

## 4.03 MULTIPLE LEAGUES PROGRESSING TO THE SAME CHAMPIONSHIP

The USTA Texas Section allows multiple league play within cities in the Section provided the team captains and players abide by the local rules for the leagues in which they participate. The purpose of allowing multiple league play is to encourage more USTA adult participation.

For purposes of these rules, "League" represents a distinct calendar of play with start and end dates (a season); which plays on a specific day and/or time; which has specific NTRP eligibility requirements; and which is of a specific Age Group. All conditions must be met to constitute a separate league. For example, a ladies' NTRP 4.0 USTA 18 & Over league playing on Monday mornings is distinct from the same level and Age Group playing on Friday mornings. A player may participate on each of these teams, but may not be a member of two teams that both play on Monday mornings at the same level and Age Group. The following rules apply to participation in multiple USTA leagues that advance to the same championship progression, whether Local, Area, Sectional, or National:

4.03(a) When involved with more than one Community Tennis Association, players must abide by the fees, rules, and boundaries of each organization.

4.03(b) A player may be on as many teams as he or she is otherwise eligible, provided participation is not on two teams that play during the same season on the same days/times, and at the same NTRP level and Age Group.

4.03(c) If there is more than one league, or flight within a league, at a given NTRP level and Age Group, the team to advance to the Texas Sectional Championships shall be determined by the *Houston Citywide Championships* for Houston league play, and by the *NoHo local league or Playoffs* for North Houston (NoHo) league play (the local league championships).

4.03(d) Within the Houston or North Houston leagues, teams and/or players participating on multiple leagues or at multiple NTRP levels can participate at only one NTRP level per Age Group in a local league championship. For example, assuming both teams qualify, a player participating in two USTA 40 & Over leagues in Houston at both the NTRP 3.5 and 4.0 levels must select only one team to represent in the Houston Citywide Championships. Likewise, a player participating in NTRP 4.0 play in USTA 18 & Over leagues on both Monday and Wednesday mornings must declare which team she will represent in the Houston Citywide Championships.

4.03(e) A player on a team that qualifies for the HTA Houston Citywide Championships and is also on a team that qualifies for the NoHo Playoffs must abide by the following:

- (1) A player that does not participate with either of their teams in the Houston Citywide Championships or the NoHo Playoffs may still join one of the winning teams in advancement to the Texas Sectional Championships provided all eligibility requirements are met.
- (2) If a player participates in either the Houston Citywide Championships or the NoHo Playoffs and their team wins, they may **not** participate in any other local league playoff for that league type and Age Group. This rule applies if the teams are the same NTRP levels. **Winning a local league championship constitutes a team declaration for the Texas Sectional Championships.**
- (3) If the team a player participates with in either the Houston Citywide Championships or the NoHo Playoffs does not win, but the player's second team wins the other local league championships, the player may rejoin that team to advance to the Texas Sectional Championships even though they did not participate in those local playoffs.

4.03(f) If an entire team is eligible for both the Houston Citywide Championships and the NoHo Playoffs, the team must make a declaration as to which championship the team will enter. Depending upon this decision, the championship opportunity will then be offered to the second-place team in that division. If that second-place team declines, the wild-card team with the best overall winning percentage in the local league at that Age Group and level of play will be invited to participate in the local league championships.

4.03(g) Players on a team that proceeds directly from local league play to the Texas Sectional Championships without requirement of a local league championship (e.g., insufficient number of teams to hold a playoff) may not participate in local league playoffs on any other of their qualifying teams for that division/NTRP level.

4.03(h) Any other situations regarding play in multiple leagues progressing to the same championship will be resolved by the League Coordinator for the appropriate Community Tennis Association. Standards for the filing of grievances apply (see Section 5.00, below).