



2018 NEW ENGLAND USTA LEAGUE SECTIONAL REGULATIONS

DIVISIONS and AGE GROUPS

ADULT DIVISION - 18 & OVER, 40 & OVER, 55 & OVER, 65 & OVER
MIXED DIVISION - 18 & OVER, 40 & OVER

LOCAL AREAS

CAPE COD - EASTERN CONNECTICUT - EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS - MAINE
NEW HAMPSHIRE - NORTHERN CONNECTICUT - RHODE ISLAND - SOUTHERN
CONNECTICUT - VERMONT- WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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1. GENERAL

- 1.1 *Sectional Regulations:* These regulations shall be known as the New England USTA League Regulations. The current year's substantive regulation changes are underlined. All references to gender will be "he" and "his."
- 1.2 *Regulation and Procedure Request for Change or Discussion* must be submitted on the official New England Section USTA League form and submitted to the section office by May 1st for proposals to be considered for the following USTA League Championship Year.
- 1.3 *Other Regulations:* The New England USTA League Regulations, which are supplemental and subordinate to the National USTA League Regulations, shall apply to USTA League in the New England Section. Local Areas in New England consist of the following: Cape Cod, Eastern Connecticut, Eastern MA, Maine, New Hampshire, Northern Connecticut, Southern Connecticut, Rhode Island, Vermont and Western Massachusetts.
Within a local area separate local leagues may exist. Local League Regulations may be implemented to supplement the National and Sectional Regulations. The local regulations must not contradict established National or Sectional Regulations. The Section must approve Local League Regulations 30 days prior to the start of the local league.
- 1.4 *Reciprocity:* New England USTA League will not honor the sanction(s) imposed in another Section.
- 1.5 *Player Conduct:* A player will be sanctioned for flagrant misconduct, as defined by the "Friend at Court." Such a player will be prohibited from playing in the remainder of that event and for the rest of the season, forfeiting all fees paid for the event and season. Penalties for conduct violations, including flagrant misconduct, are to be determined by the Grievance Committee of that local area/championship event. A captain committing flagrant misconduct may be prohibited from captaining a USTA League team for a period of time as determined by the Grievance Committee. Note: A USTA League championship year includes all seasons (Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer) played as qualifying rounds for a specific year's Championships, including play that may begin within the prior year. In New England a championship year begins September 1 and ends August 31 following the Sectional Championships. Waivers will be submitted to the Sectional League Coordinator for approval for leagues whose local season ends after August 31.
- 1.5 *Player Registration:* Players must register for the USTA League program via TennisLink. Registration fees include a \$3.00 TennisLink user fee per player per team and \$12.00 section fee per player per team. The local area may impose an additional participation fee. All local fees must be approved by the Sectional League Coordinator. It is recommended that each player process his own registration.

2. USTA LEAGUE PERSONNEL

- 2.1 All waiver requests must be submitted in writing to the Sectional League Coordinator.
- 2.2 *USTA League Committee:* The New England USTA League Committee shall govern the USTA League program. The USTA New England President appoints the chairperson of the New England USTA League Committee. The chairperson will recommend individuals to serve on the Committee with input from the Sectional League Coordinator and each USTA New England State Association.
- 2.3 *Sectional League Coordinator:* The Director of Competitive Tennis and USTA League Manager, under the employment of USTA New England shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the USTA League program including the interpretation of the New England USTA League Regulations. The Sectional League Coordinator and the New England USTA League Committee shall be responsible for the enforcement of these regulations and may, in the interest of fair play, provide exemptions or exceptions where they are permitted within the USTA League Regulations.
- 2.4 *Local League Coordinator:* Each Local League Coordinator, appointed by the Sectional League Coordinator, shall be responsible for the implementation and administration of USTA League in his respective area. Communications will be handled primarily via email.
- 2.5 *Team Captain:* Each team shall appoint one or two captains to handle administrative affairs, to represent the team in all aspects of USTA League and to receive information regarding local and championship play. In the elected captain's absence, he must appoint a co-captain who will be responsible for the team captain responsibilities. The team captain and co-captain shall each forward his name, mailing address, e-mail address and home, cell and business phone numbers to the Local League Coordinator.

