



2019 Award Criteria

Unless otherwise noted, **all nominees must be current members of USTA**, must have participated in USTA Missouri Valley/Heart of America events and cannot be members of the USTA Missouri Valley section staff. The supporting information for each nomination is critically important as the USTA Heart of America Awards Committee reviews numerous forms each year.

All nominations are submitted using the on-line nomination system no later than **Monday, September 2**.

2019 USTA Heart of America Awards

*indicates section nominee may be considered for a USTA national award nomination

PLAYER AWARDS

ADULT PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Adult Player of the Year award is based on performance, current accomplishments, sportsmanship and the promotion of tennis in general, raising the standard of play to its highest level. Include ranking information. Player will be 4.5 and above.

Please list by year for 2019 all accomplishments that highlight the nominees' careers, including ranking information. Note: Recreational players should be nominated for the Adult Recreational Player Award.

Must be a current USTA Individual or Family Member.

ADULT RECREATIONAL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Recognition of an Adult player (4.0 and below) who participates in USTA League tennis or USTA tournaments on a regular basis. Recipient should demonstrate good sportsmanship and a love of the game.

Must be a current USTA Individual or Family Member.

JUNIOR HIGH PERFORMANCE PLAYER (S) OF THE YEAR (1 female and 1 male)

Junior Player(s) of the Year award is based primarily on high performance results at USTA and USTA Missouri Valley tournaments, sportsmanship, and a demonstration of raising the game to its highest level. The nominated player should exhibit participation in the highest level of competition offered by USTA.

Please list by year for 2019 all accomplishments that highlight the nominees' careers. Emphasis should be placed on the last 12 months, but previous performance could also be considered. High performance results and accomplishments can include:

- A high national ranking
- A high sectional ranking
- Placing at a National Championship or a Sweet 16
- Invitation to participate in special camps or events
- Selection for special teams like Zonals, Intersectionals or BG18 teams

Must not have a Code of Conduct report on file in the last 12 months. Refer to the Suspension Points Record in TennisLink.

Must be a current USTA Individual or Family Member.

EMERGING JUNIOR PLAYERS OF THE YEAR (1 male and 1 female)

Recognition of a junior player who participates in Team Challenges, Team Tournaments, USTA Junior Team Tennis or other tournaments, such as Smashers or Net Level tournaments, on a regular basis. Both recipients should demonstrate good sportsmanship and a love of the game.

Must be a current USTA Individual or Family Member and registered in Net Generation as a consumer.

JUNIOR SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD *

The USTA Missouri Valley Junior Sportsmanship award is given to a male and female junior player in each age group, boys and girls 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18's who best exemplifies the finest qualities of sportsmanship in competitive play including tournaments, USTA Junior Team Tennis, Smashers and Net Level tournaments. Good sportsmanship is an essential element of all junior sports and junior development.

The junior player is ineligible if he or she has a Code of Conduct on file in the last 12 months. Refer to the Suspension Points Record in TennisLink.

Leadership off the court is a bonus. Examples could include taking on leadership opportunities or volunteering in the community or with the organization.

The nomination must have a minimum of two instances (in detail) where the nominee exemplified the finest qualities of sportsmanship on and/or off the court (quotes from coaches, parents or players are acceptable).

Must be a current USTA Individual or Family Member

In USTA Heart of America, both a Male and Female winner in the Junior Sportsmanship will be awarded the "Stephanie Waterman Sportsmanship" award.

TENNIS FAMILY OF THE YEAR *

This award is made annually to the family who in recent years has done the most to promote amateur tennis - primarily on a volunteer basis. Ideally, all nominated members of the family should participate in some way, either as players or by running programs or tournaments or in junior development activities. The section winner will be submitted for consideration of the USTA Tennis Family of the Year national award that is presented at the USTA Annual Meeting.

