



2018 USTA Northern League Regulations

Updated 9.20.2017

Section Regulations are in green. Twin Cities Regulations are in purple. Changes are in red.

1.02B. USTA Northern: The USTA Northern Section Regulations may be amended by the Northern Section Leagues Committee.

1.04B(3) USTA Northern: The USTA Northern Section Leagues Program shall be governed by the Section League Committee.

1.04B(4) Team Captain: A player may only captain one team per NTRP level in each division, age group and local league season. (Puppet captains/captains in name only, will not be allowed.)

1.04C(1) USTA Northern: This regulation will also apply to ONE Doubles programs offered by Northern. Team captains will obtain a team number from either their Local League Coordinator or directly from the TennisLink system. The Local League Coordinator will set up one of the two methods for their Local League. The deadline for registering a team will be as established by the Local League Coordinator.

1.04D(2) USTA Northern: Some areas within Northern will offer Adult and Mixed Doubles as Early Start Leagues.

1.04D(3) Local League play dates will be announced by local league coordinators. For Championship Year 2018, local league play shall be held within the following dates:

Adult:	18 & Over:	October 1, 2017 – July 31, 2018
	40 & Over:	October 1, 2017 – July 31, 2018
	55 & Over:	October 1, 2017 – July 20, 2018
Mixed Doubles:	18 & Over:	October 1, 2017 – July 31, 2018
	40 & Over:	October 1, 2017 – July 31, 2018
ONE Doubles:		November 1, 2017 - October 31, 2018

1.04D(3) The Twin Cities Metro Area offers the following five (5) seasons of play:

Early Start Season October 2, 2017 – December 17, 2017

**Adult 18 & Over
Adult 40 & Over
Adult 55 & Over
Mixed 18 & Over**

Winter Season January 5 – March 31, 2018

**Adult 18 & Over
Adult 40 & Over
Adult 55 & Over**

Mixed 18 & Over

Spring Season March 20 - May 3, 2018

ONE Doubles

ONE Doubles Mixed

Mixed 40 & Over

Summer Season May 4 – July 31, 2018

Adult 18 & Over

Adult 40 & Over

Adult 55 & Over

Adult 65 & Over

Mixed 18 & Over

Fall Season August 14 – September 27, 2018

ONE Doubles

ONE Doubles Mixed

1.04D(4) USTA Northern limits the maximum number of players that appear on an Adult 18 & Over and 40 & Over league team roster to twenty (20) players for NTRP Levels 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 and 4.5+ (40 & Over only), and fifteen (15) players for 18 & Over NTRP levels 2.5 and 5.0+. The USTA Northern Section limits the maximum number of players that appear on 55 & Over and Mixed Doubles League (18 & Over and 40 & Over) roster to eighteen (18) players. Areas may specify the number of players at a given NTRP level on a team roster for Adult (18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 and Over) and Mixed (18 & Over and 40 & Over.)

Areas may further limit the maximum number of players that appear on Adult and Mixed Doubles rosters.

USTA Northern limits the number of players that appear on a ONE Doubles team from 2-4. Levels of play offered will be 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5. Local leagues may choose to allow one below level player on the team at the 3.5 – 4.5 levels. There is no limit to the number of 2.5 players on a 3.0 team.

USTA Northern authorizes ONE Doubles Mixed for local league play at the 6.0, 7.0, 8.0 and 9.0 levels. NTRP rating level difference between partners shall not exceed 1.0. ONE Doubles follows the national regulations for minimum NTRP levels for combined ratings.

1.04D(4) Twin Cities Area Minimum Players At-Level. Adult 18 & Over and Adult 40 & Over teams must have a minimum of four (4) “at-level” players rostered by the date of the team’s first scheduled match. Teams at the 2.5 and 5.0 levels require a minimum of three (3) “at-level” players. All players must be at level for ONE Doubles except at the 3.0 level.

1.04E(4) Player Agreement USTA Northern: Players, teammates, spectators, or coaches who interfere and/or are disruptive at matches are considered to have violated the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship. This includes conduct before, during and after the completion of the match. Teammates, spectators or coaches may not volunteer advice on line calls, scoring or on the conduct of the match. It is the responsibility of the teams, to control spectators’ conduct at all matches.

