

2.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The regulations in 2.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES shall apply to all USTA League Tennis divisions.

2.01 COMMITTEES.

2.01A Grievance Committees. All grievance committees shall consist of no less than three persons, including a chairman, to adjudicate grievances. The members of the Committee may be the same as, or different in whole or part from, the Committee first approved.

2.01A(1) Local. With the approval of the Section Association, each local league may appoint a Local League Grievance Committee. The members of the Committee are to be approved by the Section League Coordinator.

2.01A(2) Area and Section. Each Section Association shall appoint an Area and/or Section League Grievance Committee. The members of the Committee are to be approved by the Section League Coordinator.

2.01A(3) Championships Grievance Committees

2.01A(3)a Area and Section Championships. Each Section Association shall appoint an Area and/or Section League Championship Grievance Committee. The members of the Committee are to be approved by the Section League Coordinator.

2.01A(3)b National Championships. The Chairman of the USTA League Tennis Committee shall appoint National League Championships Grievance committees. The members may be the same as, or different in whole or in part from, the members of the National League Championships Committee.

2.01B Grievance Appeal Committees. All grievance appeal committees shall consist of no less than three persons, including a chairman, to consider appeals from the grievance committees. No member of a Grievance Appeal Committee may be a member of a Grievance Committee. The members of the Committee may be the same as, or different in whole or part from, the Committee first approved.

2.01B(1) Local. With the approval of the Section Association, each local league may appoint a Local League Grievance Appeal Committee. The members of the Committee are to be approved by the Section League Coordinator.

2.01B(2) Area and Section. Each Section Association shall appoint an Area and/or Section League Grievance Appeal Committee. The members of the Committee are to be approved by the Section League Coordinator.

2.01B(3) National. The Chairman of the USTA League Tennis Committee shall appoint a National League Grievance Appeal Committee.

2.01B(4) Championship Grievance Appeal Committees.

2.01B(4)a Area and Section Championships. Each Section Association shall appoint an Area and/or Section League Championship Grievance Appeal Committee. The members of the Committee are to be approved by the Section League Coordinator.

2.01B(4)b National Championships. The Chairman of the USTA League Tennis Committee shall appoint National League Championships Grievance Appeal committees. The members may be the same as, or different in whole or in part from, the members of the National League Championships Committee.

2.02 GRIEVANCE COMPLAINTS.

2.02A General Procedures.

2.02A(1) All complaints alleging a violation of the USTA Constitution and By-Laws; the USTA Regulations; the Rules of Tennis or other USTA regulations (unless modified by these USTA LEAGUE TENNIS REGULATIONS); the USTA LEAGUE TENNIS REGULATIONS or standards of good conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship, shall be filed in writing with the USTA League Tennis Grievance Committee responsible for enforcement.

2.02A(2) A complaint against the administration of the league should be filed and heard at the next higher level in the same manner as any other complaint, with the Section being the final authority.

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2.02A(3) Any complaint against the National League Administrator shall be filed in writing with the USTA League Tennis Committee. The decision of the USTA League Tennis Committee shall be final and binding.

2.02A(4) All complaints with regard to any aspect of the USTA League Tennis Program except those contained in 2.02B(3) and 2.02C(3) dealing with eligibility, shall be processed through the USTA League Tennis Program Grievance and Grievance Appeal committees at the appropriate level (i.e., Local, Area, Section, or National.) Decisions of Grievance Appeal committees shall be final and binding except with regard to suspensions of individuals or teams for a period of 12 months or more. (See 2.03B(3))

2.02A(5) A complaint against an individual or team may only be filed by (a) the team captain of the team who has competed in the match where the alleged violation occurred, (b) a league coordinator, or (c) a member of a Championships Committee.

2.02A(6) Regardless of any other regulation, a league coordinator, a member of a Championships Committee, **a Grievance Committee, or a Grievance Appeal Committee** may file a grievance at any time.

2.02A(7) Play During Grievance Procedures: An individual or team may continue to play during a grievance investigation and hearing but must understand that if upheld, all matches played during that time may be defaulted.

2.02B Local League Procedures.

2.02B(1) All complaints alleging a violation by an individual or team during local league competition shall be filed in writing with the Local or District League Coordinator, or designee, having jurisdiction. The complaint must be filed prior to the commencement of the next team match in that flight involving such individual or team, or within twenty-four hours after the end of local league play, whichever occurs first.

2.02B(2) Upon receipt of the complaint, the Local or District League Coordinator, or designee, shall immediately send a copy to the Chairman of the appropriate League Grievance Committee and to the party(ies) against whom the complaint has been filed.

2.02B(3) A complaint regarding failure to meet eligibility may be filed by a team captain, league coordinator or member of a Championships Committee at any time.

