



USTA JUNIOR TOURNAMENT, RANKING, AND SANCTIONING REGULATIONS

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Summary of Important Changes

- Changes have been made to the acceptance criteria for USTA National Championships including the removal of the Direct Acceptance List for 14s and 16s divisions and eliminating the Level 2 National Qualifier lists as method of acceptance.
- The method of calculation of the Sectional Quota Lists for the 14s, 16s and 18s divisions has been adjusted to count only up to two “out of section” tournaments – reduced from three in 2023.
- The USTA Battle of the Sections Level 1 Team Championship has been adopted in these regulations, and the Zone Team Championships and Intersectional Team Championships have been removed.
- A new Level 4 Intersectional team competition has been made available as an authorized Section Junior Ranking Tournament.

As of January 1, 2024

I. GENERAL

These Regulations apply to USTA Junior National Tournaments and Section and District Junior Ranking tournaments all of which count for junior ranking. Any authority delegated by these Regulations to the USTA Junior Competition Committee, the Director of Competition Pathway, the USTA Competitive Pathway Department, USTA Player Development, or any other entity stated herein, unless otherwise stated, may not be delegated to a different authority.

- A. Name.** The USTA Board of Directors has approved the adoption of these rules and regulations that will be known as the USTA Junior Tournament, Ranking, and Sanctioning Regulations.
- B. Governance.** The USTA Junior Tournament, Ranking, and Sanctioning Regulations apply to all USTA Junior Ranking Tournaments, the process by which certain national USTA Junior Ranking Tournaments are sanctioned, and junior rankings. USTA Constitution and Bylaws, FRIEND AT COURT - The USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations, apply to all matches played in USTA Junior Ranking Tournaments (unless modified by these USTA Junior Tournament, Ranking, and Sanctioning Regulations). In any match played without officials, the USTA official publication, THE CODE, shall be observed. The USTA Point Penalty System and the USTA Junior Suspension Point System shall be used.
- C. Waiver of Regulations.** Except where a waiver is specifically permitted herein or by **USTA Regulation XX**, no USTA Junior Tournament, Ranking, and Sanctioning Regulation may be waived.
- D. Amendments.** These USTA Junior Tournament, Ranking, and Sanctioning Regulations may be amended by the USTA Junior Competition Committee with the approval of a Junior Regulations Subcommittee.

The Junior Regulations Subcommittee shall be comprised of the Chair, Vice Chair, and Staff Member of the USTA Junior Competition Committee, the Player Development Manager of at least one Sectional Association, and such other members appointed by the Chair. The Chair of the USTA Junior Competition Committee shall serve as Chair of the Subcommittee.

Proposed amendments are subject to review and comment by the Office of General Counsel and Chair of the Constitution and Rules Committee prior to adoption.

Each amendment shall be in writing and shall be forwarded to the USTA Junior Competition Committee and the Sectional Player Development Managers at least 21 days before any meeting of the USTA Junior Competition Committee at which the amendment will be considered.

Unless otherwise specified, amendments shall become effective on January 1 following the year of adoption.

- E. Conforming Changes.** If the Chair and the Staff Member of the USTA Junior Competition Committee jointly request that a change be made to the USTA Junior Tournament, Ranking, and Sanctioning Regulations, the Office of General Counsel may authorize the change if it:
- Conforms with the USTA Constitution, USTA Bylaws, ITF Rules of Tennis, and USTA Regulations;
 - Makes language and stylistic changes;
 - Promotes clarity;
 - Eliminates ambiguity;
 - Corrects a mistake; or
 - Provides additional guidance.
- F. Glossary of Terms.** For purposes of these Regulations, certain words and phrases are defined in a glossary included herein. This glossary has been prepared as a reference to many terms included in these Regulations. The definitions provided have been drawn from these Regulations and, in some cases, other documents published by the USTA.
- G. Non-Discrimination.** Discrimination in USTA Junior Ranking Tournaments is prohibited as specified in the USTA Constitution, USTA Bylaws and USTA Regulations, except that participation may be limited to U.S. Citizens and other aliens as set forth in the eligibility requirements of **USTA Regulation IX.C**.

II. AUTHORIZED USTA JUNIOR NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

Annually the USTA shall sanction the following USTA Junior National Tournaments, some of which may be held concurrently and all of which shall appear on the National Junior Tournament Schedule:

- A. USTA National Championships.** Annually the USTA shall sanction USTA National Championships for boys and girls in each age division (18, 16, 14, and 12) as follows:
- USTA National Spring Championships
 - USTA National Clay Court Championships
 - The USTA National Championships

- USTA National Indoor Championships
 - USTA National Winter Championships.
- B. USTA National Doubles Championships.** Annually the USTA shall sanction USTA National Doubles Championships for boys and girls in the 18, 16 and 14 divisions.
- C. USTA National Level 2 Tournaments.** Four times annually the USTA shall sanction four concurrent USTA National Level 2 Tournaments for boys and girls in each age division at different sites.
- D. USTA Team Championships.** Annually, the USTA shall sanction the following USTA Team Championships:
- USTA Battle of the Sections
 - USTA National Brewer Team Cup
- E. USTA National Level 3 Tournaments.** Annually the USTA shall sanction USTA National Level 3 Tournaments with up to 192 draw spots up to four times per year in each division.
- F. Additional USTA Junior National Tournaments.** Annually the USTA may sanction one or more Additional USTA Junior National Tournaments.

Regulation II.F. Comment: There is currently one Additional USTA Junior National Tournament authorized: Sugar Bowl - BG18, 16, 14, and 12 Divisions.

- G. USTA International Tournaments.** USTA International Tournaments are USTA sanctioned tournaments played under ITF tournament regulations, but not sanctioned by the ITF. The USTA Junior Competition Committee in consultation with the USTA Competitive Pathway Department determines criteria for sanctioning USTA International Tournaments pursuant to **Regulation VIII.** to be placed on the National Junior Tournament Schedule.

Annually the USTA shall publish the National Junior Tournament Schedule, which shall include the tournaments listed in **Regulation II.** The National Junior Tournament Schedule may also include ITF junior tournaments that are selected for inclusion based on criteria determined by the USTA Junior Competition Committee and the USTA Competitive Pathway Department. ITF junior tournaments are governed by ITF tournament regulations and not by these Regulations.

Regulation II. Comment - National Junior Tournament Schedule: All ITF Junior Tournaments played in the geographic boundaries of the USTA shall be included on the National Junior Tournament Schedule.

III. AUTHORIZED SECTION AND DISTRICT JUNIOR RANKING TOURNAMENTS

Annually each Sectional Association shall be authorized to sanction or cause to be sanctioned by its District Associations the tournaments described below for boys and girls in the 18, 16, 14, and 12 Divisions, all of which shall count for junior ranking. Except as specified for Section and District Level 7 Tournaments below, all such tournaments shall be played using a yellow ball on a 78' court.

- A. Closed Section Level 3 Tournaments.** Annually, each Sectional Association shall be authorized to sanction Closed Section Level 3 Tournaments. Closed Section Level 3 Tournaments are limited to residents of the Sectional Association. Responsibility for sanctioning Closed Section Level 3 Tournaments may not be delegated to District Associations. These Closed Section Level 3 Tournaments must conform to the following parameters:
- 1. Number authorized and play limit.** Each Sectional Association is authorized to sanction at least one and no more than two Closed Section Level 3 Tournaments in singles, doubles and mixed doubles in each age division. As a group, when a set of Closed Section Level 3 Tournaments is held in all age divisions, the group is considered one Closed Section Level 3 Tournament, regardless of whether the tournaments have concurrent or overlapping dates. Players are permitted to play in no more than one age division of a Closed Section Level 3 Tournament. Separate singles, doubles, and mixed doubles Closed Section Level 3 Tournaments may be held. For the purpose of the number of Closed Section Level 3 Tournaments authorized, when singles, doubles and mixed doubles tournaments are held separately, collectively they make up one authorized tournament in an age division, but players can play in each of the singles, doubles, mixed doubles tournaments.
 - 2. Duration.** The tournament should not exceed more than four days. Players may not make up matches after the last sanctioned day of the tournament without prior written approval of the Sectional Association.
 - 3. Draw size.** The draw size shall be limited and the draw limit shall be determined by the Sectional Association.

4. Draw format.

a. Formats permitted. The draw shall be one of the following formats:

- Round robin;
- Round robin with a First Match Consolation playoff;
- Compass draw;
- Feed-In Championship (including a Feed-In Championship through the quarterfinals with a playoff for 3rd place; a Feed-In Championship through the round of 16 with a quarterfinal playoff for 5th place and a playoff for 3rd place; a 64-player Curtis Consolation with a playoff for 3rd place; and a Modified Feed-In Championship that feeds in the first two rounds of losers into the consolation and a playoff for 3rd place);
- First Match Consolation;
- Voluntary Sign-Up Consolation; or
- Team format.

Additionally, the single elimination draw format may be used for doubles and mixed doubles events when singles events are offered as part of the same tournament.

b. Separating event into multiple draws. An event may not be separated into more than one draw, *unless* the round robin with a First Match Consolation playoff format is used. When such format is used, players shall be waterfalled using either the National Standings List or the ITF World Tennis Number (“WTN”), as determined by the Sectional Association.

5. Match format. No-Ad scoring may be used. The match format shall be any of the following:

- Best of 3 Tiebreak sets;
- Best of 3 Tiebreak sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of the 3rd set; or
- Best of 3 short sets with a 7-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of the 3rd set. This short set format is a set played to 4 games with a 7-point Set Tiebreak played at 4 games all.

The 8-game pro set with a 7-Point Tiebreak at 8 games all format may be used for doubles and mixed doubles events when singles events are offered as part of the same tournament.

Match formats may be shortened when inclement weather or other circumstances prevent a tournament from finishing on time.

6. Selection. The Sectional Association determines the method of selection of players, subject to the following restrictions:

- a. Use of National Standings Lists.** When ranking lists are used for selection, National Standings Lists shall be used.
- b. Use of ITF World Tennis Number.** When ratings are used for selection, WTN will be used and only those players whose WTNs have a high degree of confidence (as determined by the ITF and indicated by a dark blue check mark next to a WTN) will be selected. Players without such a high degree of confidence WTN will be selected as determined by the Sectional Association.
- c. Maximum wild cards.** The maximum number of wild cards that can be awarded are as follows: 4 in a draw of 64 or higher; 2 in a draw of 32; 1 in a draw of 16 or fewer.
- d. District quota.** If as part of the selection process a District Association is entitled to a quota of players who are residents of the District Association, the National Standings Lists filtered to include only eligible players from the District Association will be used, *except that* each District Association may include within its quota up to 2 wild card players. The criteria for selecting the wild cards will be set by the Sectional Association, *unless* this authority is delegated to the District Associations.

7. Seeding. The Sectional Association determines the method of seeding. Seeding shall be consistent with the provisions of **USTA Regulation II.A.**, *except that* if ratings are authorized for use, the WTN must be used.

B. Section Level 4 Tournaments. Annually, each Sectional Association shall be authorized to sanction:

- At least one and no more than four Closed Section Level 4 Tournaments that are limited to residents of the Sectional Association; and
- Up to four Open Section Level 4 Tournaments that are open to players from any Sectional Association.
- Sanctioning Section Level 4 Tournaments may not be delegated to the District Associations. These tournaments must conform to the following parameters:
 - 1. Play limit – Close Section Level 4 Tournaments Only.** Each Sectional Association is authorized to sanction at least one and no more than four Closed Section Level 4 Tournaments in singles,

doubles and mixed doubles in each age division. As a group, when a set of Closed Section Level 4 Tournaments is held in all age divisions, the group is considered one Closed Section Level 4 Tournament, regardless of whether the tournaments have concurrent or overlapping dates. Players are permitted to play in no more than one age division of a Closed Section Level 4 Tournament.

Separate singles, doubles, and mixed doubles Closed Section Level 4 Tournaments may be held. For the purpose of the number of Closed Section Level 4 Tournaments authorized, when singles, doubles and mixed doubles tournaments are held separately, collectively they make up one authorized tournament in an age division, but players can play in each of the singles, doubles, mixed doubles tournaments.

