



SOUTHERN  
GEORGIA



## CHEROKEE COUNTY TENNIS ASSOCIATION REGULATIONS FOR USTA LEAGUE PLAY 2021 Championship Year

### STATE REGULATIONS

#### for USTA League Tennis

**Adult 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over and 65 & Over  
Mixed 18 & Over and 40 & Over**

**2021 Championship Year (DRAFT)  
(updated 6/29/20)**

### Major Regulation Changes for 2021

#### National Regulations:

##### 2.01A NTRP Levels of Play

- a. National Championships in the Adult 18 & Over Age Group will be held at the 5.0 level. Championships below National Championships, and Local Leagues, will be held at the 5.0 level and may be held at the Open level (5.0 rating & higher).
- b. National Championships in the Adult 40 & Over Age Group will be held at the 4.5 level. Championships below National Championships below National Championships, and Local Leagues will be held at 4.5 level and may be held at the 5.0 level.
- c. Conforming changes made to the following regulations: 1.04A; 1.04D(4); 1.04F(1); 2.01A(4); 2.03A(5); 2.03E; 2.03K; 3.03B(3)a; Glossary – Team Match.

**2.05E(3)** – All players age 70 or over will automatically be granted an appeal (A rating) of their current rating to the next lower level, subject to 2.05E(4) . NTRP Dynamic Disqualification procedures as outlined 2.04B(3) apply.

#### Southern Section Regulations: (2020 Championship Year Changes)

##### 1.04A USTA League Program (Adult 40 & Over League Format)

- USTA Southern is Changing the Adult 40 & Over team match format to 1 singles, 3 doubles for both sectional (Southern) and state championships. This will align with the national championship team match format change.

##### 1.04E(1) Domicile and Residency Requirements

- Will add “play in a single-weekend local league” to the end of the regulation

##### 2.03D(1) Championship Competition Format at Section Level Events and Below:

- USTA Southern permits each local league to continue using the same local league team format through local playoffs. Said team format for local league playoff structure shall be listed in each applicable local league regulations. All other requirements for “championship” play must be followed for local league playoffs.

#### Southern Section Regulations: (2021 Championship Year Changes TBD)

#### Georgia State Regulations: (2020 Championship Year Changes)

##### 1.04A USTA League Program (Adult 40 & Over League Format)

- In 2020, USTA Georgia will adopt Adult 40 & Over format for the State Championship of 1 singles, 3 doubles.

##### 1.04D(3) Local League Season

- **1.04D(3)b** Mixed 18 & Over and 40 & Over Season must be completed by **August 16, 2020**

##### 2.02B(2) Dates & Locations

- September 10 – 12, 2021 – Mixed 18 & Over and Mixed 40 & Over State Championship

##### 2.03D Championship Competition Format

- **2.03D(3)** State Championship play shall consist of round robin(s), single elimination or un-flighted matches against randomly selected opponents. The use of multiple round robins, or the use of un-flighted matches, will require a playoff structure to establish a champion. Please refer to championship procedures for full details for that applicable championship.

**Georgia State Regulations: (2021 Championship Year Changes TBD)**

The USTA League Tennis National, USTA Southern and USTA Georgia Regulations have full force and applicability at all levels of play in USTA League Tennis in the State of Georgia and there is no authorization to modify, amplify or change them by Local League Coordinators, Grievance or Grievance Appeals Committees. The Director of Leagues, in conjunction with USTA Georgia Adult Leagues Committee Chairman, shall have the authority to interpret the USTA League Tennis Georgia State Regulations. USTA League Tennis Regulations (National, Southern and Georgia) are available on the USTA Georgia website: [www.ustageorgia.com](http://www.ustageorgia.com). The following USTA Georgia State League Regulations cover those items that the National and Sectional Regulations authorize Georgia to promulgate.

(Note: Paragraphs included herein are numbered according to pertinent and completed paragraphs of the 2020 USTA League Tennis National and Southern Regulations. If a number has been skipped, please refer to the USTA National & Southern Regulations.)

**1.00 GENERAL**

**1.02 GOVERNANCE**

**1.02B(1) Amendments.** The USTA Georgia State Regulations may be amended by the USTA Georgia Adult League Committee.

**1.02C(1) Written Interpretation.** The State League Coordinator, in conjunction with the USTA Georgia Adult League Committee Chair and Vice Chair, shall have the authority to interpret the USTA League Georgia State Regulations.

**1.04 USTA LEAGUE**

**1.04A USTA League Program.** The USTA League is a team competition for men, women and mixed genders at specified National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) levels of play. The purpose of the USTA League Program is to provide organized recreational play, emphasizing local competition, with advancement for winning teams from local competition to District/Area, Sectional and National Championships to determine annually USTA League National Championship teams in each approved level of competition. The USTA League is approved by USTA without necessity of a sanction application (See *FRIEND AT COURT XVII B*).

<b>USTA LEAGUE PROGRAM ORGANIZATION AT THE STATE OF GEORGIA LEVEL</b>			
<b>DIVISION</b>	<b>AGE GROUP</b>	<b>LEAGUE FORMAT</b>	<b>NTRP LEVELS</b>
Adult	18 & Over	1 – Singles 2 – Doubles	2.5, 5.0+
	18 & Over	2 – Singles 3 – Doubles	3.0, 3.5, 4.0 Low, 4.0, 4.5
	40 & Over	<b>1 – Singles</b> <b>3 – Doubles</b>	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5
	55 & Over	3 – Doubles	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0 Combined
	65 & Over	3 – Doubles	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0 Combined
Mixed	18 & Over	3 – Doubles	2.5, 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0
	40 & Over	3 – Doubles	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0

**1.04B Administration**

**1.04B(3) State Association.** The USTA Georgia League Program shall be governed by the Adult League Committee appointed by the President of USTA Georgia and subject to the control and direction of the USTA Georgia Board of Directors.

**1.04C Official Information System**

**1.04C(1) Official League Registration.** A player’s name must be listed on the team roster, as shown on TennisLink, prior to participation in any match. Each local league shall establish deadlines and procedures for registering teams on TennisLink. Players who submit an appeal of their self-rating through the TennisLink system before their local league deadline for registering players will be permitted to register up to seven days after the notification of their final self-rating. **If a player successfully appeals their rating after registering for their team, they must notify their LLC to have the rating adjusted on their roster. Until the appealed rating is reflected on the roster, the player must play with the rating they registered with.**

**1.04C(2) Official Score Reporting and Standings System.** TennisLink is the official system for reporting scores and providing standings for the USTA League. The initial entry of match scores into TennisLink must take place within 48 hours of the completion of the match. After match scores have been entered in TennisLink, they must be confirmed by the opposing team within 48 hours of the initial entry or the initial score will automatically be considered valid. **Failure to comply may subject teams to a grievance and/or double default.**

**1.04D Local League. (see addendum for definition of local league)**

**1.04D(1) Definition.** A local league is a team competition in a specified geographic area that applies specific local league regulations and consists of NTRP level(s) with a minimum of two or more teams per level. A local league may choose to divide any or all NTRP levels into flights. Where flights are used, a playoff structure may be established to determine a champion for each NTRP level (See Reg. 2.01C *Competition Format*). **Local League regulations must specify geographic areas for league play.**

**1.04D(2) USTA Georgia Championship Year.**

**The 2021 Championship Year shall be June 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021.**

**1.04D(3) Local League Season.** The local league season ends on the date entered in TennisLink as the league season end date. All local leagues shall obtain the approval of the State League Coordinator for the dates of the local league season(s). In the event a local league is not concluded on the date published in Tennislink, then the end date in Tennislink should be amended to reflect the date of the last match played.

