Eligibility & Registration

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FUTURE COURTS COMPETITION?

- The competition is strictly open to university students (ages 18 and older) who are officially registered for Spring 2026 coursework.
- Professional submissions are explicitly prohibited, ensuring this remains an academic and visionary exercise.

WHAT ARE THE TEAM SIZE LIMITS AND REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS?

- Architecture students may enter the competition as individuals or by forming collaborative teams of up to four (4) people.
- For team participation, all listed team members must complete identity verification on the Architects' Network platform. Unverified team members will forfeit any eligibility to receive a portion of the prize.

Design Scope & Thematic Vision

WHAT IS THE CORE PROGRAMMATIC REQUIREMENT AND SCALE OF THE INTERVENTION?

- The project is not merely a conceptual urban intervention; you are tasked with designing replicable, architecturally sound prototypes for a standard public park battery of four (4) regulation tennis courts.
- The site constraints strictly limit the proposal to exactly one (1) acre of land.
- The site plan must utilize the standard court dimensions outlined in the American Sports Builders Association *Tennis Court Construction and Maintenance Manual*.

WHAT ARE THE SPECIFIC CONSTRAINTS REGARDING MATERIALITY AND SITE CONTEXT?

- **Materiality:** Surface materials must be strictly limited to hard courts (concrete or asphalt) or soft courts (red or green clay), with an emphasis on visual quality, durability, and sustainability.
- **Programmatic Elements:** To enrich the physical environment, designs must integrate crucial site elements, including site lighting, shading structures, seating, stormwater management features, spectator areas, hitting walls, wind and sun protection, ecologically focused plant materials, and sustainable court materials like innovative striping or netting.
- **Site Orientation & Climate:** While there is no fixed geographic location, teams must identify a theoretical U.S. location to demonstrate design responsiveness.

Technical Requirements

HOW SHOULD FILES BE SUBMITTED?

- All submissions must be uploaded via the upload panel.
- Access information and instructions on how to upload the presentation boards will be issued to participants via email immediately after successful registration.

WHAT ARE THE FILE FORMAT AND UPLOAD SPECIFICATIONS?

- **Deliverables:** Participants may upload up to three (3) 24×36″ Arch D presentation boards, which must be oriented in landscape.
- **File Format:** Each presentation panel must be saved exclusively in JPEG format (.jpg or .jpeg extensions). Video files are not accepted.
- **File Size:** The file size must not exceed 10 megabytes (MB) per board.

WHAT RENDERING AND REPRESENTATION METHODS ARE REQUIRED?

- Submissions should utilize standard architectural presentation tools, including sketches, renderings, plans, sections, elevations, and diagrams, to clearly articulate the spatial and thematic vision of the proposal.
- All annotations and written information on the boards must be in English.

Judging & Evaluation

WHO CONSTITUTES THE JUDGING PANEL?

- To guarantee objective competition results, the jury panel is selected by the USTA and will feature design professionals, tennis professionals, and experts from other relevant backgrounds.

WHAT IS THE SPECIFIC WEIGHTING OF THE CRITERIA?

- The jury seeks replicable prototypes that are smart, adaptable, and expandable. The jury may also choose to reward projects that exhibit a high degree of creativity, even if the specific issues of constructability remain unclear.

Legal & Terms

WHO RETAINS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IP) OWNERSHIP OF THE DESIGNS?

- Participants and their respective team members retain full IP ownership and authorship of their submissions.
- By submitting, participants grant the Organizer a non-exclusive, worldwide, irrevocable, royalty-free, and perpetual license to use, reproduce, publish, and adapt the materials strictly for publicity and promotional purposes.

WHAT ARE THE STRICT DISQUALIFICATION TRIGGERS (HARD RULES)?

- **Anonymity Breach:** Including any marks, logos, symbols, or signs that indicate an individual's or team's identity on the presentation boards.
- **Jury Interference:** Any attempt to approach, communicate with, or address jury panel members during the competition.
- **Late Submissions:** Uploading files after the closing date and time.
- **IP Infringement**: Submitting work that is not original or infringes upon third-party copyrights, trademarks, or patents.
- **Formatting Violations:** Failing to comply with the board size, orientation, file type, or size requirements.

HOW ARE DEADLINES ENFORCED?

- The competition officially opens on April 1, 2026, and the uncompromising deadline to submit an entry is July 1, 2026. Submissions received after this deadline are automatically disqualified without exception.