3. LOCAL LEAGUES - GENERAL

- 3.1 A local league shall consist of a minimum of three teams. On limited occasions, a Local League Coordinator may apply in writing to the Sectional League Coordinator for a two-team league. The local league must apply for a two-team league waiver for each championship year. A local league must play at least one round-robin competition wherein every team plays every other team. In two-team and three-team leagues, each team must play a minimum of four team matches. NOTE: Two-team local leagues do not receive funded first-place trophies. If they are to receive trophies, a funding method must be determined locally.
- 3.2 The Sectional League Coordinator must approve all local league divisions into flights. If teams from multiple flights within a given level play each other, these flights will be considered as one flight when determining the number of teams that qualify for the District or Sectional Championships, unless otherwise approved in advance of the start of

the local season.

- 3.3 A local league may elect to limit its team rosters by number of players on the roster and/or number of players on the roster at a specific NTRP rating. Percentages may not be used.
- 3.4 Each local league determines its specific registration deadlines. Each team may be allowed to add players to its roster during the local league season if the local league allows this regulation. Any team or league intending to participate in a championship year must declare their intent and be approved by the Section on or before June 1st. Refer to the New England USTA League Championship Year calendar for specific Division deadlines. Each team member must have a valid USTA membership which extends through the end of the local league season. Any player that is added to the team roster must meet all eligibility requirements (a valid NTRP computer rating or self-rating, USTA membership, minimum age) prior to playing in his first USTA League match. Players who do not meet all the eligibility requirements, within the specified deadlines, may be disqualified.
- 3.5 Each local area, subject to the restrictions set by the National and Sectional Regulations and approved by the Sectional League Coordinator, determines the length of the local league season. Each local league season's play must be completed at least 14 days prior to its respective District and 30 days before its Sectional Championship event. Exceptions to this rule must be approved by the Sectional League Coordinator.
- 3.6 *Levels of Play:*
 - 3.6.1 Adult 18 & Over: 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 and 5.0+
 - 3.6.2 Adult 40 & Over: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5+
 - 3.6.3 Adult 55 & Over and Adult 65 & Over: Combined levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0 and 9.0
 - 3.6.4 Mixed 18 & Over: Combined levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0 and 10.0
 - 3.6.5 Mixed 40 & Over: Combined levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0 and 9.0.
 - 3.6.6 Combined Levels: Each individual doubles team's combined NTRP rating may not exceed the level entered. The NTRP difference between members of an individual doubles pair may not exceed 1.0.
- 3.7 *Player Participation:*
 - 3.7.1 Each player should inform their captains of their intentions if they are eligible to advance on multiple teams in the same division, age group and NTRP level. In the event of a conflict, and if the player did not inform all parties then the player will advance with the team they registered for first.
 - 3.7.2 A player may compete on one team, and one team only, at the same NTRP level in a championship event (Districts or Sectional) for each division and age group. Championships may be held in more than one location at the same time or on different dates and are considered one championship event.
 - 3.7.3 A player may compete on more than one team at multiple NTRP levels, in a championship event (Districts or Sectional) for each division and age group. A championship event may be held in more than one location at the same time or on different dates and is still considered one Championship.
 - 3.7.4 Each team is expected to field all positions for each scheduled championship match. Defaults will be reviewed by the championship committee and penalties issued accordingly. Penalties could include loss of captaining, the team may be required to split up or sanctioned from participating in USTA League play in the next championship year.
 - 3.7.5 From the first level of championship competition, within a division, age group and NTRP level a player is a member of that team. Once his team loses and is therefore not eligible to advance to the next championship level then the player may play for another team for which he is eligible.
 - 3.7.6 In the event a team competes directly (in the same flight or play off semi/finals) against another team at a championship level that shares common players, the losing common players cannot advance with the winning team, regardless of whether they played in a match directly against the winning team.

