Rules and Regulations
Excerpt from the Rules, Regulations and Standing Orders of USTA Eastern, Inc.

In addition to the Rules of Tennis of the ITF and USTA Tournament Regulations, which are hereby adopted as being applicable to all Eastern sanctioned tournaments, the following additional regulations will apply to all tournaments held at or by members of this association and sanctioned by it.

1. Players competing in Eastern sanctioned events are expected to comply with all rules and regulations listed in the USTA Friend at Court, as well as “The Code” of the USTA (also listed in the FAC) and to avoid acts which are detrimental to the game of tennis. The USTA Standards of Conduct are in effect for all Eastern sanctioned events.

2. The Concurrent Tournament Rule:
No player may register for more than one Eastern “ranked”/sanctioned tournament where the scheduled dates overlap, unless the officially announced tournament starting dates are at least three days apart. The player must be age eligible for both divisions. Allowable exceptions below:
   - Entering a tournament scheduled over successive weekends and another tournament through the intervening week.
   - Entering a Super Six and concurrent L1/L1A; however once selection for the Super Six has been posted, the player must give notice of withdrawal to one of the tournaments within the following 24 hours. Failure to do so will result in the assessment of suspension points. A player who does enter properly under this exception, but fails to withdraw from either event in a timely manner will still be subject to suspension points for late withdrawals or concurrent tournament violations.
   - Entering two tournaments where the player can reasonably expect (based on current standings or posted notification on the tournament homepage) to play the starting weekend of one tournament and reasonably expect to start play the following weekend for the second tournament. (This will only occur in multi-weekend tournaments such as +L1’s) Only 1 of the 2 tournaments may be a +L1 Eastern Grand-Prix event. Once seeding and selection for the +L1 has been posted, if a player discovers that their starting match at both tournament commences on the same weekend, the player must give notice of withdrawal to one of the tournaments within 24 hours. Failure to do so will result in the assessment of suspension points. A player who does enter properly under this exception but fails to withdraw from either event in a timely manner will be subject to suspension points for late withdrawals or concurrent tournament violations.

   Additionally, 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. The player must be age eligible for both divisions.

3. 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 oppose to the scheduled match time. The PPS is as follows:
   - 5 minutes or less late = 1 Game + loss of toss
   - 5:01 - 10 minutes = 2 Games + loss of toss
   - 10:01 - 15 minutes = 3 Games + loss of toss
   - 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.
4. 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. 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.

5. 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, assuming the player hasn’t already been coded in the match.

6. Electronic devices:
Facilities have the option to not allow videotaping or photography by spectators during USTA sanctioned play, as long as it is enforced and a notification is published at their facility. If such notification is not posted, parents or spectators should ask permission of the opponent prior to videotaping. Players may bring to the court written notes that were prepared before the start of the match and may read these notes during the match. A player may NOT use electronic devices such as:
- Cell phones
- MP3 players, iPods, and radios
- CD, Cassette, and DVD players
- Digital messaging systems
- Any device capable of receiving communication

7. Tennis Balls (provided by the tournament) will be used for each match. Balls will remain the property of the tournament director upon the completion of the match. Any of the tennis ball brands on this list are acceptable: USTA Approved Tennis Balls.

8. Surface Preparation is the responsibility of the player. Players should contact the host facility in advance to determine the court surface of the tournament and be prepared for possible surface change depending upon weather conditions or extenuating circumstances.

9. Match Time Notification will typically occur via internet posting on the tournament homepages. Players are required to check their own match times, (typically posted at least 72 hours prior to the start of the tournament, and again before leaving for their scheduled matches; as match times may change due to extenuating circumstances. When match times are not available online, players should call the tournament site to obtain their starting times.

10. Withdrawals, Defaults, Retirements, and Walkovers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Withdrawals</th>
<th>A withdrawal occurs when a player decides not to play all matches in the event because of injury, illness, or personal circumstance. A withdrawal also may occur because of tournament administrative error.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Defaults</td>
<td>A default occurs when a player is eliminated from an event under the Point Penalty System (which includes penalties for lateness) or refuses to play for reason other than injury, illness, or personal circumstance. It is also considered a default when a junior does not start a match because of an adult deciding to discipline the junior. A person who is defaulted for lateness from a match remains eligible for other matches including consolations, place play-offs, and doubles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retirements</td>
<td>A retirement occurs when a player is unable to continue playing a match or resume playing a suspended match because of injury, illness, or personal circumstance. It is also treated as a retirement when a junior player does not finish a match because of adult discipline. A person who retires from a match remains</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Walkovers</th>
<th>eligible for other matches including consolations, place play-offs, and doubles.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Default for any reason will result in review by the Eastern Junior Competition Committee and the possible imposition of suspension points. When a default is due to illness, injury or family emergency, it is the responsibility of the player to hold documentation verifying such reason.

