



2007 NEW ENGLAND SECTION REGULATIONS (9.22.06)

ADULT – SENIOR – SUPER SENIOR – MIXED DOUBLES DIVISIONS

CONNECTICUT – MAINE – MASSACHUSETTS NEW HAMPSHIRE – RHODE ISLAND – VERMONT

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1. GENERAL

- A. *Section Regulations*: These regulations shall be known as the New England USTA League Regulations. The current year's updates to these regulations are underlined. All references to gender will be "he" and "his."
- B. *Other Regulations*: The New England USTA League Regulations, which are supplemental and subordinate to the National USTA League Regulations, shall apply to USTA League in the New England Section. Local Areas in New England consist of the following: Eastern Massachusetts/Cape Cod, Maine, New Hampshire, Northern Connecticut, Southern Connecticut/Eastern Connecticut, Rhode Island, Western Massachusetts and Vermont. Within a local area separate local leagues may exist. Local League Regulations may be implemented to supplement the National and Section Regulations. The local regulations must not contradict established National or Section Regulations. The Section must approve Local League Regulations.
- C. *Player Conduct*: A player will be defaulted for flagrant misconduct, as defined by the "Friend at Court." Such a player will be prohibited from playing in the remainder of that event and for the rest of the season, forfeiting all fees paid for the event and season. Penalties for conduct violations, including flagrant misconduct, are to be determined by the Grievance Committee of that local area/championship event. A player committing flagrant misconduct may be prohibited from playing in USTA League for a maximum of two championship years. A captain committing flagrant misconduct may be prohibited from captaining a USTA League team for a maximum of four championship years and/or prohibited from playing in USTA League a maximum of two championship years. Note: A USTA League championship year includes all seasons (Winter, Summer, Spring and Fall) played as qualifying rounds for a specific year's Championships, including play that may begin within the prior year. In New England a championship year begins September 1 and ends August 31 following the Section Championships.
- D. *Player Registration*: Players must register for the USTA League program via TennisLink. Registration fees include a \$3.00 TennisLink user fee per player per team and an \$8.00 section fee per player per team. The local area may impose an additional participation fee. While a team captain may register members of the team, it is recommended that each player process his own registration.

2. USTA LEAGUE PERSONNEL

- A. *USTA League Committee*: The New England USTA League Committee shall govern the USTA League program. The USTA New England President appoints the chairperson of the New England USTA League Committee. The chairperson will recommend individuals to serve on the Committee with input from the Section League Coordinator and each USTA New England State Association.
- B. *Section League Coordinator*: The USTA League Section Coordinator, under the employment of USTA New England, shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the USTA League program including the interpretation of the New England USTA League Regulations. The USTA New England Director of Competitive Tennis assumes the responsibilities of the Section League Coordinator; all references in this document to "Section League Coordinator" conform to wording in the National USTA League Regulations referring to the administrative position overseeing USTA League. The Section League Coordinator and the New England USTA League Committee shall be responsible for the enforcement of these regulations and may, in the interest of fair play, provide exemptions or exceptions where they are permitted within the USTA League Regulations.
- C. *Local League Coordinator*: Each Local League Coordinator, appointed by the Section League Coordinator, shall be responsible for the implementation and administration of USTA League in his respective area. Communications will be handled primarily via email.
- D. *Team Captain*: Each team shall appoint a captain and/or co-captain to handle administrative affairs, to represent the team in all aspects of USTA League and to receive information regarding local and championship play. In the elected captain's absence, he must appoint a co-captain who will be responsible for the team captain responsibilities. The team captain and co-captain shall each forward his name, mailing address, e-mail address and home and business phone numbers to the Local League Coordinator.

