

Proposed Amendments to USTA Regulations

Note: Words underlined are proposed to be added. Deleted text is shown in strikethrough. References are to the 2017 *Friend at Court*, unless otherwise noted.

R1. Proposed by Junior Competition Committee Peter Lebedevs, Chair

Passed

Amend USTA Regulation II.A.4. as follows (pp. 61-63):

II. DRAW REGULATIONS

A. Seeding

While there is no requirement that every tournament have seedings, most tournaments of the elimination and compass draw types, as distinguished from round robins, use seedings to ensure that players of recognized outstanding ability do not confront each other in the early rounds.

1. *Responsibility for seeding.* [unchanged]
2. *Number of seeds.* [unchanged]
3. *Listing seeds.* [unchanged]
4. *Seeding methods.*
 - a. *All Factors Method.* The All Factors Method of seeding is based on the players' chances of winning the tournament as determined by the Tournament Committee. The Tournament Committee shall consider all reasonably available information, including ranking lists, ratings, standing lists, recent records, types of surface, and particularly head-to-head encounters.
 - b. *Computerized List Method.* ~~A~~ The Computerized List Method of seeding is based on a computerized system of rankings, ratings, or standings.
5. *Seeding in national tournaments.* [unchanged]
6. *Seeding in tournaments other than national tournaments.* [unchanged]
7. *Publication of method of seeding and seeding criteria.* [unchanged]
8. *Seeding groups.* [unchanged]
9. *Placing.* [unchanged]
10. *Block seeding.* [unchanged]

Effective Date: January 1, 2018

Rationale: Many Sectional Associations have begun using ratings either as a tool for seeding or as the computerized list used to order some or all of the seeds. While the USTA Junior National Tournament, Ranking, and Sanctioning Regulations permit the use of ratings as a tool to seed, the **USTA Regulations** that apply to non-national Junior tournaments do not explicitly permit their use, leaving it vague as to whether this practice is permitted. The Committee believes it is time for the **USTA Regulations** to conform explicitly with the growing practice of using ratings to seed junior tournaments. The Adult Competition and Wheelchair Committees have been consulted and support including ratings as a seeding method for tournaments in their respective divisions.

**R2. Proposed by Adult Competition Committee
Doug Wenger, Chair**

Passed

Amend USTA Regulation II.B.7.a.iv. as follows (pp. 75-76):

II. DRAW REGULATIONS

B. Making the Draw

7. *Separating event into multiple draws.* [unchanged]
 - a. *Separating players into more than one draw.* Use one of the methods below to separate players into the draws:
 - i. *Waterfall all players.* [unchanged]
 - ii. *Waterfall seeded players and randomly draw remaining players.* [unchanged]
 - iii. *Random draw.* [unchanged]
 - iv. *Flighting players. ~~-(Junior divisions only).~~ Flight Junior players into draws so that players of similar levels compete against one another. Ratings, rankings, player records, and other information may be used to determine the levels of players. Winners and other finishers do not advance to a final round.*
 - b. *Final and playoff rounds.* [unchanged]
 - c. *Placement of players in final and playoff rounds.* [unchanged]

Effective Date: June 1, 2017

Rationale: To provide Adult Tournament Directors with a process for assigning players to a flight in a flighted draw event. The process previously implemented in the Junior Tennis divisions would be followed for Adults. The Adult Competition Committee will update the Points Per Round (PPR) Tables for Flighted Draws prior to the Effective Date. These updated PPR Tables will be posted on the existing PPR Tables section of the USTA Website.