**1.04D(3)a Local League Competition.** Each local league may establish a maximum of two (2) league seasons for each Age Group during the Championship Year. All levels within the Age Group must be played within that timeframe.

**1.04D(3)b Local Seasons.** Local play, which qualifies local winners for the 2020 State Championships, will not begin play prior to the completion of the 2019 State Championships, nor conclude after the dates below. **The league must also have at least two teams registered with the minimum number of players at least 30 days prior to the dates below.**

Adult 18 & Over – **April 4, 2021**

Adult 40 & Over – **May 2, 2021**

Adult 55 & Over – **May 9, 2020**

Mixed 18 & Over and 40 & Over – **August 15, 2021**

Adult 65 & Over – **September 19, 2021**

**1.04D(4) Team.** Local League(s) may limit the number of players that appear on a team roster and/or the number of players on that roster that are at a specific NTRP level.

**1.04D(5) Two Team Leagues.** If any Adult Division Age Group consists of only two teams in a level of play, each team must maintain its roster with at least 40 percent of its players at the designated NTRP level of play. The exception is the Adult 55 & Over Age Group that uses combined NTRP rating levels and will not be required to comply with this Regulation. In the Southern Section, this will not apply to the Adult 65 & Over Age Group.

**1.04D(6) “Home teams” will have the choice of court surface for which they wish to play their home matches. The use of tennis-related blended lines are permitted on courts used for local league matches. The use of other lines for another sport, such as Pickleball, are not permitted on courts used for local league matches.**

**1.04D(7)** Local leagues must accept area teams from outside its boundaries if the team meets all the requirements established of all teams in that league.

**1.04E Player Eligibility.**

**1.04E(1) Domicile and Residency Requirements.** USTA Southern will have no residency requirements for local league play. USTA Georgia will have no residency requirements for teams that play a local league at a state championship and/or advance directly to a state championship (if applicable for the Adult 65 & Over league) and/or **play in a single-weekend local league tournament.**

**1.04E(2) Membership.** All individuals who compete in the USTA League must be current USTA members in good standing through the local league season. Any individual who progresses to a championship level in the USTA League must be a current USTA member through each championship progression.

**1.04E(3) Age.** **Players must be 18 years of age prior to participating in the USTA League program.** Each player **over the age of 18** shall have reached the required minimum age prior to or during the calendar year in which such player participates in his or her first local league.

**1.04E(4) Player Agreement.** All players participating in the USTA League, as a condition of said participation, agree to abide and be bound by the USTA Constitution and Bylaws; the FRIEND AT COURT - *The USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations* including THE CODE and Wheelchair Rules of Tennis (unless modified by these USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS); the USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS; and the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship.

**1.04E(5) Waiver of Claims.** Players participating in the USTA League acknowledge the risks associated with playing competitive tennis, accept those risks voluntarily, and in consideration of their acceptance in the USTA League Program, assume all risks for bodily injury, waive all claims for injury and property damage and release and hold harmless the USTA and the host facility, their officials, employees and agents with respect to any injury or loss caused by negligence or otherwise to the fullest extent permitted by law.

**1.04F Official League Rating Program.** The National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) is the official system for rating levels of competition for the USTA League.

**1.04F(1) Entry.** A player without a valid NTRP rating level in TennisLink, a returning player with an expired NTRP rating level and a Tournament Exclusive (T) rated player or a Mixed Exclusive (M) rated player who does not have a valid computer (C) rating from a previous year and chooses to participate in the Adult Division, must self-rate to be assigned a new rating, reassigned to their last expired rating or a higher rating based on their playing history to enter the USTA League Program as shown in the following table:

<b>NTRP RATING LEVELS FOR ENTRY INTO LEAGUE PLAY IN GEORGIA</b>		
<b>DIVISION</b>	<b>AGE GROUP</b>	<b>PLAYER NTRP RATING LEVEL</b>
Adult	18 & Over 40 & Over 55 & Over, straight NTRP levels 65 & Over, straight NTRP levels	Current NTRP level and/or up to one level above the player's current NTRP level.
	55 & Over, combined NTRP levels 65 & Over, combined NTRP levels	Combined NTRP levels of partners shall not exceed team NTRP level.  NTRP difference between partners shall not exceed 1.0.  The minimum NTRP Level for 6.0 is 2.5; 7.0 is 3.0; 8.0 is 3.5; 9.0 is 4.0
Mixed	18 & Over 2.5 straight NTRP levels	Limited to 2.0 and 2.5 NTRP rated players
	18 & Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0 straight NTRP levels	Current NTRP level and/or up to one level above the player's current NTRP level.
	18 & Over Combined NTRP levels 40 & Over Combined NTRP levels	Combined NTRP levels of partners shall not exceed team NTRP level.  NTRP difference between partners shall not exceed 1.0.  The minimum NTRP Level for 6.0 is 2.5; 7.0 is 3.0; 8.0 is 3.5; 9.0 is 4.0; 10.0 is 4.5

**1.04F(1)a** Rating levels are derived in accordance with the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System Procedures. Once a player is assigned a valid Computer (C) NTRP rating level, it is valid for the Adult and Mixed Divisions for all players 59 years of age or under for three consecutive years or until another NTRP published rating level is generated. For players 60 years of age or over, a valid Computer (C) NTRP rating level is valid to play in the Adult and Mixed Divisions for two consecutive years or until another NTRP published rating level is generated. (See Reg.1.04F(1)b and c)

