

2026 Section League Regulations

(updates approved 2-3-26)

(Note: this is the league portion only of the entire Intermountain Section Regulations)

7. LEAGUES

A. Local/District League Competition

1) Eligibility

- a) USTA membership All individuals who compete in the USTA League Tennis Program must be current members in good standing for the local league season as defined by the District. Any individual who progresses to championship level in the USTA League Tennis program must be a current member through each championship progression.
- b) Organizational Membership Any team which competes in the USTA League Tennis Program in the Intermountain Section must be affiliated with a club or organization of the USTA in good standing. An independent team may itself become a member organization for this purpose.

2) Reporting of District Participation

District League Coordinators must review a report of player participation in their District showing numbers of teams and numbers of players at each level for men and women containing both district totals and breakdowns for geographic areas. This report must be reconciled with the Section League Coordinator.

3) Local League Regulations & Operating Procedures

- a) As per regulation 1.00 in the USTA League Tennis National Regulations, the ITA delegates authority to Districts in certain matters including, but not limited to:
 - (1) Establishing deadlines and procedures for registering teams for local league play on TennisLink in compliance with regulation 1.04C(1).
 - (2) Establishing deadlines for the initial entry of local league match scores into TennisLink in compliance with regulation 1.04C(2).
 - (3) Determining dates for the local league seasons and district championship events in compliance with Section deadlines and regulations 1.04D(3) and 1.04D(4).
 - (4) The Intermountain Section will have no residency requirements for local league play. Exception: A district may regulate residency requirements for teams (flights) that play a local league in a condensed or week-end format. 1.04E(1)
 - (5) Establishing NTRP self-rate appeal committees for local league play in compliance with regulation 1.04F(1)g.
 - (6) Authorizing usage of other USTA -approved scoring methods compatible with the USTA League NTRP Computer Rating System for local league play and district championship events in compliance with regulations 2.01C(3) and 2.03C.
 - (7) Establishing rules to determine when a full team default

- occurs and for scoring of full team defaults in local league play in compliance with regulations 2.03K and 2.03L.
- (8) Appointing an NTRP Dynamic Review Committee for local league play in compliance with regulation 2.04D(1).
 - (9) Determining what actions to take when the combination of individual match defaults by the two teams in a team match would result in a situation where a majority of individual matches would not be played in compliance with regulation 2.01C(2).
 - (10) Developing procedures for additional matches within flighted leagues in compliance with National Regulations 2.01C(1)a, 2.01C(1)b, and 2.01C(1)c.
 - (11) Authorize participation in more than one NTRP level within an Age Group in the same local league during the same season.
 - (12) Authorize participation on more than one team within an Age Group in the same NTRP level in the same season provided it is in separate local leagues.
 - (13) Determining the option to require, for eligibility to progress to championship level below Sectional Championships, Self-Rated and Valid Computer Rated Appealed players to play up to four matches, on the same team at the same NTRP level in the same Age Group during its local league season and is otherwise eligible. Districts shall also have the option to declare if one default received by the player during local league competition shall or shall not count for advancing. 2.03A(3)b
 - (14) Determining the competition, team match and scoring formats for championship competition below Section Level. 2.03D (1)
 - (15) Establishing alternate scoring methods to determine championship winners below Section Level. 2.03E
 - (16) Determining the order of tie-break procedures for championships below Section Level. 2.03H
 - (17) USTA Intermountain delegates the authority to each district to determine the time frame for USTA League National Regulation 3.03B(4) for their district. If a district does not state a time frame for 3.03B(4) in their district regulations, the default time frame will be 24 hours.
 - (18) If any Adult Division Age Group in a local league consists of only two teams in a level of play, USTA Intermountain delegates the authority to each district to determine the minimum percentage of players required at the designated NTRP level of play. Each district shall declare that percentage in their regulations, and the minimum may not be less than 40%. If a district does not declare in their regulations the minimum percentage, the default minimum percentage shall be 40%. The Adult Division 55 & Over Age Group and Adult 65 & Over that uses combined NTRP rating levels will not be required to comply with this Regulation.

