



# 2025 Section League Regulations

**Changes/Updates for 2025 are in red**

**7/17/2024**

*USTA NATIONAL LEAGUE REGULATIONS shall apply to all USTA Leagues played in the USTA Southwest Section (SWS); 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 Suspension Point Penalty System shall be used at all championship levels.*

*The USTA Southwest Section has adopted the USTA National League Grievance Regulations including the Suspension Point System and its schedule of suspension points for all Local League, District and Sectional Championships. This includes Sectional Invitational events (e.g., Adult 65 & Over, Adult 18 & Over Tri-Level, Mixed 55 & Over) as well as any non - advancing Local League offerings in all Southwest Regions.*

## **2025 MAJOR REGULATION CHANGES**

### **National Regulation Changes**

**2.01C(4)a: The USTA Section Association has the option of filing a grievance if a full team retirement or combination of defaults occurs. If the grievance is upheld, the match may be declared invalid and shall be scored following the local/sectional regulations. The Section and below may impose further penalties on the defaulting and/or retiring team. Such penalties must follow the League Suspension System (See Regulation 3.03A(7) and 3.03D(4)).**

*In addition to, and as allowed by USTA National League Regulations, the USTA Southwest Section has adopted the following SWS League Regulations, for all league matches played in the Southwest Section:*

### **Section Regulations (Changes for 2025 are in Red)**

#### **USTA ADULT AND MIXED LEAGUE DIVISIONS**

Section regulations apply to Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over, Mixed 18 & Over, and Mixed 40 & Over Leagues. Except where noted under specific league type, Section regulations apply to Adult 18 & Over, 65 & Over, Adult 18 & Over Tri-Level and 55 & Over Mixed.

- USTA Southwest League regulations shall apply to all matches played in the Southwest Section and shall take precedence over Local League Regulations.
- At all levels, the National League Regulations shall take precedence over the USTA Southwest League Regulations and/or Local League Regulations.
- Teams/Players participating in championships and local leagues should be familiar with USTA National, Southwest Section and Local League Regulations.

## Section Regulations (continued)

- **Individuals shall only have one USTA membership account/ USTA number. Individuals who obtain more than one USTA membership account/ USTA number may be subject to a grievance and such suspension penalties as outlined under the League Suspension Point System.**
- All League matches shall be the best of two tie-break sets with a match tie break in lieu of the third set. The Coman Tiebreak rotation will be used in all tiebreaks. Use of any other match scoring method in a local league must be approved by the Section League Manager in advance of the start date of the league.
- When a team or teams are short of players and to avoid invalid matches, permission is given for teams to adjust line-ups right until match time to utilize the most players available.
- ***In all Combination Level Local Leagues (i.e. 55 & Over, 65 & Over and all Mixed Doubles) Teams are required to have enough players to field at least three lines at the Division NTRP level (e.g., a 7.0 Adult or Mixed team must have enough players to field three lines with partners whose combined rating is 7.0). Team rosters should be such that the combined ratings for each line of every match are at or within .5 of the Division NTRP level.***

### Captain's Responsibilities

**National Regulation (NR) 1.04B(5)** requires that each team shall appoint a team captain to handle administrative affairs and to represent the team in USTA League matters. In addition, USTA Southwest describes the Captain's duties as:

- The Captain, or their designee should make themselves familiar with the league regulations and must be present at all team matches to oversee team conduct and management. These duties include but are not limited to:
  - filling out and exchanging scorecard
  - recording scores at completion of matches, entering or confirming scores in TennisLink
- Each Captain must declare to the Local League Coordinator in advance of the start of the season the court surface their team will play on for home team matches. All matches for that league season must be played on the surface declared for home matches, unless agreed upon by both captains at least 24 hours prior to the start of the match.
- Captain(s) whose team(s) roster player(s) with no previous league experience should ensure that the players skill set and tennis history meet the criteria outlined in the NTRP General Characteristics and NTRP General & Experienced Guidelines. Captains who do not follow the above guideline, may have a Grievance filed against them. **Captains may also be penalized for any misinformation provided to USTA by a player in the Self Rate process or misinformation provided to the captain(s) by a player(s) regarding their skill set and/or playing history.**

## National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) Ratings

**Participation in USTA Leagues** - All players registering for a USTA League team must enter with a valid NTRP Rating or by completing the Self Rate Questionnaire in compliance with USTA National League Regulations.

