



**MIDDLE STATES  
DELAWARE**

## **2010 Northern Delaware USTA Mixed Doubles League Regulations**

*Note: Northern Delaware rules elaborate on but do not replace or supersede  
USTA National or Middle States Regulations*

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**Revisions to last season's regulations are underlined.**

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## **I. USTA MEMBERSHIP AND LEAGUE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS**

**A.** The Delaware District 2010 Mixed Doubles League will be organized in **Adult** and **Senior** Divisions at the 6.0, 7.0, 8.0 and 9.0 levels, where the combined NTRP rating for the two players on a given court does not exceed the league level, nor may partners be more than 1.0 apart.

Example: In an 8.0 flight, a 4.0 player may be teamed with another 4.0 (or below) player, or a 4.5 level player may be teamed with a 3.5 player. It is the captain's responsibility to see that players are properly matched. Courts with players not properly matched will be defaulted.

**B.** National regulations require a minimum of two (2) teams per flight and every team must play every other team within the flight at least once. Any flight with only two or three teams is required to play a minimum of three (3) team matches.

**C.** All players must be:

1. Registered with the team on TennisLink before playing his or her first match.
2. Nineteen (19) years and older for **Adult** Division players, and fifty (50) years and older for **Senior** Division players by December 31, 2010. Note: Players who will turn 19 or 50 during the year 2010 must wait until January 1, 2010 to register for a team.
3. Current members of the United States Tennis Association, with membership valid through June 2010.

**D.** Delaware District players may play on more than one team as long as the teams are at different levels (i.e., 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, or 9.0) or in different Divisions (Adult, Senior). The players must be properly registered on both teams (including paying two registration fees), and must notify both team captains that they are playing on more than one team. See chart in Section V.F. for guidelines to be used by multi-team players advancing to championships.

**E.** Players may take out or renew USTA membership, or register for a team by accessing the USTA's TennisLink web site. TennisLink will check eligibility by age, gender, current USTA membership and current NTRP computer rating (See Section II.B.). Players without a rating will be asked to self-rate when they register. **Players cannot register for a team by phone.**

1. Use the following steps to register.

**Step #1.** Log in to "www.delaware.usta.com".

**Step #2.** The Delaware District home page will be shown. Click on "TennisLink" in the left margin.

**Step #3.** The TennisLink page will be shown. From the menu at the right make the appropriate choice (Register for a team; Join the USTA; Renew your membership). Players not having a current NTRP rating will be prompted to self-rate themselves.

2. A \$18.00 per team registration fee will be charged.

3. Players will need to have the following available before logging in to TennisLink:

- A USTA membership number (for existing members),
- Phone number and address
- American Express Card, MasterCard or Visa Card number and expiration date.

**F.** Players may also apply for or renew a USTA membership by phoning 1-800-990-8782 and following the verbal instructions. A new or renewed USTA membership will be effective immediately whether application is made online using TennisLink or by phone. **Applications made by phone after 5:00pm**

**Eastern time on weekdays or on weekends when the USTA office is closed will be delayed until the next working day.**

**G.** Delaware District players are permitted to play on Mixed Doubles teams in another district, including district championships. See chart in Section V.H. for rules on playing in more than one district championship.

**H.** Delaware District Mixed Doubles teams may include players from other districts. Entire teams playing in another district at the same level may not play as a team in the Delaware district and only four (4) such team members may play together on a Delaware team. Players must be properly registered on both teams (including paying two registration fees) and must notify both team captains that they are playing in more than one district.

