



2019

## SOUTHWEST SECTION LEAGUE REGULATIONS

As of 08/24/18

### Changes/updates in Red

USTA NATIONAL LEAGUE REGULATIONS shall apply to all USTA Leagues played in the USTA Southwest Section; the Friend at Court shall apply to all matches played in USTA League matches; and in all matches played without officials, the USTA official publication, THE CODE, shall be observed. The USTA Point Penalty System shall be used at all championship levels. [www.usta.com/Play-Tennis/USTA-League/Information/Regulations/](http://www.usta.com/Play-Tennis/USTA-League/Information/Regulations/)

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

### **I. USTA ADULT AND MIXED LEAGUE DIVISIONS: (Applies to Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over, Mixed 18 & Over, and Mixed 40 and Over)**

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

#### **I. NTRP RATINGS**

- a. Participation in USTA Leagues:** All players registering for a USTA League team must enter with a valid NTRP rating or by self-rating in compliance with USTA National League Regulations.
- b.** The Section strongly encourages players to participate at their current NTRP level to ensure competitive match play. Players “playing up” are advised that by doing so, their NTRP year-end rating and those of their opponents may be inappropriately affected.
- c. Year-End Ratings/Automatic Appeals:** Captains and players are responsible for checking TennisLink for final year-end ratings. Except for championship benchmarked players (designated “B” rating), players who have been moved up or down may appeal by using the automated process available in TennisLink.
- d. Self-Rate Dynamic Disqualification:**
  - o NTRP Disqualification Occurring During District/Local League Competition:** Self-rated players who are promoted as a result of the NTRP Dynamic Disqualification will immediately be required to participate at their new NTRP level in all USTA League Programs. Self-rated players may be disqualified from playing at their registered skill level if their dynamic NTRP rating exceeds the level established by the National NTRP Committee (the strike level) three times during the championship year. **Scoring Procedures: OPTION:** In the event of a player receiving an NTRP Dynamic Disqualification, per USTA National Regulations, the Southwest Section will only reverse the last match that the Dynamically

Disqualified player earned a strike in and allow all other match results to stand as played. The last match that the player earned a strike in will be changed to a 6-0, 6-0 win for the opposing player or doubles team. Additionally, that player becomes ineligible for future play at that level for the remainder of the Championship Year and succeeding Championship Year.

Appeals will be only considered if an administrative error occurs. Computer rated and benchmark players are not subject to dynamic disqualification.

- **NTRP DQ Notification:** DQ reports are monitored by the Section League Coordinator daily, Monday through Friday, except holidays. Self-rated players receiving a Dynamic Disqualification will be notified before their next scheduled match, except in the case of a self-rated player participating in multiple matches on weekends or holidays. Such players should be aware that they may be disqualified upon receiving a “third strike” at any time, and the possibility of multiple DQ’s exists when playing multiple matches on weekends or holidays. (Example: Self-rated player “X” plays in a league match on Saturday and receives his 3<sup>rd</sup> strike; not aware of the DQ, he plays again the following day on Sunday in a league match. Both matches and all previous matches played at that level in that league will be taken away and scores reversed.)
- **NTRP Disqualification Occurring During Championship and Section Championship Competition OPTION:** The Southwest Section, in accordance with USTA Regulations, has chosen option 2.04B(2)b: Run Dynamic calculations following the conclusion of the championship and disqualify those players who meet the criteria for NTP Dynamic Disqualification. Matches played will stand. All points earned by dynamically disqualified players at the championship will stand but the disqualified player(s) will not be allowed to continue or advance.
- e. **Early Start Leagues/Year-End Rating Changes OPTION:** Per USTA National League Regulation 2.05B(3) Players participating in Early Start Leagues who are found to have valid computer ratings, after the appeal process, that place them above the NTRP level at which they are competing may continue their participation at the lower NTRP level through the conclusion of USTA Southwest Section Championships as long as they have not surpassed the clearly above level mark. However these players shall not be permitted to advance to any USTA League Tennis National Championship at the lower NTRP level.
- f. **Tournament (T) Exclusive NTRP Ratings:** The Southwest Section exercises its option NOT to calculate NTRP tournament results into the YEAR END NTRP Ratings.

g. **GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS:**

A filing fee of \$75.00 will be charged for all grievances submitted to the USTA Southwest Section League Grievance Committee. The fee will be refunded if the grievance is upheld or at the discretion of the USTA Southwest Section League Grievance Committee. The Filing Fee must accompany the grievance at its time of submission. All League Grievances will be processed in compliance with USTA National League Regulations.

