Introduction to Montana Leagues

USTA Montana's mission is to promote and develop the sport of tennis throughout the state of Montana. As a member of the Intermountain Tennis Association and the United States Tennis Association, USTA Montana is responsible for maintaining and growing leagues, tournaments, access, participation, and other key components of tennis statewide.

Montana leagues are designed to support **local play** and the **sustainable growth of tennis within our communities**. Leagues provide players with fun, competitive opportunities to play in our state while fostering community connection and sustainable league development.

Participation in local league play is vital to the health of our sport and the experience of our players. Whenever possible, multiple teams should be organized around a local player base and participate in district league competition. This approach strengthens local communities, builds depth, and supports meaningful competition throughout Montana.

USTA league regulations allow players to participate on up to two local league teams within the same age division (e.g., Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over), provided the teams are at different NTRP levels. However, advancement to Sectionals is permitted with only one team. Players must designate which team they intend to advance with prior to post-season play. Players may also compete one NTRP level above their published rating and are encouraged to do so when it supports local league participation and team formation.

USTA Montana recognizes that, in some circumstances, it may be necessary to include out-of-area players. Teams will continue to be considered Montana League teams as long as at least 50% of the roster consists of Montana-based players.

Additionally, out-of-area teams may be permitted to form in Montana when there are insufficient Montana-based teams to create meaningful local league competition. This exception exists solely to support local league play and to ensure viable competitive opportunities for Montana players.

In rare situations - most commonly at the highest or lowest NTRP levels - a team may form without another local team available for competition. In these cases, teams seeking advancement to Sectionals will be required to qualify. Teams in this situation must get approval from the **Montana District League Coordinator (DLC)** and comply with the **USTA Montana Qualifying Team Regulations & Guidelines – 2026**.

USTA

INTERMOUNTAIN
MONTANA

2026 Montana League Regulations and Procedures

Approved by the USTA Intermountain Montana Board of Directors

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Welcome to Montana League Tennis!

Montana offers several USTA leagues, which advance to an Intermountain Sectional Championship or Sectional Invitational. Section winners advance to a National Championship or National Invitational.

- Adult 18 & Over
- Adult 40 & Over
- Adult 55 & Over
- Adult 65 & Over
- Mixed Doubles 18 & Over
- Mixed Doubles 40 & Over
- Mixed Doubles 55 & Over
- Adult Tri Level 18 & Over

In addition, Montana offers ITA Mixed Doubles 18 & Over, which advances to a Sectional Championship only.

League tennis is a product of the United States Tennis Association (USTA). Montana Tennis Association (MTA) is part of USTA. You will sometimes see it referred to as USTA Montana or USTA Intermountain Montana.

National USTA rules govern league tennis, with a few rules that are specific to Montana.

The Montana League Regulations describe how the national and Montana rules apply to league tennis in Montana. The Montana regulations are interpreted and applied to Montana league tennis by the Montana District League Coordinator and the USTA Montana League Committee, which must follow USTA national rules unless given permission to apply a Montana-specific rule. The most recent version of the USTA national league regulations can be found here.

When you have a question about league tennis rules**,** the USTA National League Regulations are the first place to look for an answer. USTA also has a Q&A section that explains how the USTA interprets the regulations in particular situations.

USTA Friend at Court governs sportsmanlike conduct through *The Code: The Players' Guide to Fair Play and the Unwritten Rules of Tennis*. Players must follow The Code with or without an official present.

These Montana regulations explain the USTA rules in the context of Montana league tennis, and sometimes add to the USTA rules (e.g., heat and smoke restrictions on outdoor play, Montana team residency rules). Importantly, the Montana regulations cannot change USTA rules that already address the same topic.

USTA LEAGUE
MAJOR NATIONAL REGULATION CHANGES FOR 2026

1. 1.04E(3) - Players must be 18 years of age to register and participate in the USTA League Program.

2. 2.03B(1) and 2.03B(2) - A captain can only represent one team in the same age division and NTRP level at a National Championship. Section option to authorize for championships below the National Championships.

3. 2.05B(3)c - Removal of Regulation
2.05B3(c) Players on a 2.5 team who are found to have valid computer ratings, after the appeal process, that place them higher than the 2.5 NTRP level may continue their participation through all championships at the 2.5 level UNLESS their year-end rating reached the *clearly above level* mark. If it did, they must immediately adjust to their new NTRP level. Prior team matches played are valid.

