

# **USTA Heart of America District Junior Tournament Regulations**

## **January 1, 2025**

### **Regulation 1: Junior USTA Heart of America Tournaments**

The Junior USTA Heart of America (HOA) Tournaments consist of the Level 6, Level 7 and Junior Circuit Tournaments. Other section-level tournaments, Level 3, Level 4, and Level 5 are **not** Junior USTA Heart of America Tournaments, even if they are included in the USTA National Standings List.

### **Regulation 2: Applicable Rules and Regulations**

These regulations, the ITF Rules of Tennis, USTA Regulations, and The Code are in effect at all Junior Section and District Tournaments. It is a player's responsibility to know and understand them.

**Regulation 3: Junior USTA Heart of America Tournaments Committee** consists of the Vice President of Juniors, one previous Vice President of Juniors, three committee at-large members, one parent representative (non-voting). This committee has the discretion to modify USTA Heart of America tournament regulations for USTA Heart of America Junior District Tournaments. Examples of situations in which the Committee might exercise its discretion include, but are not limited to: correcting administrative errors; change of tournament venue; and updates made to adjust for changes adopted by the USTA.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

[Refer to USTA Missouri Valley Regulations 4-8.](#)

### **Selection for Tournaments**

#### **Regulation 9: District Tournaments Designated for National Points.**

The Districts determine the selection process for Level 6 and 7 tournaments. The Districts sanction and administer these tournaments even though district tournaments that follow USTA Heart of America [Regulations 38-41](#) are included in the USTA National Standings List.

#### **Regulation 10: USTA Heart of America Level 6 Tournaments.**

Annually, the USTA Heart of America sanctions Level 6 tournaments for boys and girls in the 12, 14, 16, and 18 age divisions. USTA Heart of America Level 6 tournaments are open to all eligible players of all USTA sections.

- a) Maximum Draw Size. The maximum draw size is 16 for singles and 16 teams/32 players for doubles.
- b) Singles. Hybrid Method - The top 12 players are selected into the singles draw from among those who apply to enter in order of their standing on the most recent USTA National Standings List (NSL) published before the draw is made. The next 4 players are selected based upon their World Tennis Number (WTN) Rating.
- c) Doubles. Players are selected into the doubles draw based on the combined singles rankings of the teams. Before the singles entry deadline, a team is paired in the doubles draw after:
  - Accepting an invitation to play from the other player through Serve Tennis; or
  - The Tournament Director receives confirmation from both players that they wish to be paired in the doubles draw before the doubles deadline.

- If both players do not confirm with the tournament director, the team is not accepted into the doubles draw.
- If a player is signed up for doubles and does not have a partner, the player will be placed in the blind draw, unless the player withdraws from doubles prior to the doubles entry deadline.
- All doubles pairings must be confirmed by the deadline listed on the tournament home page.
- Players do not have to be in the singles draw to play doubles. If a player is not in the singles draw and wishes to play doubles, the player must still have applied for doubles entry in the tournament. Any player who was not selected for singles will be considered for the doubles draw only if the player informs the Tournament Director that the player still wants to play in the doubles draw.
- A player has the responsibility to communicate with his or her partner about doubles at the tournament. If a player's partner does not make the singles draw or no longer wishes to play doubles, the player has the responsibility to communicate with the Tournament Director and find a new partner before the doubles deadline.
- If a player in the doubles draw withdraws and the player's partner still wants to play doubles, the partner may play with any other player who applied for doubles entry in the tournament and is on the alternate list. The player who seeks to play with a new partner is responsible for finding the partner and providing this information to the Tournament Director. The TD is not required to substitute the new partner into the draw if the TD learns of the substitution less than one hour before the scheduled start of the first match in the doubles draw.
- The entry deadline for doubles is at 4:59 on Monday at the same time as the singles online entry deadline, unless otherwise specified on the tournament homepage.

d) A player must play in the same age division in singles and doubles, unless the doubles division does not fill (less than 3 teams). Only in this situation will the Tournament Director allow a doubles pair to play up in an age group, provided there are less than 16 teams already registered in that age group.