2. **Duration.** The tournament may not exceed four days. Players may not make up matches after the last sanctioned day of the tournament without prior written approval of the Sectional Association.
 3. **Draw size.** The draw size shall be limited and the draw limit shall be determined by the Sectional Association. A Sectional Association may delegate the authority to determine the draw limit to its District Associations.
 4. **Draw format.**
 - a. **Formats permitted.** The draw format shall be one of the formats set forth in **Regulation III.A.4.a.**
 - b. **Separating event into multiple draws.** Players may not be separated into multiple round robin draws. An event using another draw format may be separated into more than one draw as follows:
 - i. **Round robin with a playoff.** When a round robin with a playoff is used, players shall be waterfalled using either the National Standings List or WTN as determined by the Sectional Association.
 - ii. **Other draw format.** When an event that is separated uses a draw format other than the round robin or round robin with a playoff, players shall be flighted so that each draw groups players of similar ability using either the National Standings List or WTN, as determined by the Sectional Association.
 5. **Match format.** The match format shall be one of the formats set forth in **Regulation III.A.5.**
 6. **Selection.** The Sectional Association determines the method of selection of players, subject to the following restrictions:
 - a. **Use of National Standings Lists.** When ranking lists are used for selection, National Standings Lists shall be used.
 - b. **Use of ITF World Tennis Number.** When ratings are used for selection, WTN will be used and only those players whose WTNs have a high degree of confidence (as determined by the ITF and as indicated by a blue check mark next to a WTN) will be selected. Players without such a high degree of confidence WTN will be selected as determined by the Sectional Association.
 - c. **Preference may not be given to Section players.** Open tournaments may not reserve spots specifically to accept players from the Sectional Association; and
 - d. **Maximum wild cards.** The maximum number of wild cards that can be awarded are as follows: 4 in a draw of 64 or higher; 2 in a draw of 32; 1 in a draw of 16 or fewer.
 7. **Seeding.** The Sectional Association determines the method of seeding. Seeding shall be consistent with the provisions of **USTA Regulation II.A.**, *except that* if ratings are authorized for use, WTN must be used.
- C. Section and District Level 5 Tournaments.** Annually, each Sectional Association shall be authorized to sanction one or more Section Level 5 Tournaments. Section Level 5 Tournaments shall be open to residents of any Sectional Association.

Sectional Associations with Districts may delegate the responsibility for holding some or all of these Section Level 5 Tournaments to the District Associations. When District Associations sanction Level 5 Tournaments, they shall be called District Level 5 Tournaments and shall be subject to the following limitations:

- Up to two Closed District Level 5 Tournaments may be sanctioned that are limited to residents of the District Association.
- All other District Level 5 Tournaments shall be open to residents of any Sectional or District Association. Section and District Level 5 Tournaments must conform to the following parameters:
 1. **Duration.** The tournament may not exceed three days. Players may not make up matches after the last sanctioned day of the tournament without prior written approval of the Sectional Association.
 2. **Draw size.** The draw size shall be limited and the draw limit shall be determined by the Sectional

Association.

3. Draw format.

- a. **Formats permitted.** The draw formats permitted are those set forth in **Regulation III.A.4.a.**
- b. **Separating event into multiple draws.** An event may be separated into multiple draws to the extent permitted in **Regulation III.B.4.b.**

4. Match format. The match format shall be one of the formats set forth in **Regulation III.A.5.**

5. Selection. The method of selection shall be determined as set forth in **Regulation III.B.6.**

6. Seeding. The Sectional Association determines the method of seeding. Seeding shall be consistent with the provisions of **USTA Regulation II.A.**, *except that* if ratings are authorized for use, WTN must be used.

D. Section and District Level 6 Tournaments. Annually, each Sectional Association shall be authorized to sanction Section Level 6 Tournaments. Section Level 6 Tournaments shall be open to residents of any Sectional Association or District Association.

Sectional Associations with Districts may delegate the responsibility for holding some or all of these Section Level 6 Tournaments to the District Associations. When District Associations sanction Level 6 Tournaments, they shall be called District Level 6 Tournaments.

Section and District Level 6 Tournaments must conform to the following parameters:

1. **Duration.** The tournament may not exceed two days, unless a three-day sanction period has been approved by the Sectional Association or District Association. Players may not make up matches after the last sanctioned day of the tournament without prior written approval of the Sectional Association.
2. **Coed events permitted.** Section and District Level 6 tournaments may have coed events.
3. **Draw size.** The draw size shall be determined by the Sectional Association.
4. **Draw format.**

a. **Formats permitted.** The draw shall be one of the following formats:

- Round robin;
- Round robin with a First Match Consolation playoff;
- Compass draw;
- Feed-In Championship (including a Feed-In Championship through the quarterfinals with a playoff for 3rd place; a Feed-In Championship through the round of 16 with a quarterfinal playoff for 5th place and a playoff for 3rd place; and a Modified Feed-In Championship that feeds in the first two rounds of losers into the consolation and a playoff for 3rd place); or
- Team format.

Additionally, the single elimination draw format may be used for doubles and mixed doubles events when singles events are offered as part of the same tournament.

b. **Maximum number of rounds in each draw.** Each draw shall have a maximum of four rounds of play; no player shall earn ranking points for playing more than four matches.

Regulation III.D.4.b. Comment: When more than one event is offered, such as singles, doubles, and/or mixed doubles, the maximum number of rounds is per event, not per tournament. For example, a player that plays in singles, doubles, and mixed doubles can play four rounds of singles, four rounds of doubles, and four rounds of mixed doubles. Additionally, when a team format is played and a team match consists of a player playing singles and doubles and/or mixed doubles, a player can play up to four matches of singles, four matches of doubles and/or four matches of mixed doubles.

c. **Separating event into multiple draws.** An event may be separated into more than one draw. Players may either be waterfalled or be flighted using either the National Standings List or WTN, as determined by the Sectional Association, *except that* when the round robin with a First Match Consolation playoff format is used, *players* must be waterfalled.

5. Match format. No-Ad scoring may be used. The match format shall be any of the following:

- Best of 3 Tiebreak sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of the 3rd set;
- Best of 3 short sets with a 7-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of the 3rd set (this short set format is a set played to 4 games with a 7-point Set Tiebreak played at 4 games all); or
- Best of 3 10-Point Tiebreak Games.

The 8-game pro set with a 7-Point Tiebreak at 8 games all may be used for doubles and mixed doubles events when singles events are offered as part of the same tournament and for singles consolation matches.

Match formats may be shortened when inclement weather or other circumstances prevent a tournament from finishing on time.

6. **Selection.** The Sectional Association determines the method of selection of players, subject to the following restrictions:
 - a. **Use of National Standings Lists.** When ranking lists are used for selection, National Standings Lists shall be used.
 - b. **Use of ITF World Tennis Number.** When ratings are used for selection, WTN will be used.
 - c. **Preference may not be given to Section or District players.** Tournaments may not reserve spots specifically to accept players from the Sectional Association and the District Association; and
 - d. **Maximum wild cards.** The maximum number of wild cards that can be awarded are as follows: 4 in a draw of 64 or higher; 2 in a draw of 32; 1 in a draw of 16 or fewer.
7. **Seeding.** The Sectional Association determines the method of seeding. Seeding shall be consistent with the provisions of **USTA Regulation II.A.**, *except that* if ratings are authorized for use, WTN must be used.
8. **Penalties for lateness when Best of 3 10-Point Tiebreak Games played.**
 - If one player or team is late 5 minutes or less: loss of toss plus 1 point;
 - If one player or team is late 5:01 - 10 minutes: loss of toss plus 2 points;
 - If one player or team is late 10:01 - 15 minutes: Loss of toss plus 3 points;
 - If one player or team is late more than 15 minutes: default;
 - If both players or teams are equally late up to 15 minutes: no penalty;
 - If both players or teams are more than 15 minutes late: The Referee may default both players, or the Referee may reinstate the match using the principle in effect when both players are late but arrive at different times;
 - If both players or teams are late but arrive at different times: In singles, the penalty accrues when the first player arrives. In doubles, the penalty accrues when the first team arrives. Penalize the opponent(s) based on the difference in their arrival times.The same penalties are assessed when the lateness is for resumption of a suspended match, except that there is no loss of toss.
- E. **Section and District Level 7 Tournaments.** Annually, each Sectional Association shall be authorized to sanction Section Level 7 Tournaments. All such Section Level 7 Tournaments shall be open to residents of any Sectional Association or District Association. Sectional Associations with Districts may delegate the responsibility for holding some or all of these Section Level 7 Tournaments to the District Associations. When District Associations sanction Section Level 7 Tournaments, they shall be called District Level 7 Tournaments. Section and District Level 7 Tournaments must conform to the following parameters:
 1. **Duration.** Players may not compete in the tournament for a period longer than one day. Players may not make up matches after the last sanctioned day of the tournament without prior written approval of the Sectional Association.
 2. **Green Ball Tennis permitted in 12 Division.** Section and District Level 7 tournaments in the 12 Division may use Green Ball Tennis as described in **USTA Regulation IV.B.2.**
 3. **Coed events permitted.** Section and District Level 7 tournaments may have coed events.
 4. **Draw size.** The draw size shall be determined by the Sectional Association.

Regulation III.E.4. Comment: Draws should not be limited and all the players who enter a Section and District Level 7 Tournament should be accommodated. A greater number of players can be accommodated when the shortest match formats permitted, or multiple draws in the same divisions, are used.

5. **Draw format.**
 - a. **Formats permitted.** The draw shall be one of the following formats:
 - Round robin;
 - Round robin with a First Match Consolation playoff;
 - Compass draw; or
 - Team format.Additionally, the single elimination format may be used for doubles and mixed doubles events when singles events are offered as part of the same tournament.
 - b. **Maximum number of rounds in each draw.** Each draw shall have a maximum of four rounds of play; no player shall earn ranking points for playing more than four matches.

Regulation III.E.5.b. Comment: When more than one event is offered, such as singles, doubles, and/or mixed doubles, the maximum number of rounds is per event, not per tournament. For example, a player that plays in singles, doubles, and mixed doubles can play four rounds of singles, four rounds of doubles, and four rounds of mixed doubles. Additionally, when a team format is played and a team match consists of a player playing singles and doubles and/or mixed doubles, a player can play up to four matches of singles, four matches of doubles and/or four matches of mixed doubles.

- c. **Separating event into multiple draws.** An event may be separated into more than one draw. Players may either be waterfalled or be flighted, except that when the round robin with a playoff format is used, players must be waterfalled.
6. **Match format.** No-Ad scoring may be used. The match format shall be any of the following:
- Single short set (this short set format is a set played to 4 games with a 7-point Set Tiebreak played at 4 games all);
 - Single 6-game set;
 - Best of 3 short sets with a 7-Point Tiebreak played in lieu of the 3rd set (this short set format is a set played to 4 games with a 7-point Set Tiebreak played at 4 games all); or
 - Best of 3 10-Point Tiebreak Games;
 - Timed matches (game format) of 20 minutes or longer. This format consists of an ongoing set during which the players continue playing games until the end of the specified period of time. The player who has won the most completed games wins the match. If the game score is tied, the player ahead in the game in progress is the winner. If a game is not in progress or the score in the game in progress is tied, one final point is played to determine the winner. The player due to serve the next point shall serve the final point.
- A 10-Point Match Tiebreak may be used for doubles and mixed doubles events when singles events are offered as part of the same tournament.
- Match formats may be shortened when inclement weather or other circumstances prevent a tournament from finishing on time.
7. **Selection.** The method of selection shall be determined as set forth in **Regulation III.B.5.**, *except that* when National Standings Lists and/or WTN are used for selection in a limited draw tournament, players shall be selected from the bottom up.
8. **Seeding.** The Sectional Association determines the method of seeding. Seeding shall be consistent with the provisions of **USTA Regulation II.A.**, *except that* if ratings are authorized for use, WTN must be used.
9. **Penalties for lateness when Best of 3 10-Point Tiebreak Games played.** The penalties for lateness shall be as set forth in **Regulation III.D.8.**
10. **Penalties for lateness when timed matches (game format) of 20 minutes or longer used.**
- a. **Timed matches (game format) of 20 to 30 minutes.**
- If one player or team is late 5 minutes or less: loss of toss plus 1 game;
 - If one player or team is late 5:01 - 10 minutes: loss of toss plus 1 game and 2 points;
 - If one player or team is late 10:01 - 15 minutes: Loss of toss plus 2 games;
 - If one player or team is late more than 15 minutes: default;
 - If both players or teams are equally late up to 15 minutes: no penalty;
 - If both players or teams are more than 15 minutes late: The Referee may default both players, or the Referee may reinstate the match using the principle in effect when both players are late but arrive at different times;
 - If both players or teams are late but arrive at different times: In singles, the penalty accrues when the first player arrives. In doubles, the penalty accrues when the first team arrives. Penalize the opponent(s) based on the difference in their arrival times.
- b. **Timed matches (game format) of more than 30 minutes. See USTA Regulation IV.D.20.** and the corresponding **Table 16** of the **USTA Regulations**.
- The same penalties are assessed when the lateness is for resumption of a suspended match, except that there is no loss of toss.
11. **Tournament Director dual role permitted.** A Tournament Director of a L7 event may also serve as Referee provided the Tournament Director has fulfilled the required training set forth by the USTA Officiating Department.

