



SOUTHERN

2023 NTRP FAQs

The USTA Southern Section Adult League Committee's mission is to offer the best league programs in the country to the members of the USTA Southern Section.

The league committees at the national, sectional and state levels weigh many choices in the effort to balance fairness and maintain the integrity of the NTRP levels in league tennis.

KEY INFORMATION:

- When Year-end ratings are calculated, 6-0, 6-0 matches will be included.
- Players who participate in leagues using their published Year-end Computer Ratings are not subject to Dynamic Disqualification.
- Players with published Year-end Computer Ratings that are derived from Championship results (national) are not eligible to appeal their published year-end ratings
- Players with Tournament Ratings or Mixed Doubles Exclusive Ratings will be required to self-rate when registering for an Adult League Type.
- Ratings resulting from a Medical Appeal or granted automatic appeals (down) are subject to Dynamic Disqualification.
- Adult 18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over and Mixed 18 & Over teams that qualified for any National Championship the previous year are subject to the "Move-up-Split-up" regulation (see Reg. 2.06A).
- Medical appeals may be approved only by a National Appeals Committee.

Match Reversals:

- Self-rated players are allowed to "self-rate" to enter the program. The USTA League program is a well-established league that is over 35 years old. As a first year "self-rated" player, in an effort to ensure fairness to players that have been playing in the program, you are subject to disqualification. **In Southern, this will require you to immediately stop participating on any team at your current level, but all matches will stand as played.** We are strongly encouraging new players who feel they may be near the top of a level, to play up to avoid a possibly very unhappy disqualification experience for you and your team. Captains must ask about prior tennis history when recruiting new players to USTA League Tennis. The USTA Southern Section strongly believes that this requirement will greatly reduce the number of self-rate grievances.

It is the current policy of the USTA to publish NTRP ratings only in half-point levels (3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, etc). NTRP ratings are intended to indicate the player's minimum level for registration, not to finitely measure one player against another, or to use for strength alignment within a team.

The NTRP system calculates current ratings based on the ratings that the players have generated coming into a match combined with the results of that match. A player's rating may go up or down as the season progresses and so might the ratings of partners and opponents. Ratings are not stand-alone measurements; they must be considered in relation to other NTRP information to which they are linked.

The NTRP is designed to provide:

1. A system of measuring current skill levels that will give tennis players a quantitative assessment of his/her general ability. This enables players with similar skills or abilities to easily arrange compatible and competitive play.
2. A system to manage placement of players within NTRP levels and formats to promote generally level competition in various leagues and tournaments.

Many factors of play cannot be reflected in NTRP calculations, such as:

- Physical condition of players at time of match
- Court conditions: sun, wind, temperature
- Styles of play
- Preferences of surface
- Strengths of players: physical, mental, strategy
- Players playing the “match of their life”
- Players playing far below current skill level

This emphasizes the necessity to address ratings in ranges, not as an absolute number that specifically identifies a level at a particular time.

The system using NTRP levels as a range to manage play has been extremely successful in the last 35+ years. We believe that providing ratings in tenths or hundredths can be misleading and can also lead to manipulation of match results. For these reasons we do not provide NTRP information more detailed than that now available.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

What is a dynamic rating?

- A dynamic rating is a rating that is calculated daily during Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over and Adult 55 & Over league play based on match scores and player ratings.

What is a benchmark rating?

- A computer rating for a player using a combination of their dynamic rating and their rating derived at championships.

What is a year-end rating?

- Once benchmarks have been established, a year-end rating is assigned by the computer based on the average of all Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over, Adult 65 & Over league play and NTRP Tournament results.

What is a mixed-exclusive rating?

- A year-end rating for the player that played only mixed doubles.

What data is not used to calculate year-end ratings?

- Combo Doubles
- Tri-Level League
- Non USTA Leagues/Fun Leagues/Flex Leagues
- Non-Sanctioned Tournaments
- Retired match if neither player/doubles team has won 6 games.

Who sees the changes in dynamic ratings?

- Only the section NTRP Administrator reviews the NTRP information daily in TennisLink.

How does the computer calculate a dynamic rating?

- Computerized ratings are affected by the score of a match as well as your partner’s and your opponent’s dynamic NTRP rating. Based on player dynamic ratings at the start of a match, the NTRP algorithm expects a particular outcome of a match. The actual outcome is then compared to the expected outcome and, as a result, a player’s dynamic rating adjusts up or down (or there is no change, if the outcome was as expected.) Computerized ratings are not directly affected by what position you played, your actual number of wins and losses, age, or team standing.