#### **Regulation 11: USTA Heart of America Level 7 tournaments.**

Annually, the USTA Heart of America sanctions Level 7 tournaments for boys and girls in the 12, 14, 16, and 18 age divisions. USTA Heart of America Level 7 tournaments are open to players who reside outside of the USTA Missouri Valley.

- New in '25 - Boys and Girls 12s will use Yellow Ball instead of Green ball for all USTA Heart of America L7 tournaments

a) Maximum Draw Size. The maximum draw size is unlimited for singles and unlimited for doubles unless dictated by the tournament. Indoor tournaments may be closed to 16 players.

b) Singles. When National Standings Lists are used for selection in a limited draw tournament, players shall be selected from the bottom up.

c) Doubles. Players are selected into the doubles draw based on the combined singles rankings of the teams. Before the singles entry deadline, a team is paired in the doubles draw only after:

- Accepting an invitation to play from the other player through Serve Tennis; or
- The tournament director receives confirmation from both players that they wish to be paired in the doubles draw before the doubles deadline.
- If both players do not confirm with the tournament director, the team is not accepted into the doubles draw.
- If a player is signed up for doubles and does not have a partner, the player will be placed in the blind draw, unless the player withdraws from doubles prior to the doubles entry deadline.
- All doubles pairings must be confirmed by the deadline listed on the tournament home

page.

- Players do not have to be in the singles draw to play doubles. If a player is not in the singles draw and wishes to play doubles, the player must still have applied for doubles entry in the tournament. Any player who was not selected for singles will be considered for the doubles draw only if the player informs the Tournament Director that the player still wants to play in the doubles draw.
- A player has the responsibility to communicate with his or her partner about doubles at the tournament. If a player's partner does not make the singles draw or no longer wishes to play doubles, the player has the responsibility to communicate with the Tournament Director and find a new partner before the doubles deadline.
- If a player in the doubles draw withdraws and the player's partner still wants to play doubles, the partner may play with any other player who applied for doubles entry in the tournament and is on the alternate list so long as the new team does not affect seeding. The player who seeks to play with a new partner is responsible for finding the partner and providing this information to the Tournament Director. The TD is not required to substitute the new partner into the draw if the TD learns of the substitution less than one hour before the scheduled start of the first match in the doubles draw.
- The entry deadline for doubles is the same as the singles online entry deadline, unless otherwise specified on the tournament homepage.

d) A player must play in the same age division in singles and doubles, unless the doubles division does not fill (less than 3 teams). Only in this situation will the Tournament Director allow a doubles pair to play up in an age group, provided there are less than 16 teams already registered in that age group.

## **Entry and Withdrawal Process**

### **Regulation 12: Submission of Entries.**

On-line application for entry is required for each tournament. The application must be completed before the entry deadline. In case of a problem with an on-line application, contact the Tournament Director via email with a screenshot of the issue before the entry deadline.

### **Regulation 13: Entry Restrictions.**

Restrictions on a division in which a player may play. A player may play in only one singles and one doubles division per tournament. A player must play in the same age division for singles and doubles, unless the doubles division did not meet the requirement of 3 teams and the tournament director has granted permission to move to an older age group for doubles.

### **Regulation 14: Late Entries.**

The Tournament Committee shall not accept late entries or add players to the alternates list at any Level 6 or 7 tournament.

### **Regulation 15: Withdrawal from Tournament.**

A withdrawal occurs when a player withdraws from a tournament after the entry deadline but before playing the first match because of injury, illness, personal circumstance (which includes a personal emergency), or an administrative error made by the tournament. A player who decides to withdraw from a tournament shall immediately notify the Tournament Director both verbally and via email and include the reason for the withdrawal. The Tournament Director shall notify the VP of Juniors of the identity of all

players who withdrew from the tournament after the draw has been made. Players may be required to submit verification of the reason for the withdrawal (doctor's note, written description, and other relevant information) before the last scheduled day of the tournament. See MV Regulation 36.

