

**USTA Missouri Valley
USTA League Tennis
2022 Rules and Regulations
12/2/2021- Final**

General USTA Missouri Valley League Rules: The Missouri Valley Section League Tennis Rules and Regulations, which are supplemental and subordinate to the USTA National League Tennis Program Rules and Regulations, **must** apply to USTA League Tennis in the USTA Missouri Valley Section. District and Local Rules and Regulations may be developed to supplement the USTA National and Sectional Rules and Regulations. However, the District and Local Rules and Regulations must not contradict the National or Sectional established rules and regulations. **If a Section, District/Area or Local League does not have a regulation in place to address an issue and there is a National Championship Regulation on that issue, the Section, District/Area or Local League must follow the National Championship Regulation.**

The Sectional Office must approve any District or Local Rules and Regulations. If you would like a copy of the 2022 USTA League Tennis Rules and Regulations, contact your District League Coordinator, or the USTA Missouri Valley Section Office. (Notes: Numbers at the beginning of a sentence are a reference to a National Regulation. Red Underlined sentences and phrases are changes for 2022).

For purposes of these regulations, the term "level" refers to an NTRP level in which competition is held. Thus under this definition, each of the following are considered separate levels:

- 18-39 4.0 Men's and 18-39 4.0 Women's
- 18 & over 4.0 Men's and 18 & over 4.0 Women's
- 40 & over 4.0 Men's and 40 & over 4.0 Women's
- 55 & over 7.0 Women Combined Rating Level and 55 & over 7.0 Men Combined Rating Level
- 65 & over 8.0 Women Combined Rating Level and 65 & over 8.0 Men Combined Rating Level
- 18 & over 6.0 Combined Mixed and 18 & over 8.0 Combined Mixed
- 40 & over 7.0 Combined Mixed and 40 & over 9.0 Combined Mixed
- 55 & over 6.0 Combined Mixed and 55 & over 8.0 Combined Mixed

For purposes of these regulations, the term division refers to:

- Adult (18-39, 18 & over, 40 & over, 55 & over and 65 & over)
- Mixed (18 & over, 40 & over, and 55 & over)
- Tri-Level (three levels combined on one team)

MAJOR NATIONAL REGULATION CHANGES FOR 2022

1. 1. An additional Local League Competition Format option has been approved. 2.01C(2) Partial Round Robin. Each NTRP level within a local league may play a partial round robin competition wherein every team plays the same number of matches against randomly selected opponents. A minimum of the top two teams progress to a single elimination playoff to determine the local league champion for that NTRP level.
2. Two changes related to 2.01C(2) have been approved for Championship Competition Formats. 2.03D(1)a To establish the champion of a local league that utilized a full round robin competition under 2.01C(1), the Sectional Association determines the competition format for the championship competition. 2.03D(1)b To establish the champion of a local league that utilized a partial round robin competition under 2.01C(2), the competition format must be a minimum of a single elimination playoff between the top two teams at the conclusion of the partial round robin to determine the local league champion for that NTRP level.
3. Advancement to National Championships- Minimum match requirements 2.03A(4)- Computer-rated player must have participated in three matches during all competition on that specific team. Only 1 default may count as a match played. Self-rated and computer-rated appealed players require playing at least four (4) matches on the same team at the same level in the same Age Group. No defaults received count.
4. A change to the Grievance Procedures has been approved. Previously, each Section had the option to honor a sanction imposed in another Section. Now, the decision of a Grievance Committee in any Section applies to the USTA League program in all Sections. 3.03D(4) The decision of all USTA League Grievance committees must conform to the USTA League Suspension Point System, which is established before each League Year by the USTA National League Committee. See appendix A on pg. 15 and appendix B on pg. 16 for more details.

Major Section Regulation Changes for 2022

1. 15.J(2)b. Wildcard teams must not have a losing team record. If a team record is tied then their individual wins must be greater than their losses or if their individual match record is tied, then they must have a game-winning percentage of greater than 50%.
2. 15. L(1)a. Tiebreak Procedures-The computer breaks as many ties as possible using a given step before using the next step until the order of finish is determined.
3. 10/15.C/A.1. Majority of matches not played - If a team does not play the majority of lines in a match (3 courts in a 4 or 5 line league and 2 courts in a 3 line league) the match is a total team default. They will not be included in the standings per national regulation 2.01C3 for the round in which the total team default occurred.
4. 10/15. C/A. 2. Teams that are removed from any round-robin due to a total team default cannot advance to District or Section Championships.

These regulations apply to all USTA League divisions in the USTA Missouri Valley:

1. Districts:

- a. District League Coordinators are appointed, or hired, by their District Association. The District League Coordinators and District Association appoint Local League Coordinators. District Championship Committees must be appointed and approved by the District League Coordinator and approved by the USTA Missouri Valley Section's Adult Competition Program Manager. The Sectional League Championship Committees must be appointed by the USTA Missouri Valley Section's Adult Competition Program Manager.
- b. Districts may impose restrictions regarding residency or number of players on any team rosters for any leagues. Players should refer to the District League Regulations regarding these restrictions.

2. Early Start Leagues and the Elimination of Early Start Ratings:

- a. An Early Start League begins its season before the Year End Ratings are published. Players wishing to participate in an Early Start League will compete with their most current Year End Rating, or Self-rating. Players who are moved up at Year End Ratings Publication may continue with their Early Start Teams, at their previous lower level, until the end of the local league season, as long as they have not reached the clearly above level. They may not participate in the lower level in any championships.
- b. Players who are found to have valid computer ratings at year-end but are at or above the clearly above level mark must adjust to that new NTRP level. Prior team matches played are valid.