- 1.04F(1)b** Mixed results will not be part of generating a player's year-end rating, except for those players who participate in the Mixed Division exclusively. A player who plays in the Mixed Division exclusively will receive a published Mixed Exclusive (M) rating level at year-end unless they have a valid Computer (C) rating level from a previous year on file in TennisLink. A published (M) rating level is valid to play in the Mixed Division exclusively and will be in effect for players 59 years of age or under for three consecutive years and for players 60 years or older for two consecutive years or until another published NTRP rating level is generated. A player who plays exclusively in the Mixed Division and subsequently chooses to participate in the Adult Division must enter by using a valid Computer (C) rating from a previous year. If such player does not have a valid (C) rating from a previous year, he or she must self-rate with the minimum NTRP rating level being the higher of the self-rating or valid Mixed Exclusive (M) rating.
- 1.04F(1)c** Match results from Southern NTRP Tournaments in TennisLink **will** be included in the **2021** year-end ratings. For players that participate in NTRP tournaments exclusively, said player will generate a tournament-exclusive (T) rating contingent on enough match play.
- 1.04F(1)d** Players who do not have a valid NTRP rating level on file in TennisLink shall self-rate in accordance with the *General & Experienced Player Guidelines – Supplement to the NTRP Guidelines* and complete the self-rating process on TennisLink when registering for a team. Players who allow someone else to complete the self-rating process for them will be ultimately responsible and held accountable for information submitted or omitted. Failure to self-rate in accordance with the *Guidelines*, or omission of information regarding a player's tennis history, will subject the player as well as the captain and/or others who completed, assisted, condoned and/or approved an inappropriate self-rating to penalties and suspension. Players whose self-ratings are determined to be inaccurate or inappropriate shall be disqualified. (See Reg. 3.03E(1)a).
- 1.04F(1)e** Self-ratings are valid for two years from the date issued or until replaced by a dynamic or computer rating. **If there is a change in their playing experience the player may appeal their rating up at that time or they may be promoted by the Sectional coordinator.**
- 1.04F(1)f** TennisLink will automatically remove expired computer and self-ratings thereby allowing individuals to self-rate. Players with expired ratings will not be allowed to self-rate at a lower level than their last valid NTRP rating level. However, when assigned an NTRP rating level by TennisLink, the player will have the opportunity to file a Self-Rate Appeal.

**1.04G Player Participation Eligibility.**

- 1.04G(2)** A player may play on only one team in an NTRP level within an Age Group in the same local league during the **same** season. In local leagues where NTRP levels are divided into flights, a player may not play in more than one flight.
- 1.04G(3)** A player may play on more than one team in an NTRP level within an Age Group in the **same** season provided it is in separate local leagues.
- 1.04G(4)** USTA Southern authorizes participation in more than one NTRP level within a Age Group in the same local league during the **same** season.
- 1.04G(5)** A player may play up to one NTRP level above the player's current NTRP level.
- 1.04G(6)** Players who qualify for an Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over and/or Adult 65 & Over team(s) may advance on more than one team within an age group only if they are different NTRP levels. Players who qualify for a Mixed Doubles 18 & Over and/or Mixed Doubles 40 & Over team(s) may advance on more than one team within an age group only if they are different NTRP levels. No accommodations for scheduling will be made at any Championship for teams with players that may be competing on two or more teams during a championship.

- 1.05 OFFICIAL BALL.** In USTA League matches, a standard Type 2 USTA approved ball shall be used. The use of any USTA "transition" ball is prohibited.



**2.00 USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS**

All USTA League Tennis Regulations in 1.00 GENERAL and 3.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES and the following regulations in this section shall apply to the USTA League Adult and Mixed Divisions except for Reg 2.04 NTRP DYNAMIC DISQUALIFICATION AND REVIEW PROCEDURES which shall apply only to the USTA League Adult Division.

**2.01 LOCAL COMPETITION**

**2.01A NTRP Levels of Play.**

- 2.01A(1)** When using straight NTRP levels, a player cannot have an NTRP rating higher than the NTRP level in which the player is competing.
- 2.01A(2)** When using combined NTRP levels, the combined NTRP rating levels of the doubles team cannot exceed the combined NTRP level in which the players are competing,
- 2.01A(3)** The NTRP difference between members of an individual doubles team may not exceed 1.0.
- 2.01A(4)** USTA League NTRP levels in the local league and at championships are approved in accordance with the following table:

<b>NTRP LEVELS OF PLAY IN GEORGIA</b>			
<b>DIVISION</b>	<b>AGE GROUP</b>	<b>LOCAL LEAGUES</b>	<b>STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS</b>
Adult	18 & Over	2.5, 3.0 Low, 3.0, 3.5 Low, 3.5, 4.0 Low, 4.0, 4.5 Low, 4.5, <b>5.0, Open*</b>	2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 Low, 4.0, 4.5, <b>5.0, Open*</b>
	40 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0 Low, 4.0, <b>4.5, 5.0</b>	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, <b>5.0</b>
	55 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0 combined	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0 combined
	65 & Over	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0 combined	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 9.0 combined
Mixed	18 & Over	2.5 straight and Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0	2.5 straight and Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0
	40 & Over	Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0	Combined Levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0

**\*5.0 Rating & Above**

**2.01C Competition Format.**

- 2.01C(1) Round Robin.** Each NTRP level within a local league shall play at least one round robin competition wherein every team plays every other team. When any NTRP level consists of only two teams, each team is required to play a minimum of three team matches which is a triple round robin. When any NTRP level consists of only three teams, each team is required to play a minimum of four team matches which is a double round robin. Any NTRP level may be divided into flights and each team shall play every other team in its flight. The flight winners may enter a playoff structure to establish a local league champion for that NTRP level.
- 2.01C(1)a** Each local league may permit additional matches, selected randomly, within the flight, as long as it's spelled out in their local regulations.
- 2.01C(1)b** Each local league may permit additional cross-flight matches in which each team in one flight plays an equal number of matches in the other flight, selected randomly if not a full round robin, as long as it's spelled out in their local regulations.
- 2.01C(1)c** Each local league may permit the top teams in a flight to play an additional round robin to determine advancement and the teams without a mathematical chance to advance may play an additional round robin, as long as it's spelled out in their local regulations.

**2.01C(2) Team Match.** Each team match in a local league shall consist of such number of individual matches of singles, doubles, or any combination thereof as determined by the local league. For each team match, a majority of the individual matches must actually be played to constitute a valid team match. Each team must have the minimum number of players available to play the majority of individual matches. If one team does not have the minimum number of players, the opposing team will be credited with a total team default, and will win each individual match 6-0 6-0. If neither team has the required minimum number of players, the match shall be scored as a double team default, and neither team will receive credit for a win. In the case of a team default or double team default any individual matches actually played will count only for NTRP ratings and eligibility for advancement and cannot count for determining standings.

If both teams have the minimum number of players available to play, but the combination of individual defaults by the two teams would result in the majority of matches not being played, the teams must follow the procedure:

The first course of action would be for both captains to agree on what individual matches, based on the number of players present, or to be present, can be played to constitute a valid team match. Once that is determined, both captains will re-exchange scorecards.

