

2024 Changes to Midwest Rules & Regulations

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT FOR USTA/MIDWEST SECTION TRI-LEVEL DIVISION

Section 2. Local League Season

- c. District local league season, District playoffs, and a State playoff, if needed, must be completed the Sunday before the Section playoff event.

Section 3. Team Match Format for Sectional and National progression

- a. Three divisions of Tri-Level will be offered. They are: 3.0/3.5/4.0, 3.5/4.0/4.5, & 4.0/4.5/5.0.

Section 4. Progression

- a. An individual player may only advance to the State or Section playoff in one division: e.g., if a player is on a 3.0/3.5/4.0 District winning team and also a 3.5/4.0/4.5 District winning team, he or she can only advance on one of those teams.
- f. Winners of the Midwest playoff event will be one men's team and one women's team in each division. Winners can be from different districts to qualify for the National Invitational event.
- g. If the qualified team cannot progress to a Midwest Section or National Invitational event, it will be replaced by the next qualified team.
- i. Progression to the National Invitational event will be the men's and women's first place Tri-Level teams from the Midwest Section playoff. Individual players on these teams are eligible to progress to the National Invitational if they have played a minimum of two matches during the local league season. Only one of these matches may be a default.

Rationale: The changes made here are based on changes made by the National Invitational which is hosting three levels of Tri-Level and has restricted players to playing only one of those levels.

Note: Multiple conforming changes with lettering have been made and appear on pages 14 & 15.

USTA/MIDWEST SECTION LEAGUE
55 & OVER MIXED DOUBLES REGULATIONS

This entire section is new and appears on pages 17 – 23.

Rationale: 55 & Over Mixed Doubles is growing across the country and there is now a National Invitational for our teams to progress to. It is time to have regulations in place to help this program grow.

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT FOR USTA LEAGUE
RULES DEFERRED FROM USTA TO SECTIONS

All USTA League Regulations and USTA/Midwest Section USTA League Rules and Regulations in 1.00 General, 2.00 USTA League Regulations, 3.00 Grievance Procedures, and 4.00 Additional Rules and Regulations shall apply. All rules below apply to the following Age Groups: Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over, Adult 65 & Over, Mixed 18 & Over, Mixed 40 & Over, Tri-Level, and Combo.

Section 1.00 General

1.02B(1) Waivers

The USTA/Midwest Section USTA Adult League and Recreation Committee has the authority to waive a USTA/Midwest Section USTA League Standing Order in the best interest of its league program by the majority vote of the committee. The Committee shall further submit:

- a) a quarterly written report to the USTA/Midwest Board of Directors of all actions taken pursuant to this section.
- b) an annual written report 45 days prior to the Annual Meeting, to the Executive Committee for its consideration and ratification or implementation of remedial measures necessitated by the actions, taken pursuant to this section.

1.04B(1)a Each USTA/Midwest Section district shall appoint a USTA League Committee consisting of, but not limited to, the District USTA League Coordinator as a non-voting member, an assigned Committee Chairman, a current USTA League player, and another member. The names of committee members must be submitted to the Section USTA League Coordinator for approval before the start of local league play.

1.04B(4)a A Section, District, Area, Local and/or NTRP Level League Coordinator, who participates in the USTA League Program may not be a captain of any team. NTRP Level Coordinators may not administer the NTRP level in which they play.

1.04C(1)a Corrections to the original or amended roster based on administrative error may be authorized by the District USTA League Coordinator without forfeiture of said match.

1.04C(2)a USTA League match scores must be reported by either team within 48 hours of the completion of the match. The District League Coordinator will run the match reports daily. The consequences for failure to report match scores are as follows:

a) A written warning issued to both teams for the first offense.

b) All subsequent violations will result in the individual team match not counting toward league standings; however, match results will still be used to generate player ratings.

1.04D(2)a The section shall request a waiver from USTA to authorize early start leagues, however, the local league may not begin prior to September 1.

1.04D(3)a Local leagues may determine the dates of their season. Local leagues must have started play for Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over and Adult 55 & Over by July 1; Local League play in Mixed 18 & Over and Mixed 40 & Over must have started by July 15. Players in Combo must be registered on a team by December 15, except as noted specifically in other sections of the Articles of Agreement. Local leagues in Adult 65 & Over must have started by September 1.

1.04D(3)b Local League Season: The local league season shall begin with the local league roster deadline and end on a date determined by the local league that is entered in TennisLink as the League Season end-date.

1.04D(3)c Length of Local League Season: A local league season must be scheduled for a minimum of three weeks. Three weeks is defined as 21 days from the first match to the last match. Waivers may be granted by the USTA/Midwest Section USTA Adult League and Regulation Committee for extenuating circumstances.

1.04D(3)d USTA League registration must be closed no later than two weeks prior to the end of the local league season in each District. The District has the option to allow the District League Coordinator to open and/or close the registration for computer ("B" Benchmark or "C" Computer)-rated players only within the last two weeks.

1.04D(4)a In both the Adult and Mixed Divisions, there is no limit on the number of players on a roster. In all leagues, except in two-team leagues, a district may determine the percentage of players on the roster that are at a specific NTRP level.

1.04E(1)a Residents of foreign countries are invited to participate in the league program; however, all matches shall be played in the USTA/Midwest Section.

1.04G(6)a Players who qualify to advance to championships on more than one team may be required by their section to choose which team they will represent.