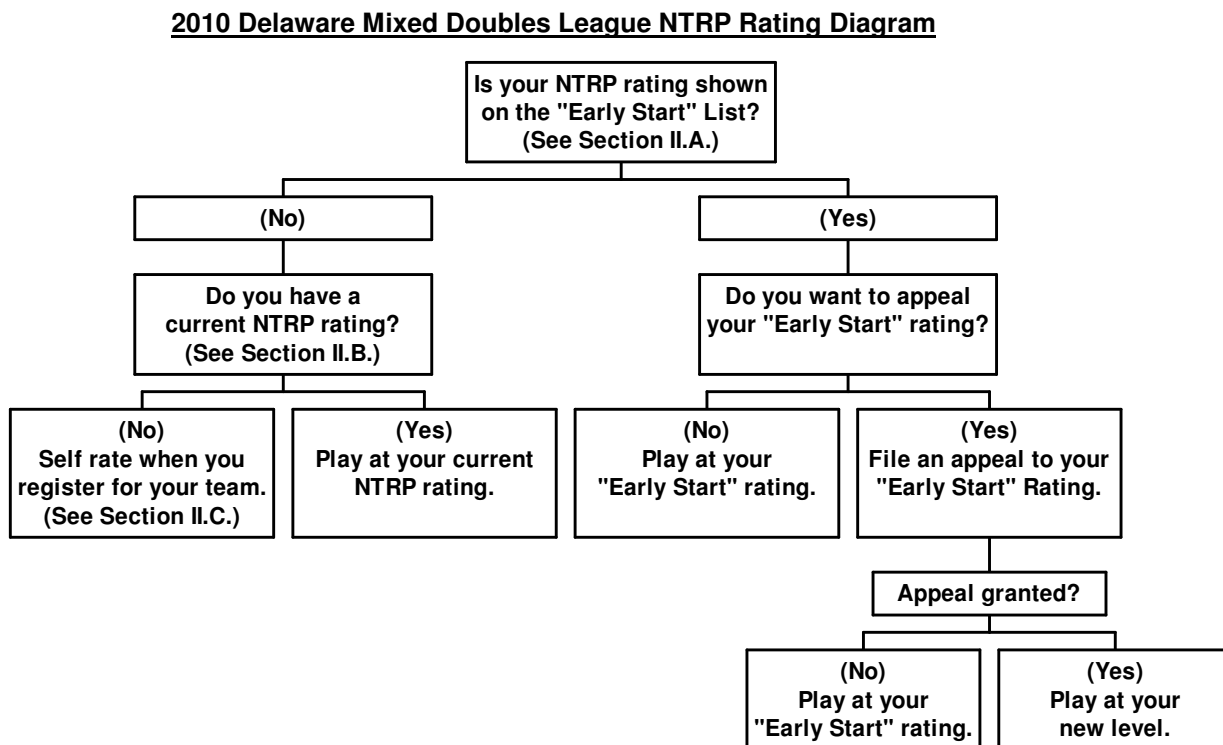
**I.** Scheduling conflicts, **including District, Section or Regional Championships**, as a result of playing on more than one team are the individual player's responsibility.

**J.** A team may add players to its roster prior to **March 1, 2010**. In addition, a player may transfer to a different team prior to **March 1, 2010** provided that individual has not played a match either by participation or by receiving a default. Players added to a roster or transferring to a different team must be registered on TennisLink with their new team before playing a match.

**K.** It is the team captain's and each player's responsibility to ensure that all player qualifications of this section are met. If any violations of the above occur, the District reserves the right to change or adjust any affected league play results or standings accordingly.

## **II. 2010 NTRP Ratings For Delaware Mixed Doubles Leagues**

Delaware Mixed Doubles League players may use the diagram below to determine their rating to be used for league play.



## A. Early Start rating list

An **Early Start** rating list will be published on the Delaware District web site, "www.delaware.usta.com", mid-September, 2009.

Players wishing to **appeal their Early Start** rating may do so by sending an e-mail request to **Sally Baird**, Middle States Director of Adult Competition, at baird@ms.usta.com. Players appealing their Early Start rating should not register for a team until they learn the outcome of their appeal (granted/not granted).

If a player's Early Start is **lowered** when year-end ratings are published, that player may play with the lower rating. If a player's rating is **raised** when year-end ratings are published, that player may continue to play with the rostered rating through MXD Championships, unless their year-end rating is two (2) levels above (e.g. 3.5 to 4.5)

## B. Current NTRP Rating

Players who previously participated in Mixed Doubles, Adult, Senior (previous three years) or Super Senior (previous two years) leagues **and are not** included on the Early Start list will use their current rating.

Accessing the Internet to view current NTRP Ratings:

**Step #1.** Use the following URL address to get to the Middle States page.

www.middlestates.usta.com

**Step#2.** On the menu on the left margin of the Middle States page, click on TennisLink. Click on "Find a Rating" from the menu at the right, and follow the instructions given on the page that will appear.

## C. Non-Rated Players

New players entering the league without a rating will be asked to **self-rate** as they register for a team on TennisLink. Since registering by phone is no longer available, players without access to TennisLink should ask another team member to register them.

Players should be able to self-rate accurately...do you play with league players who currently have computer ratings? Knowing their ratings, where would you place yourself? Players unsure of their rating are encouraged to contact their local pro for guidance. TennisLink will provide a series of on-line questions for new players at the time of registration to help ensure proper rating.