- **NTRP Grievances:** All NTRP Grievances and Appeals apply only to self-rated players (S), and must be filed in compliance with USTA Regulation 3.03E & 3.04A [www.usta.com/Adult-Tennis/USTA-League/Information/Grievances/Note](http://www.usta.com/Adult-Tennis/USTA-League/Information/Grievances/Note): In addition to an inappropriately self-

rated player, Captains or others who condone inappropriate self-rating may be subject to possible sanctions, including disqualification, removal from a team, or suspension.

- h. **MEDICAL APPEALS:** All Medical Appeals must be filed in compliance with USTA National Regulations [http://assets.usta.com/assets/639/15/Medical%20Appeal%20Q\\_A\\_1.pdf](http://assets.usta.com/assets/639/15/Medical%20Appeal%20Q_A_1.pdf)
- i. **RECIPROCITY:** Upon discovery, the USTA Southwest will uphold and honor a valid sanction imposed upon a player from another USTA Section playing in USTA Southwest Leagues and/or Tournaments.
- j. **PICKLEBALL LINES:** The USTA Southwest Section will allow USTA League Matches to be played on courts with Pickleballs lines.

## II. DISTRICT / LOCAL LEAGUES / PLAYER PARTICIPATION

### a. Format:

- o The competition format for local competition shall be round robin as required by the District/Local League in compliance with USTA National League Regulation 2.01C(1).
- o Adult 55 & Over, Mixed 40 & Over are authorized by USTA to utilize “straight NTRP” or “combined NTRP” levels in local and Sectional Championships. Southwest Section exercises its OPTION to utilize combined NTRP levels.

b. **Match Scoring:** All league matches shall be the best of two tie-break sets with a match tie-break in lieu of the third set. The Coman Tie-break will be used in all tie-breaks. Use of any other match scoring method in a local league must be approved by the Section League coordinator in advance of the start date of a league.

c. **Team Captains/Responsibilities:** USTA Regulation 1.04B(5) requires that each team shall appoint a team captain to handle administrative affairs and to represent the team in USTA League matters. In addition, USTA Southwest describes the Captain’s duties as: The Captain, or their designee should make themselves familiar with league regulations, and must be present at all team matches to oversee team conduct and management, including, but not limited to, filling out and exchanging the scorecard, recording scores at completion of matches, and entering scores into TennisLink.

d. **Court Surface:** Each Captain must declare to the District League Coordinator in advance of the start of the season the court surface their team will play on for home team matches. All matches for that league season must be played on the surface declared for home matches, unless agreed upon by both Captains at least 24 hours prior to the start of the match.

### e. Playing on Multiple Teams:

- o Multiple Team Participation in the **same** NTRP Level: A player is prohibited from playing in more than one team in a NTRP level within a division in the **same** local league during the **same** season. [USTA Reg. 1.04G9(2)]
- o Multiple Team Participation in **different** NTRP Levels: USTA National League Regulations authorize sections to deny or accept participation in more than one NTRP level within a division in the **same** local league during the **same** season [USTA Reg. 1.04G(3)]. Southwest exercises its **option** to allow players to register on multiple teams within a Division (i.e. Mixed or Adult) provided they are **in DIFFERENT NTRP** levels. In the event that a player is “rostered” on multiple teams who qualify for Championship level play, schedule exceptions will not be considered by the Southwest Section. Example: A player may play on an Adult 18+ 3.0 team and an Adult 18+ 3.5 team in the same local league during the same season. (Players may play a level above their current NTRP rating, but not “down”).
- o Flighted Play: In local leagues where NTRP levels are divided into flights, players are prohibited from playing in more than one flight.

