



## Tri-Level Regulations – USTA Montana

INTERMOUNTAIN  
MONTANA

**USTA-Montana Tri-Level League is bound by the USTA-Montana League Regulations**

### **1. General Overview - What is a Tri-Level league?**

Tri-Level is a format which consists of three doubles positions, each at a different NTRP level to form the 'Team' (ex: 3.5, 4.0, 4.5). Each doubles position is single-gender for men and women and players compete against the same ability & gender.

1.1. Tri-Level – 'Team': a 'Team' is comprised of a doubles team (2-4 players) at each of the following levels: 3.5, 4.0, 4.5. A player can only play in one position for each team match (no repeats). This format allows players to form a team with their friends whose NTRP ratings are at different levels.

1.2. League Cost - \$32 per player plus active.com processing fee.

### **2. Eligibility:**

2.1 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.

2.2 Minimum Age Requirement: Players must turn 18 within the current calendar year.

2.3 Registration & score reporting is managed by TennisLink. Each player must be registered on his team roster on TennisLink before playing a match.

2.4. Players with the following rating types will be allowed to participate during the local league and the Section Invitational: Computer, Appealed, Tournament, Mixed, and Self-rated. NOTE: Only players with a valid computer rating will be eligible to advance to BNP Tri-Level Championships held in Indian Wells, CA.

Dynamic ratings for Tri-level self-rated players will be reviewed by the Montana Self-Rate Committee prior to any playoffs and the player may be subject to removal from the team roster if his dynamic rating or current championship Year End rating is not within an approved NTRP range for the level of play.

2.5. Individual doubles teams consist of 2 to 4 players that are single-gender for men &

women.

- 2.6. Championship levels of play are 3.5, 4.0 & 4.5 with no repeats.
- 2.8. Each doubles team will compete against same ability & gender. No mixed gender teams.
- 2.9. A player may play .5 above the player's current NTRP level.
- 2.10. Each player must play 2 matches (1 default counts) to advance.
- 2.12. The first-place team in each division will advance to the Intermountain Section Invitational. The winner from the Intermountain Section Invitational will advance to the 2020 BNP Paribas Tri-Level Championships to be held in Indian Wells, CA.

### **3. Tri-Level League Season Timeline:**

- 3.1. June 1 – Team registration deadline.
- 3.2. June 17 - September 8, 2019: The season includes local play in Billings, Bozeman, Great Falls, Helena, and Missoula.
- 3.3 September 27 - 29, 2019: Montana Tri-Level District Championships.
- 3.4. January 17 – 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – USTA-Intermountain Tri-Level Section Invitational.
- 3.5. March 2020 - BNP Paribas Tri-Level Championship at Indian Wells Tennis Garden in Indian Wells, California.

### **4. Match Format and Schedule:**

- 4.1. Best 2 of 3 sets with a 3rd set match tie-break if sets are split.
- 4.2. Rules concerning registration fees, method to determine the flight winner & match ending rules are governed by USTA-Montana League regulations.
- 4.3. The League Coordinator will generate a match schedule.
- 4.4. For two and three team leagues, 4 matches are required.
- 4.5. Four or more team leagues can play a single Round Robin (RR) to meet the minimum 4 match requirement.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. What is the deadline for Team registrations at the local level?**

June 1st. After this date the League Coordinator will review the number of teams and publish the local match dates and locations.

### **2. Why is each doubles position made up of 2-4 players?**

The local area can decide to increase this roster limit but the team that advances to the Montana District Championships will be limited to 4 eligible players at each NTRP level and gender.

### **3. Why are self-rate players reviewed before advancing to a Play Off?**

The Tri-Level Championship does not have access to review self-rated players and their stand is to ensure compatible tennis for participants. The Section's stand is to attract more people to tennis by allowing new players to participate in Tri-Level. Tri-Level would otherwise be another format offered to the existing audience of players.

### **4. How do I register?**

Contact your District League Coordinator, Andrea Johnson, for a team number.

### **5. Is a team captain/representative required?**

Yes.

### **6. What are the responsibilities of the captain?**

- 6.1 Adhere to registration deadlines.
- 6.2 Report and confirm scores. Enter scores to Tennis Link.
- 6.3 Make sure the team knows when and where the matches are taking place.
- 6.4 Make sure the team provides balls when listed as the Home team.
- 6.5 Ensure players are aware of the regulations.
- 6.6 Responsible for communications to the team.
- 6.7 Communicate schedule changes in the event of a flex schedule. See below.
- 6.8 Communicate and prepare for Championships should the team qualify to advance.

### **7. Will all levels play their matches at the same time in the local league?**

The local schedule will depend upon the local league needs. For example; 1) a schedule is set up with the understanding that the team captains will work together to play at convenient times, 2) A schedule is generated and then the captains can change the schedule. The captains must inform the local coordinator

of any changes to match times and dates so that TennisLink can be updated. Since 'By NTRP Level' teams are comprised of one position and therefore require one court, the flexibility around scheduling should work for this league if the captains do a good job of communicating with each other. Both captains must agree on any schedule changes. For specific schedules contact your local league coordinator.

#### **8. How is the winner of a flight determined?**

At the local level, flights may consist of teams comprised of 3 NTRP positions or single NTRP level teams. Two ways to decide the local winner are by team wins or most individual position wins.

The USTA-Montana league regulations apply.

#### **9. How will the teams that go to the Tri-Level Championships in Indian Wells be chosen?**

The winner of each local flight advances to the Montana Playoff in September. The Montana winners advance to the Intermountain Section Invitational in January. The winners from the Intermountain Section Invitational will advance to the 2020 BNP Paribas Tri-Level Championships to be held in Indian Wells, CA.

#### **10. Why is the Tri-Level league popular at the local level?**

The Tri-Level league is part of the 'Expanded Play Opportunities' for USTA League tennis in Montana. The format offers possibilities that meet the needs and preferences of players. This league is an appealing way to attract new players who, once connected, become candidates for the USTA Adult and Mixed Leagues. Finally, the development of Tri-Level creates the base and foundation for other league opportunities to grow thus providing people with more venues to play tennis