3. Registration:

- a. **Playing under own name with USTA number.** A player can only play under their own name and under the USTA number used to generate their NTRP rating if one exists. If a USTA membership lapses and is subsequently renewed, the prior USTA membership number will be used. A player must accurately report match scores. Any player who violates the above, the team captain, and any team member who plays in a match with knowledge of impersonation or improper recording of scores, may be suspended from all USTA League Tennis.
- b. **Reaching minimum age.** Each player must have reached the required minimum age before or during the calendar year in which the player participates in their first local league.
- c. **Adult leagues are for players over the age of 18.** Additionally, a player must be 18 years old before registering or participating in any match in the USTA Adult League Program.
- d. **TennisLink registration before the first match.** Players must register for their team using TennisLink Leagues. Players must register prior to participating in their first match. Districts may enforce Registration Deadlines for any USTA League. Players should refer to their District or Local League Regulations regarding the Registration Deadlines for any leagues in which they participate.

4. Self-Rating

a. Players required to self-rate. The following players must self-rate:

- Player without a valid computer (C) NTRP rating in TennisLink;
- Returning player with an expired NTRP rating;
- Tournament Exclusive (T) rating;
- Mixed Exclusive (M) rating;

These players are assigned a new rating, their last expired rating, or a higher rating based on their playing history.

b. Any submission of false information regarding a player's tennis history will subject the player, the captain, and/or others who condone inaccurate self-rating to sanctions and disqualification. Any Self-Rating Player Appeals will be processed by the Section NTRP Appeals Committee. The appealing player is responsible for justifying the request for the appeal. If no justification is given, appeal will be denied.

c. **3.03B(3)** For eligibility matters of simple fact (e.g., age, USTA membership, TennisLink registration), a USTA league coordinator may declare a player ineligible and disqualify that player without filing a grievance. (See Regs.1.04C(1) Official League Registration, 1.04E(2) Membership, 1.04E(3) Age, and 1.04F Official League Rating Program, and 2.01A1).

1. **In the event of a promotion due to national regulation 3.03B(3)a, we will follow Dynamic disqualification procedures and reverse all matches that generated a strike and the player will be moved to the level in accordance with the Player Experience and Guidelines chart.**

5. NTRP

a. Year End Ratings are published at the beginning of December and take effect on publication date. A player may play only one NTRP level above the player's current NTRP level in the Adult or Mixed Divisions.

b. All Adult Divisions will include teams that maintain at least 30 % of players who are rated the level of the NTRP flight that they play. Ex: a 3.0 Adult 18 & Over team must have 30 % or more players registered on said team that are rated 3.0.

c. Self-ratings are valid for two years from the date issued or until replaced by a dynamic or computer rating. If there is a change in playing experience, the player may promptly appeal to request a higher rating (an appeal up) or may be promoted by the Sectional League Coordinator.

d. Adult NTRP Year End Ratings for players 59 years or younger will be valid for 3 years or until the player participates in another sanctioned league.

6. Self Rate Appeals

a. All self-rate appeals must be submitted through the self-rate appeals function in the player's tennislink account. Only the player (or Section staff in extreme circumstances) can submit a self-rate appeal with the player's permission.

b. If a player reports to any coordinator that someone other than the player has used the self-rate appeal function to appeal the players' rating without the player's permission, the coordinator must immediately file a grievance with the recommendation that the player using the appeal function be suspended for 1 year.

7. Dynamic Disqualification and Promotions

a. A player may be dynamically disqualified based on match results from the Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over and Adult 55 & Over divisions.

b. Players who are subject to NTRP Disqualification are: A (Appealed players), T (Tournament-exclusive players), M (Mixed-exclusive players), and S (Self-rated players). A Computer-Rated Player will not be subject to NTRP Disqualification.

c. During local league competition, computer ratings will be calculated for all players to determine if any players have reached the disqualification criteria using the USTA NTRP Computer Methodology Procedures. Players will be NTRP disqualified if they reach the disqualification level three times based on all matches reported in the national database for All Adult Divisions, except 65 & Over. The individual matches that produced the three strikes in the level in which they were disqualified will be deemed wins for the opponent and any subsequent matches will be considered losses.

- d. If the player is competing in two NTRP levels, results from the higher-level matches are considered in Dynamic Ratings and may cause strikes disqualifying a player at the lower NTRP level (with the exception of Computer-rated players).
- e. Players who are NTRP Disqualified may not play at the disqualified NTRP level of play (or any lower level) in either singles or doubles for the remainder of the championship league year and for the succeeding league year. A disqualified player becomes a benchmark. Players who are NTRP disqualified may be allowed to move up and participate on another team at a higher NTRP level during the same league season.
- f. **Dynamic Disqualification after Championships 2.04B(2)b**--After ANY District or Section Championship, Dynamic Ratings are run. Following the conclusion of the event, those players who received their third strike will be disqualified and notified by the Section League Coordinator, and if their team is advancing to sectionals or nationals, disqualified players will not be able to compete with their team. Following an NTRP Disqualification, the player may not play at the disqualified level of play in either singles or doubles for the remainder of the championship year and for the succeeding league year.