- A player **MAY** play on **more than one** team within a NTRP division in the **same** season provided it is in **DIFFERENT** District/Local Leagues. If the two teams meet at a championship level, the player must declare which team he/she intends to play for. Example: A player may play on a 3.0 team in NNM and a 3.0 team in GEPTA but must choose which team to play on in the Sectional Championships.
- f. **Scheduling:** Each District/Local League shall determine dates for their local league seasons which must fall within Sectional and National League Calendars. See Section Championship (Section III) for deadlines for completion of Local League types. There will be no scheduled USTA League play in a district that is running a concurrent USTA Southwest Section L1 Adult Tournament. Local League matches must be played according to the schedule published by the District's Local League Coordinator in TennisLink or on an earlier date under the mutual agreement of both captains.
- g. **Rescheduling of Matches:** Unless specified in each Districts' Local League regulations, matches should only be rescheduled under the following circumstances:
  - Inclement weather
  - Teams with players participating in USTA Southwest Section Championships
  - Teams with players participating in USTA National League Championships
  - Other circumstances specifically defined in the Districts Local League regulations.
- h. **Definition of a Local League for Two-Team Leagues:** Southwest Section expands the definition of a local league to include players from different areas in the SWS playing together as a team to make the two-team minimum at an NTRP level for league play. Districts may combine to form a local league when necessary.
- i. **Team Match:** {USTA League Regulation 2.01C(2)} 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 Sectional Association shall establish a procedure to determine the actions to take when the combination of individual match defaults given by the two teams in the team match results, or would result, in a situation where the majority of the individual matches would not be played. SWS requires that when both teams in a team match have defaults resulting in less than the minimum number of matches being played to constitute a "Team Match" they must, FIRST attempt to re-do their line-ups using the players available on site and play the match as scheduled, or, only if unable to do so, they must agree on a reschedule the match, in whole or in part, and notify the LLC (unless District Regulations prohibit rescheduling of matches).
- j. **Total 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 championships have already played the defaulting team in good faith, those matches stand as played. The Section may impose further penalties on said team. USTA Southwest provides that Local Leagues have the option to approve waivers for extenuating circumstances
- k. **District/Local Grievance Procedures:** District/Local grievance complaints shall be administered in compliance with USTA League Regulation 3.03
- l. **Refund Policy:** Each District shall determine their Local League refund policy.
- m. **DISTRICT / LOCAL LEAGUE REGULATIONS:** In addition to USTA and Southwest Section League Regulations, District/Local Leagues are authorized to adopt local league regulations which are not in conflict with USTA or SWS Regulations. District/Local League Regulations are:
  - Central Arizona District (CAZ ): <https://www.cazadulttennis.com/>
  - Greater El Paso District (GEPTA): [http://www.gepta.usta.com/USTA\\_League\\_Tennis/USA\\_League\\_Tennisin\\_El\\_Paso/](http://www.gepta.usta.com/USTA_League_Tennis/USA_League_Tennisin_El_Paso/)

- Northern Arizona (NAZ):  
[www.northernarizona.usta.com/USTA\\_League\\_Tennis/USTA\\_League\\_Regulations](http://www.northernarizona.usta.com/USTA_League_Tennis/USTA_League_Regulations)
- Northern New Mexico (NNM):  
[www.nnmta.usta.com/USTA\\_League\\_Tennis/League\\_Introduction](http://www.nnmta.usta.com/USTA_League_Tennis/League_Introduction)
- Southern Arizona (SAZ) : [www.saz.usta.com/saz\\_league\\_rules\\_2013](http://www.saz.usta.com/saz_league_rules_2013)
- Southern New Mexico (SNM):

### III. SOUTHWEST SECTION LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS

#### a. Progression:

- The method of Progression to Section Championships shall be determined in compliance with USTA National League Regulation 2.02 B(1). and 2.02 B(2).
- District Championships to determine qualifying teams are at the discretion of the District/Local League.
- USTA Southwest authorizes Area Championships when determined necessary.
- If a District/Local League team who qualifies to advance to Section Championships is unable or unwilling to participate, the second place team in the same division in the same local league will be invited to participate.

