SOUTHWEST
NORTHERN ARIZONA

2027 USTA NAZ ADULT LEAGUE REGULATIONS

In order to run leagues that best support our region, the following regulations shall apply to ALL Northern Arizona (NAZ) League matches (advancing and non-advancing):

- USTA National League Regulations
- USTA Southwest Section League Regulations
- USTA NAZ League Regulations: Described in this Document
- USTA Friend at Court and The Code

Major 2027 National League Regulation Changes
2027 regulation changes are indicated in red

1) Mixed Exclusive Players are eligible to be NTRP dynamically disqualified. *
2) Electronic line calling may be used in USTA League play (2.01E).
3) Dynamic ratings will be calculated for Adult 65 & Over and Mixed 55 & Over leagues and are eligible to be NTRP dynamically disqualified (2.04A). *
4) Players may now be dynamically disqualified through National Championships 2.04B(2).
5) NTRP grievance definition and applicability were revised (3.02 and 3.03).
*Effective after 2026 Year End Ratings (YERs) are published.

2

Major 2027 Southwest Section League Regulation Changes

2027 regulation changes are indicated in red

1) Adult 55 & Over will use Straight Level NTRP Ratings in Local League play and all Championships below the National level.
2) Local League NTRP Dynamic Disqualification NR 2.04B(1) Scoring Option
• The Southwest Section will reverse all matches generating strikes as well as any subsequent matches played in Divisions below the NTRP level to which the player is promoted to. Any subsequent matches that were played after the third will be reversed as well.

• In Leagues using combined ratings (Adult 65 &Over, Mixed 18 & Over – 10.0 Division, and Mixed 55 & Over), if the combined rating of the player and partner is above the level in which they were disqualified all matches generating strikes as well as any subsequent matches played shall be reversed.

3) Requirements for a Team to accept a Wildcard Invitation

• Wildcard teams must satisfy all eligibility requirements and are subject to the same regulations governing advancing teams.

• Players participating on more than one team at the same event are will not count towards the Minimum Roster Requirement of a wildcard team.

• Wildcard team Championship rosters must meet a minimum "at-level" roster percentage. The percentage will be based on the lowest Regional Local League "at-level" percentage in effect for that Championship year.

• For the 2027 Championship Year, the required minimum is 40% at level. E.G., a 3.5 wildcard team championship roster consisting of ten (10) players must include at least four (4) players with an NTRP rating of 3.5.

• Compliance with the minimum at-level percentage will be determined based on the team's official championship roster as of the championship entry deadline.

CAPTAIN'S RESPONSIBILITIES

IT IS THE CAPTAIN'S RESPONSIBILITY:

- ✔ **To know and follow all current USTA League Rules & Regulations (as listed above).**
- ✔ **To ensure all players agree to abide by all league rules, standards of good conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship.**
- ✔ To verify their contact information is up to date in TennisLink.
- ✔ To verify host facility availability and pay all associated court fees due (reimbursed by players).
- ✔ To secure a team number and instruct players to register in "Tennis Link".
- ✔ To verify all players are registered prior to any match played. Any unregistered players will be deemed ineligible to receive credit for that match.
- ✔ To notify the NAZ League Coordinator of any dates in the season that may be in conflict for most of the team. The League Coordinator will do their best to accommodate.
- ✔ To designate a co-captain or representative in their absence and notify the opposing Captain in advance of play.
- ✔ To ensure the team complies with the NAZ League Residency Requirements.
- ✔ To make every effort to fill their teams with available NAZ players currently in the appropriate NTRP rating level before adding players from the next lower level.
- ✔ To notify the NAZ League Coordinator within 24 hours that a match has been postponed.

PLAYER/TEAM ELIGIBILITY

ADVANCING LEAGUE PLAY

1) All players must be at least 18 years old, a USTA member with a valid NTRP rating, and registered in TennisLink to play a league match. (Non-advancing leagues may omit membership requirements).
2) Players must reach the required league minimum age prior to or during the league calendar year.
3) No refunds will be given after registration is accepted on TennisLink. All players should be made aware by the team Captain that they should not register for a team if they are not sure they will be able to play**.** Exceptions will be at the discretion of the League Coordinator where a credit may be issued towards the player's next same-year league registration.
4) Players are strongly encouraged to play at their current NTRP level to ensure competitive match play.
5) Adult Advancing League teams (straight NTRP) must maintain their roster with a minimum of 40% of its players at the designated NTRP level of play. Any exceptions will only be made with approval of the NAZ League Coordinator.
6) Players may play one level up.
7) Total rating of partners in each individual double's team may not be less than **.5** in each NTRP level. (e.g. for a 7.0 match, the combined ratings of the players on each line shall be at least 6.5) Same applies for straight NTRP level play (3.5 = 7.0, etc.) Any modifications will be at the discretion of the NAZ League Coordinator.
8) Anyone who falsifies information on a self-rated player profile or anyone who knowingly condones falsification of information may be subject to a NTRP Grievance and subject to suspension up to a year following the League Suspension penalty point system.