8. Appeals

- a. **Medical Appeals**- All medical appeals will be reviewed by a National Committee. Any player wishing to submit a medical appeal must meet all criteria for a medical appeal. The player must submit the required forms to the Section League Coordinator. The appeals committee will review the appeal and if it meets all requirements then it will be sent to the National Committee. **Grounds for a medical appeal include, but are not limited to, permanent debilitating injury or permanent debilitating illness.**
- b. **Auto appeals**- If a player contacts any coordinator to report that someone **other than the player** has used the Auto-Appeal Function to appeal the players' rating without the player's permission, a grievance will be immediately filed by the coordinator, with a recommendation of suspension of 1 year for the person using the appeal function.
- c. **Promotion of Players 60 or Over**
2.05E(1) Any player who is 60 years of age or older prior to, or during, the calendar year in which such player plays his or her first local league match and has achieved the same rating level or lower for his or her three most recent year-end ratings, without benefit of appeal of the player's year-end rating level, will automatically be granted an appeal (A rating) if promoted, subject to 2.05E(4) below. NTRP Dynamic Disqualification procedures as outlined in 2.04B(3) apply.
- d. **2.05E(2) All players age 65 or over, if promoted, will automatically be granted an appeal (A rating) of their current rating back to their previous valid year-end rating level, subject to 2.05E(4) below. NTRP Dynamic Disqualification procedures as outlined in 2.04B(3) apply.**
- e. **2.05E(3) All players age 70 or over will automatically be granted an appeal (A rating) of their current rating to the next lower level, subject to 2.05E(4) below. NTRP Dynamic Disqualification procedures as outlined in 2.04B(3) apply.**
- f. **2.05 E(4) Any player who is clearly above level under the applicable Computer Methodology procedures, as defined in the Glossary, will be denied an appeal of his or her year-end rating under 2.05E(1), 2.05E(2) and 2.05E(3).**
- g. **2.05E(5) Clearly Above** Any player who is *clearly above level* under the applicable Computer Methodology procedures, as defined in the Glossary, will be denied an appeal of their year-end rating under **2.05E(1), 2.05E(2) and 2.05E(3).**

"Clearly above level" refers to situations in which the NTRP computer program determines that the rating is outside appealable parameters.

9. Grievances

- a. A player who is designated with an A, M, D, T, or S is subject to an NTRP Grievance.
- b. **3.02B--NTRP Grievance Complaint.** Any captain, coordinator, or committee member may file a Grievance against any player and/or captain they feel has entered, or condoned entering, below their actual skill level.

The Section League Grievance Committee having jurisdiction, augmented as necessary by experts in NTRP ratings, will review the alleged violator's completed USTA Player Electronic Self-Rate questionnaire.

1. **NTRP Grievances at Section Championships.** If NTRP Grievances are filed during a Sectional Championship, they will be held and then forwarded to the Section League Grievance Committee within 48 hours of the conclusion of the championship. After review, and in consultation with the NTRP experts who have augmented the committee, they will take action as they deem appropriate, including, but not limited to, disqualification, suspension from league play, or other league sanction.
 2. NTRP Grievances may be filed by a League Coordinator, Captain or Committee member, at any time, for free.
 3. **Grievance Decision Appeal.** Parties included in a grievance, wishing to submit a League Grievance Decision Appeal, regarding any Section League Grievance Decision, may do so by completing the official form, accompanied by a Check, payable to USTA Missouri Valley for \$50.00, and submitting it to the Adult League Manager, at the USTA Missouri Valley section office.
- c. **Grievance Timeline. 3.02A-** All complaints alleging a violation by an individual or team during local league competition must be filed in writing with the Local or District League Coordinator (or designee) having jurisdiction. The complaint must be filed prior to the commencement of the next team match in that flight involving such individual or team, or within 24 hours after the end of local league play, whichever occurs first.

10. Local League Season:

- a. **Line-Ups:** In a local league season, teams are not required to field players in order of strength at any level of league competition within the USTA Missouri Valley Section. Team Captains for each team must exchange their team match cards simultaneously prior to the scheduled starting time of the team match. No substitutions may be made in an individual match after the lineup has been presented, except for injury to, illness of, or a disqualification of a player prior to the start of such match. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the substituted player is entitled to a warm-up. The first serve is considered the start of the match.
- b. **Timed matches:** A Timed Match begins at the scheduled time of the match. Matches are designated Timed Matches prior to play. Any local league match that must be completed in a limited period of time (e.g., two hours) must use the Timed Match Procedure. Procedure states: At 15 minutes before the end of play, no new game will begin. All games "in play" are completed. If a player/team is ahead by two games, they have won the set. If no player/team is ahead by two games, they must play a set tiebreak. If the sets are then one-all, a set tiebreak must be played in lieu of a third set. A game is "in play" once the server has struck the first ball.
- c. **2.01C(1) Full Round Robin:** Sections may have the option to allow additional matches within a flight, additional randomly selected matches across flights and additional play-off round robin within a flight, as long as at least one complete round robin has occurred.
 1. Majority of matches not played - If a team does not play the majority of lines in a match (3 courts in a 4 or 5 line league and 2 courts in a 3 line league) the match is a total team default. They will not be included in the standings per national regulation 2.01C3 for the round in which the total team default occurred.
 2. Teams that are removed from any round-robin due to a total team default cannot advance to District or Section Championships.
- d. Local league winners at each level within the Adult Leagues will progress to a District Championship (if necessary). Players are eligible to advance to District Championships if they have two qualifying matches. A maximum of one defaulted match will count as a match played for the players receiving the default, but not for the players who defaulted. A retired match will count for all players involved.
- e. The District League Coordinator in accordance with the USTA League Championship Regulations must coordinate the District Championship using the TennisLink Championship Module.

- f. The District League Coordinator must update all district champions in the league tree no later than 48 hours after the completion of any district championship or local league season. All District information (rosters from local league winning teams) regarding the Sectional Championships is to be submitted no later than 48 hours after the completion of any District Championship, or 14 days prior to the start of Sectional Championship competition.
- g. Participation numbers for both 2.5 men and 5.0 mixed do not support continuation of a National Championship event. USTA discontinued the Mixed 5.0 18 & Over and Adult 2.5 18 & Over Men's National Championship events as of 2016. The Adult 18 & Over 2.5 Women's National Championship will continue to be offered.
- h. There will be a National Invitational offered for 18 & Over Open and 40 & Over 5.0.