#### b. Local League Deadlines to Advance Teams to Section Championships: Each District/Local League shall determine dates for their local league seasons which must fall within the Sectional and National League Calendars. Deadlines for completion of Local League types are:

- Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over and Adult 65 & Over – four weeks prior to start of Section Championship.
- Mixed 18 & Over, Mixed 40 & Over – three weeks prior to start of Section Championships.

#### c. Entry Fee: An individual entry fee of \$30.00 per person will be charged to players who register for Section Championships (Plus BlueSignUp Fee).

#### d. Minimum Roster Requirements: Teams qualifying to advance to Section Championships must be able to field a complete roster for all matches scheduled in order to participate. If a team is not able to do so, the section shall invite the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team in the division from the District. A waiver to this rule may be submitted to the Section League Coordinator for consideration.

#### e. Team Registration: Team members are required to register online individually to be eligible for participation in Southwest Section Championships. In addition, the following Team Entry forms must be completed by the team Captain or their designee, and submitted by the established deadline to be eligible for their team to participate in Southwest Section League Championships

- Team Registration Form + \$100 refundable Team Deposit
- T-shirt order form, if applicable

#### f. Team Deposit: All teams advancing to Section Championships shall be required to submit a fully refundable \$100 security deposit (in form of a check) with the Team Registration Form. Security deposits shall be fully refunded teams who complete all Section Championship matches immediately following their last match. Teams that withdraw twenty-two (22) days in advance of the start of the tournament will be reimbursed their full security deposit and entry fee. Teams that withdraw within twenty-one (21) days of the start of the tournament and posting of the draw will forfeit their security deposit and entry fee. Teams that withdraw once the draw is posted will forfeit their security deposit, entry fee and are subject to a grievance filled by the Section League Coordinator.

#### g. Participation on more than one team at Section Championship: Players who qualify to advance to Section Championships on more than one team may participate on both teams, but no special consideration will be given to scheduling.

#### h. Format: All SWS League Championships will be run over a three-day period. Round Robin format will be utilized.

- i. **Match Scoring:** Southwest Section League Championship matches shall be the best of two Tie-break sets with a Match Tiebreak in lieu of the third set. The Coman Tie-break method will be used in all tie-break sets. The rest period between the 2<sup>nd</sup> set and the 3<sup>rd</sup> set Match Tiebreak is 2 minutes.
- j. **Event of a Team Match Tie:** USTA Regulation 2.03H. In the event of a tie, whether in round robin or single elimination completion, the tie shall be broken by the first of following procedures that do so:
  - 2.03H(1) Individual Matches: Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.
  - 2.03H(2) Head-to-Head. Winner of head-to-head match.
  - 2.03H(3) Sets. Loser of the fewest number of sets.
  - 2.03H(4) Games. Loser of the fewest number of games.
- k. **Coaching:** Coaching is NOT permitted at any time during league matches using a Match Tiebreak in lieu of the 3<sup>rd</sup> set.
- l. **Failure to Sign a Completed Scorecard:** If a team Captain or their designee fails to sign a completed scorecard and cannot be located to do so within 1 hour, the scorecard will be automatically confirmed.
- m. **Point Penalty System** will be utilized for all matches at Southwest Section League Championships.
- n. **Weather Delays:** In the event of a delay caused by rain or unplayable conditions at Section Championships, the Tournament Director may authorize tournament start times to be extended to 12-noon on the final day of play. If by 12-noon the Tournament Director determines that matches cannot be completed, all matches and results previously played will stand and final Championship results will be determined on those standings.
- o. **Conduct:** Players, teammates, spectators or coaches who interfere and/or are disruptive at matches are considered to have violated the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship required by the THE CODE. This includes conduct before, during and after completion of a match. Teammates, spectators, or coaches may not volunteer advice on line calls, scoring or on the conduct of the match. It is the responsibility of the teams to control their spectators' conduct at all matches. Violators are subject to grievance and/or penalties imposed by an Official and/or the Championship Tournament Grievance Committee.
- p. **Total Team Defaults:** The Southwest Section Championships (and the local leagues) shall adhere to the National League Regulation regarding Total Team Defaults (*2.03L: If a team defaults an entire team match for any reason during round robin play, then all matches of that team played, or to be played, shall be null and void when determining standings. If all teams in contention for the championships have already played the defaulting team in good faith, those matches stand as played. The Section may impose further penalties on said team.*)
- q. **Leaving Before Completion of Championship:** Teams leaving before completion of the Section Championship **MUST** obtain permission from the Tournament Director. Teams leaving without permission will forfeit their security deposit and are subject to a grievance, which may result in sanctions up to, but not including 12 months. (Sanctions shall be determined by the SWS League Championship Grievance Committee).
- r. **Photo I.D. Requirement:** All participants at Southwest Section Championships are required to provide photo identification when asked throughout the tournament.
- s. **Wildcard Opportunities at Sectionals:** At all USTA Southwest Section League Championship events, a wildcard team may be invited from qualifying local leagues when there are 3, 5, or 7 teams in any given flight. Any wildcard team must be comprised of a minimum of 60% rostered participants at level. If a wildcard team cannot meet this requirement, they must defer the Wildcard spot to the next District in the rotation. **If a District accepts or defers a wildcard offer, then that district will move to the bottom of the rotation for the following year. This rotation will apply to all levels within one Section Championship.** In the event that no wildcard **is offered** at any level for a given Section Championship, the district at the top of the rotation list will remain at the top of the rotation list until a wildcard is offered for that given championship. **Section Championships with 3 teams:** In the event there are only 3

