

2020 – One Doubles FLEX Option

One Doubles is a USTA SoCal format designed to offer fun and competitive tennis in today’s ever-changing environment. For 2020, the One Doubles Section Qualifiers will advance to the Tri-Level National Invitational (at a date and location to be determined in 2021.) The One Doubles format groups players of similar ability (NTRP Level) on Squads of two to six players. Squads will be grouped into flights for round robin play at the local level. Flight winners will then play off for a spot to represent the area at the Sectional Qualifier. The One Doubles Section Qualifiers at the 4.5, 4.0, and 3.5 levels will combine to form the USTA SoCal Tri-Level team (see progression in diagram).

The Tri-Level Invitational invites one men’s and one women’s Tri-Level team featuring 4.5, 4.0, and 3.5 NTRP levels from each of the USTA Sections to participate in the tournament. In the past, it has been held during the BNP Paribas Open in March and has been wildly popular among previous Tri-Level Invitational participants.

FORMAT OVERVIEW

One Doubles line (one match)

Men’s: 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0

Women’s: 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0

Scoring - Three sets- 10-point tiebreaker in lieu of 3rd set, regular scoring

Season Length – approximately 7 weeks including a local area playoff if necessary,

Season end date – Dec 30, 2020

Squad size – 2-6 players, one of which is the point person

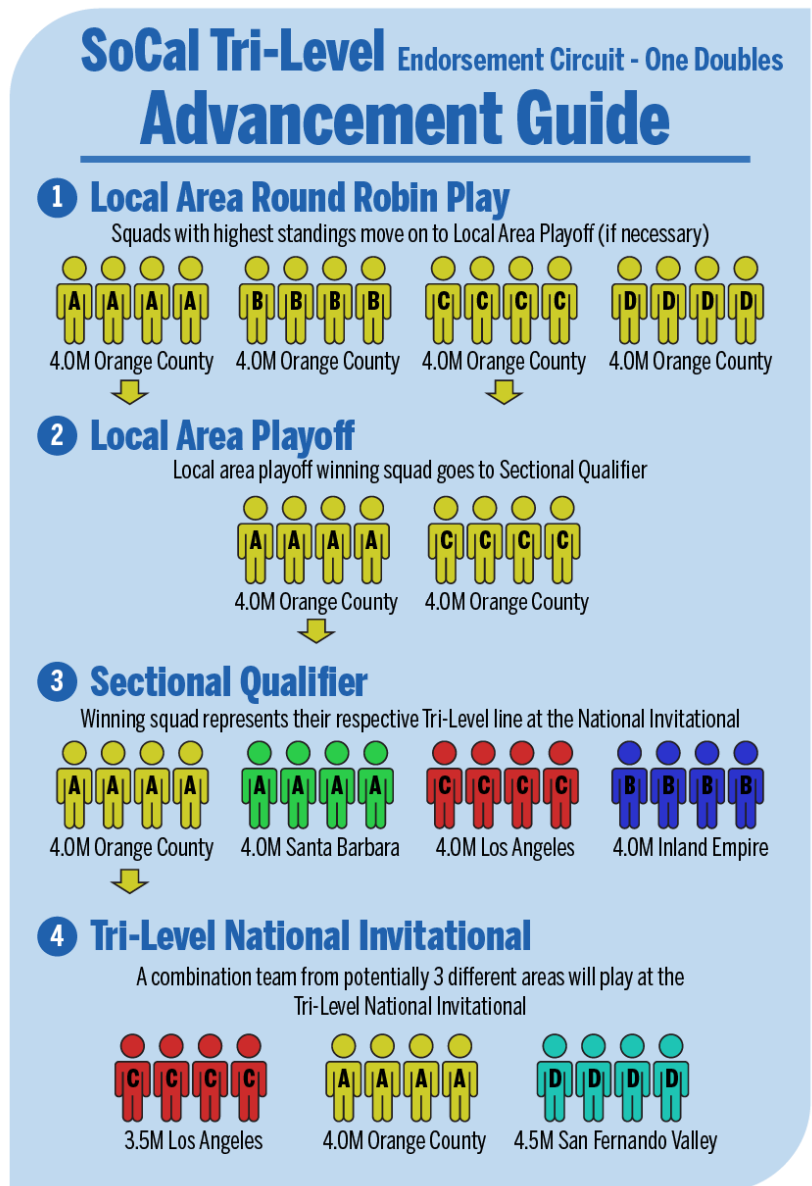
Squads/Point People - schedule their own matches following the scheduling outline provided by the ALC

ONE DOUBLES SPECIFICS

USTA Membership: Current USTA Membership is required.

Registration: All players must be registered on Tennis Link prior to the first match. Minimum age is 18 years old. Each squad member must also sign a USTA SoCal Player Waiver.

