

**ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT FOR THE USTA/MIDWEST SECTION  
STATE AND SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP REGULATIONS  
ADULT, MIXED, COMBO, TRI-LEVEL, AND 65 AND OVER LEAGUES**

1. USTA Rules, USTA League Regulations, current USTA/Midwest Section Standing Orders and "The Code" will be observed. A certified Referee must be hired to supervise all aspects of play and roving officials may be employed as well for the event.
2. Team lineups for each match must be submitted by the captain to the tournament desk at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled match. The captain must inform the tournament desk that the entire team is on site and available to play. The tournament desk has the authority to start matches when courts are available but no sooner than 30 minutes prior to the scheduled match time.
3. If a team lineup is not submitted prior to the match being called, or the team is not on site when the match is called, an official will be notified. The Point Penalty for lateness as stated in Friend at Court (Regulation IV.D. and Table 14) will be used for each court where the player(s) for the court being called fail to appear. The penalties are as follows:
  - 5 minutes or less: Loss of toss plus 1 game
  - 5.01-10 minutes: Loss of toss plus 2 games
  - 10:01-15 minutes: Loss of toss plus 3 games
  - More than 15 minutes: Default
4. **Players may be asked to submit a current photo ID and/or driver's license to verify their identity during check-in and at any time during the championship. Failure to provide positive identification (i.e., a current photo ID and/or driver's license) may result in an automatic default of any matches played in which the individual who cannot provide proper identification participated during the championship.**
5. If a player is on two or more first place teams at the same NTRP level and Division, the player must choose ONLY ONE team on which to play at the District, State, or Sectional Championships. That choice must be reported in writing to the Championship Director by the deadline set by each District Championship Committee and by 12:00 (noon) local time on the Monday preceding the State and Section Championship. A player representing two local leagues in the same District who fails to declare will automatically be assigned to the first team on which the player registered. A player representing two different Districts, who fails to declare, will automatically be assigned to the player's home District. A player must remain with his or her chosen team for all Championship play up to and including the Sectional Championships, or their equivalent. After elimination of the chosen team, a player may not advance with another team at the same NTRP level through the Sectional Championships, or their equivalent. The player may advance to National Championships, or their equivalent, if otherwise eligible. (Player Decision Form is online).

6. A round robin schedule will be used. A warm-up of ten minutes is permitted beginning when the courts are assigned. Warm-up time will be monitored by the roving umpires.
7. All courts for a team match must be on the same surface and scheduled at the same time.
8. The player should have their phone turned off unless it is specifically approved by the Tournament Referee for the player to have the phone on court in VIBRATE mode. Only medical professionals and certain Information Systems professionals are eligible for this exemption.

If a cell phone rings (or vibration is heard) between points or during a changeover, the offending player is given a time violation. If it rings during a point, the other player/team may claim the point on a hindrance. In either case the player must turn the phone off at that point. If the player does have an exemption and the phone rings, the player loses the point. If it vibrates, the opposing team or player may claim a let.

A player may bring to the court written notes that were prepared before the start of the match and may read these notes during the match. A player **MAY NOT** use electronic devices such as cell phones, digital messaging systems, radios, tablets/smart watches, etc. Hearing aids and watches not capable of receiving messages are permitted. A player desiring to use any other electronic device should first ask the **Referee** whether the device may be used.

9. One team point will be awarded to the team winning the majority of the individual matches:
  - Adult 18 & Over 3.0-4.5 NTRP levels, Five individual matches
  - Adult 18 & Over 2.5&5.0 NTRP levels, Three individual matches
  - Adult 40 & Over 3.0-4.5 NTRP levels, Five individual matches
  - Mixed 18 & Over 2.5, 6.0-10.0 NTRP Combined levels, Three individual matches
  - Mixed 40 & Over, 6.0-9.0 NTRP Combined Levels, Three individual matches
  - Mixed 55 & Over, 6.0-9.0 NTRP Combined Levels, Three individual matches
  - Adult 55 & Over, 6.0-9.0 NTRP Combined Levels, Three individual matches
  - Adult 65 & Over, 6.0-9.0 NTRP Combined Levels, Three individual matches
  - Combo, 5.5-8.5 NTRP Combined Levels, Three individual matches
  - Tri-Level: 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5, Three individual matches  
3.0, 3.5 and 4.0, Three individual matches  
4.0, 4.5 and 5.0, Three individual matches

10. If teams are tied, the tie will be broken according to USTA League Regulations 2.03H - 2.03H(2)f and then USTA /Midwest Section USTA League Standing Order 2.03H.

**USTA League Regulations:**

2.03H Procedures in the Event of a Tie. In the event of a tie, whether in round robin or single elimination competition, 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)f A Method to be Determined by the Championships Committee.

Procedure to be announced prior to commencement of championship competition.