3. LOCAL LEAGUES - GENERAL

- A. A local league shall consist of a minimum of three teams. On limited occasions, a Local League Coordinator may apply in writing to the Section League Coordinator for a two-team league. The local league must apply for a two-team league waiver for each championship year. A local league must play at least one round-robin competition wherein every team plays every other team. In two-team and three-team leagues, each team must play a minimum of four team matches. NOTE: Two-team local leagues do not receive funded first-place trophies. If they are to receive trophies, a funding method must be determined locally.
- B. The Section League Coordinator must approve all local league divisions into flights. If teams from multiple flights within a given level play each other, these flights will be considered as one flight when determining the number of

teams that qualify for the District Championships, unless otherwise approved in advance of the start of the local season.

- C. A local league may elect to limit its team rosters by number of players on the roster and/or number of players on the roster at a specific NTRP rating. Percentages may not be used.
- D. Each local league determines its specific registration deadlines. Each team may be allowed to add players to its roster during the local league season if the local league allows this regulation. Any team or league intending to participate in a championship year must declare their intent and be approved by the Section by June 15th. Each team member must have a valid USTA membership which extends through the end of the local league season. Any player that is added to the team roster must meet all eligibility requirements (a valid NTRP computer rating or self-rating, USTA membership, minimum age) prior to playing in his first USTA League match. Players who do not meet all the eligibility requirements, within the specified deadlines, may be disqualified.
- E. Each local area, subject to the restrictions set by the National and Section Regulations and approved by the Section League Coordinator, determines the length of the local league season. Each local league season's play must be completed at least 14 days prior to its respective District (for Adult divisions) or Section Championship event (for Senior, Super Senior and Mixed Doubles divisions). Exceptions to this rule must be approved by the Section.
- F. *Player Participation:* If one or more of the following three situations applies to any player or team, he must complete a Player Intent Form prior to registering for the second team and must mail the form to the respective team captains and Local League Coordinators.
 - 1. *Multiple NTRP Levels* - A local league may authorize a player or team to compete in more than one NTRP level in the same division in the same local league during the same season. If the local league allows this regulation, the player or team must complete the Player Intent Form.
 - 2. *Multiple Seasons within the Same Local Area* - Any player or team may compete in multiple seasons in the same Local Area in the same division at the same or different NTRP level. A team that has already qualified for a Championship competition from the first local league season can play in a second season in the same Local Area at the same NTRP level, however the team cannot qualify again in the second season. The player or team must complete the Player Intent Form (Amended 3/17/04).
 - 3. *Separate Local Areas*
 - a) A player or team may compete on more than one team in the same division *in the same season* at the same or different NTRP level provided it is within separate Local Areas. If the local league allows this regulation, the player or team must complete the Player Intent Form.
 - b) A player or team may compete *in multiple seasons* in separate local leagues in the same division at the same or different NTRP levels, if the local league allows this regulation. However, if a player or team has already qualified for a Championship level competition from the first local league, he must complete the Player Intent Form.

In the event that a player is on the roster of more than one team that qualified for the next level of competition and the Player Intent Form has not been submitted according to guidelines, the player will only be eligible to play on the team for which he registered first. A player may not play on more than one team at any championship level.

4. LOCAL LEAGUES - ADMINISTRATION

- A. *Local League Regulations:* Each local league shall determine, in writing, prior to the commencement of the local league, its Local League Regulations. These regulations must include the following:
 - 1. Format for team matches, including tiebreak procedures; no match – team or individual – may end in a tie or split points.
 - 2. Length of each match with time limit procedures, when applicable, length/dates of league season(s) and in-level NTRP requirements.
 - 3. List of members of the Local Grievance and Grievance Appeal Committees; the Sectional League Coordinator must approve each appointment.
 - 4. League deadlines for submission of materials.
- B. *League Certification:* In order for a local league to be certified for play, the Local League Coordinator must apply in writing annually, attend the annual USTA League Workshop and provide the following material via email to the Section League Coordinator. All items must be approved by the Section League Coordinator.
 - 1. League rules (refer to 4, A., 1-4)
 - 2. Date of the Captains' meeting
 - 3. Names, addresses, phone numbers, social security numbers, and shoe/clothing sizes of all local personnel involved in the administration of local leagues.
 - 4. Contact person, address, phone number and directions for all participating clubs.
 - 5. A breakdown of local player fees and complete local league budget of revenues and expenses.
 - 6. Copy of the Captains' packet
 - 7. Schedule must be published on TennisLink and reflect the actual match dates and facility associations.
 - 8. Summary of previous season's activity.