4. LOCAL LEAGUES - ADMINISTRATION

- 4.1 *Local League Regulations:* Each local league shall determine, in writing, prior to the commencement of the local league, its Local League Regulations. These regulations must include the following:
 - 4.1.1 Format for team matches, including tiebreak procedures; no match – team or individual – may end in a tie or split points.
 - 4.1.2 Length of each match with time limit procedures, when applicable, length/dates of league season(s) and in-level NTRP requirements.
 - 4.1.3 League deadlines for submission of materials.
- 4.2 *League Certification:* In order for a local league to be certified for play, the Local League Coordinator must apply in writing annually by completing the League Certification Form 30 days prior to the start of the season, attend the annual USTA League Workshop and provide the following material via email to the Sectional League Coordinator. All items must be approved by the Sectional League Coordinator.
 - 4.2.1 League rules (refer to 4.1; 4.1.1 - 4.1.3)
 - 4.2.2 Date of the Captains' meeting
 - 4.2.3 Names, addresses, email and phone numbers of all local personnel involved in the administration of local leagues.

- 4.2.4 Contact person, address, phone number and directions for all participating clubs.
- 4.2.5 A breakdown of local player fees and complete local league budget of revenues and expenses.
- 4.2.6 Copy of the Captains' packet
- 4.2.7 Following the local league team registration & flight breakdown, submit the official Team Count Form which includes number of teams, by flight, by level.
- 4.2.8 Schedule must be published on TennisLink and reflect the actual match dates and facility associations.
- 4.2.9 Summary of previous season's activity.
- 4.2.10 Minutes for all league meetings submitted on the USTA New England official form. Items 4.2.1 and 4.2.2 must be provided prior to the start of the local season. Items 4.2.3 - 4.2.6 must be provided within ten days after the commencement of local league play. Item 4.2.9 must be provided within 30 days of the respective season-ending Championship. The LLC will submit (Item 4.2.10) Meeting Minutes for all local meetings within a reasonable timeframe of the meeting.
- 4.3 *Local Grievance and Grievance Appeal Committees*: submit a list of a minimum of seven members to the section at the beginning of each Championship League Year; the Sectional League Coordinator must approve each appointment. The Sectional League Coordinator will mentor all committees and communications must be electronic.
- 4.4 *Early Start League (ESL) Rosters*: The LLC is responsible for verifying that all ESL rosters reflect the current Championship Season Year End rating level and administering any subsequent action.
- 4.5 *Captains' Meeting*: Prior to the start of the local league season there shall be a meeting of the team captains with the Local League Coordinator and the Sectional League Coordinator (when available). Such a meeting shall be at a time and place convenient to the parties involved and shall be attended by team captains or a team representative. If a representative is not available, it is the responsibility of the captain of the absent team to contact the Local League Coordinator for the pertinent information prior to or immediately following the meeting.
- 4.6 *Winners' Information*: Local League Coordinators must provide a list of the local winners (team number, captain and co-captain's name, email address, phone numbers) on the official Sectional Championship Master Team form to the Section office within 5 days following the completion of the local league or within 24 hours after the completion of any local league season that ends after July 10th.

5. MATCH REGULATIONS – GENERAL

- 5.1 *Warm-ups*: The warm-up, including serves, begins at the scheduled time the match is to be played, regardless of whether the players are on the court or not, and shall not exceed ten minutes. Local leagues with a time limit may choose to shorten this to no less than five minutes. In cases where a player is late for the match, the Point Penalty System will be enforced with the late player losing the toss plus one game for each five minutes he is late. Penalties begin at the scheduled time of the match. The match is a default at 15:01 minutes late and considered a 6-0, 6-0 win for the player(s) present. If the late player arrives five minutes past the scheduled start time but before the default time, he is to receive a 5-minute injury prevention warm-up. Waiting doubles players may warm-up with each other at the scheduled match time. Waiting singles player may begin warm-up, at the scheduled match time, with any person not scheduled to be on court at the same time. Refer to Friend at Court for a specific outline of the Point Penalty System.
- 5.2 *Continuous Play*: Play must be continuous throughout the match. There is no rest after the first game of any set but players will change ends. If a 10-point match tiebreak is played in lieu of a third set, a two-minute rest, with no coaching, may be taken between the second set and the tiebreak. A ten-minute rest (with no coaching) between the second and third sets should be honored upon request. Local leagues with a time limit may waive or shorten this allotted rest period and must indicate the chosen procedures in the local rules.
- 5.3 *Scoring*: All matches will be best-of-three sets with a 7-point set tiebreak if games are tied at 6-6 in any set. Local leagues may use no-ad, 8-game pro-sets or the best-of-two sets and a 10-point match tiebreak in lieu of the third set as alternative scoring methods. The scoring system must be determined before the start of the local league season. If a time limit is enforced for local league matches, the Sectional League Coordinator must approve the scoring system when it varies from the full scoring as mentioned above. No match – team or individual – may end in a tie or split points. Each team in each flight will play each other team at least once. The method of awarding points to determine the winning team of a team match and the winner of the local league competition may be the same as that used in championship competition or may be another method selected by the local league and approved through the sectional office. One option is to award each individual match a one point value; the team that has accumulated the most individual points at the end of the team match will be the winner and receive one team point while the losing team receives zero team points. Another option is to identify the flight winner as the team with the most individual matches won during the local league season. In the case of a tie at the end of the local season, the USTA League tiebreak procedures will be used to break the tie (most Ind. wins, fewest sets lost, fewest games lost, head to head).
- 5.4 *Team Match*: Each team match in a local league shall consist of such number of individual matches of singles, doubles, or any combinations thereof as determined by the local league. For each team match, a majority of the individual matches must actually be played to constitute a valid team match. Both teams involved must field a minimum number of positions to win the match and the balance of the positions will be recorded as double defaults.