**From USTA/Midwest Section Standing Orders:**

2.03H The tie shall be broken first by the fewest number of sets lost in the Head-to-Head Match, the second determination would be the fewest number of games lost in the Head-to-Head Match, and the third is by the best game winning percentage. Lastly, a coin toss by the head Referee or his or her designee.

11. If a team needs to default a position, defaults will be according to USTA League Regulations. The defaulted point goes to the opponent as stated in the 2021 USTA League Regulations 2.03K.

12. First place trophies will be awarded to the winning team:

Adult 18 & Over 3.0-4.5: Ten (10) trophies

Adult 18 & Over 2.5 & 5.0: Seven (7) trophies

Adult 40 & Over 3.0-4.5: Eleven (11) trophies

All other divisions: Eight (8) trophies

**Extra trophies may be ordered at the team's expense.**

13. There will be no accommodation for players at the state or sectional match schedules who play on multiple teams.

14. If a team cannot participate in either State or Sectional Championship, the captain must immediately notify the District USTA League Coordinator. The District USTA League Coordinator (DLC) or State Tournament Director will contact the second-place team and offer them an opportunity to compete if they have a full complement of courts. The DLC will then notify the State Championship Director or Sectional Championship Director that the second-place team will be coming.
15. If a team does not participate in the State or Sectional Championship and there is no team to replace that team, then the defaulting team's district will be held responsible for the Championship entry fee. Entry fees are not reduced for defaulting teams. Any additional action against the team is at the District's discretion.
16. If at any time during the championships a team ceases to have a full complement of players, then from that point going forward, the team will have to default the same position for every match in compliance with the following guidelines:

5-court match (2 singles and 3 doubles format):

- 7 players default 2<sup>nd</sup> singles
- 6 players default 3<sup>rd</sup> doubles
- 5 players default 2<sup>nd</sup> singles & 3<sup>rd</sup> doubles
- 4 players default 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> doubles

5-court Match (1 singles, 4 doubles format):

- 8 players: default 1st singles
- 7 players: default 4 th doubles
- 6 players: default 1st singles & 4th doubles
- 5 players: default 3rd singles & 4th doubles

3-court Match (1 singles, 2 doubles format):

- 4 players: default singles
- 3 players: default 2nd doubles

3-court Match (3 doubles format)

- 4 or 5 players: default 3rd doubles

The Tournament Director will inform the opposing captains that the team is short a player(s) and let them know which position(s) will be defaulted.

17. At all USTA/Midwest Sectional and State Championships, a minimum number of team members as shown in the table below, who were on the final roster of their local league team at the conclusion of local league play, must be available and eligible to compete or to combine and compete, as appropriate.

<b>MINIMUM NUMBER of TEAM MEMBERS REQUIRED AT CHAMPIONSHIPS</b>	
<b>DIVISION</b>	<b>MINIMUM NUMBER AT MIDWEST STATE/ SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP</b>
<b>Adult 18 &amp; Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5</b>	<b>4</b>

<b>Adult 18 &amp; Over 2.5 &amp; 5.0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Adult 40 &amp; Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Mixed 18 &amp; Over</b>	<b>2 women 2 men</b>
<b>Mixed 40 &amp; Over</b>	<b>2 women 2 men</b>
<b>Mixed 55 &amp; Over</b>	<b>2 women 2 men</b>
<b>Adult 55 &amp; Over</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Adult 65 &amp; Over</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Combo</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Tri-Level</b>	<b>4</b>

18. In all other situations where teams do not have a complete complement of courts due to unusual circumstances the Championship Tournament Committee reserves the right to handle on a case-by-case basis.
19. A grievance against a player or team alleging a violation during championship league competition shall be filed with the Championship Grievance Committee in accordance with rule 3.03C(1), in the 2021 USTA League Regulations. The grievances must be written on specific forms obtained from the tournament desk (or online) and returned to the duly appointed site director or designee prior to whichever occurs first: (a) within 30 minutes of the completion of the involved team's match or (b) the commencement of the involved team's next match, whether or not the involved player participates, except for NTRP/Eligibility Grievances.

A filing fee of \$100 is due to the Section upon submission of any grievance type. If the decision of the Grievance Committee is appealed, a filing fee of \$100 is due upon submission of that appeal. If the grievance or grievance appeal is upheld, the fee is refunded.

20. The Head Referee or the Referee's designee may assess suspension points for conduct at a League Championship; such points will be reviewed and approved by the Head Referee (for points assessed by the Referee's designee) and/or Championship Grievance Committee. The Referee shall report points assessed following Regulation 3.03C(1).

The Championship Grievance (or Championship Grievance Appeal) Committee may assess suspension points for conduct at a League Championship. The Championship Grievance (or Grievance Appeal) Committee shall report points assessed following Regulations 3.03C(1)

No Grievance will be accepted in the same matter for which the Head Referee or the Referee's designee has assessed suspension points.

