



2022 Eastern Junior Tournament Regulations (12U-18U)

Covid-19

Due to ongoing challenges associated with Covid 19 there may be aspects of these Regulations that must be modified on a case by case basis. In the event of a regulation change not noted herein, notification of changes shall be posted on the tournament homepage for the event impacted. For more click here: [Player/Spectator Guidelines](#)

Waiver of Claims

Players, participants, and any spectators or individuals that are participating in USTA tournaments, programs, or events acknowledge the risks associated with tennis, accept those risks voluntarily, and in consideration of their acceptance in the USTA tournaments, programs or events, assume all loss or damage, and any claim or demand therefore on account of injury to the person or property or resulting in illness and/or death arising out of or related to their participation, including without limitation as a result of any exposure to infectious syndromes or diseases whether caused by negligence or otherwise. By participating or attending a tournament, program, or event, the players, participants, and any spectators assume all risks whether known or unknown. Furthermore, players, participants, and spectators agree to release and hold harmless the USTA, its affiliated Sectional Associations, and Districts/Subdivisions, and the host facility (hereafter, Released Parties) and the Released Parties employees and agents with respect to any injury or loss caused by negligence or otherwise to the fullest extent permitted by law.

Selection & Seeding Process Update

The section determines the method of selection of players. This could be subject to change based on the technology and resources available at the time. In an event of a change in seeding or selection, notifications will be posted on the tournament homepage for the event impacted. The section has the discretion to award a maximum number of wild cards as follows: 4 in a draw of 64 or higher; 2 in a draw of 32; 1 in a draw of 16 or fewer. If wildcards are awarded, it will be based on the all factors method of (ranking, rating, strength of schedule, significant wins, etc..) In addition, the all factors method of seeding will also be considered, at the discretion of the section, based on the resources available at that time.

Sportsmanship:

All players participating in USTA sanctioned events are expected to know the rules of playing a tennis match including keeping score and how to play a tiebreak, be familiar with the general rules of fair play contained in [the Code](#) and agree to abide by USTA Rules and Regulations and the "[Player Pledge](#)". USTA Eastern strives to provide quality competitive opportunities for players to contest and develop their skills against other players, as they progress through the USTA tournament pathway. The utmost levels of courtesy and sportsmanship are required of all participants and spectators at all times. By registering for a tournament, players and player associates agree to understand and abide by all USTA Eastern rules and regulations. Players and player associates shall be familiar with and abide by USTA Eastern sportsmanship expectations as well as the Code of conduct, and are required to know and understand all other rules and regulations detailed in the [USTA's Official Rule Book: The Friend at Court](#).

During the year, the section accepts sportsmanship nominees from tournament directors and coaches. These players are recognized quarterly for their accomplishments. One sportsmanship winner is determined in each age division at the end of the year, in an awards ceremony. [To nominate a peer for sportsmanship please click here.](#)

USTA JUNIOR SUSPENSION POINT SYSTEM

The USTA Junior Suspension Point System applies to participants in all sanctioned junior tournaments, including Orange and Green Ball Tournaments. It can be found in [USTA Friend at Court](#). All players will be assessed suspension points for misconduct, including a withdrawal that is not evidenced by proper written notification, according to the suspension point table in the regulation. It is very important for players to keep records of emails, suspension point notices, and other information related to the assessment of suspension points. For more on the eastern grievance process, [click here](#).

Player Associate Policy

- Players are responsible for their entourage.
- Players are responsible for the conduct of anyone associated with the Player at an event, including but not limited to parents, coaches, and relatives (hereinafter, "Player Associate(s)").
- Any attempt by a Player Associate to speak to an Official regarding a line call or other ruling during match play will be cause for immediate removal from the playing area and, if warranted, from the premises.
- Any Player Associate behavior deemed unacceptable, unsportsmanlike, or inappropriate, either before, during, or after a tournament, towards a player, another spectator, Official, or Staff Member or conduct in violation of USTA Regulations, will result in the following:
 - Immediate removal of the Player Associate from the playing area and, if warranted, from the premises.
 - Immediate enforcement of the Point Penalty System and Suspension Points will be assessed against the player with whom the Player Associate is associated.
- Removal is not subject to appeal.
- The Referee and/or Tournament Director will be the sole judge of unacceptable behavior.
- Lack of knowledge of the USTA Regulations by a Player Associate shall not be grounds for a Player to appeal or challenge a penalty assessed against the Player.
- It is the responsibility of the Player to ensure that all of his or her Associates are aware of and agree to abide by all applicable USTA Regulations.

