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## 2021 MAINE LOCAL USTA LEAGUE REGULATIONS

Women, Men and Mixed v2

### 1. GENERAL

- 1.1. The following regulations shall be known as the Maine Local USTA League Regulations.
- 1.2. The Maine Local USTA League Regulations are supplemental and subordinate to the National and Sectional USTA League Regulations. Captains and players are responsible for reviewing all regulations.
- 1.3. The Maine State League Committee (St LC) will vote on Maine policy and regulation changes. Any player interested in participating on this committee should contact their league coordinator. Captains from the prior Championship Year may vote on policy and regulation changes specific to local league play for all divisions at the beginning of the current Championship Year in September for Tri-level and Mixed 40 & Over, and in November for the Mixed 18 & Over, Mixed 55 & Over, Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over, and Adult 65 & Over. The Championship Year begins September 1<sup>st</sup> and ends August 31<sup>st</sup>.
- 1.4. Proposals for regulation changes must be submitted by email on the official USTA Regulation/Change Proposal form to the league coordinator [me-league@newengland.usta.com](mailto:me-league@newengland.usta.com) by May 1<sup>st</sup> for review and consideration in the local rules for the following Championship Year. The St LC will review and evaluate all proposals. Those proposals accepted are subject to amendment and will be voted on by the appropriate party - refer to regulation 1.3.
- 1.5. In the event of a vote by captains, the procedure will be as follows: Information pertaining to any proposed regulations will be emailed in advance of the start of the league Championship Year to the captains of the previous year and any captain from the current year who submits their email address to the coordinator. Discussion of proposed regulations will be addressed during a recorded virtual or in person captains meeting. A voting ballot will be emailed electronically and must be returned completed by the required deadline. One vote is granted to each team that is registered for the current Championship Year.
- 1.6. All changes to the current regulations will be underlined.
- 1.7. All league dates including the timeline, deadlines (e.g., Captains Meetings, Team Commitment Form, Player Registration), coordinator and committee contact information for all Divisions and Age Groups will be published on the MTA website [www.mainetennis.org](http://www.mainetennis.org). Click USTA Adult Leagues on the toolbar.
- 1.8. Sportsmanship is a primary component of local league play. If any individual demonstrates behavior that could be interpreted as unsportsmanlike or which appears to reflect unfavorably on Maine Local USTA League, such player may be subject to sanctions that range up to suspension from participation in league play.

### 2. LOCAL LEAGUE

- 2.1. **Match Format:** will consist of the following positions with no repeats:
  - 2.1.1. Adult 18 & Over: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5 - 2 singles and 3 doubles match with no repeats
  - 2.1.2. Adult 18 & Over: 2.5 and 5.0 - 1 singles and 2 doubles match with no repeats
  - 2.1.3. Adult 40 & Over: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5 - 1 singles and 3 doubles match with no repeats
  - 2.1.4. Adult 55 & Over and Adult 65 & Over: 6.0, 7.0, 8.0 and 9.0 - 3 doubles match with no repeats
  - 2.1.5. Mixed 18 & Over: 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0 and 10.0 - 3 doubles match with no repeats
  - 2.1.6. Mixed 40 & Over and Mixed 55 & Over: 6.0, 7.0, 8.0 and 9.0 - 3 doubles match with no repeats
- 2.2. **Player Participation:** A player may participate at more than one NTRP level within a division (adult or mixed) and age group (18 & Over, 40 & Over, 55 & Over, 65 & Over) in the same local league during the same season. A player can only play at or .5 above their NTRP level of play except:
  - 2.2.1. The minimum NTRP for combined levels for 6.0 for 2.5; 7.0 is 3.0; 8.0 is 3.5; 9.0 is 4.0.
- 2.3. **Eligibility:**
  - 2.3.1. To be eligible to play for a team, each player must be a USTA member and such membership must extend through the end of the local season.
  - 2.3.2. Minimum Age Requirement: Players must be 18 years of age prior to participating in the USTA League program. Each player over the age of 18 shall have reached the required minimum age within the Championship Calendar Year; 18 (Mixed 18 & Over and Adult 18 & Over), 40 (Mixed 40 & Over and Adult 40 & Over), 55 (Mixed 55 & Over and Adult 55 & Over), and 65 (Adult 65 & Over).
  - 2.3.3. Each player must be registered on his or her team roster on TennisLink before playing a match. The league coordinator reserves the right to decide on exceptions.