teams in a NTRP level, and a wildcard team is not available to fill the 4<sup>th</sup> spot, the 3 teams will play a double round robin.

- **Emergency Wildcard:** In the event that a team withdraws from the Sectional Championships ten (10) days prior or less from the start of Championship play, the Wildcard Spot will be offered as per the published wildcard rotation schedule. Any team offered an Emergency Wildcard has 24 hours to accept or decline the wildcard. If they are not able to accept, the Adult Competitive Manger has the discretion to offer an Emergency Wildcard to a team from the host district where the Section Championship is held. The 60% At Level regulation will not be enforced to emergency wildcards nor will it affect the rotation order for the annual wildcard rotation.
- **55& Over Wildcard:** For Adult 55& Over only, for divisions with 4 teams, additional wildcard spots will be awarded if the following criteria is met:  
**For the individual division, there must be at least two (2) districts with local league seasons with a minimum of four (4) teams that participated in a valid local league.** In the event this requirement is met, two (2) second place teams from the districts with four (4) or more teams will be invited to attend the Section Championships as wildcards. Teams will be added per the published wildcard rotation schedule, increasing the division from four (4) teams to six (6) teams.
- **Mixed Doubles:** No wildcards will be offered for the 2019 Mixed Doubles Section Championships.

**2019 SWS LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP WILDCARD ROTATION SCHEDULE**

<i>Adult 18 and Over</i>	<i>Adult 40 and Over</i>	<i>Adult 55 and Over</i>
SAZ	GEPTA	NAZ
CAZ	NAZ	SAZ
GEPTA	NNM	GEPTA
NAZ	SAZ	SNM
SNM	SNM	NNM
NNM	CAZ	CAZ

- u. **SECTION CHAMPIONSHIP SITES:** SWS League Championship dates and locations shall be determined by the SWS League Committee, and are as follows (final date and facility information TBA on SWS website):

**2 YEAR AGREEMENT (2019 & 2020)**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>Adult 18+</b>	<b>Adult 40+</b>	<b>Mixed 18+ &amp; 40+</b>
2019 & 2020	NNM (Aug.)	NNM (May)	SAZ (Oct.)

**1 YEAR AGREEMENT (2016)**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>Adult 55+</b>	<b>Adult 65+</b>	<b>Tri-Level</b>
2019	GEPTA (Sept.)	CAZ (Dec.)	CAZ (Jan. of 2020)

- s. **First Aid:** Unmanned First-Aid Stations will be provided at each site at all Section Championships to treat minor injuries and health concerns. Players should monitor their own general health during matches and alert the tournament staff in case of an injury or a serious health issue requiring EMS.