- The Section strongly encourages players to participate at their current NTRP level to ensure competitive match play.
- Players “playing up” are advised that by doing so, their NTRP year-end rating and those of their opponents may be inappropriately affected.

**Early Start Leagues/Year End Rating Changes NR 2.05B(3)** - Players participating in Early Start Leagues 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 their Local League Season. However, **these players shall not be permitted to advance to any post season play, including Flight Play-Offs, District and Section League Championships, at the lower NTRP level.**

**NR 2.03A(3)b** - Sections shall have the option to require, for eligibility to progress to championship level competition below National Championships, Self-Rated and Valid Computer Rated Appealed players to play up to four matches, on the same team at the same NTRP level in the same Age Group during its local league season and is otherwise eligible, with no defaults counting.

The Southwest Section **DOES** exercise this option and requires all Self-Rated and Computer Rated Appealed players to play in **3 matches, on the same team, at the same level, to be eligible to advance to any District or Section Championships, (this includes any post local league season play including Flight Play-offs).**

- Player(s) with Computer (C) ratings during Local League play who are moved up in Year End Ratings (YERs) but granted an automatic NTRP Appeal (A) rating at their previous NTRP level may progress to championship level competition below National Championships based on the eligibility requirements for Computer Rated Players. All other (A) rated players are subject to the eligibility requirements of the Southwest Sectional Regulations for advancement to championship level competition below National Championships.
- Player(s) with Computer (C) ratings during Local League play whose (C) rating expires and do not generate a Year End Rating (YER) prior to championship level competition below National Championships are required to Self-Rate and are subject to the eligibility requirements of the Southwest Sectional Regulations for Computer (C) Rated players, as long as they do not reach the “Clearly Above Rating Level” and are disqualified.

## NTRP Ratings (continued)

**NTRP Self-Rate Dynamic Disqualification** - Self (S) and Appealed (A) rated players may be disqualified from playing at their registered skill level if their dynamic NTRP rating exceeds the level established by the national NTRP Committee (the strike level) three times during the championship year.

**NTRP Dynamic Disqualification During Local League Competition** - Self (S) and Appealed (A) rated players promoted as a result of the NTRP Dynamic Disqualification will immediately be required to participate at their new NTRP level in all USTA League Programs and NTRP Tournaments.

### Local League NTRP Dynamic Disqualification NR 2.04B(1) Scoring Option

The Southwest Section will reverse the last match **if the new rating of player (or in leagues using combined ratings, the combined rating of the player and partner) is above the level in which they were disqualified.** Any subsequent matches that were played after the third strike is generated, at the disqualified level will be deemed wins for the opposing player and team. Additionally, that player becomes ineligible for future play at that level for the remainder of the championship year and the succeeding championship year. **In leagues using combined ratings (e.g., 6.0-10.0) players may continue at their new rating level provided the combined rating of the player and partner are at or below the Division Level.** Appeals are only considered when a data entry error occurs. Computer Rated Players are not subject to Dynamic Disqualification.

### NTRP Player Promotions

***Promotion of Self (S) and Appeal (A) rated players “playing up” in Adult Leagues participating in concurrent Mixed Leagues, may result in their most recent Mixed League match(es) being reversed. If the new rating of the player and the partner in the player’s most recent Mixed League match(es) is above the Division level, the match will be reversed. (E.G., a 3.5 (S) or (A) player on a 4.0 Adult team also playing on Mixed 7.0 team is promoted to 4.0. If the player’s partner in their most recent Mixed 7.0 match was rated 3.5 and they won, the match is reversed.)***

### NTRP Disqualification (DQ) Notification

DQ Reports are monitored by the Section League Manager daily, Monday through Friday, except holidays. Self (S) and Appeal (A) Rated players receiving a Dynamic Disqualification will be notified before their next scheduled match, except in the case of an (S) or (A) rated player participating in multiple matches before scores are confirmed. Such players should be aware that they may be disqualified upon receiving a “Third Strike” at any time, and the possibility of multiple strikes exists when playing multiple matches.