Regulation III.E.11. Comment 1: When a person serves as both Tournament Director and Referee, that person shall not be a member of the Tournament Appeals Committee. See **USTA Regulation I.D.**

Regulation III.E.11. Comment 2: When the Point Penalty System is in effect, the Tournament Director shall be responsible for reporting Code of Conduct violations and Suspension Points.

F. Intersectional and Closed Intrasectional Team Tournaments.

- 1. Intersectional Level 2 Team Tournament.** Annually, two or more Sectional Associations are authorized to sanction one Intersectional Level 2 Team Tournament. The Sectional Associations participating in the Intersectional Level 2 Team Tournament will determine the regulations that govern the competition.
- 2. Intersectional Level 4 Team Tournament.** Annually, a minimum three or more Sectional Associations are authorized to sanction one Intersectional Level 4 Team Tournament. The Sectional Associations participating in the Intersectional Level 4 Team Tournament will determine the regulations that govern the competition.
- 3. Closed Intrasectional Level 4 Team Tournament.** Annually, a Sectional Association is authorized to sanction one Intrasectional Level 4 Team Tournament. The tournament is closed to players from outside the Sectional Association. The Sectional Association determines the regulations that govern the competition.

Regulation III.F. Comment: The junior ranking table for team tournaments sets forth the ranking points earned by players on teams in positions one through six. If additional matches are played beyond position six, those matches will not count for ranking.

IV. DETERMINING ORDER OF FINISH WHEN ROUND ROBIN DRAW FORMAT PLAYED

The player who wins the most matches is the winner. If two players are tied, then the winner of their head-to-head match is the winner.

If three or more players are tied, the Referee shall use the steps set forth below that corresponds with the match format played. The Referee shall use the steps in the order listed and shall break as many ties as possible using a given step before using the next step. Defaults, withdrawals, walkovers and retirements shall be treated as set forth in **USTA Regulation II.B.6.d.**

A. Single Short Set, Single 6-Game Set, and Timed Matches (Game Format).

- The head-to-head win-loss record in matches involving just the tied players
- The player with the highest percentage of games won of all games completed;
- The head-to-head win-loss record in matches involving the players who remain tied.

If all the steps have been applied and a tie still cannot be broken, a random drawing among the remaining tied players shall be done to determine their order of finish.

B. Best of 3 10-Point Match Tiebreak Games.

- The head-to-head win-loss record in matches involving just the tied players;
- The player with the highest percentage of tiebreak games won of all games completed;
- The head-to-head win-loss record in matches involving the players who remain tied;
- The player with the highest percentage of points won;
- The head-to-head win-loss record in matches involving the players who remain tied;
- The player with the highest percentage of tiebreak games won of games completed among the players under consideration;
- The head-to-head win-loss record in matches involving the players who remain tied;
- The player with the highest percentage of points won;
- The head-to-head win-loss record in matches involving the players who remain tied.

If all the steps have been applied and a tie still cannot be broken, a random drawing among the remaining tied players shall be done to determine their order of finish.

C. All Other Match Formats. The Referee shall use the steps set forth in **USTA Regulation II.B.6.c.** and **d.**

V. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- A. Membership.** All players, including non-U.S. citizens, are required to be members of the USTA in order to play in the USTA Junior National Tournaments listed in **Regulation II.** and the Section and District Junior Ranking Tournaments listed in **Regulation III.**
- B. Age.** The USTA month-of-birth age eligibility requirements set forth in **USTA Regulation I.G.3.a.** will apply to all:
- USTA Tournaments listed in **Regulation II.**, except USTA International Tournaments that are governed by the ITF age eligibility rules; and
 - Section and District Junior Ranking Tournaments listed in **Regulation III.**, except that players must also be either 11 years of age or shall have completed the USTA's 10-and-Under Youth Progression System (also known as Youth Progression) as of the entry deadline.
- C. U.S. Citizens and Other Aliens.** **USTA Regulation IX.C.** determines the citizenship or other alien eligibility for playing in:
- USTA Junior National Tournaments listed in **Regulation II.**, except USTA International Tournaments which are governed by the ITF age eligibility rules;
 - Closed Section Level 3 Tournaments described in **Regulation III.A.**;
 - Section Level 4 Tournaments described in **Regulation III.B.**; and
 - Closed District Level 5 Tournaments described in **Regulation III.C.**
- The eligibility requirements set forth in **USTA Regulation IX.C.** do not apply to participation in Section Level 5, 6, and 7 Tournaments, District Level 5 Tournaments that are open to players from any Sectional or District Association, and District Level 6 and 7 Tournaments.

Regulation V.C. Comment: Proof of age and citizenship or alien status is required prior to entry into a:

- Closed District Level 5 Tournament;
- Section Level 4 Tournament;
- Closed Section Level 3 Tournament;
- USTA National Level 3 Tournament;
- USTA National Level 2 Tournament;
- USTA National Championship (including the USTA National Doubles Championships); and
- USTA Team Championship (USTA Battle of the Section and USTA Brewer Team Cup).

- D. Residency.** Closed Section Level 3 Tournaments, Closed Section Level 4 Tournaments, and Closed District Level 5 Tournaments require players to be residents within the geographic boundaries of the Sectional Association or District Association that has been authorized to sanction the tournament. Residency is determined as set forth in **Regulation VI.**

VI. RESIDENCY

Residency shall determine the junior players who may play in Closed Sectional and District Tournaments, the junior players who may appear on a Sectional Quota List, and the junior players who may be selected to represent a Sectional Association or District Association in a team competition.

- A. Declaration of Residency by Junior Players Living Within the Geographic Boundaries of the USTA.** A player residing within the geographic boundaries of the USTA must declare residency for the purposes of playing in junior tournaments. A player may be the resident of one Sectional Association and, if applicable, one District Association within the geographic boundaries only of the declared Sectional Association at any given time.
- Unless otherwise declared, a player's Section residency shall be the Sectional Association assigned through USTA membership and which is based on the geographic boundaries set forth in the USTA Bylaws.
 - USTA members who reside in British Columbia and who meet the eligibility criteria of **USTA Regulation IX.C.1.b.** shall be deemed to be residents of the USTA Pacific Northwest Section.
 - If applicable, and unless otherwise declared, a player's District residency shall be the District Association assigned through USTA membership and which is based on the geographic boundaries assigned to the District Association in the Sectional Association's Bylaws.
 - The physical address of a player's legal guardian may be the basis for a player's declaration of residency if the player is residing with that legal guardian.
 - The physical address of a boarding school, including a tennis academy, may be the basis for a player's declaration of residency if the player is enrolled and residing at the school or academy.

- Players may declare a different Section and District residency no more than once each calendar year.

Regulation VI.A. Comment: If a player desires to change residency more than once per calendar year, the player must request a waiver from the USTA Regulations. See **USTA Regulation XX**.

- B. Declaration of Residency by US Citizens Living Abroad.** A junior player who is a US citizen living abroad may declare residency by submission of a request for an assignment to a specific Sectional Association and, if applicable, a specific District Association, within the boundaries of that Sectional Association.
- C. Form of Declaration.** A junior player electing to declare residency in a Sectional Association or District Association other than the Sectional Association or District Association assigned through USTA membership must complete the official USTA Declaration Form.

VII. NATIONAL STANDINGS LIST

The USTA will publish National Standings Lists in each junior age division. The USTA Junior Competition Committee determines the criteria for the National Standings Lists, the method of calculation, and the frequency with which the lists are published and will publish this information.

Regulation VII.C. Comment:

National Standings List (NSL) Criteria for Inclusion

- Player must meet the age eligibility requirements of the division;
- Player must have played at least one Junior Ranking Tournament in the division or the next-younger division (see **Regulation IX.E.** for list of Junior Ranking Tournaments); and
- Player must have accumulated at least 1 Ranking Point as the result of an on-court win. An on-court win is one that takes place on-court after the start of the match. Matches won by withdrawal, walkover, default, or disqualification prior to the start of the match are not considered on-court wins. Matches won by winning a match point, or if the opponent retires or is defaulted after the start of the match are considered on-court wins.

Method of Calculating NSLs

- 100% of the singles ranking points from a players' 6 best Junior Ranking Tournaments.
- 15% of the ranking points from a player's best 6 doubles and/or mixed doubles Junior Ranking Tournaments played. (When a Team Tournament is played and a player earns ranking points in both doubles and mixed doubles, the total points earned in doubles and mixed doubles at the tournament are used to determine whether the tournament is among the player's best 6.)
- Ranking Points at the percentages listed above earned in an older age division tournament count towards a player's standing in one or more younger age divisions provided that a Junior Ranking Tournament has been played in the division and they are among the player's best 6 results.
- 20% of the Ranking Points earned in a younger age division tournament count towards a player's standing in the next-older age division if they are among the player's best 6 results, regardless of whether a Junior Ranking Tournament has been played in that division.

The order of the NSL is based on Ranking Points earned during the previous 12-month rolling period. When more than one player has the same number of total Ranking Points, tie-breaks on an NSL will be determined in the following order:

1. A player whose best event has the highest number of Ranking Points, second best, third best, etc. through sixth event;
2. Total Bonus Points earned in all events played during the computation period; then
3. Best random draw number.

When National Standings Lists are used to select players for closed Section and District tournaments, the lists will be filtered to only list players who meet the residency requirements of the Section or District, respectively.

When National Standings Lists are used to select players for tournaments that require U.S. Citizenship or certain other Alien eligibility, the lists will be filtered to only list players who meet these requirements.

Seeding Lists

The USTA publishes Singles Seeding Lists that are used to seed junior singles events and Individual Doubles

Seeding Lists that are used to select teams in to the USTA National Doubles Championships and other designated tournaments, and to seed junior doubles and mixed doubles tournaments - see **Table 1** for USTA Junior National Tournament seeding criteria. These lists are created using the same criteria as the NSLs, *except that:*

- Only the 6 best singles results are used for the Singles Seeding Lists; and
- Only the best 6 doubles and/or mixed doubles results are used for the Individual Doubles Seeding Lists.

Publication of NSLs and Seeding Lists. National Standings Lists and Seeding Lists will be published at least monthly.