1.04G(4) Players may participate in more than one NTRP level within an Age Group in the same local league during the same season.

1.04G(6) Players who qualify to advance to championships within an Age Group on teams at two (2) different NTRP levels may represent both teams, however such players will not be given any scheduling accommodations in championship play. Players who qualify to advance to championships within an Age Group on more than one (1) team at the same NTRP level must choose which team they will represent at sectional championships.

2.01A(4) NTRP Levels of Play

55 & Over levels of play for USTA Northern Championships are the combined NTRP levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0. Mixed 18 & Over and 40 & Over levels of play for the USTA Northern Championships are the combined NTRP levels of 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0 and 10.0.

2.01C(1)a Round Robin

USTA Northern permits additional matches, selected at random within flights of 7 or 8 teams. When a flight has 7 teams that play additional matches, final flight standings will be based on winning percentage within the flight. Winning percentage is defined as wins divided by the total number of matches played.

2.01C(2) Team Match Defaults If a team **or two teams** default an entire team match (see National Regulations 2.03K and 2.03L) for any reason during round robin play, then all matches of that team played or to be played, shall be null and void. If all teams with a mathematical chance to advance have played the defaulting team in good faith, those matches shall stand as played when determining standings. Any adjustment to local league standings will be done at the conclusion of the local league season.

Round robin segments will be treated as whole and separate within the local league flight. If the first RR was finished and the full team default occurred during the 2nd RR then all matches for the first RR would stand. The same applies to any flights that split during a season.

The Leagues Committee may impose sanctions upon captains and/or players who are in flagrant violation of 2.03K - Team Defaults.

2.01C(2) Twin Cities Area Default Period. In local league competition, players failing to arrive on court, ready to play at the scheduled start time of their individual match may be in default. All players are required to be on court or ready to enter the court at the scheduled start time of their individual match, or a default may be called.

Twin Cities Area Team Defaults (6 Strike/Split-Up). Any Adult 18 & Over and Adult 40 & Over team that defaults a total of six (6) individual matches in a league season may have sanctions imposed on the captain and /or players at the discretion of the Sectional Leagues Committee.

Any Adult 18 & Over team in the 2.5 or 5.0+ divisions that defaults a total of four (4) individual matches in a league season may have sanctions imposed on the captain and /or players at the discretion of the Sectional Leagues Committee.

Any Adult 55 & Over and Mixed Doubles team that defaults a total of four (4) individual matches in a league season may have sanctions imposed on the captain and /or players at the discretion of the Sectional Leagues Committee.

2.01C(3) Match Scoring and Formats. USTA Northern requires all league matches to use the best of two tiebreak sets with a match tiebreak in lieu of a third set. However, other formats may be used with the approval of the Section Leagues Coordinator.

2.01C(5) Team Line-Ups. After lineups have been presented, team captains are allowed to make changes and substitutions in individual matches for the following reasons only: injury to, illness of, disqualification or no-show of a player prior to the start of such match. Unless mutually agreed, players listed on the original lineup may not substitute into a different position, and

area/local rules and regulations on lateness penalties and warm-up times will apply. The default principles in 2.03K-Team Defaults shall be applicable with no modifications. If two teams need to reschedule an entire team match, where one team had already acknowledged a default to the other team, both teams have the right to reschedule all positions, including the defaulted position.

2.02B(1)The Northern Section consists of the following local leagues:

1. Bismarck/Mandan, ND
2. Fargo, ND
3. Rapid City, SD
4. Duluth, MN
5. Washburn, WI
6. Eau Claire, WI
7. Rochester & SE MN (includes Winona, Owatonna, Mankato)
8. Twin Cities (includes: Ramsey, Dakota, Washington, Hennepin, Carver, Scott & Anoka counties)

A team may advance, if otherwise qualified, directly from local flight play to the Sectional Championships when:

- There is only one local league and the team has won the flight. The local league may authorize an alternate flight representative if the winning team cannot participate.