Position will be played in top down order. If either team does not comply the team could be sanctioned from the next championship season. Each Local League Committee retains the right to vote on exceptions.

- 5.5. *Scorecard Entry*: Either captain can enter the scorecard on TennisLink and the opposing captain must confirm or dispute the scorecard. Scorecards must be entered and confirmed within 48 hours upon completion of the match. TennisLink will automatically confirm a scorecard after 48 hours if the opposing captain does not confirm or dispute it. The right to dispute a match for standing purposes will be lost in the event TennisLink confirms the scorecard.

6. WILDCARD, REPLACEMENT AND ADVANCEMENT TEAM PROCEDURES

If a winning team or runner-up from a local league is unable to attend a championship, the Tournament Director together with the Sectional League Coordinator will select a replacement team(s), if needed, according to the TennisLink tiebreak procedures. These procedures also will be used to determine wildcard team(s). The Sectional League Coordinator reserves the right of final approval of all replacement and wildcard teams.

6.1 *TennisLink Tiebreak Procedure*: The team will be selected based on the following criteria in this order: most team wins; most individual position wins, fewest sets lost, fewest games lost, or random draw.

6.2 *Local Wildcard and Replacement Teams for a District or Sectional Championship*: The decision to select a wildcard is applied when the addition of a wild card team enhances a championship schedule. The criteria for selecting a team will include but is not limited to the number of local league seasons, number of local matches and number of teams within a local flight. The Championship Committee reserves the right to add wildcards at any NTRP level. All wildcards must be approved by the Section League Coordinator.

6.3 *District Wildcard Teams for a Sectional Championship*: If determined necessary by the Sectional League Coordinator, a wildcard team will be selected from all eligible District Championship teams according to the TennisLink tiebreak procedures.

6.4 *District Replacement Teams for a Sectional Championship*: District champion replacement teams will be selected in the following rank order:

6.4.1 In a round-robin event of one flight, the next highest place team (i.e. second, then third, etc.) from that District.

6.4.2 In a multiple-flight, single-elimination final and/or semi-final, the second-place team, followed by the third and fourth place teams, if those positions were determined by a playoff.

6.4.3 In a multiple-flight, single-elimination semi-final (where third and fourth places were not determined by a playoff), the second-place team, or if necessary, a random draw of the remaining flight winners.

6.5 *Advancement and Wild Card Procedure Within a Championship*:

6.5.1 If any round robin flights result in a first place tie, the round robin flight winner shall be determined by the following procedures:

6.5.1 (a) Individual Matches: Winner of the most individual matches

6.5.1 (b) Head-to-Head: winner of the head-to-head match.

6.5.1 (c) Sets: team with the fewest number of sets lost.

6.5.1 (d) Games: team with the fewest number of games lost.