- a.) A player who qualifies for Championship level competition within an age group on two or more different NTRP levels may play on any or all of these teams, but there will be no accommodation in the championship schedule.
- b.) A player who qualifies on two or more teams within an age group at the same NTRP level competition at the same championship will be eligible only for one team and that choice must be reported in writing to the championship director by the deadline set by each District Championship Committee and by 12:00 (noon) local time on the Monday preceding the state and section championship. A player representing two local leagues in the same district who fails to declare will automatically be assigned to the first team on which the player registered. A player representing two different districts, who fails to declare, will automatically be assigned to the player's home district. A player must remain with his or her chosen team for all Championship play up to and including the Sectional Championships, or their equivalent. After elimination of the chosen team, a player may not advance with another team at the same NTRP level through the Sectional Championships or their equivalent. The player may advance to National Championships or their equivalent if otherwise eligible.

Section 2.00 USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS

2.01C(1)a The USTA/Midwest Section grants the authority to the District Associations to permit additional matches, selected randomly within the flight. These random matches must be scheduled before flight play begins.

2.01C(1)b The USTA/Midwest Section grants the authority to the District Associations to 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. These random matches must be scheduled before flight play begins.

2.01C(1)c The USTA/Midwest Section grants the authority to the District Associations to permit the top half of teams in a flight to play an additional round robin to determine advancement and the bottom half of teams in the flight may play an additional round robin. These matches must be scheduled before flight play begins.

2.01C(3)a 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. Valid team matches shall consist of 3 of 5

courts played, 3 of 4 courts played and 2 of 3 courts played. Failure to play the required number of courts will result in a total team default.

2.01C(3)b If a local league does not have a rule to address the Total Team Default rule, then the local league shall abide by USTA Regulation 2.01C(3), **Team Match**.

2.01C(6)a In the event of a no show, a rostered player may be substituted in the position of a missing player after the exchange of lineups and before the set default time in local competition. In the event of a no show, the team match may not begin until all positions comply with USTA Regulation 2.03K. In the event that two players from different doubles teams are no shows, that team may combine the remaining two players at the higher of the doubles positions. No additional changes can be made to the lineup.

2.02A(2)a Local playoffs and area/district league championships must end by the Sunday before the State Championships.

2.02B(1)a Local league champions may progress through an Area/District Championship and a State Championship.

2.03A(3)a(1) A player is eligible to progress to local flight playoff/level competition if the player has played on the same team at the same NTRP level and same age group in at least two (2) matches during its local league season. A maximum of one default received by the player during local league competition shall count for advancing. A retired match shall count toward advancing for all players involved.

2.03C(1) All matches at the State and Section Championships shall be the best of two sets, with regular scoring and a Set Tie-Break (using the Coman Tie-break Procedure) at six all in each set. In the event of split sets, a Match Tie-Break (using the Coman Tie-break Procedure) shall be played in lieu of a third set with a maximum of two minutes rest and no coaching allowed. (The tie-break shall be scored as one set and one game for tie-break procedures). At the state or section championships level, if an emergency or other condition dictates, the tournament referee may authorize the use of other USTA-approved scoring methods to complete play on schedule.

2.03C(1)a Other USTA-approved scoring methods may be used for play at area/district championships.

2.03D(1)a(1) A round robin format must be used for the Section and State Championships. A round robin format is recommended to be used for Area/District Championships.

2.03E(1) Team Match and Scoring; During District, State and Sectional Championships, a majority of the individual matches must be played to constitute a valid team match. A team defaulting an entire match will result in all individual matches won

(by the defaulting team before the default of the entire team match) being reversed and awarded to the opposing team.

2.03H(1)a Ties at District, State and Section Championships: The tie shall be broken first by the fewest number of sets lost in the Head-to-Head Match, the second determination would be the fewest number of games lost in the Head-to-Head Match, and the third is by the best game winning percentage. Lastly, a coin toss by the head referee or his or her designee.

2.03L(1) Scoring of Team Defaults: During District, State and Sectional Championships, a majority of the individual matches must be played to constitute a valid team match. A team defaulting an entire match will result in all individual matches won (by the defaulting team before the default of the entire team match) being reversed and awarded to the opposing team.

2.04E(1)a In the event of an NTRP disqualification from that particular level of play, all matches played at the disqualified level or below and any subsequent match played by the player shall be considered losses and those matches shall be considered wins for the opposing player or doubles team.

2.04E(2)a During district, state, and section championships, the computer ratings will be run after each round of play and those players who meet the NTRP disqualification criteria will be disqualified. All matches shall be considered losses and those matches shall be considered wins for the opposing player or doubles team.

Section 3.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

3.01A(4) Names of the Local League Grievance Committee members, District League Grievance Committee members, and District/Area/State League Championships Grievance Committee members must be submitted to the Sectional League Coordinator two weeks prior to the start of play for each such league.

3.01B(5) Names of the Local League Grievance Appeal Committee members, District League Grievance Appeals Committee members, and District/Area, and State League Championships Grievance Appeal Committee members must be submitted to the Sectional League Coordinator two weeks prior to the start of play for each such league.

3.03C(4)b During District, State and Section championship play, players declared ineligible by the USTA/Midwest Section USTA League NTRP Grievance Committee will not be allowed to advance with their team, but their match results will stand as played.