21. During District, State and Sectional Championship play, players declared ineligible by the USTA/Midwest Section League NTRP Grievance Committee will

not be allowed to advance with their team, but their match results will stand as played. (See USTA/Midwest Section Standing Order 2.04E(1)).

22. Matches will be the best of 2 tiebreak sets with a match tiebreak in lieu of third set with the two-minute set break with no coaching allowed.
  - a) Regular scoring will be used.
  - b) Set tiebreak (Coman Tiebreak Procedure) at 6 all in each set
  - c) Third set match tiebreak (Coman Tiebreak Procedure) shall be played in lieu of third set in event of split sets.
  - d) Alternate scoring (no-ad or pro sets) may be used in case of rain or unforeseen circumstances.
23. After the match, players should return the used balls and report the scores to the site director. Scores should be verified by all those who competed. Captains should sign the completed scorecard within 15 minutes after the team match is over or scores will be entered as originally reported.
24. At championship, individual players are allowed a one (1) hour rest between matches. Matches may be called for the other players on the teams. Players may waive their own rest period at any time; however, all players involved must agree to go on prior to the one-hour rest period. This rule does not apply to players who are playing on multiple teams at the same championship. Examples include a player playing in Adult 18 & Over and Adult 40 & Over or a player playing at the 3.5 level and the 4.0 level at the same championship.
25. Disqualification of any individual and/or team and/or default of matches are within authority of the Championship Committee and/or Championship Director when it is determined those eligibility requirements and/or rules have not been followed.
26. Interpretation of the USTA Regulations of the USTA League Program is within the authority of the USTA/Midwest Section League Coordinator.

## **DISQUALIFICATION & REVIEW PROCEDURES**

The following guidelines and procedures will be used during this championship. Please review carefully.

**GRIEVANCE** (*Written formal complaint regarding an alleged violation of a regulation or procedure.*)

**3.03C(1)** Any grievance alleging a violation during championships competition shall be in writing and delivered to the duly appointed site director or designee prior to whichever

occurs first: (a) within 30 minutes of the completion of the involved team's match, or (b) the commencement of the involved team's next match, whether or not the involved player participates except for the Eligibility Grievance.

**3.03E(1)a NTRP Grievance.** Any self-rated player who is playing at an NTRP Level lower than his/her actual skill level is subject to an NTRP Grievance. If an NTRP Grievance Committee determines that the self-rated player has an inaccurate or inappropriate self-rating, the player shall be disqualified and have his/her NTRP level adjusted by the NTRP Grievance Committee. Scoring of matches played by the disqualified player, per Reg. 3.03E(6) shall be administered in accordance with 3.03C(4)b. NTRP Grievance Committee may additionally impose other penalties against a player who has inappropriately self-rated, including suspension. Also, a captain or others who have assisted, condoned, or approved inappropriate self-rating will be subject to such penalties as the NTRP Grievance Committee may decide, including suspension.

Please take the time to review the balance of **3.03C** (Championship Procedures) to familiarize yourself with the process.

***Forms may be obtained from the site director or the Section League Coordinator.***

**GRIEVANCE APPEAL** (*Request for reconsideration of a previous decision determination or finding.*) Any party to the complaint may file an appeal.

**3.04A(2)** The party(ies) appealing shall file a written notice of appeal with the appropriate coordinator or designee, who shall send it to the Chair of the appropriate Grievance Appeal Committee; Chair of the Grievance Committee whose decision is being appealed; Local, District or Section League Coordinator, and to the other party(ies) involved in the complaint.

***Forms may be obtained from the site director or the Section League Coordinator.***

## **NTRP DISQUALIFICATION**

**2.04B(2) Championship NTRP Disqualification:** There will be no NTRP Dynamic Disqualification at National Championships. Players who are NTRP dynamically disqualified at any championship below Nationals will be notified by the Sectional League Coordinator or designee and have the right to a review in accordance with procedures in Reg. 2.04C. The Section shall choose one of the following options for NTRP Dynamic Disqualifications at each Section Championship and below:

### **USTA/MIDWEST SECTION USTA LEAGUE OPTION IS:**

2.04E(2)a Run dynamic calculations and produce ratings throughout the championship. Through the conclusion of the championship event notify and disqualify any player that meet the criteria for NTRP disqualification and reverse appropriate matches played.

## **NTRP DISQUALIFICATION REVIEW PROCEDURES**

**2.04C Reviews** are considered based solely on missing or incorrect data.

**2.04C(2) Championship.** If the team captain or the player disqualified during or after the conclusion of championship competition desires a review of the disqualification, a written request must be submitted to the Tournament Director, Section League Coordinator or designee, asking for a review before the NTRP Dynamic Disqualification Review Committee of the nearest available jurisdiction within the deadline set by the Chair of the Championships Committee. The written request for a review shall be delivered by the recipient to the Chair of the NTRP Dynamic Disqualification Review Committee. A review shall be held as soon as reasonable. ***Forms may be obtained from the site director or the Section League Coordinator.***