Default from a tournament by the player or by the referee due to lateness, walkover or from illness, or injury will not preclude that player from the right (but not the obligation) to play other matches assigned in the same tournament (i.e., a consolation round match or a playoff match). Unless the tournament had a qualifying weekend then first round defaults for any reason will be filled first with lucky losers. If there are no lucky losers then the later will apply.

A player, who is defaulted from a tournament due to causes involving the point penalty system, may be barred from further competition in the same tournament.

**Tournament Regulations:**

1. **Match Formats**

   **Advanced Tournament Play**
   - All Super Six and +L1 main draw singles matches, except BG12, including the 3/4 and 5/6/7/8 playoff matches will be the best of three sets, with a mandatory 10-minute rest period after the 2nd set.
   - All Super Six and +L1 qualifying and consolation singles matches and Boys and Girls 12 main draw matches, will be a 10 pt. deciding match tie-break in lieu of the 3rd set in all age groups. In which case, a 2 minute set break, with no coaching or leaving the court, is required between the 2nd and 3rd deciding match tiebreak.
   - All Sweet 16 singles matches will be a 10 pt. deciding match tie-break in lieu of the 3rd set in all age groups. In which case, a 2 minute set break, with no coaching or leaving the court, is required between the 2nd and 3rd deciding match tiebreak. All Sweet 16 doubles matches will be an 8 game pro set.
   - L1, L1A and L1B matches for boys’ and girls’ 12, 14, 16, 18 may be the best of three sets, with a mandatory 10-minute rest period after the second set. However, a 10 pt. deciding match tie-break in lieu of the 3rd set may be used for all age groups, with a 2 minute set break before the 3rd set tiebreak.
   - The regular (ad) scoring system will be used in all of these events.

   **Intermediate Tournament Play**
   - All Boys and Girls 14-18 L2O and L2R matches will be the best of 3 sets with a 10 pt. deciding match tie-break in lieu of the 3rd set and a 2 minute set break before the 3rd set tiebreak is required.
   - All Boys and Girls 10-12 L2O and L2R matches will be the best of 3 short sets, with a 2 minute set break after the second set. A short set is first to 4, win by 2, with a match tiebreak to be played at 4-all.
   - The regular scoring system will be used in all BG12-18sd +L1, L1, L1b, and L2 events and the set tiebreak will be used at six-all in each set except where indicated to the contrary by the referee.

   **Entry Level Singles**
   - It is mandatory that all Level 3 tournaments (BG12-18) be conducted in a round-robin format or other non-elimination format, using timed or game-based match formats. VASS No-Ad scoring may be used ONLY in Level 3 (L3 Eastern UPS) events.

   **Doubles**
   - Empire Cup Doubles will be 2 out of 3 sets with a 10 point match tiebreak in the main draw and consolation matches will use an 8 game pro set with a 7 point tie break at 8 games all, in all age divisions.
   - All other doubles formats will be the tournament directors’ discretion, an eight game pro-set can be used for all BG12-18doubles events.
2. **Tournament Formats**

**+L1 Number of Qualifier/MD Players**
- If 49 or less players register for the +L1, there will be 4 qualifier slots and 28 players accepted directly to the MD
- If 50 or more players register for the +L1, there will be 8 qualifier slots and 24 players accepted directly to the MD

**Rest Periods and Match Scheduling:**
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Match Format</th>
<th>Rest Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best of 3 or 5 tiebreak sets</td>
<td>60 Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tiebreak in lieu of a 3rd set</td>
<td>60 Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pro-Set or Short Sets (L2O/R's)</td>
<td>30 Minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doubles</td>
<td>30 Minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Recovery Rule** – If a singles match utilizing the two out of three full sets format lasts longer than 120 minutes (2 hours) the player shall be offered at least 120 minutes of rest before their next singles match. This Rule does not apply to short set matches and matches that play a tiebreak in lieu of a final third set, nor to any match played indoors where the duration of the match is less than 120 minutes. Click here to read more Recovery Rule

**The 12 Hour Rule** - The “12 Hour Rule” is not a rule but a strongly encouraged best practice. The rule recommends at least 12 hours of rest between the players end of play one day, and start of play the following day.

**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.

**Latest matches may be scheduled/played:**
No match shall be scheduled after:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Nights NOT preceding school</th>
<th>Nights preceding school</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12U</td>
<td>9:00pm</td>
<td>6:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18U, 16U, &amp; 14U</td>
<td>10:00pm</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **In the 10’s division, no 10U Match may be scheduled OR begin after 9:00pm.**
- 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.
The Number of matches that may be scheduled in one day is determined by the USTA Official rule book, the Friend at Court on Table 8: Scheduling Guidelines for Junior Divisions, a summary of which can be found here.