Caution: Once a player's self-rating is finalized in TennisLink, the rating will be locked in and cannot be changed throughout the 2010 Mixed Doubles League season. Players should carefully review their rating. If a player finds his/her self-rate too low (a 2.0 results if procedures are not properly followed), the player should use the online appeal process below.

## D. Online NTRP Appeal process

Players may appeal their current rating, either up or down, or their self-rating (up only) online at TennisLink. Self-rated players who get 2.0 when they should have 3.5 or 4.0 or whatever can appeal automatically. Any self-rated player who wants to appeal up can use the automated system. **Players must successfully appeal their rating before registering for a MXD team.**

The only players who **cannot** use the online system and must appeal to the Middle States Section office are the following:

1. Self-rated players who want to go down
2. Medical Appeals

3. MXD players who appeal their Early-start rating.

**Follow these steps to appeal a rating online.**

Step #1 Login to the Delaware District web site, "delaware.usta.com".

Step #2 Click on TennisLink in the left margin of the district home page.

Step #3 On the TennisLink page, click on "Find a rating" under the header "League players" in the right margin. When the appeal page displays, enter the USTA number of the player. Note: Players should appeal their own ratings. This should not be done by the team captain.

Step #4 Next to "Rating Type" click on "Appeal rating". Follow the prompts. The player's zip code will have to be entered.

Step #5 A message will be displayed telling the player if his/her appeal is granted or denied.

**E. NTRP Grievances.** Any league captain, coordinator or member of a championship committee has the right to file a NTRP Grievance against a player and/or captain who commits or condones self-rating at one NTRP level when his/her actual skill level is at the top of the next level or higher. See form titled "**Protocol for Filing a NTRP Grievance**" for procedures. NTRP Grievances must be filed with:

Sally Baird  
Middle States Director of Adult Competition  
1288 Valley Forge Road, Suite 74  
P.O. Box 987  
Valley Forge, PA 19482 - 0987

**F.** Players will not be NTRP disqualified because of Mixed Doubles League play, except as a result of a disqualification ruling by the NTRP Grievance Committee. Mixed doubles results will not be part of generating a player's year-end rating except for those players who choose to only play mixed doubles. Players who play mixed doubles exclusively and choose to participate in the Adult and/or Senior leagues the following season must enter at their year-end mixed doubles rating or higher.

**G. Year-End** ratings for 2009 Adult, Senior and Super Senior players will be published late November 2009. If a player's rating is **lowered** when Year-End ratings are published, that player may play with the lower rating. If a player's rating is **raised** when Year-End ratings are published, that player may continue to play with the lower rating through MXD Nationals.

**Exceptions:** (1) Delaware's 2010 Adult and Senior leagues will start before the 2010 Mixed season is completed. Should a player be NTRP disqualified during the 2010 Adult or Senior **local** league season, that player may not play at the disqualified level during the remainder of the 2010 Mixed Doubles local league season or the Sectionals. The player will be eligible to continue playing on the same team if he/she has a partner of the appropriate level to meet the level of the team. For example, if a 3.0 rated player who is playing on a 6.0 Mixed Doubles team is disqualified and moved to 3.5 during the Adult or Senior **local** league season, that player must be paired with a 2.5 rated player of the opposite gender on the team. (2) Players who are disqualified in Adult or Senior **local** league play **after** the Sectionals but before the Mixed Doubles Nationals will be allowed to play in the Nationals at their previous level.

**H.** Captains are **encouraged** to carefully check the ratings of their players prior to each match, as well as those of the opposing team, to ensure all players are within level.

### **III. Match Procedures**

**A.** Each team must have a captain or acting captain present at every match. Captains must exchange scorecards simultaneously, complete with player names, five minutes prior to the match **scheduled** starting time. There will be no order of strength rule in effect for Delaware District MXD league play.

**B.** Teams not having enough players present for all three courts at the time scorecards are exchanged must provide players for court No. 1 first, then court No. 2 players must be properly listed on the scorecards prior to the captains exchanging cards. All defaults must be made from the bottom up (third doubles before second doubles). Available players must move up into the necessary team positions to accommodate any defaults. If a captain questions the order of default by an opposing team, he or she should immediately inform the opposing captain. If the order of default is not corrected, enter "Dispute" on the TennisLink scorecard, and contact Kris Nonnenmacher at Galleyware@verizon.net. Once match results have been "Confirmed" on TennisLink, defaults appearing in the wrong positions will be considered correct by mutual agreement and the team match will stand as played without penalties to the defaulting team.

