New 2017 USTA NATIONAL AND USTA SOUTHWEST SECTION LEAGUE REGULATIONS

– No More Early Season League Ratings

At this year’s USTA Annual Meeting, the National League Committee voted to discontinue the use of early season league ratings effective immediately.

The new 2017 regulation is as follows:

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 any Early Start League in progress or until such other date or championship level as determined by the Section. They shall not be permitted to advance to any 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.

For USTA Southwest, we will NOT be posting Early Start ratings in August. The next time ratings will be published is when the 2016 year-end ratings are posted by National. Year-end ratings are published around the 1st of December.

Some of the positives of eliminating early season league ratings:

• Allows players to know their NTRP level for the next 12 months.
• No bouncing back and forth from early start to year-end ratings.
• Creates a level playing field in that all players competing at the National Championships will be playing with their most recent year-end rating.

Q: How does this affect the early start leagues played in the fall of 2016?

A: Players will be using their current year-end rating or self-rating for the fall leagues. Early Start Leagues will no longer use Early Start ratings.
**Example:** If a player earned a 4.0 C rating in December of 2015, they will use that 4.0 C rating to register and play on early start leagues that start in the fall of 2016. If players are new to tennis or have an expired NTRP rating they will need to self-rate prior to competing in an early start league.

**Q:** How will this rule affect the Early Start Leagues which begin in the fall and progress to a Sectional and National Championships in the next year?

**A:**
1. Players who are found to have a valid year-end computer rating, after the appeals process, that places them at the clearly above level mark must immediately adjust to their new NTRP level. Prior team matches played are valid. Players will be notified via email by the USTA Southwest Section Adult Competitive Manager if they are at or above the clearly above level mark once year end ratings have been released.

   **Example:** The player begins the early start league with a 4.0 rating and when the year-end ratings are posted, that player receives a 4.5 rating. If that player’s final dynamic rating is at or greater than the disqualification level of a 4.0 rated player, then that player is immediately moved up to the new level and can no longer participate on the team. Prior team matches played are valid. Again, all players will be notified via email by the USTA Southwest Section Adult Competitive Manager if they are at the clearly above level mark once year end ratings have been released.

2. 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 but they have not surpassed the clearly above level mark may continue their participation at the lower NTRP level through the conclusion of USTA Southwest Section Championships. Players will be notified via email by the USTA Southwest Section Adult Competitive Manager if they are below the clearly above level mark once year end ratings have been released. However these players shall not be permitted to advance to any USTA League Tennis National Championship at the lower NTRP level per this new USTA National regulation.

   **Example:** The player begins the early start league with a 4.0 rating and when the year-end ratings are posted, that player receives a 4.5 rating. If the player’s final dynamic rating is not at or above the disqualification level, the player is allowed to continue to play for their team at the 4.0 level. If their team qualifies to play at the Sectional tournament, they will be allowed to participate however if their team qualifies to play at the National Championships they will not be allowed to participate.

Line

**PLAYERS WHO ARE 65 & OVER**

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. NTRP Dynamic Disqualification procedures as outlined in 2.04B(3) apply.

**Example:** A player who is 65 years old when year-end ratings are released in December of 2016 is moved up from a 3.5 to a 4.0, if that player chooses they may appeal their rating down and it will be automatically granted back down to the 3.5. If they do not appeal their rating they will remain a 4.0 rated player.
MATCHES REQUIRED TO ADVANCE TO CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR ADULT AND MIXED DIVISIONS

Starting in 2017 National will allow players to advance to a USTA National League Championship with 3 matches played with one of those matches being a default. Example: A player plays 2 local league matches and receives a default in the third match they were scheduled to play. That player will be eligible to play at Nationals if their team advances based on the 2 matches played and 1 default received.

MAJOR CHANGES TO USTA SOUTHWEST REGULATIONS FOR 2017

CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO EXISTING REGULATIONS ARE IN RED

Self-Rate Dynamic Disqualification:

- **NTRP Disqualification Occurring During District/Local League Competition**: Self-rated players who are promoted as a result of the NTRP Dynamic Disqualification will immediately be required to participate at their new NTRP level in all USTA League Programs. Self-rated players may be disqualified from playing at their registered skill level if their dynamic NTRP rating exceeds the level established by the National NTRP Committee (the strike level) three times during the championship year. **Scoring Procedures: OPTION**: In the event of a player receiving an NTRP Dynamic Disqualification, per USTA National Regulations, the Southwest Section will only reverse the last match that the Dynamically Disqualified player earned a strike in and allow all other match results to stand as played. The last match that the player earned a strike in will be changed to a 6-0, 6-0 win for the opposing player or doubles team. Additionally, that player becomes ineligible for future play at that level for the remainder of the Championship Year and succeeding Championship Year. Appeals will be only considered if an administrative error occurs. Computer rated and benchmark players are not subject to dynamic disqualification.

- **NTRP Disqualification Occurring During Championship and Section Championship Competition OPTION**: The Southwest Section, in accordance with USTA Regulations, has chosen option 2.04B(2)b: Run Dynamic calculations following the conclusion of the championship and disqualify those players who meet the criteria for NTRP Dynamic Disqualification. Matches played will stand. All points earned by dynamically disqualified players at the championship will stand but the disqualified player(s) will not be allowed to continue or advance.

b. **Early Start Leagues/Year-End Rating Changes OPTION**: Per USTA National League Regulation 2.05B(3) Players participating in Early Start Leagues 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 USTA Southwest Section Championships as long as they have
not surpassed the clearly above level mark. However these players shall not be
permitted to advance to any USTA League Tennis National Championship at the lower
NTRP level.

SWS SECTION TRI-LEVEL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

1. Players must have a valid USTA Membership and a valid USTA Year End NTRP Rating of either C,
   M or T in order to be eligible to participate in the Section Championship.
   
2. Section Championship NTRP Requirements:
   
   a. **Self-Rated Players**: Self-rated players are NOT allowed to advance to SWS Tri-Level
      Championships. (NOTE: Due to regulations imposed by the privately run BNP Paribas Tri-Level
      Invitational Championship Tournament)
   
   b. **NTRP Computer Rating Requirements**: Only Year End NTRP Rating of C, M or T players may
      advance to Section Championships. Because Section Championships are held in January of the
      year following the Championship Year in which local leagues are played, players will retain their
      NTRP Computer Rating of the Championship year in which the local league was played for
      Section Championships. (Example Player “X” had a 3.5 Computer 2013 year-end rating and
      played Tri-Level at 3.5 in July of 2014. His 2014 Year-end Rating moved him to a 4.0 Computer
      NTRP rating. Player “X” may compete at 3.5 at the 2014 Tri-Level Championships held in January
      of 2015, and visa versa applies- if Player “X” had a 2013 Year End Computer rating of 4.0, played
      2014 Tri-Level at 4.0 and earned a 3.5 2014 Year-End NTRP rating, he is required to play 2015 Tri-
      Level Champs at 4.0.)
   
   c. **NTRP Rating Requirements for BNP Paribas Tri-Level National Championship**: Players
      with a M or T rating designation may advance to the BNP Paribas Tri-Level National
      Championship at the discretion of the BNP Paribas Tri-Level National Tournament
      Director. (NOTE: Due to regulations imposed by the privately run BNP Paribas Tri-Level
      Invitational Championship Tournament)