Items B.1 and B.2 must be provided prior to the start of the local season. Items B.3- B.7 must be provided within ten days after the commencement of local league play. Item B.9 must be provided within 30 days of the respective season-ending Championship.

- C. *Captains' Meeting*: Prior to the start of the local league season there shall be a meeting of the team captains with the Local League Coordinator and the Section League Coordinator (when available). Such a meeting shall be at a time and place convenient to the parties involved and shall be attended by team captains or a team representative. If a representative is not available, it is the responsibility of the captain of the absent team to contact the Local League Coordinator for the pertinent information prior to or immediately following the meeting.
- D. *Winners' Information*: Local League Coordinators must provide a list of the local winners (captain's name, address, phone numbers and email address) on the designated form to the appropriate District Tournament Director or Section Tournament Director (if the teams are going directly to the Section Championships) at least 12 days prior to the date of the respective championship event.

5. MATCH REGULATIONS – GENERAL

- A. *Warm-ups*: The warm-up, including serves, begins at the scheduled time the match is to be played, regardless of whether the players are on the court or not, and shall not exceed ten minutes. Local leagues with a time limit may choose to shorten this to no less than five minutes. In cases where a player is late for the match, the Point Penalty System will be enforced with the late player losing the toss plus one game for each five minutes he is late. Penalties begin at the scheduled time of the match. The match is a default at 15:01 minutes late and considered a 6-0, 6-0 win for the player(s) present. If the late player arrives five minutes past the scheduled start time but before the default time, he is to receive a 5-minute injury prevention warm-up. Waiting doubles players may warm-up with each other at the scheduled match time. Waiting singles player may begin warm-up, at the scheduled match time, with any person not scheduled to be on court at the same time. Refer to Friend at Court for a specific outline of the Point Penalty System.
- B. *Continuous Play*: Play must be continuous throughout the match. There is no rest after the first game of any set but players will change ends. A two-minute rest between any two sets may be taken. A ten-minute rest between the second and third sets should be honored upon request. If a Match Tiebreak is played in lieu of a third set, a two-minute rest, with no coaching, may be taken between the second set and the tiebreak. Local leagues with a time limit may waive or shorten this allotted rest period and indicate the chosen procedures in the local rules.
- C. *Scoring*: All matches will be best-of-three sets with a Set Tiebreak if games are tied at 6-6 in any set. Local leagues may use no-ad, 8-game pro-sets or the best-of-two sets and a Match Tiebreak in lieu of the third set as alternative scoring methods. The scoring system must be determined before the start of the local league season. If a time limit is enforced for local league matches, the Section League Coordinator must approve the scoring system when it varies from the full scoring as mentioned above. No match – team or individual – may end in a tie or split points. Each team in each flight will play each other team at least once. The method of awarding points to determine the winning team of a team match and the winner of the local league competition may be the same as that used in Championship competition or may be another method selected by the local league and approved through the section office. One option is to award each individual match a point value; the team that has accumulated the most points at the end of the team match will be the winner and receive one team point while the losing team receives zero team points. Another option is to identify the flight winner as the team with the most individual matches won during the local league season. In the case of a tie at the end of the local season, the USTA League tiebreak procedures will be used to break the tie.
- D. *Scorecard Entry*: Either captain can enter the scorecard on TennisLink and the opposing captain must confirm or dispute the scorecard. Scorecards must be entered and confirmed within 48 hours upon completion of the match. TennisLink will automatically confirm a scorecard after 48 hours if the opposing captain does not confirm or dispute it. The right to dispute a match for standing purposes will be lost in the event TennisLink confirms the scorecard.