4. 2.07 - Adult 18 and Adult 40 & Over Sectional Championship or National Championships players cannot appeal their NTRP level down.

5. 3.03A(2) and 3.03A(4) - 90 day filing deadline for administrative grievances.

6. 3.03D(1)a - A Local League Grievance Committee may refer a grievance to the Sectional League Grievance Committee.

7. 3.04B(3)a - Criteria for grievance appeals if no new information is provided to the Grievance Appeal Committee.

LEAGUE PLAY OVERVIEW

All league play in Montana is local league play. Montana does not have separate district championships. The winners of local league advance to the Intermountain Sectional Championship. The USTA League Regulations approved in 2026 apply to all Montana leagues.

2026 Local Leagues & Sectional Championships: Places & Dates

Adult 18 & Over

- Local league will be played June 12-14, 2026, in Missoula, Montana.
- Winners advance to the Intermountain Sectional Championship in Salt Lake City, Utah, Aug. 7-9, 2026.

Adult 40 & Over

- Local league will be played July 24-26, 2026, in Bozeman, Montana.
- Winners advance to the Intermountain Sectional Championship in Denver, Colorado, Sept. 11-13, 2026.

Adult 55 & Over

- Local league will be played June. 26-28, 2026, in Helena, Montana.
- Winners will advance to the Intermountain Sectional Championship in Denver, Colorado, Aug. 28-30, 2026.

Adult 65 & Over

- Local league will be played June 12-14, 2026, in Missoula, Montana.
- Winners will advance to the Intermountain Sectional Invitational in Boise, Idaho, Oct. 9-11, 2026.

Mixed Doubles 18 & Over

- Local league will be played Feb. 27-Mar. 1, 2026, in Billings, Montana.
- Winners will advance to the Intermountain Sectional Championship in Boise, Idaho, July 10-12, 2026.

Mixed Doubles 40 & Over

- Local league will be played Aug. 14-16, 2026, in Great Falls, Montana.
- Winners will advance to the Intermountain Sectional Championship in Boise, Idaho, Sept. 25-27, 2026.

Mixed Doubles 55 & Over

- Local league will be played in Helena, Montana September 18-20, 2026. All matches must be completed by Nov. 30, 2026.
- Winners will advance to the Intermountain Sectional Invitational TBD.

Adult Tri Level 18 & Over (3.0/3.5/4.0 and 3.5/4.0/4.5)

- Local league will be played Aug. 28-30, 2026, in Butte, Montana.
- Winners will advance to the Intermountain Sectionals Invitational in Las Vegas, Nevada, Nov. 6-8, 2026 for 3.5/4.0/4.5 and Nov. 13-15, 2026 for 3.0/3.5/4.0

ITA Mixed Doubles 18 & Over

- Local league will be played May. 30-31, 2026, in Kalispell, Montana.
- Winners will advance to the Intermountain Sectional Championship (only) in Las Vegas, Nevada, October 16-18, 2026.

Are You Eligible to Play?

To play Montana league tennis, you must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- **You must be a current member of USTA**. You can become a member or renew your membership here.
- **You must meet the minimum age requirement** within the calendar year in which you will play local league. USTA Regulation 1.04E(3).
  - Players must be 18 years of age before participating in the USTA League program.
- **You must register for the team** for which you are playing by the deadlines listed in the following section.
  - A player must be registered in TennisLink for a team **before** playing for that team in a league match.
  - If a player plays in a league match before registering in TennisLink, that player is ineligible. The match will count for ratings and advancement purposes for the ineligible players' opponent(s) but will not count for the ineligible player and his/her partner for ratings and advancement purposes. *See* 2025-2026 USTA League Regulations Q&A 2.02 (p. 8).

Montana teams have different registration deadlines than non-Montana teams.

- A team is a Montana team if at least 50 percent of its registered players are from Montana.
  - To be "from Montana," a player must have resided in Montana for at least 30 consecutive days over the past year.
- Registration is open to non-Montana teams only when a division has two or fewer teams registered after the first registration deadline. *See* Table 3.

A player may play on two teams within one age group (e.g., Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, etc.) only if the teams are at different NTRP levels.

- A player may play up to one NTRP level above the player's NTRP level.