A local league is authorized to establish up to three league seasons. Each season may have a flight winner. (A local league is not authorized to decline season flight representation and shift the advancing spot to another season.)

When multiple flights exist within a local league, the following shall apply for flight advancement:

- In flights of 6 or less, the winning team qualifies to advance.
- In flights of 7 or more, the top two teams in the standings qualify to advance.

2.02B(1) Twin Cities Area flight winners advance to championship competition.

When local league flight winner(s) choose not to advance, the position(s) are offered to other teams by a process determined by the Leagues Committee.

2.02B(3) Sectional Championships.

The Sectional Championship is an invitational event. There is no cap to the number of entries a local league can receive. The Leagues Committee will determine the number of teams participating in the Sectional Championships. Wildcard opportunities will be available at the discretion of the Leagues Committee.

All teams must be registered in TennisLink and meet minimum roster requirements by the Registration Deadlines indicated below to qualify for Sectional Championships.

Wildcard Procedures:

The Sectional Championship Committee will determine if wildcards will be awarded. When wildcards are awarded for the sole purpose of filling out a draw, the opportunity will be rotated among the local leagues based on areas as defined below. A local league season must be played in order for a wildcard to be offered. If an Area is offered a wildcard and declines the opportunity, it will move to the second to last spot in the rotation the following year. If an Area accepts the

wildcard, it will move to the last spot in the rotation the following year. In 2018 the following rotation applies:

18 & Over			
Women	Order	Men	Order
2.5	North, TC, SD, TC, ND, TC, South, TC	2.5	North, TC, SD, TC, ND, TC, South, TC
3.0	North, TC, SD, TC, ND, TC, TC, South	3.0	North, TC, SD, TC, ND, TC, TC, South
3.5	North, ND, SD, South, TC, TC, TC, TC	3.5	North, SD, TC, ND, TC, South, TC, TC
4.0	North, ND, SD, TC, South, TC, TC, TC	4.0	SD, TC, ND, TC, North, TC, South, TC
4.5	North, TC, SD, TC, ND, TC, South, TC	4.5	SD, TC, North, TC, ND, TC, South, TC
5.0	North, TC, SD, TC, ND, TC, South, TC	5.0	North, SD, TC, ND, TC, South, TC, TC

40 & Over			
Women	Order	Men	Order
3.0	SD, North, ND, TC, TC, South, TC, TC	3.0	SD, TC, South, TC, North, TC, ND, TC
3.5	SD, South, North, TC, ND, TC, TC, TC	3.5	SD, TC, South, TC, North, TC, ND, TC
4.0	SD, South, North, ND, TC, TC, TC, TC	4.0	SD, TC, South, TC, North, TC, ND, TC
4.5	SD, TC, South, TC, North, TC, ND, TC	4.5	SD, TC, South, TC, North, TC, ND, TC

55 & Over			
Women	Order	Men	Order
6.0	SD, TC, South, TC, North, TC, ND, TC	6.0	SD, TC, South, TC, North, TC, ND, TC
7.0	SD, South, TC, North, TC, ND, TC, TC	7.0	SD, South, TC, North, TC, ND, TC, TC
8.0	SD, South, TC, North, TC, ND, TC, TC	8.0	SD, TC, South, TC, North, TC, ND, TC
9.0	SD, TC, South, TC, North, TC, ND, TC	9.0	SD, TC, South, TC, North, TC, ND, TC

Mixed			
6.0	North, TC, SD, TC, ND, TC, South, TC	7.0	North, TC, SD, TC, ND, TC, South, TC
8.0	North, SD, TC, ND, TC, TC, TC, South	9.0	North, TC, SD, TC, South, TC, ND, TC
10.0	North, TC, SD, TC, ND, TC, South, TC		

By definition, the following areas are made up of these local leagues:

SD is Rapid City, SD; ND is Bismarck, ND and Fargo, ND; North is Duluth MN, Washburn, WI and Eau Claire, WI; South is Rochester, MN and TC is Twin Cities.

