

USTA LOUISIANA

Players, Captain's, and Friends,

This is an important announcement regarding changes surrounding Mixed Double and Tri-Level USTA Southern and Louisiana league for the 2024 Championship year.

Mixed Doubles:

Starting in 2024, all Mixed Doubles Leagues in Louisiana will move to Straight Level (2.5, 3.0, 4.0, 4.5 and 5.0).

Per USTA Southern regulations, Mixed Doubles 18 & Over and 40 & Over Leagues will move to straight-levels for the 2024 league championship year. USTA Louisiana will also follow suit and straight levels will be used for Mixed Doubles 55 & Over leagues. Local leagues, local playoffs and Mixed State Championships will consist of straight-levels. Players can still play "up" .5 a level. For example, a 3.0 rated player can play in a 3.5 level Mixed Double League. A 2.5 rated player cannot play in a 3.5 level Mixed Doubles League. Opportunities for advancement are still in place. Eligible teams may compete through the USTA National Mixed Doubles League Championship.

Reasons for the change:

In the USTA Southern Section, USTA Southern Mixed Doubles has declined by 12% (14% decline in Louisiana) over the past 10 years. Going to straight level divisions will allow players to be closer in skill level during the match resulting in more competitive matches and ensures our mission of Fair-based play is also being addressed. The largest number of NTRP Grievances, self-rate complaints and self-rate abuse in the USTA Southern comes from the Mixed Doubles League program with the current combined NTRP levels. Starting in 2024, Self("S"), Appealed ("A") and Mixed-Exclusive ("M") rated players are subject to dynamic disqualifications during the USTA Southern Mixed Doubles (18 & Over and 40 & Over) league play.

Tri-Level:

Starting in 2024, Tri-Level matches will affect NTRP Computer ratings and Tri-Level will become a USTA Southern Program. For players and captains, this means that match results from Tri-Level matches will go toward NTRP Computer ratings. This will give players more opportunity to play and receive a computer rating. Furthermore, the program will now be regulated by USTA Southern, Advancement past state will not longer be a "Sectional Invitational", it will be deemed a "Southern League Championship". Rules and regulations surrounding Tri-Level will now be governed at the USTA Southern level. This is great news for players and captains who play Tri-Level as it means the program is growing!

Thank you for your continued support of the USTA Leagues and programming. I look forward to seeing you on the courts.

Sincerely,

Marty Engle

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