- (19) Authorize District League Coordinators to file a grievance in compliance with National Regulation 2.01C(4)a for local leagues and District Championships.
 - (20) Authorize Districts to state if a captain can only represent one team in the same age group and NTRP level at a local playoff, flight playoff or District Championship.**
- b) Each local league shall have a written set of operating procedures that are consistent with and reflective of those set forth in these regulations; they may include rules specific to the needs of the league provided that they do not conflict with the USTA League Tennis Regulations or these regulations.
 - c) Each District League Coordinator shall submit to the Section League Coordinator, for review prior to the start of the league season, copies of all such operating procedures applicable to league competition within his/her District.
 - d) The District League Coordinators shall ensure that every player who participates in USTA League Tennis competition is given an opportunity to read all operating procedures, USTA League Regulations and ITA league regulations, which apply to him/her. They shall do so, either through direct distribution of said materials to all players, or by written or electronic provision in those operating procedures requiring each team captain to distribute them to all team members.

B. *Grievance Procedures*

- 1) Section League Grievance and Appeal Committees

The Section League Coordinator shall appoint a League Grievance Committee consisting of no less than three members, including a chairperson. The committee shall be responsible for grievances in accordance with 2.00 USTA League Regulations and 3.00 Grievance Procedures. The Section League Coordinator shall also appoint a League Grievance Appeal Committee, composed of not less than three members including a chairperson, to hear appeals of decisions made by the League Grievance Committee. An individual may not simultaneously serve on both committees. All grievances must be filed in writing and forwarded to the USTA Intermountain Tennis Association by emailing the grievance to Imurrieta@ita.usta.com within the designated timeframe in accordance with 2.00 USTA League Regulations and 3.00 Grievance Procedures. In addition, an administration fee of \$100 shall be simultaneously sent to the USTA Intermountain Tennis Association office in care of the Section League Coordinator at 9145 E. Kenyon Avenue, Suite 303, Denver, CO 80237. The fee shall be refunded if the grievance is upheld.
- 2) Local and District League Grievance Committees

Each local league may, subject to the approval of the Section League Coordinator, appoint a Local League Grievance Committee consisting of no less

than three persons, including a Chair. The Committee shall be responsible for adjudicating grievances. Each District shall, subject to the approval of the Section League Coordinator, appoint a District League Grievance Committee, consisting of no less than three persons, including a Chair, to adjudicate grievances arising at District Championships. The members thereof may be the same as, or different in whole or in part from, the members of the Championship Committee for the District Championship. All Local and District League Grievance Committees shall be responsible for grievances in accordance with 2.00 USTA League Regulations and 3.00 Grievance Procedures.

3) Local and District League Appeal Committees

Subject to the approval of the Section League Coordinator, each local league may appoint a Local League Appeal Committee consisting of no less than three persons, including a Chair, to consider appeals from rulings of the Local League Grievance Committee. Each district shall, subject to the approval of the Section League Coordinator, appoint a District League Appeal Committee, consisting of no less than three persons, including a Chair, to consider appeals from rulings of the District League Grievance Committee. No member of an appeal committee may be a member of a Grievance Committee.

4) Appeals

An appeal from a decision of a Local League Grievance Committee shall be filed with the Local League Appeal Committee. An appeal from a decision of a District League Grievance Committee shall be filed with the District League Committee through the District league coordinator.

5) Reporting of Grievance and Appeal Proceedings

District League Coordinators must file copies of all local and District league grievance and appeal proceedings with the Section League Coordinator.

6) Adult 65 & Over, Tri Level, Mixed 55 & Over and ITA Mixed Leagues

USTA League Regulation 3.00 Grievance Procedures shall apply to Adult 65 & Over, Tri Level, Mixed 55 & Over and ITA Mixed Leagues and or/championships held at the Section level.

*C. Sectional
Championships*

1) Sectional Championship Committee and Championship Format

The Sectional Championships shall be directed by the Sectional Championships Committee consisting of a USTA certified referee or umpire, the Section League Coordinator or appointee and one more additional person appointed by the Section League Coordinator or appointee prior to the start of each championship. The Section shall follow the National Championship Competition Format at Section Level Events.