Criteria: The family must be active in volunteering in some or all of the following:

- 1) Serving as a volunteer in fostering tennis at any level of the USTA such as national, section, district and/or local board or committee tournament and adult and/or junior programs.
- 2) Developing and/or sustaining junior and adult programs
- 3) Holding office(s) at any level of the USTA
- 4) Volunteer coaching
- 5) Competing in tennis, including any youth program or tournament, high school, Tennis on Campus or college varsity, tournaments (include age category rankings), League or other organized play, including social/recreational
- 6) Enriching the game of tennis in other related activities (i.e. non-tennis activity, honors and/or achievements.)

Please include the years of service for each activity for each nominated family member.

All family members listed in the nomination must be current USTA Individual or Family Members.

PROVIDER/CONTRIBUTOR AWARDS

FACILITY OF THE YEAR

Recognition will be awarded to one(1) individual outstanding tennis facility under the jurisdiction of:

- 1) A parks and recreation department
- 2) An educational institution
- 3) Non-profit entities, or
- 4) Private and/or commercially owned and operated facilities with USTA and other 'growth of tennis' programs

Criteria to be considered when nominating a facility are:

- 1) Quality of each court area and surface
- 2) Quality of the court enclosure and lighting
- 3) Overall layout and adaptation to the site
- 4) Accessories and amenities
- 5) Evidence of good and green maintenance
- 6) Must be a current USTA Organization Member
- 7) Quality 10 and Under Tennis guidelines met
 - a. Includes Youth Progression (red to orange to green to yellow)
 - b. Host Youth Progression tournaments
 - c. Host Junior Team Tennis teams
 - d. Facility has blended lines or permanent 36' or 60' courts
- 8) Completed Net Generation registration with programs listed on the Program Management Center

Tennis programs held should include:

- 1) USTA programs
- 2) 10 and Under Tennis programs
- 3) Other tennis-related programs
- 4) Important contributions to the game of tennis

USTA Outstanding Facility Award has a different national award nomination process, categories and timeline from the section/district award. <https://www.usta.com/en/home/about-usta/usta-awards/national/usta-outstanding-facility-awards.html>

MEMBER ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR *

Recognition of outstanding service by one (1) individual USTA Missouri Valley Member Organization. The section winner will be submitted for consideration for the USTA Member Organization of the Year national award presented at the USTA Annual Meeting.

- 1) Service and impact to the community.
 - a) Donating facilities for amateur tournaments of all types
 - b) Providing courts for free clinics or seminars for the general public
 - c) Providing facilities for interscholastic play for high school and college tennis
 - d) Providing facilities for USTA programs (tournaments, Leagues, High Performance, etc.)
 - e) Allowing promising non-member juniors the use of the courts
 - f) Taking an active role in section or district affairs
 - g) Allowing use of facilities for special event (e.g. charities, wheelchair, etc.)
 - h) Involvement and support of diversity and inclusion initiatives and programs
 - i) Allowing use of facilities for section or district events or training
- 2) Service to organization's members which demonstrates support of the USTA Mission and may include the following:
 - a) Maintaining an active tennis program including:
 - i) Tennis ladders and other recreational programs including intersectional/inter-organizational play
 - ii) Adult and junior tournaments in various categories, especially USTA sanctioned tournaments
 - iii) Encouraging and promoting play in USTA Leagues and USTA Junior Team Tennis
 - iv) Net Generation related 10 and Under Tennis programs, Schools Tennis and NJTL programs
 - v) Adaptive tennis programs
 - vi) Senior initiatives
 - b) Maintaining effective systems for keeping membership informed of USTA section and district tournaments and activities and of pertinent changes in USTA and sectional rules and regulations

- c) Encouraging and assisting junior players
- 3) General service to the game of tennis
 - a) Activities that promote and strengthen tennis within the member organizations and in the community
 - b) Activities promoting the benefits of individual membership in the USTA
- 4) Must be a current USTA Organization Member

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY TENNIS ASSOCIATION *

A USTA Community Tennis Association (CTA) defined as: "Any incorporated, geographically defined, not-for-profit, volunteer-based tennis organization that supports or provides programs which promote and develop the growth of tennis." The organization must be an incorporated, tax-exempt association. The section award winner will be required to submit a copy of a certificate of good standing from your Secretary of State in order to complete the national award application. The 2019 section award winner will be considered for nomination for the national award that is awarded at the USTA Semiannual Meeting.

