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Players, Captains, Friends:

This is an important announcement regarding changes surrounding Mixed Doubles and Tri-Level USTA Southern and North Carolina leagues for the 2024 Championship year.

Mixed Doubles:

Starting in 2024, all Mixed Doubles Leagues in North Carolina will move to Straight Level (2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 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 North Carolina follow suit and straight levels will be used for Mixed Doubles 55 & Over and 65 & 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 can play in a 3.5 Mixed Doubles League. A 2.5 cannot play in a 3.5 Mixed Doubles League. Opportunities for advancement are still in place.

Reasons for the change:

In the USTA Southern Section, USTA Southern Mixed Doubles has declined by 12% 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. Fair-based play is also being addressed with the change. The largest number of NTRP Grievances, self-rate complaints and self-rate abuse in 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 disqualification during 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 states will no 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 USTA Leagues and programming. I look forward to seeing you on the courts!

Allison Steinmetz

Director of Adult Programs USTA North Carolina