2) Matches Required To Advance To Sectional Championships

The Section shall follow National requirements for advancement to Sectional Championships as per USTA Matches Required to Advance Championships Table.

USTA Regulation 2.03A(3)b

Any player other than a Self- Rated and Valid Computer Rated Appealed Down player is eligible to advance to an Intermountain Section Championship competition if that player has played on the advancing team in at least two (2) matches from local play through District Championships. A maximum of one (1) default received by the player during local league competition shall count for advancing. A retired match shall count for all players involved.

Any Self- Rated and/or Valid Computer Rated Appealed Down player is eligible to advance to an Intermountain Section Championship competition if that player has played on the advancing team in at least three (3) matches from local play through District Championships. A maximum of one (1) default received by the player during local league competition shall count for advancing. A retired match shall count for all players involved.

3) Site Selection

The Section League Coordinator shall select the site for the Sectional League Championships

4) Conducting the Sectional Championship(s)

The Sectional League Championship is conducted by the Section League Coordinator or appointed designee.

5) Scoring

A. For the USTA League Tennis Sectional Championships (Adult Division – 18 & over, 40 & over, 55 & over Age Groups and Mixed Doubles Division – 18 & over and 40 & Over Groups) and the ITA Mixed Doubles Sectional Championship, all matches will be the best of two sets, with regular scoring and a set tiebreak (first to 7 points by a margin of 2) at 6-all in each set. In the event of split sets, a match tiebreak (first to 10 points by a margin of 2) shall be played in lieu of a third set with no rest period or coaching allowed.

B. For USTA Intermountain Sectional Championships, in the event of a tie, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:

2.03H(2) a Individual Matches. Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.

2.03H(2)b Head-to-Head. Winner of head-to-head match only if all tied teams have played each other and one team defeated all the teams that are tied.

2.03H(2)c Sets. Loser of the fewest number of sets.

2.03H(2)d Games. Loser of the fewest number of games.

2.03H(2)e Game Winning Percentage: Total games won divided by total

games played.

2.03H(2) If A Method to be Determined by the Championships Committee. Procedure to be announced prior to commencement of championship competition.

6) District League Coordinator Attendance

All District League Coordinators shall be prepared to attend and assist with Sectional Championship events. Attendance will be on an as-needed basis, as determined and coordinated by the Section League Coordinator. The ITA will pay a per diem allowance plus travel and lodging expenses for the District League Coordinators asked to attend.

USTA League Regulation 3.00 Grievance Procedures shall apply to Adult 65 & Over, Tri Level, Mixed 55 & Over Invitationals and ITA Mixed Leagues and or/championships held at the Section level.

7) Eligibility

a) No individual player is eligible to compete for a team participating in the Sectional Championships unless he/she has met the minimum participation requirements specified.

b) Each team participating in the Sectional Championships must have been the champion of the preceding level of competition in its NTRP rating category. However, if, for any reason, that winning team does not compete in this Championship, the District League Coordinator may designate the second place team to compete in its place.

c) Each team participating in the Championship must have available and eligible to play a minimum of
Eight (8) players for Adult 18 & over 3.0-4.5
Five (5) players for Adult 18 & Over 2.5W and 5.0
Nine (9) players for Adult 40 & over 3.0-4.5
Six (6) players for Adult 55 & over 6.0-9.0, Adult 65 & Over 6.0-9.0
Six (6) players comprised of 3 men and 3 women for Mixed 18 & Over 6.0-10.0, Mixed 40 & Over 6.0-9.0, and ITA Mixed 5.5-9.5 who were on the team's final roster. The Section Championships Committee has the authority, by majority vote, to reduce that number to not less than the minimum number approved by USTA National League Regulation 2.03A(5) A, please see chart in National regulation booklet.

d) Prior to the Sectional Championship, each District League Coordinator must forward to the Section League Coordinator the following for each team participating in the event from his/her District:

(1) A roster indicating the number of matches required for eligibility for the team and the number of matches played during the local league season by each individual on the roster.

