

2021 USTA Middle States Section Regulations



The USTA League Program in 2021 is as follows. It is composed of two Divisions: Adult and Mixed. The age groups for play at the national include 18, 40 & 55 & Over for the Adult division and 18 & 40 & Over for Mixed Doubles division. USTA Middle States will also offer Adult 65 & Over and Mixed 55 & Over.

USTA League Tennis National and Section Regulations have full force and applicability at all levels of play in USTA League Tennis in the USTA Middle States Section (USTA MS) and there is no authorization to modify, amplify or change them by local or area league coordinators, or Grievance or Grievance Appeals Committees. These rules apply to all age groups.

The Section League Coordinator, in conjunction with USTA Middle States Section League-Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman, shall have the authority to interpret the USTA Middle States Section Regulations.

USTA League Regulations (National and Middle States) are available on the USTA Web site

<https://www.usta.com/en/home/organize/program-resources/middlestates/Middle-States-League-Captain-Resources.html>.

It is expected that captains and players will treat coordinators with respect when communicating with them – either in person or in e-mail. Respectful treatment of each other will add to an enjoyable league experience. Consequences such as suspension from league play will result if players deviate from this expectation.

GENERAL

OFFICIAL LEAGUE REGISTRATION: Each district shall establish deadlines and procedures for registering teams/players on TennisLink. All leagues (including those that will be played at section championship) must have the minimum number of players registered by April 1 for Mixed 18 & 40 & Over, July 1 for Adult 18 & Over and **August 1 for Adult 40 & Over** and for Adult 55 & 65 & Over. All players must register through TennisLink before playing in a team match. If a player has difficulty registering before a match, he/she must notify the coordinator in writing – email - before match play for the match to count. The player will be disqualified if he/she does not notify the coordinator. A player may transfer to a different team up to the final date for registration provided that individual has not played a match or received credit for a default. Players who submit an appeal to their self-rating through the TennisLink system before their local league deadline to register players will be permitted to register if the appeal is granted.

OFFICIAL SCORE REPORTING AND STANDINGS SYSTEM: All scheduled matches must be completed and scores reported in TennisLink within 48 hours of the completed team match. TennisLink will automatically confirm scores 48 hours after the team match is initially reported in TennisLink if not confirmed by opposing captain. Both captains are responsible to report or confirm match scores. Wherever possible, matches should be played on the originally scheduled date.

All matches must be completed and scores reported by the deadline established by district rules. Teams that do not comply with this requirement may not advance to any championship level. Entering fictitious scores will result in severe penalties.

AMENDMENTS These USTA MS Section Regulations may be amended by the Section League Committee.

LEAGUE COMMITTEE: The USTA MS section league program shall be governed by the USTA MS League Committee appointed by the president of the USTA MS section and subject to the control and direction of the USTA MS section Board of Directors. All coordinators (Area and Local) shall receive their direction from the Section League Coordinator.

LOCAL LEAGUE SEASON: All local leagues shall obtain approval of the Section League Coordinator for the dates of the local league season(s) within the Middle States section. The Area/Local League Coordinator shall establish match schedules. In case of staggered matches, team captains must agree in advance (in writing – e-mail) on start time for each individual match. The host captain has the final say if no agreement can be reached about the order of courts. **The first courts begin at the set start time and when finished, the remaining courts must start directly after unless mutually agreed by both captains.** Generally, two (2) hours should be allotted for each court match.

Early Start Leagues: 2.05B3(b) Players who are found to have valid computer ratings, after the appeal process, that place them above the NTRP level at which they are competing may continue their participation at the lower NTRP level through the conclusion of any Early Start League in progress or until such other date or championship level as determined by the Section. They shall not be permitted to advance to any National Championship at the lower NTRP level. Prior team matches played are valid. Players whose year-end rating is "clearly above level" must move up immediately. In Middle States, players must move up not later than the end of the local league. Players may not advance to championships with the rostered rating if they are moved up.