League	Registration Deadline	Matches Completed By
18 & Over Women and 40 & Over Men	July 3, 2018	July 31, 2018
40 & Over Women and 18 & Over Men	July 3, 2018	July 31, 2018
55 & Over Women & Men	July 3, 2018	July 20, 2018
Mixed 18 & Over	July 3, 2018	July 31, 2018
Mixed 40 & Over	February 23, 2018	May 3, 2018
ONE Doubles	July 20, 2018	October 31, 2018

2.03A(4) ONE Doubles Eligibility. A team may advance to the Sectional Championship if they have played at least two team matches. Each individual must have played one match to advance.

2.03C Scoring. After the first game of each set and during a tie-break game, play shall be continuous and the players shall change ends without a rest. The minimum rest period between individual matches shall be thirty (30) minutes.

National Regulations:

2.04 NTRP DYNAMIC DISQUALIFICATION AND REVIEW PROCEDURES.

2.04E Scoring Procedures.

2.04E(1) Local. In the event of an NTRP Dynamic Disqualification from a particular level of play, the Section shall determine and publish in its regulations what matches, if any, shall be considered losses. The disqualified matches shall be considered 6-0, 6-0 wins for the opposing player or doubles team.

2.04E(1) Local. If a player is disqualified from a particular level of play during a local league season, the disqualified player will be promoted immediately following their third strike. No matches will be disqualified. (i.e., No matches will be changed to be considered losses.)

2.04E(2) Championship.

2.04E(2)a NTRP Dynamic Disqualification Done Throughout Championship Competition When Using a Round Robin Format or Segment. If the Section chooses to calculate dynamic ratings and disqualify throughout the championship, all matches played by a dynamically disqualified player shall be considered losses and those matches shall be considered 6-0, 6-0 wins for the opposing player or doubles team.

2.04E(2)b NTRP Dynamic Disqualification Done Throughout Championship Competition When Using a Single Elimination or Segment. If the Section chooses to calculate dynamic ratings and disqualify throughout the championship, the last individual match played by a dynamically disqualified player shall be considered a loss and that individual match shall be considered a 6-0, 6-0 win for the opposing player or doubles team.

2.04E(2)a & b Championships NTRP Dynamic Disqualification. USTA Northern will calculate dynamic ratings and disqualify throughout the championship.

National Regulations:

2.05 YEAR-END NTRP COMPUTER RATINGS AND APPEAL PROCEDURES.

2.05A Applicability. Regulations in this section are applicable to the Adult and Mixed Divisions.

2.05B Year-end Computer Ratings. When year-end NTRP computer ratings are determined in accordance with the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System Procedures for players, such ratings shall be the minimum NTRP rating levels of players.

2.05B(1) A year-end NTRP computer rating is valid for three consecutive years or until a new valid NTRP level is published for players who are 59 years of age or under through the League year, except for players with a published Mixed Exclusive "M" or Tournament "T" rating who choose to participate in the Adult Division. (See *Valid Computer Ratings Table* - inside back cover).

2.05B(2) A year-end NTRP computer rating is valid for two consecutive years or until a new valid NTRP level is published for players 60 years of age or older prior to or during the League year, except for players with a published Mixed Exclusive "M" or Tournament "T" rating who choose to participate in the Adult Division. (See *Valid Computer Ratings Table* - inside back cover).

2.05B(3) Early Start League players must follow the procedures set forth below when they receive a year-end computer rating that places them above the NTRP level at which they are competing:

2.05B3(a) Players who are found to have valid computer ratings, after the appeal process, that place them at the clearly above level mark must immediately adjust to their new NTRP level. Prior team matches played are valid.

2.05B3(b) Players who are found to have valid computer ratings, after the appeal process, that place them above the NTRP level at which they are competing may continue their participation at

the lower NTRP level through the conclusion of **the** Early Start League in progress. They shall not be permitted to advance to any **Sectional Championship or National Championship** at the lower NTRP level. Prior team matches played are valid.

2.05B3(c) Players on a 2.5 team who are found to have valid computer ratings, after the appeal process, that place them above the 2.5 NTRP level may continue their participation through all championships at the 2.5 level UNLESS their year-end rating reached the clearly above level mark. If it did, they must immediately adjust to their new NTRP level. Prior team matches played are valid.