Please describe in detail how the CTA meets the following criteria categories:

CTA history, CTA leadership, CTA mission, strategic plan, organizational structure, program offerings based on community needs, volunteer recruitment, community partnerships, fundraising, marketing and PR plans, staff positions, special recognitions.

Must be a registered USTA CTA and a current USTA Organization Member, and individuals within the CTA must be registered and approved in Net Generation.

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTOR TO YOUTH TENNIS PROGRAMS

The award is given to an individual that is providing a full-service USTA 10 and Under Tennis program.

Criteria to consider:

- 1) Individual is a registered and approved Net Generation Provider.
- 2) Programs are registered on NetGeneration.com in the Program Management Center
- 3) Individual follows USTA Missouri Valley Youth Progression Pathway (red to orange to green to yellow)
- 4) Individual organizes Youth Progression tournaments
- 5) Individual organizes Team Challenges
- 6) Individual organizes USTA Junior Team Tennis Teams or Programs
- 7) Individual partners with schools for in school/after school tennis
- 8) Must be a current USTA Individual or Family member

Bonus factor: Registered Net Generation School Partner

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTOR TO YOUTH HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

This person has done the most to advance High Performance programs. He/she has assisted in searching for new talented junior players, 10 and Under Tennis, involvement with Team USA camps and/or is a Regional Training Center Coach working with a highly successful junior(s).

Junior successes to be considered include:

- Players with high national rank
- Players making it to the Quarters and beyond in national tournaments
- Players are top finishers in top section events (Summer and Winter Sweet 16)
- Players who earn sportsmanship awards
- Players who are invited to national camps

Bonus factors:

- Certified by a USTA accredited teaching organization
- Approved Net Generation Provider
- Completed a USTA High Performance program
- Give back by coaching section or National Team Events, or volunteering time at community events

Must be a current USTA Individual Member.

USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS ORGANIZER *

This award will be presented to one USTA Junior Team Tennis Organizer who has helped expand an existing USTA Junior Team Tennis program or has developed a new USTA Junior Team Tennis program. The 2019 section award winner will be considered for nomination for the Janet Louer National Organizer of the Year national award that is awarded at the USTA Semiannual Meeting. Only local and District Junior Team Tennis Coordinators within TennisLink will be able to be considered for the national nomination

Criteria to consider when nominating are:

- 1) Successfully implemented or helped expand either Championship or Local USTA Junior Team Tennis programs
- 2) Served as a district/local coordinator or coach/manager within a USTA Junior Team Tennis program
- 3) Junior Team Tennis program must be listed in TennisLink
- 4) Successfully implemented other USTA Tennis programs
- 5) Generated interest in USTA Junior Team Tennis programs through local advocacy
- 6) Creatively and effectively utilized section and or national funding

- 7) Sponsorship development – ability to find and utilize resources other than the USTA
- 8) Community Tennis Association participation and/or development
- 9) Number of participants in USTA Junior Team Tennis programs
- 10) Individual is a registered Net Generation provider

Must be a current USTA Member.

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTOR TO THE USTA LEAGUE TENNIS PROGRAM

This person(s) has made significant contributions to the USTA League Tennis program as a volunteer in multiple aspects of leagues. He/she has participated on teams, assisted in the promotion of the program, assisted in the administration of the leagues and/or volunteered at section championships. Recipient should demonstrate good sportsmanship and a love of the game.

Please provide years of service, type of service provided and community activity. Documented information showing how, through their efforts, the league player experience has been enhanced, program was developed and implemented, and/or has increased league participation or retention in the section. Must not be anyone who receives a stipend or monetary remuneration.

Bonus factors: long-time service, and participation on section or district committees.