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GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES: Grievance forms are available on the Middle States Web site. All district regulations will include the names of grievance and grievance appeal committee members. These names will be published on the district web sites. The section shall approve all League Grievance and Grievance Appeal Committees. Sanctions imposed by grievance decisions will be applicable to all Divisions (Adult and Mixed) in the USTA MS section league program. For example, if a player is suspended in the adult division, he/she cannot play in the mixed division sponsored by USTA MS. All grievances must be sent to the Area League Coordinator for each district.

NTRP GRIEVANCES. The USTA MS section will administer NTRP Grievances. Complaints should be first delivered to the manager of leagues, who will forward to the Middle States NTRP Grievance Committee Chairman. This committee will have jurisdiction over grievances filed against any player and/or captain who enters or condones entering at one level when their actual skill level is at the top of the next NTRP level or higher. NTRP Grievances filed within two weeks of the start date of the player's and/or captain's District or Section Championships will be administered after the event unless the section authorizes the administration of the grievance prior to that time. If the grievance is not administered until after the event, points won by players will stand. Disqualified players and/or captains that are suspended will not be eligible to advance to the next level of championship. NTRP Grievance Protocol is available on-line.

MATCH PROCEDURES

SCORING. Each district may determine the match format for local league competition. **Scoring will be Points Per Position for all leagues and level. See Appendix for description of Points per Position.**

Point Penalty System (PPS)

1. The USTA Point Penalty System for lateness will be in effect unless amended in district rules.
2. The PPS will be in effect at all championships starting with Area/District.

Penalties for Lateness (*Friend at Court*)

5 minutes or less: Loss of toss + 1 Game; **5.01 – 10 minutes:** Loss of toss + 2 Games; **10.01 – 15 minutes:** Loss of toss + 3 Games; **More than 15 minutes:** Default

Warm-up: Warm-up including serves must be taken before the match begins. Warm-up should be no longer than 10 minutes. Warm-up is never forfeited because of lateness.

Team Match and Scoring: Each team match in a local league shall consist of such number of individual matches of singles, doubles or any combination thereof, as determined by the local league. **Any team that defaults an entire team match may not advance to championship level.** Teams forfeiting an entire team match may receive further penalties. Results of defaulted matches stand. If a team is knocked out of championships because of a full-team default, there will be a playoff match between the two teams involved.

For each team match, a majority of the individual matches must actually be played by the 2 teams to constitute a valid team match. In accordance with National Regulation 2.01C(2): If the majority of courts in team matches are not played, the results entered will not count for determining standings- for example: 2 courts in a 3-court match and 3 courts in a 4 or 5 court match. Coordinators will remind captains that the minimum number of matches must be played and assist in rescheduling if asked. Teams will be permitted/required to make up defaulted courts when teams have played fewer than the minimum number of courts to comply with these regulations.

Team Lineups: Team captains shall exchange lineups simultaneously PRIOR to the scheduled start time of a team match. An individual match is started when the first ball is put in play (first serve attempt). After the start of an individual match, if injury to, illness of, or disqualification of a player occurs, the opponents will be awarded a default for that individual match only. The default principles in 2.03K in the national rulebook shall be applicable, with the section modifications that:

1. Illness, injury, or disqualification of a player – See 2.01C(5) in the national rulebook.
2. When a match is postponed to another day and an individual match has not started (as defined above) a captain may change the lineup for any such match. **Announced defaults may be reinstated.**
3. In the event of rain, completed individual matches will stand as played. Incomplete matches must be continued by the same players and resumed at the exact score as they stood when halted (any point played is always counted and never replayed). If teams have assembled to play and the beginning of the match is delayed by rain or wet courts, teams must wait no longer than one hour past the originally scheduled time for the start of the first match to determine if the courts are playable. If courts are still not playable after one hour has elapsed, teams are free to leave and reschedule unless BOTH captains agree to wait longer.
4. Postponements: Matches may be rescheduled for the following reasons only:
*Rain or Snow

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*Unexpected court availability issues

*USTA league playoff matches. Local league matches will be rescheduled upon request if a team has 4 players in a 5 court program, 3 players in a 3 or 4 court program involved in a district, section, or national championship. Teams should play as many courts as possible on the scheduled day. The players in question must be representing Middle States or a district within Middle States. Six days notice in writing (email) to the opposing captain is suggested.