By registering for USTA Eastern tournaments players are acknowledging that they know and understand, as well as agree to abide by all rules and regulations detailed in the literature referenced above, USTA Rules and Regulations apply to parents & player associates as well; the player is responsible for their entourage. Poor behavior by spectators may result in point penalties for players. Poor personal behavior, bad sportsmanship or any acts detrimental to the game may prevent endorsement as well as jeopardize participation in USTA National and Eastern tournaments.

Rules of Play. The [USTA Regulations](#) will govern all aspects of USTA Eastern sanctioned tournaments; except that when a USTA Eastern rule is different from the [USTA Regulations](#), the USTA Eastern rule will govern play. Note that USTA Junior National Tournaments that may take place in Eastern are governed solely by the USTA Regulations.

USTA Membership. Players must have an active **USTA Junior Membership** (free) before registering for any junior tournament. To obtain a membership please go to usta.com or call 1-800-990-8782.

Player Eligibility.

- A. Age Eligibility. The USTA has adopted a “month of birth” age eligibility rule for junior players competing in USTA sanctioned tournaments. Junior players may continue to play in the 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18 age divisions until the month they turn 11, 13, 15, 17, or 19, respectively. When a tournament begins in one month and ends in the next, the start date of a tournament will be used to determine age eligibility.
- B. 10 and under NetGeneration Play Tracker
 - i. Formerly known as Youth Progression. The USTA shall approve and publish the NetGeneration Play Tracker that will set the requirements to be met for a player under the age of 11 to progress from Red, Orange, Green to Yellow Ball Tennis.
 - ii. Players may be introduced to programs with some basic elements of competition beginning with Red Ball at 5 years of age.
 - iii. Players under 9 years of age may move between Red and Orange Ball but must be assessed by a Net Generation Certified coach with a score of at least 85% in order to move to Green Ball.
 - iv. Players are required to reach 1500 points in Green Ball to unlock Yellow Ball
 - v. Players may advance from Green to Yellow Ball status by reaching a total of 1500 activity tracker (play and win) points in green ball. Play points are capped at 500, with the balance being in competition win points.
 - vi. To play in a tournament that counts for junior ranking, players must either be 11 years of age or have reached 1500 activity tracker points in Green Ball.
- C. Eastern residency shall determine the junior players who may play in the Closed sectional events, the players that appear on the eastern section quota list, and the junior players who may be selected to represent eastern in a team competition. The Eastern section follows the requirements for citizenship and declaration of residency as outlined in FAC and USTA national regulations.

Method of Tournament Entry. Players will enter USTA Eastern junior tournaments by the entry deadline using the online Registration System.

Entry Limitations on Players. Players are limited to playing one singles event, one doubles event, and one mixed doubles event per tournament. A player’s entries must be in one age division. For example, a player entered in the 14 age division in singles must play in the 14 age division in doubles, unless otherwise stated. The eastern L3 and L4 closed are exceptions to this rule, see section on L3 & L4 tournaments below.

Entry In Concurrent Tournaments.

A player may receive up to 8 suspension points if the following conditions are not met.

A. General Rule. Except as set forth under part B below, **when entries close**, a player cannot be entered in two or more sanctioned tournaments if any parts of the tournaments overlap. Players that are on the acceptance/competitors lists for both tournaments are in violation of the concurrent tournament rule and will be assessed 4 suspension points. Players who enter a tournament and play it to completion, may then enter another tournament with overlapping dates. **A player who is on the alternate list in one tournament is not considered in violation of the Concurrent Tournament Rule if they enter another concurrent tournament.** If entries for the overlapping tournaments close on different dates, approval must be received from all Tournament Committees no later than the entry closing date that occurs last.

B. Exceptions to Entering a Concurrent Eastern Junior Tournament:

i) A player that enters a National tournament that is concurrent with an Eastern tournament may not be entered in the Eastern tournament when entries close for the Eastern tournament if the player has been accepted into the National tournament. Players that are on the acceptance lists for both tournaments are in violation of the concurrent tournament rule and will be assessed 4 suspension points. Players may remain on the list of accepted players for the Eastern

tournament and on the alternate list for a National tournament or Eastern tournament until midnight on the Tuesday prior to the start date of the Eastern tournament. After such time, a player may not withdraw from the Eastern tournament to play in the National tournament or Eastern L3 or L4 (Super Six or Empire Cup). Doing so is a violation of the Concurrent Tournament Rule.

