

## **2017 OPERATING PROCEDURES USTA TEXAS SECTION TENNIS LEAGUES**

All USTA Tennis Leagues in the USTA Texas Section shall follow the regulations set forth in the USTA League Regulations and in addition be governed by the USTA Texas Operating Procedures and local league operating procedures.

**1.** There must be at least 8 players per team in the Adult 18 & Over and 40 & Over leagues with the exception of the 2.5, 5.0, 5.5 and Open division, which must have at least 5 players per team. The Adult 55 & Over, Adult 65 & Over, 18 & Over Mixed, 40 & Over Mixed, 55 & Over Mixed, Tri-Level and Combo leagues must have at least 6 players per team.

**2.** With the exception of the Qualifying Tournament, the following leagues must have a minimum of three teams to advance to Sectionals:

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

The following leagues must have a minimum of two teams 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

The following leagues may send a team to Sectionals without having a local league:

- 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

**3.** A local league has the option to limit the number of players on that roster that are at a specific NTRP level.

**4.** All USTA Texas Leagues shall register on Tennis Link. Minimum team rosters must be registered by the following dates: Mixed 40 & Over League must be registered on Tennislink by May 1, 2017; Adult 18 & Over League by July 1, 2017; Adult 40 & Over League by August 1, 2017; Mixed 18 & Over League by August 15, 2017; Adult 55 & Over League by August 1, 2017; Combo League by September 15, 2017; Adult 65 & Over League by September 15, 2017; Mixed 55 & Over League by September 15, 2017; Tri-Level League by November 15, 2017. Schedules for teams advancing to Sectionals will be based on the registered leagues by the dates listed above.

## 5. 2.06 MOVE-UP/SPLIT-UP.

### 2.06A National Championship Teams.

2.06A(1): Adult Divisions: Teams and team members that advanced to, or qualified for, any Adult National Championship may play together as a team, in whole or in part, in any Age Group within the Adult Division if they move up one NTRP team level. These players may combine and play at any level for which they are eligible in the Mixed Division.

2.06A(2) Mixed Divisions: Teams and team members that advanced to, or qualified for, any Mixed Division National Championship may play together as a team, in whole or in part, in any Age Group within the Mixed Division if they move up one NTRP team level in accordance with the table below. These players may combine and play at any level for which they are eligible in the Adult Division.

2.06A(3) All Divisions: No more than 3 players (2 for Adult 2.5 and 5.0+) who were on the roster of any team or combination of teams, that advanced to, or qualified for, any National Championship the previous year may play together in any age group within the same Division and NTRP level or lower NTRP level as the National Championship team, if their NTRP rating allows. Move Up/Split Up requirements only apply to players who participated in three (3) or more matches (excluding all defaults) for that team during the championship year. 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.

<u>When a player or team plays at this National Championship team level:</u>	<u>Maximum number of players who can combine to play together at that same NTRP level</u>	<u>Adult 18&amp;Over move up level</u>	<u>Adult 40&amp;Over move up level if eligible</u>	<u>Adult 55&amp;Over move up level if eligible</u>	<u>Mixed 18&amp;Over move up level</u>	<u>Mixed 40&amp;Over move up level if eligible</u>
Adult 18&Over 2.5	2	3.0	3.0	6.0	*	*
Adult 18&Over 3.0	3	3.5	3.5	7.0	*	*
Adult 18&Over 3.5	3	4.0	4.0	8.0	*	*
Adult 18&Over 4.0	3	4.5	4.5+	9.0	*	*
Adult 18&Over 4.5	3	5.0+			*	*
Adult 18&Over 5.0+	2				*	*
Adult 40&Over 3.0	3	3.5	3.5	7.0	*	*
Adult 40&Over 3.5	3	4.0	4.0	8.0	*	*
Adult 40&Over 4.0	3	4.5	4.5+	9.0	*	*
Adult 40&Over 4.5+	3	5.0+			*	*
Adult 55&Over 6.0 or 3.0	3	3.5	3.5	7.0	*	*
Adult 55&Over 7.0 or 3.5	3	4.0	4.0	8.0	*	*
Adult 55&Over 8.0 or 4.0	3	4.5	4.5+	9.0	*	*
Adult 55&Over 9.0 or 4.5	3	5.0+			*	*
Mixed 18&Over 2.5	3	**	**	**	6.0	6.0
Mixed 18&Over 6.0	3	**	**	**	7.0	7.0
Mixed 18&Over 7.0	3	**	**	**	8.0	8.0
Mixed 18&Over 8.0	3	**	**	**	9.0	9.0
Mixed 18&Over 9.0	3	**	**	**	10.0	
Mixed 18&Over 10.0	3	**	**	**		
Mixed 40&Over 6.0	3	**	**	**	7.0	7.0
Mixed 40&Over 7.0	3	**	**	**	8.0	8.0
Mixed 40&Over 8.0	3	**	**	**	9.0	9.0
Mixed 40&Over 9.0	3	**	**	**	10.0	

