

# 2026 NTRP Championships FAQ- New England

Q: Do I need to register to be considered?

A: Players MUST register on the NTRP Nationals website before the registration deadline. Any player who thinks they might be selected, needs to register. If a player is not registered, but was “endorsed”, they will go to the bottom of the alternate list and may not be selected.

Q: Does New England have any Automatic Qualifiers (AQ)?

A: No, the section uses the NSL for all selections. The last published NSL prior to the entry deadline will be used for selection of all players, so players can play NTRP events up until the time registration closes.

Q: If a player is turning 18, 40, or 55 by the start of NTRP Nationals, are he/she eligible to play in their respective USTA NTRP National Championships?

A: Referring to USTA Adult & Family Regulation II.C.2, the following applies:

- 18 & Over Adult NTRP Division - A player, if otherwise eligible, may enter if the player will reach the age of 18 by the first day of the month during which any event in the tournament is scheduled to start.
- 40 & Over Adult NTRP Division and 55 & Over Adult NTRP Division - A player, if otherwise eligible, may enter if the player will reach the minimum age by December 31 of the year during which the division is scheduled to start.

Q: Can a player who is over 40 or 55 years old play in the 18 and over division? Can a player who is over 55 play in the 40 and over division?

A: Yes they would be eligible to play provided they are on the last National Standings List prior to entries closing and have met all other eligibility requirements.

Q: Can a player get in as an Alternate?

A: Yes, there are circumstances in which players withdraw at the last minute, or draws have spaces available so players who are assigned as alternates have the chance to get a spot in the draw.

Q: If I am turning 40 or 55 in 2025, can I request a waiver to participate in 40+ or 55+ since I did not have a chance to play any tournaments in the 40+ or 55+ divisions?

A: Waivers are only available if the section has no automatic qualifier and no registered players on the 40+ or 55+ National Standings List. In this scenario, the “waiver” may be allowed and the

registered player with the highest 18+ ranking in that same division can be selected. Note that a formal “waiver” does not need to be filled out. If this scenario exists, then the player can be selected.

### **NTRP NATIONALS QUESTIONS**

Q: Can a player play a level down at NTRP Nationals?

A: Players are not allowed to play at a level lower than their current NTRP level as of the entry close date. Players must play at their current NTRP level.

Q: Can a player play up a level at NTRP Nationals?

A: Yes, a player can play up one level - this means if a player is 4.0 they can play up to 4.5, provided they meet all other eligibility requirements.

Q: Do USTA sanctioned tournaments count in the year end rating calculation?

A: Each Section has the option of including NTRP tournament results for year-end calculations. If your Section does Opt In, they will impact your year-end rating.

Q: Do USTA Sanctioned Tournaments count in the daily dynamic rating calculations (ie, can you be NTRP DQ'd from tournaments).

A: No. USTA Sanctioned Tournaments are only used in calculating year-end ratings for those sections who opt in.

Q: If I play a USTA Sanctioned Tournament outside of my section and my home section opts out, will that tournament count towards year end rating calculations?

A: Yes, but only if the tournament is in a section that opts in for USTA Sanctioned Tournaments to count towards NTRP year-end rating calculations.

Q: Are all players in a given NTRP level equal in ability?

A: No. The NTRP system identifies general levels of ability, but an individual will be rated within those levels at 50 different hundredths of a point. For example, a 3.5 player can fall anywhere between a 3.01 and a 3.50. A typical match result for a player with a 3.01 rating versus a 3.49 player, both of whom are 3.5s, would be a 6-0, 6-0 win in favor of the higher rated player.

Q: What is the difference between a Rating and a Ranking?

A: A rating is a number assigned to a player that reflects their level of playing ability. A ranking reflects the relative position of strength based on other players on the rankings list and is only achieved through tournament play.

Q: What is an NTRP Rating and what are the different categories?

A: An NTRP Rating is a numerical indicator of tennis-playing ability, from 1.0 (beginner) through 7.0 (touring pro), which aligns with a set of general characteristics that break down the skills and abilities of each level, in 0.5 increments. Ratings are generated by play in USTA Adult Divisions of 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over, 65 & Over, Mixed 18 & Over, Mixed 40 & Over, Mixed 55 & Over, and Combo 18 & Over. In some sections, results from USTA Sanctioned Tournaments and additional leagues may be included in the Ratings calculation. Ratings help establish a player's NTRP skill level after only a few matches and do not change dramatically. Rather, they slowly increase or decrease over time as they reflect a consistent player skill level as exhibited through play results.

Q: If a player qualifies at a lower level and then was moved up at year end, do they have to be on the NSL of the higher level to be selected?

A: No. Since the player qualified at the lower level, they can be selected at the higher level without being on the NSL at the higher level and this will not count against the section quota. This is also true for a doubles partner whose partner was moved up.

Q: My NTRP rating is 4.5S. Can I compete in the 18 & Over 4.5 NTRP National Championship?

A: No. Self-rated ('S') players are not eligible. You must have a C, A, D, T or M rating (M for Mixed Doubles events ONLY).

### **NATIONAL STANDINGS LIST (NSL) QUESTIONS**

Q: There is a Men's and Women's Mixed Doubles National Standings List. Which list will be used to determine who is selected if my section uses the National Standings List for selection?

A: The Tournament organizers will manually combine the Men's and Women's list and select the top players from both lists combined. For example, if the Men's List has John Doe (1345 points) and Bobby Lee (465 points) and the Women's List has Jane Smith (1645 points) and Susie Jones (765 points) then the order of selection will be as follows: Jane Smith (1645), John Doe (1345), Susie Jones (765), Bobby Lee (465).

