

10-4-2023



## USTA MIDDLE STATES TRI-LEVEL 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/play/adult-tennis/programs/middlestates/usta-middle-states-league-tennis.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. **A limit of 25 players per team is allowed.**
5. Players who have a C rating on the team roster and get bumped up at year end may continue to use their C rostered rating for the entire local league season
6. Players who have a C rating on the team roster and get bumped down at year end must continue to use their C rostered rating for the entire local league season.
7. 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 only.

### FORMATS:

- A. Tri Level 3.0/3.5/4.0 Leagues: 1<sup>st</sup> doubles: 4.0; 2<sup>nd</sup> doubles: 3.5; 3<sup>rd</sup> doubles: 3.0**
- B. 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**
- C. Tri Level 4.0/4.5/5.0 Leagues: 1<sup>st</sup> doubles: 5.0; 2<sup>nd</sup> doubles: 4.5; 3<sup>rd</sup> doubles: 4.0**

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).  
Teams may not advance to any championships if they do not have 2 players 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. **Any team that defaults an entire team match may not advance to championship level. Teams forfeiting an entire team match may receive further penalties.**
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. In case of inclement weather, teams need to communicate as early as possible to avoid any problems.

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## CHAMPIONSHIP ELIGIBILITY

### Eligibility for District, Sectional, and National Invitational Championships:

1. A player must have played in at **least 1 match** on the advancing team to be eligible **for Districts and Sectionals**.
  - a. A retired match shall count for all players involved.
  - b. **Players must have 2 matches played through Section Championships to be eligible for the National Invitational.**
  - c. **A default may count as a match played for advancing purposes to the National Invitational.**
2. **A player may compete in two or more NTRP divisions at any championship through Section Championships, however, the player waives the 1-hour rest period if they have back-to-back matches in different NTRP divisions.**
3. Players must have a valid "C" or "A" computer-generated NTRP rating of that "C" rating after the 2023 year-end ratings are published.
4. **"S", "M", and "T" rated players are eligible to compete at Districts if it is before the year-end ratings come out. Players must have a valid "C" or "A" rating to compete at Sectionals and National Invitational.**
5. Players may not play at an appeal of the 2023 C rating if granted. Automatic Appeals of year end 2022 ratings will be accepted. All C rated players must play at the level at which they were rostered in the 2023 season.
6. 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.**
7. Players who have a C rating on the team roster and get bumped up at year end, may use their lower rostered C rating at All Championships; however, they can NOT appeal their rating and attend the Invitational at their **appealed rating**.
8. Players who have a C rating on the team roster and get bumped down at year end, must use their higher rostered C rating at All Championships.

## NATIONAL INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

### Roster sizes/requirements:

For each team, there will be a minimum requirement of 6 players providing for one doubles team **in each ability level represented in that particular league. There is no maximum number of registered players per team.** This can be any combination of NTRP levels as long as the total number of players on a roster is **at least 6 players** and there are at least two players onsite and available for the entire weekend at each NTRP level. For example, **on a 4.5 Tri Level team, a team with three 3.5, five 4.0 and four 4.5 players would be eligible to compete as there would be at least two players available at each level.** *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.*

Click here to see the Fact Sheet for the National Invitational

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JStlbpRzMkTuKrP-ISATD30a5QG-eTnA/view>