ii) Players may remain on the alternate list of both tournaments, but once a player accepts a position into a draw of one tournament that player may not subsequently withdraw from that tournament to play in another after the deadline. Doing so is a violation of the Concurrent Tournament Rule.

iii) Entering a concurrent Eastern tournament when entries for the overlapping tournaments close on different dates. The player must give notice of withdrawal to one of the tournaments prior to draws being published.

iv) No junior player may play in two age divisions in the same tournament unless one of the age divisions is singles and one is doubles.

v) Tournament start dates are more than 3 days apart

Entry Deadlines. All entry deadlines for Eastern sanctioned tournaments will be as follows. All L7 tournaments will close Monday prior to the tournament. All L6 tournaments will close on Saturday prior to the tournament. All L5 tournaments will close on Thursday, the week prior to the tournament start date. All L3 & L4 closed and open events will close on Wednesday, the week prior to the tournament start date.

Late Entries. Tournament entries received after the entry deadline are Late Entries. A player or team showing up at a tournament with no previous entry in the event (often called an "onsite alternate") is a Late Entry.

A. Events with No Draw Size Limit. When an event has no draw size limit, Late Entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Tournament Committee in the order they are received before the tournament draw or start times are published. After the tournament draw or start times are published, a Late Entry may replace a withdrawing player or team if the replacement does not invalidate the seeding. A Late Entry is accepted into a draw in the order the Late Entry is received. Late Entries received at the same time are accepted randomly.

B. Events with Limited Draw Sizes. When an event has a limited draw size, Late Entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Tournament Committee in the order they are placed on the Alternate List after timely entries in the order they are received. Late Entries received at the same time are ordered randomly.

Refunds.

Refunds are not required and are at the discretion of the member organization.

i. Withdrawals in Violation of Concurrent Tournament Rule. When a player withdraws from a tournament in violation of the Concurrent Tournament Rule, a player is not entitled to a refund, regardless of when the withdrawal occurs.

Tournament Scheduling Requirements.

A. Latest Start Time Guideline. No match should be scheduled after these times on nights NOT preceding school

- after 9:00pm in the 12s and 14s divisions (8:30pm preferred in 12U)
- after 10:00pm in the 18s and 16s divisions

Except that no match should be scheduled after these times on nights preceding school

- after 6:00pm in the 12s and 14 divisions
- after 7:00pm in the 16s and 18s divisions
- In the 10's division, no 10U Match may be scheduled OR begun after 8:00pm.
- Player's Friday matches may not be scheduled prior to 4 PM on a school day without advanced notification and prior approval from Section.
- Matches are not to start before 8:00am on a weekend or vacation day.

B. 12-Hour Overnight Rule Requirement. All players will be given at least 12 hours of rest between the completion of their last match of any day and the start of play of their first match of the following day.

C. Maximum Number of Matches in a Day Requirement – All Divisions. The scheduling guidelines for junior divisions in USTA Friend at Court. will be mandatory for all junior tournaments. The number of matches that may be played in one day is dependent on the age division and match formats being used, please see this table to determine how many matches may be played in one day.
<https://www.usta.com/content/dam/usta/sections/eastern/pdfs/Matches%20Per%20Day.pdf>

D. Doubles Scheduling Requirement. Doubles events will be scheduled as early as possible during the sanction period at all junior tournaments.

E. *Separating players from the same Family and Region or Section(if possible)*. The singles draw shall avoid the presence in the same quarter of more than one of the four players with the highest standing from the same Family, Region or Section who are in the tournament, whose standing shall be determined using the most recently published National Standings List.

First Match Times.

A. Tournament Responsibility for Publicizing First Match Start Times. The draw for each event must be published with start times to the Tournament homepage no later than three (3) days before the start date of the tournament, except that a tournament may delay the publication of a doubles draw with start times until two (2) days before the start date of the tournament provided the tournament posts a notice about the delayed publication. A waiver to this rule may be approved by prior written consent of the USTA Eastern staff.

B. Players Responsible for Obtaining Start Times. Players are responsible for obtaining their own starting time by checking the Tournament Home Page or by calling the pre-tournament phone number beginning three days (3) prior to the tournament if the start times are not available on the website.

Play to Completion

All players are expected to play all scheduled matches to completion. It is considered unsportsmanlike to not play all scheduled matches. If a player has an injury, illness or personal circumstance and therefore does not intend to or is unable to play a scheduled match, the player MUST notify the tournament director, in writing, at least one (1) hour before the start of their next match. Failure to do so will result in a Default/no show code of the match and penalty points on a players record.