11. Two-Team Leagues:

- a. **1.04D(6) Two-Team Leagues.** If any Adult League Type consists of only two teams in a level of play, each team must *maintain* its roster with at least 40 % of its players at the designated NTRP level of play. The exception is the Adult 55 & Over League Type and the 65 & over, that uses combined NTRP rating levels will not be required to comply with this Regulation (see next paragraph).
- b. All two team leagues, in any division except 65 & and over and 55 & and over mixed, must have two viable teams participating, including any combination rating league types. **Accommodation matches must not be created for advancement, and if created do not count.** "Viable" would mean a minimum number of combination rated players to fill court formation. EX: 3 courts of 9.0 combination doubles teams, minimum, to participate in Adult 55 & Over 9.0 league.
- c. Two-Team Leagues from all league formats must schedule and publish the schedule on TennisLink with a minimum of 3 matches. All score reporting rules must be followed if the winner of a two-team league wishes to be considered a valid team to advance to a sectional championship.

12. Coaching- Coaching will be permitted only during authorized rest periods (e.g., if there is a 10-minute rest period between 2nd and 3rd sets, when playing best two out of three sets) or suspension of play (e.g., for a rain delay).

13. Score Reporting- 1.04C(2) Official Score Reporting and Standings System: Establishes a 48 hour deadline for scores to be initially reported into TennisLink after the completion of a match if the Section does not have a deadline established. The other Team then has 48 hours after the score is reported to Confirm or Dispute. TennisLink will automatically confirm scores 48 hours after being reported.

14. Advancing leagues

- a. One team from each District Level will be eligible to compete at the USTA Missouri Valley Sectional Championships or Invitational.
- b. Winners from the Sectional Championships or Invitational will advance to the USTA National League Championships or Invitational.
- c. In the event a Local, District, or Sectional first place team, in any division, is not able to compete at the next level Championships, then the second place team in that level's Area, District, or Section would then qualify to take the place of the first place team. In the event the second place team was unable to attend, then the third place team would have the opportunity to attend the next level Championship.

15. Section Championships

- a. **Match Minimum-**USTA Missouri Valley will offer teams in any division advancing to Section Championships a minimum of 3 matches. The Tournament Director may change this policy if weather or other issues arise.
 - 1. **Majority of matches not played - If a team does not play the majority of lines in a match (3 courts in a 4 or 5 line league and 2 courts in a 3 line league) the match is a total team default. They will not be included in the standings per national regulation 2.01C3 for the round in which the total team default occurred.**
 - 2. **Teams that are removed from any round-robin due to a total team default cannot advance to Section Championships.**

- b. No team may advance to a section championship or invitational if that team does not include the required amount of players needed to fill all courts for each match scheduled or if that team does not intend to advance to nationals in good faith. This includes any teams that are eligible to advance to more than one national championship of USTA or any other organization or league as well. If the district's winning team in the division cannot attend with the required number of players needed, then the district will invite another team in the order of finish in the division until a team is found with the required number of players needed to represent the district. If no representative is found, the district will decline to send an advancing team.
- c. If a team is found to have participated in section championships with no prior intent to advance to national championships in that division, the players on that team will not be able to participate in any USTA League programs for the following year.
- d. **Eligibility (minimum match requirement) to advance to Section Championships.** A player is eligible to play the Section Championships if the player meets the applicable minimum match requirement.
1. **(S) Self-rated players**—must play at least 3 matches on the same team at that same level in that same age group. Defaults do not count.
 2. **(S) Self-rated players whose appeals have been granted**—must play at least 3 matches on the same team at that same level in that same age group. Defaults do not count.
 3. **(A) Computer-rated players whose appeals have been granted**—must play at least 3 matches on the same team at that same level in that same age group. Defaults do not count.
 4. **(M) Mixed exclusive players- For Mixed leagues only- Players must have at least 2 matches on the same team at the same level in that same age group. (they may have won 1 match by default.)**
 5. **(C) Computer rated players**—must play at least 2 matches on the same team at that same level in that same age group. (They may have won 1 match by default.)
- e. **Registration-**
1. Each District should abide by the set registration deadlines for teams that advance to the Section Championships and must complete the Section On-Line Registration.
 - a. A team that does not have the required minimum number of players registered by the deadline may not play in the Sectional Championships. In this case the District League Coordinator may invite the second place team to immediately register by a revised registration deadline.
 2. The District Coordinator may continue to invite teams in the order of finish and establish revised registration deadlines until the coordinator finds an eligible team that is able to compete. Once the team advancing has been determined because the required minimum number of players has registered, no fees will be refunded for any reason. Deadlines are set for at least 14 days before any section event.
 3. Any player who has missed the Sectional Registration Deadline, set by the section, and who wishes to participate in the championship, must contact the Adult Program Manager for permission and must submit payment of the registration fee, at captains check-in, to be eligible to play. No players will be allowed to play in the championship if they did not register or pay the fee at check-in.
 4. Players who are eligible for more than one team may participate on multiple teams in a Section Championship as long as the teams are in different levels. **(See Substitution and Default Rules below.)**
- f. **Substitutions, Defaults, and Retirements at Section Championships**
1. **Substitutions**
 - a. During the USTA Missouri Valley Sectional and District Championships, no substitutions may be made in an individual match after the line-up has been presented, *except for* injury to, illness of, or disqualification of a player before the start of such match, and under other circumstances authorized by the Championships Committee.