- 2.3.4. Each player must have a valid computer NTRP rating or must self-rate. A player cannot self-rate if he/she has a valid computer rating. A new player will be prompted to complete a questionnaire as part of the team registration and self-rate process. Upon completion of the questions the player will be assigned a self-rate and can choose to self-rate at a higher level. If the assigned self-rate is higher than what the player had intended to self-rate at, the player may file an electronic appeal.
- 2.3.5. For combined level leagues, players must comply with the combined level of that team's NTRP level of play. A maximum of 1-point difference in NTRP levels is allowed between partners.
- 2.3.6. A player must complete 3 matches from a prior season's play in order to generate a Year End NTRP computer rating.
- 2.3.7. **Championship Eligibility:**
- 2.3.7.1. A player is eligible to progress to championship level competition if that player has played on that same team in at least two (2) matches during its local league season. A maximum of one default received during local league competition may be counted. A retired match shall count for all players involved.
- 2.3.7.2. Each player should inform their captains of their intentions if they are eligible to advance on multiple teams in the same division and age group. In the event of a conflict, and if the player did not inform all parties then the player will advance with the team, they registered for first.
- 2.3.7.3. When a player plays for a team at a championship event, the player cannot play for more than one team in the same Division, Age Group and NTRP level.
- 2.3.7.4. A Computer Rated player is eligible to advance to national championship competition if that player has played on that same team in at least three (3) matches through Sectional Championships. One default may be counted. The required three (3) matches may be played during local league competition or in combination with New England USTA League championships. A retired match shall count for all players involved.
- 2.3.7.5. All Self-Rated and Valid Computer Rated Appealed players are eligible to progress to National Championship competition if that player has played on the same team in at least (4) four matches at the same NTRP level in the same Age Group during its local league season and is otherwise eligible. No defaults received by the player during local league or championship competition shall count for advancing. The required (4) four matches may be played during local league competition or in combination with New England USTA League championships. Retired matches shall count toward advancing for all players involved in both USTA League Adult and Mixed Divisions.
- 2.3.7.6. Teams from another local area within New England that have qualified for and accepted an invitation to play at a championship and then register to play in a Maine league must notify the Maine league coordinator of that acceptance on the Team Commitment Form when registering that team in a Maine league. A team who receives a championship invitation after the start of the Maine League must immediately notify the league coordinator upon accepting such invitation.
- 2.4. **Fees & Balls:**
- 2.4.1. Each player will be assessed a fee of \$23 upon registration on TennisLink.
- 2.4.2. Match fees are paid directly to the home club by each player. The match fee is \$22 per match per player for 5 and 4 court matches which include singles (Adult 18 & Over and 40 & Over). The match fee for 3 court matches is \$18 per match per player for 3 court matches (Adult 55 & Over, 65 & Over and all Mixed Age Groups).
- 2.4.3. The captain or designated person will complete the player form listing the names of players who are scheduled to play in each match and provide the list to the club's front desk person prior to the start of the first match.
- 2.4.4. Standard Type 2 USTA approved yellow tennis balls shall be provided by the facility where matches are played and are covered in the match fee.
- 2.5. **In – Level NTRP Requirements:** Teams who do not meet these requirements will be deemed ineligible. The St LC chair in conjunction with the league coordinator reserve the right to approve any exceptions.
- 2.5.1. **Adult 18 & Over and Adult 40 & Over Age Groups:**
- 2.5.1.1. A team consists of 8 players at the 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, and 4.5 NTRP levels. Teams must have a minimum of 8 players on their roster and of those players 6 players must be at their published NTRP level of play by the declared registration deadline to be eligible as a valid team.
- 2.5.1.2. A team consists of 5 players at the 2.5 and 5.0 NTRP levels. Teams must have a minimum of 5 players on their roster by the declared registration deadline to be eligible as a valid team. NTRP levels 2.5 and 5.0 do not have an in-level requirement.
- 2.5.2. Adult 55 & Over and 65 & Over, must have a minimum of (6) six players eligible to compete as (3) three pairs at their team's NTRP level of competition on their roster by the player registration deadline.
- 2.5.3. Mixed 18 & Over, 40 & Over, and 55 & Over must have a minimum of (6) six players (3 men and 3 women) eligible to compete as 3 (three) pairs at the team NTRP level of competition on their roster by the player registration deadline.