- t. Officials:** At least 1 USTA Certified official will be present at USTA Southwest League Championships, additional officials may be added to Section Championships per the discretion of the USTA Southwest Section Director of Adult Competition.
  
- u. Section Championship Grievance Policy:** A filing fee of \$75.00 will be charged for all league grievances filed at SWS Section Championships. The fee will be refunded if the grievance is upheld, and retained by the section if the grievance is denied. All League Grievances filed at Section Championships will be processed in compliance with USTA National League Regulations.





## **SWS NON-ADVANCING APPROVED LEAGUE TYPES**

The USTA authorizes and encourages sections to offer other “Non-Advancing” League types and formats designed to offer existing league participants additional play opportunities, and/or target underserved areas or new markets. Non-Advancing leagues are not considered “National USTA Leagues” because that they are not subject to USTA National Regulations and USTA does not offer National Championship advancement. Sections may opt to offer local leagues and/or Sectional Championships for Non-Advancing leagues, and are authorized to regulate such league play as deemed appropriate. Southwest Section authorizes the following:

### **I. SWS OPEN LEAGUE**

#### **REGULATIONS**

1. Must be 18 years or older within the current Championship year.
2. Must be a current USTA member
3. Local League Format and Regulations will be determined by the Districts
4. If 2 or more teams advance from local leagues, Section Championships will be held at the same time as USTA Adult 18 & Over Section Championships
5. Open League team rosters advancing to Southwest Section Championships must be submitted to the Section League Coordinator by the established deadline.
6. If only one SWS team qualifies for Section Championships, they may advance directly to the privately run National Open League Invitational Tournament.

### **II. SWS TRI-LEVEL LEAGUE**

Tri-Level format is approved by the Southwest Section and is intended to provide an additional play opportunity for our members. Tri-Level Leagues are approved for all Districts, and are particularly suited to Districts, cities, and facilities with too few players to participate in regular USTA leagues. If you want to play with friends at different NTRP levels or if you are having a hard time getting enough people together to form a USTA League team, Tri-Level is for you. This socially competitive league is a great way to enjoy the camaraderie of friends in the ultimate team experience.

#### **REGULATIONS**

##### **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:**

1. **USTA Membership** required.
2. Participants must be **18 years or older** prior to or during the calendar year in which such player competes in his/her first local league match.
3. Each team must have a **captain** who is responsible for their team management.
4. The USTA Rules of Tennis and the USTA National League Regulations, the Friend at Court, and THE CODE shall apply except as amended and/or clarified in these regulations.

## LOCAL LEAGUES:

1. Local Leagues shall be **administered by the District League Coordinator**, must be set up in TennisLink and all match results must be posted on TennisLink.
2. **Early Start Leagues are NOT approved for Tri-Level:** Early Start Leagues are not an option for Tri-Level. Local leagues seasons scheduled in the fall shall be part of the current championship year and may not be scheduled as Early Start Leagues (rationale: the Section Championships and BNP Invitational occur in the following year). Players must use a current Year End Rating or be self-rated to register for a local league Tri-Level team. (Note: Due to restriction imposed by the BNP Invitational Championship disallowing self-rated players, the Southwest Section does not allow self-rated or early start players to advance to Tri-Level Section Championships)
3. **Local League NTRP Requirements:** **Players must have a valid USTA Membership and a valid USTA Year End NTRP Rating.**
4. **A Local League Format:** Local Leagues must consist of 2 or more teams in the women's and/or men's divisions. The local league may opt to play a traditional round robin league season; or may opt to play a team-based tournament format with men's and women's teams competing in a single elimination or round robin tournament.
5. **A team** shall consist of a minimum of 6 people of the same gender and should consist of a minimum of one doubles team in each of the designated NTRP levels (3.5, 4.0, and 4.5). Players are allowed to "play up" to form a doubles team, but may NOT "play down".
6. **A team match** will consist of 3 doubles matches played simultaneously (i.e. 3.5d, 4.0d, and 4.5d). With the approval of the Section League Coordinator, Districts may opt to add an additional NTRP level to local league format (i.e. add 3.0 and play 4 doubles), however, only 3.5, 4.0, and 4.5 (3 doubles matches) NTRP divisions will be eligible to advance to Section Championships.
7. No more than a 1.0 differential in the NTRP rating of the players of each doubles team is allowed.
8. **Match scoring** will be best 2-Tie-Break Sets with a Match Tie-Break in lieu of the third set. The Coman Tiebreak Procedure will be used in all Tie-Breaks.
9. **A Team Win** will be awarded to the team winning 2 out of 3 individual matches. (Districts who opt to include additional NTRP divisions will determine winners by alternate method approved by the SLC)
10. **Advancement to Section Championships:** Local League winners in the men's and women's divisions will advance to the SWS Section Tri-Level Championship Tournament. Players are required to play a **minimum of two matches during the local league season with 1 default counting** to be eligible to play at the Tri-Level Section Championships.