6.5.2 If a wild card is required the team shall be determined from all second place teams by the following procedures: If each flight has the same number of teams, the following procedure shall be used to determine the wild card:

6.5.2 (a) Most team wins

6.5.2 (b) Individual Matches: Winner of the most individual matches

6.5.2 (c) Sets: team with the fewest number of sets lost.

6.5.2 (d) Games: team with the fewest number of games lost.

6.5.2 (e) Random drawing: If two or more teams are tied the winning team will be determined by a random drawing.

6.5.3 If any of the flights have a different number of teams, the following procedure shall be used to determine the wild card:

6.5.3 (a) Games: The team with the highest percentage of games won by them vs. games played by them in their round robin. Defaults received shall not count. Defaulting teams shall receive a 0-6; 0-6 score calculated into their percentage of games won for every match defaulted.

6.5.3 (b) Random Drawing: If teams are tied in highest percentage, the winning team will be determined by a random drawing.

6.5.4 Scoring in the event of defaults or retirements shall be dealt with as described in USTA League Regulation 2.03J Scoring of Individual Defaults and 2.03N Scoring of Retirements.

6.5.5 If a draw results in the wild card team playing against the first place team from its own flight, the draw shall be altered accordingly.

7. CHAMPIONSHIP REGULATIONS - GENERAL

- 7.1 *Qualifying for Championships*: In the Adult and Mixed Divisions, a player is eligible to advance to District and/or Sectional Championship competition if that player has played on the same team in at least two matches at the same

NTRP level in the same Age Group through Local competition and is otherwise eligible. A maximum of one default received by the player during local league competition shall count for advancing. Retired matches shall count toward advancing for all players involved in both USTA League Divisions. Play Offs are considered championship play. In the Adult and Mixed Divisions, a player is 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 one default received by the player during local league or championship competition shall count for advancing. Retired matches shall count toward advancing for all players involved in both USTA League Divisions.

Each local league shall qualify its winning team for further play based on the following criteria: Refer to Section 6 for the Wildcard, Replacement and Advancement team procedure.

7.1.1 In Adult and Mixed Divisions a local league with flights of two, three or four teams shall send the winning team to the District or Sectional Championship whichever is applicable.

7.1.2 In Adult and Mixed Divisions a local league with flights of five or more teams shall send both the winner and the runner-up to the District or Sectional Championship whichever is applicable.

7.2 *Invitations:* When a team has qualified for its District or Sectional Championship, the team captain must confirm their participation with the respective Local League Coordinator and accept the invitation by email within 5 days following the local league season or within 24 hours following the District Championships (if applicable). The team captain must forward the team entry fee to the Tournament Director prior to the stated deadline.

7.3 *Wild Cards:* The decision to select a wildcard is applied when the addition of a wild card team enhances a championship schedule. The Championship Committee reserves the right to add wildcards at any NTRP level. All wildcards must be approved by the Section League Coordinator.

7.4 *Winners' Information:* District Tournament Directors must provide a list of the winners (captain's name, phone numbers and e-mail address on the designated form to the Sectional Tournament Director within one (1) day of the end of District Championship play.

7.5 *Eligibility Materials:* The Team Packet consists of the team fee (which is non-refundable); a copy of the team roster from TennisLink confirming that each player is on the roster, that each player has a USTA membership valid through the Championship date; and the banquet reservation form and fee (if applicable). This information must be confirmed before players go on court. Any player with incomplete information may be deemed ineligible until valid documentation is provided. All players must bring a government approved photo ID to the Championship event. Any changes in team line-ups must be received at least 30 minutes before the next scheduled match and be approved by the Tournament Director. The Point Penalty System for lateness as described in Friend at Court may be enforced for failure to submit the team line-up 30 minutes before the scheduled match time during a Championship event. A team captains' meeting may be scheduled prior to the start of play. If there is no team captains' meeting the Tournament Director and team captain are jointly responsible for the dissemination of pertinent team information. At this meeting each team captain will report to the registration desk, at which time he will provide any missing information from the Team Packet.

