

10.6.2021



## USTA MIDDLE STATES TRI-LEVEL 4.5 LEAGUE RULES

All captains and players shall follow the USTA Middle States Tri Level Leagues regulations and the USTA League Program Rules and Regulations available on the Middle States website:

<https://www.usta.com/en/home/coach-organize/tennis-tool-center/resource-library/usta-league/middlestates/middle-states-league-captain-resources.html>

### PARTICIPATION

1. Team members must be a member of the USTA and register to play on their team prior to playing their first match.
2. A player must have reached the age of 18 years **prior** to participating in the league.
3. Players may register and play on only one team within each division.
4. Players who have a C rating on the team roster and get bumped up at year end may continue to use their NTRP Rating at the time of a player's registration for the entire local league season.
5. Players who have a C rating on the team roster and get bumped down at year end may use their new, lower NTRP Rating for the entire local league season.
6. Players who have an S, A, or T rating on the team roster and get bumped up or down at year end may continue to use their rostered rating for the rest of the local league season.

### FORMAT

**Tri Level 3.5/4.0/4.5 Leagues:** 1<sup>st</sup> doubles: 4.5; 2<sup>nd</sup> doubles: 4.0; 3<sup>rd</sup> doubles: 3.5

1. Players can play up one level only. Players cannot play down a level
2. Each team shall have a minimum of six (6) registered players (2 at each level).
3. Each match will consist of three doubles matches, one at each level. For a match to be considered a valid match, 2 courts must be played. An entire forfeited match will not count as a match played.
4. All matches will be the best 2 out of 3 sets with a match tiebreak (first to 10 by 2 points) in lieu of a third set. If teams are tied in a set 6-6, play a regular set tiebreak (first to 7 by 2). Timed Match Rules will go into effect if the league has time limitations.
5. Team captains shall exchange lineups simultaneously **PRIOR** to the scheduled match start time. No substitutions may be made in an individual match after the lineup has been presented and before the first serve attempt except for injury to or illness of a player.
6. In case of inclement weather, teams need to communicate as early as possible to avoid any problems.
7. To qualify for District or Sectional Championships, a player must have played a minimum of one (1) match, no defaults.

### CHAMPIONSHIP ELIGIBILITY

1. **Eligibility for District Championships:** Players who have a C, S, A, or T rating may advance to District Championships.
2. **Eligibility for Section Championships or National Invitational Championships:** Only players who have a C rating on the team roster may continue to play at that level and advance to Section Championships, and the National Invitational Championships even if they get bumped up at year end.

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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.**

3. Players must have a valid “C” rating after 2021 Year End Ratings have been published in order to participate in Middle States Section Championships and the Tri Level National Invitational.

## **NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

### **Roster sizes/requirements:**

For each team, there will be a minimum requirement of 6 players providing for one doubles team in the 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5 ability levels to a maximum of 12 players per team. This can be any combination of NTRP levels as long as the total number of players on a roster is **twelve or less** and there are at least two players onsite and available for the entire weekend at each NTRP level- 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5. For example, a team could have three 3.5, five 4.0 and four 4.5. *As this Invitational is intended to provide level based play, players should not play up NTRP levels unless there is an onsite injury or extenuating circumstances that require a team to play a player up a level to avoid defaulting a court.*