If both captains cannot come to an agreement on what lines will be played to constitute a valid team match, based on the number of players present, or to be present, then the following individual matches will be assigned in sequential order to be played:

Format	Required Matches in sequential order	Minimum # of Players Required for Each Team in Valid Team Match
2 singles, 3 doubles	#1 and #2 singles, and #1 doubles (priority); #2 doubles if enough players present	4
1 singles, 4 doubles	#1 singles, #1 and #2 doubles (priority); #3 doubles if enough players present	5
2 singles, 2 doubles	#1 singles and #2 singles and #1 doubles (priority)	4
1 singles, 3 doubles	#1 singles and #1 doubles #2 doubles (priority)	5
1 singles, 2 doubles	#1 singles and #1 doubles	3
3 doubles	#1 and #2 doubles	4

If both teams have enough players to play the match and it's discovered after-the-fact that a majority of the matches were not played to constitute a valid team match, both captains need to come to an agreement of what lines will be played to make the team match valid. If captains cannot come to an agreement, then the individual match(es) to be played will be assigned in sequential order in the above-mentioned table. If a captain does not comply with this regulation, then it may be considered a full-team default in favor of the opponents.

If a team shows up without the minimum # of players required for the team match based on the number of players present, or to be present, it will be a full team default in favor of the opponents. Please refer to USTA Georgia regulation 2.01C(5)e on team default procedures.

**2.01C(3) Match Scoring and Formats.** Each Local League may determine the method of scoring for Local league competition. In the event of a tie, whether in round robin or single elimination, USTA Southern encourages the following procedures be used:

- 2.01C(3)a** Individual Matches. Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.
- 2.01C(3)b** Head-to-head. Winner of head-to-head match.
- 2.01C(3)c** Sets. Loser of the fewest number of sets.
- 2.01C(3)d** Games. Loser of the fewest number of games
- 2.01C(3)e** A Method to be Determined by the Local League Coordinator. Procedure to be announced prior to the commencement of local league play.



**2.01C(5) Team Lineups.** An individual match is started when the first ball is put in play. After the start of an individual match, if injury to or illness of a player occurs, the opponents will be awarded a retirement for that individual match only. If a disqualification of a player occurs, the opponents will be awarded a default.

**2.01C(5)a** In the event of illness, injury, disqualification, or no-show of a player prior to the start of an individual match (once the lineup has been exchanged), a team may substitute a player in the affected position within the 15-minute default time, using a player not already listed on the lineup. If no such substitution can be made, the affected position only will be defaulted in local leagues.

**2.01C(5)b** In the event that a team match must be re-scheduled and starting times are staggered, where opponents are not available and ready to play, defaults will be awarded in the affected position only.

**2.01C(5)c** Local League(s) will decide how to regulate rescheduling of team matches due to rain or inclement weather.

**2.01C(5)d** Two players will play together in the higher position when both of their partners do not show in order to avoid two defaults. (Note: When dealing with combined levels, this would be permissible only if the two players together would not exceed the combined NTRP level.)

**2.01C(5)e** If a team defaults an entire match (as described in USTA League Regulation 2.03K) in local play, states may decide whether to allow further play by that team and how matches played by that team should be used in determining standings. A state may not authorize a local league to make such determination. **USTA Georgia will use the following regulation: If a team has an invalid match (a majority of the individual matches must actually be played to constitute a valid team match) the team may (state Adult League Committee's decision) be removed from competition and the standings.**

**2.01D Coaching.** When the scoring method is the best of three tiebreak sets and a 10 minute rest period is taken between the second and third sets, coaching is permitted ONLY during this rest period.

## **2.02 PROGRESSION**

### **2.02A Local League**

**2.02A(1) Local League Competition.** Each team that wins a specific level of local league competition shall be entitled to advance to the next level of competition if otherwise eligible.

**2.02A(1)a Two-Team Leagues.** If a local league holds two seasons at a specific level, they must have a minimum of three teams participating in one of the two seasons at that level to receive two berths to the State Championships. Two team leagues in both seasons will only receive one berth to the State Championships. The local league will determine which team receives the berth.

**2.02A(1)b Area Leagues.** The State may authorize local league play for area teams (one team at any given level with no local opponents during the entire Championship Year) from which **all participating teams** may progress to the State Championships. An Area team **MUST** come from the season prior to the State Championship and the players **MUST** use their Year-End Rating.

**2.02A(1)c Area Teams.** No player may participate on an Area Team if they have participated on any team at that level, in that league type, in another local league in Georgia during that championship year. All Area Teams participating in an Area League **MUST** compete against each other.

**2.02A(1)d Wildcards.** The State may draw wildcards for the State Championships at any given level. The local league must publish its wildcard procedures in the event of the repeat winners, or if the league receives a wildcard.

**2.02A(2) Local League Champions.** At the conclusion of local league competition, the Local League Coordinator shall certify to the Director of Leagues; the results of the local league competition and the name(s) and email address(es) of the team captain(s) and the team #.

### **2.02B(1) USTA Georgia State Championship Berths.**

#### **2.02B(1)a Adult 18 & Over**

##### **Atlanta: Men, Women, and Business Women**

One berth per season for a maximum of 64 teams in any given level.

Two berths per season for a maximum of 128 teams in any given level.

Over 128 teams per season, up to each additional 64 teams added an additional berth is given

**All 4.5 Men & Women in Georgia, Including Atlanta**

One berth per season for up to 10 teams and an additional berth for up to each additional 10 teams.

(2-10 teams, 1 berth; 11-20 teams, 2 berths; 21-30 teams, 3 berths; and so on)

**All other leagues in Georgia: Men, Women, and Business Women**

One berth per season for a maximum of 15 teams in any given level.

Two berths per season for a maximum of 30 teams in any given level.

Over 30 teams, up to each additional 15 teams, an additional berth is given.

In local league(s) conducting separate playing schedules for Women's day/night or weekday/business leagues, the local league will determine which one team shall progress to the State Championships unless the total number of teams combined should reach a minimum of 16 teams and each league has a minimum of 6 teams, the local league will receive additional berth at the State Championships.

**2.02B(1)b Adult 40 & Over**

**All leagues in Georgia: Men, Women, and Business Women**

One berth per season for a maximum of 15 teams in any given level.

Two berths per season for a maximum of 30 teams in any given level.

Over 30 teams, up to each additional 15 teams, an additional berth is given.

In local league(s) conducting separate playing schedules for Women's day/night or weekday/business leagues, the local league will determine which one team shall progress to the State Championships unless the total number of teams combined should reach a minimum of 16 teams and each league has a minimum of 6 teams, the local league will receive additional berth at the State Championships.

**2.02B(1)c Adult 55 & Over and Adult 65 & Over**

**All leagues in Georgia: Men and Women**

One berth per season for a maximum of 10 teams in any given level.

Two berths per season for a maximum of 20 teams in any given level.

