

## **USTA Texas Section 2021 Section League Regulations**

USTA NATIONAL LEAGUE REGULATIONS shall apply to all USTA Leagues played in the USTA Texas Section; the Friend at Court shall apply to all matches played in USTA Leagues; and in all matches played without officials, the USTA official publication, THE CODE, shall be observed. The USTA Point Penalty System shall be used at all championship levels. District and Local Rules and Regulations may be developed to supplement the USTA National and Sectional Rules and Regulations. However, the Local Rules and Regulations must not contradict the National or Sectional established rules and regulations. If the Section 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 or Local League must follow the National Championship Regulation.

In addition to, and as allowed by USTA National League Regulations, the USTA Texas Section has adopted the following League Regulations for all league matches played in the Texas Section. Teams/Players participating in championships and local leagues should be familiar with USTA National League Regulations, Texas Section Regulations and their Local League Regulations.

### **Minimum Number of Players on a Roster:**

- Adult 18 & Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5 = 8 players per team
- Adult 18 & Over 2.5, 5.0, 5.5 and Open division = 5 players per team
- Adult 40 & Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5 = 7 players per team
- Adult 40 & Over Open = 6 players per team
- Adult 55 & Over (all levels) = 6 players per team
- Adult 65 & Over (all levels) = 6 players per team
- 18 & Over Mixed (all levels) = 6 players per team
- 40 & Over Mixed (all levels) = 6 players per team
- 55 & Over Mixed (all levels) = 6 players per team
- Tri-Level = 6 players per team
- Combo = 6 players per team
- Adult 18-39 (all levels) = 5 players per team
- Lone Star = 6 players per team

**Registration for Minimum Team Rosters.** All USTA Texas Leagues shall register through TennisLink. Minimum team rosters must be registered on TennisLink by the following dates:

- 04/01/2021 - Adult 40 & Over Qualifying Tournament
- 04/15/2021 - Adult 55 & Over League
- 05/01/2021 - Mixed 40 & Over League
- 06/01/2021 - Adult 18 & Over Qualifying Tournament
- 07/01/2021 - Adult 18 & Over League
- 07/01/2021 - Lone Star League
- 07/20/2021 - Adult 40 & Over League
- 08/01/2021 - Mixed 18 & Over League
- 09/15/2021 - Combo League
- 09/15/2021 - Adult 65 & Over League
- 09/15/2021 - Mixed 55 & Over League
- 11/15/2021 - Tri-Level League

**Maximum Number of Players on a Roster.** Each local league determines the final number of players per roster.

**Final Team Rosters.** Each team's final season roster, (including adding players), must be complete at least 14 days prior to the start of the sectionals event. Additionally, Local Leagues must complete All regular season matches at least 14 days prior to the start of the sectionals event they are attending.

**Match Requirements To Qualify for Local League Playoffs, City Championships and Sectionals.** All Leagues Advancing to the National Championships, (Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over, Mixed 18 & Over, Mixed 40 & Over): Computer Rated Players (C) must play 2 matches on the same team at the same level in the same age group (one default received shall count) to be eligible for Local League Playoffs, City Championships and Sectionals. Self-Rated Players (S) and Computer Appealed Rated Players (A) must play 3 matches on the same team at the same level in the same age group with no defaults counting to be eligible for Local League Playoffs, City Championships and Sectionals. If, during the league season, a player is moved to a higher level, he/she must meet the match eligibility requirement at the higher level to advance to Sectionals with the higher level team. (2.03A(1-5), 2020 USTA League Regulations)

**Match Requirements To Qualify for National Championships.** Computer Rated Players (C) must play 3 matches on the same team at the same level in the same age group (one default received shall count) to be eligible to play in the National Championships. Self-Rated Players (S) and Computer Appealed Rated Players (A) must play 4 matches on the same team at the same level in the same age group with no defaults counting to be eligible to play in the National Championships. (2.03A(1-5), 2020 USTA League Regulations)

**Leagues that have to have a minimum of 3 teams in a league to advance to Sectionals: (Exception: Qualifying Tournament)**