Additionally, Junior players demonstrating a pattern of unsportsmanlike withdrawals and walkovers may be assessed penalty points for unsportsmanlike conduct if there is a demonstrated pattern of failure to play to completion. In the event a pattern of withdrawals and walkovers becomes apparent within a 3 month period the player will be asked to provide documentation associated with each withdrawal and walkover. Failure to provide satisfactory evidence may result in penalty points assessed per incident; may be subject to additional unsportsmanlike penalty points and may lead to suspension.

In addition, to the USTA Point Penalty System USTA Eastern will support the following:

Not appearing for a scheduled match or failure to notify the tournament director in writing at least one (1) hour before the start of their next match.	4
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The Lateness Rule:

The Point Penalty System is in place for lateness and is to be enforced at all USTA Eastern sanctioned tournaments. The lateness clock begins when the match is called to go out on court, as opposed to the scheduled match time. The PPS is as follows:

5 minutes or less late = (loss of toss plus 1 game)

5:01 - 10 minutes = (loss of toss plus 2 games)

10:01 - 15 minutes = (loss of toss plus 3 games)

More than 15 minutes = Default

While the loss of game formula must stay in place for lateness by the tournament director, at his/her discretion may hold the default up to 45 minutes for extenuating circumstances. According to USTA regulations, an extension is never allowed beyond 45 minutes.

The Lateness Rule for Short Sets:

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 equally late up to 15 minutes: no penalty;
- If both players or teams 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 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 Overrule Rule:

Once a player has been overruled twice in the same match they are "in the code." The 3rd overrule, a point penalty is assessed (a point is awarded to the opponent) in addition to the assessment of a COC/Suspension penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct. On the 4th overrule, the player loses a game; after the 5th overrule, the player is defaulted.

Rest Periods & the Recovery Rule

- A. Rest Periods are dependent on the match formats being used, as well as match duration (Recovery Rule). If two different match formats are being used, the rest period is determined by the format of the 1st match scheduled. If a singles match lasts longer than 120 minutes or 2 hours, the Recovery Rule applies. Please below to determine how much rest time a player is entitled to:

- Best of 3 or 5 tiebreak sets - 60 Minutes
- Tiebreak in lieu of a 3rd set - 60 Minutes
- Pro-Sets or 2 of 3 Short Sets (L2O/R's) - 30 Minutes
- Doubles - 30 Minutes
- L7 and L6 tournaments using a 6 game pro set - Players shall be offered reasonable rest, which in many cases will be no more than 15 minutes.
- 10 and Under/Timed matches - Players shall be offered reasonable rest, which in many cases will be no more than 15 minutes.

- A. Recovery Rule – A player should be offered two hours of rest after a singles match that uses a format consisting of the best of 3 tiebreak sets or more if the players next match is singles. The rule does not apply to short set matches, matches that play a tiebreak in lieu of a final third set, nor to any indoor match that lasts less than two hours.
- B. Set Breaks – Between the 2nd and 3rd sets players are entitled to a set break. If a full 2 of 3 tiebreak sets are being played, a player is entitled to a 10 minute set break that begins as soon as the final point of the 2nd set is completed. If a 10 point tiebreak is being played in lieu of a 3rd set, players are only entitled to a 2 minute set break that begins as soon as the final point of the 2nd set is completed.

Coaching

During individual competition, either verbally or by signals of any kind, is prohibited except during an authorized intermission (the 90-second odd game changeover is not an authorized intermission). Authorized intermissions include the 10 minute mandatory set break between the 2nd and 3rd set when a best two of three set match format is being used.

- A. The 2 minute set break between a 2nd set and a 10 point match tiebreak is not an authorized intermission during which coaching is allowed. (The same rules apply to team competition unless they have been modified in advance by an agreement between the teams.) Violation of this regulation renders the player and coach or advisor liable to disciplinary action, which may include disqualification of the player and/or removal of the coach or advisor from the premises.