- (2) USTA membership Expiration Dates of all players on the roster.
- (3) Captains' contact information, including phone and e-mail address.

e) **At Sectional Championships, a captain shall not represent more than one team in the same age group and NTRP level. The captain will be required to only represent one team and must identify which team prior to the start of the championship. All captains must be declared prior to the start of the championship**

8) Team Notice of Intent to Play

- a) No later than three days after completion of District Championships or local league, each team qualifying to compete in the Section Championship must notify the District League Coordinator that it will or will not participate in the tournament. The District League Coordinator must in turn notify the Section League Coordinator of teams attending Sectional Championship.
- b) Failure to Attend – If a team gives notice that it will participate but then fails to do so, penalties may be administered with the maximum penalty being disqualification of all of its members who had agreed to participate from all league play for the following year. The Championship Committee named for the event where the violation occurs shall decide upon the penalty utilizing the USTA League Grievance Process. This decision may be appealed to the ITA Section League Grievance Committee.
- c) Attendance with fewer than minimum number of eligible players –Any captain who attends a Sectional Championship without the minimum number of players able and eligible to participate may have a grievance filed against him or her which may result in suspension from league participation for the captain and/or any team members at fault as determined by the Section League Grievance Committee. This decision may be appealed to the ITA Section League Grievance Appeal Committee.

9) Roving Officials

Roving USTA certified referees or umpires may be appointed by the Tournament Director, and may be present during the Championship.

10) Alternate Formats

The Section Championships Committee may use alternative USTA approved scoring formats in order to complete the Championship on schedule in the event that weather or other conditions interfere.

11) Sectional League Championship Grievance Committee

The Sectional Championships Committee shall appoint a Sectional Championship League Grievance Committee, which shall adjudicate

grievances arising during the Championship. The membership of the Committee may be the same as, or different in whole or in part, from that of the Sectional Championships Committee.

12) Sectional League Championship Appeal Committee

The Sectional Championships Committee shall appoint a Sectional League Championship Appeal Committee, which shall rule on appeals from the Sectional League Championship Grievance Committee. No member of the Sectional League Championship Appeal Committee may be a member of the Sectional League Championship Grievance Committee.

D. *NTRP Procedures*

1) NTRP Grievances at District and Section Championships

Any grievance against a player's NTRP rating will be adjudicated after the championship Event. In the event that an NTRP grievance is filed after 48 hours has passed from the completion of the local league against a player who is on a team advancing to the next level of Championship playoff progression (District and/or Section Championships), the NTRP grievance shall be considered a Championship NTRP Grievance and will be adjudicated after the Championship Event.

2) Below the District Championships level (i.e. at the local level)

Any player that reaches the disqualified level three times shall be disqualified and will not progress to championship level of competition. All previous matches at the disqualified level shall be considered a loss or losses and that individual match or all previous matches shall be considered a win or wins for the opponents season.

3) Championship NTRP Dynamic Disqualifications

a) Dynamic ratings will be calculated for all Adult and Mixed Division players through all District and Section Championship events. Through the conclusion of the championship event, any player meeting the criteria of NTRP Dynamic Disqualification will be notified and disqualified with matches reversed as appropriate. Refer to 18.G.3)b) and national regulations 2.04E(2)a and 2.04E(2)b.

b) In the event of an NTRP disqualification during a Championship event in single elimination competition, the last individual match played by the disqualified player or doubles team shall be considered a loss for that player or team and shall be considered a win for the opponent(s). In the event of such a disqualification during a Championship event in a round robin format, all matches played by the disqualified player or doubles team shall be considered losses for that player or team and shall be considered wins for the opponent(s).

4) NTRP Observers at District and Section Championships

Verifiers may only be assigned as observers, and administrators of the DNTRP system.

E. *USTA League Tennis Adult Division – 18 & over, 40 & over, 55 & Over Age Groups*

All Age Groups within the USTA League Tennis Adult Division competition will comply with all USTA and ITA League Regulations. NTRP approved levels of play for all age groups shall correspond with USTA league regulation 1.04A. The 55 & over age group shall utilize combined NTRP levels. See chart; “USTA League Program Organization At The National Level”.