- b. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the option to recommence the warm-up rests with the substituted player. If no replacement is available, regulation 15f(2) does not apply. The match will be recorded as a default win for the opponent.

2. Defaults

- a. **The position to be defaulted** follows the National table for Allowable Defaults at All Championships (National Reg. pg.21). Since USTA Missouri Valley Section League Championships are "no-default" events, the action applied for "Special Defaults" will follow the rationale for USTA League Regulation 2.03L Scoring of Team Defaults.
- b. **If a team defaults a position for any reason during round robin play:**
- The position should not play additional matches in that round robin.
 - For all matches already played at the position, the opponents will be awarded a 6-0, 6-0 win.
 - The position matches already played will be used for both player ratings and championship advancement purposes.
 - If all teams with a mathematical chance to advance have played the defaulting team in good faith, those matches must stand as played when determining standings.
 - If a player(s) is/are defaulted for circumstances outside the control of the player(s) and the team, then the Tournament Committee has discretion to not impose the above-listed sanctions against the team.

EXCEPTIONS:

- If a player is defaulted by an official due to the point penalty system, this regulation does not apply. The match will be recorded as a retirement as long as play has started. If play has not started then it will be recorded as a default.
 - If a player is injured or becomes ill during the warm up, and no replacement is available, this regulation does not apply. The match is a retirement but will be recorded as a default due to TennisLink capabilities.
- c. **When a team notifies the TD of an "Special Default"**, all remaining opponent(s) will be informed of the "Special Default" before submitting their line-up. If the opponent has not been informed prior to submitting their line-up they may elect to change their line up. **"Special Default"** is a default that occurs after the start of a championship. The captain is responsible for informing the TD immediately upon their knowledge of the "Special Default".
- d. **If a team defaults a second position**, this regulation also applies to the second position in 5 position championship.
- e. **If the defaulting team advances out of round robin play**, all positions are eligible to play in the next level of the championship.

3. Retirements

- a. A retirement occurs when an individual match has started and a player/doubles team is unable to continue due to injury, loss of condition, emergency or refusal to play. (see National Reg. 2.03N Scoring of Retirements.)
- b. If a player is found to have retired due to illness, injury or personal circumstance, wherein actuality it is because their team has secured the other lines, the player, team and captain will be subject to a sportsmanship grievance. This can include, but is not limited to, being disqualified from the event. (National Regulation 2.03K(1))

g. Draw Format-

1. Each Championship will operate on a basis of 8 total teams in each level (2.5–5.0 for Adults 18 & Over and 3.0–4.5 for Adults 40 & Over) with a representing team from each District.
2. Wildcards will be awarded according to Missouri Valley Section Regulation 15.J

3. **Divisions with 8 teams**, there will be two pools of 4 teams. Each pool of 4 teams will play a round robin. The top 3 teams from each pool will advance to the next round. Those 6 teams will compete in a single elimination quarter-final, a semi-final, and a final.
 4. **Divisions with 4 or 5 teams**, a round robin will be played with the team with the best record overall wins.
 5. **Divisions with 3 teams**, we will offer a double-round robin with the best record overall winning.
 6. **Divisions with only 2 teams**, will have 3 matches scheduled, if the same team wins the first two matches, the last match will not be played.
- 7. After all wildcard options have been exhausted:**
- a. **A flight with 6 teams:** the format will be a round robin. If the event moves indoors or the format is shortened, the Tournament Committee must decide, before the captain's check-in, whether to keep the round robin format or change to pool play. Pool play is 2 pools of 3 teams, all advancing to the quarter finals.
 - b. **A flight with 7 teams:** There is one pool of 4 teams and another pool of 3 teams. All teams except for the fourth place team in the pool of 4 advance to the quarterfinals.
- h. All players will be asked to show picture identification upon being assigned to a court for their first match of the championship. Any player unable to show picture identification by the time they are assigned to a court for their 2nd match will be immediately disqualified and their first match, if a win, will be awarded to the opponent.
 - i. The 2022 USTA Missouri Valley Section League Championships I & II will operate on a combination of select levels from the Adult 18 & Over League and select levels of the Adult 55 & Over League. Adult 18 & Over and Adult 55 & Over teams will compete in the same championship, but not against each other. In one Championship, Adult 18 & Over League levels 3.0, 4.0 and 5.0 will be held along with the 55 & Over League levels 7.0 and 9.0. In the other Championship, Adult 18 & Over League levels 2.5, 3.5, and 4.5 will be held along with the 55 & Over League levels 6.0 and 8.0.
- j. Section Wildcards**
1. Wildcards may not be used for Sectional Championships in a flight unless:
 - a. Six or more districts send a team in the level; or
 - b. Fewer than three teams are sent in the level.
 - c. If six districts send advancing teams, 2 wildcards will be awarded, as per the 2022 Wildcard Rotation Schedule, until 8 teams will advance and compete in pool play championship.
 2. Wildcard Requirements
 - a. Wildcard teams should not be accepted in the Section Championships if the team is not able to field a complete roster (enough players to fill all courts for all matches played) and plan on advancing all the way to nationals if winning the event. If the District's second place team is not able to field a complete roster, or does not intend to advance to nationals, the District should invite its third place team and so on. If the District's teams are unable to field a complete roster, then the District must pass the wildcard to the next district in line.
 - b. Wildcard teams must not have a losing team record. If a team record is tied then their individual wins must be greater than their losses or if their individual match record is tied, then they must have a game-winning percentage of greater than 50%.
 - c. Each district has 48 hours to find a team or must pass the wildcard.
 3. If an advancing or wildcard team withdraws within 14 days of the start of the Section Championships, a replacement team may be sought from the Wildcard Rotation Schedule. No refunds will be given for team members who dropped out. Fees will go for the cost of the replacement team. If a team withdraws from any section Championship within 7 days of the start of the event, no replacement team will be sought. The SLC reserves the right to replace a team with a wildcard from the hosting district if feasible and that district has not sent a wildcard in the division already.