## SWS SECTION TRI-LEVEL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

1. **Players must have a valid USTA Membership and a valid USTA Computer (C) rating by the end of the year in which they played their local league to be eligible to participate in the Section Championship. (See 2B for clarifications)**
2. **Section Championship NTRP Requirements:**
  - a. **Self-Rated Players:** **Players who do not earn a Computer (C) rating prior to the Section Championships are NOT eligible to advance to the SWS Tri-Level Championships. (NOTE: Due to regulations imposed by the privately run BNP Paribas Tri-Level Invitational Championship Tournament)**
  - b. **NTRP Computer Rating Requirements:** **Only Year End NTRP Computer (C) Rated players may advance to Section Championships. Players may use their current existing Computer Rating or the Computer rating earned at the end of the year.**
    - A 2018 computer rated 3.5 player who gets bumped up at year-end to a 2019 computer rated 4.0 may play at the 3.5 level.
    - A 2018 computer rated 4.0 player who gets bumped down at year-end to a 2019 computer rated 3.5 must play at the 4.0 level.
    - A 2019 self-rated (S), mixed (M) or appealed (A) 3.5 rated player who earns a year-end 2019 computer (C) rating must play at their year-end 2018 computer generated level.
    - NO S, T, M, or A ratings will be eligible to advance to the Section Championship. All players must have Computer (C) ratings.
3. **Date and location:** Southwest Section Tri-Level Championship shall be held in January of the following year in which the local leagues were played. Location TBD by the Section League Coordinator. The championship event will be run over a maximum of three days.

4. **Minimum Roster Requirements:** Teams qualifying to advance to the Tri-Level Section Championships must be able to field a complete roster for all matches scheduled in order to participate. If a team is not able to do so, the section shall invite the 2nd place team. If the second place team cannot participate then a wildcard shall be offered, if necessary.
5. **Wildcard Opportunities:** A wildcard team may be invited from qualifying local leagues when there are 3, 5, or 7 teams in any given flight. Any wildcard team must be comprised of a minimum of 60% rostered participants at level. If a wildcard team cannot meet this requirement, they must defer the Wildcard spot to the next District in the rotation. **If a District accepts or defers a wildcard offer, then that district will move to the bottom of the rotation for the following year. This rotation will apply to all levels within one Section Championship.** In the event that no wildcard **is offered** at any level for a given Section Championship, the district at the top of the rotation list will remain at the top of the rotation list until a wildcard is offered for that given championship. The Wildcard Rotation is as follows: **2019 Championship- NAZ, SNM, NNM, SAZ, GEPTA &CAZ.**
  - a. **Emergency Wildcard:** In the event that a team withdraws from the Sectional Championships ten (10) days prior or less from the start of Championship play, the Wildcard Spot will be offered as per the published wildcard rotation schedule. Any team offered an Emergency Wildcard has 24 hours to accept or decline the wildcard. If they are not able to accept, the Adult Competitive Manger has the discretion to offer an Emergency Wildcard to a team from the host district where the Section Championship is held. The 60% At Level regulation will not be enforced to emergency wildcards nor will it affect the rotation order for the annual wildcard rotation.
6. **Format:** Round robin.
7. **Entry Fee:** Teams players shall be required to pay a \$30 entry fee to help defray costs.
8. **Section Champions** USTA Regulation 2.03H. In the event team match of a tie, whether in round robin or single elimination completion, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that do so:
  - 2.03H(1) Individual Matches: Winner of the most individual matches in the entire competition.
  - 2.03H(2) Head-to-Head. Winner of head-to-head match.
  - 2.03H(3) Sets. Loser of the fewest number of sets.
  - 2.03H(4) Games. Loser of the fewest number of games
9. **Advancement Opportunity:** The winning men's team and the winning women's team (3.5, 4.0, and 4.5) will be the USTA Southwest Section Tri-Level Champions and may be invited to represent the SWS at the BNP Paribas Tri-Level Championships Tournament in Indian Wells, CA in March. NOTE: BNP Paribas Tri-Level Championship is not a USTA event, but rather a **privately run tournament**. Tournament rules and regulations are at the discretion of the PNB tournament director and are subject to change.
10. **Move-up/Split-up Rule:** Move-up/Split-up will not apply to the Tri-Level Championships. All waivers must be submitted one month prior to the Section Championship.
11. More information about the BNP Tri-Level Championships can be found by contacting the Southwest Section Coordinator.

