

***2025/2026 USTA
LEAGUE NATIONAL
AND EASTERN
TRI-LEVEL
ELIGIBILITY
REGULATIONS***

October 31, 2025

2025 (4.5 Tri) and 2026 (4.0 and 5.0 Tri) 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., 5.0-4.5-4.0, 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.
- At least 50% of players at the lowest level must be at level, meaning you must have at least as many 3.5 players as 3.0 players on any 4.5-4.0-3.5 team.
- It is suggested that at least one player on each court for each match should be at level, meaning at least one 3.5 should play on the 3.5 court, at least one 4.0 should play on the 4.0 court and at least one 4.5 should play on the 4.5 court in all regions, yet it is REQUIRED in Long Island, Metro, New Jersey, and Westchester-Rockland leagues.
- Players MUST have at least one player at level on each court for all post-season play, regardless of local area.
- 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., 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). The Coman tie break will be used for all set and match tie breaks.
- To qualify for Local, Regional or Sectional Championships a player must have played a minimum of 1 match (defaults do not count). Players must have played in 2 matches (1 default can count) on the same team in order to qualify for the National Invitational.
- Winning teams advance to a Sectional Championship (4.5 Tri-Level Sectional to be held 1/16-1/18/26, 4.0 and 5.0 Tri-Level Sectionals will be in June 2026). Sectional winners will 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.
- For Local, Regional, Sectional and National championships, players must conform to the ratings requirements set forth for the National Championship as detailed below.

- **For Tri-Level leagues attending the National Invitational in March 2026, no more than 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 level of tri-level team (e.g. no more than 3 players who were on the same 4.5 Tri-Level team can be on the same 4.5 Tri-Level team, but this team would be allowed to have as many players as they want on either a 4.0 Tri-Level or 5.0 Tri-Level team).**

2025 4.5 TRI ONLY (National Invitational Scheduled for March 5th-9th, 2026):

- Click [here](#) for a link to the National Invitational webpage
- Players shall use their 2024 year end rating (either Computer Rating - C orAppealed Computer Rating - A) or a valid self rating for local league play.
Players are NOT allowed to register for a team once 2025 Year-End Ratings are published.
- Players must have a valid “C” rating after the 2025 year-end ratings have been published in order to participate in any Eastern Championship and the Tri-Level National Invitational in 2026.
- For Local, Regional and Sectional Championships, at least one player must be at level for each court, meaning at least one 3.5 must play on the 3.5 court, at least one 4.0 must play on the 4.0 court and at least one 4.5 must play on the 4.5 court. For the National Invitational, all players must play at their NTRP level,
players are not allowed to play up at all during the National Invitational.
- A player cannot compete in two or more NTRP divisions at the National Invitational. Example: a 4.0 player cannot play in the 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 NTRP division and the 4.0, 4.5, 5.0 NTRP division. There will be no crossover of players in any divisions.
- The maximum number of players allowed to advance to the National Invitational is 18 on any one team.
- Individual Eligibility Waiver Requests: Individual and team eligibility waivers will not be accepted for the 2026 Tri Level National Invitational for any division. Players that do not meet the match requirements will not be eligible to participate in the National Invitational.

Ratings For Eastern Championships and the National Invitational For The March 2026 National Invitational.

All individual team members must be from the appropriate level of play in accordance with the NTRP system. To be eligible to compete in the Invitational:

- Players must have a valid “C” or “A” rating after the 2025 year-end ratings are published. “S”, “M”, and “T” rated players are not eligible to compete.
- “S”, “M”, and “T” rated players may play with a 2025 C or A rating if granted.

All 2024 C and A rated players must play at the level at which they were rostered in the 2025 season unless they are moved two levels.

All “T”, “S” and “M” rated players must play at the C rating generated/published at the end of the 2025 season or at an appealed rating if granted.

2026 4.0 TRI AND 2026 5.0 TRI (National Invitational Scheduled for March 2027)

- Players shall use their 2025 year end rating (either Computer Rating “C” or Appealed Computer Rating “A”) or a valid self rating for local league play.
- Self-rated players MAY continue to play with their self-rating through the Sectional Championships in June, 2026.
- Players must have a valid “C” rating after the 2026 year-end ratings have been published in order to participate in the Tri-Level National Invitational in 2027.
- For Local, Regional and Sectional Championships, at least one player must be at level for each court, meaning at least one 3.0 must play on the 3.0 court, at least one 3.5 must play on the 3.5 court and at least one 4.0 must play on the 4.0 court, etc. For the National Invitational, all players must play at their NTRP level, **players are not allowed to play up at all during the National Invitational.**