Must be a current USTA Individual or Family Member

OUTSTANDING ADULT/SENIOR TOURNAMENT

An outstanding sanctioned adult/senior tournament will include most of the following criteria:

- 1) Excellent tournament organization
- 2) Fair and proper seeding
- 3) Fair and equitable scheduling
- 4) Adequate staffing for tournaments (referees and umpires, monitors, desk staff and other volunteers)
- 5) Amenities such as water and ice, concessions, towels, spectator viewing area, shade (outdoors)
- 6) Information dissemination, the use of technology to improve tournament
- 7) Good site conditions with adequate indoor backup if needed
- 8) Multiple matches and/or creative formats (e.g. 1 day tournaments)
- 9) USTA Missouri Valley regulations and contract requirements followed
- 10) Rules and regulations followed as outlined in *Friend at Court*

This award will not be given to an adult section level event that is run by USTA Missouri Valley staff.

OUTSTANDING JUNIOR TOURNAMENT

An outstanding sanctioned junior tournament will include most of the following criteria and must not be a section level event:

- 1) Excellent tournament organization
- 2) Fair and proper seeding
- 3) Fair and equitable scheduling
- 4) Adequate staffing for tournaments (referees and umpires, monitors, desk staff and other volunteers)
- 5) Amenities such as water and ice or concessions, towels, spectator viewing area, shade (outdoors)
- 6) Information dissemination, the use of technology to improve tournament
- 7) Good site conditions with adequate indoor backup if needed
- 8) Applicable rules and regulations followed
- 9) Efforts to promote and reward good sportsmanship

Please include details on what distinguishes this event as an outstanding tournament (number of participants, exemplary use of technology, organization of volunteers, tournament survey results, etc.)

LEADERSHIP AWARDS

HIGH SCHOOL COACH OF THE YEAR

Recognition of a high school coach who meets the following criteria:

Supports and promotes USTA programs; high school team had a record of success in win-loss and/or in improvement of players during the season; develops players' physical, mental and emotional abilities during the season and promotes development throughout the rest of the year; maintains high ethical and sportsmanship standards; promotes a passion for tennis in the team, school and community.

Please include in the nomination one to two specific examples of how the nominee promotes play and supports USTA programming outside of the high school.

Must currently be coaching a team (not retired).

Bonus factor: Coaches registered in Net Generation with the Provider Type "No-Cut Coach"

Must be a current USTA Individual or Family Member or school must be a current USTA Organization Member. Must be approved provider in Net Generation.

OUTSTANDING DIVERSITY ACHIEVEMENT

Given to an outstanding USTA Missouri Valley/Heart of America program leader, athlete, organization or administrator for success in providing outreach to the diverse tennis community. This award may include NJTL chapters and/or leaders.

This award is presented to an individual or organization that has championed the cause for diversity both on and off the tennis court. Through hard work, persistence, and unwavering dedication, the nominee has helped to expand the image of tennis to be inclusive of diverse populations. Other considerations are demonstrating a high degree of organizational ability, success in serving all players in the area, quality off and on court programs, management structure, and involvement with the tennis community.

Must be a current USTA Individual or Family Member. Organizations must be a current USTA Organization Member.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Distinguished Service Award recognizes outstanding, long-time performance, dedication and accomplishment of an individual's effort in section level service to **USTA Missouri Valley/Heart of America**.

Criteria to consider when nominating are:

- 1) Must be a current USTA member
- 2) Outstanding and sustained service to the sport through active participation, advocacy, or leadership at the section level of the USTA Missouri Valley/Heart of America, in a manner consistent with the highest standards of the field. These standards may be met in a variety of ways, including activity which involves exceptional creativity, innovation, intellectual, moral courage and leadership.
- 3) A willingness to work with others to improve the game of tennis
- 4) Candidate should have a minimum of 10 years of service to the section (e.g., long term service on section-level committees, chair or vice chair of a section committee(s) section board of directors, section advisor)
- 5) The award may be given posthumously

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

To be defined and selected by the section president annually. Districts do not submit nominations for this award.