**C.** Players are to start warming up promptly at the **scheduled** match starting time. If players arrive after the scheduled starting time, they are allowed a 10-minute warm-up, but the following penalties for lateness apply.

5:00 minutes or less	5:01 - 10:00 minutes	10:01 - 15:00 minutes	More than 15:00 minutes
Loss of toss plus one game	Loss of toss plus two games	Loss of toss plus three games	Default

**D.** Matches, including the 10 minute warm-up, are to last no longer than 1- ½ hours. Players must vacate the courts immediately after the 1- ½ hour time limit has expired, even if a game is not completed.

**E.** Matches are best of 3 sets with a 12-point set-tiebreak (first to 7 by two points) when games reach 6-all in any set. If the 1- ½ hour time limit runs out before the match on a given court is completed, the total number of games won will determine the winner of the match on that court. Games **not completed** before the 1- ½ hour time limit expires do not count. In the event both teams tie (e.g., 13 games each), each team will be awarded one-half (½) court point.

**F.** A defaulted court will be scored as 1 court point for the opposing team. The names of players receiving the default should be entered in the proper place on the TennisLink scorecard as if the match had been played as scheduled. The score should be entered as 6-0, 6-0, "default". If the match is begun and then must be defaulted, write the match score up to the point of default, and choose "retired" from the menu.

**G.** Since mixed doubles league matches are played indoors in the Delaware District under a 1- ½ hour time limit, play must be continuous. Players are not allowed to leave the court except for a toilet break, or to assist an injured player on their court.

Clarifications:

**1. Toilet breaks.** Toilet breaks are not allowed during the last 10 minutes of a match. Taking a toilet break, when permissible, must be limited to 5 minutes and must be communicated to the opposing players before leaving the court.

**2. Injuries.** Only one injury time-out per player is permitted, and the time-out shall be limited to 5 minutes. If an injury occurs during the last 5 minutes of a match and play does not resume before the 1- ½ hour match time limit expires, the injured player shall be defaulted.

**H.** In the event of inclement weather (e.g., snow or ice) such that players are at risk traveling to a match, team captains will be notified by the league coordinator or the DD Executive Secretary that matches are to be postponed.

I. Cell phones or pagers must be turned off during a match. If a player's cell phone or pager rings during a point, that player loses the point.

#### **IV. Score Recording**

A. Match results **must** be recorded on TennisLink by **EITHER** captain within 72 hours of the match completion, and then verified by the OPPOSING captain. Match scores will be locked-in on TennisLink after 48 hours of their entry if the opposing captain has not verified the entry. Once a captain reports a score, only the League Coordinator can make a change in case of error. The opposing captain must contact the Coordinator when a score is disputed. Failure to report scores may result in the winning team not receiving credit for the win and the losing team not having the matches recorded and counted. Scorecards should be retained in the event of future dispute.

B. Follow these steps when recording a match score.

**Step #1.** Log on to "www.delaware.usta.com".

**Step #2.** The Delaware District home page will be shown. Click on TennisLink in the left margin.

**Step #3.** The TennisLink page will be shown. Click on "Record a score" in the right margin.

**Step #4.** A new page will come up where you will be asked to enter your USTA number and the match number.

**Step #5.** A new page will come up and you will be asked to verify the teams for the match number you entered. After verifying, click "Next".

**Step #6.** The page for entering scores will come up. Enter the scores. NOTE: IF A PLAYER'S NAME IS NOT SHOWN WHEN CHOOSING PLAYERS FROM THE TEAM DROP-DOWN MENU, THAT PLAYER IS NOT REGISTERED AND MUST BE DEFAULTED. ENTER THE MATCH SCORE FOR THE DEFAULTED PLAYER AND CONTACT THE LOCAL LEAGUE COORDINATOR. THE COORDINATOR WILL CONTACT SALLY BAIRD, MIDDLE STATES DIRECTOR OF ADULT COMPETITION, WHO WILL "DISQUALIFY" THE MATCH FOR THE WINNING TEAM. THE SCORE OF THE DEFAULTED MATCH WILL REMAIN IN TENNISLINK FOR NTRP CALCULATION PURPOSES,

**Step #7.** Always be sure to choose "Finish" before exiting scorecard entry.

C. If a match on a given court is not completed because time ran out and a team won because of the total number of games won in all sets played on that court (say 13-11), indicate the team that won, enter the score and choose "Timed Match" or "Retired" from the drop-down menu. The results of defaulted matches stand.