NAZ LEAGUE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

1) A team from Northern Arizona may not advance to championship play if their final roster contains less than Sixty-Five Percent (65%) "qualified players" whose primary residence is in the scope of the NAZ USTA district boundaries or own a home in the NAZ USTA district boundaries (in members name).
2) If prior to playing any matches, a team is found to be out of compliance, the captain may pick which player(s) to remove to come into compliance. If a team is not in compliance with the Sixty-Five Percent (65%) requirement (i.e., has an ineligible player on its roster), all matches played by that ineligible player will be scored as a default in determining final standings. Ineligible player shall be defined as the last out-of-area player to register on the roster (as determined by that player's registration date).
3) For all advancing NAZ teams, the Residency Requirement shall be waived when a division of a league is unable to form for the lack of two teams (one team or none).
    a. If the residency waiver is employed (league is formed with non-resident teams), the team captains will be required to accept eligible players from NAZ, under the residency requirement, to play on the non-resident teams. Any exceptions will be decided by the NAZ League Coordinator.

ELIGIBILITY FOR SOUTHWEST SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

1) Computer Rated Players must have played on the same team at the same level and same age group in at least **two local league matches** and be otherwise eligible to advance to Sectional Championships. A maximum of one default received during local league play shall count.
2) Self-rated and Appealed Computer rated players (up or down) must have played in **THREE matches** on the same team at the same level in the same age group **with no defaults** and be otherwise eligible to advance to Sectional Championships.

3) Early Start League (ESL) players moved up at Year End (YE) to a higher level than their ESL level of play **WILL NOT** qualify to advance to SW Sectional Championship play at the lower NTRP level.
4) Retired matches shall count toward advancing for all players involved in the match.
5) See USTA Southwest Section League Regulations for Advancing 'Invitationals' eligibility requirements. (65 & Over, Tri-Level and 55+ mixed)

ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

1) Computer rated players must have played on the same team at the same level and same age group in at least **three matches** and be otherwise eligible to advance to the National Championships. A maximum of one default received during local league play shall count.
2) Self-rated and Appealed Computer rated players must have played in **four matches** on the same team at the same level in the same age group **with no defaults** and be otherwise eligible to advance to the National Championships.
3) Retired matches shall count toward advancing for all players involved in the match.

NON TRADITIONAL LEAGUE TYPES/INVITATIONALS

Regulations changes may occur at any time for the following Invitation Leagues. Regulations are maintained by the individual National Invitational Championship Committee and may be revised as they plan the Invitationals.

ELIGIBILITY FOR TRI-LEVEL INVITATIONAL

The National Tri-Level Invitational will offer 3 divisions for the Tri-Level Event in March of 2027 : 3.0/3.5/4.0, 3.5/4.0/4.5, and 4.0/4.5/5.0. Players competing in the Southwest Section Invitational may only participate in one division. NAZ may elect to run a local league/tournament style event with one or more levels.

Players with any rating type may participate in the local league, but only computer (C) rated players are eligible to participate in Sectionals and National Invitationals. See 2026 Southwest Section League Regulations for more details. Players are required to play a minimum of two matches during the local league season with their team and may have 1 default awarded to count as an eligible match. Teams must have at least 1 doubles team in each of the NTRP designated levels able to attend the Section Tri-Level Championship in order to be invited to participate.

See 2027 Southwest Section League Regulations for more details.

ELIGIBILITY FOR 65 & Over INVITATIONAL

Players are required to play a minimum of two matches during the local league season with their team and may have 1 default awarded count as an eligible match. No team or individual waivers will be approved for 2027. Combined ratings must be .5 of the playing level. (e.g. for a 7.0 match, the combined ratings of the players on each line must be at least 6.5) All rating type players who get moved up at year end are eligible to compete at the level they played in the local league season, as long as the player has not been dynamically DQ'd.

See 2027 Southwest Section League Regulations for more details.

ELIGIBILITY FOR Mixed 55 & Over INVITATIONAL

Players are required to play a minimum of two matches during the local league season with their team and may have 1 default awarded count as an eligible match. No team or individual waivers will be approved for 2027. Combined ratings must be .5 of the playing level. (e.g. for a 7.0 match, the combined ratings of the players on each line must be at least 6.5) All rating type players who get moved up at year end are eligible to compete at the level they played in the local league season, as long as the player has not been dynamically DQ'd.

See 2027 Southwest Section League Regulations for more details.