6. SUPER SENIOR – GENERAL

- A. *Valid Ratings*: All players must have valid NTRP ratings prior to participation in USTA League Super Senior play.
- B. *Levels of Play*: A team shall consist of a minimum of six players eligible to compete at a specific level of competition. The Local and Championship levels of Super Senior league play are the combined NTRP levels of 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, and 9.0. Each individual doubles team's combined NTRP rating may not exceed the level entered. The NTRP difference between members of an individual doubles pair may not exceed 1.0.
- C. *Match Format*: Each team match shall consist of three individual doubles matches.
- D. *Age Eligibility*: Each player shall have reached the age of 60 prior to or during the calendar year in which such player plays in his first local league match.
- E. *Scoring*: The best-of-three sets with a Set Tiebreak scoring system will be used in all local league play. Each local

area may adopt an alternative scoring system (refer to Rule 5.C for alternate scoring methods). The Section Championship will use best-two-of-three sets with a Match Tiebreak in lieu of a third set. A Set Tiebreak will be played if games are tied at 6-6 within any set.

- F. *Championships*: All players must play two matches at the local level to be eligible to advance to any Championship level. When determining Championship eligibility, defaults count as matches played for the individual or team who received the default. The local winners (refer to Rule 10.B.2 for eligibility) will advance to the Section Championship held in August. The winner of the Section Championship will advance to the National Championship.

7. MIXED DOUBLES AND SENIOR MIXED DOUBLES – GENERAL

- A. *Valid Ratings*: All players must have valid NTRP ratings prior to participation in USTA League Mixed Doubles play. If a player has played two or more matches as an exclusive mixed player he will generate a mixed NTRP rating. Exclusive mixed ratings will be identified with an “M” on the NTRP rating list.
- B. *Levels of Play*: The Local and Championship levels of Mixed Doubles league play are the combined NTRP levels of 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0 and 10.0. Each individual mixed doubles team's combined NTRP rating may not exceed the level entered. The NTRP difference between members of an individual doubles pair may not exceed 1.0.
- C. *Match Format*: Each team match shall consist of three individual doubles matches.
- D. *Age Eligibility*: Each player shall have reached the age of 19 (for the Mixed division) or 50 (for the Senior Mixed division) prior to or during the calendar year in which such player plays in his first local league match.
- E. *Scoring*: The best-of-three sets with a Set Tiebreak scoring system will be used in all local league play. Each local area may adopt an alternative scoring system (refer to Rule 5, C for alternate scoring methods). The Sectional Championship will use best-two-of-three sets with a Match Tiebreak in lieu of a third set. A Set Tiebreak will be played if games are tied at 6-6 within any set.
- F. *Championships*: All players must play two matches at the local level to be eligible to advance to any Championship level. When determining Championship eligibility, defaults count as matches played for the individual or team who received the default. The local winners (refer to Rule 10, B, 2 for eligibility) will advance to the Sectional Championship held in June. The winner of the Section Championship will advance to the Eastern National Championship held in November. Senior Mixed Doubles (age 50+) qualify at the local level and the winner will advance to the Eastern National Championships. A local or section playoff may be required depending on the number of qualifying teams.

8. WILDCARD AND REPLACEMENT TEAM PROCEDURES

If a winning team or runner-up is unable to attend a championship, the Tournament Director together with the Section League Coordinator will select a replacement team(s) according to the TennisLink tiebreak procedures. These procedures also will be used to determine wildcard team(s). The Section League Coordinator reserves the right of final approval of all replacement and wildcard teams.

- A. *TennisLink Tiebreak Procedure*: The team will be selected based on the following criteria in this order: most team wins; most individual position wins, fewest sets lost, fewest games lost, random draw.
- B. *Local Wildcard and Replacement Teams for a District or Section Championship*: The criteria for selecting a team will be determined by the number of local league seasons, number of local flights and number of teams within a local flight.
- C. *District Wildcard Teams for a Section Championship*: A wildcard team will be selected from all eligible District Championship teams according to the TennisLink tiebreak procedures.
- D. *District Replacement Teams for a Section Championship*: District champion replacement teams will be selected in the following rank order:
1. In a round-robin event of one flight, the next highest place team (i.e. second, then third, etc.) from that District.
 2. In a multiple-flight, single-elimination final and/or semi-final, the second-place team, followed by the third and fourth place teams, if those positions were determined by a playoff.
 3. In a multiple-flight, single-elimination semi-final (where third and fourth places were not determined by a playoff), the second-place team, or if necessary, a random draw of the remaining flight winners.