Q: How will you determine if a player who moves up can be selected using the NSL?

A: The latest NSL at the time of entries close will be the only NSL that is used. See below for various scenarios:

- **IMPORTANT** - Any player who was moved up and wants to play at the higher level **MUST** register for the tournament. Once entries close, it will be determined if they can be selected or not based on whether or not they would have been selected at the lower level.
- **SINGLES** - When entries close, if a 3.0 player who moved up to 3.5 would have been selected in the 3.0 division using the latest NSL at the time entries close, then the player can be selected at 3.5 and this will not count against the sections quota. If, however, another 3.0 is selected because they have more points than them, then they would not have been selected anyway and therefore will not be selected for 3.5.
- **DOUBLES** - When entries close, if one of the 3.0 players who moved up to 3.5 would have been selected in the 3.0 division using the latest NSL at the time entries close, then the doubles team can be selected at 3.5 and this will not count against the sections quota. If, however, another 3.0 is selected because they have more points than them, then they would not have been selected anyway and therefore will not be selected for 3.5.

Q: Why are the Year End Rankings not used anymore?

A: All other USTA National Sanctioned Tournaments (Age Division, Junior, Wheelchair) use the latest National Standings List to make selections and not a Final Year End Ranking List. As a USTA National Sanctioned Tournament, it was determined that the NTRP National Championships should also move in this direction.

Q: If I am 40 or 55 and over, how can I be selected for these events if my section does not have any NTRP tournaments in this age group?

A: When selections are made for 40+ and 55+, the players that are first considered for selection will be those who have won an automatic qualifier (and have a valid rating) or have entered and are on the most recent NSL for that division. If there are no automatic qualifiers or eligible players from the NSL, then the highest ranked player on the most recent 18+ NSL for that same division (i.e. 3.5 Women's Singles) who meet the minimum age criteria will be selected.

**IMPORTANT** - any player who is interested in the 40+ or 55+ division must still register as only registered players will be considered.

Q: What level do I register for?

A: Players must be on the NSL they are registering for as of the entry close date, unless they moved up, and then they must be on the NSL of the lower level.

Q: I appear on an 18 & Over Doubles NSL. Can I register to play singles instead?

A: No. You must be listed on the NSL for the event level (2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0) and division (singles or doubles) to be eligible for endorsement and selection.

Q: I'm a 3.0 and appear on a 55 & Over Singles AND Doubles 3.0 NSL. Can I register to play both?

A: Yes

Q: I appear on the doubles NSL but my partner can't go. Can I choose another one?

A: No, the top ranked team who has registered to play will be selected.

Q: Can a player who is on the final NSL for the 18 & Over age division register for the 40 or 55 & Over tournaments if age qualified? (I'm 56 but only appear on the 18 & Over 3.5 Singles NSL. I would like to play 40 & Over 3.5 Singles)

A: Yes, by exception—**only** if there are no other players registered who appear in that age group NSL for that division. (If there are no other 40 & Over 3.5 Singles players registered for that division, we could only endorse by waiver.

Q: How will singles players be selected?

A: The top ranked registered player will be selected.

Q: How will doubles teams be selected?

A: The top ranked team(combined ranking) will be selected. In order to be selected, both players **MUST** be registered. If either doubles partner has been bumped up, the team will need to play in the higher division.

Q: How will mixed doubles teams be selected?

A: There is a men's and women's NSL list. For purposes of selection, those two lists will be combined into one list and the top individual registered player will be selected and can choose their partner, as long as the partner is also on the NSL. If there is a tie and the two top players are not partners, the team with the highest combined total points will be selected.

Q: My partner and I are on the 18 & Over 3.0 Mixed Doubles NSL and want to play! Do we both need to register?

A: Yes, both partners must register to be considered for endorsement. (There is a link on the doubles events entry page to invite a partner if you notice they have not yet registered) For

mixed doubles (a new event this year), there is a men's and a women's NSL list. For purposes of selection, those two lists will be combined into one list, and the top individual registered player will be selected and can choose their partner, as long as the partner is also on the NSL. If there is a tie and the two top players are not partners, the team with the highest combined total points will be selected.

Q: My partner and I are on the 18 & Over 4.0 Doubles NSL and want to play together but one of us got bumped up. What do we do?

A: If either doubles player has been bumped up, the team will need to register and play in the higher division if selected.

Q: I'm #3 on the NSL and see the players ahead of me already registered. Should I bother to sign up?

A: Yes, If a registered player withdraws or is removed due to ineligibility, the next player on the endorsement list will be selected. Players are not charged until selection is made so it does not hurt to register!

### **REGISTRATION AND SELECTIONS QUESTIONS:**

Q: Who pays for my travel expenses to the tournament?

A: All selected players are responsible for their own travel expenses. Do not make any travel arrangements until you receive official notification of selection.

Q: Does registering guarantee my selection?

A: Registering does not guarantee selection, so any player who thinks they might have a chance of being selected, needs to register. There is no longer a USTA New England registration page. All players must register on the USTA National site to be considered.

Q: Will I be selected if I miss the registration deadline?

A: You must register by the registration deadline to be considered.

Q: Can I register for multiple divisions?

A: You may sign up for any division(s) in which you meet the eligibility criteria.

Q: Will I be charged at the time of registration?

A: The entry fee will not be charged until selections are made. If another player gets selected, you will not be charged.

Q: When will selections be made and when will I be notified?

A: Selections will be made and players notified, as soon as possible after registration closes.

Q: Will anyone who registers be considered?

A: Only players who meet the section qualifications and are registered for the appropriate tournament will be considered for selection.