3.03D(4)a The USTA League Suspension Point System will apply to all leagues.

3.03E(1)a(1) The USTA/Midwest Section will have a USTA League NTRP Grievance Committee composed of three members from the USTA/Midwest Section USTA League Grievance Committee which are appointed by the Section President. If the grievance is due to NTRP Grievance (3.02B), then the committee shall be composed of the USTA League Committee Grievance Chair and two other members of the Section League Grievance Committee. A District League Coordinator may not serve as the chair of the District USTA League Committee.

3.03E(6)a During the local league season, if the NTRP Grievance Committee deems a player ineligible, all matches played shall be considered losses.

Section 4.00 ADDITIONAL RULES AND REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO USTA LEAGUE ADULT 18 & OVER, ADULT 40 & OVER, ADULT 55 & OVER, ADULT 65 & OVER, MIXED 18 & OVER AND MIXED 40 & OVER, COMBO AND TRI-LEVEL IN THE USTA/MIDWEST SECTION.

4.01 Tournament staff, including the Local, District and Section Coordinators, at Local Playoff, District, State and Section Championships, including, but not limited to, site directors, USTA Section and District staff, referees and umpires, may not play in Championships in which they are serving in an official capacity.

4.02 In the event a wildcard team(s) is needed for the USTA Midwest Section State and/or Section Championships, the wildcard team shall be determined by the highest winning individual match percentage of the second place District and/or State team within that specific NTRP level. In the event of a tie, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so: the lowest percentage of sets lost, the lowest percentage of games lost, and by a coin toss by the head referee or his or her designee.

4.03 Interpretation of USTA/Midwest Section USTA League Standing Orders is within the authority of the USTA/Midwest Section USTA League Coordinator.

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT FOR USTA/MIDWEST SECTION COMBO LEAGUE

COMBO LEAGUE REGULATIONS

All USTA League Tennis and USTA/Midwest Section USTA League Standing Orders in 1.00 General, 2.00 USTA League Regulations, 3.00 Grievance Procedures, 4.00 Additional Rules and Regulations, 5.00 and 6.00 USTA League Standing Orders Regulations for Combo shall apply.

Section 1 General

A. Definition. A local league shall consist of a minimum of two teams in a specified geographical 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 Regs. 2.01C-Competition Format).

B. Team. A team shall consist of a minimum of six players of the same gender who are NTRP eligible to combine and compete at a specific level of competition. There is no limit on the number of players on a team. There is no limit on the number of players on the roster that are at a specific NTRP level.

C. Age. Each player shall have reached the age of eighteen prior to or during the calendar year in which such player plays in his or her first local league match.

D. Entry.

a. A player without a computer rating must self-rate to enter the program. A player who has a current NTRP computer rating must use his or her current NTRP rating on the day of registration to enter the program (see Valid Computer Rating Chart in USTA League Regulations.)

b. A player who is found to have a valid computer rating, after the appeal process, that places the player at the *clearly above level* mark must immediately adjust to his or her new NTRP level. Prior team matches are valid.

c. Any player disqualified from the Adult division may not play at the disqualified NTRP level of play in the USTA League Combo Doubles division (and any lower level of play) for the remainder of the league year and for up to three years (two years for age 60 and over) unless a new NTRP computer rating is generated. A disqualified player becomes a benchmark. (See Regs. 2.05B and 2.05C(1)) In combined leagues, the disqualified player must play with a partner that does not surpass the level entered. A player may not be disqualified based on match results from the Combo Doubles division.

d. Combo Doubles Leagues will not be part of generating a player's year-end rating.

Section 2 Player Participation.

- A.** A player may only play on one team in a NTRP level within an age group (USTA League Adult, Mixed, and Combo Doubles) in the same local league during the same season. In local leagues where NTRP levels are divided into flights, players may not play in more than one flight.
- B.** A player may play on more than one team within the Combo League in the same season provided it is in separate local leagues. The section has the authority to accept or deny participation.
- C.** A section may authorize participation in more than one NTRP level within the Combo League in the same local league during the same season.
- D.** Players who qualify to advance to championships on more than one team may be required by their section to choose which team they will represent.
- E.** A player, who qualifies for Championship level competition within the Combo League on two or more different NTRP levels, may play on any or all of these teams but there will be no accommodation in the championship schedule.
- F.** A player who qualifies on two or more teams within the Combo League at the same NTRP level competition at the same championship will be eligible only for one team and that choice must be reported in writing to the championship director by the deadline set by each District Championship Committee and by 12:00 (noon) local time on the Monday preceding the state and section championship. A player representing two local leagues in the same district who fails to declare will automatically be assigned to the first team on which the player registered. A player representing two different districts, who fails to declare, will automatically be assigned to the player's home district. A player must remain with his or her chosen team for all Championship play up to and including the National Championships, or their equivalent. After elimination of the chosen team, a player may not advance with another team at the same NTRP level.
- G.** An individual may play in only one doubles match within each team match.

Section 3 Local League

- A. Levels of Play.** The championship levels of play are the combined NTRP levels of 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5 and 9.5. Each individual Combo Doubles team's combined NTRP ratings may not exceed the level entered.
- B. Men and Women.** Men's and Women's leagues shall be separate at each approved level of competition. The local league shall determine which approved levels shall be available for men and women in local league competition.
- C. Round Robin.** Each NTRP level within a local league shall play at least one round

robin competition wherein every team plays every other team. 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. Any NTRP level with only two or three teams are required to play a minimum of three matches.