Example 1 – An (S) or (A) player participates in a league match on Saturday and receives his 3rd strike and plays again on Sunday. Both matches would be deemed wins for the opponents.

Example 2 – A player participating in matches on consecutive days generates a third strike on a match played on Tuesday evening, plays another match on Wednesday evening but scores for both matches are entered on Wednesday evening, both matches would be deemed wins for the opponents.

## **NTRP Ratings (continued)**

**Championship NTRP Dynamic Disqualification Procedures NR 2.04B(2)** - For all District and Sectional Championships, the Southwest Section will generate Dynamic Calculations following the conclusion of the championship and disqualify those players who meet the criteria for the NTRP Dynamic Disqualification.

- All points earned and matches played by the Dynamically Disqualified (DQ) players at Championship will stand.
- DQ player(s) ratings would be changed immediately. Those players may only compete in the higher level in any other Adult or Mixed Leagues for the remainder of the season as well as the next championship year.
- DQ player(s) on advancing teams in Leagues utilizing straight NTRP levels
- (e.g., 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 etc.) are not eligible to continue with that team.
- The USTA Southwest Section allows USTA Local League Matches to be played on courts with blended lines (e.g., Pickleball lines).

## **NTRP Ratings (Continued)**

**Early Start Leagues/Year End Rating Changes NR 2.05B(3)** - Players participating in Early Start Leagues 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 their Local League Season. However, **these players shall not be permitted to advance to any post season play, including Flight Play-Offs, District and Section League Championships, at the lower NTRP level.**

**Tournament (T) Exclusive NTRP Ratings** - Any "T" rated player who wished to participate in any Southwest Section USTA Adult Leagues must complete the Self Rate Questionnaire before registering for their adult league team. **NTRP Tournament matches are included in the calculation of Year End Ratings.**

- NTRP Tournament Matches played after the deadline for Year End Ratings Calculations will be included in the next year's ratings calculations.

## GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS

The USTA Southwest Section has adopted the USTA National League Grievance Regulations including the Suspension Point System and its schedule of suspension points for all Local League, District and Sectional Championships. This includes Sectional Invitational events (e.g. Adult 65 & Over, Adult 18 & Over Tri-Level) as well as any non-advancing Local League offerings in all Southwest Regions.

**Grievances** - A filing fee of **\$50.00** will be charged for all league grievances submitted to the USTA Southwest Section League Grievance Committee. The filing fee must accompany the grievance at its time of submission. All League Grievances will be processed in compliance with the USTA National League Regulations. The fee will be refunded upon the League Grievance being upheld.

**2.03A(2)a Rest Period.** If a player elects to play on multiple teams (within the same or a different division) during League Championship play, the player automatically waives the minimum rest period under USTA Regulation III.C.1. and as specified in Table 11 (see Friend at Court).

**3.03A(5)** Any grievance with regard to any aspect of the USTA League, except those governed by Regs. 3.03A(3) or 3.03A(4) regarding a grievance against a Sectional League Coordinator or the National League Administrator, or in Reg. 3.03B(3)a regarding eligibility, shall be processed through the USTA League Grievance and Grievance Appeal Committees at the appropriate level (i.e., Local, District/Area, Sectional or National). Decisions of Grievance Appeal Committees shall be final and binding except with regard to suspensions of individuals or teams for a period of 12 months or more. (See *Reg. 3.04B(4)*)

## **GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS (continued)**

**3.03B(4)a** In the event of an eligibility disqualification during the local league season and up to a maximum of 14 days after the end of the local league season, but prior to any playoff, all matches played by the disqualified player shall be considered defaults and those matches shall be considered wins for the opposing players or doubles teams and scored 6-0, 6-0 for determining standings. Sections must determine the timeframe between 24 hours and 14 days. The **USTA Southwest Section choses the 14 days after the conclusion of any local league.** The ineligible player will not be allowed to continue or advance.