Roster Size: Squad size is restricted to a minimum of two players and a maximum of six players (if a squad



advances to Tri-Level Invitational, only 4 players per NTRP level can participate).

Changing squads - Once a player plays a match, they are committed to the squad. A player cannot change squads after half of their squad matches have been played. For example, if there are 6 matches, then a player may not change squads after 3 matches have been played. This ONLY applies to player(s) who have not played a match yet. Squads may ONLY add a new player before half of their squad matches have been played. For example, if there are 6 matches, then a player may not be added after 3 matches have been played. If there are 7 matches, then a player may not be added after 4 matches have been played.

NTRP Rating Requirements: Players may play at their NTRP rating level or 0.5 higher. The NTRP rating of each player may not exceed the level of each Division. Valid computer or self-rating is required.

NTRP In-Level Requirements: A squad must be composed of at least 50% of players at rating. In all matches at least 50% of the One Doubles pair must be at the rated level. Example: one 3.5 may play with a 4.0 in a 4.0 One Doubles match. Two 3.5 players could not play the 4.0 match together. If this occurs the match will be DQ'd as an ineligible player in the match. This is non-negotiable and will be recorded as such.

NTRP Ratings: Match results will be used in year-end NTRP rating calculations through the Invitational.

Self-Ratings: If a squad advances to the Tri Level Invitational, self-ratings may not be allowed – details will be available in early December.

Squad Match Format: A match consists of one individual doubles match.

Scheduling: A match schedule outline will be provided through Tennis Link. Date ranges will be listed. Squads/Point People schedule their own matches. The “home” Squad designates the match location. (Squads can reschedule matches if a mutually agreed up on new date and time is approved by the ALC)

Tennis Balls: Home squad provides balls (the squad on the left side of the scorecard).

Court Fees: If there are court fees, the home squad is responsible to pay court costs/guest fees unless the visiting squad explicitly agrees.

Unplayed Matches: A “double default” will be recorded if the match is not complete by the end of the regular season. A squad who challenges the “double squad default” on the basis that they tried to schedule and the other squad didn’t cooperate must be able to document their efforts (with at least two emails, one phone call & contacted area league coordinator). If there is documentation, then the Squad who made the effort will receive a win for that forfeited match.

Scoring Format Used: 2 out of 3 sets with 3rd set being a 10-pt. match tiebreak, win by 2. Regular Scoring – play out the deuces.

Advancement Opportunities: If you are the Area Champion of the 2.5-5.0 One Doubles in your area, your squad will advance to the One Doubles Sectional Qualifier. Competition at all levels are subject to whether there are enough squads participating to hold a sectional event. *Note: USTA SoCal will only host a One Doubles Sectional Qualifier if safe and permissible to do so.

Advancement Requirements: Players must play in a minimum of one match to advance to Playoff and Sectional events (a default received will NOT count as one match played).

Sectionals: January/February 2021 – Location and exact dates TBD

Levels Offered at Local League:

Men’s 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, and 5.0 leagues

Women’s 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, and 5.0 leagues



FLEX SINGLES PLAY

FLEX Play offers fun and competitive matches for players of all levels. Players get all the thrills, excitement and fun of the USTA League, but on their own schedule. They play whenever it's convenient for them and are expected to exercise the highest level of integrity while competing in this program.

Each Local League Area might run their FLEX Singles a little differently, but here is a general outline of the program.

Scheduling:

FLEX Play uses 'play by' dates to encourage players to schedule weekly matches. Matches can be played at any time, in any order, as long as they are completed by the season deadline.

The home player is responsible for initial contact to schedule the match but both players are encouraged to make contact. It's recommended to contact all opponents at the beginning of the season to start the scheduling dialog.

Player(s) listed as 'home' should reserve the courts for their home matches and expect that the 'away' player travels to them. The 'home' player can offer to travel to the 'away' player's location if he/she chooses. The date, time, and location of the match must be agreed upon by both players. If a match is postponed, it should be rescheduled and completed as soon as possible.

If a player is unable to make contact with their opponent after 3 tries (2 via email and 1 by phone), a default will be entered.

Facilities and Courts:

Players need to know the courts they're planning to use in advance (lights, condition, parking, time restrictions, Covid guidelines, etc) and communicate this to their opponents.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, clubs may prohibit non-members from coming to the facility. If their club currently does not allow non-members in, they will need to find another facility to play their home matches out of.

It is recommended to reserve a 2 hour time slot so that there is sufficient amount of time to finish a match. Rescheduling an unfinished match can be difficult, especially for the visitor. The home player is responsible to pay for court fees or any guest fees their club/facility has.

Match Scoring:

Scoring format is best 2 of 3 sets with a 10-point match tiebreaker in lieu of a third set and scored as 1-0. If both players agree, the third set may be played out, but will still be scores as 1-0. Either player reports the score, which needs to be entered as the winner's perspective. The opposing player confirms.