#### **Regulation 16: Alternate List.**

The Tournament Director must prepare an alternate list of players who applied for entry into the tournament but were not accepted into the draw. The players shall be listed in the order in which their names appear on the USTA National Standings List that was used to accept players into the draw.

- The Tournament Director must use the Alternate List to replace withdrawing players until 10:00 p.m. the day before the draw is scheduled to start. The TD shall promptly notify the player at the top of the Alternate List when there is an opening. The Tournament Director has the discretion to set the amount of time in which a player has to respond before a tournament official notifies the next player on the list or uses the on-site alternate list.
- After 10:00 p.m. of the day before the draw is scheduled to start, the On-Site Alternate List shall be used to replace withdrawing players.

#### **Regulation 17: On-Site Alternates.**

The Tournament Committee must prepare an on-site alternate list of those on-site players who applied for entry into the tournament but were not accepted into the draw. The players must be listed in the order in which their names appear on the USTA National Standings List that was used to accept the players into the draw. The Tournament Director must accept alternates into the draw in the order in which the names appear on the on-site alternate list. Only on-site alternates who are on site for the first round of the age division in which they are on-site alternates are eligible for entry into the draw.

#### **Regulation 18: Refund of Entry Fee.**

A player is entitled to a refund of the entry fee only if the player withdraws more than six days before the start of the first event of the tournament. In those tournaments in which doubles events are held, the entry fee for singles includes the fee for the doubles event. If a doubles event is canceled, players entering the singles do not receive a refund. A player entering only a doubles event who does not get to start a match is entitled to a refund. The fee for electronic entries is not considered part of the entry fee and is non-refundable. For Team Tournaments (dominant duo), if one member of the team withdraws within six days of the start of the tournament, the team member who did not withdraw is entitled to a refund.

#### **Regulation 19: Playing to Completion.**

To play to completion means to play all the player's matches in a tournament including the main draw, mandatory FIC, mandatory consolation, and mandatory place play-offs. A player will be assessed suspension points for any reason besides:

- Retirement from a match because of injury, illness, or personal circumstance;
- Inability to play because of injury, illness, or personal circumstance when the player's problem becomes apparent before the match or during the warm-up; or
- Tournament administrative error.

The Tournament Director determines what constitutes a legitimate personal circumstance.

## **Tournament Administration**

#### **Regulation 20: Serve Tennis.**

Rev. 01/01/2025

USTA Heart of America District Tournaments included in the USTA National Standings list (NSL List) are required to use Serve Tennis for seeding, making the draw, score entry, updating and processing withdrawals, and all other tasks associated with recording results.

**Regulation 21: Seeding. *New for '25***

Seeding is done to ensure that players of recognized outstanding ability do not meet each other in the early rounds.

- a) Singles. Seeding for all singles events is based on the singles NSL List
- b) Doubles. Seeding for all doubles events is based on the doubles NSL List. In the event of a tie, the higher seed goes to the team with the combined ranking on the National Standings List.
- c) Number of Seeds. The number of seeds is determined by the number of players in the draw and the seeding ratio specified by the Friend at Court (Table 6).

**Regulation 22: Separating players from the same district.**

Whenever possible when making the draw, players will be randomly placed in the draw to avoid meeting a player from the same district in the player's first match. Sometimes changes in the draw are necessary after the draw has been published. No attempt will be made to separate players by district after the draw has been published unless it becomes necessary to remake the entire draw.

**Regulation 23: Draw Formats at USTA Heart of America tournaments.**

Only the following draw types may be used at Level 6 and 7 tournaments unless the USTA Heart of America VP of Juniors determines that a change of format is necessary.

- a) Will use the draw types listed in regulation 29.
- b) Doubles events when singles are also being played.

- 8 game pro-set with no ad scoring

**Regulation 24: Starting Times and Days.** Tournaments in USTA Heart of America will start no earlier than 8 am, provided that the Tournament Director may set an earlier start time if the TD determines that inclement weather requires an earlier start. Tournaments will not start before 4:00 PM on Fridays during the school year.

**Regulation 25: Scheduling.** The scheduling guidelines in USTA Regulation II.D.9. and Table 8 will be followed, pending extenuating circumstances.

