

***2024 USTA LEAGUE  
NATIONAL AND  
EASTERN  
TRI-LEVEL  
ELIGIBILITY  
REGULATIONS***

***October 12, 2023***

## **2023 (4.5 Tri)/2024 (4.0 and 5.0 Tri) USTA EASTERN TRI-LEVEL DOUBLES ELIGIBILITY AND RATING INFORMATION**

All Eastern Tri-Level Leagues shall follow the USTA National/Eastern regulations and the USTA Eastern Adult League Play Regulations as documented and follow "The Code".

- Women's and Men's team, any three adjacent levels (i.e., 5.0-4.5-4.0, 4.5-4.0-3.5, 4.0-3.5-3.0, 3.5-3.0-2.5).
- Lower rated players are permitted to "play up" one court. (For example: a 4.0 may play up to 4.5 or a 3.0 player may play up to 3.5 but not to 4.0). Players may not play on a court below their rating.
- At least 50% of players at the lowest level must be at level, meaning you must have at least as many 3.5 players as 3.0 players on any 4.5-4.0-3.5 team.
- It is suggested that at least one player on each court for each match should be at level, meaning at least one 3.5 should play on the 3.5 court, at least one 4.0 should play on the 4.0 court and at least one 4.5 should play on the 4.5 court.
- Each team shall have a minimum of six (6) registered players but are encouraged to have additional players.
- Each match will consist of three doubles matches, one at each level. Format is order of strength – e.g., 1<sup>st</sup> doubles 4.5, 2<sup>nd</sup> doubles 4.0, 3<sup>rd</sup> doubles 3.5.
- If there is a default, players are not required to move up to a higher level court.
- A Match Tiebreak will be used in lieu of a third set (1<sup>st</sup> to 10 by 2). The Coman tie break will be used for all set and match tie breaks.
- To qualify for Local, Regional or Sectional Championships a player must have played a minimum of 1 match (defaults do not count). Players must have played in 2 matches (1 default can count) on the same team in order to qualify for the National Invitational.
- Winning teams advance to a Sectional Championship. Sectional winners will be eligible to participate in a National Invitational tournament, eligibility criteria for the invitational tournament are at the discretion of the National Tournament Director and not the Eastern Section.
- For Local, Regional, Sectional and National championships, players must conform to the ratings requirements set forth for the National Championship as detailed below.

### **2023 4.5 TRI ONLY (NATIONAL HAS NOT YET RELEASED INFORMATION FOR THE 2024 LEAGUES THAT HAVE THE INVITATIONAL IN MARCH 2025):**

- Players shall start local league play using their 2022 year end rating or a valid self rating.
- Players must have a valid "C" rating after the 2023 year-end ratings have been published in order to participate in any Eastern Championships and the Tri-Level National Invitational in 2024.
- For Local, Regional and Sectional Championships, at least one player must be at level for each court, meaning at least one 3.5 must play on the 3.5 court, at least one 4.0 must play on the 4.0 court and at least one 4.5 must play on the 4.5 court. For the National Invitational, all players must play at their NTRP level, players are not allowed to play up.

- A player cannot compete in two or more NTRP divisions at the National Invitational. Example: a 4.0 player cannot play in the 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 NTRP division and the 4.0, 4.5, 5.0 NTRP division. There will be no crossover of players in any divisions.
- Individual Eligibility Waiver Requests: Individual and team eligibility waivers will not be accepted for the 2023 Tri Level National Invitational for any division. Players that do not meet the match requirements will not be eligible to participate in the National Invitational.

**Ratings For Eastern Championships and the National Invitational: These rules apply to all NTRP divisions For The March 2024 National Invitational.**

All individual team members must be from the appropriate level of play in accordance with the NTRP system. To be eligible to compete in the Invitational:

- Players must have a valid “C” or “A” computer-generated NTRP rating of that “C” rating after the 2023 year-end ratings are published. “S”, “M”, and “T” rated players are not eligible to compete.
- Players may not play at an appeal of the 2023 C rating if granted. Automatic Appeals of year end 2022 ratings will be accepted.

The USTA National Staff Representative will verify all player ratings and eligibility prior to the start of the Invitational once rosters have been received from the respective Section offices. Final rating eligibility determinations will be made by the tournament committee. Computer “C” Rated Players: Players must have a valid “C” rating after the 2023 year-end ratings have been published in order to participate in the Tri-Level National Invitational in 2024.

**All 2022 C and A rated players must play at the level at which they were rostered in the 2023 season unless they are moved two levels.**

All “T”, “S” and “M” rated players must play at the C rating generated/published at the end of the 2023 season.

Question: If a “C” computer-generated player who competes in 2023 gets bumped up when year-end ratings are released, can they still participate at the NTRP level they played at in 2023?

Example: 3.5 “C” computer-rated player gets bumped up to 4.0 “C”. Can they still play in the invitational at 3.5 “C”?

Answer: Yes, as a “C” computer-generated player, this player MAY play in the Tri-Level National Invitational held in 2024 at the NTRP level they played at in 2023. Example:

3.5 "C" computer-rated player gets bumped up to 4.0 "C" is eligible to play in the invitational at 3.5 "C".

Should a player move up TWO LEVELS at year-end, they must play at their NEW HIGHEST LEVEL, instead of their original rostered level. Example: If a 3.5 "C" computer-rated player gets bumped up to 4.5 "C" they must play at the 4.5 level.

Question: If a "C" rated player appeals their 2023 year-end rating down and is now showing as an "A" appealed player, are they able to play at their lower appealed rating?

Answer: No. If a player earned a "C" year-end rating in 2023 and they appealed their rating down through TennisLink Auto Appeal and their appeal was granted, they must still play at their original 2023 year-end "C" rating.

### **"S" Self-Rated, "M" Mixed, or "T" Tournament**

"S" Self rated, "M" Mixed, or "T" Tournament players may only play if they earn a "C" computer year-end rating when the 2023 year-end ratings are published, and they must play at the "C" rating level that they earned with the 2023 year-end ratings.

Question: If a "S" self-rated, "M" mixed, or "T" tournament player who competed in 2023 gets bumped up in the 2023 year-end ratings, can they still participate at the NTRP level they played at in 2024? Example: A 3.5 "S" self-rated, "M" mixed, or "T" tournament player gets bumped up to 4.0 "C". Can they still play in the 2023 event at the 3.5 level?

Answer: No. An "S" self-rated, "M" mixed, or "T" tournament player may ONLY play if they earned a "C" year-end rating in 2023 and they MUST play at the "C" computer rating that they earned in the 2023 year-end ratings.

Example: An 3.5 "S" self-rated, "M" mixed, or "T" tournament player gets bumped up to 4.0 "C" they must play at the 4.0 NTRP level at the Tri Level National Invitational held in 2024. Note that a 4.5 "S" self-rated, "M" mixed, or "T" tournament who got bumped up to 5.0 or 5.5 "C" WOULD NOT be eligible to play in the event held in 2024.