7.6 *Match Times:* All teams should anticipate play on any of the three scheduled days of a championship tournament; Friday and Saturday (7:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.) and Sunday (7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.). Matches may begin on Thursday if deemed necessary by the Tournament Director. The last match on Sunday may not be scheduled later than 3:00 p.m. unless the Tournament Director receives prior approval from the Sectional League Coordinator. Team captains must report to the tournament desk 45 minutes prior to their scheduled match time. All championship matches are scheduled on a "followed by" basis, meaning that as each match finishes another match will be assigned to each court. The tournament desk may call matches for any open court up to 30 minutes prior to the published match time. Positions may be called in the following order: 1st Singles, 2nd Singles, 1st Doubles, 2nd Doubles, 3rd Doubles. The order that matches are called may be changed at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Any team or individual failing to be available for a called match (including ones called up to 30 minutes prior to the published match time) may be assessed late penalties based on the Point Penalty System. Teams or individuals may be defaulted at 15:01 minutes late. Appeals of a defaulted match based on lateness must be in writing to the Tournament Grievance Committee. Refer to the USTA League Regulations for grievance procedures. Only the team captain or designee may represent the teams to the tournament desk or to the Grievance Committee.

7.7 *Defaults:* All players and teams are prohibited from defaulting in any of the District or Sectional Championships (whether during the course of a match or prior to its commencement) except for illness, injury or personal emergency. A request for a waiver to compete with defaults must be submitted to the tournament director prior to the start of the championship event and participation at the event is dependent upon approval of the waiver. Notification to team(s) affected by a default will be managed by the Tournament Director and is based on the circumstance of the default(s). Failure to complete a match or a tournament can result in loss of future rights to participate in the USTA League program in New England. Penalties will be given at the discretion of the Sectional League Coordinator and the USTA Grievance Committee. Local Leagues may enforce this rule as written or with other default penalties pre-approved by the Sectional League Coordinator and USTA League Committee and stated in the Local rules.

7.8 *Withdrawals:* If a team withdraws from the round-robin tournament after play has begun, then all matches of that team, played or to be played, shall be null and void. If all teams in contention for the Championships have already

- played the forfeiting team in good faith, the matches stand as played. If all teams in the flight have played or are in the process of playing the withdrawing team, the match points are awarded.
- 7.9 *Scoring*: All matches will be best-two-of-three sets, with a 10-point match tiebreak in lieu of a third set. A 7-point set tiebreak will be played if games are tied at 6-6 within any set.
- 7.10 *Score Reporting*: When a team finishes its match, a player from each team shall report his score, initial the scorecard and both captains are responsible for verifying the scores and signing the match cards. If the captain does not sign the completed scorecard within 30 minutes following his match, he then forfeits the right to dispute the match.
- 7.11 *Alternative Scoring*: In the event that rain, inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances severely delay the tournament, the Tournament Committee may authorize any alternate plans as deemed necessary, including the use of no-ad scoring or pro-set scoring, to complete play on schedule.
- 7.12 *Alternative Formats*: The Sectional League Coordinator or the Championship Committee shall have the authority to modify the format of the District and Sectional Tournaments in the event that there are more or fewer teams than anticipated, defaults, unforeseen weather conditions, a need for additional teams (using wildcard procedures), or any other reason which would necessitate a change in the announced format.
- 7.13 A team that declines a championship invitation for two consecutive years must then declare their intention to advance upon registering for the current league season to their local league coordinator.
- 7.14 *Returned Check Fee*: A \$25.00 fee will be charged for each check returned for uncollected funds. The person who wrote the check will not be allowed to compete or captain in any future USTA League programs until the debt has been reconciled.
- 7.15 *Team Withdrawals*: If for any reason your team is unable to participate in the USTA League New England Championships, please notify your tournament director immediately by email and phone. A team that does not make contact by the confirmation deadline to accept their tournament bid may be replaced by a wild card team. A \$200 penalty may be imposed on a team that withdraws after the confirmation deadline has passed. A team that withdraws 48 hours or less from the start of the championship event will be responsible for 100% of their team fee. The captain may be sanctioned and the team may also be deemed ineligible for play or be required to split up for the following USTA League local Championship Year.