OTHER AWARDS

MEDIA EXCELLENCE

Districts do not submit nominations for this award. The USTA Missouri Valley Award Committee will select a recipient based on a coverage report with examples provided by USTA Missouri Valley Communications staff.

Presented annually to an individual or media outlet in recognition of outstanding contributions to the coverage of tennis. Part-time or full-time anchor, reporter, writer, editor, photojournalist, videographer, or other member of the media or freelancers who provide extensive media support for the sport of tennis and its related activities. Criteria includes coverage of USTA Missouri Valley programs and events, awareness building of USTA and/or the game of tennis through features, frequency and depth of coverage and overall involvement in the tennis field.

Nominees need to be in one of three categories:

- 1) Print media (newspaper, magazine)
- 2) Broadcast media (TV, Radio)
- 3) Internet based media (websites, social media, blogs, digital publications, internet radio)

USTA Membership is not required.

OUTSTANDING OFFICIAL*

The USTA Missouri Valley/Heart of America Officials award shall recognize dedication, service, responsiveness, and technical proficiency. It shall be based upon a high standard of officiating and providing appropriate leadership, on and off the court, in the pursuit of umpiring in the USTA Missouri Valley/Heart of America. The umpire shall have worked substantially at section/amateur USTA events, be a positive role model, and be supportive and involved in grassroots programs and events. A referee certification is desirable. The USTA database will be used as the source of the current work record. The recipient shall be selected in consultation with the USTA Missouri Valley Officials Committee Chair.

Bonus factor: Also officiating at high school, college, and/or professional events. (However, an official who is working primarily ITA and/or professional events will not be considered for the award.)

USTA National Award Calendar and Nomination Process Documents:

<https://www.usta.com/en/home/about-usta/usta-awards.html>

USTA HEART OF AMERICA AWARDS

STEPHANIE WATERMAN JUNIOR SPORTSMANSHIP (One Male & One Female)

Must be a current USTA member.

Sportsmanship award given in the memory of Stephanie Waterman to a male and female junior player who best exemplifies the finest qualities of sportsmanship in competitive play including tournaments, USTA Junior Team Tennis and 10&Under Tennis tournaments. Good sportsmanship is an essential element of all junior sports and junior development.

SHAWNA FROESCHL ADULT SPORTSMANSHIP (One Male & One Female)

Must be a current USTA member.

Sportsmanship award given in the memory of Shawna Froeschl to a male and female adult player that has demonstrated exemplary sportsmanship both on and off the court. This award exemplifies the finest qualities of sportsmanship in tournament, leagues, and recreational play.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Must be a current USTA member

Nominees have given exceptional volunteer service throughout the year at Heart of America tournaments, other special events, manning USTA booths at events, etc. All nominees will be reviewed by the USTA HOA Volunteer Coordinator prior to the Awards Committee vote.

COMMUNITY SERVICE EXCELLENCE

Must be a current USTA member

Community service awards are given for recent significant contributions made to tennis development by individuals actively involved in teaching tennis through community centers, schools and parks, inner city or suburban programs.

Must be a current USTA member

Criteria to consider when nominating are:

- 1) Scope of program
- 2) Depth of involvement in community, i.e., impact on community's overall recreational picture
- 3) New and innovative features resulting from candidate's activities
- 4) Inspirational and motivational work with adults or juniors
- 5) Working with other recreational organizations such as the YMCA/YWCA, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc., in the establishment of a community oriented program for USTA Missouri Valley Section and/or USTA HOA District

EVENT OF THE YEAR

USTA Organizational Membership not required

Recognition of a competitive play, non-section or non-national level event such as fundraisers, membership appreciation events, community clinics and trainings, Tennis Play Day, Kids' Tennis Club and other similar events. This event brought tennis to the forefront in the community and mobilized community resources.

For questions, please contact Awards Chair, Kim Hanson, kimlhanson@me.com