D. Team Match and Scoring. Each team match shall consist of three individual doubles matches. The method of awarding points in order to determine the winning team of a local league team match and the winner of the local league competition may be a method selected by the local league.

E. Match Scoring. It is recommended that all matches be the best of two sets, with regular scoring and a set tiebreak (using the Coman Tiebreak procedure) at 6-all in each set. A two-minute set break with no coaching is allowed after each set. In the event of split sets, a match tie-break (using the Coman Tiebreak procedure) shall be played in lieu of a third set. The tiebreak shall be scored as one set and one game for tiebreak procedures. Other USTA-approved scoring methods may be used for play at area/district championships. Other match formats include best of three sets with a set tiebreak at 6-all, a pro-set match, a single set with a set or match tiebreak at 6-all, or any other USTA-approved scoring methods that are compatible with the USTA NTRP Computer Rating system. No-ad scoring may be used with any of the above scoring methods

F. Individual Match. An individual match is any Combo match played as part of a team match.

G. Team Lineups. The team captains for each team shall exchange their team match lineups simultaneously prior to the beginning of the team match. No substitution may be made in an individual match after the lineup has been presented, except for injury to or illness of a player prior to the start of such match, and except under such further circumstances as the local league authorizes. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute player is entitled to a five (5) minute warm-up.

H. The default principles Section 5-N shall be applicable, with such modifications as a sectional association may authorize.

I. In the event of a player not showing up, a rostered player may be substituted in the position of a missing player, if the substituted player is able to combine with a partner, after the exchange of lineups and before the set default time in local competition. In the event of a player not showing up, the team match may not begin until all positions comply with rule Section 5-P. If two players from different doubles teams have failed to appear, that team may combine the remaining two players, if the two players are NTRP eligible to combine and compete, at the higher of the doubles positions. No additional changes can be made to the lineup.

J. Coaching. When the scoring method is the best of three tiebreak sets and a 10-

minute rest period is permitted between the second and third sets, coaching is permitted only during this rest period.

Section 4 Progression

A. 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.

B. Local League Champions. At the conclusion of local league competition, the local league coordinator shall certify to the section league coordinator the results of the local league competition and the name(s) and address(es) of the team captain(s). Local league competition must be concluded prior to the deadline set by the Section Association.

C. Championship Local league champions may progress through an Area/District Championship. Area/District Champions may progress through a State Championship. A State Championship will be held for each of the Combo Doubles NTRP levels if more than one area/district champion has been determined in that state.

D. Sectional Championships. Each section association shall hold a section league championship in each section approved level for Combo Doubles on or before the date specified by the USTA/Midwest Section Adult League Committee to determine its section champion.

Section 5 Area and State Championships

A. The Area or Section has the authority to determine the progression of teams to its Championship competition by (1) determining a champion of the preceding level of competition by NTRP category, or (2) the use of the Championship Wildcard Procedures (4.02). Champions of the preceding level of competition must be included in the progression.

B. An individual player may play in only one doubles match within each team match.

C. A player is eligible to advance to championship competition if that player has played on that same team in at least two (2) matches through the local league season. A maximum of one defaulted match received shall count for advancing. A retired match shall count for all players involved.

D. A minimum of four team members whose combined NTRP ratings form two eligible teams and 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 at area championships and above.

E. Official League Championship Entry. An official copy of the final USTA

Combo Doubles Team TennisLink Roster shall be submitted by the team captain, or coordinator to the Championship Committee at the first level of league championships prior to the deadline announced for entry into the event.

F. Scoring and Rest. All matches will be the best of two sets and the set tiebreak (using the Coman Tiebreak Procedure) shall be used at 6-all in each set. A two-minute set break with no coaching is allowed after each set. In the event of split sets, a match tiebreak (using the Coman Tiebreak Procedure) shall be played in lieu of a third set. The tiebreak shall be scored as one set and one game for tiebreak procedures. For play at or below the section level, the sectional association may authorize the use of other USTA approved scoring methods and other scoring methods that are compatible with the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System. At the District, State and Section Championship level, if an emergency or other condition dictates, the tournament referee may authorize the use of other USTA-approved scoring methods to complete play on schedule.

G. Competition Format. The Championship Committee shall determine the format for the competition.

H. Round Robin. If round robin competition is used, each team shall play every other team in its flight, and the team with the most team points shall be champion of its flight. The use of flights requires a playoff structure to establish a champion.

I. Single Elimination. If single elimination competition is used, each team shall be drawn in tournament format in accordance with USTA Tournament Regulations.

J. Team Match and Scoring. A team match format shall be three individual doubles matches. The team winning the majority of those three individual matches shall be awarded one team point.

K. Substitutions. No substitutions 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, and except under such further circumstances as the championship committee may authorize. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute player is entitled to a five (5) minute warm-up.

L. Coaching. No coaching is allowed during a match throughout championship play.

M. 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:

M(1) Individual Matches. Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.

M(2) Head-to-Head. Winner of head-to-head match.

M(3) Sets. Loser of the fewest number of sets.

M(4) Games. Loser of the fewest number of games.