The USTA Junior Tournament Pathway

The USTA Eastern Junior Tournament Pathway includes the following:

Level 1 (L1) - National Championships; National Team Events; and some ITF events

Level 2 (L2) - Intersectional Team Competition (National L2)

Level 3 (L3) - L3 Closed Super Six Events (National L3) and L3 Closed Empire Cup Doubles (National L3) and L3 Closed Mixed Dubs (National L3)

Level 4 (L4) - L4 Closed Super Six Events (National L4) and L4 Closed Empire Cup Doubles (National L4) and L4 Closed Mixed Dubs (National L4) and L4 Intra-team competition (National L4)

Level 4 (L4) - L4 Open Series (National L4)

Level 5 (L5) - Open Advanced/Intermediate Sectional Events

Level 6 (L6) - Open Intermediate Sectional Events

Level 7 (L7) - Open Intermediate Sectional Events

10 and under orange and green ball tournaments

Level 1-3 National events are included on the USTA National Junior Schedule and sanctioned by the USTA National Office. Sectional Level 3 - 7 and 10 and under events are sanctioned by the USTA Eastern Section. Entry and selection to National events are based on the USTA Junior National Tournament, Ranking, and Sanction Regulations, and entry and selection to USTA Eastern events are based on the rules and regulations outlined in this document. For more information on the junior competitive structure changes [click here](#)

2022 Point Tables [Click Here](#)

New Search Engine for tournaments [Click here](#)

USTA National Tournament calendar and other information [Click here](#)

Find your ranking [Click here](#)

L2 Intersectional Team Event

2nd annual

L3 Closed Super Six Level 3 Tournaments. Annually, each Sectional Association shall be authorized to sanction at least two Closed Section Level 3 Tournaments. Closed Section Level 3 Tournaments are limited to residents of the Sectional Association.

1. 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.

Designated Weekends: [Click here](#)

2. Draw size. The draw size will be limited. January and May are the designated L3 Closed Super Six singles tournaments and will be limited in the Boys and Girls 12 divisions to 24 players and Boys and Girls 14-18 divisions to 48 players. A draw size of fewer than 8 players will be canceled.

3. Draw format.

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

Feed-In Championship through the round of 16 with a quarterfinal playoff for 5th place and a playoff for 3rd place;

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.

4. Match format. Ad scoring will be used in all divisions. The match format shall be the following:

In the Boys and Girls 14, 16, and 18 Main Draw Matches: Best of 3 Tiebreak sets with a full 3rd set; 10 minute coaching break between the 2nd and 3rd set. Ad- scoring

In the Boys and Girls 12 main draw and all age division consolations: Best of 3 Tiebreak sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of the 3rd set; Ad- scoring

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. No Ad-scoring

Match formats may be shortened when inclement weather or other circumstances.

5. Selection Process: Selection will be based on the NSL standing list, filtered by Eastern Section, in the age group of the event.

- Players may register for multiple age divisions, but will only be admitted to one; selection is done for the older age groups first. If a player is selected to an older age division they will automatically be withdrawn from the younger division. If the player is not selected to the older

division, they will only be eligible for the younger division. Please keep this in mind when registering.

6. Entry Fee: \$140/player

7. Awards: Awards will be given to the top 3 finishers.

L4 Closed Super Six Level 4 Tournaments. Eastern has been authorized to sanction no more than three (3) Closed Section Level 4 Tournaments. Closed Section Level 4 tournaments are limited to residents of the Sectional Association.

1. 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.
2. Draw size. The draw size will be limited. In the Boys and Girls 12 divisions to 24 players and Boys and Girls 14-18 divisions to 32 players. A draw size of fewer than 8 players will be canceled.
3. Draw format.

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

Feed-In Championship through the round of 16 with a quarterfinal playoff for 5th place and a playoff for 3rd place;

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.

4. Match format. Ad scoring will be used in all divisions. The match format shall be the following:

In the Boys and Girls 14, 16, and 18 Main Draw Matches: Best of 3 Tiebreak sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of the 3rd set; Ad- scoring

In the Boys and Girls 12 main draw and all age division consolations Best of 3 Tiebreak sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of the 3rd set; Ad- scoring

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. No Ad-scoring

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

5. Selection Process: Selection will be based on the NSL standing list filtered by eastern section in the age group of the event.

- Players may register for multiple age divisions, but will only be admitted to one; selection is done for the older age groups first – if a player is selected to an older age division they will automatically be withdrawn from the younger division. If the player is not selected to the older division, they will only be eligible for the younger division. Please keep this in mind when registering.

6. Entry Fee: \$140/player

7. Awards: Awards will be given to the top 3 finishers.

L3 and L4 Closed Empire Cup Doubles and Mixed Doubles and L4 Open Doubles and Mixed Doubles.

The Eastern Section has been authorized to sanction a certain number of Closed Section Level 3 Tournaments (2) and Closed Section L4 (3). Closed Section Level 3 & 4 tournaments are limited to residents of the Sectional Association. The Eastern Section has been authorized to sanction a certain number of Open Section L4 tournaments (4). Open section L4 tournaments are open to everyone.