In case of eligibility disqualification in single elimination, the last individual match played by the disqualified player shall be considered a win for the opposing player or doubles team and scored 6-0, 6-0 for determining standings. If a double disqualification results in a tie, the local tiebreak procedure shall be used to determine the winner of the team match. If no such local tiebreak procedure exists, **NR Reg. 2.03H Procedures in the Event of a Tie** shall be used to determine a winner of the team match.

**3.04C(1)** The National League Suspension Group (Chair and Vice Chair of the USTA League Committee and Chair of the National League Regulation Subcommittee) serves as the National League Grievance Appeal Committee and shall hear appeals from individuals/teams suspended for a period of 12 months or more by a Local, District/Area, or Sectional League Grievance Appeal Committee. Upon receipt of an appeal of the decision of the Grievance Appeal Committee, the National League Grievance Appeal Committee shall act promptly to resolve the appeal.

**Leaving Before Completion of Championship (Total Team Default)** - Teams leaving before completion of the Section Championship **MUST** obtain permission from the tournament director.

Teams, (captain and all attending players) leaving the championship before the conclusion, without expressed permission from the Tournament Directors are subject to Championship Grievances and any penalties assessed by the Championship Grievance Committee under the USTA League Penalty Point System.

**NTRP Grievances** - All NTRP Grievances and Appeals apply only to Self-rated players (S), and must be filed in compliance with USTA Regulation 3.03E & 3.04A

- In addition to an inappropriately self-rated player, Captains or others who condone inappropriate self-rating may be subject to possible sanctions and/or penalties, including disqualification, removal from a team, or suspensions.
- Computer rated players (C) later found to have misrepresented their playing history during the self-rate process are subject to Grievances.

## GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS (continued)

**Local Grievance Procedures** - Local Grievance complaints shall be administered in compliance with USTA League Regulations 3.03. All League Grievances shall be submitted and processed by the SWS League Grievance Committee.

**Reciprocity** - Upon discovery, the USTA Southwest Section will uphold and honor a valid sanction imposed upon a player from another USTA Section playing in USTA Southwest Leagues and/or Tournaments.

**Creating a new USTA Account** - Players who create a new USTA account, while having a previous USTA account, are subject to an NTRP Grievance.

**Self-Rate Appeals** – Players may appeal their assigned NTRP rating level using the online form in Tennislink. Appeals are reviewed by the SWS Appeals Committee whose decision is final. **Appeals that include false or misleading information will result in a denied appeal.** Players providing false information to the Appeals Committee may be subject to a League Grievance.

- Captains and players are responsible for checking Tennislink for final Year-End Ratings (YERs), that are published on or around December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Except for participants in National League Championships, players whose YERs are changed may appeal by using the automated appeal process in Tennislink Leagues.

**Medical Appeals** - All Medical Appeals must be filed in compliance with the USTA National League Regulations. More information on Medical Appeals, use the link below:

Forms for League Grievances and Medical Appeals may be found here:

<https://www.usta.com/en/home/play/adult-tennis/programs/national/usta-league-resources.html#tab=tournaments>



## **LOCAL LEAGUE/PLAYER PARTICIPATION**

**Format** - The competition format for local league play shall be round robin as required by the District/Local League in compliance with USTA National League Regulation 2.01C(1).

**Adult 55 & Over and Mixed 18 and 40 & Over Leagues** - Sections may utilize either "straight" (e.g. 3.0, 3.5, etc.) or "combined" (e.g. 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, etc.) NTRP levels in local league play and Sectional Championships. The **Southwest Section** elects to utilize combined NTRP Levels for both League types.

**Multiple Team Participation in the same NTRP Level - NR. 1.04G9(2)** - A player is prohibited from playing on more than one team in a NTRP level within a division in the same local league during the same season.