Over 20 teams, up to each additional 10 teams, an additional berth is given.

In local league(s) conducting separate playing schedules for day/night or weekday/business leagues, the local league will determine which one team shall progress to the State Championships unless the total number of teams combined should reach a minimum of 11 teams and each league has a minimum of 4 teams, the local league will receive additional berth at the State Championships.

**2.02B(1)d Mixed 18 & Over and Mixed 40 & Over**

**All leagues in Georgia: Men and Women**

One berth per season for a maximum of 15 teams in any given level.

Two berths per season for a maximum of 30 teams in any given level.

Over 30 teams, up to each additional 15 teams, an additional berth is given.

**2.02B(2) Dates and Locations:** The 2020 USTA League Tennis State Championships will be as follows:

<b>April 30 – May 3, 2021</b>	USTA League Tennis Adult 18 & Over State Championships <b>(2.5 &amp; 3.5, 4.5 M&amp;W) - Rome</b>
<b>May 7 – 10, 2021</b>	USTA League Tennis Adult 18 & Over State Championships <b>(3.0, 4.0, 4.0 Low, 5.0+ M&amp;W) - Macon</b>
<b>June 4 – 7, 2021</b>	USTA League Tennis Adult 40 & Over State Championships <b>(3.0 &amp; 4.0 M&amp;W) - Athens</b> <b>(3.5 &amp; 4.5+ M&amp;W) - Columbus</b>
<b>June 11 – 14, 2021</b>	USTA League Tennis Adult 55 & Over State Championships <b>(M&amp;W 3.0 - 4.0, 9.0 Combined) – Columbus</b>
<b>September 10 – 12, 2021</b>	USTA League Tennis Mixed 18 & Over and 40 & Over State Championships <b>(Mixed 18 &amp; Over: 2.5, 6.0 - 10.0) (Mixed 40 &amp; Over 6.0 - 9.0) – Macon</b>
<b>October 8 – 10, 2021</b>	USTA League Tennis Adult 65 & Over State Championships <b>(M&amp;W 3.0 - 4.0, 9.0 Combined) – Savannah</b>

Please refer to the 2021 USTA Georgia Championship Procedures for full championship details

## 2.03 USTA GEORGIA LEAGUE STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

**2.03A Eligibility.** Players who play in a local league prior to January 1, **2021** and whose published rating at the time of registration was in level may advance to the state championship with that team at that level unless their NTRP rating reaches the disqualification mark for that level.

**2.03A(3)** In the Adult (excluding 65 & Over) and Mixed Divisions, a player is eligible to advance to the state championship competition if that player has played on the same team in at least two matches at the same NTRP level in the same Age Group during the local league season (**prior to local playoffs**). *One default received by the player during local competition shall count for advancing.* Retired matches shall count toward advancing for all players involved.

In the Adult 65 & Over Division, a player is eligible to advance to the state championship competition if that player has played on the same team in at least one match at the same level in this Age Group during the local league season. *One default received by the player during local competition shall count for advancing.* Retired matches shall count toward advancing for all players involved. If there is no local competition offered during the entire championship year, an Area Team may advance directly to the USTA Georgia Adult 65 & Over State Championships. (see 2.02A(1)b&c).

**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. Sections shall also have the option to declare if one default received by the player during local league competition shall or shall not count for advancing.**

**2.03A(4)** In the Adult and Mixed Divisions, **all players other than Self-Rated and Valid Computer Rated Appealed Players** are eligible to advance to National Championship competition if that player has played on the same team in at least three matches at the same NTRP level in the same Age Group through Sectional Championships and is otherwise eligible. A maximum of one default received by the player during local league or championship competition shall count for advancing.

**All Self-Rated and Valid Computer Rated Appealed players are eligible to progress to National Championship competition if that player has played on the same team in at least four matches at the same NTRP level in the same Age Group during its local league season and is otherwise eligible. No defaults received by the player during local league or championship competition shall count for advancing.**

Retired matches shall count toward advancing for all players involved in both USTA League Divisions.

**2.03A(5)** At all State Championships, a minimum number of team members as shown in the following table, who were on the final roster of their local league team at the conclusion of local league play, must be available and eligible to compete or to combine and compete, as appropriate

MINIMUM NUMBER OF TEAM MEMBERS REQUIRED AT STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS		
DIVISION	AGE GROUP	MINIMUM NUMBER AT ALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS
Adult	18 & Over 2.5 & <b>5.0</b>	5
	18 & Over 3.0, 3.5, Low, 4.0, 4.5	8
	40 & Over	<b>7</b>
	55 & Over	6
	65 & Over	6
Mixed	18 & Over and 40 & Over	3 Men 3 Women

**2.03A(6)** In a local league where two league seasons are played, with a winner declared for each season, a player must have played two matches during the same local league season in which his/her team qualified for further competition. A team winning both seasons without identical rosters for both seasons must choose which season's roster of players will represent the local league at championship competition.

**2.03C Scoring.** At the USTA Georgia State Championships, all matches will be the best of three tiebreak sets, with a match tiebreak in lieu of a third set. There will be a two-minute set break at the end of each set with no coaching. The Match tiebreak shall be scored as 1 set and 1 game for tiebreak procedures in the event of a tie. All tiebreaks will be played using the **Coman** Tiebreak Procedure.

**2.03D Championship Competition Formats**

**2.03D(1) Competition Format At National Championships.** The USTA League Committee shall determine the competition, team match and scoring formats for the National Championships.

**2.03D(2) Championship Competition Format At Section Level Events and Below.** The Sectional Association shall determine the competition, team match and scoring formats for the championship competitions.

**For all championships at the section level and below, Southern permits the use of round robin(s), single elimination or un-flighted matches against randomly selected opponents. The use of multiple round robins, or the use of un-flighted matches, will require a playoff structure to establish a champion. Please refer to championship procedures for full details for that applicable championship.**

**USTA Southern permits each local league to continue using the same local league team format through local league playoffs. Said team format for local league playoff structure shall be listed in each applicable local league regulations. All other requirements for "championship" play must be followed for local league playoffs.**

**2.03D(3)** State Championship play shall **consist of round robin(s), single elimination or un-flighted matches against randomly selected opponents. The use of multiple round robins, or the use of un-flighted matches, will require a playoff structure to establish a champion. Please refer to championship procedures for full details for that applicable championship.**

**2.03E Team Match and Scoring.** A team match will consist of the matches as shown below. The team winning the majority of individual matches will be awarded one team point at National Championships. Sectional Associations may either follow the National Championships scoring format or determine a method of awarding points in order to determine the winning team of a championship competition. For each team match, a majority of the individual matches must actually be played by the two teams to constitute a valid team match. The Championship Committee has the authority to determine the actions to take when the combination of individual match defaults given by the two teams in the team match would result in a situation where the majority of the individual matches would not be played (2.01C(2) will be a point of reference).