D. For Delaware District MXD League purposes only, if a given court is tied (say, 13 games each in all sets played on that court), enter the score along with the player names, choose "Timed match" from the drop-down menu, and select either team as the winner. Each team will receive ½ court point and reported in the official standings shown on "www.delaware.usta.com".

E. After scores have been entered in TennisLink, one (1) court point will be awarded to the winning team on each court. The final score will be 3-0, 2½-½ (one court tied), 1½-1½ (courts split and one court tied), or 2-1 court points. The team with the most court points will receive one (1) team match point.

F. TennisLink does not keep track of tied matches (1½-1½ courts). Therefore, the league coordinator will keep track of league standings throughout the season, and will post weekly updates on the Delaware District web site, "www.delaware.usta.com". **Leagues standings and schedules shown on TennisLink are not official. Use the schedule issued by your Local League Coordinator and the standings shown on the Delaware District web site. TennisLink will only be used for applying for or renewing USTA membership, registering team players and recording match scores.**

**G.** Captains may review other match scorecards by entering a match number in the "Match Number" field at the bottom of the TennisLink screen.

**H.** If you do not agree with a score previously entered, choose "Dispute" and contact the League Coordinator by e-mail (Kris Nonnenmacher, [galleyware@verizon.com](mailto:galleyware@verizon.com)) and copy the opposing captain stating the reason for the dispute.

**I.** If player(s) are disqualified for whatever reason (more than four out-of-district players on a team; not registered for the team, etc.) all matches played by the player(s) shall be considered losses and wins for the opposing player(s). All results must be left in TennisLink for NTRP calculation purposes. Sally Baird, Middle States Director of Adult Competition, will "disqualify" the match for the winning team.

## **V. District Championships**

**A.** A District Championship is a meeting of flight winners. Flight winners must be seeded above runners-up (second or third place finishers) irrespective of the number of teams within flights. As an example, if a level (e.g. 6.0 Adult Mixed) has multiple flights, one with five teams and another with ten teams, each flight's winner must participate in a District Championship to determine which team will advance to Section Championships. In Delaware, in an effort to make leagues more competitive, league administrators sometimes invite second or third place teams in a flight to compete in Championships. By national rule, such teams cannot be seeded. Any Southern Delaware league is considered a flight and will automatically qualify for a spot in the District Championships.

**B.** District championships among teams in each flight will be held in accordance with the following. The date(s) and location(s) will be set after league schedules have been prepared.

**1. Single flight leagues:** Teams participating will be the top four teams as shown on "delaware.usta.com" at the completion of the local league season. The team finishing first will play the fourth place team in the semi-finals. Any Southern Delaware league is considered a flight and will automatically qualify for a spot in the District Championships.

**2. Two flight leagues:** Flight winners will be seeded and play the runners-up from the other flights in the semi-finals. Any Southern Delaware league is considered a flight and will automatically qualify for a spot in the District Championships.

**3. Three flight leagues:** The flight winner having the best record based on the **percentage** of matches won, courts won, etc. will play the runner-up from the flight having the second-best record using the same criteria in the semi-finals. Any Southern Delaware league is considered a flight and will automatically qualify for a spot in the District Championships.

The tie-break procedure if two or more teams are tied with the best match won/lost record within their flight. First tie-break = Most courts won; Second tie-break = Loser of the fewest number of sets; Third tie-break = loser of the fewest number of games; Fourth tie-break = Winner of head-to-head match.

**C.** Teams may default a maximum of one court without defaulting the entire team match. Any team that defaults an entire team match may not advance to any championship level. Results of defaulted matches stand.

**D.** MXD players must have participated in 2 matches at the local level (1 opponent's default will count) in order to advance to Local or Section Championships. MXD players must have participated in 3 matches through the Section Championships (no opponent's defaults will count) in order to advance to National Championships.

#### E. Misconduct Code Violations During District Championships

Penalties for misconduct, including racquet abuse, visible or audible obscenity or profanity, and other code violations given in Part 3, Section I of "A Friend at Court" will be assessed by court officials as follows.

1<sup>st</sup> Violation: Loss of point

2<sup>nd</sup> Violation: Loss of game if violation occurs during first or second set. **Player is defaulted if violation occurs during match tiebreak. (A match tiebreak is considered a game.)**

3<sup>rd</sup> Violation: Player is defaulted.

#### F. Lateness penalty

The lateness penalties given in Section III.C. will be assessed if players arrive late after the scheduled starting time, or after courts become available if match is delayed (rain or matches backed up).