1. 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.

Designated Weekends: [Click here](#)

2. Draw size. The draw size will be limited. In the Boys and Girls 12 divisions to 24 players and Boys and Girls 14-18 divisions to 32 players. A draw size of fewer than 8 players will be canceled.
3. Draw format.

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

- Modified Feed-In Championship with a quarterfinal playoff for 5th place and a playoff for 3rd place;

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

All divisions Main Draw Matches: Best of 3 Tiebreak sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of the 3rd set; No Ad- scoring

All divisions Consolation Matches: 8 game pro set; w/ a tiebreak at 8 games all. No-Ad Scoring.

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. No Ad-scoring

Match formats may be shortened when inclement weather or other circumstances prevent a

5. Selection Process: Selection will be based on the National Standing List (NSL) combined singles standing filtered by Section in the age group of the event. Priority is given to teams with two ranked players. Only after all teams with two ranked doubles players have been accepted will additional teams be considered. Remaining teams will be selected based on the individual with the highest doubles ranking; with a team with two unranked doubles players being accepted last. Players must register for all Doubles events with a partner.
 - a) Vacancies. A team shall constitute a doubles entry. If one accepted player in a pairing must withdraw, and the event has registered teams on the alternates list, then an alternate team shall be placed in the draw to replace the withdrawing team. If there are no registered alternate teams, the remaining partner may secure an alternate partner as long as the new partner does not impact seeding for the event and the alternate is secured in a timely manner.
 - b) For the purpose of determining selection of teams, below is the process of calculating combined rankings and combined ranking points:
 - c) Teams will be selected and seeded in the order of their combined NSL filtered by eastern section using the most recently published list available at that time. 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. A team with a combined standing greater than 11 is selected after Team A&B. Ties are broken in favor of the team with the highest ranked member. All teams not selected will be placed on Alternate Lists that are ordered using the same methods of selecting players or teams into the tournament described above.

- d) Players may not register for more than one age division
 - e) Alternates. All players and teams not selected will be placed on Alternate Lists that are ordered using the same methods of selecting players or teams into the tournament described above. The Alternate Lists will be used to replace withdrawing players and teams, except that a Late Entry may not be accepted into the draw if it invalidates the seeding.

6. Seeding: All Eastern doubles tournaments will use the National Standing List Combined Singles Standing List (NSL).

7. Entry Fee: \$55/player (unless combined with singles or another event, \$25/player)

8. Awards: Awards will be given to the top 2 finishing teams.

Level 4 Open Singles Series Tournaments: The Eastern section has been authorized to sanction no more than four (4) Open Section Tournaments in singles, doubles and mixed doubles. Open Section Level 4 tournaments are open to everyone.

Separating players from the same Sectional Association. The singles draw shall avoid the presence in the same quarter of more than one of the four players with the highest standing from the same Sectional Association who are in the tournament, whose standing shall be determined using the most recently published National Standings List.

- 1. Duration. The tournament should not exceed more than five days. Players may not make up matches after the last sanctioned day of the tournament without prior written approval of the Sectional Association.

- a. **Designated Weekends** [Click here](#)

- 2. Draw Size. Will be limited to 24 players in Boys and Girls 12 singles and 32 players in Boys and Girls 14-18 singles. A draw size of fewer than 8 players will be canceled.

- 3. Draw format.

- a. Formats permitted in singles. The draw shall be the following formats:

- Feed-In Championship through the round of 16 with a quarterfinal playoff for 5th place and a playoff for 3rd place;

- 4. Match format. Ad scoring will be used in all divisions. The match format shall be the following:

- In the Boys and Girls 14, 16, and 18 Main Draw Matches: Best of 3 Tiebreak sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of the 3rd set; Ad- scoring

- In the Boys and Girls 12 main draw and all age division consolations Best of 3 Tiebreak sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of the 3rd set; Ad- scoring.

- 5. Selection Process for Singles. Selection will be based on the NSL standing list. Players may only register in one age division.

- 6. Entry Fee. \$140/player

- 7. Awards. Awards will be given to the top 3 finishers.

L5 Open Singles 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. A total of 36 events have been allocated to USTA Eastern. Eastern will try to distribute these events evenly across the section.

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.