- 2.5.4. Failure to meet the deadline for player registration may render the team ineligible to participate in the current Championship year.
- 2.5.5. There are no in-level requirements for combined rating leagues.
- 2.6. **Timelines:** Deadlines for each of the following items will be published on the MTA website. Refer to Regulation 1.7. Exceptions to any deadline must be approved by the St LC chair in conjunction with the league coordinator.
  - 2.6.1. **Team Commitment Form:** Team Commitment Forms must be submitted electronically to the league coordinator by the deadline date published on the Maine local league timeline sheet for each specific league. The link for the Team Commitment Form will be emailed to clubs and captains and will be available on the Maine League website. Each team must have a captain and co-captain (if applicable) designated on the form. The league coordinator must be notified immediately of any changes to the captain's name as listed on the commitment form.
  - 2.6.2. Players may be removed from a team roster by agreement of captain and player and only if the player has not played a match. The league coordinator will 'drag' the player to a different team to avoid additional registration fees.
  - 2.6.3. **Local League Season:** Matches cannot be re-scheduled after the end of the season unless approved by the league coordinator. Any team that is not in contention by way of themselves or other teams they have yet to play can request a waiver to extend their match(s) to one week later than the designated end of local league season date.
- 2.7. **Attire:**
  - 2.7.1. If a host club has dress code requirements those requirements must be adhered to by all players, home team and visitors. It is the responsibility of the captain using the facility as a home court to notify all their scheduled opponents of those requirements prior to the beginning of season play.
  - 2.7.2. Appropriate tennis attire (including shirts) and tennis shoes must be worn during the USTA League matches. Abdomens must be covered. A sport bra without an over shirt or an over shirt tucked up under the sport bra is not acceptable. Failure to comply may result in immediate default and may include sanctioning from USTA League play.
- 2.8. **Electronic Devices:**
  - 2.8.1. The use of any electronic device (includes cell phones, wearable technology) during warm-up or match play is considered coaching. Wearable Tech must be set on airplane mode or silent equivalent.
  - 2.8.2. A point is lost each time a device rings during match play.
    - 2.8.2.1 If a cell phone/text message sounds during play, the point is awarded to the opponent.
    - 2.8.2.2 If a cell phone/text message sounds before or between points, the next point is awarded to the opponent.
- 2.9. **Comfort Pets:** The home club and captain must be notified in advance of a scheduled match and approval must be given for a pet to be in the club and/or on the court during match play.