2.02B(3)a For eligibility matters of simple fact (e.g., age, USTA membership, TennisLink registration) a USTA league coordinator may declare a player ineligible and disqualify that player without filing a grievance. (See 1.04, 1.11, 3.01C, 3.01D, 4.01, 5.01C, 5.01D, 6.01C and 6.01D)

2.02B(3)b All other complaints must go to the appropriate league Grievance Committee.

2.02B(4) Scoring of Eligibility Disqualification in Local League.

2.02B(4)a In the event of an eligibility disqualification **during the local league season** and up to 24 hours after the end of local league season, all matches played by the player shall be considered defaults and those matches shall be considered wins for the opposing players or doubles teams and scored (6-0, 6-0). In case of an eligibility disqualification in single elimination, the last individual match played by the player shall be considered a win for the opposing player or doubles team and scored (6-0, 6-0). If a double disqualification results in a tie, the local tiebreak procedure shall be used to determine the winner of the team match. If no such local tiebreak procedure exists, use 3.03I-Championship Procedures in order to determine a winner of that team match.

2.02B(4)b In the event of an eligibility disqualification **after the conclusion of the local league season by more than 24 hours**, the team will remain eligible to participate and retain points received up to the disqualification, but the ineligible player will not be allowed to continue or advance.

2.02C Championship Procedures.

2.02C(1) All complaints alleging a violation during championships competition shall be in writing and delivered to the duly appointed site director within thirty minutes of completion of the team match, or prior to the commencement of the next team match involving the individual or team, whichever occurs first.

2.02C(2) At the time a complaint is filed, a copy of such complaint shall be sent to the party(ies) against whom the complaint has been made.

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2.02C(3) A complaint regarding failure to meet eligibility may be filed by a team captain, league coordinator or a member of a Championships Committee at any time.

2.02C(4) Scoring of Eligibility Disqualification for Championships.

2.02C(4)a In the event of an eligibility disqualification **prior to or after the conclusion of a championship event**, the team will remain eligible to participate and retain points received up to the disqualification, but the ineligible player will not be allowed to continue or advance.

2.02C(4)b In the event of an eligibility disqualification in a round robin format **during the championship event**, the player will not be allowed to continue or advance **on that team** and all matches played by the player shall be considered losses and those matches shall be considered wins for the opposing players or doubles teams and scored (6-0, 6-0).

2.02C(4)c In case of a disqualification in single elimination format during the championship event, the last individual match played by the player shall be considered a win for the opposing player or doubles team and scored (6-0, 6-0). If a double disqualification results in a tie, the tiebreak procedure shall be the same as 3.03I in order to determine a winner of that team match.

2.02D Grievance Committee Action.

2.02D(1) Following the receipt of a complaint, the appropriate USTA League Tennis Grievance Committee shall, as soon as reasonable, (a) cause such investigation of the alleged violation to be made as the Committee deems appropriate, and if it deems the same to be necessary shall (b) arrange for a hearing at which the parties involved shall have the right to appear personally and present evidence.

2.02D(2) The USTA League Tennis Grievance Committee shall have the power to dismiss the complaint or to direct the correction of any violations by reasonable means, including the suspension of an individual or team. (See 1.08)

2.02D(3) The USTA League Tennis Grievance Committee shall prepare a written decision setting forth the basis for its decision and the deadline for any written appeal and promptly deliver copies to the parties involved.

2.02D(4) The decision of the USTA League Tennis Grievance Committee shall be by majority vote.

2.02E Self-Rate Grievance

2.02E(1) Players who enter the USTA League Tennis Program by inappropriately self-rating at an NTRP level lower than their actual skill level are considered to have violated the standards of good conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship. These players may be subject to a self-rate grievance. USTA League Tennis Regulation 2.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES, with the following exceptions and modifications, shall apply to self-rate grievances.

2.02E(2) Players with a valid NTRP Computer or Benchmark rating are not subject to self-rate grievances.

2.02E(3) Any league captain, coordinator or member of a Championships Committee may file a self-rate grievance.

2.02E(4) A player who inappropriately self-rates, and captains and others who condone inappropriate self-rating, may be subject to possible sanctions, including disqualification and suspension.

2.02E(5) Self-rate grievances may be filed at any time up to forty-eight (48) hours after the conclusion of a self-rated player's Section Championships. No self-rate grievances will be accepted at National Championships.

2.02E(6) Local League Competition – Self-rate grievances shall be filed in writing with the Local/Area/District League Coordinator, or designee, having jurisdiction. Self-rate grievances shall be handled by the self-rated players' Section League Grievance Committee.

2.02E(7) Championship Competition – Self-rate grievances shall be filed in writing with the duly appointed site director, or designee, having jurisdiction. Self-rate grievances shall be handled by the self-rated players' Section League Grievance Committee. Each Section shall have the option to adjudicate self-rate grievances prior to, during, or after a championship event.