- Adult 18 & Over - 3.5 & 4.0 levels
- Adult 40 & Over - 3.5 & 4.0 levels

**Leagues that have to have a minimum of 2 teams in a league to advance to Sectionals:**

- Adult 18 & Over League - 2.5, 3.0, 4.5 & 5.0 levels
- Adult 40 & Over League 3.0 & 4.5 levels
- Adult 55 & Over League- all levels
- Mixed 18 & Over League – all levels
- Mixed 40 & Over League – all levels
- Qualifying Tournament - all levels

**Leagues that may send a team to Sectionals without having a local league:**

- Adult 18 & Over League - 5.5 & Open
- Adult 40 & Over League - Open
- Adult 65 & Over League – all levels
- Ladies Lone Star League
- Tri-Level League – all levels
- Mixed 55 & Over League – all levels
- Combo League –all levels
- Adult 18-39 League – all levels

**If You Have a Local League For:**

- **Tri-Level, Mixed 55 & Over, Combo, or Adult 18-39.** All players must play at least one match locally on the same team at the same level in the same age group to be eligible to play in the Sectional Championships. One default received shall count.
- **Adult 65 & Over.** All players must play at least two matches locally on the same team at the same level in the same age group to be eligible to play in the Sectional Championships. One default received shall count.
- **Adult Qualifying Tournament.** All players must play at least two matches locally on the same team at the same level in the same age group to be eligible to play in the Adult Qualifying Tournament. One default received shall count.

**Scoring of Full Team Defaults.** If a local league does not have a specific rule in place to cover a full team default, it must follow the National/Sectional Championship Regulation 2.03L, which states: *“If a team defaults an entire team match for any reason during round robin play, that team is ineligible to continue play at that championship. All matches of the defaulting team already played shall be null and void when determining standings but will be used for ratings and advancement purposes. 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. The Sectional Association may impose further penalties on the defaulting team.”* If there are several round robins within the local competition, this guideline concerns the round robin in question only. ([Regulation 2.03L, 2020 USTA League Regulations](#))

**Dynamic Disqualification.** No dynamic disqualification of year-end computer rated players. Who can be dynamically disqualified? NTRP published level followed by A (appeal-all), S (self-rated), and D (disqualified) or E (early start) in the adult divisions through the Section Championships. ([Page 3, 2020 USTA League Regulations](#))

**Local League Dynamic Disqualifications.** In the event of a local dynamic disqualification from a particular level of play, a self-rated player and/or an appealed computer rated player (A) will have to immediately move up to the appropriate level. However, no matches will be taken away from their teams. All points earned by a disqualified player will stand. Captains who have 2 or more disqualifications within 12 months may be subject to a grievance being filed against them. ([2.04B\(2\)b, 2020 USTA League Regulations](#))

**Sectional and Local League Championship Dynamic Disqualifications.** At the Sectional level and local championship/playoff level, the Texas Section chooses to calculate dynamic ratings and disqualify those players who meet the criteria for NTRP disqualification following the conclusion of the championship. All points earned by the disqualified player at the championship will stand. From that point forward, the disqualified player will have to play at their new level which could possibly prevent them from advancing with their team to the Sectional or National Championships. ([2.04B\(2\)b / 2.04E\(2\)c, 2020 USTA League Regulations](#))

**Team Penalty for Pulling Out of the Sectional Championships.** When a team, which is scheduled to play in a Sectional Championship, pulls out within 14 days of the Championship or leaves a Sectional Championship, causing a full team forfeit before completing all scheduled matches, all players on the forfeiting team can play in their local league the following year but cannot advance to any Texas Sectional Championships for a period of 12 months, including the Sectional Championship they dropped out of for the following year. The local league coordinator for the city or area in whose league the team played will be notified of the year suspension for all players on the team. The players through their local league coordinator may appeal their suspension within 14 days of notification to the Section Appeals Committee who may grant relief under extenuating circumstances.

**Out of Area Players.** A team may have only one player from outside the 50 mile radius of the center of a large city, Fort Worth, Dallas, San Antonio, Austin and Houston. Teams from all other cities can have a maximum of two players from outside the 50 mile radius of the center of the city. If a player does not have the specific league in one of our designated areas, (i.e. Abilene, Amarillo, Austin), he/she can play in another city without it counting as part of the out of area maximum.