5. Two doubles players will play together in the higher position when both of their partners do not arrive in time in order to avoid two defaults.

A player may play on more than one team at the same NTRP level as long as they are playing in different districts. Areas are responsible for establishing and imposing penalties upon those players who violate area rules. Players who qualify may play at more than one level at any championship. The schedule will not be written to accommodate playing at more than one level. If eligible players do not participate at the district championships, they may participate in the section and/or national championships.

When all matches in a flight have been entered into TennisLink, the number one team will advance to championships. TennisLink uses National Rule: 2.03H "Procedures in the Event of a Tie in the national rulebook to break ties. If two teams are tied in points at season's end, the winner will be the team that scored more points in head to head matches. If three teams are tied, the team with the most points against each other will advance. TennisLink standings are final.

CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Coman Tie-break Procedure will be used at all championship levels for both the set tiebreak and the match tiebreak.

Teams must be able to play all courts in a championship. A waiver may be granted if you apply to the championships committee.

For championships, see 2:03H in the national rulebook to determine the Procedures in the Event of a Tie: Overall matches won, courts won, head to head. If 3 teams are tied in matches and courts won, sets lost and games lost will come into play.

The format for winning teams to progress from local league competition to Section League Championships is as follows:

Teams may play in leagues that are offered in different seasons. If a captain or club has teams in more than one season, the team or club will have to choose which team will advance. If no more than 4 players are common to both teams, both teams can advance. Teams must guarantee a minimum number of players committed for championships (8 for the 5 court teams, 5 for 3 court teams and 7 for 4 court teams. There may be a local league playoff among flight winners to determine representatives to districts.

DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS: The area shall determine the progression from local league to Section Championship. This process – including the structure for any playoffs or championships (flight, area, for example) - shall be distributed in writing to team captains prior to the start of the local league season.

SECTION CHAMPIONSHIPS: Section Championship format shall be round robin in all levels of competition. Each team shall play every other team in its flight and the team with the most team points shall be champion in its flight. In the event of a tie in team points, the winner shall be decided by using 2.03H in the national rulebook. Each team shall be scheduled for a minimum of three (3) matches in either a championship or a local league played during championships.

WILD CARD PROCEDURE: If a team pulls out of the championship after the schedule is published, we will name a wild card to take that opening as follows. If there is an opening at more than one level, this process will be repeated for each level of play.

1. Ask second place team if that team does not accept.
2. Pull a district name at random and invite the 2nd place team from that district and proceed alphabetically until all districts have responded or until a team accepts (If we pull Delaware and they cannot send a team, we will ask Eastern Penn, etc.).
3. We will not invite all teams in a local league flight.

LEAGUE NTRP DISQUALIFICATION AND REVIEW PROCEDURES

LOCAL LEAGUE PROCEDURES: Disqualified players may register on a higher-level team if a team agrees and there is time to register prior to the end of local round robin competition. District regulations for deadlines and roster limits would be waived if a team is found and time permits.

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SCORING PROCEDURES

During Local League: If a player (rating type A, S, M, T) is disqualified for that particular level of play, the match that caused the disqualification will be reversed. (e.g. If a player is disqualified at 3.0 and the last strike happened in a 3.5 match, no matches will be reversed. If the strike occurs while playing on a 3.0 team, that match will be reversed.)

In championship play, the section chooses National Regulation option **2.04B(2)a**. Run dynamic calculations and produce ratings throughout the championship. For those players that meet the criteria for NTRP dynamic disqualification, all matches will be reversed for disqualified players (2.04E(2)a). In single elimination formats only the last match will be reversed (2.04E(2)b). Only players with the following rating types A, S, M, T or D are subject to disqualification. The deadline for filing a Request for Review of Dynamic DQ at championships is one hour from the time of notification.