\*Adult Division players may play in the Mixed Division with no restrictions

\*\*Mixed Division players may play in the Adult Division with no restrictions

**6.** Players who qualify to play on more than one team for championship competition within a division (i.e. Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Mixed being a division) are required to choose which team they will represent at a championship.

**7.** 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 forfeits an entire team match for any reason during round robin play, then all matches of that team played, or to be played, shall be null and void when determining standings. If all teams in contention for the championships have already played the defaulting team in good faith, those matches stand as played." If there are several round robins within the local competition, this guideline concerns the round robin in question only.

**8.** In the event of a local disqualification from a particular level of play, self rated players will have all matches taken away, while computer-rated players with an A will only have their last match taken away. However, at the Sectional level and local championship level, the 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 disqualified players at the championship will stand.

**9.** 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.

**10.** A player must play two qualifying matches prior to a local championship with only one default counting.

**11.** In order to advance to a National Championship in the Adult or Mixed leagues, an individual player must have participated in 3 matches during all competition on the specific team with one default received shall count. A retired match shall count for all players involved.

**12.** The spread between players of an individual doubles pair may not exceed 1.0 in the Mixed Doubles, Adult 55 & Over, Adult 65 & Over or Combo League.

**13.** To encourage play, when a team which is scheduled to play a Sectional tournament pulls out within 14 days of the tournament 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.

**14.** 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 city maximum.

**15.** All USTA Sectional or National Championship matches played by League players will take precedence over the local league matches. Teams and or players who advance to USTA League Championships 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. 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.

**16.** 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:

2.05B(3)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.

2.05B(3)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.

The Texas Section does not allow these players to advance to sectionals at the lower NTRP level.

2.05B(3)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.

## **VERIFICATION**

1. If a player was a Super Champ in the 16's or 18's in past five years, he/she must self rate at or above a 4.5 NTRP level; former high school players cannot play below the 3.0 level.

2. The years of valid rating starting with the 2007 championship year will be reduced from five (5) years to three (3) years for those individuals 59 and under and from three (3) years to two (2) years for those individuals 60 years and over. If intervening circumstances (such as disabling injury or illness) indicate that such a rating may be too high, the player may request a reconsideration of such rating in accordance with procedures established by the section.

3. Players new to the league may self rate on Tennis Link. Self-rate Grievances must go to the Section League Grievance Committee.

4. If, during the league season, a player is moved to a higher level of play, he/she must meet the two match eligibility requirement prior to the local playoffs at the higher level to advance to sectionals with that higher level team

5. 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 or E in the adult divisions through the section championships.

6. For Tri-Level (if you have a local league), Mixed 55 & Over (if you have a local league), and Combo (if you have a local league) players must play at least one match locally to be eligible to play in the Section Championships.

7. The Tri-Level 4.5 & Under teams cannot have any self-rated players.

8. In the Adult 65 & Over (if you have a local league) players must play at least two matches locally to be eligible to play in the section championships.

9. For the Adult Qualifying Tournament (if you have a local league) players must play at least two matches locally to be eligible to play in the Adult Qualifying Tournament.