**Multiple Team Participation in different NTRP Levels - NR 1.04G(3)** USTA National League Regulations authorize sections to deny or accept participation in more than one NTRP Level within a division in the **same** local league during the **same** season. Southwest Section exercises the **option to allow players** to register on multiple teams within a League type (e.g., Mixed or Adult) provided they are in **DIFFERENT NTRP** levels. Players may play up one NTRP Level only, but not down.

**Local league Regulations** - Provided they do not conflict with National and Sectional League Regulations, additional Local League regulations may be adopted that are specific to each Region.

**Refund Policy** - Each Local League shall determine their Local League refund policy.

## SOUTHWEST SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

MATCHES REQUIRED TO ADVANCE TO CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR ADULT AND MIXED DIVISIONS			
SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AND BELOW		NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	
LOCAL MATCHES REQUIRED	DEFAULTS THAT COUNT	TOTAL MATCHES REQUIRED THROUGH SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP	DEFAULTS THAT COUNT
To advance to <b>any</b> championship level through Sectional Championship	To advance to <b>any</b> championship level through Sectional Championship	To advance to National Championship	To advance to National Championship
2 matches on the same team	1 default received shall count	All players other than self-rated and computer-rated appealed players:  3 matches on the same team	1 default received shall count
Section Option to require Self-rated and computer- rated appealed players to play up to 4 matches on the same team <b>USTA Southwest utilizes the option to require Self-Rated and Appealed Down players to play 3 matches in order to advance.</b>	Section Option to declare if 1 default received shall or shall not count <b>USTA Southwest utilizes the option to require Self-Rated and Appealed Down players to play 3 matches with NO default counting.</b>	Self-rated and computer-rated appealed (down) players  4 matches on the same team	No default received shall count
<b>RETIRED matches shall count for all players.</b>			

### Local League Deadlines to Advance Teams to Sectional Championships –

- Each Local League shall determine dates for their local league seasons in compliance with the Sectional and National League Calendars.
- Deadlines for completion of play in all Adult & Mixed Traditional Local League types (including any local or District Championships) is 4 weeks prior to Sectional Championship. No teams will advance if they are not in compliance with these dates of completion.
- Deadline for completion of Local League play in Adult 18 & Over Tri-Level and 55 & Over Mixed is at least 4 weeks prior to the Sectional Invitational.

## SOUTHWEST SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (continued)

**Progression** - The method of Progression to Section Championships shall be determined in compliance with **NR 2.02B (1) and 2.02B (2)**.

- District/Regional Championships to determine qualifying teams are at the discretion of the Local League in compliance with the SWS League Regulations.
- The Section authorizes Flight Championships when determined necessary.
- If a Local League team who qualifies to advance to Section Championships is unable or unwilling to participate, the second-place team in that same division, in the same local league will be invited to participate. The team would be the District/Regional advancing team and not a Wildcard team.
- The Section shall invite the 2nd place teams from the same Division and District of any advancing team unable to field a complete roster for all Championship matches. No waivers to this rule will be accepted by the Section League Manager for consideration.
- The Section will invite enough Wildcard teams to Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over, Adult 65 & Over, Mixed 18 and Mixed 40 & Over Championships to ensure all teams will play a minimum of four matches.

### SECTION CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM ROSTERS

- Minimum Roster Requirements - Teams advancing to Sectional Championships must field a complete roster for all courts for all Championship matches scheduled.
- It is recommended that Captains with players participating on more than one team at Sectional Championships determine the viability of fielding complete rosters (able-bodied players to fill all courts for all matches throughout the entire championship) for all matches before registering the team for Sectional Championships.
- **Teams must be able to field an entire team with the minimum number of players, not including any players who are already competing at that event in another NTRP level or flight, for all courts and all matches scheduled in that championship. If they cannot do so, they will not be invited to attend.**
- For Championships using straight level ratings (2.5-5.0), teams must have at least 40% of **the Championship roster** must be at level.
- **For Championships using combined ratings (6.0-10.0), teams are required to field all lines at or within .5 of the Division NTRP level (e.g., in any Adult or Mixed 7.0 Division, the combined ratings of the players on every line must be 7.0 or 6.5).**