VIII. USTA JUNIOR NATIONAL TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

- A. Gold, Silver, and Bronze Balls.** Gold balls shall be awarded to the winners, silver balls to the runners-up, and bronze balls to the third place playoff winners of USTA National Championships and the USTA National Doubles Championships.
- B. Seeding Criteria and Procedure.** The USTA Junior Competition Committee determines the seeding criteria and procedure for USTA Junior National Tournaments. The seeding criteria and procedure is based on the standing, ranking, and selection systems and is published in **Table 1**. See **Regulation VIII.K.2.** for regulations governing USTA Team Championships. The Director of Competition Pathway or the Director's designee shall seed each tournament after consulting with the Tournament Committee.
- C. Match and Scoring Formats.**
- 1. No-Ad Scoring.** No-Ad scoring may be used:
 - In USTA National Level 3 Tournaments;
 - When authorized in **Table 2**; and
 - When there is inclement weather, health concerns, or safety concerns (see **Regulation VIII.E.1.**).
 - 2. USTA National Championships.** All main draw singles matches, third place singles playoffs, and main draw matches in compass draws shall be the best of three tiebreak sets, *except that:*
 - the final round of singles in The USTA Boys' 18 National Championships may be the best of five tiebreak sets; and
 - the main draw singles matches in any USTA National Championship in the 12 Division may be the best of three tiebreak sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of the 3rd set, as determined by the USTA Junior Competition Committee and published in **Table 2**.
The 7-Point Tiebreak shall be used in all tiebreak sets of these matches. The USTA Junior Competition Committee determines the match formats for all other matches and shall publish **3. USTA National Level 3 Tournaments and Additional USTA Junior National Tournaments.** Any format approved by the Committee may be played.
 - 4. Other USTA Junior National Tournaments.** The USTA Junior Competition Committee determines the match formats to be used in:
 - USTA National Doubles Championship;
 - USTA National Level 2 Tournaments; and
 - USTA Team Championships.These formats shall be published on the USTA website and in **Table 2**. The match formats for USTA International Tournaments are governed by ITF tournament regulations.
- D. Scheduling Guidelines are Mandatory.** The scheduling guidelines set forth in **USTA Regulation II.D.9.** and **Table 8** in **Friend at Court** are mandatory for USTA Junior National Tournaments, except that USTA International Tournaments that are governed by ITF tournament regulations.
- E. Shortening Tournaments.** When inclement weather, health concerns or safety concerns may require a Referee to take steps to shorten the tournament to keep the tournament on schedule, as follows:
- 1. Shortening match formats.** The Director of Competition Pathway or the Director's designee may authorize the Referee of a USTA Junior National Tournament (except USTA International Tournaments that are governed by ITF tournament regulations) to use any match format not previously authorized (including No-Ad scoring) provided that all matches in each round are played with the same format.
 - 2. Cancel matches.** When matches are canceled, they shall be cancelled in the following order:
 - consolation doubles;
 - consolation singles;
 - main draw doubles; and

- main draw singles.

TABLE 1 • USTA Junior National Tournament Seeding Criteria	
<i>Tournament Committees shall use the criteria in this table to submit their proposed seeding to the Director of Competition Pathway.</i>	
A. Number of Seeds in Singles and Doubles Draws	
Draw Size	Required Number of Seeds
192	64 seeds: top 16 seeded numerically; next 48 seeded by group (17-32, 33-64)* 32 seeds: top 16 seeded numerically; next 16 seeded by group (9-16)*
128	16 seeds: top 8 seeded numerically; next 8 seeded by group (9-16)*
64 or 96	8 seeds: all seeded numerically
32	4 seeds: all seeded numerically
16	2 seeds: all seeded numerically
8	*USTA National Championships may seed all players and teams numerically
B. Singles Seeding Criteria for USTA Boys' and Girls' 18 and 16 National Championships**	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Seeding shall be done using the most recently published Singles Seeding List of the division. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Players may be moved within major groups (1-4, 5-8, 9-16, 17-32) due to direct wins if players are separated by less than 100 ranking points. • Players may be moved between major groups due to direct wins if players are separated by less than 50 ranking points. Players with ATP, WTA, ITF World Tour, or ITF Junior rankings must also be considered. Players not yet considered for seeding who have ITF World Tennis Numbers ("WTN") within the competitive range of those being considered for seeding, may also be considered for seeding. Additionally, a player already under consideration for seeding may be seeded higher or lower if justified by the competitive range of the WTNs. See Table 1.F. for instructions. 	
C. Singles Seeding Criteria for USTA Boys' and Girls' 14 and 12 National Championships	
<p>Seeding shall be done using the most recently published Singles Seeding List of the division in the order in which players appear.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Players may be moved within major groups (1-4, 5-8, 9-16, 17-32) due to direct wins if players are separated by fewer than 100 ranking points. • Players may be moved between major groups due to direct wins if players are separated by fewer than 50 ranking points. • Players not yet considered for seeding who have ITF World Tennis Number ("WTN") within the competitive range of those being considered for seeding, may also be considered for seeding. Additionally, a player already under consideration for seeding may be seeded higher or lower if justified by the competitive range of the WTNs. See Table 1.F. for instructions. 	
D. Singles Seeding Criteria for USTA National Level 2 Tournaments, USTA National Level 3 Tournaments, and Additional USTA Junior National Tournaments	
<p>Seeding shall be done using the most recently published Singles Seeding List of the division in the order in which players appear.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Players from the Singles Seeding List of the division may be moved within major groups (1-4, 5-8, 9-16, 17-32) due to direct wins if players are separated by fewer than 100 ranking points. • Players from the National Singles Seeding List of the division may be moved between major groups due to direct wins if players are separated by fewer than 50 ranking points. • Players not yet considered for seeding who have ITF World Tennis Number ("WTN") within the competitive range of those being considered for seeding, may also be considered for seeding. Additionally, a player already under consideration for seeding may be seeded higher or lower if justified by the competitive range of the WTNs. See Table 1.F. for instructions. 	

TABLE 1 • USTA Junior National Tournament Seeding Criteria

Tournament Committees shall use the criteria in this table to submit their proposed seeding to the Director of Competition Pathway.

E. Doubles Seeding Criteria

Seeding shall be done using the most recently published Individual Doubles Seeding List of the division.

- Teams shall be seeded in the order of their combined standings (For example, Player A holds the #1 standing and Player B holds the #10 standing. The Team of A&B would have the combined standing of 11). If there is a tie, the team with the player that has the highest doubles standing on the list must be seeded in the higher position.
- Teams not yet considered for seeding who have combined ITF World Tennis Numbers (“WTN”) within the competitive range of those being considered for seeding, may also be considered for seeding. Additionally, a team already under consideration for seeding may be seeded higher or lower if justified by the competitive range of the WTNs. See **Table 1.F.** for instructions.
- Tournament Committees of 18-and-under tournaments and the USTA may consider for seeding teams with players who have ATP/WTA rankings, ITF rankings, or ITA rankings.
- The Tournament Committee of the USTA National Doubles Championship may consider for seeding teams with players who have ATP, WTA, ITF World Tour, or ITF Junior rankings.
- Teams may be moved within major groups (1-4, 5-8, 9-16, 17-32) due to direct wins if the teams are separated by fewer than 100 ranking points.
- Teams may be moved between major groups due to direct wins if teams are separated by fewer than 50 ranking points.

F. Seeding and the ITF World Tennis Number (WTN)

Singles Seeding: When ratings are used for seeding, WTN will be used and only those players whose WTNs have a high degree of confidence (as determined by the ITF and as indicated by a dark blue check mark next to a WTN) will be considered for seeding based on their WTN. Players without such a high degree of confidence WTN will not be considered for seeding.

Doubles Seeding: When ratings are used for seeding, WTN will be used and only teams comprised of players whose WTNs have a high degree of confidence (as determined by the ITF and as indicated by a dark blue check mark next to a WTN) will be considered for seeding. Teams comprised of one or both players without such high degree of confidence WTNs will not be considered for seeded based on their WTN.

To determine the combined WTN of a team, add the two WTNs together; for example, if Player A has a 10.0 WTN and Player B has a 10.5 WTN, the Team of A&B would have the combined WTN of 20.5. If there is a WTN tie among teams under consideration, the team with the player that has the higher WTN must be seeded in the higher position.

F. Refund of Entry Fees. The Tournament Committee shall refund a player’s entire entry fee if:

- The player withdraws before the entry deadline;
- The entry is not accepted; or
- The withdrawal is for previously authorized entry into another tournament.

In all other cases, a refund is not required. The Tournament Committee shall not charge any fee (such as processing, service, or handling fee) for refunding the entry fee.

G. Withdrawals.

- 1. Written verification and description mandatory when withdrawal is for injury, illness, or personal circumstance.** When a player withdraws for reason of illness, injury or personal circumstance, the written verification and written description requirements set forth in **USTA Regulation IV.C.16.** are mandatory for all USTA Junior National Tournaments, except USTA International Tournaments that are governed by ITF tournament regulations.
- 2. Withdrawals subject to USTA Junior Suspension Point System.** A player who withdraws before the draw is made or who withdraws after the draw is made, but is replaced with an alternate, and:
 - the reason for the withdrawal is not for injury, illness, personal circumstance;
 - the withdrawal is for injury or illness, but written verification is not received pursuant to **USTA Regulation IV.C.16.;**

- the withdrawal is for personal circumstance, but the written verification is not received or accepted pursuant to **USTA Regulation IV.C.16.**; or
- the withdrawals is not for previously authorized entry into another tournament, is subject to the USTA Junior Suspension Point System.

TABLE 2 • Match Formats for Tournaments on the National Junior Tournament Schedule

The chart shows the match formats that will be used at tournaments on the National Junior Tournament Schedule. A Referee must get the Director of Competition Pathway to use other formats to complete a tournament. See Regulation III.E.1.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The USTA National Championships • USTA National Spring Championships • USTA National Clay Court Championships • USTA National Winter Championships 	BG 18, 16 & 14 USTA National Indoor Championships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BG 12 USTA National Indoor Championships • USTA National Level 2 Tournaments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Battle of the Sections • USTA National Brewer Team Cup 	USTA National Doubles Championships	USTA National Level 3 Tournaments
Main Draw Singles Formats ¹	Best of 3 tiebreak sets	X	X		X		X ⁵
	Best of 5 tiebreak sets - The USTA Boys' 18 National Championships Only (Kalamazoo)	X					X ⁵
	Best of 3 tiebreak sets with 10-Point Match Tiebreak in lieu of 3rd set			X			X ⁵
Consolation Singles²: Best of 3 tiebreak sets with 10-Point Match Tiebreak in lieu of 3rd set		X	X	X			X ⁵
Doubles Formats	Best of 3 tiebreak sets, No-Ad Scoring	X ³				X	
	Best of 3 tiebreak sets with 10-Point Match Tiebreak in lieu of 3rd set, No-Ad Scoring	X ³					
	8-game pro set with 7-point Tiebreak at 8 games all, No-Ad Scoring		X	X	X ⁴		X ⁶

- 1 Playoff for third place is considered a main draw singles match.
- 2 Consolation Singles includes: All Feed-In Championship matches, quarterfinal playoff matches, and non-East Draw matches in a Compass Draw
- 3 The best of 3 tiebreak sets shall be used in the semifinal, final, and playoff for third place doubles matches. The match format for all other doubles matches shall be the best of 3 tiebreak sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak in lieu of a 3rd Set.
- 4 A 6-game set with no-as scoring will be played in Doubles for USTA Battle of the Sections
- 5 The Tournament Committee determines the main draw and consolation singles match format.
- 6 The shortest doubles format that may be played at a USTA National Level 3 Tournament is the 8-game pro set with a 7-point Tiebreak at 8 games all.

USTA International Tournaments and ITF Tournaments on the National Junior Tournament Schedule:

ITF tournament regulations are used to determine the match formats for USTA International Tournaments and ITF tournaments on the National Junior Tournament Schedule.

H. USTA National Championships.

1. Entry.

- a. Means of entry.** A player submits an entry and entry fee to the USTA by the date stated in the published entry information.
- b. Multiple entries allowed in USTA National Championships.** When entries close, a player may be entered in up to two age divisions of USTA National Championships. The USTA selects players for the singles main draws in the following order: 18; 16; 14; and 12. If a player is entered in two age divisions and is selected into the older division, that player is not eligible for selection into the younger division. If a player is not selected for the older division, that player is eligible for selection in the younger division and is eligible to be an alternate in the younger division but not in the older division.
- c. Player may play in only one age division.** A player may play in only one age division in concurrent USTA National Championships. If a player plays in singles and doubles, the player must play in the same age division.

2. Draw size. The draw sizes are as set forth in **Table 3:**

TABLE 3 • USTA National Championship Draw Sizes				
Tournament	18 Divisions	16 Divisions	14 Divisions	12 Divisions
USTA National Spring Championships and USTA National Indoor Championships	64*	64	64	64
USTA National Clay Court Championships and The USTA National Championships	192	192	192	128
USTA National Winter Championships	128	128	128	128

- 3. Direct Acceptance List.** The USTA shall publish Direct Acceptance Lists in the 18 Divisions for:
- the USTA National Clay Court Championships and The USTA National Championships with an effective date of May 1; and
 - the USTA National Winter Championships with an effective date of October 1.
- Each list shall consist of players who are eligible for the applicable USTA National Championship and shall be ordered as follows:
- a. May 1 list.** The USTA Junior Competition Committee determines the criteria for inclusion on the May 1 Direct Acceptance List for the 18 Divisions and shall annually publish the criteria.