1. PLAY AT TWO NTRP LEVELS AT SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

(a) Participation

(i) Same NTRP level

At any District or Sectional Championship, if a player qualifies for two or more teams at the same NTRP level for an event, the individual must declare which team he or she will represent. In the absence of a declaration, the first match played will determine which team he or she will represent.

(ii) Different NTRP levels

A player who qualifies to advance to any Sectional Championship for two or more teams at different NTRP levels must declare which team he or she will represent at the Sectional Championship. In the absence of a declaration, the first match played will determine which team he or she will represent.

If a player plays on both teams, the player’s matches played for the second team will be deemed ineligible.

The scoring will be handled in the following way per the official 2022 USTA National Q and A. The ineligible player will be marked “DQ and Ineligible” by the Section League Coordinator. In TennisLink, the Section League Coordinator will select (1) the DQ box, which will reverse the match results, and (2) the Ineligible box, which will remove the match played for the ineligible player and their partner but will leave it as a match played for their opponents. Players rostered on more than one team advancing to National Championships will be subject to national regulations.

Districts may require players who qualify for two or more teams at different NTRP levels to declare which teams they will play on at District Championships.

F. *USTA League Tennis Mixed Doubles Division – 18 & Over Age Group and 40 & Over Age Group*

All Age Groups with the USTA League Tennis Mixed Doubles Division will comply with all USTA and ITA League regulations. NTRP approved levels

of play for these age groups shall correspond with USTA league regulation 1.04A. See chart; "USTA League Program Organization At The National Level".

1. PLAY AT TWO NTRP LEVELS AT SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

a) Participation.

(i) Same NTRP Level

At any District or Sectional Championship, if a player qualifies for two or more teams at the same NTRP level for an event, the individual must declare which team he or she will represent. In the absence of a declaration, the first match played will determine which team he or she will represent.

(ii) Different NTRP Levels

A player who qualifies to advance to any Sectional Championship for two or more teams at different NTRP levels, must declare which team he or she will represent at the Sectional Championship. In the absence of a declaration, the first match played will determine which team he or she will represent.

If a player plays on both teams, the player's matches played for the second team will be deemed ineligible.

The scoring will be handled in the following way per the official USTA National Q and-A.-

The ineligible player will be marked as "DQ and Ineligible" by the Section League Coordinator. In TennisLink, the Section League Coordinator will select the (1) DQ box, which will reverse the match results, and (2) the Ineligible box which will remove the match played from the ineligible player and their partner but will leave it as a match played for their opponents.

Players rostered on more than one team advancing to National Championships will be subject to national regulations.

- 1) Districts may require players who qualify for two or more teams at different NTRP levels to declare which teams they will play on at District Championships. will be adjudicated after the Championship Event.

G. *ITA Mixed Doubles League Tennis:* ITA Mixed Doubles League Tennis will comply with all USTA and ITA general regulations as well as those outlined in 2.00 in the USTA League Regulations.

- 1) Levels of play for the ITA Mixed Doubles League will be 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5,

and 9.5.

- 2) Minimum NTRP level for 5.5 is 2.5; 6.5 is 2.5; 7.5 is 3.0; 8.5 is 3.5; 9.5 is 4.0.
 - 3) Teams will consist of a minimum of six players. Each player must play at least two local league matches during the local league season in order to qualify to compete with the team in the District League Championships, if held, and Section League Championships.
 - 4) At any District or Sectional Championship, if a player qualifies for two or more teams at the same NTRP level for an event, the individual must declare which team he or she will represent. In the absence of a declaration, the first match played will determine which team he or she will represent. Players who qualify to advance to any Sectional Championship for two or more teams at different NTRP levels may do so but should be aware that no special consideration for match scheduling will be given. It is recommended that the player choose a "primary" team.
- H. *USTA League Tennis Divisions with National Invitationals – 65& Over Age Group, Mixed 55 & Over and Tri Level*

All divisions advancing to a National Invitational will comply with the procedures outlined in each Sectional Invitational's handbook.