9. USTA NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS

- A. *Districts*: The USTA League Committee and the Section League Coordinator will determine the Districts in the New England section each year. The District divisions are as follows with the host sites in bold:
- Green District – Maine and **Rhode Island**
 - Red District – New Hampshire, Vermont, **Northern Connecticut** and Eastern Connecticut (TBD)
 - Blue District – **Eastern Massachusetts** and Cape Cod
 - White District – Western Massachusetts and **Southern Connecticut**

The purpose of these districts is to create a playoff structure that will allow USTA New England to determine the number of teams competing at the Section Championships at each level. District divisions may be re-aligned by the League Tennis Committee for better distribution of players, general event improvements and/or administrative reasons. The District Championship host site and tournament director contact information will be posted on www.ustanewengland.com; select "USTA League" and then select "Championships."

- B. *Number of Teams at Championships:* The number of teams to qualify for each District Championship will be determined annually by June 30. Each Local League Coordinator must confirm the number of teams he has eligible for the District Championships, and at least 12 days prior to the respective District Championship event, must provide the captain's name and contact information of the winning teams to the appropriate District Tournament Director.
- C. *Qualifying for Championships:* Each local league shall qualify its winning team and/or runner-up for further play based on the following criteria. Refer to Section 8 for the wildcard and replacement team procedure.
1. A local league with flights of two, three or four teams shall send the winning team to its District Championship (applicable only to the Adult division).
 2. A local league with flights of five or more teams shall send both the winner and the runner-up to its District Championship (applicable only to the Adult division).
- D. *Championship Format:* The competition format for all District Championships will be determined by the District Tournament Director prior to the start of play and will be based on the number of teams in the District Championship and the availability of courts. However, each match will consist of two singles and three doubles positions except for the 2.5 and 5.0 levels, which will consist of one singles and two doubles positions. All Championships will be scheduled as a combination of round-robin and single-elimination play (for flight playoffs) and approved by the Section League Coordinator. The first-place team receives the District Championship trophies. If a flight becomes a two-team flight, and it is impossible to re-draw the schedule or replace a team, the two remaining teams will play the best-two-of-three team matches at the times allotted in the schedule.
- All matches will be best-two-of-three sets, with a Match Tiebreak in lieu of a third set. A Set Tiebreak will be played if games are tied at 6-6 within any set. Each District Tournament Director may petition the Section League Coordinator to use an approved alternative scoring method in the event of inclement weather or inadequate court time available to support the tournament.
- E. *Invitation and Eligibility Materials:* Each team that has been invited to play in the District Championship must accept the invitation by phone or email, pay the team entry fee within seven (7) days of receiving notice, and provide all contents of the Team Packet. The team captain shall be responsible for accepting the invitation for his team and informing the appropriate District Tournament Director. The Team Packet consists of the team fee (which is non-refundable); a copy of the team roster from TennisLink confirming that each player is on the roster, that each player has played two local matches (one default may count) and that each player has a USTA membership valid through the Championship date; and the media questionnaire. This information must be confirmed before players go on court. Any player with incomplete information may be deemed ineligible until valid documentation is provided. All players must bring a government approved photo ID to the Championship event. Any changes in team line-ups must be received at least 30 minutes before the next scheduled match and be approved by the Tournament Director. The Point Penalty System for lateness as described in Friend at Court may be enforced for failure to submit the team line-up 30 minutes before the scheduled match time during a Championship event. A team captains' meeting may be scheduled prior to the start of play. If there is no team captains' meeting the Tournament Director and team captain are jointly responsible for the dissemination of pertinent team information. At this meeting each team captain will report to the registration desk, at which time he will provide any missing information from the Team Packet.
- F. *Match Times:* All teams should anticipate play on any of the three scheduled days of a championship tournament - Friday and Saturday (7:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.) and Sunday (7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.). The last match on Sunday may not be scheduled later than 3:00 p.m. unless the Tournament Director receives prior approval from the Section League Coordinator. Team captains must report to the tournament desk 45 minutes prior to their scheduled match time. All District Championship matches are scheduled on a "followed by" basis, meaning that as each match finishes another match will be assigned to each court. The tournament desk may call matches for any open court up to 30 minutes prior to the published match time. Positions may be called in the following order: 1st Singles, 2nd Singles, 1st Doubles, 2nd Doubles, 3rd Doubles. The order that matches are called may be changed at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Any team or individual failing to be available for a called match (including ones called up to 30 minutes prior to the published match time) may be assessed late penalties based on the Point Penalty System. Teams or individuals may be defaulted at 15:01 minutes late. Appeals of a defaulted match based on lateness must be in writing to the Tournament Grievance Committee. Refer to the USTA League Regulations for grievance procedures. Only team captains may represent the teams to the tournament desk or to the Grievance Committee.
- G. *Alternative Scoring:* In the event that rain severely delays the tournament the Tournament Committee may make any alternate plans necessary, including the use of no-ad scoring or pro-set scoring, to complete play on schedule.
- H. *Winners' Information:* District Tournament Directors must provide a list of the winners (captain's name, phone numbers, e-mail address and complete Tournament Packet with player eligibility documents) on the designated form to the Section Tournament Director within two (2) days of the end of District Championship play.