Regulation VIII.H.3.a. Comment:

Criteria for Inclusion on May 1 Direct Acceptance List in the 18 Divisions

- Players listed in positions 1 through 16 on a National Standings List of the division that shall be published on May 1;
- Players not previously listed who have an ATP singles ranking of 800 or better or who have a WTA singles ranking of 600 or better as of May 1, which players shall be listed in the order of their ranking; and
- Players not previously listed who have an Junior ITF ranking of 100 or better as of May 1, which players shall be listed in the order of their ranking.

- b. October 1 list.** Players listed in positions 1 through 16 on a National Standings List of the division that shall be published on October 1.

Shortly after selection for the USTA National Clay Court Championships is done, the Direct Acceptance List is republished and any player who is not age eligible for The USTA National Championships is removed and replaced with the next-highest eligible player.

4. Selection process for USTA National Clay Court Championships, The USTA National Championships, and USTA National Winter Championships.

- a. Order of selection for singles main draw.** Each Tournament Committee shall accept eligible players who have submitted timely entries and successful wild card applicants into the singles main draw in the following order:
 - i. Players on Direct Acceptance List for the 18 Divisions only.**

- **May 1 List for USTA National Clay Court Championships and The USTA National Championships.** Up to 32 players shall be accepted in the order in which their names appear on the list.
 - **October List for USTA National Winter Championships.** Up to 16 players shall be accepted in the order in which their names appear on the list.
- ii. **Players on National Standings List.** The number of players listed in **Table 4** shall be accepted in the order in which their names appear on the most recently published National Standings List.

TABLE 4 • Players Selected for USTA National Clay Court Championships, The USTA National Championships, and USTA National Winter Championships from National Standings List				
Tournament	18 Divisions	16 Divisions	14 Divisions	12 Divisions
USTA National Clay Court Championships and The USTA National Championships	77	109	109	68
USTA National Winter Championships	52	68	68	68

- iii. **Players within Sectional Associations' quotas.** Players not previously selected who are on the Sectional Quota Lists and within the quota established by **Regulation VIII.H.5.d.** shall be accepted in the order in which their names appear on the most recent Sectional Quota Lists. A Sectional Association's quota is never reduced because of players selected into the draw by any other method under **Regulation VIII.H.4.a.**

Regulation VIII.H.4.a.iii. Comment: The number of players from a Sectional Association in a draw may be fewer than the Sectional Association's Quota. For example, if a player within the quota withdraws after the entry deadline, the player is replaced by the highest listed player on the Alternate List. (See **Regulation VIII.H.4.c.**)

- iv. **Remaining vacancies filled with players on National Standings List.** The Tournament Committee shall fill the remaining spots in the draw, except for those spots reserved for wild card recipients, with players remaining on the National Standings List used to accept players into the draw pursuant to **Regulation VIII.H.4.a.ii.** in the order in which their names appear.
- v. **Wild cards.** As soon as practicable after the deadline for accepting wild card applications, the Wild Card Committee shall award no more than 6 wild cards in a draw of 192, and no more than 4 wild cards in a draw of 128.
- vi. **Additional players on National Standings List.** If the Wild Card Committee awards fewer than the maximum number of wild cards, the Tournament Committee shall fill the remaining spots in the draw with players remaining on the National Standings List used to accept players into the draw pursuant to **Regulation VIII.H.4.a.ii.**
- b. **Alternates.** The Tournament Committee shall prepare an alternate list of players not accepted into the singles main draw that shall be used to replace withdrawing players. The National Standings List used to accept players into the singles main draw pursuant to **Regulation VIII.H.4.a.ii.** must be used to order players on the alternate list.

Regulation VIII.H.4.b. Comment: Late entrants shall be placed on the alternate list in the order received after the timely entries. Late entries received at the same time shall be ordered randomly. (See **USTA Regulation I.H.4.**)

- c. **Sectional Associations' quotas.** Each Sectional Association is entitled to a quota of players as follows:
- i. **Portion of quota based on unique registration in tournaments sanctioned by the Sectional Associations.** Forty (40%) of the quota shall be based on the ratio of the unique registrations for tournaments sanctioned by a Sectional Association (including tournaments sanctioned by each District Association of a Sectional Association) to the total unique registrations in these tournaments. Unique registrations shall be based on the

aggregate totals as of December 31 the preceding year. The USTA shall calculate this portion of a Sectional Association's quota by multiplying this ratio by the total quota in **Table 5**.

- ii. **Portion of quota based on overall junior player strength.** Sixty (60%) of the quota shall be based upon the ratio of total junior players ranked in the top 150 of the boys and girls 18, 16, 14, and 12 Divisions in a Sectional Association to all junior players ranked in the top 150 of these divisions. Rankings shall be based on the national combined junior rankings as of December 31 of the preceding year. The USTA shall calculate this portion of a Sectional Association's quota by multiplying this ratio by the total quota in **Table 5**.

Each Sectional Association shall have the minimum quota in **Table 5**. Fractional values obtained shall be rounded up in decreasing order until the total quota in **Table 5** is filled.

TABLE 5 • Sectional Associations' Minimum Quota and Total Quota for USTA National Spring Championships, The USTA National Championships, and USTA National Winter Championships		
Tournament	Minimum Quota	Total Quota
USTA National Clay Court Championships and The USTA National Championships - 18, 16, and 14 Divisions	2	77
USTA National Clay Court Championships, The USTA National Championships, and USTA National Winter Championships - 12 Divisions	2	56
USTA National Winter Championships - 18, 16, and 14 Divisions	2	56

- d. **Sectional Quota List.** No later than the date entries close, each Sectional Association shall provide each Tournament Committee with its Sectional Quota List. At least monthly, the Sectional Associations shall publish Sectional Quota Lists for players in each junior division. The USTA Junior Competition Committee determines the criteria for inclusion on the lists and the method of calculating the lists. Annually it shall publish the criteria.

Regulation VIII.H.4.d. Comment:

Sectional Quota List Criteria and Method of Calculating Lists

The criteria for inclusion on the lists and method of calculating the lists shall be the same criteria used for National Standings Lists (See **Regulation IV.C. Comment**), *except*:

1. Players must meet the requirements of **USTA Regulation IX.C.1**.
2. Only those players who are residents of the Sectional Association may appear on each Sectional Quota List.
3. The following results will be included:
 - A player's best 6 singles results and best 6 doubles and/or mixed doubles results may include no more than 2 singles results and 2 doubles and/or mixed doubles results, respectively, that are from tournaments sanctioned by a body other than the Sectional Association or one of its District Associations, *except that* an Intersectional Team Tournament (see **Regulation III.F.1**.) and USTA Brewer Team Cup and Battle of the Sections, shall be considered as though sanctioned by each Sectional Association participating in the tournament.
4. A Sectional Association may adopt a wild card or waiver process to place up to two players on the Sectional Quota List and within the quota assigned to the Sectional Association for the USTA National Championship.

A Sectional Association may not impose a requirement that a player participate in a specific tournament in order to appear on a Sectional Quota List.

5. Singles selection process for USTA National Spring Championships.

- a. **Order of selection for singles main draw.** Each Tournament Committee shall accept eligible players who have submitted timely entries and successful wild card applicants into the singles main draw in the following order:
 - i. **Players on National Standings List.** 60 players selected in the order in which their names appear on the most recently published National Standings List.

- ii. **Wild cards.** As soon as practicable after the deadline for accepting wild card applications, the Wild Card Committee shall award no more than 4 wild cards.
 - b. **Alternates.** The Tournament Committee shall prepare an alternate list of players not accepted into the singles main draw that shall be used to replace withdrawing players. The National Standings List used to accept players into the singles main draw pursuant to **Regulation VIII.H.5.a.ii.** shall be used to order players on the alternate list.
- 6. **Singles selection process for USTA National Indoor Championships.**
 - a. **Order of selection for singles main draw.** Each Tournament Committee will accept eligible players who have submitted timely entries and successful wild card applicants into the singles main draw in the following order:
 - i. **Players on National Standings List.** 33 players in the order in which their names appear on the most recently published National Standings List.
 - ii. **Players within Sectional Associations' quotas.** 27 players not previously selected who are on the Sectional Quota Lists and within the quota established by **Regulation VIII.H.4.d.** will be accepted in order in which their players' names appear on the Sectional Quota list, except that the minimum quota shall be 1. A Sectional Association's quota is never reduced because of players selected into the draw by any other method under **Regulation VII.H.6.a.**
 - iii. **Wild cards.** As soon as practicable after the deadline for accepting wild card applications, the Wild Card Committee shall award no more than 4 wild cards.
 - iv. **Remaining vacancies filled with players on National Standings List.** The Tournament Committee shall fill the remaining spots in the draw, except for those spots reserved for wild card recipients, with players remaining on the National Standings List used to accept players into the draw pursuant to **Regulation VIII.H.6.a.i.** in the order in which their names appear.
 - b. **Alternates.** The Tournament Committee shall prepare an alternate list of players not accepted into the singles main draw that shall be used to replace withdrawing players. The National Standings List used to accept players into the singles main draw pursuant to **Regulation VIII.H.6.a.ii.** shall be used to order players on the alternate list.
- 7. **Wild cards for USTA National Championships.**
 - a. **Eligibility for wild cards.** Each wild card applicant must be in good standing with the applicant's Sectional Association, be eligible for the tournament, and submit a timely wild card application.
 - b. **Application deadline.** Players must submit wild card applications and supporting documents to the Director of Competition Pathway for receipt no later than five days after the entry deadline for the USTA National Championship.
 - c. **Wild Card Committee.** The Wild Card Committee shall be comprised of the Coordinator of Junior Rankings, the Chairperson of the USTA Junior Competition Committee, the Director of Competition Pathway, the General Manager of Player Development or the Director's designee, and the Tournament Director of the applicable USTA National Championship. The Wild Card Committee shall consult with USTA Player Development staff and the player's Sectional Association before granting a wild card.
 - d. **Criteria.** Criteria for selecting wild cards shall be determined by the USTA Junior Competition Committee in consultation with the USTA Player Development and published in **Table 6.**

TABLE 6 • Wild Card Criteria

The Wild Card Committee shall use the following criteria to select wild cards:

- No player that is under suspension by the USTA, a Sectional Association, the ITF, the ITA, the WTA, or the ATP may be awarded a wild card.
- No player who has a national standing below the standing of the first alternate may be awarded a wild card *unless*, in the opinion of the Wild Card Committee, the player will improve the overall strength of field of the tournament.
- No player who submits a late wild card application may be considered. Timely entries into the tournament are recommended, but are not required.
- A player with an established record in international, professional, or collegiate competition may be considered.

TABLE 6 • Wild Card Criteria

- A player whose ability to qualify has been affected by injury, illness, or other personal circumstance may be considered.
- A player's ITF World Tennis Number ("WTN") may be considered, provided the player's WTN has a high degree of confidence (as determined by the ITF and as indicated by a dark blue check mark next to a WTN).
- A player with a high standing in a younger age division of the event may be considered.
- A player with a high standing in the division of the event who does not appear on the Sectional Quota List may be considered, *provided that* the player has been recommended for a wild card by their Sectional Association.
- A player who has been recommended for a wild card by the USTA National Coaching Staff may be considered.
- USTA Player Development may hold invitational wild card playoff competitions for players identified jointly by NJTLs and USTA Player Development to which the best finishers shall be awarded wild cards into the Boys' and Girls' 14 and 12 Divisions of the USTA National Clay Court Championships and The USTA National Championships. A total of 2 wild cards will be available for this purpose in each of the Boys' and Girls' 14 and 12 Divisions.
- USTA Player Development may hold an invitational wild card playoff competition to which the winner shall be awarded a wild card, provided that the USTA Junior Competition Committee has approved the competition in advance.

8. Singles draw formats.

- A compass draw with a playoff for third place;
- A draw with a Feed-In Championship and a playoff for third place; or
- A modified Feed-In Championship.

The USTA Junior Competition Committee specifies which format shall be used and publish it in **Table 7**.

If a draw with a Feed-In Championship is used, the USTA Competitive Pathway Department and USTA Junior Competition Committee specifies the round through which the losing players are fed into the Feed-In Championship and any additional playoff matches required.

If a draw with a modified Feed-In Championship is used, the USTA Competitive Pathway Department and USTA Junior Competition Committee specifies the rounds that are fed into the modified Feed-In Championship and any additional playoff matches required.

