

2025 NTRP National Championships FAQ

Updated 6/1/2024

GENERAL QUESTIONS

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 in the 18 and over division provided they are on the last National Standings List prior to entries closing and have met all other eligibility requirements.

Q: Can a doubles team made up of players from two sections be considered for selection?

Yes, as long as the section does not have any qualifications requiring being a member of the section. Both players must still meet all NSL and NTRP requirements. A “primary” partner will need to be established in order to determine which section’s quota will be used. The player should contact their Section office to ensure the proper quota spot is selected.

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. We encourage all interested players to register for the tournament before the entry deadline.

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.

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Q: I thought I qualified based on the criteria on the NTRP Nationals homepage but my section said I don't meet their criteria. What is going on?

A: Some sections have additional criteria in order to be selected. For example, a section might require players to play a tournament within their section or might require a doubles team to qualify together. Please reach out to your Section Adult Competition Department for additional information.

NTRP 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**.

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. Add mixed combo.

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?

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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 double partner whose partner was moved up.

NATIONAL STANDINGS LIST (NSL) QUESTIONS

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: 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: In doubles, if both partners qualified as 3.0 by winning an automatic qualifier, but one partner was moved up to 3.5, what happens?

A: The players have the following options:

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- Both players can play up to 3.5 as long as both are on the latest 3.0 NSL when entries close. The 3.0 does not have to be on the 3.5 NSL in this situation because their partner moved up. This will not count against a section's quota.
- The 3.5 player can find another partner as long as they are on the latest 3.5 NSL when entries close. This will not count against the section's quota.
- The 3.0 player can find another partner as long as they are on the latest 3.0 NSL when entries close. This will count against the section's quota.

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.
 - If the doubles team chooses to not play together, then each individual will be treated separately. For example, if one partner moves up to 3.5 but the other 3.0 player is the player who qualified (and still wants to play 3.0) then the 3.5 player cannot play 3.5 **UNLESS** they would have qualified and have been selected for 3.0 on their own. The 3.0 who qualified can select any other partner as long as they are also a 3.0 and on the latest NSL before entries close. This will count against the section quota.

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?

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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 if I won my automatic qualifier but did not register by the deadline?

A: Anyone who does not register by the entry deadline including those who won an automatic qualifier, will be added to the bottom of the alternate list per USTA Regulation I.H.3.b which states, "***The Tournament Committee may accept late entries provided that late entries are accepted into the draw or placed on the alternate list in the order received after entries received by the deadline.***" In other words, winning an automatic qualifier does not guarantee you entry into NTRP Nationals. You **MUST** enter the tournament to guarantee selection.

Q: If I am ranked in 18+ 3.5 Men's Singles but not in 18+ 3.5 Men's Doubles, can I still play 18+ 3.5 Men's Doubles?

A: No. This player can only play 18+ 3.5 Men's Singles as that is the division in which they have earned ranking points.

Q: If I am ranked on the Men's 55 & Over Singles list but do not have a ranking on an NTRP ranking list, can I still play in NTRP Nationals?

A: No. You must be on the NSL for the NTRP division in which you want to participate.

Q: What happens if I registered for an automatic qualifier but the division did not have enough entries and therefore no matches were played. Can I still qualify for NTRP Nationals?

A: Yes if the player is on the NSL for that division. If they are not on the NSL, they are not qualified for NTRP Nationals.