: 1st doubles: 4.0; 2nd doubles: 3.5; 3rd doubles: 3.0

Women's and Men's Teams: 1st doubles: 5.0; 2nd doubles: 4.5; 3rd doubles: 4.0

- Each team shall have a minimum of six (6) registered players (1 at each level is required).
- Each team must have use of three courts for home matches; a minimum of 2 hours should be reserved.
- Match fee is \$30 per player.
- Each match will consist of three doubles matches, one at each level.
- 3rd Set – 10 point Match Tiebreak (1st to 10, win by 2). COMAN rotation for all set & match tie-breaks.

- 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). Players may not play on a court below their rating.
- This league will use a points system (1 point per individual court) to determine standings.

### **REGISTRATION / NTRP RATING:**

- **Self-rated players may play in the local season of the 4.5/4.0/3.5 W/R league. Further information regarding eligibility for post-season play can be found in the 2022/2023 USTA Eastern Trilevel League Eligibility and rating Information**
- For 4.5 trilevel leagues, players will register with their 2021 year-end rating. Self-rated players WILL BE permitted to play in these local leagues. Please be sure to use all the guidelines for self-rating (self-rated players may be subject to self-rate grievance disqualification if the correct player background information is not provided). For 4.0 Trilevel leagues, players will register with their 2022 year-end rating.
- Registration remains open through the completion of the regular season.

### **TEAM MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- All players must register through Tennis Link at [www.tennislink.usta.com/leagues](http://www.tennislink.usta.com/leagues). All participating team members must be registered prior to playing in a match. If an unregistered player participates in a match, all point(s) won on that court shall be reversed.
- Players are permitted to play on more than one team in the same area, provided the teams are not at the same tri-level. (Example – a 4.0 may compete in the 4.0 on a 3.0/3.5/4.0 team AND a 3.5/4.0/4.5 team).
- Any registration transfers or credits must be requested before the end of the regular season and prior to post-season play.

### **TEAM CAPTAINS' RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Make sure all players are registered through TennisLink and listed on an official roster.
- Contact the visiting captain at least five days prior to the match to confirm the site, availability of courts, time of matches and confirm that there are no defaults.
- Captains are expected to field their matches on published scheduled dates. No reschedules will be permitted and if a team cannot field a full line-up, they will need to take a default and play two courts to make the match valid.
- If too many defaults are taken during the season, the team may not be able to participate in the league the following season. The league coordinator will have discretion if a team has too many defaults.
- Cancellations of less than 24 hours will be subject to payment of court fees if the home club requires.
- Be present at every match or assign someone in to be the acting captain. Collect all fees required to pay the facility for the match. (\$180 each team = \$30 per player)
- Exchange lineups simultaneously, prior to starting play, and record scores of each match.
- The home team is responsible for providing match balls.
- Both team captains are responsible for entering & confirming scores through TennisLink, within 48 hours!

## **MATCH REGULATIONS:**

- Match play begins 15 minutes after the published start time of the match.
- There is a fifteen-minute default rule (inclusive of warm up time) in effect for all local matches. The opposing captain has the discretion to extend the default time and play the match if possible to do so. All late players are guaranteed a 5-minute warm up, and NO POINT PENALTY is allowed for a late player. In extenuating circumstances, a captain can reach out to a league coordinator regarding lateness, and the League Coordinator has the ability to extend the default time if deemed necessary. For staggered matches, a team cannot claim default unless a court has been available to play for 15 minutes, and the opposing players are at least 15 minutes later than the agreed upon arrival time.
- If, after the scorecards have been exchanged but prior to the first point of an individual match being played, a player becomes unable or unavailable to play; a substitution may be made using a rostered player.
- If 1st or 2nd doubles must be defaulted, the lower court is not required to play the higher level match. Simply default the appropriate court.
- All matches will be best of three sets, with regular scoring and a match tiebreak in lieu of a third set.
- Captains should discuss prior to the start if the courts must be vacated at the 2 hour mark. If so, please play right up until the 2 hour match end time and use the timed match procedure to determine the winner of the match.
- If a match is timed out before completion, please select “timed match” instead of “completed.”