<b>TEAM MATCH AND SCORING AT USTA GEORGIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS</b>		
<b>DIVISION AND AGE GROUP</b>	<b>TEAM MATCH</b>	<b>ONE TEAM POINT AWARDED FOR</b>
Adult 18 & Over 3.0, 3.5, Low, 4.0, 4.5	2-Singles 3-Doubles	3 individual matches won

<u>Adult 40 &amp; Over</u>	<u>1-Singles</u> <u>3-Doubles</u>	<b>3 individual matches won;</b> <b><u>If tied 2-2, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following methods to do so:</u></b>  <b>a) <u>Sets: Loser of the fewest number of sets.</u></b> <b>b) <u>Games: Loser of the fewest number of games.</u></b> <b>c) <u>Game Winning Percentage: Total games won divided by total games played</u></b> <b>d) <u>Winner of No. 1 Doubles</u></b>
Adult 18 & Over 2.5 & 5.0+	1-Singles 2-Doubles	2 individual matches won
Adult 55 & Over Adult 65 & Over Mixed 18 & Over Mixed 40 & Over	3-Doubles	

**2.03F Substitutions.** No substitution may be made in an individual match after the lineup has been presented, except for injury to, illness of, or disqualification of a player prior to the start of such match or if a team has an unknown default (not enough players to field a complete team). If this occurs, the opposing team will have the opportunity to take their scorecard back and resubmit the lineup. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute player is entitled to a five (5) minute warm-up.

The following applies to the Adult 2.5 women and 5.0+ teams at state Championships: if a player is injured or becomes ill after the lineup has been submitted and the captain must change the lineup in order to prevent a team match default, the opposing captain may also change their lineup. This only applies to the 2.5 and 5.0 levels as the lineup change will affect both singles and doubles positions.

**2.03H Procedures in the Event of a Tie.** In the event of a tie, whether in round robin or single elimination competition, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:

**2.03H(1) For Sectional Championships and below, in the event of a tie, the Sectional Association has the authority to determine the order of the following procedures that will be used to break the tie. The tie-break procedure order will be published by the Sectional Association. If a Section, District/Area or Local League does not have a regulation in place to address a tie, the Section, District/Area or Local League must follow the national regulation.**

**2.03H(2) For National Championships, in the event of a tie, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:**

**2.03H(2)a Individual Matches.** Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.

**2.03H(2)b Head-to-head.** Winner of head-to-head match **only if all tied teams have played each other and one team defeated all the teams that are tied.**

**2.03H(2)c Sets.** Loser of the fewest number of sets.

**2.03H(2)d Games.** Loser of the fewest number of games

**2.03H(2)e Game Winning Percentage: Total games won divided by total games played.**

**2.03H(2)f A Method to be Determined by the Championship Committee.** Procedure to be announced prior to the commencement of championship competition.

**2.03I Individual Defaults.** Any team defaulting a court for any reason will be fined \$100 per court defaulted. The fine must be paid in the tournament room prior to the team's next match. If it's the team's last match of the tournament, they must pay prior to leaving. If a team does not pay the fine, a grievance will be filed against all members listed on the team information sheet, which could result in suspension from any USTA League play until the fine is paid. Any matches played during that time will be deemed ineligible in Tennislink, which will revert the matches to 0-6, 0-6 losses for the ineligible players. The reason for this regulation is it's your team's responsibility to have players on every court at each match during a state championship. When a team defaults a line, it not only can affect the outcome of the tournament, but more importantly, it affects those players who showed up ready to play, only to find their opponents did not show.

**2.03K Team Defaults.** In all championships after local league competition, a team must have a minimum number of eligible players available for play in each team match in accordance with the following table or the entire match must be defaulted. The maximum number of positions that may be defaulted without defaulting the entire match is also noted below. When defaults are necessary, the defaults shall be determined by the defaulting team captain in accordance with the table below:

<b>ALLOWABLE DEFAULTS AT USTA GEORGIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS</b>				
<b>DIVISION</b>	<b>AGE GROUP</b>	<b>MINIMUM NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE PLAYERS REQUIRED TO BE AVAILABLE PER MATCH</b>	<b>MAXIMUM NUMBER OF POSITIONS THAT CAN BE DEFAULTED</b>	<b>REQUIRED POSITION(S) AND ORDER OF MATCH DEFAULTS</b>
Adult	18 & Over 2.5 & 5.0+	3	1	No. 1 Singles <b>Or</b> No. 2 Doubles
	18 & Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 Low 4.0, 4.5	4	2	<u>Singles:</u> No. 2 Singles before No. 1 Singles <u>Doubles</u> No. 3 Doubles before No. 2 Doubles, and No. 2 Doubles before No. 1 Doubles
	<b><u>40 &amp; Over</u></b>	<b><u>5</u></b>	<b><u>1</u></b>	<b><u>No. 1 Singles</u></b> <b><u>Doubles:</u></b> <b><u>No. 3 Doubles</u></b> <b><u>before No. 2</u></b> <b><u>Doubles, and No.</u></b> <b><u>2 Doubles before</u></b> <b><u>No. 1 Doubles</u></b>
Adult	55 & Over 65 & Over	4 players who are eligible to combine and compete	1	No. 3 Doubles
Mixed	18 & Over 40 & Over			

**2.03L Scoring of Full Team Defaults.** If a team defaults an entire team match (same as withdrawing from the tournament) for any reason during round robin play, that team is ineligible to continue play at that championship. All matches of the defaulting team already played shall be null and void when determining standings, but will be used for ratings and advancement purposes. If all teams with a mathematical chance to advance have already played the defaulting team in good faith, those matches shall stand as played when determining standings.

**2.03L(1)** Teams that withdraw once the draw is published will forfeit their deposit, entry fee and a grievance may be filed by the referee to the appropriate committee.

**2.04 NTRP DYNAMIC DISQUALIFICATION AND REVIEW PROCEDURES.**

**2.04A Applicability.** The Regulations in this section are applicable only to the USTA League Adult Division (18 & Over, 40 & Over and 55 & Over).

**2.04B NTRP Disqualification Procedures.** Dynamic ratings will be calculated for all Adult Division (18 & Over, 40 & Over and 55 & Over) players during local league competition and at every level of championship competition **including** National Championships to determine if any players have reached the NTRP Dynamic Disqualification criteria stated in the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System Procedures. Players subject to NTRP Dynamic Disqualification, as described in the *NTRP Dynamic Disqualification Table* below, will be dynamically disqualified if they reach the disqualification level three times based on all matches except retirements received.