**Sectional or National Championship Matches Will Take Precedence Over Local League Matches.** All USTA Sectional or National Championship matches played by League players will take precedence over the local league matches. Teams, Players and Captains who advance to USTA League Championships, representing the city for which the local match conflict exists, shall have the right to request that their lines in a local match be played at some time other than the originally scheduled date. Only players who will attend the Sectional Championships as members of their team and play or serve as an alternate (i.e. a singles player or a member of a doubles team) may request a rescheduling of a local match. Each line played at an alternate time to accommodate the Championship shall be played by at least one player who was absent due to the Championship. Captains of the players advancing are to notify their opposing captain of the conflict as soon as they know of a conflict with their advancement to a Sectional or National Championship. Teams with greater than 50% absence due to representation at a Sectional or National Championship for a city other than the one the local league is being played, will only be allowed to make up lines so their team plays a majority of the lines to constitute a valid team match (3 lines in a 5 line league; 2 lines in a 3 line league).

**Early Start Leagues.** 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:

- Players who are found to have valid computer ratings, after the appeal process, that place them at the clearly above level mark (disqualification level) must immediately adjust to their new NTRP level. Prior team matches played are valid. They will not be allowed to continue to play with their team at the lower level. [\(2.05B\(3\) / 2.05B3\(a\), 2020 USTA League Regulations\)](#)
- 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. The Texas Section does not allow these players to advance to sectionals at the lower NTRP level. [\(2.05B\(3\) / 2.05B3\(b\), 2020 USTA League Regulations\)](#)
- 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 (disqualification level). If it did, they must immediately adjust to their new NTRP level. Prior team matches played are valid. They will not be allowed to continue to play with their team at the lower level. [\(2.05B\(3\) / 2.05B3\(c\), 2020 USTA League Regulations\)](#)

**Rating Differential Between Players.** The spread between players of an individual doubles pair may not exceed 1.0 in the Mixed Doubles, Adult 55 & Over, Adult 65 & Over, and Combo League. [\(2.01A\(3\), 2020 USTA League Regulations\)](#)

**When Two Players on a Team Show Up That Are Members of Two Different Doubles Teams.** The Section authorizes, in this case, that the two players may play together at the higher position in order to avoid an additional forfeit. Example: Only one doubles player on line 2 shows up and only one doubles player on line 3 shows up, then those two players can play on line 2 to avoid an additional forfeit. Defaults are from the bottom up.

**Self-Rating General & Experienced Player Guideline Chart.** New players must self-rate in order to participate in USTA Leagues. A self-rating is based on the player's tennis history. A self-rated player remains a self-rated player until the player produces a year-end computer rating. The following link shows a player's self-rating as it relates to their tennis history: [https://www.usta.com/content/dam/usta/pdfs/10013\\_experience\\_player\\_ntrp\\_guidelines.pdf](https://www.usta.com/content/dam/usta/pdfs/10013_experience_player_ntrp_guidelines.pdf)

**Super Champ Self-Rating.** If a Junior player was a Super Champ in the 16's or 18's in the past five years, he/she must self-rate at or above a 4.5 level.

**Tri-Level League Rules.** The upper-level Tri-Level Teams, (3.5-4.0-4.5), cannot have any self-rated players, appealed rated players, or mixed and tournament exclusive players on their roster. Each player must be computer rated. If a computer rated player, after registering for a Tri-Level Team is double bumped at the end of the year, they must play at the higher level.

**Players on Multiple Teams at the Local Level.** Local Leagues can determine if players are allowed to play on multiple teams in the same league at the same level.

**Players on Multiple Teams at the Sectional Championships.** A player can play on more than one team at a Sectional Championship, provided they are at different levels. However, there will be no special scheduling for that player or team. Captains cannot captain more than one team at a Sectional Championship at the same level and gender.

**Resources for Your Event.** The following link is the link to the "Resources for Your Event" page. Included on this page, is the "Resources & Tools" section. The USTA Resources page has everything you need to get in the game and stay in the game from forms and information to tools and related links. <http://www.usta.com/Adult-Tennis/USTA-League/resources/>