Designated Weekends: [Click here](#)

2. Draw size. The draw size may be 16, 24, 32 or 48 players.
3. Draw format.
 - 0-2 Draw canceled
 - 3-5 One round robin bracket
 - 6-48 Feed-in championship through Q **Consolations are not played to completion, but all will finish in the same round. All players must be scheduled for at least 2 matches. (A withdrawal or walkover may be considered a scheduled match.)**
 - **(A voluntary consolation may be used)**
4. Match format. No-Ad scoring may be used. The match format shall be any of the following:
 - Best of 3 sets
 - Best of 3 with 10-point match tiebreak in lieu of third set
5. Selection. Selection will be based on the NSL standing list filtered by eastern section in the age group of the event. Players may only register in one age division.
6. Entry Fee. \$60/player without an official \$70/player with an official.
7. Awards. Awards will be given to the top 2 finishers.

L5 Open Doubles or MXD Doubles Tournaments Open to everyone. A total of 36 events have been allocated to USTA Eastern.

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.

Designated Weekends: additional weekends may be added, but can't exceed 36 events in the 2022 calendar year. [Click here](#)

2. Draw size. The draw size may be 16, 24, 32 or 48 players.
3. Draw format.
 - 0-2 Draw canceled
 - 3-5 One round robin bracket
 - 6-32 Modified feed-in consolation **Consolations are not played to completion, but all will finish in the same round. All players must be scheduled for at least 2 matches. (A withdrawal or walkover may be considered a scheduled match.)**
4. Match format. No-Ad scoring may be used. The match format shall be any of the following:
 - Best of 3 sets,

- Best of 3 sets with 10-point match tiebreak
 - **If combined with a singles event:** Run as a single elimination using the match format above or an 8-game pro-set (no-ad)
5. Selection. Selection will be based on the NSL combined singles standing list. Players may only register in one age division. (refer to selection for L3 and L4 Empire Cup and Open Doubles)
 6. Seeding. Seeding will be based on the NSL combined singles standing list standing list. Players may only register in one age division.
 7. Entry Fee. \$30/player without an official. \$40/player with an official. (unless combined with another singles \$25/player.)
 8. Awards. Awards will be given to the top 2 finishing teams.

L6 Open 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.

1. Duration. The tournament may be sanctioned over 2-3 days. Players may not make up matches after the last sanctioned day of the tournament without prior written approval of the Sectional Association. Can be sanctioned any weekend on the calendar.
2. Coed events permitted. Section and District Level 6 tournaments may have coed events.
3. Draw size. The draw size shall not exceed 32 players.
4. Draw format.
 - a. Formats permitted. The draw shall be one of the following formats:
 - Round robin;
 - Feed-In Championship through the quarterfinals **Consolations are not played to completion, but all will finish in the same round. All players must be scheduled for at least 2 matches. (A withdrawal or walkover may be considered a scheduled match.)**
 - 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** may offer a maximum of four rounds of play; no player shall earn ranking points for playing more than four matches. 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 will 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;
 - 8 game pro-set with 7 point tiebreak at 8 games all
 - Two short sets to 4, 7-point match tiebreak at one set all

- Match formats may be shortened when inclement weather or other circumstances prevent a tournament from finishing on time.
6. Selection. Selection will be based on the NSL combined singles standing list. Players may only register in one age division.
 7. Entry Fee. For Singles \$60/player without an official \$70/player with an official. Doubles or MXD would be ½ of the singles entry fee.
 8. Awards. Awards will be given to the top 2 finishers.

L7 Open 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.

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. Can be sanctioned any weekend on the calendar.
2. Green Ball Tennis permitted in 12 Division.
3. Coed events permitted. Section Level 7 tournaments may have coed events.
4. Draw size. The draw size shall be a maximum of 16 players.
 - 0-2 draw canceled
 - 3-5 One round robin bracket
 - 6-16 Split into player groups, with no group exceeding 5 players. Groups must meet the match maximum of 4. If the group doesn't, then a final playoff round will be played.
5. Draw format.
 - 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.
 - a. Maximum number of rounds in each draw. Each draw may have a maximum of four (4) rounds of play; no player shall earn ranking points for playing more than four matches. 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.
 - b. Separating event into multiple draws. An event may be separated into more than one draw. Players must be waterfalled.
6. Match format. No-Ad scoring may be used. The match format shall be any of the following:
 - Single 6-game set;
 - Best of 3 short sets with a 7-Point Tiebreak played in lieu of the 3rd set; 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.
7. Times: Round robins shall not start after 5pm, unless previously authorized by the Eastern Section.
 8. Selection process: **For limited draws**, bottom-up selection will be used. Bottom-up selection will select unranked players first, then lowest ranked, etc. In the event the number of unranked players exceeds the published draw limits, selection will be based on time/date entry.
 9. Entry Fee. \$50 / player without an official \$60/player with an official or dual role. Doubles or MXD would be ½ of the singles entry fee.
 10. Awards. Awards will be given to all Round robin winners.