<b><u>NTRP DYNAMIC DISQUALIFICATION</u></b>	
<p>Each NTRP level is followed by a letter indicating the type of rating. The following identifies who can and cannot be NTRP dynamically disqualified.</p>	
<b>Who <u>cannot</u> be NTRP dynamically disqualified?</b>	
	NTRP Level followed by the letter below:
<b>C</b>	Computer Rated Players *
<b>M</b>	Mixed Exclusive Players **
<b>T</b>	Tournament Players **
<p>Exceptions:</p> <p>* Players who entered an Early Start League at an NTRP Level lower than their current year-end rating are subject to NTRP dynamic disqualification.</p> <p>** Year-end (M) and (T) rated players are required to self-rate to enter the Adult Division, automatically become (S) rated players and therefore become subject to NTRP dynamic disqualification.</p>	
<b>Who <u>can</u> be NTRP dynamically disqualified? Participants in the Adult Division:</b>	
	NTRP Level followed by the letter below:
<b>A</b>	Appealed – all granted appeals including Medical and Promote Players 60 or Over
<b>S</b>	Self-rated players
<b>D</b>	Dynamic or NTRP Grievance Disqualified
<b>C</b>	Exceptions to C Year-End ratings as noted above *
<p>Players participating in the Adult Division who are promoted as a result of NTRP dynamic disqualification will be immediately required to participate at their new NTRP level in all USTA League Programs.</p>	

**2.04B(2) Championship NTRP Disqualification.**

**2.04B(2)b.** Dynamic ratings will be calculated following the USTA Georgia Adult 18 & Over, 40 & Over and 55 & Over State Championships and the USTA Southern 18 & Over, 40 & Over and 55 Sectional Championships. Points earned by disqualified players will stand (see Reg. 2.04E(2)c). The disqualified player will not be eligible to advance to the next level of competition.

**2.04B(3)** After an NTRP Dynamic Disqualification, the player may not play at the disqualified NTRP level of play or any lower NTRP level of play in either singles or doubles for the remainder of the Championship Year and for the succeeding Championship Year **including any subsequent National Championships the player is qualified for.** In any Division using combined levels, the combined NTRP rating of the disqualified player and partner may not surpass the level of competition. A player who has been moved up as a result of an NTRP Dynamic Disqualification in the Adult Division must immediately adjust his/her NTRP level of play in the Mixed Division.

**2.04B(4)** Players who are NTRP dynamically disqualified may be allowed to move up and participate on another team at a higher NTRP level during the same local league season provided registration has not closed.

**2.04B(5)** Individuals who receive their third strike while participating in an Early Start League (ESL), must immediately adjust their NTRP level of play. Such players may not participate at the disqualified NTRP level in a previous year's championship for which they may have qualified.

**2.04C NTRP Dynamic Disqualification Review Procedures.** Reviews are based solely on missing or incorrect data.

**2.04D NTRP Dynamic Disqualification Review Committees.** All Southern Sectional NTRP reviews will be handled by the USTA Southern NTRP Grievance Committee and Sectional League Coordinator.

**2.04E Scoring Procedures**

**2.04E(1) Local.** In the event of an NTRP Dynamic Disqualification from a particular level of play, each Section shall determine what matches, if any shall be considered losses. The USTA Southern regulation will be as follows:

If a Self-Rated (S), Self-Rated Appealed (S), Computer Appealed (A), Medical Appealed (A) and/or Dynamic (D) player is promoted from a particular level of play, the player shall cease play immediately from the NTRP level being promoted from and graduate to the next higher NTRP level. All prior matches shall stand in good faith.

*Captains and/or teams with 2 or more promoted players within a 12-month period may be subject to an NTRP Grievance and subsequent suspension from USTA Leagues.*

Local League occurring at the State Championships: If any players are promoted by the conclusion of the championship, the player shall cease play immediately from the NTRP level being promoted from and graduate to the next NTRP level. All prior matches shall stand in good faith.

**2.04E(2) Championship.**

**2.02E(2)c.** Dynamic ratings will be calculated following the USTA Georgia Adult 18 & Over, 40 & Over and 55 & Over State Championships and the USTA Southern 18 & Over, 40 & Over and 55 Sectional Championships. Points earned by disqualified players will stand. The disqualified player will not be eligible to advance to the next level of competition.

**2.05 YEAR-END NTRP COMPUTER RATINGS AND APPEAL PROCEDURES**

**2.05A Applicability.** Regulations in this section are applicable to the Adult and Mixed Divisions.

**2.05B USTA National Year-end Computer Ratings & Georgia Early Start League Ratings.**

**2.05B(1)** A Year-end computer rating is valid for three (3) consecutive years or until a new NTRP level is published for players who are 59 years of age or under through the League year, except for players with a published Mixed Exclusive "M" rating who choose to participate in the Adult Division.

**2.05B(2)** A Year-end rating is valid for two (2) consecutive years or until a new NTRP level is published for players 60 years of age and older prior to or during the League year, except for players with a published Mixed Exclusive "M" rating who choose to participate in the Adult Division.

**2.05B(3)** The USTA Southern Section has adopted the following option for local leagues that begin league play (Early Start Leagues) prior to January 1 of the year in which they progress to the National Championships. This is in reference to players who are found to have year-end computer ratings that place them above the NTRP level at which they began to play in their Early Start League:

**2.05B(3)b.** Players who are found to have valid computer ratings, after the appeal process, that place them above the NTRP level at which they are competing may continue their participation at the lower NTRP level through the conclusion of the Southern championship. They shall not be permitted to advance to any National Championship at the lower NTRP level. Prior team matches played are valid.

**2.05B(3)c.** Players on a 2.5 team who are found to have valid computer ratings, after the appeal process, that place them above the 2.5 NTRP level may continue their participation through all championships at the 2.5 level UNLESS their year-end rating reached the clearly above level mark. If it did, they must immediately adjust to their new NTRP level. Prior team matches played are valid.

**2.05B(4)** USTA Georgia Early Start Low League Eligibility Lists will be published in the beginning of March for the Summer Early Start Leagues and August for the Fall/Winter Early Start Leagues.

**2.05B(5)** Year-end NTRP computer ratings of all leagues will be published in late November or early December, following the National Championships.

**2.05C Appeal of Year-end and Early Start League Ratings.** Year-end NTRP valid computer rating levels may be appealed or denied through TennisLink except for 2.05D *Medical Appeals*.

**2.05D Medical Appeals.** If an intervening, permanently disabling injury or illness indicates that a player's current NTRP computer rating level may be too high, the player may request a medical appeal of such rating level in accordance with *USTA League NTRP Medical Appeal Procedures – Questions and Answers*.

**2.05D(1)** USTA Southern shall utilize a Section Appointed Medical Review Committee to evaluate all medical appeals; and, if the injury/illness is deemed permanently disabling, the appeal will be forwarded to the National Review Committee through the Section League Coordinator for a final decision. The medical appeal committee will review all medical appeals, which must include the attending physician's written evaluation of the player's condition, including the nature of the condition; and the expected permanent loss of motion, mobility, and strength. Such evaluation must be presented on the physician's letterhead stationary or on the Attending Physician's Form.