#### G. Move-up/Split-up Rule For Mixed Doubles

Adult MXD teams advancing to Regional championships must move up 1 level as a team or disperse to form new teams with no more than three (3) players who are on the final roster at the conclusion of local league play. This rule does not apply to Senior MXD teams advancing to Regional championships.

#### H. Guidelines for Multi-Team Players Advancing to Championships

Player Status	More than one team advances to Delaware District Championships	More than one team advances to Middle States Sectional Championships
Playing at more than one level in Delaware District.	May play at more than one level.	May play at more than one level.
Playing in Delaware and another district at same level.	May play in more than one district championship.	Must choose a district.
Playing in Delaware and another district at different levels.	May play in more than one district championship and more than one level in each district championship.	Must choose a district for each level.

Note: If the team chosen at the district level fails to advance to sectional championships, the player may advance with his/her team at another level from the same district, or with his/her team from another district. Such players must be properly registered and have played the required minimum number of local league matches with the advancing team.

I. USTA League Tennis Regulations require a minimum of two teams per flight. Some flights occasionally do not have the minimum number of teams. If this happens in ALL districts, the Middle States Director of Adult Competition (Sally Baird) **MAY** choose to play a local league in "tournament style" at the Section Championships. League Coordinators having a single-team league should contact Sally Baird to determine the status of leagues in other Middle States districts and ask if a "local league" will be played at the Section Championships. If necessary, the League Coordinator is authorized to form a local league to qualify a team for Section Championships, including having players from lower levels compete who would otherwise be outside of the normal playing rules for level of play.

## **VI. Court Fees**

Court fees will be **\$15.00/player/match**. Captains are responsible for collecting the fee from each player prior to the start of a match, and paying the \$90.00 (\$15.00 x 6) team court fee to the club hosting the match before taking the courts. The clubs **require one** \$90.00 payment.

## **VII. Escrow Fees**

**A.** Each team captain will submit a **\$180.00** check to the League Coordinator, payable to USTA/MS/DD, prior to start of the league season. The check will be held in escrow until completion of the season. At that time, if all court fees have been paid, the check will be shredded by the league coordinators. (Note: the \$180.00 check will be cashed only if it becomes necessary to pay court fees.)

**B.** Teams defaulting courts will be responsible for paying the full court fee for both teams. To avoid paying the paying the entire defaulted court fee, follow these guidelines:

1. Notify the club in advance to see whether they can rent the court.
2. Call the opposing captain to see whether they want to rent the court.

**C.** In the event a team fails to pay court fees, the fee will be paid out of the escrow. If the \$180.00 escrow has been exhausted, all players on that team will be banned from further participation in all USTA events (including Mixed Doubles, Adult, Senior and Super Senior USTA Summer leagues) until the fees are paid. The Delaware District Mixed Doubles League Coordinator will notify all players on such teams to allow them to pay their share of the fees and avoid disqualification.

## **VIII. Grievances**

All captains should read the USTA League Tennis Regulations for additional rules and grievance procedures. When in doubt about a rule or procedure, contact your League Coordinator. If it becomes necessary to file a formal complaint regarding any matter, follow the exact procedures spelled out in Section 2.02 (Page 6) of the USTA League Tennis Regulations. Copies of all grievances must be submitted in writing (hard copy or e-mail) to the Delaware District Area League Coordinator (Tom Ellis ) and the MXD League Coordinators (Kris and Melinda Nonnenmacher) within **seven** days of the match grieved (or, if applicable, within 24 hours after the deadline for the end of local league play, whichever occurs first.).

Tom Ellis  
DD Area League Coordinator  
5449 Crestline Road  
Wilmington, DE 19808  
Email: [tderre@del.net](mailto:tderre@del.net)

Kris Nonnenmacher  
DD MXD League Coordinator  
113 Downs Drive  
Greenville, DE 19807  
Email: [galleyware@verizon.net](mailto:galleyware@verizon.net)

Upon receipt of the complaint, the Area League Coordinator will immediately send a copy to the Chair of the Delaware District League Grievance Committee and to the persons listed below.

- 1) Captain of the player(s) or team against whom the complaint has been made;
- 2) Delaware District Executive Secretary;
- 3) Middle States Director of Adult Competition.

## **IX. National Championships**

In 2010 there will be National Championships including all sections.

The Senior Mixed Doubles Nationals will be an invitational and will be played in April 2010.

Senior Mixed Doubles teams that go to Nationals can stay together the next year but they will not be permitted to advance.