

# NTRP MEDICAL APPEAL PHILOSOPHY AND PROCEDURES

## Philosophy Statement:

**While the USTA acknowledges that a medical appeal process is necessary and should be available, it must be understood that:**

Very few medical appeals will be granted, as it is usually better to let the computer determine the NTRP Skill Level based on actual match play.

### Rationale:

- If injury or illness is not permanently disabling, an appeal *cannot* be granted even if treatment, recovery and/or rehabilitation may take a year or longer.
- Individuals respond to injuries and/or illnesses in different ways so it is hard to predict the impact on their skill level.
- Many illnesses, such as osteoarthritis, are chronic, progressive, permanent conditions. However, the rate of progression of the illness, resulting symptoms and degree of impairment, as well as reaction to medication and treatment, varies in different people.
- Most individuals actually play better after knee, hip and shoulder surgery due to a decrease in pain and a possible increase in mobility from their pre-operative status.
- Most individuals who have heart disease, cancer, etc., if medically released to play tennis, will probably be able to play at their previous skill level.
- If medically released to play tennis, potential pain, shortness of breath and risk of injury should not be factors in determining NTRP skill level, as these could occur no matter what NTRP level playing.
- Endurance issues may occur at any skill level and vary from individual to individual. More energy may be exerted at the lower skill levels than the higher skill levels depending on the player's style of play, court position and placement of the ball. Therefore, the amount of energy exerted while playing tennis varies in individuals and cannot be accurately predicted.

**A medical appeal may be requested by a player for reconsideration of his/her NTRP rating based on a permanently disabling injury or illness that occurred after the last match played prior to the publication of the most current Year End or Early Start NTRP rating level.**

### USTA NTRP Medical Appeal Submission Requirements:

1. The player must submit a written request for reconsideration of his/her rating using the *USTA NTRP Medical Appeal Form* and the *Attending Physician's Statement* via email, fax, or mail to their USTA Section League Coordinator or designee, When possible, forms should be submitted via email.
2. The Attending Physician's Statement (APS) must be written by the physician, or member of their care team, who is/are treating the player for the specific injury/illness causing the appeal. The APS must include a current evaluation of the injury or illness, all substantiating information, a prognosis for recovery with a timeline, and any permanent limitations the player currently has.

### Medical Review Committee(s) Procedure:

A player's USTA NTRP Medical Appeal will be reviewed and considered by the appropriate Medical Review Committee as designated by the player's Section. The Committee will either deny the appeal, or refer it to the USTA League National Medical Appeal Committee for further consideration.

If the Section's designated Medical Review Committee denies the appeal, their decision is final and binding. If the appeal is referred to the USTA National NTRP Medical Appeal Committee, that committee will make the final decision to either approve or deny the appeal. All decisions of the USTA National NTRP Medical Appeal Committee will be final and binding.