8. USTA NEW ENGLAND MIXED DISTRICT AND SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 8.1 Mixed 18 & Over 7.0 and 8.0 levels will participate in a District Championships in June.
- 8.1.1 Each team will compete in a flight of four where possible.
- 8.1.2 The winner of each flight will advance to the Sectional Championships.
- 8.1.3 Wild cards will be added as deemed necessary to field a full complement of 16 teams for each level
- 8.1.4 Mixed 18 & Over 6.0 and 9.0 levels will advance directly from local play to the Sectional Championships.
- 8.2 Mixed 40 & Over (all levels) will advance directly from local play to Sectional Championships.
- 8.3 Both the District and Sectional Championship Format for the Mixed 18 & Over and the Mixed 40 & Over will consist of three doubles positions.
- 8.4 *Move Up/Split Up*: A first-place Sectional Championship team that chooses not to compete at the National Championship level must move up one level as a team or disperse to form new teams for the following championship year. No more than three (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, same Age Group and at the same NTRP team level as the National Championship team(s), if their NTRP rating allows. Split-Up requirements only apply to players who participated in three (3) or more matches (including one default) for that team during the championship year 2.06A(2).

9. USTA NEW ENGLAND ADULT DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 9.1 The Sectional League Coordinator will review District Championship alignments each year with input from the local coordinators and the New England League Committee. The District Championship host site, alignment and dates will be published on the annual Championship Calendar on www.newengland.usta.com. The purpose of the districts is to create a playoff structure that will allow USTA New England to establish the number of teams competing at the Sectional Championships at each level. District divisions may be re-aligned by the League Tennis Committee for better distribution of players, general event improvements and/or administrative reasons.
- 9.2 *Number of Teams at Championships*: The number of teams that qualify for each District Championship will be decided by June 30 based on the number of local flights (7.1). Each Local League Coordinator must confirm the number of teams he has eligible for the District Championships within 5 days following the end of the local league season, and must provide the captain's name and contact information of the winning teams to the USTA New England section office on the Championship Master Team section form.
- 9.3 *Championship Format*: The competition format for each District Championship will be determined by the District Tournament Director prior to the start of play and will be based on the number of teams in the District Championship and the availability of courts. For Adult 18 & Over and Adult 40 & Over, each match will consist of two singles and three doubles positions except for the 2.5 and 5.0+ levels, which will consist of one singles and two doubles positions. All Championships will be scheduled as a combination of round-robin and single-elimination play (for flight

playoffs) and approved by the Sectional League Coordinator.

- 9.4 If a flight becomes a two-team flight, and it is not possible to re-draw the schedule or replace a team, the two remaining teams will play the best-two-of-three team matches at the times allotted in the schedule. Any change to this format must be approved by the Sectional League Coordinator.

10. USTA NEW ENGLAND ADULT SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 10.1 *Championship Format:* The match format for the Adult 18 & Over and Adult 40 & Over Sectional Championships is a round-robin competition of four teams per NTRP level. Each match will consist of two singles and three doubles positions except the 2.5 and 5.0+ levels, which will consist of one singles and two doubles positions. Adult 55 & Over and Adult 65 & Over Sectional Championship matches will consist of three doubles positions. If a flight becomes a Two-team flight, and if it is not possible to re-draw the schedule or replace the teams, the two remaining teams may play either a single match or the best-two-of-three team matches at the times allotted in the schedule.
- 10.2 *Move Up/Split Up:* A first-place Sectional Championship team that chooses not to compete at the National Championship level must move up one level as a team or disperse to form new teams for the following championship year. No more than three (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, same Age Group and at the same NTRP team level as the National Championship team(s), if their NTRP rating allows. Split-Up requirements only apply to players who participated in three (3) or more matches (including one default) for that team during the championship year 2.06A(2). Move Up Split Up does not apply to Adult 65 & Over.