4. Wildcard positions will be rotated as District teams are selected to fill positions. The selected District team will then rotate to the bottom of the rotation for the next year. No Wildcard will be offered to any district unless the district has three or more teams within the level except *that* when all districts that fielded teams in the level had only two teams, wildcards may be offered if the requirement of Regulation 15(j)6 is also met.
 5. **Team and Wild Card placement will be via a random draw.** Placement of two teams from the same District in the same pool is not allowed unless it is unavoidable because there are three teams from the same district. All Championship individual-match scoring will consist of two sets, with a set (7-point) tiebreak at 6-all in each set. At one-set-all, a match tie-break (first to 10 points by 2) should be played in lieu of a third set, with the two-minute set break (with no coaching allowed). Any Tiebreak, be it a set or a match, occurring at Section Championships will use the Coman Tiebreak Procedure.
 6. If USTA Missouri Valley offers each eligible district a wildcard but cannot fill all spots, then the USTA Missouri Valley will go back through the wildcard rotation to determine which district, if any, can send an additional wildcard team.
- k. 2.03D Championship Competition Formats.**
- 2.03D(1) Championship Competition Format at Section Level Events and Below.** The Sectional Association must determine the competition, team match, and scoring formats for the championship competitions.
- 2.03D(1)a The Sectional Association must determine the competition format used to determine the champion of a local league that utilized a full round robin competition under 2.01C(1).
- 2.03D(1)b If a local league used a partial round robin competition under 2.01C(2), the competition format used to determine the local league format for that NTRP level must be a minimum of a single elimination playoff between the top two teams at the conclusion of the partial round robin.
- 2.03D(2) Competition Format at National Championships.** The USTA League Committee must determine the competition, team match and scoring formats for National Championships.
- 2.03E Team Match and Scoring.** A team match will consist of the matches as shown in the following table. The team winning the majority of individual matches will be awarded one team point at National Championships. Sectional Associations may follow either the National Championships scoring format or its own format for awarding points in order to determine the winning team of a championship competition. For each team match, a majority of the individual matches must actually be played by the two teams to constitute a valid team match. The Championship Committee has the authority to determine the actions to take when the combination of individual match defaults given by the two teams in the team match would result in a situation where the majority of the individual matches would not be played.
- l. 2.03H Procedures in the Event of a Tie.** If there is a tie, whether in round robin or single elimination competition, the tie must be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:
1. If there is a tie at a championship below the level of Sectional Championships, that championship determines and publishes the order in which the procedures listed in the next paragraph are used to break the tie. If the championship does not publish the procedure, then it must follow the order for breaking ties in the next paragraph.
 - a. The computer breaks as many ties as possible using a given step before using the next step until the order of finish is determined.
 2. For Sectional and National Championships, **in which there is** a tie, the tie must 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.

3. Section Championship- four court format ultimate tiebreak
 - a. In the event of a complete tie, each team has a match game winning percentage of 50%. The win will go to the winner of the #1 doubles court.
- m. Teams advancing to Sectional Championships are required to complete the Sectional Championship within the reasonable timeframe established. Once the Sectional Championship begins, a team may not withdraw from or refuse to play any team match without the approval from the Section League Coordinator. If a team withdraws from or refuses to play any team match without this permission, each player on the team who appeared at the Championship (regardless of whether the player had yet played a match) will not be allowed to participate in any USTA local league during the following league year.
- n. **2.03K(1)** The Championship Committee has the authority to file a grievance and recommend the actions to take when multiple match default(s) given by one team result in a situation that may materially impact the championship's standings. Team penalties may include but are not limited to, non-advancement, disqualification or suspension. (See Regulation 3.03A(7)).
- o. A cell phone that rings on the court, during play, results in the loss of a point due to a hindrance.
- p. **Teams Qualified/Advancing to National- 2.06 MOVE-UP/SPLIT-UP.**
 - 2.06A National Championship Teams.
 - 2.06A(1): Move-Up- Teams and team members that advanced to, or qualified for, any National Championship may play together as a team, in whole or in part, if they move up one NTRP team.
 - 2.06A(2): Split-Up- No more than 3 players who were on the roster of any team that advanced to, or qualified for, any National Championship team the previous year may play together in the same Division, Age Group and at the same NTRP level as the National Championship team(s), if their NTRP rating allows. Split-Up requirements only apply to players who participated in two (2) or more matches (no default received shall count) for that team during the championship year.
 - 2.06A(3): If a Section has a regulation that limits the number of players on a roster that are at a specific level, the Section must suspend that regulation for one year for any team that advanced to, or qualified for, any National Championship the previous year and chooses to move up one NTRP team level.