**Regulation 26: Inclement Weather.** Indoor court backup is not required for USTA Heart of America events. If indoor courts are available the players may be required to pay an additional fee, which is determined by the Tournament Director. If the Tournament Director determines that there is inclement weather, the USTA Heart of America VP of Juniors (after consulting with the Tournament Director) may change the match format (provided the format is used for an entire round) or cancel an event. When canceling events, USTA Regulation III.G.5.a. is followed. Tournaments normally do not get canceled or rescheduled due to inclement weather forecasts.

**Regulation 27: Suspension Point System.** The USTA Suspension Point System applies to all junior tournaments sanctioned by the USTA Heart of America. It is a player's responsibility to know and understand the suspension point system and his or her status. Every effort is made to notify the player each time a suspension point is assessed. Failure to notify the player does not invalidate any penalties or

points assessed. Please refer to [Table 17 \(Suspension Points\) in Friend at Court](#).

**Regulation 28: Injury, Illness, or Personal Circumstance.** If because of illness, injury, or personal circumstance, a player withdraws from the tournament after the draw has been made or decides not to play a match, then the Tournament Director or the USTA Heart of America VP of Juniors will require the player to provide a document that verifies the illness, injury, or personal circumstance. If the reason for the withdrawal is illness or injury, the player must deliver written verification of the illness or injury from a medical professional no later than the last scheduled day of the tournament. If the reason for the withdrawal is personal circumstance, the player must deliver a written description of the situation to the Tournament Director before the last scheduled day of the tournament. The TD determines whether the situation is a personal circumstance. Failure to provide the required documentation in a timely manner results in the match being treated as a default rather than a withdrawal or walkover.

**Regulation 29: Mandatory Draw Types and Scoring Formats.**

Only the following draw types may be used:

Level	Draw Type and Scoring Format
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 0-2 Draw Canceled</li><li>• 3-5 One Round Robin Bracket</li><li>• 6-12 Feed-in Championship through Quarters with 3rd/4th playoff</li><li>• 13-16 Feed-in Championship through the Quarters with a 3rd/4th playoff, Consolation final will not be played</li><li>• Main Draw:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Best 2 of 3 sets with a 10-point tiebreak in lieu of the 3rd set</li><li>○ Best 2 out of 3 Shorts Sets with a 7-point tiebreak in lieu of the 3rd set</li></ul></li><li>• Consolation Draw &amp; 3rd/4th Place Playoff:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Best 2 out of 3 Short Sets with a 7-point tiebreak in lieu of the 3rd set</li><li>○ 8 game pro-set with a 7-point tiebreak at 8 games all</li></ul></li><li>• Compass Draw, Dominant Duo</li><li>• Doubles, when singles is also being played<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Single Elimination (Does not apply to doubles-only tournaments)</li><li>○ 8 game pro-set with a 7-point tiebreak at 8 games all, no ad scoring</li></ul></li></ul>
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 0-2 Draw Canceled</li><li>• 3-5 One Round Robin bracket</li><li>• 6-7 Two Round Robin bracket with cross play (4th place finisher in 4-draw pool will not participate in cross play)</li><li>• 8-9 Two Round Robin brackets with no cross play. There will be two 1st place finishers.</li><li>• 10 Two Round Robin brackets with no cross play. There will</li></ul>

	<p>be two 1st Place finishers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 11-13 Three Round Robin brackets with no cross play. There will be three 1st place finishers and three finalists</li> <li>● 14-16 Compass Draw. There will be one 1st place finisher</li> <li>● 17+ Multiple Round Robin brackets with no cross play. There will be four 1st place finishers and four finalists</li> <li>● Best 2 of 3 short sets with a 7-point tiebreak in lieu of the 3rd set</li> <li>● Single set with a 7-point tiebreak at 6 games all</li> <li>● A single short set with a 7-point tiebreak at 4 games all</li> <li>● No ad scoring may be used</li> <li>● Doubles, when singles is also being played <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Single Elimination (Does not apply to doubles-only tournaments)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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