### **III. SWS 65 & OVER LEAGUE**

#### **REGULATIONS**

1. The USTA Friend at Court, Rules and Regulations of Tennis including THE CODE, and the USTA League Regulations shall apply except as amended and/or clarified by these regulations.
2. **USTA Membership** required.
3. **Valid NTRP computer or self-rating** is required with TennisLink.
4. The matches must be set up through TennisLink and all results posted there.
5. Each team must have a **captain** who is responsible for their team registration on TennisLink.
6. Participants must **be 65 years or older** prior to or during the calendar year in which such player competes in his/her first local league match.

7. **A team** shall consist of a minimum of 6 people of the same gender.
8. **The format** will be “Combo NTRP” format (doubles teams of combined NTRP levels of 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, etc. with no more than 1 point spread).
9. A **team match** shall consist of 3 doubles matches.
10. **Match format** will be best 2-out-of-3 tiebreak sets with a Match 10 point tiebreak in lieu of the 3<sup>rd</sup> set. Coman Tiebreak Procedure will be used in all tie-breaks.
11. A **Local League** must consist of 2 or more teams in a division and shall be administered by the District Local League Coordinator.
12. Each division within a local league shall play a traditional **round robin** wherein every team plays every other team. Divisions may be divided into flights and each team shall play every other team in its flight, and flight winners may enter a playoff structure determined by the District.
13. Players must have played a minimum of two matches with one default being allowed to count toward qualification.
14. The Southwest Section exercises its option that Sectional Championship winners will NOT be required to **move up or split up** as required by the USTA League Rules and Regulations for 18 Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over and Mixed.

#### **SWS SECTION LEAGUE INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP REGULATIONS:**

1. At such time that there are more than 2 Districts local leagues qualifying teams to advance, the Southwest Section will offer Section Championships
2. **Section Invitational Championship.** Districts that run a local league will be eligible to send 2 teams to participate in the Section Invitational. Districts that are unable to run a local league will be eligible to send 1 team. (Note: To be considered for the event, a team must be able to field all courts within .5 of the playing level. Ex. For a 7.0 league, all qualifying combos must be at least 6.5)
3. To be eligible to participate at the USTA Southwest 65 and Over Section League Invitational Championship all players must have a valid USTA membership, a current NTRP rating and must meet the minimum match requirement.
  - a. Players must have played a minimum of two matches with one default being allowed to count toward qualification. Teams and/or players who do not meet the minimum match requirements may submit a waiver for consideration to the Section Waiver Committee.
  - b. Teams must have a minimum of six players eligible and available to participate in all scheduled matches of the Championship.
4. The championship will be run over a maximum of three days.
5. Location of the championship is to be determined, and may be held in conjunction with an existing League Championship event.
6. The event will be conducted similar to existing section championships, but with a more social atmosphere.
7. Section League Coordinator will run the section championship event with the assistance of the Local League Coordinators fielding teams to the Sectional Championships.
8. A player registration entry fee will be charged to help defray costs.
9. Round Robin format.
10. Section Championship winners shall be eligible to advance to the League 65+ Invitational event held in the first quarter of the following year.