M(5) A method to be Determined by the Championship Committee. This procedure is to be announced prior to commencement of the championship competition. The tie shall be broken first by the fewest number of sets lost in the head-to-head match. The second determination would be the fewest number of games lost in the head-to-head match. The third determination is by a coin toss by the head referee or his or her designee.

N. Individual Defaults: An individual default occurs when a player fails to appear at the time of the scheduled match or is defaulted by a tournament official for misconduct.

O. Scoring of Individual Defaults: The defaults described in Combo Section 5-N will be scored as a 6-0, 6-0 win for the doubles team receiving the default and a 6-0, 6-0 loss for the doubles team that defaulted the match. In the event of a default by both opposing teams, both sides will be given a 6-0, 6-0 loss and neither receives credit for a win.

If a double default results in a tie, the tiebreak procedures shall be the same as in 6.03H to determine a winner of that team match.

P. Team Defaults: A team must have a minimum of four players who are NTRP eligible to combine and compete and available to play in each match or the entire match must be defaulted. A team may default one position in a match without defaulting the entire match. The defaulted position shall be No. 3 Doubles.

Q. Scoring of Team Defaults

a.) 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 Championship have already played the defaulting team in good faith, those matches stand as played.

R. Retirement. A retirement occurs when an individual match has started and a doubles team is unable to continue due to injury, loss of condition, or emergency.

S. Scoring of Retirements. In case of a retirement, the non-retiring doubles team shall be credited with such number of additional games as would have been won if the match was completed and the non-retiring doubles team won every subsequent game. For NTRP computer data entry, actual scores are required.

T. The USTA/Midwest Section does not require teams that compete at section championships to disperse the following league year.

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT FOR USTA/MIDWEST SECTION TRI-LEVEL DIVISION

Tri-Level Division Regulations: All USTA League Tennis and USTA/Midwest Section USTA League Standing Orders in 1.00 General, 2.00 USTA League Regulations, 3.00 Grievance Procedures, 4.00 Additional Rules and Regulations and all rules below apply only to the Tri-Level Division. The Tri-Level Division is a unique league program for USTA/Midwest Section.

Section 1. General

- a. All players must have reached the age of 18 prior to or during the calendar year in which such player plays in his/her first local league match.
- b. Tri Level teams are composed of a minimum of six players.

Section 2. Local League Season

- a. All players and teams must be registered on TennisLink by October 15.
- b. All match scores must be registered/entered on TennisLink by October 31.
- c. District local league season, **District playoffs, and a State playoff, if needed, must be completed the Sunday before the Section playoff event.**

Section 3. Team Match Format for Sectional and National progression

- a. **Three divisions of Tri-Level will be offered. They are: 3.0/3.5/4.0, 3.5/4.0/4.5, & 4.0/4.5/5.0.**
- b. The Tri-Level team match shall consist of a minimum of one doubles combination at each of the division levels.
- c. Level must play at team level, e.g., 3.5 team plays 3.5; 4.0 team plays 4.0; 4.5 team plays 4.5. Players may play up but not down.
- d. If a team defaults a position, the same NTRP level on the other team will not play. e.g. If a 4.0 player or team defaults on one team then only the 4.5 and 3.5 will play. The 3.5 team does not move up.

Section 4. Progression

- a. **An individual player may only advance to the State or Section playoff in one division: e.g., if a player is on a 3.0/3.5/4.0 District winning team and also a 3.5/4.0/4.5 District winning team, he or she can only advance on one of those teams.**

- b. Districts may send teams of one or both genders to the Midwest playoff to qualify.
- c. The team must have played three (3) times at the local level. Each individual player must have played on the same team two (2) times which may include one (1) default received by the player.
- d. In order to qualify for progression to the State or Section playoff, a local league must play in a round robin format. If there are only two teams, they must play three team matches.
- e. The Midwest playoff will take place in November with the date and site to be determined.
- f. Winners of the Midwest playoff event will be one men's team and one women's team **in each division**. Winners can be from different districts to qualify for the National **Invitational** event.
- g. If the qualified team cannot progress to a Midwest **Section** or National **Invitational** event, it will be replaced by the next qualified team.
- h. If a National Invitational event is not scheduled for the Championship year, then there will not be a Midwest Section playoff unless there are more than 60% of the Districts participating.
- i. **Progression to the National Invitational event will be the men's and women's first place Tri-Level teams from the Midwest Section playoff. Individual players on these teams are eligible to progress to the National Invitational if they have played a minimum of two matches during the local league season. Only one of these matches may be a default.**

Articles of Agreement for ADULT 65 & Over League

Articles of Agreement for USTA/Midwest Section Adult 65 & Over League: All USTA League Tennis and USTA/Midwest Section USTA League Standing Orders in 1.00 General, 2.00 USTA League Regulations, 3.00 Grievance Procedures, 4.00 Additional Rules and Regulations with the following exception shall apply to the Adult 65 & Over League.

Section 1. Age

All players must have reached the age of 65 prior to or during the calendar year in which such player plays in his/her first local league match.