If an Adult League has only two teams at an NTRP level, at least 40 percent of each team's roster must include players at the designated NTRP level. USTA Regulation 1.04D(5).

- This rule does not apply to Adult 55 & Over or Adult 65 & Over.

NTRP Ratings

For an overview of NTRP ratings in USTA League, please visit this USTA page. If you have a current computer NTRP rating, you can find it here using your name or USTA number. Tennis Link automatically removes expired ratings. Players with expired ratings will not be allowed to self-rate at a lower level than their last valid NTRP rating. However, they may file a self-rate appeal of the NTRP rating level assigned.

You must "self-rate" if:

- You do not have an NTRP rating, **or**
- Your NTRP Rating has expired, **or**
- You have a (T) rating and want to play in an Adult USTA League, **or**
- You have an (M) rating and want to play in an Adult USTA League.

For information about how to self-rate, visit this USTA page. Be sure to answer questions honestly and accurately.

- If an NTRP Grievance Committee determines that a self-rated player has an inaccurate or inappropriate self-rating, the player shall be disqualified and have their NTRP level adjusted by the NTRP Grievance Committee. USTA National League Regulation 3.03E(1)(a).
- The NTRP Grievance Committee may impose other penalties against a player who has inappropriately self-rated, under the League Suspension Point System.
    - Additionally, captains or others who have completed, assisted, condoned, or approved inappropriate self-rating will be subject to such penalties as the NTRP Grievance Committee may decide, under the League Suspension Point System.

Are You Eligible to Advance?

Players with current valid Computer-C, Mixed Exclusive-M, Tournament Exclusive-T and Computer Rated Appealed Up Ratings are eligible to advance to an Intermountain Sectional Championship (Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over, Mixed 18 & Over, Mixed 40 & Over) if they have played on the advancing team in **at least two (2) matches** in Montana local league competition.

- One of the two matches may be a default received by the player.
- A retired match shall count for all players involved.
- This rule does not apply to Self-Rated players or players whose ratings are Valid Computer Rated Appealed Down.

Self-Rated or Valid Computer Rated Appealed Down players are eligible to advance to an Intermountain Sectional Championship (Adult 18 & Over, Adult 40 & Over, Adult 55 & Over, Mixed 18 & Over, Mixed 40 & Over) ~~if~~ if they have played on the advancing team in **at least three (3) matches** in Montana local league competition.

- One of the three matches may be a default received by the player.
- A retired match shall count for all players involved.

ITA Mixed Sectional Championship, Adult 65 & Over Sectional Invitational, Mixed 55 & Over Invitational and Tri Level Invitationals:

Players are eligible to advance to an Intermountain ITA Mixed Sectional Championship, Adult 65 & Over Sectional Invitational, Mixed 55 & Over Invitational and Tri Level Invitationals if they have played on the advancing team in **at least two (2) matches** in Montana local league competition.

- One of the two matches may be a default received by the player.
- A retired match shall count for all players involved.

Table 1: USTA LEAGUE TEAM COMPOSITION

Division	Age Group	Minimum # Players	Gender	NTRP Level
Adult	**18 & Over** 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, & 4.5	8	Same Gender	Player's NTRP level shall not exceed team NTRP level.
	18 & Over 2.5 women & 5.0	5		
	40 & Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, & 4.5	9		
	55 & Over **65 & Over** **OR** Combined levels 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0	6		Combined NTRP rating of partners shall not exceed team NTRP Level and difference between partners shall not exceed 1.0.
Mixed	**18 & Over** 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0	3 Men & 3 Women	Men & Women	Minimum NTRP level for: 6.0 is 2.5 7.0 is 3.0 8.0 is 3.5 9.0 is 4.0 10.0 is 4.5
	40 & Over 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0			
	55 & Over 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0, 10.0			
	ITA Mixed Doubles 5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5			

Table 2: NTRP RATING LEVELS FOR LEAGUE PLAY

Division	Age Group	Player's NTRP Rating Level
Adult	**18 & Over** **40 & Over**	Current NTRP level and/or up to one level higher than the player's current NTRP level.
	55 & Over Combined NTRP Levels **65 & Over** Combined NTRP Levels	Combined NTRP rating of partners shall not exceed teamNTRP level **AND** NTRP difference between partners shall not exceed 1.0. The minimum NTRP Level for: 6.0 is 2.5 7.0 is 3.0 8.0 is 3.5 9.0 is 4.0
Mixed	**18 & Over** **40 & Over** 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0	Current NTRP level and/or up to one level higher than the player's current NTRP level.
	18 & Over **40 & Over** **55 & Over**	Combined NTRP rating of partners shall not exceed teamNTRP level **AND** NTRP difference between partners shall not exceed 1.0. The minimum NTRP Level for: 6.0 is 2.5 7.0 is 3.0 8.0 is 3.5 9.0 is 4.0