### 3. MATCH REGULATIONS

- 3.1. Team captains must turn in their **line-ups** to the site director for their entire team match before the start of the first match. After the first match of the day line-ups are due 30 minutes before the scheduled match time. All players must be on site and ready to play 30 minutes before the schedule match time. If matches are scheduled back-to-back both line-ups are required before the first match. No substitution may be made in an individual match after the line-up exchange except for injury during warm-up. Captains must designate another player on the team to submit the complete line-up in their absence.
- 3.2. **Warm-up time limit:** 10 minutes, including serves begins at the scheduled time the match is to be played.
- 3.3. **Tardiness:** The point penalty system will be enforced as follows: Penalties begin at the scheduled time of the match: Late 5 minutes or less, loss of toss plus one game; 5:01 to 10 minutes late, loss of toss plus two games; 10:01 to 15 minutes late, loss of toss plus three games; at 15:00:01 minutes late, the player is defaulted. A defaulted match is considered a 6-0, 6-0 win for the player(s) present. If the player arrives after 5 minutes past the scheduled start time but before the default time, the player is to receive a 5-minute injury prevention warm-up. Appeals of a defaulted match based on lateness must be submitted on the official grievance form to the local grievance committee. Refer to section 4 Grievances.
- 3.4. Players should determine before the start of the match whether to **change ends** on the odd games. USTA regulations state that if 1-person requests to switch on odd games, then all players will do so on that court. If players choose to not change ends on the odd games during the set, then they will not change ends during any tiebreak.
- 3.5. **Curtains** or netting between courts will be open or closed based on club policy.
- 3.6. Coaching is not allowed which includes talking, signals, gestures, interactions with or comments by or to any other person other than players on your court.
- 3.7. Each match will be played until completed; there is no time limit. The teams must be on site at the facility 30 minutes before the scheduled match time. After the first scheduled match of any day subsequent matches

may begin up to 30 minutes before the scheduled match time.

### **3.8. Match Scoring Format:**

- 3.8.1. Scoring will be the best of two sets using ad scoring with a 7-Point Set Tiebreak (1st to 7 by 2) at 6-6 in each set. In the event of split sets, a 10-Point Match Tiebreak (1st to 10 by 2) shall be played in lieu of a third set. The Coman Tiebreak procedure will be applied in all tiebreak; players will change ends of the court after the first point and every 4 points thereafter.
- 3.8.2. Play will be continuous throughout the match. There is no rest after the 1<sup>st</sup> game of any set but players will change ends if players agreed to change ends prior to the start of the match (refer to regulation 3.4). A 2-minute set break between sets may be taken if requested by any player on the court. A 10-Point Match Tiebreak is counted as a game won and a set won.
- 3.8.3. TennisLink requires a declared winner for every individual match played. Players must agree on a match winner prior to leaving the court. If the players cannot agree on the winner and neither team has a copy of the local regulations with them on the court, the match will be declared a double default.

### **3.9. How the winner of a flight will be determined:**

Each position of a team will be awarded 1 point per position win. The team that has the most team wins at the end of the season is the flight winner. The TennisLink registration and score reporting system will be used to record match results. The Maine Local USTA League will use the "Team Score" column to determine team standings. In the event of a tie at the end of the season refer to Regulation 7.5. If team positions are tied for a 4-court match, the team that wins the #1 doubles position will be declared the winner of the match.

### **3.10. Entering Scores & Scorecards:**

At the conclusion of the match, both captains must verify the correctness of the score sheet, sign the bottom and keep a copy for their records. If a grievance is filed for a match and captains have not complied with this regulation the St LC can render the grievance null and void. Match results must be entered and confirmed (or disputed) on TennisLink, within 48 hours of the match. Either the home or visiting captain can enter the match results first. After match results have been entered the 2<sup>nd</sup> captain must confirm or dispute the match information. Any team not complying with this requirement will lose their right to dispute their match results. TennisLink will confirm matches 48 hours after the match results have been entered. Do not wait until the last minute in the event of unforeseen situations or other conflicts.

- 3.10.1. If a match is disputed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> captain, that captain must notify the league coordinator and provide the match #, the disputed position, the names of the players involved and the match score. The league coordinator will resolve the issue accordingly or direct it to the appropriate entity for resolution, such as the Grievance Committee or the St LC chair.
- 3.10.2. If all positions of a match are not played or matches are started but not finished (ex: match had to be stopped before completion due to weather or unforeseen circumstances) on the same date, the finished matches should be entered on TennisLink. The positions that are unfinished or have not been played should be entered as a double default. The captain must notify the league coordinator, on the date of the originally scheduled match, of any rescheduled or incomplete matches. After the remaining positions have been completed both captains must email the league coordinator and provide the coordinator with the match number, position played, players' names, date played, match results and which team won the match. The league coordinator will make all updates to the TennisLink score sheet.
- 3.10.3. If enough positions were not played (exception to 3.10.2.), both captains must notify the league coordinator, on the date of the originally played match, and provide the match number, position played, players' names, match scores and which team won the match. As the remaining positions are completed both captains must provide the league coordinator with the match number, player names, position played, date played and match results. The league coordinator will make all updates to the TennisLink score sheet.