Section 2. NTRP Levels

a.) Competition will be offered at the 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, and 9.0 combined NTRP levels for men and women. An individual doubles pair may combine if the combination does not exceed the NTRP level being played. The NTRP difference between members of an individual doubles team may not exceed 1.0

b.) A player without a computer rating must self-rate to enter the program. A player who has a current NTRP computer rating must use his or her current NTRP rating on the day of registration to enter the program (see Valid Computer Rating Chart in USTA League Regulations.)

c.) The level shall be determined by adding the most recently published year-end computer generated NTRP level of play of each participant. In the case of early-start leagues, a player must use their early-start rating to determine their level. The total calculation must not exceed the category in which the team is participating. Any player disqualified from the Adult Division may not play at that NTRP level of play in the USTA League Adult 65 & Over League (and any lower level of play) for the remainder of the league year and for two (2) additional years unless a new NTRP computer rating is generated. In combined leagues, the disqualified player must play with a partner who does not surpass the level entered. In some circumstances, there may be players on a team who cannot combine but may still be eligible for the category. Players, who do not have a current computer-generated rating, shall use a self-rating.

Section 3. Team Size

The USTA/Midwest Section Adult 65& Over League shall consist of a minimum of six players of the same gender on each team. Using combined NTRP levels, the combined NTRP ratings of the doubles team cannot exceed the combined NTRP rating level entered.

Section 4. Team Match Format

Each team match for championship play shall consist of three doubles matches and the team winning the majority of those three doubles matches shall be awarded one team point. All matches at the Adult 65 & Over local league shall be the best of two tiebreak sets, with regular scoring, (using the Coman Tiebreak Procedure) at six-all in each set. In the event of split sets, a match tiebreak (using the Coman Tiebreak Procedure) shall be played in lieu of a third set with a maximum of two minutes rest and no coaching allowed. (The tiebreak shall be scored as one set and one game for tie-break procedures).

Section 5. General

- a.) USTA/Midwest Section Adult 65 & Over participants may also compete in other USTA League programs at the same time if they wish.
- b.) Local league play must be completed by a date to be determined.
- c.) During the local league season, no more than two regularly scheduled matches may be played in a seven-day period.

Section 6. USTA League Section Grievance Committee

The USTA/Midwest Section will have a USTA League Grievance Committee composed of three members from the USTA/Midwest Section USTA League Committee which are appointed by the Section USTA League Committee Chair. If the grievance is due to NTRP Grievance (3.02E), then the committee shall be composed of the USTA League Committee Chair from the District where the grievance originated and two members of the Section League Committee appointed by the USTA/Midwest Section USTA League Chair. A District League Coordinator may not serve as the chair of the District USTA League Committee.

Section 7. Eligibility

- a.) A player is eligible to advance to championship competition if that player has played on that same team in at least two (2) matches through the local league season. A maximum of one defaulted match received shall count for advancing. A retired match shall count for all players involved.

USTA/MIDWEST SECTION LEAGUE 55 & OVER MIXED DOUBLES REGULATIONS

All USTA League Tennis and USTA/Midwest Section USTA League Standing Orders in 1.00 General, 2.00 USTA League Regulations, 3.00 Grievance Procedures, 4.00 Additional Rules and Regulations, 5.00 and 6.00 USTA League Standing Orders Regulations for Combo shall apply.

Section 1 – General

A. Definition. A local league shall consist of a minimum of two teams in a specified geographical 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 Regs. 2.01C-Competition Format).

B. Team. A team shall consist of a minimum of three female and three male players who are NTRP eligible to combine and compete at a specific level of competition. There is no limit on the number of players on a team. There is no limit on the number of players on the roster that are at a specific NTRP level.

C. Age. Each player shall have reached the age of eighteen prior to or during the calendar year in which such player plays in his or her first local league match.

D. Entry. A player without a computer rating must self-rate to enter the program. A player who has a current NTRP computer rating must use his or her current NTRP rating on the day of registration to enter the program (see Valid Computer Rating Chart in USTA League Regulations.)

E. Any player disqualified from the Adult division may not play at the disqualified NTRP level of play in the USTA League 55 & Over Mixed Doubles (and any lower level of play) for the remainder of the league year and for up to three years (two years for age 60 and over) unless a new NTRP computer rating is generated. A disqualified player becomes a benchmark. (See Regs. 2.05B and 2.05C(1) In combined leagues, the disqualified player must play with a partner that does not surpass the level entered. A player may not be disqualified based on match results from the 55 & Over Mixed Doubles division.

F. 55 & Over Mixed Doubles Leagues will not be part of generating a player's year-end rating.

Section 2 – Player Participation.

A. A player may only play on one team in a NTRP level within an age group (USTA League Adult, Mixed, and Combo Doubles) in the same local league during the

same season. In local leagues where NTRP levels are divided into flights, players may not play in more than one flight.

B. A player may play on more than one team within the 55 & Over Mixed Doubles League in the same season provided it is in separate local leagues. The section has the authority to accept or deny participation.

C. A section may authorize participation in more than one NTRP level within the 55 & Over Mixed Doubles League in the same local league during the same season.

D. Players who qualify to advance to championships on more than one team may be required by their section to choose which team they will represent.

E. A player, who qualifies for Championship level competition within the 55 & Over Mixed Doubles League on two or more different NTRP levels, may play on any or all of these teams but there will be no accommodation in the championship schedule.

F. A player who qualifies on two or more teams within the 55 & Over Mixed Doubles League at the same NTRP level competition at the same championship will be eligible only for one team and that choice must be reported in writing to the championship director by the deadline set by each District Championship Committee and by 12:00 (noon) local time on the Monday preceding the state and section championship. A player representing two local leagues in the same district who fails to declare will automatically be assigned to the first team on which the player registered. A player representing two different districts, who fails to declare, will automatically be assigned to the player's home district. A player must remain with his or her chosen team for all Championship play up to and including the National Championships, or their equivalent. After elimination of the chosen team, a player may not advance with another team at the same NTRP level.