## **SOUTHWEST SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (continued)**

**Sectional Registration** – a completed team entry form must be submitted by all individual players prior to the established registration deadline, for the team to be eligible to participate in the Southwest Sectional League Championships. **No players will be allowed to register after the deadline.**

**Team Withdrawal from Sectional Championships** - Teams that withdraw (14) days or more in advance of the start of the tournament will be reimbursed their entry fees. Teams that withdraw within thirteen (13) days of the start of the tournament and/or posting of the draw will forfeit their entry fees and are subject to a grievance filed by the Section League Manager.

**Player participating on more than one team at Sectional Championships** - Schedule exceptions will not be considered for players rostered on multiple teams that qualify for championship level play.

- Once the Sectional Schedule is approved by the Tournament Director, Championship Referee and the Section League Committee Chair, the schedule will not be changed for any reason other than weather issues or last-minute team withdrawals from the Sectional Championships.
- Players who qualify to advance to Section Championships on more than one team may participate on both teams, provided the teams are in different divisions or NTRP levels.
- No special consideration will be given to scheduling.
- **2.03A(2)a Rest Period. If a player elects to play on multiple teams (within the same or a different division) during League Championship play, the player automatically waives the minimum rest period under USTA Regulation III.C.1. and as specified in Table 11 (see Friend at Court).**
- Teams defaulting courts during a Sectional Championship are subject to grievances filed by the Section League Manager.
- Players eligible to compete at a Section level championship from teams advancing out of two different Areas or Regions, must declare one team for which they will compete. **Players may not compete on more than one team in the same division and NTRP level.**

## **SOUTHWEST SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (continued)**

**Format** - Sectional Championships will be run over **three or four days** utilizing a Round Robin format, with the team having the best record overall in each division is the Winner. No semi-finals or finals are included.

- Divisions with five or six teams will play a single Round Robin. The total number of matches depends on the number of participating teams.
- Divisions with three teams will play a double Round Robin and a total of four matches.
- Divisions with two teams will play Four Round Robins and a total of 4 matches. Under normal conditions, Sectional Championships matches will be scheduled to begin play at 7:30am the first morning of the Championship with the last matches scheduled no later than 12:30pm the final day of the Championship.
- Teams and players should be prepared to play from the scheduled start (Friday Morning) through to the conclusion of the Championship.

**Match Scoring** - Sectional Championship matches shall be best of two Tie-break sets with a Match Tie-break in lieu of the third set.

- The Coman Tie-break method will be used in all Set and Match Tiebreaks.

**Event of a Team Match Tie - NR 2.03H** tiebreak procedures will be used to determine a winner. In order the tiebreaks are:

1. Individual Matches - Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition. Head-to-head - Winner of Head-to-head match-up
2. Sets lost – Team with fewest number of sets lost
3. Games lost – Team with fewest number of games lost
4. Percentage of Games Won – Team with highest percentage of games won.
5. Dueling Pistols at fifty feet – Captains will face off and shoot until submission by or death of one of the captains. (Let's see who really reads these Regulations. Be the first captain or player to send Lori Therrien a note about this tie break step and she will send you a gift).

**Failure to Sign a Scorecard** - If a team Captain or their designee fails to sign a completed scorecard and cannot be located within one hour of match completion, the scorecard is considered automatically confirmed.

**Weather Delays** - In the event of any weather-related delay at Sectional Championships, the Tournament Director may authorize tournament start times to be extended to 12:30pm on the final day of play. If by 12:30pm, the Tournament Director determines that matches cannot be completed, all matches and results previously played will stand and final championship results will be determined by those standings.

## **SOUTHWEST SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (continued)**

Conduct - Players, teammates, spectators, or coaches who interfere and/or are disruptive at matches or the tournament desk are considered to have violated the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship required by "THE CODE". The Tournament Referee may assess Suspension Penalty Points to the player/s involved. Penalty points would be assessed to the player of a match if spectators or coaches violate the standards of good conduct.