Each player must play all matches unless the failure to do so is attributable to illness, injury, or personal circumstance.

9. Doubles events.

- a. Players eligible.** All players selected for singles shall be eligible to enter doubles. Vacancies in the doubles draw may be filled by the Tournament Committee with alternates.

Regulation VIII.H.9.a. Comment: In a USTA National Championship, the doubles entry deadline is not the singles entry deadline referred to in **Regulation VIII.H.1.a**. The doubles entry deadline is a later date set by the Tournament Committee.

- b. Doubles draw format.** A single elimination draw with a playoff for third place will be held, *except that* the USTA Junior Competition Committee may authorize a consolation draw at the request of the Tournament Committee. Each player must play all matches, unless the failure to do so is attributable to illness, injury, or personal circumstance.

10. Time when draws made. The draws shall not be made more than seven days before the start of the tournament.

11. Remaking draws. If play has not begun, a draw may be remade:

- If any one of the top four seeds withdraws; or
- If two or more seeds withdraw.

I. USTA National Level 2 Tournaments.

- 1. Tournament overview.** Four times annually the USTA will sanction four concurrent USTA National Level 2 Tournaments for boys and girls in each age division at different sites.
- 2. Draw size.** The draw size is 32 players.
- 3. Entry.**

- a. **Means of entry.** A player submits an entry and entry fee to the USTA by the date stated in the published entry information and designates the player's order of preference among the four USTA National Level 2 Tournament sites.
- b. **Multiple entries allowed.** When entries close, a player may be entered in two age divisions of USTA National Level 2 Tournaments.
- c. **Player may play in only one age division.** If a player plays in singles and doubles, the player must play in the same age division.

TABLE 7 • Singles Draw Formats at USTA National Championships				
Tournament	18 Divisions	16 Divisions	14 Divisions	12 Divisions
USTA National Spring Championships	Feed-In Championship, which includes the losers through the quarterfinals and a playoff for 3rd place			
USTA National Clay Court Championships and The USTA National Championships	Feed-In Championship, which includes the losers through the quarterfinals and a playoff for 3rd place		Feed-In Championship, which includes the losers through the quarterfinals and a playoff for 3rd place.	Compass draw that guarantees each player at least four matches and with round-of-16 losers fed into a separate single elimination draw (silver) and the quarterfinal losers fed into another separate single elimination draw (gold)
USTA National Indoor Championships	Curtis Consolation whereby the losers of the Round of 64 and Round of 32 are fed into a separate single elimination draw and the losers of the Round of 16 and quarterfinals are fed into another separate single elimination draw, and there is a playoff for 3rd place			
USTA National Winter Championships	Feed-In Championship, which includes the losers through the quarterfinals and a playoff for 3rd place		Compass draw that guarantees each player at least four matches and with round-of-16 losers fed into a separate single elimination draw (silver) and the quarterfinal losers fed into another separate single elimination draw (gold)	
When a Feed-In Championship is held, the standard bye placement method described in USTA Regulation II.B.4.d.i. shall be used.				

4. **Selection in descending division order.** The USTA shall select eligible players who have submitted timely entries for USTA National Level 2 Tournaments in descending age division order: 18; 16; 14; and 12. If a player is entered in two age divisions of a USTA National Level 2 Tournament and is selected into the older division, that player is not eligible for selection into the younger division. If a player is not selected for the older division, that player is eligible for selection in the younger division and is eligible to be an alternate in the younger division but not in the older division.
5. **Selection process and alternates.** Players shall be selected, and alternates shall be ordered using the most recently published National Standings List of the division as set forth in **Table 8**.
6. **Acceptance into USTA National Level 2 Tournament makes player ineligible for play in concurrent USTA National Level 2 Tournament.** A player who has been accepted into a USTA National Level 2 Tournament, is not eligible for play in any concurrent USTA National Level 2 Tournament, except that a player may submit a written request to move to another site within the same age division if the draw at the requested site is not full, the request is received by each Tournament Director no later than 10 days before the start date of the tournament, and each Tournament Director involved understands the circumstances and concurs in writing.
7. **Singles draw format.** In singles each tournament shall run a Feed-In Championship and playoff for third place. The USTA Competitive Pathway Department and the USTA Junior Competition Committee shall specify any additional playoff matches required, the round through which the

losing players are fed into the Feed-In Championship, and the round through which the Feed-In Championship is played. Each player must play all matches unless the failure to do so is attributable to illness, injury, or personal circumstance.

TABLE 8 • Selection Process for USTA National Level 2 Tournaments

Selection of Players: Players shall be selected in the order in which their names appear on the most recently published National Standings List of the division.

Alternates: Those players who have not been selected after all four USTA National Level 2 Tournaments draws have been filled shall be placed on the alternate lists at all concurrent USTA National Level 2 Tournaments for which the players indicated a preference. The players shall be ordered based on the players' standing on the National Selection List used to select players.

Late Entries: Late entries shall be placed on the alternate list in the order received after timely entries. Late entries received at the same time shall be ordered by lot. (See **USTA Regulation I.H.4.**)

- 8. Doubles draw format.** In doubles each tournament shall run a single elimination draw and playoff for third place. Each player must play all matches unless the failure to do so is attributable to illness, injury, or personal circumstance.

Regulation VIII.I.7. Comment: Each USTA National Level 2 Tournament shall run a Feed-In Championship that includes the losers through the Round of 16, a playoff for 3rd and 4th place, and a playoff of the losing quarterfinalists that determine 5th, 6th and 8th places (there is no playoff for 7th place). The Feed-In Championship uses the standard bye placement method described in **USTA Regulation II.B.4.d.i.**

- 9. Time when draws made.** The draws shall not be made more than seven days before the start of the tournament.
- 10. Remaking draws.** If play has not begun, a draw may be remade:
- If any one of the top four seeds withdraws; or
 - If two or more seeds withdraw.
- J. USTA National Level 3 Tournaments.**
- 1. Number of tournaments.** The USTA Junior Competition Committee shall sanction one or more tournaments with up to 192 total draw spots up to 4 times per year in each division.
 - 2. Draw size, draw formats, and match formats.** The USTA Competitive Pathway Department shall specify the draw size, draw formats, and match formats at the time the sanction for each USTA National Level 3 Tournament is approved.
 - 3. Entry into concurrent USTA National Level 3 Tournaments.** When entries close, a player shall not be entered in more than two concurrent USTA National Level 3 Tournaments unless each Tournament Committee involved understands the situation and concurs in writing.
 - 4. Tournament regulations for USTA National Level 3 Tournaments.** Regulations for USTA National Level 3 Tournaments shall be prepared by the USTA Junior Competition Committee and shall be published.

Regulation VIII.J. Comment: The following policy for permitting multiple entries and selection process for USTA National Level 3 Tournaments shall be used:

MULTIPLE ENTRIES: Players Have TWO Options

Players Choose ONE of the Following Options, but NOT Both:

- **OPTION 1:** Enter any ONE Division of TWO Concurrent USTA National Level 3 Tournaments (this may be a different division in each tournament); OR
- **OPTION 2:** Enter TWO Divisions of ONE USTA National Level 3 Tournament
Players may PLAY in only ONE division of ONE tournament.

Players who enter three (3) or more divisions will be given 5 suspension points for being improperly entered in concurrent tournaments and will only be selected into a maximum of two divisions.

SELECTION PROCESS

- **Selection:** Players are accepted into a USTA National Level 3 Tournament using the most recently published National Standings List as of the date entries close. The USTA shall select eligible players who have submitted timely entries for USTA National Level 3 Tournaments in descending age division order: 18; 16; 14; and 12. If a player is entered in two age divisions of a USTA National Level 3 Tournament and is selected into the older division, that player is not eligible for selection into the younger division. If a player is not selected for the older division, that player is eligible for selection in the younger division and is eligible to be an alternate in the younger division but not in the older division. A player who has been accepted into a USTA National Level 3 Tournament, is not eligible for play in any concurrent USTA National Level 3 Tournament
- **Alternates:** Alternates are ordered using the same National Standings List used to select players into the tournament. Players with no National Standing are ordered after players with standing by random drawing. Late entries are placed on the bottom of the alternate list in the order received. Late entries received at the same time are ordered randomly.

K. USTA National Doubles Championships, Additional USTA Junior National Tournaments, USTA Team Championships, and USTA International Tournaments.

1. **Tournament regulations for USTA National Doubles Championships and Additional USTA Junior National Tournaments.** Regulations for USTA National Doubles Championships and Additional USTA Junior National Tournaments shall be prepared by the USTA Junior Competition Committee and the USTA Competitive Pathway Department and shall be published.
2. **Tournament regulations for USTA Team Championships.** Regulations for USTA Team Championships shall be prepared by the USTA Junior Competition Committee and the USTA Competitive Pathway Department, including the selection process for the USTA National Brewer Team Cup which shall be published in **Table 9**.

TABLE 9 • Selection Process for USTA National Brewer Team Cup

USTA National Brewer Team Cup - 18, 16 and 14 Divisions

Separate USTA National Brewer Team Cup shall be sanctioned for boys and girls. Each Tournament Committee shall accept 32 players from each division into the draw as follows:

- Up to 4 wild cards using the same process established in **Regulation VIII.H.7.d**.
- The remaining players from most recently published National Standings List from each age division, provided they have submitted timely entries, in the order in which their names appear.

The Tournament Committee shall prepare an alternate list for each division of those players with timely entries not accepted into the draw in the order in which their names appear on the same National Standings List used to accept players into the draw. Late entrants shall be placed on the alternate list in the order received after timely entries. Late entries received at the same time shall be ordered by lot. (See **USTA Regulation I.H.4.**)

USTA National Brewer Team Cup - 12 Divisions

Separate USTA National Brewer Team Cup shall be sanctioned for boys and girls. Each Tournament Committee shall accept 48 players from each division into the draw as follows:

- Up to 4 wild cards using the same process established in **Regulation VIII.H.7..d**.
- The remaining players from most recently published National Standings List of the division, provided they have submitted timely entries, in the order in which their names appear.

The Tournament Committee shall prepare an alternate list of those players with timely entries not accepted into the draw in the order in which their names appear on the same National Standings List used to accept players into the draw. Late entrants shall be placed on the alternate list in the order received after timely entries. Late entries received at the same time shall be ordered by lot. (See **USTA Regulation I.H.3.**)

3. **Use of ITF tournament regulations at USTA International Tournaments.** USTA International Tournaments shall use ITF tournament regulations. The list of USTA International Tournaments shall be published. (See **Table 10**)

TABLE 10 • USTA International Tournaments

- Eddie Herr International Junior Tennis Championship - 16, 14, & 12 Divisions
- Orange Bowl International Championships - 16 Divisions
- Junior Orange Bowl International Championships - 14 & 12 Divisions

4. **Coaching in USTA Team Championships.** The USTA Junior Competition Committee, in consultation with the USTA Competitive Pathway Department, may authorize the designated team coach to coach a player at any time during the match so long as the coach does not interfere with play. The list of tournaments at which this alternate method of coaching is authorized shall be published annually in **Table 11**.

TABLE 11 • USTA Team Championships that Use Alternate Method of Coaching

USTA Battle of the Sections
USTA National Brewer Team Cup

IX. JUNIOR RANKING REGULATIONS

- A. **Divisions Ranked.** The USTA shall publish rankings in the Boys' and Girls' 18, 16, 14, and 12 Divisions.
- B. **Ranking Period.** The ranking period for all players shall be January 1 through December 31.
- C. **USTA Membership Required.** Only persons with a current USTA membership on the last day of the ranking period will be considered for a ranking.
- D. **Eligibility for Rankings.** Eligibility for ranking is governed by **USTA Regulation IX.C.1**.
- E. **Junior Ranking Tournaments.** The following tournaments shall be known as Junior Ranking Tournaments and only results from these tournaments shall be considered for junior rankings:
- The Authorized USTA Junior National Tournaments set forth in **Regulation II**;
 - The Authorized Section and District Ranking Tournaments set forth in **Regulation III**;
 - ITF tournaments listed on the National Junior Tournament Schedule; and
 - Additional tournaments authorized by the USTA Junior Competition Committee in consultation with the USTA Competitive Pathway Department. (See **Table 12**)

TABLE 12 • Additional National Ranking Tournaments

There are currently no authorized Additional National Ranking Tournaments.

