

TRI-LEVEL LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS

The Tri-Level league creates a socially competitive program where friends of different abilities can have a chance to play on the same team.

1. League season: Local league competition must conclude within the Section's league season deadline.
2. Number of Teams: A local league is a team competition in a specified geographic area that applies specific local league regulation and consists of Tri-Level formats with a minimum of two or more teams per format.
3. Team: A "team" shall consist of doubles teams of three NTRP levels. The following team levels are offered at Sectionals: 3.5/3.0/2.5 or 4.0/3.5/3.0 or 4.5/4.0/3.5.
4. Round Robin: Each Tri-Level format within a local league shall play at least one round robin competition wherein every team plays every other team. Any Tri-Level format with only two or three teams is required to play a minimum of three matches.
5. Age: Each player shall be a USTA member who has reached the age of 18 yrs prior to or during the calendar year in which such player plays in his/her local league match.
6. Entry: A player without a computer rating must self-rate on Tennislink to enter the program. A player with a current NTRP computer rating must use that rating to enter the program. A self-rated player may be required to play up to a higher level, if demonstrated play suggests the player's self-rating is too low.
7. Levels of Play: A player may play one level (.5) higher than their NTRP rating as long as one member of the doubles team is at level. Example: A 3.5 player may play up and play with a 4.0 player at the 4.0 level.
8. Tri-Level Format: The Area League Coordinator shall determine which approved levels will be available for Tri-Level teams in local league competition. The highest NTRP level offered will play in the #1 doubles position, second highest will play #2 doubles and lowest level offered will play in the #3 doubles position.
Example: On a 4.5/4.0/3.5 team, the 4.5's play on line 1, 4.0's play on line 2 and 3.5's play on line 3.
9. Team Match and Scoring: The method of scoring and awarding points in order to determine the winning team of a match and the winner of the local league competition is any method compatible with Tennislink and the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System selected by the local league. The scoring in the event of a default or disqualification shall be 6-0, 6-0.
10. Individual Match: An individual match is any Tri-Level match played as part of a team match.
11. Play Participation: An individual may only play in one match within each team match.
12. Coaching will be permitted only during the 10-minute rest period between the 2nd and 3rd sets (no coaching if playing a match tie-break in lieu of a third set).
13. Match results entered in Tennislink by the cut-off date will be included in year-end ratings.
14. Dynamic Disqualifications will not apply.
15. Local League Winners (LLW) will advance to Sectionals.
Eligibility: Players will use the NTRP rating they registered with and will need two matches played (one match can be a default received) to qualify.
16. The Sectional Winners of the 4.5/4.0/3.5 level will be offered the opportunity to participate in the Tri-Level Invitational Championship in March at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden of the following year.
Eligibility: Players must use the NTRP computer rating they registered with. **Self-rated players are not allowed to participate, unless they generated a year-end computer rating and are otherwise eligible to participate.**
A maximum of 12 players per team will be allowed to participate at the Invitational.