REGISTERING FOR LEAGUE

All teams and players must register through Tennis Link by 9:59 PM MST on the day of the registration deadline. Team captains must register their teams and receive a team number from the District League Coordinator before individual players may register for the team. You can reach the dlc at dlc@ustamontana.com.

Once they have a team number, players may register on the TennisLink page or through the Adult League page on the Montana Tennis Association website. **Players are ineligible to play any league matches until their names appear on the team roster in TennisLink**. If a player plays in a league match before registering in TennisLink, the match will count for ratings and advancement purposes for the ineligible players' opponent(s) but will not count for the ineligible player and his/her partner for ratings and advancement purposes. *See* 2025-2026 USTA League Regulations Q&A 2.02 (p. 8).

All players must pay the league fee regardless of whether they intend to go to the Sectional Championship. Players who withdraw by the player deadline will receive a refund, minus a $3.15 processing fee. *See* Table 3. After the refund deadline, no refunds will be given unless the District League Coordinator and Executive Director determine a refund is warranted due to exceptional circumstances such as injuries that make it impossible to play, a death in the player's family, or cancellation of the event.

Registration Deadlines

Players must register their teams and players by the deadlines announced below for each division and age group. *See* Table 3.

USTA Montana has **three registration deadlines for leagues**. The first two deadlines are for teams, and the third deadline is for individual players.

1. **The first registration period** is open to Montana teams only and ends 30 days before a league begins.
    - A "Montana team" is a team that maintains a minimum of 50 percent of its total number of registered players from Montana. To be from Montana, a player must have resided in Montana for a minimum of 30 consecutive days over the past year.
    - To register a team, at least half the minimum number of players needed for a full team must register. To register as a Montana team by the first deadline, the minimum number of players must be from Montana.
        - For example, the minimum number of players for a full team in Adult 18 & Over is eight (8). Therefore, at least four (4) players must register by the team deadline and at least four (4) of the registered players must be from Montana.
    - If three (3) or more Montana teams register for an NTRP division by the first team registration deadline, no out-of-state teams may register for that division.
        - For example, if three (3) Montana teams register for Women's 4.0 by the first registration deadline, no out-of-state teams may register for Women's 4.0.
        - If two (2) Montana teams register for Men's 3.5 by the first registration deadline, then out-of-state teams (as well as additional Montana teams) may

register for Men's 3.5 by the second registration deadline.

- If the number of Montana teams falls below the minimum required to maintain Montana-only teams after the initial deadline and before the league begins, the District League Coordinator, in consultation with the League Committee, may allow out-of-state teams to register and play.

2. **The second registration deadline** is three (3) weeks before the first day of play begins for that league season. This is the **final deadline for all teams**, whether they are out-of-state or Montana teams.

3. **The final registration deadline** applies to individual players who want to register for a registered team. A player must be registered for their team 48 hours before the start of the league.

The District League Coordinator may change or extend registration deadlines. If she does, she shall extend the deadline for all players in the division.

Qualifying Teams

To advance to a sectional championship, a team must compete in local league. If only one team registers for a division by the final team deadline, the District League Coordinator will allow additional time for that team to form an accommodation team (or qualifying team) so that the primary team plays sufficient matches to advance.

The qualifying team must meet all minimum criteria for any USTA League team in the applicable division.

- Each player must meet the minimum age for that division.
- Each player must be a USTA member.
- The qualifying team must have the minimum number of players required for a team in that division.

Qualifying teams may obtain a discount registration code from the District League Coordinator and find the Qualifying Teams Policy here.

Table 3: REGISTRATION DEADLINES

Teams playing league tennis are expected to play all scheduled matches to completion on the date and time the matches are scheduled.