### **3.11. For stoppage of play due to weather or other circumstances beyond the control of the players:**

- 3.11.1. Completed individual matches will stand as played and entered on TennisLink.
- 3.11.2. An incomplete match shall be continued by the same players and resumed at the exact point where play was suspended – set, game, point, server, receiver, time in match remaining to play. (Any point played was played in good faith. The point is counted and is never replayed). If players are unavailable to continue the match on the rescheduled date, then the individual match will be scored as either a retirement in favor of the team whose players are available, or a double default if both teams are missing a player. The positions that have not been completed or not played should be entered as a double default unless 3.10.3 applies.
- 3.11.3. The home captain must notify the league coordinator, on the date of the originally scheduled match, of any rescheduled or incomplete matches. After the remaining positions have been completed both captains must email the league coordinator and provide the match number, player names, position played, date played and match results. The league coordinator will make all updates to the TennisLink score sheet.

### **3.12. Match Cancellations, Rescheduling Matches and Weather:**

- 3.12.1. Each USTA League participating Club is responsible for reserving court time according to the published schedule.

- 3.12.2. In the event a team must default a position(s), it is the responsibility of the captain, or their designated person to notify the opposing team captain and the facility at which the match is scheduled to be played 24 hours before the scheduled time of their match. Failure of the defaulting team to comply with this procedure will render the team responsible for the total cost of the court time. All court fees due must be paid to the club at the time of the match. The non-defaulting team does not have to be present to receive credit for the win.
- 3.12.3. Make up matches are allowed only for scheduled matches that are affected by weather or other extenuating circumstances. A message left on a voice mail or email does not constitute contact until it has been confirmed. It is the responsibility of both captains to ensure that two-way communication is completed. Failure to comply or confirm may result in a default. Exceptions may be reviewed by the St LC chair in conjunction with the league coordinator.

#### **4. GRIEVANCES**

- 4.1 Grievances must be completed by the team captain on the official USTA Grievance Form and submitted by email to the league coordinator prior to the commencement of whichever occurs first: (a) the involved team's next match in that flight, whether or not the involved player participates or (b) within 24 hours after the end of the local league season. The grievance facilitator will inform all teams involved of the grievance. Within a timeframe provided by the grievance facilitator, the captain of the team that was grieved against may submit a letter to the facilitator in defense of his/her team's position.
- 4.2 The grievance will be resolved within a reasonable time as determined by the Grievance Committee, and the facilitator will notify all teams of the decision.
- 4.3 Either captain can file a grievance appeal on the official USTA Grievance Appeal Form within a time period set by the Grievance Committee's decision.
- 4.4 If the above procedure is not adhered to, the grievance could be rendered null and void.
- 4.5 The Grievance Committee is made up of 3 members and does not include a league coordinator as a member of any Grievance Committee.