10. USTA NEW ENGLAND SECTION CHAMPIONSHIPS

- A. *Invitations:* When a team has qualified for its Section Championship, the team captain must contact the respective championship Tournament Director and accept the invitation in writing or by phone immediately following the local league season or the Adult District Championships (if applicable). The team captain must also forward the team entry fee to the Tournament Director prior to the stated deadline.
- B. *Eligibility:* Each Senior, Mixed and Super Senior local league shall qualify its winning team and/or runner-up (as a section wildcard) for further play based on the following criteria. Refer to Section 8 for the wildcard and replacement team procedure.
1. Senior and Mixed Doubles local leagues with flights of two, three or four teams shall send the winning team to the Section championship. Super Senior local leagues with flights of two or three teams shall send the winning team to their respective Section championship.
 2. Senior and Mixed Doubles local leagues with flights of five or more teams shall send both the winner and the runner-up. Super Senior local leagues with flights of four or more teams shall send both the winner and the runner-up to its section championship.
- C. *Championship Format:* The match format for the Adult Section Championships is a round-robin competition of four teams per NTRP level. Each match will consist of two singles and three doubles positions except the 2.5 and 5.0 levels, which will consist of one singles and two doubles positions. The Mixed, Senior and Super Senior Section Championship matches will consist of three doubles positions. If a flight becomes a two-team flight, and if it is impossible to re-draw the schedule or replace the teams, the two remaining teams will play the best-two-of-three team matches at the times allotted in the schedule.
- D. *Eligibility Materials:* The Team Packet consists of the team fee (which is non-refundable); a copy of the team roster from TennisLink confirming that each player is on the roster, that each player has a USTA membership valid through the Championship date; the media questionnaire; and the banquet reservation form and fee. This information must be confirmed before players go on court. Any player with incomplete information may be deemed ineligible until valid documentation is provided. All players must bring a government approved photo ID to the Championship event. Any changes in team line-ups must be received at least 30 minutes before the next scheduled match and be approved by the Tournament Director. The Point Penalty System for lateness as described in Friend at Court may be enforced for failure to submit the team line-up 30 minutes before the scheduled match time during a Championship event. A team captains' meeting may be scheduled prior to the start of play. If there is no team captains' meeting the Tournament Director and team captain are jointly responsible for the dissemination of pertinent team information. At this meeting each team captain will report to the registration desk, at which time he will provide any missing information from the Team Packet.
- E. *Match Times:* All teams should anticipate play on any of the three scheduled days of a championship tournament - Friday and Saturday (7:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.) and Sunday (7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.). The last match on Sunday may not be scheduled later than 3:00 p.m. unless the Tournament Director receives prior approval from the Section League Coordinator. Team captains must report to the Tournament Desk one hour prior to scheduled time of play. All Section Championship matches are scheduled on a "followed by" basis, meaning that as each match finishes another match will be assigned to each court. The Tournament Desk may call matches for any open court up to 30 minutes prior to the published match time. Positions may be called in the following order: 1st Singles, 2nd Singles, 1st Doubles, 2nd Doubles, 3rd Doubles. The order that matches are called may be changed at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Any team or individual failing to be available for a called match (including matches called up to 30 minutes prior to the published match time) may be assessed late penalties based on the Point Penalty System. Teams or individuals may be defaulted at 15:01 minutes late. Appeals of a defaulted match based on lateness must be in writing to the Tournament Grievance Committee. Refer to the USTA League Regulations for grievance procedures. Only the team captain may represent his team to the Tournament Desk or to the Grievance Committee.
- F. *Alternative Scoring:* In the event that rain severely delays the tournament the Tournament Committee may make any alternate plans necessary, including the use of no-ad scoring or pro-set scoring, to complete play on schedule.
- G. *Alternative Formats:* The Section League Coordinator or the Championship Committee shall have the absolute right to modify the format of the District and Section Tournaments in the event that there are more or fewer teams than anticipated, defaults, unforeseen weather conditions, a need for additional teams (using wildcard procedures), or any other reason which would necessitate a change in the announced format.
- H. *Move Up/Split Up:* A first-place Section Championship team that chooses not to compete at the National Championship level must move up one level as a team or disperse to form new teams with no more than three (3) players (levels Adult Division 3.0-4.5 and Senior 3.0-4.5) and two (2) players (levels 2.5 and 5.0) who were on the final roster at the conclusion of local league play on any single team for the following league year. Teams who want to move up one level may have to file a waiver with their local league if there is an in-level NTRP requirement for team eligibility.