DIVISION & AGE GROUP *League Date* *League Location*	**TEAM Deadlines**		**PLAYER & REFUND Deadline**
	FIRST Team Deadline Montana teams only	**SECOND & FINAL Team Deadline** All teams	**FINAL** Players playing on more than one team must register by 2nd deadline
Mixed 18 & Over *Feb. 27-Mar. 1, 2026* *Billings, Montana*	Jan. 28, 2026	Feb. 6, 2026	Feb. 25, 2026
ITA Mixed *May 30-31, 2026* *Kalispell, Montana*	April 30, 2026	May 9, 2026	May 28, 2026
Adult 18 & Over *June 12-14, 2026* *Missoula, Montana*	May 13, 2026	May 22, 2026	June 10, 2026
Adult 65 & Over *June 12-14, 2026* *Missoula, Montana*	May 13, 2026	May 22, 2026	June 10, 2026
Adult 55 & Over *June 26-28, 2026* *Helena, Montana*	May 27, 2026	June 5, 2026	June 24, 2026
Adult 40 & Over *July 24-26, 2026* *Bozeman, Montana*	June 24, 2026	July 3, 2026	July 22, 2026
Mixed 40 & Over *Aug. 14-16, 2026* *Great Falls, Montana*	July 15, 2026	July 24, 2026	Aug. 12, 2026
Tri-Level Adult 18 & Over *Aug. 28-30, 2026* *Butte, Montana*	July 29, 2026	Aug 7, 2026	Aug. 26, 2026
Mixed 55 & Over *Sept 18-20, 2026* *Helena, Montana*	Aug. 19, 2026	Aug. 28, 2026	Sept 16. 2026

Captains' Responsibilities Before Play

Thank you, captains! We appreciate the hard work you do to organize teams and coordinate play. USTA has created Captain's Corner, a webpage dedicated to team captains. You can find many resources here, including videos on finding NTRP ratings, appealing a rating, entering match scores, etc.

Captains find players and create a team.

- Captains start the process of registering a team online here or ask the District League Coordinator (DLC) for a team number and register their team.
- Captains inform their players of the team number so that players can register for the team.
- Captains make sure their players know the registration deadline.

Captains are the liaisons between the DLC and the players.

- Captains communicate news and updates from the DLC to their players.
- Captains attend mandatory captains' meetings prior to a league weekend.

Becky King, the Montana DLC, will contact captains via email or text. Please notify Becky at Becky.king@ustamontana.com if your email or phone number changes after you register your team.

Captains' meeting times and dates will be emailed to captains and published on the Montana Tennis Association website.

Captains shall inform their players that league play is governed by national and Montana USTA League Regulations.

- Please send your players a link to the USTA 2026 League Regulations and a link to these regulations.

LOCAL LEAGUES

All league play in Montana is local league play. Montana does not have separate district championships. The winners of local league advance to the Intermountain Sectional Championship. Local leagues are organized into the following formats:

Table 4: MONTANA LEAGUE FORMAT

A player may play only one individual match in each team match.

Division & Age Group	League Match Format	NTRP Levels
Adult 18 & Over (2.5 & 5.0) **Adult 18 & Over**	1 singles 2 doubles 2 singles 3 doubles	2.5 women 5.0 men or women 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5
Adult 40 & Over	1 singles* 3 doubles *At USTA National Championships teams play 1 singles and 4 doubles	3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5
Adult 55 & Over **Adult 65 & Over**	3 doubles	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0
Mixed 18s, 40s, 55s	3 doubles	6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0
ITA Mixed	3 doubles	5.5, 6.5, 7.5, 8.5, 9.5

LOCAL LEAGUE WEEKENDS

Montana local leagues are played in one weekend event. The winners of the local league advance to the sectional championship.

League matches will be played on the designated date and time at the designated location unless the league is designated as a flex league or a written request is sent to the DLC at least 10 days before the first day of the league weekend and approved before the designated match time.

A player must be registered in TennisLink for a team before playing for that team in a league match. If a player plays in a league match before registering in TennisLink, the match results will be deleted for the ineligible player (and his/her partner if playing doubles) and scored as a win for their opponents.

The weekend dates for Montana's 2026 leagues are in Table 3 and on the MTA website.

All Montana local league play is a round robin competition. When there are 10 or more teams in an NTRP level, the teams will be divided into flights, with a playoff between the top two teams from each flight. When there are seven (7) or fewer teams, the teams will all play one another, with a minimum of three team matches. When there are eight (8) – nine (9) teams within an NTRP level, the DLC will consult with the USTA Montana League Committee, which will decide whether to create flights or play a full round robin. The committee's decision is final.