2022 Adult Leagues: 18 & Over, 40 & Over and 55 & Over

1. Captains will be responsible for reviewing all league regulations (national, section, and district) and communicating those to their players. Districts will hold captains meetings, and any captain unable to attend will still be solely responsible for obtaining the information provided at the meeting
2. **2.01A Levels of Play: Local Competition-2022 National changes**
2.01A(1) When using straight NTRP levels, a player may not have an NTRP rating higher than the NTRP level in which the player is competing.
3. **Sectional Match Format.** In accordance with the USTA League Rules and Regulations, all local league matches should consist of a format that has been determined by the District Association. At Section Championships the following formats will be used, aligning with the National Championship format:
 - a. 18 & Over-Team matches must consist of two singles and three doubles matches , except that 2.5 and 5.0 levels should consist of one singles match and two doubles.
 - b. Adult 40 & Over Leagues must consist of four courts, 1 singles and 3 doubles.
 - c. Adult 55 & Over Leagues must consist of 3 doubles courts.
4. A computer rated player is eligible to progress to a District Championship if that player has played on that same team in at least two matches during its LOCAL LEAGUE Season. A maximum of ONE defaulted match will count as a match played for the players receiving the default, but not for the players who defaulted. A retired match will count for all players involved.
5. **Advancement to National Championships- Minimum match requirements 2.03A(4)-** In Order to advance to any Adult National Championships, a computer (C) rated player must have participated in three matches during all competition on that specific team. 1 default may count as a match played. Eligibility to advance to National Championships for self-rated (S) and computer-rated appealed (A) players requires playing at least four matches on the same team at the same level in the same Age Group. No defaults received count.
6. All Adult Divisions will include teams that maintain at least 30 % of players who are rated the level of the NTRP flight that they play. Ex: a 3.0 Adult 18 & Over team must have 30 % or more players registered on said team that are rated 3.0.

2022 Mixed Doubles 18 & Over and 40 & Over:

1. **Levels of Play:** Mixed Doubles 18 & Over League Play will be available at combined NTRP Levels of 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, and 10.0. In the Mixed 40 & Over, play will be available in Combined NTRP Rated 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, and 9.0 levels. In the Mixed 55 & Over, leagues will be offered at the Combined NTRP Rated 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, and 9.0, levels.
2. A player who plays exclusively in the Mixed Doubles Division and chooses to participate in an Adult Division the next year must enter the Adult Division by self-rating. The player must then play at the higher of the self-rating and the mixed-exclusive rating. If players had a previous valid NTRP Computer or Benchmark Rating, this rating will be used instead of a Mixed Exclusive Rating.
3. Each team must compete at the level of the highest combined rated doubles team on the roster. It is the responsibility of the team Captain to ensure that all doubles partners are within the combined level of play during each match. Failure to comply will result in match disqualification. There may be no more than a two-level (i.e., one-point) difference between partners on the court (e.g., 5.0 and 4.0 are okay, but 5.0 and 3.0 are not). Each Combination Rating Level has a minimum rating requirement to compete (e.g., a 3.0 & 4.0 player may not compete in an 8.0 Level).
4. Any player NTRP disqualified from the USTA League Tennis-Adult division may not play at the disqualified level of play for USTA Mixed Doubles or any event sanctioned by USTA for the remainder of the championship league year or for up to three years, unless a new NTRP rating is generated.
5. **Advancement to National Championships- Minimum match requirements 2.03A(4)** In the Adult and Mixed Divisions, all players other than Self-Rated and Valid Computer Rated Appealed Players are eligible to advance to National Championship competition if that player has played on the same team in at least three matches at the same NTRP level in the same Age Group through Sectional Championships and is otherwise eligible. A maximum of 1 default received by the player during local league or championship competition must count for advancing.
 All Self-Rated and Valid Computer Rated Appealed players are eligible to progress to National Championship competition if that player has played on the same team in at least four matches at the same NTRP level in the same Age Group during its local league season and is otherwise eligible. No defaults received by the player during local league or championship competition must count for advancing.
 Retired matches should count toward advancing for all players involved in both USTA League Divisions. (*See Matches Required to Advance to Championships Table.*)

2022 Adult 65 & Over

1. All USTA Adult 65 & Over League participants must be at least 65 years of age, or turn 65, in the calendar year in which they play.
2. When using combined NTRP levels, the combined NTRP rating levels of the doubles team cannot exceed the combined NTRP level in which the players are competing; 2.01A(3) The NTRP difference between members of an individual doubles team may not exceed 1.0.
3. The 65 & Over Invitational Event is to determine winning teams to advance to the National 65 & over National Invitational in the winter of the following calendar year. The eligibility for players to advance to this invitational is to register on TennisLink with a team number assigned by their district they are representing and to complete the online player registration for the event.
 - a. **Districts with more than one team must have a local league, district championship, and/or playoff to determine the team advancing to the Section Invitational.**
4. **National Match Requirement.** The eligibility for players to advance to the National 65 & over Invitational is two matches played with their team with 1 default counting as a match played. A waiver may be submitted to the Tournament Committee if they wish to advance with any players who do not meet this criteria, especially in the 9.0 Level.