NORTHERN ARIZONA LEAGUE SCHEDULING

1) The NAZ League Coordinator will establish and publish the Advancing League Schedule in accordance with the Southwest League deadlines for completed play.
2) Matches in NAZ are generally scheduled as double-headers on Saturdays and/or Sundays to accommodate visiting team travel time. However, at the NAZ League Coordinator's discretion, and/or in consultation with team Captains, single matches or weekday play may be scheduled to accommodate Northern Arizona weather, shortness of daylight, or other special circumstances.
3) Divisions in Northern Arizona will play a **round-robin** format**.** The winner of the round robin will advance to the next championship level (as applicable).
4) Matches will be scheduled with a minimum 30-minute team warm up prior to the first match time.
5) A minimum of six (6) matches will be scheduled each Advancing season. This may be waived to a minimum of four (4) by the NAZ League Coordinator. Or Pool play will be used if needed for larger leagues.
6) An attempt will be made to allow each team equal hosting opportunities. The NAZ League Coordinator reserves the right to schedule matches that will not allow equal hosting opportunities due to the lack of available courts, weather, and other scheduling challenges.
7) Home team Captain shall confirm match details with the opposing Captain a minimum of three (3) days prior to the scheduled match date.
8) If known in advance that your team will default a court, please notify the opposing Captain at least two (2) days prior and follow the default table (TABLE 1) below. Please be courteous so that players do not end up traveling unnecessarily. NOT playing singles is not an option if it will create a team default.
9) In the event of a last-minute default (sickness, car problems, special circumstances, etc.), please notify the opposing Captain to attempt a reschedule prior to just calling for a default. Either team should do their best to adjust lineups to avoid defaulting a match.
10) In the case of a potential total team default, contact the NAZ League Coordinator in advance to see if another solution is possible.

LEAGUE COURTS

1) Captains identify their home court location at the time of team registration. A Captain's request to move a home match location, due to weather or other circumstance, must notify the opposing Captain a minimum of 48 hours in advance of scheduled match and copy the NAZ League Coordinator.
2) There may not always be the appropriate number of courts at a match site to simultaneously play all courts in a match. If there are not enough courts available, the team captains must agree in advance on the starting time for each individual match. The #1 position must be played before the #2 position and the # 2 position must be played before the # 3 position. Singles generally play in advance of doubles.
3) Please make the opposing Captain and team aware of the closest bathroom facilities and whether drinking water is available on site or not.
4) If there is not an available date for a home match, the match may revert to a location that has available courts at the NAZ League Coordinator's discretion.

OFFICIAL PLAYING SURFACE

1) If playing on a surface other than hardcourt, the opposing Captain must agree to play on the alternative surface and the NAZ League Coordinator must be notified of the change a minimum of 24 hours prior to the match. (i.e. grass courts at McPherson Park in Flagstaff)

TENNIS BALLS

1) A new can of Tennis Balls, provided by the home team, will be used on each court for each match.
2) High Altitude Tennis Balls are recommended for high altitude play on any court surface type over 4000' above sea level and above 50◦ F.
    a. Advise the opposing captain, in advance, of the ball type that will be used for matches (regular or high altitude).

MATCH FORMAT

1) NAZ League Matches are played without officials. USTA Official publication, THE CODE, shall be observed. A copy can be obtained at **www.nazusta.com**. Teammates, spectators, or coaches **may not** volunteer advice regarding line calls, scoring, or the conduct of a match.
2) All matches will consist of the best of 3 sets, with a (10 point) MATCH TIE-BREAK played in lieu of a third set.
3) A (7 point) SET TIE-BREAK will determine a set at 6-games-all.
4) The COMAN TIE-BREAK PROCEDURE will be used in all tie-breaks.
5) Players are permitted 90 seconds on changeovers and 2 minutes between sets.
6) No coaching is allowed **at any time** during a league match, including between sets, or between the second set and a match tie-break. USTA Reg. 2.01D

OFFICIAL MATCH TIME AND DEFAULTS

1) It is recommended that both teams arrive at the match site at least 30 minutes prior to scheduled match time. Any changes to the start time listed in TennisLink shall be agreed upon in advance of the match and in writing (email or text) by both Captains.
2) The second match of a double header shall start as soon, as can be reasonably expected, after the first match has been completed.
3) Team Captains or their representative shall exchange team line-ups simultaneously prior to the beginning of the team match. USTA Reg. 2.01C(5). Line-ups will be exchanged in time to start the match at the agreed upon time.
4) Players are allowed a 10-minute warm-up (including serves). Matches should start no later than ten minutes after the match time.
5) No substitutions may be made in a match after the line-ups have been exchanged unless there is an illness or injury of a player prior to the start of the match. USTA Reg. 2.01C(5)
6) Captains must notify the opposing Captain (or representative) of known defaults at the earliest possible opportunity. Once given, defaults are final and may not be rescinded unless a match is rescheduled prior to the exchange of line-ups. The default notification MUST be done BEFORE line-ups are exchanged.
7) The USTA Point Penalty System shall be used when a delay or player no-show cannot be resolved. Default time is 15 minutes after the scheduled match time.
8) **The order of individual defaults in NAZ local leagues is the same as the USTA National League Regulation 2.03K: Team Defaults.** A team must have a minimum number of eligible players available to play in each team match in accordance with the following table or the entire match must be defaulted. The maximum number of positions that may be defaulted without defaulting the entire match is noted. When defaults are necessary, maximizing use of available players shall be determined