When any NTRP level consists of only two (2) teams, each team is required to play a minimum of three (3) team matches, which is a triple round robin. When any NTRP level consists of only three (3) teams, each team is required to play a minimum of four (4) team matches, which is a double full round robin. USTA National Regulation 2.01C(1).

The Montana DLC will schedule all team matches and notify team captains of the schedule. Captains may find the opposing teams' rosters on TennisLink.

If a player is not present when the player's match is called, the USTA Point Penalty system will be applied.

A default may be called in accordance with Table 7, Allowable Defaults, if a player is not present 15 minutes after the match is called. If a match is defaulted because of lateness, the match shall not be played.

Warm-up is limited to 10 minutes.

Captains' Responsibilities During League Play

Captains must:

- ensure their players are at the site 30 minutes before each team match;
- turn in lineups to the site coordinator 30 minutes before each team match;
- check with players after their matches to ensure the reported match scores are correct;
- sign the match scorecard at the completion of the team match, indicating agreement with the lineup and scores;

- contact the site coordinator or District League Coordinator immediately to dispute any reported score;
- act as the liaison between their players and the site coordinator and District League Coordinator.

Match Scoring

- Best of two (2) tiebreak sets with a match tiebreak in lieu of a third set.
- The Coman Tiebreak will be used for the set and match tiebreaks. This procedure is the same as traditional tiebreak except that ends are changed after the 1st point, then after every four points and at the conclusion of the tiebreak.
    - The set tiebreak is the first to 7 pts by 2 pts.
    - The match tiebreak is the first to 10 pts by 2 pts.
- Players shall report scores to the tournament desk immediately after the match is completed.
- When all matches are complete, both team captains shall report to the tournament desk to sign the official scorecard.

Table 6: LEAGUE MATCH AND SCORING

Division & Age Group	Team Match	Team Point Awarded For
Adult 18 & Over 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5	2 singles 3 doubles	3 individual matches won
Adult 18 & Over 2.5 women & 5.0	1 singles 2 doubles	2 individual matches won
All Mixed Doubles (18s, 40s, 55s, ITA) Adult 55 & Over **Adult 65 & Over**	3 doubles	2 individual matches won
Adult 40 & Over	1 singles 3 doubles	3-4 individual matches won *If matches tie 2-2, please see below for tie-breaking procedure.*

For 40s & Over team matches that tie 2-2, the winner is determined by the first of the following methods that breaks the tie:

1. **Sets** – the team that lost the fewest sets wins the team point.
2. **Games** – the team that lost the fewest games wins the team point.
3. **Game Winning Percentage** – Total games won divided by total games played
4. **Winner of the #1 doubles**.

Defaults

Defaults must occur in the order prescribed by Table 7.

Table 7: ALLOWABLE DEFAULTS

Division & Age Group	# of Lines per Team Match	Max Defaults Before Team Match is Defaulted	Required Order of Line Defaults
Adult 18 & Over (2.5 & 5.0)	3 *1 singles* *2 doubles*	1	No. 1 singles *or* No. 2 doubles
Adult 18 & Over (3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5)	5 *2 singles* *3 doubles*	2	No. 2 singles before No. 1 singles No. 3 doubles before No. 2 doubles
Adult 40 & Over	*Local League & Sectional Championships:* *4-line format* *1 singles* *3 doubles* *National Championships:* *5-line format* *2 singles* *3 doubles*	4-line format: 1 5-line format: 2	No. 2 doubles before No. 1 doubles No. 1 singles No. 3 doubles before No. 2 doubles No. 2 doubles before No. 1 doubles
Over Adult 55 & Over	3 *3 doubles*	1	No. 3 doubles
Adult 65 & Over	3 *3 doubles*	1	No. 3 doubles
All Mixed Doubles	3 *3 doubles*	1	No. 3 doubles

Retirements

A retirement occurs when an individual match has started and a player or doubles team is unable to continue due to injury, loss of conditioning, emergency, or refusal to play. In case of a retirement, the non-retiring doubles team or player shall be credited with the number of additional games it would have won if the match was completed and the non-retiring doubles team or player won every subsequent game. *See* Reg. 2.03M, N.