2.02E(8) A self-rate grievance disqualification occurs when the Section League Grievance Committee reaches such decision and sends notification to the parties involved. The

date and time that the Section League Grievance Committee sends notification controls the assessment of sanctions, including the scoring of matches, which shall be administered in

accordance with USTA League Tennis Regulations 2.02B(4) and 2.02C(4)-Scoring of Eligibility, concerning scoring of eligibility disqualifications.

2.02E(9) The Section League Grievance Committee decision may be appealed in accordance with USTA League Tennis Regulation 2.03 GRIEVANCE APPEALS.

2.03 GRIEVANCE APPEALS.

2.03A General Procedures.

2.03A(1) Any party to the complaint may appeal the decision of the Grievance Committee within the time fixed by the Grievance Committee. Upon receipt of an appeal of the decision of the Grievance Committee, the Grievance Appeal Committee shall act promptly to resolve the appeal.

2.03A(2) Play During Grievance Appeal Procedures.

2.03A(2)a If the grievance was upheld, the individual is subject to all sanctions imposed by the Grievance Committee during the appeal process.

2.03A(2)b If the grievance was denied and appealed by the filer, the individual may participate during his/her appeal process, but must understand that if the decision of the Grievance Committee is reversed, all matches played during that time may be defaulted.

2.03A(3) The party appealing shall file written notice of appeal with the appropriate coordinator, or designee, who shall send it to the: Chairman of the appropriate Grievance Appeal Committee; Chairman of the Grievance Committee whose decision is being appealed; Local, District or Section League Coordinator; and to the other party(ies) involved in the complaint.

2.03A(4) The parties appealing shall have an opportunity to submit in writing facts and arguments in support of their respective positions.

2.03B Grievance Appeal Committees Action.

2.03B(1) The Grievance Appeal committees shall not be required to hold any hearing except as provided in 2.03B(2). Its decision may be based entirely on the findings of fact by the Grievance Committee whose decision is being appealed and on the facts and arguments submitted in writing by the parties to the appeal.

2.03B(2) If the Grievance Committee did not hold a hearing, the Grievance Appeal Committee shall do so, provided any party involved in the complaint so requests in writing. However, the Committee may hear such further evidence as it, in its absolute discretion, deems appropriate.

2.03B(3) The Grievance Appeal Committee shall have the power to affirm, modify, or reject the decision of the Grievance Committee. If the Grievance Committee has imposed a penalty, the Grievance Appeal Committee may not impose a harsher penalty.

2.03B(4) A copy of the Grievance Appeal Committee's written decision setting forth the basis of its decision shall be promptly sent to all interested parties and such decisions shall be final and binding. The following exception shall apply: Any individual or team suspended by any Local, Area, or Section Grievance Appeal Committee for a period of 12 months or more may appeal the final decision of the Grievance Appeal Committee to the National League Grievance Appeal Committee within the deadline established by the Grievance Appeal Committee. The administration may not appeal the decision of the Grievance Appeal Committee.

2.03B(5) The decision of the Grievance Appeal Committee shall be by majority vote.

2.03C National League Grievance Appeal Committee Action.

2.03C(1) The National League Grievance Appeal Committee shall hear appeals from individuals/teams suspended for a period of 12 months or more by a Local, District, or Section Grievance Appeal Committee. Upon receipt of an appeal of the decision of the Grievance Appeal Committee, the National Grievance Appeal Committee shall act promptly to resolve the appeal.

2.03C(2) The National League Grievance Appeal Committee shall have the power to conduct such investigation as deemed necessary and to affirm, modify, or reject the decision of the Grievance Appeal Committee, but may not impose any harsher penalties.

2.03C(3) The National League Grievance Appeal Committee shall notify the affected player(s)/captain(s) and local, district, or section individuals or teams, and the Grievance Appeal Committee in writing of its decision.

2.04 GENERAL PROCEDURES FOR GRIEVANCE AND GRIEVANCE APPEAL COMMITTEES.

2.04A Telephone Conference Calls. If one or more members of a Grievance Committee or Grievance Appeal Committee cannot be present at a hearing, such members may, at the discretion of the Chairman, participate by means of a telephone conference call. If any witness cannot be present at a hearing to present evidence, such witness may, at the discretion of the Chairman, be permitted to do so by means of a telephone conference call.

2.04B Written Requirement. The requirement that a notice or other document be in writing is satisfied if it is sent by a telegram, fax, e-mail or equivalent communication.

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3.00 ADULT LEAGUE REGULATIONS

All USTA League Tennis Regulations in 1.00 GENERAL and 2.00 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES and the following procedures shall apply to the USTA League Tennis Adult Division.