- F. **Ranking Points.** Players shall earn ranking points in singles and doubles as follows:
1. **Points Per Round.** Points Per Round are those points that are awarded based on the round that the player or team reached.
 2. **Bonus points.** Bonus points are those points that are awarded based on wins over highly ranked players.
- G. **Assignment of Ranking Levels.** The junior ranking system shall have 7 Levels of National Ranking Tournaments. The following tournaments shall be assigned to each Level:
1. **Level 1.** The tournaments assigned Level 1 shall be:
 - USTA National Championships;
 - USTA National Doubles Championships;
 -
 - USTA Battle of the Sections; and
 - USTA National Brewer Team Cup.
 2. **Level 2.** The tournaments assigned Level 2 shall be:
 - USTA National Level 2 Tournaments; and
 - Intersectional Level 2 Team Tournaments described in **Regulation III.F.1**.
 3. **Level 3.** The tournaments assigned Level 3 shall be:
 - USTA National Level 3 Tournaments; and
 - Closed Section Level 3 Tournaments described in **Regulation III.A**.
 4. **Level 4.** The tournaments assigned Level 4 shall be:
 - Section and District Level 4 Tournaments described in **Regulation III.B**;
 - Intrasectional Level 4 Team Tournaments described in **Regulation III.F.3**.
 - Intersectional Level 4 Team Tournaments described in **Regulation III.F.2**.

5. **Level 5.** The tournaments assigned Level 5 shall be the Section and District Level 5 Tournaments described in **Regulation III.C.**
6. **Level 6.** The tournaments assigned Level 6 shall be the Section and District Level 6 Tournaments described in **Regulation III.D.**
7. **Level 7.** The tournaments assigned Level 7 shall be the Section and District Level 7 Tournaments described in **Regulation III.E.**

The USTA Junior Competition Committee and the USTA Competitive Pathway Department shall annually assign Ranking Levels to the Additional USTA National Tournaments, USTA International Tournaments and ITF tournaments listed on the National Junior Tournament Schedule.

H. Assignment of Ranking Points. Annually the USTA Junior Competition Committee and the USTA Competitive Pathway Department determines:

- The Points Per Round assigned to each round in each Level of Junior Ranking Tournament; and
- The Bonus Points awarded, if any, for wins over highly ranked players.

The assigned Ranking Points shall be published on the USTA website.

I. Combined Rankings. Junior rankings are based on singles and doubles ranking points. A player's junior ranking shall be calculated by adding:

- 100% of the ranking points earned in singles from the six Junior Ranking Tournaments which the player received the most singles ranking points; and
- A percentage of the ranking points earned in doubles from the six Junior Ranking Tournaments in which the player received the most doubles or mixed doubles ranking points, which percentage shall be determined by the USTA Junior Competition Committee. The percentage shall be published on the USTA website. When a team tournament format is played and a player earns ranking points in both doubles and mixed doubles, the total points earned in doubles and mixed doubles at the tournament are used to determine whether the tournament is among the player's best six.

Regulation IX.I. Comment: The percentage assigned to doubles is 15%.

J. Treatment of Byes, Withdrawals, Walkovers, Disqualifications, Defaults, and Retirements.

1. **Byes.** A player who advances because of a bye does not receive Points Per Round for advancing.
2. **Withdrawals, walkovers, and disqualifications.** A player who advances because of a withdrawal, walkover, or disqualification shall receive Points Per Round for advancing but shall not receive any Bonus Points.
3. **Defaults before first point of match.** A player who advances because of a default before first point of a match shall receive Points Per Round for advancing but shall not receive any Bonus Points. Examples of these defaults include, but are not necessarily limited to, defaults for:
 - Lateness for the start of a match;
 - Failure to show up for a match;
 - Refusal to start a match;
 - Code violations under the Point Penalty System occurring during the warm-up; and
 - Misconduct before a match or between matches.
4. **Defaults after first point of match.** A player who advances because of a default after the first point of the match receives Points Per Round and any Bonus Points that apply to the match. Examples of these defaults include, but are not necessarily limited to, defaults for:
 - Code violations under the Point Penalty System;
 - Lateness after a rest period;
 - Lateness for resumption of a suspended match; and
 - Refusal to continue to play a match.
5. **Player defaulted for misconduct or code violations receives no Ranking Points.** A player who has been defaulted for misconduct or code violations under the Point Penalty System shall not receive any Ranking Points that the player had accumulated in the tournament, provided that a doubles player who was not responsible for the default or any of the code violations shall not be penalized.

Regulation IX.J.5. Comment: A player who is defaulted because of a code violation for delay caused by obvious cramping (or another medical condition that makes it difficult to resume play), normally should not lose ranking points.

6. Retirements. A player who advances because of the opponent's retirement shall receive Points Per Round for advancing and any bonus points.

- K. Treatment of Results in ITF Tournaments by Player Under Suspension by the USTA.** A player will not earn ranking points for results in ITF tournaments that count for Junior ranking that are played while the player is under suspension.
- L. Matches Generally May Count in Only One Division.** No match may count for ranking in more than one division, except that results in the Boys' and Girls' 18 Divisions from the USTA National Championships shall be considered in the Boys' and Girls' 18 Divisions, the Adult Open Men's and Women's ranking categories, and the Professional/Adult Open Men's and Women's ranking categories.
- M. Players Ranked.** All players, regardless of age at the time the final rankings are published, who received at least 200 ranking points in a division in tournaments that start during the Ranking Period shall be ranked in that division.
- N. Responsibilities of Junior Players Seeking Ranking.** Players are responsible for regularly reviewing their player records and shall promptly submit corrections to their player records to the USTA Competitive Pathway Department. All corrections must be submitted no later than January 15.
- O. Junior Ranking Committee.** The USTA Junior Competition Committee shall have a subcommittee charged with overseeing national junior rankings. The USTA President may appoint a Junior Ranking Coordinator to serve as chair of this subcommittee. Subject to the approval of the USTA President and if a Coordinator is appointed, vacancies in the Junior Ranking Coordinator position may be filled by the chair of the USTA Junior Competition Committee.
- P. Publication of Rankings.**
- 1. Tentative rankings published by January 5.** This is the first ranking published for both singles and doubles. The tentative rankings and the individual player records shall be published by January 5 of each year.
 - 2. Corrections must be received no later than January 15.** Any corrections to a player's record must be received by the USTA Competitive Pathway Department no later than January 15 of each year.
 - 3. Final rankings published by January 20.** These final junior rankings are published after corrected data have been received and acted upon by the USTA and no later than January 20. Final junior rankings are not subject to appeal.

X. JUNIOR NATIONAL SANCTIONING REGULATIONS

- A. Discrimination Not Allowed.** Tournament sanctions shall be awarded and sanctioned tournaments shall be conducted without regard to race, creed, color, national origin, or sexual orientation. By submitting an application to sanction a tournament, the applicant agrees that it will not discriminate against any participant because of the participant's race, creed, color, national origin, or sexual orientation, *except that* entries into the tournaments listed in **Regulation II.A.-F.** are limited to U.S. citizens and certain aliens (see **USTA Regulation IX.C.1.**). A violation of this provision may result in a refusal to issue any further sanctions to the applicant.
- B. Primary Host Site Shall be Organization Member.** The primary host site of each tournament listed in **Regulation II.** must be an Organization Member.
- C. Sanctioning Process.** This process applies to all tournaments listed in **Regulation II.**, except those tournaments that the USTA Junior Competition Committee has determined will not be put out for bid and will instead be assigned to a sanction holder by the Committee.
- 1. Application deadlines.** The USTA Junior Competition Committee shall set the application deadlines and shall notify the Sectional Associations and current sanction holders of these deadlines.

Regulation X.C. Comment: The USTA Junior Competition Committee has set the following deadlines for sanction applications:

- USTA National Championships, USTA National Team Championships, USTA Intersectional Team Championships, and USTA National Brewer Team Cup: January 15 of the year prior to the tournament. These tournaments are awarded 3-year sanctions.
- USTA National Level 2 Tournaments and USTA International Tournaments: January 15 of the year prior to the tournament. These tournaments are awarded 2-year sanctions.
- USTA National Level 3 Tournaments and Additional USTA National Tournaments: May 1 of the year prior to the tournament. Bids for tournament held January - June will be awarded by 3rd quarter of the year prior to the tournament; bids for tournaments held July-December will be awarded by the 4th quarter of the year prior to the tournament.

2. **Submission of application.** The applicant shall submit the application on the USTA-approved sanction form to the USTA Junior Competition Committee. An applicant may submit or be asked to submit other information in support of their applications.
3. **Approval by Sectional Associations.** Each Sectional Association shall approve or disapprove the applicants from its Sectional Association, except as set forth in **Regulation X.C.4.** below. If a Sectional Association disapproves an applicant, the USTA Junior Competition Committee shall not consider that particular application.
4. **Sectional Association approval not required when it submits competing application.** When a Sectional Association has submitted a competing application for a tournament, the USTA Junior Competition Committee shall approve or disapprove all applicants from that Sectional Association for that tournament.
5. **Notice to competing applicants of USTA National Championships of their right to appear before Committee.** The chairperson or the chairperson's designee shall inform all applicants of competing applications for the USTA National Championships listed in **Regulation II.A.** and **B.** and may require them to submit additional information in order to consider the competing applications. Representatives of all applicants shall be permitted to appear in person, by proxy, or by electronic means to make presentations to the USTA Junior Competition Committee in support of their applications.
6. **Approval of sanctions.** The USTA Junior Competition Committee shall review only the applications from:
 - Applicants approved by Sectional Associations;
 - Sectional Associations; and
 - Applicants that are not subject to approval or disapproval by a Sectional Association because the Sectional Association submitted a competing application.
 The committee shall approve or disapprove applications as soon as possible after the application deadline.

Upon approval of a sanction, the chairperson or the chairperson's designee shall notify the successful applicant. If the committee does not approve any application, or any approved applicant declines or is unable to host the tournament, then the committee may select a sanction holder to host the tournament.

7. **Tournament contract.** No sanction approval shall be considered final until the applicant completes and returns a tournament contract in the form approved by the USTA Junior Competition Committee and payment of the sanction fee (see **Regulation X.D.**) has been received.
- D. Sanction Fees.** The sanction fee for:
- USTA National Championships;
 - USTA National Doubles Championships;
 - USTA National Level 2 Tournaments;
 - USTA Team Championships;
- shall be \$100 per age and gender division. The sanction fee for all other tournaments sanctioned by the USTA Junior Competition Committee shall be \$100 per tournament.
- E. Tournament Titles.** The USTA Junior Competition Committee establishes the titles for tournaments under its jurisdiction. The title shall include, where applicable, the age, sex, surface, and any other divisions of the tournament. The initials "USTA" must also be used.
- The titles of USTA International Tournaments may include the initials "USTA." The titles of USTA National Level 3 Tournaments, Additional USTA Junior National Tournaments, and USTA International Tournaments are subject to the approval of the USTA Junior Competition Committee.
- F. Television, Cable, Satellite, Internet, Radio, Film and Video Rights.** The USTA reserves all television, cable, satellite, internet, radio, film, and video rights for all tournaments sanctioned by the USTA Junior Competition Committee as set forth in **USTA Regulation XVII.F.**
- G. ITF Junior Tournaments.** The ITF regulations require that ITF junior tournaments played in the United States be either organized by the USTA or sanctioned by the USTA. The USTA Junior Competition Committee shall be notified of all applicants for tournaments requiring sanction approval.

Regulation X.G. Comment: The Committee has determined that all ITF Junior Tournaments played in the geographic boundaries of the USTA shall be sanctioned by the USTA.

SELECTION PROCESS FOR USTA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The information below summarizes the selection processes set forth in the Regulations.