Defaulting An Entire Team Match

If an entire team defaults a team match during a local league, the defaulted team may be disqualified from further play, and all previous and future scheduled matches may be removed from the standings. The final decision will be made by the District League Coordinator and the League Committee.

Dynamic NTRP Disqualification: Three-Strike Rule

Dynamic ratings will be calculated for all Adult and Mixed National Championship Advancing League Division players during local league competition and at every level of championship competition including National Championships to determine if any players have reached the NTRP Dynamic Disqualification criteria stated in the USTA NTRP Computer Rating System Procedures. Players subject to NTRP Dynamic Disqualification, as described in the NTRP Dynamic Disqualification Table will be dynamically disqualified if they reach the disqualification level three times based on all matches except retirements received.

All previous matches shall be considered a loss or losses and that individual match or all previous matches shall be considered a win or wins for the opponents season.

Players who are NTRP dynamically disqualified during local league will be notified by the Montana DLC and will have a right to a review in accordance with the procedures in USTA National Reg. 2.04C.

Table 8: NTRP DYNAMIC DISQUALIFICATION TABLE

Each NTRP Level is followed by a letter indicating the type of rating.
*Who **cannot** be NTRP dynamically disqualified?* NTRP Level followed by: **C** -- Computer Rated Players **M** -- Mixed Exclusive Players **T** -- Tournament Exclusive Players
Who can be NTRP dynamically disqualified? NTRP Level followed by: A – Appealed – all granted appeals including Medical and Promoted Players 60 or Over S – Self-rated Players D – Dynamic or NTRP grievance Disqualified Players C -- Early Start (not available in Montana)

Players promoted as a result of NTRP Dynamic Disqualification are immediately required to participate at their new NTRP level in all USTA League Programs. Players who entered an Early Start League at an NTRP level lower than their current year-end rating are subject to dynamic disqualification. *Because Montana does not have an early start league, C -rated players are safe from dynamic disqualification unless their rating was generated from in another state as part of an early start league.*
Year-end (M), (T), and (A) rated players are required to self-rate to play Adult League. They automatically become (S) rated players and are subject to dynamic disqualification.

Eligibility Disqualification

In the event of an eligibility disqualification (e.g., age, USTA membership, TennisLink registration) during a local league weekend and up to 48 hours after the local league ends**,** all matches played by the disqualified player shall be considered defaults. Those matches played by the disqualified player shall be considered wins for the opposing players and scored 6-0, 6-0 for determining standings. The ineligible player will not be allowed to continue or advance.

Rain, Wildfire Smoke, or Heat During League Play

In Case of Rain

All matches shall proceed even if rain is imminent. If a captain notifies the site coordinator that his/her team is defaulting any individual matches and the team match is later rained out, the defaults stand. The roving umpire shall stop play upon determining that the conditions may make play dangerous. If there is no roving umpire, the site coordinator shall stop play after determining that conditions may make play dangerous.

Players may ask the umpire or site coordinator to stop play if they believe footing is compromised by rain. The umpire or site coordinator shall check the courts and determine whether to stop play. If no umpire or site coordinator is available, players may agree to stop play because of rainy conditions if they believe the conditions are making play dangerous.

When a local league is halted because of weather, players should stop play, agree on the score, note the server and the sides, and report immediately to the site coordinator.

If play moves indoors and all matches cannot be completed, the District League Coordinator shall make it a priority to put on those teams that are in contention for first place. Play shall begin where it left off after a 10- minute warm-up.

If it is not possible to finish all matches by a reasonable time on the last day of the league, the District League Coordinator may require that matches be completed in an expeditious manner. Options for completion include changing the scoring or using a coin toss.

In Case of Wildfire Smoke

Montana's summer air quality can be affected by wildfires to the point where it is not safe to play tennis outside. Health effects are correlated to the concentration of PM2.5 particles in the smoke. As they increase, potentially negative impacts to human health also increase. USTA-Montana will rely on air quality monitoring data reported by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Today's Air reports air quality information to the public on an hourly basis from air-monitoring stations around the state.

The EPA also publishes an Air Quality Index (AQI). AQI includes not only PM2.5 particulate levels, but also pollutants such as ozone, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide. Although the numbers may be different, the color-coded health effects categories are the same.

Montana DEQ publishes only PM2.5 particulate data. If you access air quality data on apps such as IQNow or AirNow, you will see AQI numbers, not PM2.5 numbers separately. USTA Montana Adult Leagues will use the guidelines in Table 9, based on DEQ's Outdoor Activity Guidelines Based on Air Quality.