## **TIMED MATCH PROCEDURE:**

**A specific time ending device needs to be agreed upon and set by both teams. If an alarm is being used, the volume should be audible to all and play stops when the sound goes off even if the players are in the middle of a point.**

Play should continue right up to the end time of the match. In the event the match has not been completed at the 2 hour mark, **end the match** and allocate the points according to the following guidelines. (Use the “timed match” option when entering the scores for this court)

- **A game in progress should not be completed and does not count.**
- If the teams have split sets, with no time left to start the match tiebreak – **The individual match ends in a tie.**
- If the team that won the first set is on serve, tied, or ahead by 1 break or more in the 2nd set - **That team wins the individual match.**
- If the team that won the first set is losing the 2nd set by 1 break or more – **The individual match ends in a tie.**

If the teams have split sets and are in the middle of a match tiebreak (in lieu of a third set), the match is decided according to the following guidelines:

- If the match tiebreak is tied or on serve – **the individual match ends in a tie.**
- If a team is up by one break point or more in the tiebreak: **that team wins the individual match.**
- \*\*\*If the teams are in a second set tiebreak, the team that is up by one or more break points in that tiebreak wins the set (and it can then be decided if there is a match winner or if the match ends in a tie). If the score in the second set tiebreak is even or on serve, the second set is deemed a tie and the winner of the match is the team that won the first set.\*\*\*

### **SCORING:**

- One point is awarded to the winner of each individual match. In the case of a tie, each pairing will receive .5 point.
- In case of a default, the non-defaulting party shall be credited with a 6-0, 6-0 win.

### **CHAMPIONSHIPS:**

#### Local Championship Format

- In leagues with only one division and where only one full round robin is played, the top two teams will advance to a local championship final.
- In leagues with only one division and where two full round robins are played, the team that comes first in the standings will advance. There will be no local championship match.
- In leagues with two divisions, the winner of each division will play in a local championship final.

Details regarding advancement to Championship play, including Local, Regional and Sectional Championships, will be communicated to captains in a timely manner.

To be eligible to advance to the 4.5 Trilevel Local Championships, Regionals, Sectionals and the National Invitational Tournament a player must have a valid "C" rating after 2022 Year End Ratings have been published. Please see 2022/2023 Eastern Trilevel League Eligibility and rating Information for the definition of a valid "C" rating, and for number of matches required for regional and sectionals.

### **Administrative Processes:**

#### **1. NTRP Appeals:**

Computer rated players may appeal their ratings electronically on the TennisLink website.

Self rated players may also appeal on the Tennislink website, with a decision made by the NTRP Appeals Committee. There shall be no further right of appeal from the decision of the NTRP Appeal

Committee. Please refer to the Eastern Section website for Medical Appeals forms and instructions (see link below under Self-Rate Grievances).

## **2. NTRP Grievances:**

If a captain or coordinator believes a player is competing at one level or more below their actual skill level, a grievance may be filed at the Section level only. Players with a valid computer or benchmark rating or granted an automatic appeal of a computer rating are not subject to an NTRP Grievance.

Pursuant to USTA Eastern C.5, a separate NTRP Grievance Form must be completed for each player being grieved and forms containing multiple names will be dismissed without consideration.

## **3. Local Grievances:**

Informal notification should be made within 48 hours of the incident or dispute by the captain to their coordinator.

The grievance must be filed prior to the commencement of whichever occurs first: (a) the involved team's next match listed in Tennislink, whether or not the involved player participates or (b) within 24 hours after the end of the local league season, prior to the next listed match for either team involved in the conflict or dispute.

In order for a grievance to be valid, it must state the specific rule or rules within the Local Rules, USTA Regulations or standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship that have been violated.

The Coordinator shall forward the grievance to the opposing captain, who shall have a set time limit to respond. The coordinator shall forward the grievance and response to the Chair of the Grievance Committee. The Local Grievance Committee shall review the grievance and make a determination in accordance with its procedures.