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 correspond 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; 10
- 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.

Standing lists

- A player's ranking and standing will be based on the player's best 6 singles and best 6 doubles results during the previous 12 month period and will be calculated in the following manner with respect to: combined ranking (15% doubles); bonus points; counting points up; points counting down; treatment of defaults, withdrawals, walkovers, retirements, byes; minimum win requirement; breaking ties.

- USTA Sanctioned Section tournaments (L3-L7), USTA National tournaments (L1-L3) and ITF tournaments (that use serve tennis) will be included.

Section Quota List (formerly known as endorsement list)

The criteria for inclusion on the lists and method of calculating the lists shall be the same criteria used for National Standings Lists *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:
 - In the Boys' and Girls' 12 Divisions, 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 Level 2 Team Tournament (see **Regulation III.F.1.**), the USTA Boys' and Girls' 18 National Team Championships, the USTA Boys' and Girls 16 and 14 Intersectional Team Championships, and the USTA Boys' and Girls' 16, 14, and 12 Zone Team Championships shall be considered as though sanctioned by each Sectional Association participating in the tournament.
 - In the Boys' and Girls' 18, 16 and 14 Divisions, a player's best 6 singles results and best 6 doubles and/or mixed doubles results may include no more than 3 singles results and 3 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 Level 2 Team Tournament (see **Regulation III.F.1.**), the USTA Boys' and Girls' 18 National Team Championships, the USTA Boys' and Girls 16 and 14 Intersectional Team Championships, and the USTA Boys' and Girls' 16, 14, and 12 Zone Team Championships shall be considered as though sanctioned by each Sectional Association participating in the tournament.
3. Quota for 2022 will be published [here](#).

Section Quota Lists will be published monthly.

- USTA National Clays - TBD
- USTA National Hards - TBD
- USTA National team events - TBD
- USTA National Indoors - TBD
- USTA National Winter Championships - TBD
- National Doubles Championships - TBD

Year end Ranking lists

Seeding. Eastern will always use the most recent published national combined singles list for seeding in all sanctioned tournaments. However, in adult tournaments and other innovative tournaments (team events) will use the all Factors Method of seeding. 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.

Player Attire. Appropriate tennis attire is required for all matches. Rules of the host club will govern. Any dress code must be published to the tournament website no later than the time entries open.

Warm-up Period. Warm-up time is limited to 5 minutes. All practice serves must be taken during warm-up.

Certified Officials at Tournaments. All L3 and L4 Closed Super Six, Empire Cup, Mixed Dubs, L4 Open Series singles, doubles and Mixed Doubles tournaments require at least one USTA Certified Official be on site daily. All other levels have the option to have an official present and have the right to charge a higher entry fee because they are providing this additional level of service.

Awards.

A. All Round Robins. Awards will go to the 1st place finishers in each singles Round Robin. Medals are acceptable awards for L7 tournaments and 10 and under.

B. All L3 & L4 Singles Tournaments. Awards will go to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, place finishers.

C. All L3 & L4 Doubles Tournaments: Awards will go to the top 2 finishing teams.

D. All Other Tournaments. Singles and doubles awards will be presented to: 1st and 2nd place finishers;

E. Sportsmanship Awards. Sportsmanship Awards are encouraged to be presented to a player in each draw at each tournament.

USTA Eastern Position on Videotaping and Photography. Videotaping and photography at sanctioned USTA Eastern events is permissible, so long as it is: (1) approval is obtained verbally or in writing prior to the match, from all players, or, if a player is a minor, the parent/guardian of that player and (2) unobtrusive to the players or match. Any objection will be directed to the Tournament Director or Certified Official, who will intercede on the player, parent, or guardian's behalf to ask that any videotaping and photography stop, or that the camera be repositioned to exclude the objecting player. Videos or photographs taken may be used for only personal, educational, or noncommercial purposes, and may not be modified, republished, posted, distributed, or used in any other manner, or for any other purpose, without the express written consent of all players, or their respective parent or guardian.

US Open Junior Awards Gala

Eligibility for US Open Eastern Junior Awards Gala:

The top three ranked players in each age division using the National Combined Singles Standing List as of 7/14 will be the guests of USTA Eastern for a day at the US Open in Flushing, NY.