Table 9: AIR QUALITY & OUTDOOR PLAY

Air Quality Assessment	Air Quality Description	Action
Good AQI = 0-50 Visibility = 13+ miles	Good	OK to play outdoors
Moderate AQI = 51-100 Visibility = 9-13 miles	Acceptable -- people unusually sensitive to air pollution may begin to notice health impacts.	
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups AQI = 101-150 Visibility = 5-9 miles	Members of sensitive groups may experience adverse health effects - people with heart or lung conditions, older adults, children, pregnant women, and people who work outdoors.	OK to play outdoors. Team captains may request an indoor match for a player in a sensitive group. DLC has discretion to grant or deny request based on court availability.
Unhealthy AQI = 151-200 Visibility = 2-5 miles	Unhealthy for all people. Health effects on sensitive populations can be serious.	All matches must be played indoors.
Very Unhealthy AQI = 201-300 Visibility = Less than 2	The risk of negative health effects is increased for the entire population	
Hazardous AQI = 301+ Visibility = Less than 2	Air pollution levels are harmful to all people. Anyone could experience serious health effects	

IN CASE OF EXTREME HEAT

To ensure the safety of players in USTA Montana Leagues and to minimize the potential negative impact of heat and severe dehydration, the following guidelines apply to 2026 Montana Adult League events.

- A temperature reading and humidity reading will be obtained for the zip code of the main site before the start of the first match each day from weather.com.
- From these measurements the Apparent Temperature will be determined using the temperature chart on page 160 of Friend at Court.
- If the Apparent Temperature reaches any level that places the measurement within the boundaries shaded in orange on the Apparent Temperature Chart, the site director/league coordinator shall consult the District League Coordinator and consider interim measures including:

    - Moving play indoors;
    - Using alternative scoring;
    - Allowing longer breaks on changeovers and between sets;
    - Allowing players to drink water between games;
    - Suspending play until the temperature drops.

Announcing Local League Winners

Dynamic NTRP rating system reports are issued within 48 hours of the last local league matches.

Local league winners will be announced as soon as possible but may not be announced until up to 48 hours after the local league weekend.

ADVANCEMENT TO SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Player Eligibility to Advance

Players with current valid Computer-C, Mixed Exclusive-M, Tournament Exclusive-T and Computer Rated Appealed up Ratings are eligible to advance to an Intermountain Sectional Championship if they have played on the advancing team in **at least two (2) matches** in Montana local league competition.

- One of the two matches may be a default received by the player.
- A retired match shall count for all players involved.
- This rule does not apply to Self-Rated players or players whose ratings are Valid Computer Rated Appealed Down.

Self-Rated or Valid Computer Rated Appealed Down players are eligible to advance to an Intermountain Sectional Championship if they have played on the advancing team **in at least three (3) matches** in Montana local league competition.

- One of the three matches may be a default received by the player.
- A retired match shall count for all players involved.

National Invitational Leagues: Adult 65 & Over, Mixed 55 & Over and Tri Level: Players, regardless of their rating type are eligible to advance to a National Invitational if they have played on the advancing team in **at least two (2) matches** in through the Sectional Invitational.

- One of the two matches may be a default received by the player.
- A retired match shall count for all players involved.

Qualifying for Sectionals on 2 or More Teams for the Adult 18s and 18s MX, Adult 40s and 40s MX, Tri Level and Adult 55's at Different NTRP Levels

A player who qualifies for sectionals on two or more teams at different NTRP levels must declare which team they will play on at the sectional championships. In the absence of a declaration, the first match played will determine which team he or she will represent. If a player plays on both teams, the player's matches played for the second team will be deemed ineligible.

National Invitational Leagues: Adult 65 & Over, Mixed 55 & Over may share players per the Section regulations.

GRIEVANCES

All grievances arising from league play are governed by USTA National regulations.

Montana has a Local League Grievance Committee, appointed by the USTA-Montana Board President and approved by the ITA Section League Coordinator.

Montana also has a Local League Grievance Appeal Committee, also appointed by the USTA-Montana Board President and approved by the ITA Section League Coordinator.

Members of the Local League Grievance Committee may not be members of the Local League Grievance Appeal Committee. The League Suspension Point System will be used to assess points related to grievances.