G. An individual may play in only one doubles match within each team match.

Section 3 – Local League

A. Levels of Play. The championship levels of play are the combined NTRP levels of 6.0, 7.0 and 8.0. Each individual 55 & Over Mixed Doubles team's combined NTRP ratings may not exceed the level entered.

B. Round Robin. Each NTRP level within a local league shall play at least one round robin competition wherein every team plays every other team. 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. Any NTRP level with only two or three teams are required to play a minimum of three matches.

C. Team Match and Scoring. Each team match shall consist of three individual doubles matches. The method of awarding points in order to determine the winning team of a local league team match and the winner of the local league competition may be a method selected by the local league.

D. Match Scoring. It is recommended that all matches be the best of two sets, with regular scoring and a set tiebreak (using the Coman Tiebreak procedure) at 6-all in each set. A two-minute set break with no coaching is allowed after each set. In the event of split sets, a match tie-break (using the Coman Tiebreak procedure) shall be played in lieu of a third set. The tiebreak shall be scored as one set and one game for tiebreak procedures. Other USTA-approved scoring methods may be used for play at area/district championships. Other match formats include best of three sets with a set tiebreak at 6-all, a pro-set match, a single set with a set or match tiebreak at 6-all, or any other USTA-approved scoring methods that are compatible with the USTA NTRP Computer Rating system. No-ad scoring may be used with any of the above scoring methods.

E. Individual Match. An individual match is any 55 & Over Mixed Doubles match played as part of a team match.

F. Team Lineups. The team captains for each team shall exchange their team match lineups simultaneously prior to the beginning of the team match. No substitution may be made in an individual match after the lineup has been presented, except for injury to or illness of a player prior to the start of such match, and except under such further circumstances as the local league authorizes. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute player is entitled to a five (5) minute warm-up.

G. Defaults. The default principles of Section 5(N) below shall be applicable, with such modifications as a sectional association may authorize.

H. Substitutions. In the event of a player not showing up, a rostered player may be substituted in the position of a missing player, if the substituted player is able to combine with a partner, after the exchange of lineups and before the set default time in local competition. In the event of a player not showing up, the team match may not begin until all positions comply with rule Section 5-P. If two players from different doubles teams have failed to appear, that team may combine the remaining two players, if the two players are NTRP eligible to combine and compete. No additional changes can be made to the lineup.

I. Coaching. When the scoring method is the best of three tiebreak sets and a 10-minute rest period is permitted between the second and third sets, coaching is permitted only during this rest period.

Section 4 – Progression

A. 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.

B. Local League Champions. At the conclusion of local league competition, the local league coordinator shall certify to the section league coordinator the results of the local league competition and the name(s) and address(es) of the team captain(s). Local league competition must be concluded prior to the deadline set by the Section Association.

C. Championship Local league champions may progress through an Area/District Championship. Area/District Champions may progress through a State Championship. A State Championship will be held for each of the Combo Doubles NTRP levels if more than one area/district champion has been determined in that state.

D. Sectional Championships. Each section association shall hold a section league championship in each section approved level for Combo Doubles on or before the date specified by the USTA/Midwest Section Adult League Committee to determine its section champion.

Section 5 – Area and State Championships

A. Progression. The Area or Section has the authority to determine the progression of teams to its Championship competition by (1) determining a champion of the preceding level of competition by NTRP category, or (2) the use of the Championship Wildcard Procedures (4.02). Champions of the preceding level of competition must be included in the progression.

B. Match Limits. An individual player may play in only one doubles match within each team match.

C. Match Minimums. A player is eligible to advance to Championship competition if that player has played on that same team in at least two (2) matches through the local league season. A maximum of one defaulted match received shall count for advancing. A retired match shall count for all players involved.

D. Team Member Minimums. A minimum of four team members whose combined NTRP ratings form two eligible teams and 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 at area Championships and above.

E. Official League Championship Entry. An official copy of the final USTA 55 & Over Mixed Doubles Team TennisLink Roster shall be submitted by the team captain, or coordinator to the Championship Committee at the first level of League Championships prior to the deadline announced for entry into the event.

F. Scoring and Rest. All matches will be the best of two sets and the set tiebreak (using the Coman Tiebreak Procedure) shall be used at 6-all in each set. A two-minute set break with no coaching is allowed after each set. In the event of split sets, a match tiebreak (using the Coman Tiebreak Procedure) shall be played in lieu of a third set. The tiebreak shall be scored as one set and one game for tiebreak procedures. For play at or below the section level, the sectional association may authorize the use of other USTA approved scoring methods and other scoring methods that are compatible with the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System. At the District, State and Section Championship level, if an emergency or other condition dictates, the tournament referee may authorize the use of other USTA-approved scoring methods to complete play on schedule.

G. Competition Format. The Championship Committee shall determine the format for the competition.

H. Round Robin. If round robin competition is used, each team shall play every other team in its flight, and the team with the most team points shall be champion of its flight. The use of flights requires a playoff structure to establish a champion.