- This includes conduct before, during and after the completion of a match.
- Teammates, spectators, or coaches may not comment on line calls, scoring, the conduct of the match, or the running of a tournament (at desk).
- It is the responsibility of the teams to control their spectators' and/or players at all matches.

**Total Team Defaults during Sectional Championships – NR 2.03L** If a team defaults 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. The Section may impose further penalties on said team.

**Leaving Before Completion of Championship (Total Team Default)** - Teams leaving before completion of the Section Championship **MUST** obtain permission from the tournament director.

### **2.03O - Unforeseen Circumstances**

Should any situation occur, which could potentially result in invalid matches or the postponement, rescheduling, or cancellation of a National Championship, a committee composed of the Tournament Director, National staff and National League Committee member(s) will determine the best course of action. This may include, but not be limited to, changes to the format, number of matches, and scoring. In certain extreme situations, National Co-Champions may be awarded. Sections may add additional language to their regulations or Championship Procedures to cover similar unforeseen circumstances.

USTA Southwest will follow the same process to determine the best course of action in the event of Unforeseen Circumstances.

## **SOUTHWEST SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (continued)**

**Photo ID Requirement** - All participants at Sectional Championships are required to provide a photo identification when called for their individual court.

- Players who fail to provide id prior to their first match, must show their identification before their next match or will be prohibited from participating in the rest of the championship.

**Section Championships Sites** – Sectional Championship dates and locations shall be determined by the Section League Leadership.

**First Aid** - The Section League Manager will try to obtain the services of professional Trainers for each facility used during Sectional Championships and Invitationals. If trainers are not available for any Sectional Championship, an unmanned First Aid Station will be available to players.

- Players should monitor their own general health during matches and alert the tournament staff in case of an injury or a serious health issue requiring EMS.

**Officials** - At least one certified USTA Referee or Official will be present at Sectional Championships. At the discretion of the USTA Section League Manager, additional officials may be at the Sectional Championships.

## **NON-TRADITIONAL LEAGUE TYPES - TRI-LEVEL, 65 & OVER AND 55 & OVER MIXED DOUBLES**

Changes to National Regulations for Non-Traditional League Types may occur at any time. The regulations of the National Invitational Championship Committees may be revised as they plan the events. The Section prefers (when possible) to follow the same Player Eligibility and Match Requirements to be used at the National events. The Section League manager (or designee) will confirm the eligibility of players with the captains of advancing teams prior to the Sectional event.

### **TRI-LEVEL**

**The National Tri-Level Invitational (March of 2026) will offer three separate divisions of play:**

- **3.0, 3.5 & 4.0**
- **3.5, 4.0 & 4.5**
- **4.0, 4.5 & 5.0**

**Players may only participate in one of these divisions at Southwest Section Tri-Level Invitational.**

The Tri-Level Format is approved by the Southwest Section and is subject to Section regulations governing all league play except as or as well as those regulations listed below.

**Early Start Leagues** - Early Start Leagues are not an option for Tri-Level. Local League Seasons scheduled in the fall shall be part of the current championship year and may not be scheduled as Early Start Leagues (rationale: Sectional and The National Invitationals are played in the following calendar year).

### **TRI-LEVEL SECTIONAL INVITATIONAL**

**Teams and Player Eligibility** - Teams must have a minimum of six (6) registered players and a maximum of 18 . A player cannot compete in two or more NTRP divisions at the Invitational. Example: a player competing in the Low Tri division cannot compete in the Mid Tri division. Players must play on the team that they are advancing on. If a player advances on two teams, the player must declare which team they will compete for. There is no crossover or sharing of players between teams and NTRP divisions.

### **Players Ratings**

Players with any rating type may participate in Local Leagues. However **only Computer (C) rated players and Computer Appealed (A) Rated Players** are eligible to participate in the Sectional and National Invitationals.