11. NTRP RATINGS, APPEAL AND DISQUALIFICATIONS PROCEDURES

- 11.1 *Valid Rating:* A player who registers for Early Start Leagues between September 1 and the date the Year-End ratings are released will use his most recent USTA League Year End Rating. A player who does not have a valid computer rating must self-rate.
- 11.2 *Early Start League Player whose Year End Rating is higher than their rating used for the Early Start League:* The following regulation applies to all divisions that participate in Early Start Leagues. If a player's Year End Rating is higher than his rating used for the Early Start League, the player must decide the action he will proceed with by the stated deadline as published on the USTA New England web site:
- 11.2.1 Submit an appeal on line. If the appeal is granted, the player may continue to play on the Early Start League team. The player's Year End Rating will be changed on TennisLink to reflect the appeal. An appeal is automatically granted if the appeal meets the established National guidelines. If the appeal is denied, a player cannot continue to play on the Early Start League team and must move to his appropriate NTRP level of play within a specific period of time as determined for that championship year.
- 11.2.2 If a player's Year End Rating is higher than his rating used for the Early Start League, and he decides not to file an appeal he must move up to the next NTRP level of play. However, the player may continue to play matches on the early league team for a period of 10 days after the Year End Ratings are published.
- 11.2.3 If a player chooses to appeal his Year End Rating in order to remain on the Early Start League team and the appeal is granted, the player will not be eligible to file a second appeal later in the championship season to qualify for in-level NTRP roster requirements for another team or for any other reason.
- 11.2.4 If a player must move to the next higher NTRP level, all matches played in the Early Start League prior to the Year End rating publication date and the 10 day grace period, will stand.
- 11.2.5 The League Coordinator is responsible for reviewing and updating all Early Start League rosters between December 15th and January 15th to confirm that each player's rating is accurate according to the most recent Year End publication.
- 11.2.6 The TennisLink Registration Fee will be waived (with the exception of the \$3 Active fee) for a player who is not eligible to appeal his rating down and therefore is no longer eligible to participate on his Early Start League team. The player must register for a team at the next highest NTRP level within that local league division and season after December 10th and before January 1st to be eligible for a player registration fee waiver. The player reimbursement will be managed by the League Coordinator. Any exceptions to 11.2.6 will be reviewed by the Sectional League Coordinator.
- 11.3 *Oversight:* The Section will establish an NTRP Review Board, which must be approved by the Sectional League Coordinator and the USTA League Committee. The NTRP Review Board shall be responsible for processing Self Rate appeals, medical appeals and Fair Play Grievance Disqualifications. Guidelines and procedures are established by USTA League Regulations.
- 11.4 *Appeals:* NTRP medical appeals must be completed by the player in writing and submitted on the official USTA Medical Appeal Form. All other NTRP Appeals are processed electronically and apply to computer rated players who meet the criteria established by the National guidelines. A player who participated at a National Championship is not eligible for appeal for 1 year after his rating has been published. A player is prohibited from playing at any level below his current rating until a USTA New England administrator informs him that his appeal was granted. A \$25.00 fee (made payable to USTA New England) must be submitted with the required medical appeal documentation to appeal an NTRP Rating for permanent medical injury or condition that affects a player's ability to play tennis at the

assigned level.

11.5 *Disqualification:*

- 11.5.1 Refer to USTA League Regulation 3.03E1. All self-rated players, no matter what division, are subject to an NTRP Grievance disqualification.
- 11.5.2 If a player is disqualified by way of an NTRP Grievance, he will be prohibited from further play at that NTRP level for the remainder of the league season and all matches played will be reversed and scored as a 6-0, 6-0 win for his opponents.
- 11.5.3 If a player is disqualified by way of a 3-strike disqualification, he will be prohibited from further play at that NTRP level for the remainder of the local league season and all matches played that are at the strike level and above will be reversed and scored as a 6-0, 6-0 win for his opponents.
- 11.5.4 A \$50.00 fee (made payable to USTA New England) will be charged to file an NTRP Grievance on the official grievance form. If the grievance is upheld the \$50.00 will be refunded.
- 11.5.5 At the Championship Level for Adult 18 & Over and Adult 40 & Over; if a player is disqualified in a single- elimination competition, the last individual match played shall be considered a loss (6-0, 6-0) and that individual match shall be considered a win for the opposing player. In a round-robin competition, all matches played by the player shall be considered losses (6-0, 6-0) and those matches shall be considered wins for the opposing players or teams.
- 11.5.6 At the Championship Level for Adult 55 & Over, dynamic calculations will be run after the event and if a player is disqualified matches played will stand.
- 11.5.7 The Sectional Grievance Committee will review all dynamic 3-strike and Fair Play disqualifications. Team and/or captain penalties may be imposed as deemed necessary.