I. Single Elimination. If single elimination competition is used, each team shall be drawn in tournament format in accordance with USTA Tournament Regulations.

J. Team Match and Scoring. A team match format shall be three individual doubles matches. The team winning the majority of those three individual matches shall be awarded one team point.

K. Substitutions. No substitutions 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, and except under such further circumstances as the championship committee may authorize. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute player is entitled to a five (5) minute warm-up.

L. Coaching. No coaching is allowed during a match throughout championship play.

M. 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:

- (1) Individual Matches.** Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.
- (2) Head-to-Head.** Winner of head-to-head match.
- (3) Sets.** Loser of the fewest number of sets.

(4) Games. Loser of the fewest number of games.

(5) A method to be determined by the Championship Committee. This procedure is to be announced prior to commencement of the championship competition. The tie shall be broken first by the fewest number of sets lost in the head-to-head match. The second determination would be the fewest number of games lost in the head-to-head match. The third determination is by a coin toss by the head referee or his or her designee.

N. Individual Defaults. An individual default occurs when a player fails to appear at the time of the scheduled match or is defaulted by a tournament official for misconduct.

O. Scoring of Individual Defaults. The defaults described in Section 5(N) above will be scored as a 6-0, 6-0 win for the doubles team receiving the default and a 6-0, 6-0 loss for the doubles team that defaulted the match. In the event of a default by both opposing teams, both sides will be given a 6-0, 6-0 loss and neither receives credit for a win. If a double default results in a tie, the tiebreak procedures shall be the same as in 2.03H to determine a winner of that team match.

P. Team Defaults. A team must have a minimum of four players who are NTRP eligible to combine and compete and available to play in each match or the entire match must be defaulted. A team may default one position in a match without defaulting the entire match. The defaulted position shall be No. 3 Doubles.

Q. Scoring of Team Defaults. 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 Championship have already played the defaulting team in good faith, those matches stand as played.

R. Retirement. A retirement occurs when an individual match has started and a doubles team is unable to continue due to injury, loss of condition, or emergency.

S. Scoring of Retirements. In case of a retirement, the non-retiring doubles team shall be credited with such number of additional games as would have been won if the match was completed and the non-retiring doubles team won every subsequent game. For NTRP computer data entry, actual scores are required.

T. Competing in Section Championships. The USTA/Midwest Section does not require teams that compete at Section Championships to disperse the following league year.

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT FOR DISTRICT ROTATION OF USTA/MIDWEST SECTION USTA LEAGUE STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Section 1. Purpose

A sub-section championship, known as the State Championships, must be held if there are two or more district champions at any level. District championship teams cannot progress directly to the USTA/Midwest League Section Championship unless there are no other district champions to compete against at a State Championship. USTA/Midwest Section Districts have the responsibility to host these State Championships on a rotating basis, with Wisconsin, being the only district exempt from Section 2. Rotation Order.

In each state where there is more than one district, the USTA/Midwest Section shall establish a rotation schedule and guidelines for hosting the State Championship playoffs.

Section 2. Rotation Order

a.) Each district within the same state will host the following:

Adult 18 & Over and Adult 40 & Over Championship

Mixed 18 & Over, Mixed 40 & Over and Adult 55 & Over Championships in rotation. The Districts should follow this suggested rotation order if applicable:

- 1.) Illinois: Chicago, Mid-South Illinois, and Northern Illinois
- 2.) Indiana: Central Indiana and Northern Indiana
- 3.) Michigan: Northeast Michigan, Northern Michigan, Southeastern Michigan, and Western Michigan
- 4.) Ohio: Northeastern Ohio, Northwestern Ohio and Ohio Valley
- 5.) Wisconsin: does not apply

Section 3. Requirements

The designated district hosting the State Championship must submit the name and site to the USTA/Midwest Section office by February 1, of the year of the event and must adhere to the following requirements:

- a.) Submit a proposal in writing to the USTA/Midwest Section office by June 1, of the year of the event outlining the finances, team entry fees, hotel rates, room availability, court location and any other amenities.
- b.) State Championships must be concluded by Sunday evening of the weekend scheduled; therefore, back up indoor courts must be available

for the event.

- c.) The USTA District League Coordinator in conjunction with the USTA Section League Coordinator is responsible for the planning of the State Championships.
- d.) The USTA District League Coordinator or a qualified designee shall act as League Championship Director and form a championship committee including a USTA Certified Official. (See IV. A. National USTA League Regulations). It is highly recommended that a member of that committee has experience in tournament management. The names of the State Championship Committee must be submitted to the Section League Coordinator two weeks prior to the start of play for each such league.
- e.) The USTA/Midwest Section USTA League Committee reserves the right to deny the championship to a district if USTA/Midwest Section guidelines are not met.

Section 4. **Change in Rotation**

If a District cannot host a State Championship due to the minimum number of courts required for the championship, that District must inform the USTA/Midwest Section USTA League Coordinator in writing as follows:

- a.) If the District does not intend to host the State Championship, it must notify the USTA/Midwest Section USTA League Coordinator by January 31.
- b.) The District next in rotation will then be invited to host the State Championship. This new district should submit an answer with the name of a site by February 14 of the championship year or within 30 days upon receipt of notice from USTA/Midwest Section.

If the District does not participate in a USTA/Midwest Section USTA League Division that requires a State Championship, then the next participating district in the state rotation will host that specific league division.