#### **5. DEFAULTS, RETIRED MATCHES and DISPUTED SCORECARDS**

##### **5.1. Defaults:**

- 5.1.1. Any team (a team consists of enough positions to win the match) who defaults an entire team match during the local league season (regardless if the default is during the match or prior to the commencement of the match) may jeopardize the team's participation in the Maine Local USTA League for the next season and future Championship Years. National Regulations will apply to full team defaults. The captain may be sanctioned, and the team (players) may be deemed ineligible for play or be required to split up in the Maine USTA League for the next season and future Championship Years. The St LC reserves the right to decide on any exceptions.
- 5.1.2. Any team who defaults more than 5 positions in one season may jeopardize their participation in the Maine USTA League for the next championship year. The St LC reserves the right to decide on any exceptions. The captain may be sanctioned, and the team (players) may be deemed ineligible for play or be required to split up in the Maine USTA League for the next season and future Championship Years. The St LC reserves the right to decide on any exceptions.
- 5.1.3. A team that cannot field enough positions to win a team match on the scheduled match date must reschedule its match and may only play the number of positions required to win the match. Five (5) and four (4) court matches require 3 positions. Three (3) court matches require 2 positions. The positions that are not played as a result of the reschedule will be awarded as 6-0, 6-0 default(s) to the opponent.
- 5.1.4. Positions must be defaulted from the bottom up.  
Singles: The #2 singles must default before the #1 singles may be defaulted  
Doubles: The #3 doubles must default before the #2 doubles and the #2 doubles must default before the #1 doubles.  
Adult 40 & Over match formats with 1 singles and 3 doubles and NTRP levels 2.5 and 5.0: The same principle applies where the default order begins with the singles position or the lowest doubles position.
- 5.1.5. Any player arriving on the court after 15:01 minutes past the match start time is automatically defaulted. The St LC will review teams with repeated defaults out of order. Action may be taken against the team captain, which may result in losing his/her position as team captain and rostered players may have to split up. The St LC reserves the right to decide on the exceptions, restrictions or penalties.
- 5.1.6. If the #2 and #3 doubles teams (3.0, 3.5, 4.0, and 4.5 levels) start their matches before the #1 doubles team start their match, and the #1 doubles defaults at any time during the 10-minute warm up before the official default time of 15:00:01, the order of play should remain as is on the lineup sheet. The same procedure is used when the #2 singles position starts before the #1 singles position. The same theory applies if the #2 doubles team is late and the #3 doubles team has warmed up and

started play. The same principles apply for leagues with a different number of courts. The St LC will review teams defaulting out of order.

**5.2. Injuries:**

5.2.1. A onetime, 3-minute medical time out is allowed for injury, illness, heat related condition or cramping. If the match does not resume play after 3 minutes the player (singles) or the pair (doubles) may be defaulted and the match will be recorded as retired.

5.2.2. If a player is injured within the 10-minute warm-up period, a legal substitute team member (a rated player on the roster who has not already played in that match) can play in place of the injured player. If the balance of the warm-up period is under 5 minutes the substitute player will be allowed a 5-minute injury prevention warm-up. The order of play would remain as scheduled.

**5.3. Disputed Scorecards:**

If match results or the individual player name is disputed, the scorecard showing the signature of both captains must be available from both captains. Failure to produce a signed scorecard may render the protest null and void and the match may be recorded as a double default.

**6. PLAYER DISQUALIFICATION**

6.1 Refer to USTA League Regulation 2.04 and USTA New England Sectional Regulations. The USTA New England Sectional office will notify the disqualified player and his/her captain when the player has received three strikes. Refer to USTA Regulations back cover for NTRP Dynamic Disqualifications and who can be disqualified.

**7. DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY**

7.1. District sites & host areas area posted on [www.usta/newengland](http://www.usta/newengland) select USTA League.

7.2. Each Adult 18 & Over and Mixed 18 & Over 7.0 and 8.0 team that has been invited to play in the District Championships must accept the invitation by email within 5 days from the end of the local league season. Any team qualifying during a make-up period must accept their invitation immediately following and no later than 12 hours after their last match or by a date requested by the Tournament Director.

7.3. A player must have played a minimum of 2 matches (1 default may count) during the league season as a rated player to qualify for New England championship play.

7.4. Each player must be a member of USTA, and such membership must extend through the end of the championship season.

7.5. The winning team in each 4-team flight and the winner and 2<sup>nd</sup> place team of each flight of 5 or more teams qualify to play in the District Championships, based on the points accumulated throughout the season. Most individual positions won team wins will determine the flight winner of the local season. In the event of a tie at the end of the local season, the winner will be determined as follows:

1. Most individual positions won
2. Fewest sets lost
3. Fewest games lost
4. Head to Head
5. Coin Toss

The tiebreak procedure will be applied should the 1st or 2nd place team (from a flight of 5 or more teams), the 1st place team (from a flight of 4 or fewer teams) decline to compete at the (District) Championships; The decision to select a wildcard is applied when the addition of a wild card team enhances a championship schedule. Wildcards may be added at any NTRP level and must be approved by the Tournament Director in conjunction with the Section League Coordinator.

