

Proposed Amendments to USTA Regulations

Note: Words underlined are proposed to be added. Deleted text is shown in strikethrough. References are to the 2020 *Friend at Court*, unless otherwise noted.

R1. Proposed by Adult Competition Committee Chrissie Costamagna, Chair

PASSED

Part I. Amend USTA Regulation I.G.3.b. as follows (pp. 43-60):

I. PRE-TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

A. **Applicability of USTA Regulations** [unchanged]

B. **Application for Sanction and Appointment of Tournament Committee** [unchanged]

C. **Tournament Committee** [unchanged]

D. **Tournament Appeals Committee** [unchanged]

E. **Match Formats and Scoring** [unchanged]

F. **Ball and Ball-Change Pattern** [unchanged]

G. **Player Eligibility**

1. *USTA membership generally required to play in sanctioned tournaments.* [unchanged]

2. *Open to amateurs and professionals.* [unchanged]

3. *Eligibility for tournaments.* There are four general categories of tournaments:

- *Junior;*
- *Adult;*
- *Family; and*
- *Wheelchair.*

a. *Junior tournaments (18, 16, 14, 12, 10, 8).* [unchanged]

b. *Adult tournaments.* ~~A player, if otherwise eligible, may enter any:~~

i. ~~Men's or Women's Adult Open Divisions. A player, if otherwise eligible, may enter any Adult Open Division~~ that is not restricted by age or rating.;

ii. ~~Men's or Women's Division with minimum age restriction Adult Age Group Divisions. A player, if otherwise eligible, may enter any Men's or Women's Division with a minimum age restriction (also known as Adult Age Group Divisions)~~ if the player will reach the minimum age by December 31 of the year during which the division is scheduled to start.;

iii. ~~Adult NTRP Divisions. The Adult and Family Tournament, Ranking, and Sanctioning Regulations set forth the eligibility criteria for entering the Adult NTRP Divisions.~~

iv. ~~NTRP Division or Other level-based divisions based on ratings.~~

(A) Other level-based divisions with no age restrictions. A player, if otherwise eligible, may enter any other level-based division if the player's rating is less than or equal to the rating for the division; ~~or,~~

(B) iv. NTRP Division or Other level-based division with minimum age restriction. A player, if otherwise eligible, may enter any other level-based division with a minimum age restriction if the player's rating is less than or equal to the rating for the division and if the player will reach the minimum age by December 31 of the year during which the division is scheduled to start.

FAC Comment I.G-1: The USTA may require a specific rating system ~~be utilized~~ for determining eligibility in a level-based Adult Division.

- c. *Family tournaments.* [unchanged]
 - d. *Wheelchair tournaments.* [unchanged]
 - e. *Mixed doubles tournaments.* [unchanged]
 - f. *Coed tournaments.* [unchanged]
4. *Additional eligibility requirements for competing in USTA sanctioned Wheelchair tournaments.* [unchanged]

H. Entry Process [unchanged]

Effective Date: January 1, 2021

Rationale: In May 2020, the Adult Competition Committee approved the inaugural USTA Adult and Family Tournament, Ranking and Sanctioning Regulations (“AF Regulations”). This action was taken following the adoption by the USTA Governance Committee of Call Items amending the USTA Regulations, which facilitated the adoption of the inaugural AF Regulations.

During the process of receiving feedback from the Sectional Associations to the AF Regulations, it came to the attention of the Committee that specific eligibility regulations were needed for the Adult NTRP Divisions as follows:

- Minimum age to play;
- Specific NTRP ratings required to play;
- Maximum combined ratings for Combo Divisions; and
- Maximum and minimum ratings for other NTRP Divisions.

These eligibility rules were incorporated into the AF Regulations, and were subject to review by the Sectional Associations prior to adoption, but they were not a part of the original Call Item. After consulting with the Office of General Counsel, it was determined that these eligibility provisions should be incorporated into **USTA Regulation I.G.3.b.**

Notes to C&R:

1. When drafting this Call Item, **USTA Regulation I.G.** is shown as amended by the Call Items previously approved at the 2020 Annual Meeting (Adult Competition Committee Call Item R2, Part 1.).
2. Recommended new Glossary Term:

Adult Age Group Divisions. As a group, the Adult Divisions with age restrictions are known as the Adult Age Group Divisions. This does not include any Adult NTRP Division that has an age restriction.

Proposed Addition to USTA Regulations

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R2. Proposed by Constitution and Rules Committee
Allon Lifshitz, Chair

PASSED

Add **USTA Regulation XXI.** (p. 166) as follows:

XXI. RELEASE, WAIVER, AND INDEMNITY

Members, players, spectators, and other participants in USTA tournaments, programs, and events acknowledge the associated risks, assume those risks voluntarily, and in consideration of their attendance at USTA tournaments, programs and events, agree to assume any loss or damage, and to waive any claim or demand on account of any injury to person or property arising out of or related to their attendance, including, but not limited to, exposure to infectious syndromes or diseases, whether caused by negligence or other fault. By participating in or attending USTA tournaments, programs, and events, Members, players, spectators, and other participants assume all risks whether known or unknown. Furthermore, Members, players, spectators, and other participants agree to release, indemnify, and hold harmless the USTA, its affiliated Sectional Associations and Districts/Subdivisions, and the host facility (Released Parties) and the Released Parties' employees, contractors, representatives, and agents with respect to any such injury or loss caused by negligence or other fault to the fullest extent permitted by law.

Effective Date: Immediately

Rationale: This new Regulation will ensure that a waiver of claim consistently applies across the USTA network of programming. Currently, the Leagues and Junior Team Tennis Regulations have a waiver of claim clause; however, the USTA *Friend at Court* does not explicitly provide this form of waiver.