2022 Tri- Level Leagues

1. All USTA League Tennis Regulations in 1.00 GENERAL and the following regulations must apply to the USTA League Tennis – Tri-Level Division.
2. **Local League-** A “team” must consist of doubles teams for at least three NTRP levels. Team matches must consist of a minimum of three NTRP consecutive levels (a “Tri-Level Format”). For example, a team may have doubles teams at the 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5 levels, but only three of those levels will be playing during a specific team match.
3. **Number of Teams-** A local league is a team competition in a specified geographic area that applies specific local league regulations and consists of Tri-Level formats with a minimum of two or more teams per format.
4. **Entry-** A player without a computer rating must self-rate on Tennislink to enter the program. A player with a current NTRP computer rating must use that rating to enter the program. Sections may require a self-rated player to play up to a higher level if demonstrated play suggests the player’s self-rating is too low.
5. **Levels of Play-** For league play, doubles teams will use straight NTRP levels (2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 and 5.0). Local leagues may authorize a player to play one level higher than the player’s rating.
6. **Tri-Level Format-** The local league should determine which approved levels will be available for the Tri-Level teams in the local league competition.
7. **Scoring-** Any USTA-approved scoring method that is compatible with the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System may be used.
8. **Competition Format- Round Robin.** Each Tri-Level format within a local league should play at least one round robin competition wherein every team plays every other team. Any Tri-Level format with only two or three teams is required to play a minimum of three matches.
9. **Team Match and Scoring-** Each team match in a local league should consist of such a number of individual matches of Tri-Level as determined by the local league. The method of awarding points in order to determine the winning team of a local league team match and the winner of the local league competition is any method compatible with Tennislink and the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System selected by the local league. The scoring in the event of a default or disqualification must be 6-0, 6-0.
10. **Individual Match-** An individual match is any Tri-Level match played as part of a team match.
11. **Player Participation-** An individual may only play in one match within each team match.
12. Tri-Level Matches completed by the end of October will be included in year-end rating calculations. All matches played after that time **may** be included in the next championship year ratings calculation.
13. **Tri-Level Sectional Player Eligibility**
 - a. **Self-Rated-** Self-Rated players are eligible to participate in a Section Invitational, but must generate a Year End Computer Rating, at the same level they competed in the local league, to be eligible to compete at the National Invitational. (i.e., **all players competing at the National Invitational must have a computer rating; a minimum of 3 matches are required to generate a computer year-end rating.**)
 - i. Self-rated, Appeal-rated, DQ and promoted players are only required to have 1(1) match played on their team, with no defaults counting, in order to advance to Tri-level sectionals.
 - b. **All Computer-rated players-** Must play at least one match with their team to be eligible to play at the section event. Defaults do not count for matches played.
14. **Roster Requirement-** Teams wishing to compete at the Section Invitational must have at least two rostered players in each NTRP level registered and able to attend/compete at the invitational. If not, the team will not be invited to attend.

Appendix A. Suspension Points Table[Link to how the Suspension Point system works updated 10.19.2021](#)[Q & A for Suspension Point System updated 10.19.2021](#)

USTA League Suspension Points Table			
Type	Violation	Suspension Points Player	Suspension Points Captain
General	Changing the line-up after it has been presented/exchanged	2 – 4	2 – 4
	Failing to comply with a USTA League Regulation or Guideline	2 – 10	2 – 10
Sportsmanship (Player)	Equipment Abuse (e.g., throwing racket, hitting balls out of the court)	2	2
	Unsportsmanlike Conduct/Violations of The Code (e.g., intentional/retaliatory bad line calls, refusing to call out the score, "quick" serving, stalling, feinting, grunting, tanking/not using best efforts to win; obscene/profane language or gestures)	2 – 4	2 – 4
	Flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct (e.g., hitting balls at opponent or spectators, threat of physical violence, destruction of property)	8 – 10	8 – 10
Sportsmanship (Associated with Player)	Unsportsmanlike conduct by a person associated with the team, incl. non-playing Captains and teammates not playing in that match (e.g., cheering opponent's errors, service faults, obscene/profane language or gestures, etc.)	2	2
	Flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct by a person associated with the team, incl. non-playing Captains, and teammates not playing in that match (e.g., threat of physical violence, destruction of property, etc.).	8 – 10	8 – 10
Gross Misconduct	Gambling activity as defined in USTA Regulation IV.C.19.	8	8
Self-Rating	Self-rating lower than true playing ability	2 - 5	N/A
	Failure to self-rate in accordance with the Guidelines, or omission of information regarding player's tennis history	8 - 10	N/A
	Any USTA League player, or Captain, who knowingly assists or condones of another player's inaccurate or inappropriate self-rating (including guiding that player to omit information)	10	10
Extreme Circumstances	Misrepresenting scores (incl. intentionally entering inaccurate scores or representing scores without playing the match)	18	18
	Misrepresenting identity (incl. intentionally registering under different names or versions of the same name, playing and entering scores under someone else's name)	24	24
	Playing while suspended	24	24
	Physical violence against another person on or off court	24	24

Appendix B- Calculation Table**CALCULATION TABLES**(Applies to Suspension Points assessed to players, Captains, and associated USTA members)Type- General, Sportsmanship (Player), Sportsmanship (Associated with Player), Gross Misconduct, Self-RatingViolation- All violations

<u>Time Period (Begins with first point)</u>	<u>Points Assessed</u>	<u>Results in Suspension from all League Events for Duration of</u>	<u>Following Suspension Expiration</u>
Rolling 12-month period	10 – 17	3 months	10 points must be cleared from the player's/captain's record. All other suspension points must remain on the player's/captain's record and count toward a second suspension
12-month period immediately following the first suspension	1 (if 7 carried over) to 8	6 months	8 points must be cleared from the player's/captain's record. All other suspension points must remain on the player's/captain's record and count toward a third suspension.
12-month period immediately following the second suspension (and any suspensions subsequent to the second suspension)	1 (if 5 carried over) to 6 or more	Not less than 1 year and may be permanent. (Determined by League Leadership)	6 points must be cleared from the player's/captain's record. League Leadership may clear additional points from the player's/captain's record to bring them below the threshold for another immediate suspension. All suspension points remaining on the player's/captain's record will count toward a future suspension.

More than 17 points in the first 12-month period, or 13 in the second 12-month period, falls under aggregation.

Please note: When the IT capabilities are available, the league suspension point system and the tournament suspension point system will combine to create one tracking system. That means that points that you are awarded in tournaments carry over to leagues and that points awarded in leagues carry over to tournaments. At that time, if you are suspended, it will apply to all USTA play activities, including but not limited to leagues and tournaments.