by the defaulting Captain in accordance with TABLE 1 below. **Contact NAZ League Coordinator before accepting total team default as an option. May impact overall team standings.**

9) It is suggested that the line-ups be filled out with any potential late players in the default positions, so that the other matches will not be penalized for delays.

TABLE 1 - ALLOWABLE DEFAULTS

DIVISION	AGE GROUP	MINIMUM NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE PLAYERS REQUIRED TO BE AVAILABLE PER MATCH	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF POSITIONS THAT CAN BE DEFAULTED	REQUIRED POSITION(S) AND ORDER OF MATCH DEFAULTS
	4-line format played in NAZ 18 & Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	5	1	**Singles:** No.1 Singles **Doubles:** No. 3 Doubles before No. 2 Doubles, and No. 2 Doubles before No 1 Doubles
	40 & Over or 18 & Over 3.0, 3.5 4.0, 4.5 **(4-court format)**	5	1	**Singles:** No. 1 Singles **Doubles:** No. 3 Doubles before No. 2 Doubles, and No. 2 Doubles before No. 1 Doubles
Adult	55 & Over	4 PLAYERS WITH A .5 RATING RANGE WITH EACH OTHER	1	No. 3 Doubles
Mixed	18 & Over 40 & Over			

MIXED DOUBLES 18 and 40 and over IS NOW STRAIGHT LEVEL- NOT COMBINATION. YOU MUST PLAY WITHIN .5 OF YOUR PARTNER

EXAMPLE A 3.5 CAN PLAY WITH A 4.0 BUT A 4.0 CANNOT PLAY WITH A 3.0.

RESCHEDULE OF MATCHES

1) At the NAZ League Coordinator's discretion, requests to reschedule MUST be accommodated by the opposing team when there is a Team conflict due to a Sectional or National League Championship representing NAZ. Five (5) days advance notice to the opposing Captain and League Coordinator is required, or the match MAY be played as scheduled.
2) Matches may be rescheduled (including weather-related) IF BOTH CAPTAINS AGREE upon a date/time which reschedule will occur PRIOR to the published season end date. Both Captains will send written consent (via email or text) along with the new date/time to the NAZ League Coordinator no later than 24 hours after the original match date. Rescheduled matches must be completed within three weeks of the original schedule. Exceptions will be at the discretion of the League Coordinator.

3) Completion of matches-in-progress delayed by rain or circumstances beyond control of the players should be scheduled as soon as possible and must be completed using the original players, exact set, game, game score, and side as when the match was suspended. Any rescheduled dates require written notification to the NAZ League Coordinator as above.

SCORE ENTRY

1) Both Captains (designated representatives) should agree on scores at the conclusion of the match before leaving the playing facility. If there is a discrepancy, the players involved in the match in question should agree on the correct score. It is suggested that the visiting team Captain (or representative) sign the home team Captain's scorecard to show agreement on scores.
2) All match results should be entered in TennisLink by the home Captain and confirmed by the opposing Captain within 48 hours after the final line of the match is played. Either team may enter scores. If the match is not confirmed, the initial entry will be considered valid, and no appeals will be granted.
3) It is the captain's responsibility to report incorrect entries (players or scores) to the NAZ League Coordinator as soon as possible.

ADVANCING LOCAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

1) Once a NAZ winning team is determined, the captain of the winning team must notify the League Coordinator of their intention regarding advancement to the next championship round. If unable to attend, the berth may be offered to the second-place team (based on review of division results) or made available as a Southwest Section Wildcard.
2) Teams qualifying to advance must field a complete roster for all championship matches and commit to attending all scheduled days of the event.
3) See the 2026 Southwest Section League Regulations for Sectional Championship details.

2027 National Regulations 5.26.26.pdf
2027 USTA Southwest League Regulations - Share Drive Version.pdf

USTA NAZ League Regulations are authored by the NAZ League Coordinator as employed by the USTA Southwest Section. The Southwest Section League Manager has approved these Local League Rules & Regulations. Regulations may be changed or amended by the NAZ League Coordinator as appropriate. Any questions or comments should be addressed to fetty@southwest.usta.com