7.6. The first-place team from each level at the Adult 18 & Over District Championship will be invited to play in the Sectional Championships. The winners of each flight at the Mixed 18 & Over 7.0 and 8.0 District Championships will be invited to advance to the Mixed 18 & Over Sectional Championships.

**8. SECTIONAL and NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY**

8.1. Sectional sites and dates can be found on [www.usta/newengland](http://www.usta/newengland) select USTA League.

8.2. Each Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over, Adult 65 & Over, Mixed 40 & Over, Mixed 55 & Over and Mixed 18 & Over 6.0 and 9.0 team that has been invited to play in the Sectional Championships must accept the invitation by email within 5 days from the end of the local league season. Any team qualifying during a make-up period must accept their invitation immediately and no later than 12 hours following their last match or by a date requested by the Tournament Director.

8.3. A player must have played a minimum of 2 matches (1 default may count) during the league season as a rated player to qualify for New England championship play.

8.4. Each player must be a member of USTA, and such membership must extend through the end of the championship season.

8.5. The winning team in each 4-team flight and the winner and 2<sup>nd</sup> place team of each flight of 5 or more

teams qualify to play in the Sectional Championships, based on the points accumulated throughout the season. Most team wins will determine the flight winner of the local season. In the event of a tie at the end of the local season, the winner will be determined as follows:

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- 8.6. The first-place team from each level at Sectional Championships will qualify to play at the National Championships.
- 8.7. The flight winners from the Adult 40 & Over 3.0, 3.5 and 4.0 women Sectional Championships will compete over two weekends to include the Play Off portion of the Sectional Championships.
- 8.8. To advance to National Championships a computer rated player must have played a minimum of three (3) matches (one default counts toward the total). Retirements count as a match played.
- 8.9. All Self-Rated and Valid Computer Rated Appealed players are eligible to progress to National Championship competition if that player has played on the same team in at least four (4) matches at the same NTRP level in the same Age Group during its local league season and is otherwise eligible. No defaults received by the player during local league or championship competition shall count for advancing to Nationals. Retired matches shall count toward advancing for all players involved in both USTA League Divisions.
- 8.10. A first-place Sectional Championship team that chooses not to compete at the National Championship level must move up one level as a team or disperse to form new teams with no more than 3 players; 2 players in the Adult 18 & Over 2.5 and 5.0 in the specific Age Group of the advancing Division, who were on the final roster after local league play on any single team for the following league championship season. Any player, who did not participate in a minimum of three (3) matches match during the Championship Year, including defaults received, is excluded from the 2.06A Move Up Split Up USTA League (National) Regulation.

## **9. CAPTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 9.1. Captains or designated representatives of the team will participate at local league meetings. The captain(s) listed on the TennisLink roster is the primary contact for the team. This should be the person who can make decisions confirming the team has a full lineup for the match and can make decisions regarding rescheduling of matches.
- 9.2. Keep your players updated on the schedule – remind them of upcoming matches
- 9.3. Contact your players for availability at least a week before a scheduled match date
- 9.4. Provide all team members with a copy of the Maine Local USTA League Rules (Regulation 1.2) and direct them to the New England Sectional web-site, <http://www.usta/newengland>, for the Sectional and National Regulations.
- 9.5. Arrive at the match with your lineup written out on the TennisLink score sheet and give the lineup sheet to the desk person.
- 9.6. Make sure your players know what position they are playing and the site director will assign the court number and introduce the players prior to going on the court.
- 9.7. Be on court promptly and adhere to warmup times to ensure an on-time match start
- 9.8. Captains must display good sportsmanship before, during and after matches, and always encourage good sportsmanship of players.
- 9.9. Remind players to verbally confirm the winner at match end and agree the scores and result
- 9.10. Complete the score sheet with the opposing Captain, sign it and agree who will enter the results on TennisLink. The opposing captain must confirm or deny the scorecard within 48 hours of score entry.