11. CHAMPIONSHIP REGULATIONS - GENERAL

- A. *Defaults:* All players and teams are prohibited from defaulting in any of the District or Section Championships (whether during the course of a match or prior to its commencement) except for illness, injury or personal emergency. Failure to complete a match or a tournament can result in loss of future rights to participate in the USTA League program in New England. Penalties will be given at the discretion of the Section League Coordinator and the USTA League Committee. Local Leagues may enforce this rule as written or with other default penalties pre-approved by the Section League Coordinator and USTA League Committee and stated in the Local rules.
- B. *Withdrawals:* If a team withdraws from the round-robin tournament after play has begun, then all matches of that team, played or to be played, shall be null and void. If all teams in contention for the Championships have already played the forfeiting team in good faith, the matches stand as played. If all teams in the flight have played or are in the process of playing the withdrawing team, the match points are awarded.
- C. *Scoring:* All matches will be best-two-of-three sets, with a Match tiebreak in lieu of a third set. A Set tiebreak will be played if games are tied at 6-6 within any set. The Tournament Committee may authorize no-ad and/or pro-set scoring in the event of inclement weather or inadequate court time to support the tournament.
- D. *Score Reporting:* When a team finishes its match, a player from each team shall report his score and both captains are responsible for verifying the scores and signing the match cards. If the captain does not sign the completed scorecard he forfeits the right to dispute the match.
- E. *Returned Check Fee:* A \$25.00 fee will be charged for each check returned for uncollected funds. The person who wrote the check will not be allowed to compete or captain in any future USTA League programs until the debt has been reconciled.