## NON-TRADITIONAL LEAGUE TYPES (continued)

### TRI-LEVEL SECTIONAL INVITATIONAL

#### Level of Play Requirements at Sectional Invitational –

**Ratings:** All individual team members must be from the appropriate level of play in accordance with the NTRP system. These rules apply to all NTRP divisions. To be eligible to compete in the Invitational:

- Players must have a valid “C” (computer-generated NTRP rating) or an “A” computer-generated NTRP rating their “C” rating after the 2025 year-end ratings are published.
- If the player appeals their C rating up or down after 2025 year-end ratings and the appeal is granted, the player must still play at the rostered level or original C rating generated from year-end ratings.
- All 2025 “C” rated and “A” computer-generated rated players must play at the level at which they were rostered in the 2025 season.
- All “T”, “S” and “M” rated players must play at the C rating generated/published at the end of the 2025 season. If they do not receive a C rating after the 2025 year-end ratings, they are ineligible to participate in the Invitational.

**Should a player move up TWO LEVELS at year-end, they must play at their NEW HIGHEST LEVEL, instead of their original rostered level.**

**Advancement to the Tri-Level Sectional Invitational** - Local League winners in the men’s and women’s divisions (3.0, 3.5, 4.0) (3.5, 4.0, 4.5) (4.0, 4.5, 5.0) will advance to the SWS Tri-Level Invitational. Players are required to play a minimum of two matches during the local league season with their team and may have 1 default awarded to count as an eligible match. **Teams must have at least one (1) doubles team at each of the NTRP designated levels to be able to participate in the Section Tri-Level Championship. Teams without at least two “at level players” for every line are not eligible to participate in the Sectional Invitational.**

**Date and Location** - The Tri-Level Sectional Invitational shall be held in January of the following year in which the local leagues were played. Location is determined by the Section League Manager. The event will be run over a maximum of three (3) days.

**Wildcards** - Only offered if a division has 3 or fewer teams advancing and a winning team withdraws within 14 days of the invitational.

**Move-up/Split-up Rules NR 2.06** - Move-up/Split-up does not apply to Tri-Level Championship Teams.

## NON-TRADITIONAL LEAGUE TYPES (continued)

### ADULT 65 & OVER SECTIONAL INVITATIONAL

- **Teams must play in a local league may to participate in the Sectional Invitational. No team waivers will be granted.**
- Teams advancing from Regions with Local League play must field all lines of play with players whose combined ratings are within .5 of the playing level. (e.g. For a 7.0 match, the combined ratings of the players on each line must be at least 6.5)
- As this event is immediately after the Year End Ratings are published, all rating type players who get moved up at year end are eligible to compete at the level they played in the local league season, provided the player has not been Dynamically Disqualified (DQ).
- Players are required to play a minimum of two matches during the local league season with their team and may have 1 default awarded count as an eligible match.

**NR 2.06 Move Up/Split Up - The Southwest Section exercises its option that Sectional Invitational winners in the Adult 65 & Over League in 2024 are subject to this regulation. A total number of 4 players who were eligible to compete at the 2024 National Invitational are eligible to stay together for the 2025 Local League Season or the team may move up to the next highest NTRP Level and stay together for the 2025 Local League Season as a group.**

### 55 & OVER MIXED DOUBLES SECTION INVITATIONAL

- Only teams advancing from a regional local league may attend the Sectional Invitational. No team waivers will be accepted in 2025.
- Teams advancing from Regions with Local League play must field all lines of play with players whose combined ratings are within .5 of the playing level. (e.g., For 7.0 matches, the combined ratings of the players on each line must be at least 6.5)
- All rating type players who get moved up at year end are eligible to compete at the level they played in the local league season, provided the player has not reached the clearly above level or been Dynamically Disqualified (DQ).
- Players are required to play a minimum of two matches during the local league season with their team and may have 1 default awarded count as an eligible match.

**NR 2.06 Move Up/Split Up - The Southwest Section exercises its option that Sectional Invitational winners in the Mixed 55 & Over League are NOT subject to this regulation.**