Appeals after the grievance decision may be made to the Sectional Appeals Committee within the time period and in the manner specified in the decision.

All grievance forms can be found on the USTA Eastern Website [here](#).

## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Women's trilevel: Amy Guttman, Guttman@eastern.usta.com, 914 263-7262  
Men's trilevel: Ainslie Ellis, Ellis@eastern.usta.com 914-260-9510

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***2022/2023 USTA EASTERN  
TRI-LEVEL  
LEAGUE  
Eligibility and  
Rating  
Information***

***September 26, 2022***

## **2022/2023 USTA EASTERN TRI-LEVEL DOUBLES ELIGIBILITY AND RATING INFORMATION**

All Eastern Tri-Level Leagues shall follow the USTA National/Eastern regulations and the USTA Eastern Adult League Play Regulations as documented 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 to 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 for the 4.5-4.0-3.5 level; eligibility criteria for the invitational tournament are at the discretion of the National Tournament Director and not the Eastern Section.
- For 4.5-4.0-3.5 Tri-Level, to qualify for local championships, regional championships or Sectional Championships, players must have played in one match (no defaults count). Players must have played in 2 matches (1 default can count) on the same team in order to qualify for the National Invitational.
- For all championships for the 4.5-4.0-3.5 Tri-Level league (including local, regional, sectional and National, players must conform to the ratings requirements set forth for the National Championship as detailed below.

### **FOR 4.5-4.0-3.5 TRI-LEVEL ONLY**

- Players shall start local league play using their 2021 year end rating or a valid self rating.
- Players must have a valid “C” rating after the 2022 year-end ratings have been published in order to participate in the Tri-Level National Invitational in 2022.

#### **Ratings Q&A:**

Question: If a “C” computer-generated player who competes in the 2022 local season gets bumped up when year-end ratings are released in December 2022, can they still participate at the NTRP level they played at in the local league?

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 2023 at the NTRP level they played their local league at in 2022. Example: 3.5 “C” computer-rated player gets bumped up to 4.0 “C”. They are eligible to play in the invitational at 3.5 “C”. 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: If a 3.5 “C” computer-rated player gets bumped up to 4.5 “C” - they must play at the 4.5 level.

Question: If a “C” rated player appeals their 2022 year-end rating (published 12/1/2022) down and is now showing as an “A” appealed player, are they able to play at their lower appealed rating?

Answer: Yes. If a player earned a “C” year-end rating in 2022 and they appealed their rating down through TennisLink Auto Appeal and now have a verifiable “A” rating, they will be allowed to play at the “C” rating level they had throughout 2022. For example, if a player played the 2022 season with a 3.5 “A” rating and earned a 4.0 “C” 2022-year end rating and they appeal their rating down to a 3.5 “A,” they may play at the Tri-Level invitational as a 3.5-rated player.

#### **“S” Self-Rated, “M” Mixed, or “T” Tournament**

“S” Self rated, “M” Mixed, or “T” Tournament players may only play if they earn a “C” computer year-end rating when the 2022 year-end ratings are published, and they must play at the “C” rating level that they earned with the 2022 year-end ratings.

Question: If a “S” self-rated, “M” mixed, or “T” tournament player who competed in 2022 gets bumped up in the 2022 year-end ratings, can they still participate at the NTRP level they played at in 2021?

Example: A 3.5 “S” self-rated, “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. An “S” self-rated, “M” mixed, or “T” tournament player may ONLY play if they earned a “C” year-end rating in 2022 and they MUST play at the “C” computer rating that they earned in the 2022 year-end ratings. Example: An 3.5 “S” self-rated, “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 2023. Note that a 4.5 “S” self-rated, “M” mixed, or “T” tournament who got bumped up to 5.0 “C” WOULD NOT be eligible to play in the event held in 2023.

**FINAL RATING ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS WILL BE MADE BY THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE. EACH WILL BE EVALUATED ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS.**

Note: National Regulations supersede 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.