12. NTRP RATINGS, APPEAL AND DISQUALIFICATIONS PROCEDURES

- A. *Valid Rating:* A player who registers for Early Start Leagues between September 1 and the date the Year-End ratings are released will use his Early Start League Rating. A player, age 59 and under, registering thereafter will use which ever is his most recent valid rating (2006, 2005 or 2004 Year-End Rating). A player who turns age 60 prior to or during the current championship year will use his most recent valid rating (2006 or 2005 Year-End Rating). A player who does not have a valid computer rating must self-rate.
- B. *Early Start League Rating:* Dynamic Ratings are published following the New England USTA League Section Championships. The early start league rating will be considered 'Early Start League Ratings' for local leagues where players register and begin matches before the 'Year End Ratings' are published in November.
- C. *Early Start League Player whose Year End Rating is higher than their Early Start League Rating:* The following regulation applies to the Adult, Senior, Mixed and Senior Mixed divisions that participate in Early Start Leagues. If a player's Year End Rating is higher than his Early Start League Rating, the player must decide the action he will proceed with:
 - 1. Submit a request via email for a borderline appeal to the local coordinator. If the appeal is granted, the player may continue to play on the Early Start League team. The player's Year End Rating will be changed on TennisLink to reflect the borderline appeal. A borderline appeal, as established by National Regulations, is automatically granted if the NTRP rating falls within .05 100th above or below the NTRP level requested.
 - 2. If the borderline appeal is denied, a player cannot continue to play on the Early Start League team and must move to his appropriate NTRP level of play.
 - 3. If a player's Year End Rating is higher than his Early Start League Rating, and he decides not to file a borderline appeal he must move up to the next NTRP level of play.
 - 4. If a player chooses to appeal his Year End Rating in order to remain on the Early Start League team and the appeal is granted, the player will not be eligible to file a second appeal later in the championship season to qualify for in-level NTRP roster requirements for another team or for any other reason.
 - 5. If a player must move to the next higher NTRP level, all matches played in the Early Start League prior to the Year End rating publication date, will stand.
- D. *Oversight:* The Section will establish an NTRP Review Board, which must be approved by the Section League Coordinator and the USTA League Committee. The NTRP Review Board shall be responsible for processing medical appeals and Fair Play Grievance Disqualifications. Guidelines and procedures are established and approved by the USTA and New England USTA League Committees.
- E. *Appeals:* Only a player may appeal his own rating. NTRP medical appeals must be in writing and submitted on the official USTA New England NTRP Appeal Form. Borderline NTRP Appeals apply to any player who is within .05 above or below the level for which the appeal is being requested. National benchmark ratings are not eligible for appeal for 1 year after they have been earned. Only the player may send an email to his respective local coordinator including his first and last name, USTA Number, requested level and whether the appeal is to move up or move down. There is no further right of appeal of any borderline or medical NTRP request. A player is prohibited from playing at any level below his current rating until a USTA New England administrator informs him that his appeal was granted. A

\$25.00 fee (made payable to USTA New England) will be charged to appeal an NTRP Rating for permanent medical injury or condition that affects a player's ability to play tennis at the assigned level.

F. *Disqualification:*

1. Computer, appealed and self-rated players (Adult and Senior divisions only) are subject to the dynamic 3-strike disqualification at the Local, District and Section levels. All self-rated players, no matter what division, are subject to Fair Play Grievance disqualification. If a player is disqualified, he will be prohibited from further play at that NTRP level for the remainder of the league season and all matches played will be scored as a 6-0, 6-0 win for his opponents. Refer to USTA League Regulation 3.04. A \$25.00 fee (made payable to USTA New England) will be charged to file a Fair Play Grievance. If the grievance is upheld the \$25.00 will be refunded.
2. At the Championship Level, if a player is disqualified in a single-elimination competition, the last individual match played shall be considered a loss (6-0, 6-0) and that individual match shall be considered a win for the opposing player. In a round-robin competition, all matches played by the player shall be considered losses (6-0, 6-0) and those matches shall be considered wins for the opposing players or teams.
3. The Section Grievance Committee will review all dynamic 3-strike and Fair Play disqualifications. Team and/or captain penalties may be imposed as deemed necessary.