2021 NATIONAL REGULATION CHANGES

2.01A(1) – Changing NTRP Levels of Play: Elimination of the Plus Leagues

a. National Championships in the Adult 18&Over Age Group will be held at the 5.0 level. Championships below National Championships, and Local Leagues, will be held at the 5.0 level and may be held at the Open level(5.0 & higher).

b. National Championships in the Adult 40&Over Age Group will be held at the 4.5 level. Championships below National Championships, and Local Leagues, will be held at the 4.5 level and may be held at the 5.0 level.

2.05E(3) – All players age 70 or over automatically be granted an appeal(A rating) of their current rating to the next lower level, subject to 2.05E(4). NTRP Dynamic Disqualification procedures as outlined in 2.04B(3) apply.

2.03H(1) – For Sectional Championships and below, in the event of a tie, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:

a. Individual Matches: Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.

b. Head-to-Head: Winner of head-to-head only if all tied teams have played each other and one team defeated all the teams that are tied.

c. Sets: Loser of the fewest number of sets.

d. Games: Loser of the fewest number of games.

e. Game Winning Percentage: Total games won divided by total games played.

f. Winner of No. 1 Doubles

2.06 – MOVE -UP/SPLIT- UP RULE:

Teams may move up one NTRP level; all of the team members or just some of the team members if they chose to. This is the same as prior years.

Split-up only applies to the same Division (Adult or Mixed), same age group and same NTRP team level that the team qualified for or advanced to a National Championship, and applies to all players that were eligible to advance.

Move-Up/Split-Up regulations are not applicable to Adult 65&Over, 55&Over Mixed, or Tri Level leagues.

2019 National Teams do not need to move-up/split up for league play in the 2021 season.

YEAR-END NTRP COMPUTER RATINGS AND APPEAL PROCEDURES

Match results from tournaments will not be included in year-end calculation of ratings, except for NTRP tournaments.

Players who want to appeal their self-rating must complete the on-line appeal form available on the last screen during the self-rate process. The NTRP Appeal Committee will investigate the information provided in the self-rate appeal form as soon as possible.

Medical appeals shall be sent to Sally Baird, baird@ms.usta.com, who will forward them to the Section Medical Appeals Committee.

2021 USTA Middle States Section League Committees

USTA Middle States League Committee: Chair: Casey Thampoe , Staff Liaison: Manager of Adult Leagues

NTRP Appeal Committee: Jay Witmer, Jon Feinstein, Heather Gallagher

Other Middle States Committees are formed as necessary first utilizing members of the USTA MS League Committee and Subcommittees and then other committee members selected by the Middle States League Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman.

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Championship	Team Format (all Championships)	Matches required for districts/section	Matches required for Nationals	Location (Sectional)	Date (Sectional)
Mixed 18 & Over	3 doubles – combined rating (max 1.0 apart)	2 played, 1 may be received default*	3 matches, one may be by default received**	Landisville	June 4-6
Mixed 40 & Over	3 doubles – combined rating (max 1.0 apart)	2 played, 1 may be by received default*	3 matches, one may be by default received**	Landisville	June 11-13
Mixed 55 & Over	3 doubles – combined rating (max 1.0 apart)	2 played, 1 may be by received default	2 matches, one may be by default received	Landisville	June 4-6
Adult 18 & Over	3.0,3.5, 4.0,4.5: 2 singles, 3 doubles; 2.5, 5.0 - 1 singles 2 doubles	2 played, 1 may be received default*	3 matches, one may be by default received**	Princeton, NJ	August 20-22
Adult 40 & Over	3.0,3.5, 4.0,4.5 - Format to be decided locally - 1 singles and 3 doubles for all championships	2 played, 1 may be received default*	3 matches, one may be by default received**	Princeton, NJ	September 10-12
Adult 55 & Over	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0 – 3 doubles	2 played, 1 may be by default received*	3 matches, one may be by default received**	Landisville	September 17-19
Adult 65 & Over	3 doubles	2 played, 1 may be by default received	2 played, 1 may be by default received	Delaware Valley Tennis Club	September 24-26

***Self-rated and computer rated appealed players must have two played matches to play at championships within Middle States, no defaults received.**

****Self-rated and computer-appealed players must have four played matches to play at National Championships, no defaults received.**