When calculating dynamic ratings, does the computer treat doubles partners differently?

- Whatever mathematical difference that existed between partners at the beginning of a match is maintained at the end of the match. For example if partners’ ratings were two-tenths of a point apart at the beginning of a match (3.3 and 3.1), then they will remain two-tenths of a point apart at the end of the match (3.5 and 3.3).

How will I receive a 2023 year-end rating (computer rating)?

- Player will generate if he/she played in a minimum of 3 calculated Adult League matches (Adult 18/40/55/65 & Over) and/or NTRP tournament matches between the middle of November 2022 and the middle of November 2023. A minimum of 1 Adult League match is required to generate a “C” rating, otherwise, player will generate a “T” rating.
- Player who exclusively plays Mixed Doubles (Mixed 18/40 & Over in at least 3 calculated matches between the middle of November 2022 and the middle of November 2023 will receive a year-end mixed exclusive rating.

What are the ways a player can be disqualified/promoted mid-year?

- During Adult 18 & over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over local league competition and at every level of championship competition below national championships, computer ratings will be calculated for all players and an evaluation will be made to determine if any self-rated (S) players have reached the disqualification level (a strike) or players who are currently playing on an appealed computer rating (A). Self-rated (S) or appealed (A) players will be disqualified if they reach the disqualification level three times based on all matches reported. Such disqualification procedures will also apply to players who have medical appeals granted to a level lower than published rating.
- If a new player who self-rates to enter a league program has an NTRP Grievance filed against him or her, and it is upheld by the Section NTRP Grievance Committee the player will be disqualified.
- A player is promoted when they hit three strikes for their self-rating but are playing at a higher level. A player may continue to play at the higher level without penalty and must register for all subsequent leagues at the newly assigned level.

If a player is disqualified, what is the notification procedure?

- The Section NTRP Administrator will notify the State League Coordinator (or designee) who will then notify the player, captain and LLC. The Southern Section does not reverse matches in the local standings, so they just change the player's rating in TennisLink.

What happens when a player is disqualified during local league play?

- In the Southern Section, if a player with a self-rating (S), which includes a player receiving a medical appeal or an appealed computer rating (A) is disqualified for that particular level of play, all matches played by that individual player shall stand, but the player is no longer eligible to play at that level.

What are the disqualification procedures for Playoffs/Championships?

- Once a player has finished play within their local league round robin without disqualification, the player is eligible to play all matches in their local playoff. USTA Southern Section NTRP Administrator will review reports through TennisLink on the day after the local playoffs are completed. Players eligible for disqualification who hit a third strike during the playoffs will be notified that they are not eligible to advance to the State Championships. The same process occurs the day after the State Championship and again after the Sectional Championships. Points earned by disqualified players during local playoffs, State or Sectional Championships will stand.

Does playing up increase your chances of being disqualified or moved up at the end of the year to the higher level?

- Remember ratings are calculated based on individual player ratings and match scores not the division being played. So, your rating depends on who you play and how competitive you are. If you play higher rated players and are competitive, then your rating may increase. When playing a higher division you are more likely to play higher rated players, therefore you could increase your rating.

Who may appeal their year-end rating?

- Any player may appeal except for those who participated in a National League Championship.

Why are most medical appeals denied?

- Very few medical appeals should be granted, as it is usually better to let the computer determine the NTRP Skill Level based on actual match play. Most orthopedic injuries are denied as surgery typically improves mobility and arthritic conditions are typically progressive rather than traumatic in nature. Many adult/senior players will experience at least one orthopedic condition/injury during their tennis career. Please review the USTA Medical Appeals Procedures at leagues home page at southerntennis.com.

How do I appeal my year-end rating?

- All year-end appeals are processed through Tennislink by the player. You must go to the Tennislink home-page and login. Once you are logged in, you will see your NTRP Level and rating date. Below that you will see a link to "Appeal Rating Level." Click on that and you will be taken to the appeal page and can then appeal your rating. You will get an instant reply letting you know if the request is granted or denied.

What is an "early start" league season?

- Any league season that starts registration for the following championships year prior to the December publication of year-end ratings.

What rating is used to register for "early start" leagues?

- Players will use their most recent published year-end rating or their current self-rating to register for an "early start" league.

Combo Doubles Sectional Championships are scheduled to be played after current year-end ratings are published. May a player use the rating on roster if their year-end rating is higher or lower?

- Regardless of a player's 2023 year-end rating prior to the Sectional Championship, he/she must use the rating listed on the Tennislink roster.