**R3. Proposed by Adult Competition Committee
Doug Wenger, Chair**

Passed

Amend USTA Regulation X.E.5.c. by adding **vii.** (pp. 135-137) as follows:

X. ADULT, SENIOR, AND FAMILY NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS AND RANKINGS

E. Adult, Senior, and Family National Rankings

5. *Points Per Round ranking system.*
 - a. *Ranking points.* [unchanged]
 - b. *Relative weights of National Ranking Tournaments.* [unchanged]
 - c. *Treatment of byes, withdrawals, walkovers, disqualifications, defaults, ~~and~~ retirements, and abandonments or cancellations.*
 - i. *Byes.* [unchanged]
 - ii. *Withdrawals.* [unchanged]
 - iii. *Walkovers.* [unchanged]
 - iv. *Disqualification.* [unchanged]
 - v. *Defaults.* [unchanged]
 - vi. *Retirements.* [unchanged]
 - vii. *Abandoned or Cancelled Matches. If a match is abandoned or cancelled by tournament decision, players will be awarded PPR ranking points based on the last round in which they won a match.*
 - d. *Breaking ranking ties.* [unchanged]

Effective Date: Immediately

Rationale: This clarifies how ranking points are calculated when a tournament match is abandoned or cancelled. This is consistent with the ITF method for handling abandoned or cancelled matches. The implementation date is recommended because this **USTA Regulation** clarifies a practice that is used; however, the practice has come under question as to lack of clarity.

**R4. Proposed by Tennis Rules and Regulations Committee
Diana Cortese, Chair**

Passed

Amend USTA Regulation III.G.2. as follows (pp. 100-101):

III. CONDUCTING THE TOURNAMENT

G. Shortening Tournaments

Inclement weather, health concerns, or safety concerns may require the Referee to take steps to shorten the tournament to keep the tournament on schedule, including, but not limited to:

1. *Switch to No-Ad scoring.* [unchanged]
2. *Switch to 10-Point Match Tiebreak in lieu of final set, short sets, or ~~switch to pro sets~~.* The Referee may switch to the 10-Point Match Tiebreak in lieu of a deciding final set, short sets, or ~~to~~ pro sets for any complete round with the following exceptions:
 - The USTA Junior National Tournament, Ranking, and Sanctioning Regulations set forth when this format may be used in national Junior tournaments;
 - See USTA Regulation X.A.3.g. for when the 10-Point Match Tiebreak, short sets, or pro sets may be used in Category I USTA Adult, Senior, and Family National Championships; and
 - See USTA Regulations XIII.A.3.d and h. for when the 10-Point Match Tiebreak, short sets, or pro sets may be used in Category I USTA Wheelchair National Championships.
3. *Strictly enforce pre-match warm-up time and breaks between sets.* [unchanged]
4. *Tighten court usage.* [unchanged]
5. *Cancel matches.* [unchanged]

Effective Date: January 1, 2018

Rationale: The purpose of this change is to incorporate a specific reference to short sets given its increased popularity and use in sanctioned tournaments.

**R5. Proposed by Tennis Rules and Regulations Committee
Diana Cortese, Chair**

Passed

Amend **USTA Regulation V.A.1** as follows (p. 117):

V. POST-TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

A. Responsibilities of Tournament Committee and Referee After Completion of Tournament.

1. *Submit draw sheets to USTA within ~~seven~~ **three** days.* Within ~~seven~~ **three** days after the completion of a tournament, the Tournament Committee shall submit to the body issuing the sanction complete, **and** legible draw**s** ~~sheets~~ containing first and last names of all players, match scores, and other information that is required by the body issuing the sanction. Failure to submit these reports may bring about disciplinary action by the sanctioning body. The foregoing also applies to Feed-In Championships and consolations conducted as part of the tournament.
2. *Reports on players whose prize money was withheld.* [unchanged]
3. *Referee reports violations of **USTA Regulations** within three days.* [unchanged]

Effective Date: January 1, 2018

Rationale: This change conforms **USTA Regulations** to best practices in tournament administration. This ensures tournament results are reported quickly, thereby improving ranking and endorsement processes. A three-day reporting deadline in **USTA Regulation V.A.1** will coincide with the three-day reporting deadline for violations of **USTA Regulations** and suspension points set forth in **USTA Regulation V.A.3**.