Method of Acceptance <i>(In order of acceptance)</i>	USTA National Spring Championships			
	BG18*	BG16	BG14	BG12
National Standing List	60	60	60	60
Wild Cards	4	4	4	4
Vacancies are filled with players from the National Standings List	64	64	64	64

Method of Acceptance <i>(In order of acceptance)</i>	USTA National Clay Court Championships and The USTA National Championships			
	BG18	BG16	BG14	BG12
Direct Acceptance List	32	0	0	0
National Standing List	77	109	109	68
Sectional Quota <i>(minimum quota of 2)</i>	77	77	77	56
Wild Cards	6	6	6	4
Vacancies are filled with players from the National Standings List	192	192	192	128

Method of Acceptance <i>(In order of acceptance)</i>	USTA National Indoor Championships			
	BG18	BG16	BG14	BG12
National Standing List	33	33	33	33
Sectional Quota <i>(minimum quota of 1)</i>	27	27	27	27
Wild Cards	4	4	4	4
Vacancies are filled with players from the National Standings List	64	64	64	64

Method of Acceptance <i>(In order of acceptance)</i>	USTA National Winter Championships			
	BG18	BG16	BG14	BG12
Direct Acceptance List	16	0	0	0
National Standing List	52	68	68	68
Sectional Quota <i>(minimum quota of 2)</i>	56	56	56	56
Wild Cards	4	4	4	4
Vacancies are filled with players from the National Standings List	128	128	128	128

GLOSSARY

8-Game Pro Set. An 8-game pro set is a scoring system used in junior ranking tournaments that consists of one set in which the first player to eight games wins the match. A 7-Point Tiebreak is played if the score reaches 8 games all.

10-Point Match Tiebreak. The 10-Point Match Tiebreak is played in some matches in lieu of the deciding final set. The first player or team to win 10 points by a margin of at least 2 wins the final set 1-0 and the match.

Additional USTA National Tournaments. These are additional tournaments sanctioned by the USTA Junior Competition Committee that count for national ranking.

Alternate. An alternate is a player who did not make it into the draw but requests that the tournament consider the player for entry into the draw if an opening in the draw develops.

Alternate List. The alternate list is a list of players not accepted into a tournament. After entries close, the Tournament Committee will typically publish an ordered alternate list showing the order in which the alternates will be accepted if there is a withdrawal.

Back Draw. This term is commonly used to describe the consolation part of a Feed-In Championship draw.

Bonus Points. Bonus points are additional ranking points that are awarded for wins over highly ranked players.

“Closed” Tournaments. Tournaments designated as “closed” are open to players who meet the residency requirements in a specific geographic boundary. Closed Section Level 3, 4 and 5 Tournaments and Intrasectional Level 2 Team Tournaments are open only to residents of the Sectional Association. Closed District Level 5 Tournaments are open only to residents of the District Association.

Closed Section Level 3 Tournaments. These are Junior Ranking Tournaments sanctioned by the Sectional Associations that have been assigned a Ranking Level 3 and are intended for advanced level players. Up to 2 may be held annually in each Sectional Association.

Combined Ranking. A combined ranking is a ranking that is based on both singles and doubles Ranking Points.

Compass Draw. This is a non-elimination format that is so named because players advance in four to eight different directions depending upon when they lose their first match and when they lose their subsequent matches.

Computerized List Method of Seeding. This seeding method is based on a computerized system of rankings or standings.

Consolation Draw. A consolation draw describes a group of different types of draws in which losers in the main draw play an additional match or matches against other players who have lost a match in the main draw.

Curtis Consolation. A 64-player Curtis Consolation is a form of Feed-In Championship that feeds losers from the round of 16 and the round of 32 into the Feed-In Consolation and the losers from the round of 16 and quarterfinals into a separate draw to play for 5th and 6th place

Date Block. A date block is a date or group of dates over which a tournament has been sanctioned to take place. **Regulation III.** places limits on the number of days tournaments sanctioned by the Sectional and District Associations may take place.

Direct Acceptance List. This is a list of the standings of the top players that is used to determine which junior players are automatically selected for the USTA National Championships.

District Associations. The term “District Associations” applies equally to any subdivisions of Sectional Associations.

Division. Division refers to one or two events in a tournament in which the eligibility criteria are identical. For example, the Girls’ 16 Singles and Girls’ 16 Doubles are two events but only one division because their eligibility criteria are identical.

Feed-In Championship (FIC). This term refers to a type of consolation draw in which the losers of multiple rounds from the main draw are fed back into a consolation draw. There are three types of Feed-In Championships played at Junior Ranking Tournaments:

- An FIC that feeds players in through the Quarterfinals;
- An FIC that feeds players in through the Round of 16 and includes a quarterfinal playoff for 5th place;
- A 64-player Curtis Consolation that feeds losers from the round of 16 and the round of 32 into the Feed-In Consolation and the losers from the round of 16 and quarterfinals into a separate draw to play for 5th and 6th place; and
- A Modified FIC that feeds the first two rounds of losers into the consolation.

Flighting. This is a method of distributing players entered in an event into separate draws so that players of the same level are in the same draw and compete against each other. For example, assuming there are four draws (A-D) and 16 players entered, the distribution would be:

Draw A (strongest flight)	Draw B	Draw C	Draw D (weakest flight)
1	5	9	13
2	6	10	14
3	7	11	15
4	8	12	16

Gold Ball Event. This refers to the highest level of national competition at which USTA Gold, Silver, and Bronze Balls are awarded.

Group Seeding. In some cases, the Tournament Committee may group seeded players together and assign each of them the same seed (for example, in the group 5-8, each player in the group would be assigned the fifth seed).

Intersectional Level 2 Team Tournaments. Two or more Sectional Associations may sanction one Intersectional Level 2 Team Tournament that will be assigned a Ranking Level 2. One Sectional Association’s team competes against team(s) from the other Sectional Association(s). These team tournaments are intended for advanced players.

Intersectional Level 4 Team Tournaments. Three or more Sectional Associations may sanction one Intersectional Level 4 Team Tournament that will be assigned a Ranking Level 4. These team tournaments are intended for advanced players.

Intrasectional Level 4 Team Tournaments. A Sectional Association may sanction one Intrasectional Level 4 Team Tournament that will be assigned a Ranking Level 4. These closed team tournaments are intended for advanced players residing within the Sectional Association.

ITF Rules of Tennis. The ITF Rules of Tennis are the rules for the sport of tennis. They are made by the International Tennis Federation (ITF). The USTA, as a member of the ITF, has agreed that the ITF Rules of Tennis apply to all USTA sanctioned tournaments.

ITF Tournaments on the National Junior Tournament Schedule. The ITF Tournaments on the National Junior

Tournament Schedule are tournaments jointly sanctioned by the ITF and USTA that are placed on the National Junior Tournament Schedule. These tournaments are played under ITF tournament regulations.

Junior Ranking Tournaments. These are the tournaments that are used for national junior rankings. A list of the tournaments is found in **Regulation VIII.D.**

Late Entry. A late entry is one that is received after the entry deadline. The Tournament Committee determines whether late entries will be accepted. In tournaments with limited draw sizes, late entries are placed on the alternate list after timely entries in the order received. Late entries received at the same time are ordered by lot.

Main Draw. The main draw is that part of a draw in which the remaining players have not yet lost a match.

Match Format. The match format refers to the scoring format used by a tournament.

Modified Feed-In Championship (MFIC). This term refers to a special form of consolation draw in which the losers from at two or more rounds of the main draw are fed into the consolation draw. In Junior Ranking Tournaments, the only form of Modified Feed-In that is used is one that feeds in the losers from the first two rounds.

National Standings List (NSL). This is a monthly standings list of junior players in each age division used for selection and seeding. When it is used for a closed Sectional or District tournament, it can be filtered to only include residents of a Sectional or District Association. When citizenship or certain alien eligibility is required for acceptance, the lists can also be filtered to include only players who meet these requirements.

“Open” Tournaments. Tournaments designated as “open” are open to all players, regardless of their residence. All tournaments are “open” unless the word “closed” is part of the title or the tournament is a team competition between teams of players representing Sections or Districts.

Personal Circumstance. A bona fide reason other than illness or injury for not playing is a personal circumstance. Personal circumstance generally describes a situation in which a player has a serious or genuine reason for not playing. A Referee should give a player the benefit of the doubt when deciding whether the reason is bona fide. The inability of a junior to play because an adult who is not the junior’s parent or coach decides to go home is a personal circumstance. On the other hand, wanting to get home to play in another sporting event or for the convenience of the junior or an adult who is the player’s parent or coach is not a personal circumstance.

Place Playoff. A place playoff is a match that is played to determine a player’s final place in the tournament such as a third place playoff or a seventh place playoff in a Feed-In Championships.

Quota. Each Sectional Association is guaranteed a minimum number of junior players who will be accepted into the USTA National Championships. This number is the Sectional Association’s quota. It is based on the number and strength of junior members residing in the Sectional Association.

Points Per Round. Points Per Round are the ranking points that are awarded in a Points Per Round Ranking System.

Points Per Round Ranking System. This is a method of ranking players or teams that is based on earning ranking points for the round reached, and in some cases, for wins over highly ranked players or teams.

Ratings. Ratings are a system of categorizing or grouping players by their ability. Ratings are based on a player’s match results. When ratings are authorized for selection, seeding, and separating players into more than one draw the ITF World Tennis Number must be used.

Section Level 3 Tournaments. See Closed Section Level 3 Tournaments.

Section Level 4 Tournaments. These are Junior Ranking Tournaments sanctioned by the Sectional

Associations that have been assigned a Ranking Level 4 and are intended for advanced level players. Up to 4 Closed and 4 Open Section Level 4 Tournaments may be held annually in each Sectional Association.

Section and District Level 5 Tournaments. These are Junior Ranking Tournaments sanctioned by the Sectional and District Associations that have been assigned a Ranking Level 5 and are intended for high intermediate players. Up to 2 closed District Level 5 Tournaments may be held annually. All other Section and District Level 5 Tournaments must be open.

Section and District Level 6 Tournaments. These are Junior Ranking Tournaments sanctioned by the Sectional and District Associations that have been assigned a Ranking Level 6 and are intended for intermediate players.

Section and District Level 7 Tournaments. These are Junior Ranking Tournaments sanctioned by the Sectional and District Associations that have been assigned a Ranking Level 7 and are intended for low intermediate players.

Sectional Quota Lists. These are a lists of players from each Sectional Association used for selection into the USTA National Championships that have Section Quota. See also "Quota."

Seeding Groups. Seeding groups refer to 1,2, 3-4, 5-8, 9-16, and 17-32 seeds.

Short Set. The Short Set played in junior ranking tournaments is a set played to 4 games with a 7-point Set Tiebreak played at 4 games all.

Single Elimination Format. In this tournament format, once you lose you are out and do not get to play any additional matches.

Timed Matches (Game Format). A Timed Match (Game Format) format consists of an ongoing set during which the players continue playing games until the end of the specified period of time. The player who has won the most completed games wins the match. If the game score is tied, the player ahead in the game in progress is the winner. If a game is not in progress or the score in the game in progress is tied, one final point is played to determine the winner. The player due to serve the next point shall serve the final point.

USTA International Tournaments. USTA International Tournaments are USTA sanctioned tournaments played under ITF tournament regulations, but not sanctioned by the ITF.

USTA National Championships. These tournaments constitute the highest level of national tournaments.

USTA National Doubles Championships. This is a doubles-only Gold Ball USTA National Championship for players in the 16 and 14 Divisions.

USTA National Level 2 Tournaments. These tournaments are high level tournaments on the National Junior Tournament Schedule with selection based primarily on the National Standings Lists.

USTA National Level 3 Tournaments. These are tournaments on the National Junior Tournament Schedule with selection based typically on the National Standings Lists.

USTA Team Championships. The USTA Team Championships are comprised of the following tournaments:

- USTA National Brewer Team Cup;
- USTA Battle of the Sections

Waterfall. This is a method of distributing players into separate draws or teams so that each draw or team is of similar overall strength. For example, assuming there are four draws (A-D) with 16 players entered, the distribution would be:

Draw A	Draw B	Draw C	Draw D
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1	2	3	4
8	7	6	5
9	10	11	12
16	15	14	13

The same principle can be used to waterfall players on to teams.

Wild Card. A wild card entry into a USTA National Championship may be awarded to a junior player based on the criteria described in **Table 6**.

WTN/ITF World Tennis Number. The ITF World Tennis Number (or “WTN”) is a rating system developed by the ITF, the world governing body of tennis, in collaboration with the USTA. Players are rated on a 40-1 scale; beginners start at 40 and the best players in the world are at or near 1. Players have both a singles and a doubles WTN that is calculated and updated weekly using millions of matches played worldwide.