**2.05E Promotion of Players 60 & Over and 65 & Over**

**2.05E(1)** Any player who is 60 years of age or older prior to, or during, the calendar year in which such player plays his or her first local league match and has achieved the same rating level or lower for his or her three most recent year-end ratings, without benefit of appeal of the player's year-end rating level, will be granted an appeal ("A" rating) if promoted, subject to 2.05E(4) below. NTRP Dynamic Disqualification procedures as outlined in 2.04B(3) apply.

**2.05E(2)** All players age 65 & Over, if promoted, will automatically be granted an appeal ("A" rating) of their current rating back to their previous valid year-end rating level, subject to 2.05E(4) below. NTRP Dynamic Disqualification procedures as outlined in 2.04B(3) apply.

- 2.05E(3)** All players age 70 or over will automatically be granted an appeal (A rating) of their current rating to the next lower level, subject to 2.05E(4) below. NTRP Dynamic Disqualification procedures as outlined in 2.04B(3) apply.
- 2.05E(4)** Any player who is clearly above level under the applicable Computer Methodology procedures, as defined in the Glossary, will be denied an appeal of his or her year-end rating under 2.05E(1) and 2.05E(2)

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

**2.06A National Championship Teams.** This ONLY applies to Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over, Mixed 18 & Over and Mixed 40 & Over leagues.

**2.06A(1)** Move-Up - Teams and team members that advanced to, or qualified for, any National Championship may play together as a team, in whole or in part, if they move up one NTRP team level.

**2.06A(2)** Split-Up - No more than three (3) players who were on the roster of any team that advanced to, or qualified for, any National Championship team the previous year may play together in the same Division, same Age Group and at the same NTRP team level as the National Championship team(s), if their NTRP rating allows. Split-Up requirements only apply to players who participated in three (3) or more matches (including one default) for that team during the championship year.

**2.06A(3)** If a Section has a regulation that limits the number of players on a roster that are at a specific level, the Section must suspend that regulation for one year for any team that advanced to, or qualified for, any National Championship the previous year and chooses to move up one NTRP team level.

**2.06B Section Options for Move Up/Split Up.**

**2.06B(2)** USTA Southern will not restrict crossover between Adult and Mixed Divisions.

**2.07 CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYERS.** A championship player's computer rating achieved as a result of play in National Championships may not be appealed down following the championship year it is received except as in Reg. 2.05D *Medical Appeals* and Reg. 2.05E *Promotion of Players 60 or Over and 65 or Over*.

## **3.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES (Refer to the National Regulations)**

**The Regulations in 3.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES shall apply to all USTA League Divisions.**

**3.01 ADMINISTRATION.** All grievances within the USTA League shall be administered in accordance with the provisions of this section. All local league regulations must include the names of grievance and grievance appeal committee members and will be distributed to captains prior to beginning of the local league season. Distributions via captains' packets and/or websites are acceptable. Each State shall approve all Local League Grievance and Grievance Appeal Committees. Grievance decisions that impose sanctions will be upheld throughout the USTA Southern Section.

A \$100 filing fee will be required for all General/Sportsmanship, Championship and/or Administrative Grievance and Grievance Appeals that are heard at the Southern level. The filing fee will only be returned to the grieving party if a penalty is imposed.

**3.01A Grievance Committees.** All Grievance Committees shall consist of no less than three persons, including a committee chair, to adjudicate grievances. The members of the committee may be the same as or different in whole or part, from the committee first approved.

**3.01A(1) Local.** Each local league shall appoint a Local League Grievance Committee.

**3.01B Grievance Appeal Committees.** All grievance appeal committees shall consist of no less than three persons, including a committee chair, to consider appeals of grievance committees' decisions. No member of a Grievance Committee may serve as a member of a Grievance Appeal Committee that is reviewing the same grievance. The members of the committee may be the same as, or different in whole or part from, the committee first approved.

**3.01B(1) Local.** Each local league shall appoint a Local League Grievance Appeal Committee.

## **3.02 GRIEVANCE TYPES**

**3.02A General Grievance.** Any grievance, other than those defined in Regulation Sections 3.02B *NTRP Grievance*, 3.02C *Eligibility Grievance*, 3.02D *Administrative Grievance*, and 3.02E *National League Grievance*, alleging a violation of the USTA Constitution and Bylaws; the FRIEND AT COURT – *The USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations* including THE CODE and Wheelchair Rules of Tennis (unless modified by these USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS); the USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS; or standards of good conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship shall constitute a General Grievance.

- 3.02B Administrative Grievance.** Any grievance pertaining to administration of the League Program at any level shall constitute an Administrative Grievance. Captains and committee members are not subject to Administrative Grievances.
- 3.02C National League Grievance.** The only National League Grievance that can be filed is an Administrative Grievance against the National League Administrator.
- 3.02D Eligibility Grievance.** Any grievance, other than an NTRP Grievance, contending that a player has failed to meet eligibility requirements to participate in the USTA League shall constitute an Eligibility Grievance.
- 3.02E NTRP Grievance.** Any grievance contending that a player's NTRP level is lower than his/her actual skill level shall constitute an NTRP Grievance. (See Reg. 3.03E(1)a and 3.03E(1)b.)

### **3.03 GRIEVANCES**

#### **3.03A General Procedures**

**3.03A(8) Play During Grievance Procedures.** An individual or team may continue to play during a grievance investigation and hearing but must understand that if upheld, all matches played during that time may be reversed.

#### **3.03B Local League Procedures**

**3.03B(1)** Any grievance alleging a violation by an individual or team during local league competition shall be filed in writing with the Local or District/Area League Coordinator or designee having jurisdiction. *The grievance must be filed prior to the commencement of whichever occurs first: (a) the involved team's next match in that flight, whether or not the involved player participates or (b) within 24 hours after the end of the local league season, except for Administrative Grievances (See Reg. 3.03A(2), Eligibility Grievances (See Reg. 3.03B(3), and NTRP Grievances (See Reg. 3.03E(3).)*

#### **3.03E NTRP Grievances**

**3.03E(3)** NTRP Grievances filed within 7 days of the start date of the players and/or captain's local league playoff and/or 21 days of the start date of the player's and/or captain's State or Section Championships will be administered after the event unless the section authorizes the administration of the grievance prior to that time. If the grievance is not administered until after the event, points won by players will stand. Disqualified players and/or captains that are suspended will not be eligible to advance to the next level of championship play.

USTA Georgia mandates that the party(ies) that file(s) the NTRP grievance complaint must provide the documentation to support their complaint at the time of their filing.