



MISSOURI VALLEY

August 2020

Dear USTA Missouri Valley Community:

In mid-October the USTA national office officially announced the 2021 Junior Competitive Structure. This new structure will include seven levels of events that will form the nationwide system called the Junior Tour, along with a series of non-ranking events focused on age-appropriate competition and development called the Net Generation Circuit. The USTA Missouri Valley Junior Competition Committee members approved the implementation of this new seven-level Junior Competitive Structure in the USTA Missouri Valley and its districts effective January 1, 2020 (in effect nationally January 2021). The Junior Competition Committee members and staff are excited and prepared for this rollout. We believe this new structure will provide consistency, more player opportunities, a common language, quality expectations and standards across the sections and districts. Having one unified system will keep it simple for the player, family, coach and facility. In turn, we expect to see growth and sustainability in our sport.

As you will see in the following documents, the committee representatives and district teams have put a great deal of time and effort into creating educational documents to better prepare our constituents for the changes ahead. These documents include a “Level Definitions” document, a tournament structure realignment to mirror the new seven-level events, a “2020 Missouri Valley Junior Ranking Tournament Summary” to simplify selection and rankings, and an “FAQ” to proactively address potential questions. The committee’s goal is to give the USTA Missouri Valley community the opportunity to transition and experience the new system in our section prior to the live switch nationally on January 1, 2021.

We will begin educating our community at tournaments – beginning towards the end of October and continuing through December. There will also be district meetings, webinars and town hall meetings scheduled, in addition to the distribution of the educational materials mentioned above.

Please take a moment to review the USTA announcement, along with their “Top Ten Things to Know”, “Why These Changes are Occurring” and “USTA Press Release” documents. You may then want to review our USTA Missouri Valley documents, attend district or sectional meetings, engage in our webinars, and familiarize yourself with what to expect January 2020.

Feel free to contact us for any additional questions. Noah Bortnick, Manager of Junior Competition, and I are both available. In addition, your district Junior Competition Committee representative and your district staff are great resources. We look forward to working with our community to help educate and share the new seven-level events and to begin the operations of this new structure on January 1, 2020. Thank you in advance for your patience, thoughts and questions. We expect there will be bumps on our journey, but we look forward to the positive outcomes.

Best Regards,

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In response to the USTA Nationwide Ranking Tournament Proposal effective January 1, 2021, USTA Missouri Valley will be implementing changes to help ease the transition. Below is a summary of these changes.

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Implementation Date: January 1, 2020.

Ranking Tables and Tournaments:

- All ranking tournaments (section and district) will use the same ranking point table
- The section ranking point table will have 7 levels
- Level 1 and Level 2 are allocated to national tournaments
- Level 3 up to two tournaments sanctioned by USTA Missouri Valley that are closed to players of the section
- Level 4 up to eight tournaments sanctioned by USTA Missouri Valley and are closed to section players. Level 4 Tournaments may have flighted draws within the same tournaments that use a table designed for this type of event
- There shall be no requirement to play in any Section Closed Level 3 and 4 tournaments
- Level 5 will be allocated to districts
 - Up to two level 5s per district may be closed to players from the district; however, there shall be no requirement to play in these Closed tournaments. All other Level 5s will be Open to players from any district in USTA Missouri Valley.
 - Level 5 tournaments may have flighted draws within the same tournament and will use a point table designed for this type of event
- Level 6-7 will be allocated to tournaments sanctioned by the district and will be Open to players from any district
 - Flighted and waterfall draws are permitted within the same event
 - No more than 4 rounds may be played in a draw
 - Points earned will be simplified: a specified number of points per win will be earned for the main draw and slightly fewer for a consolation win (with the ¾ playoff treated as a consolation match)
- Any Level 7 tournament with a limited draw will select players from the bottom up
- Each District must sanction tournaments at all applicable levels
- Open tournaments may not reserve spots specifically to accept players from the home district
- USTA membership is required to play a L1-L7 tournament (including a Green Ball L7). Additionally, a player must either be 11 years of age or shall have completed the USTA's 10 and Under Youth Progression

Section Level 3-7 Tournament Descriptions

- Green Ball (12 & Under division only) is permitted at L7 only; All other levels are Yellow Ball only
- Tournaments may be Singles Only; Doubles Only; or Singles with Doubles
- No late entries accepted
- Match formats may be shortened when inclement weather or other circumstances prevent a tournament from finishing on time

Level	Length	Match & Scoring Formats	Draw Formats
7: Low-Level Intermediate	½ Day to up to 1 Day	Single short set One set to 6 games Best of 3 short sets with 7 pt TB in lieu of 3rd	0-2 Draw Cancelled 3-5 One Round Robin bracket 6-7 Two Round Robin bracket with cross play (4th place finisher in 4-draw pool will not participate in cross play) 8-9 Two Round Robin brackets with no cross play. There will be two 1st place finishers. 10 Two Round Robin brackets with no cross play. There will be two 1st Place finishers. 11-13 Three Round Robin brackets with no cross play. There will be three 1st place finishers and three finalists 14-16 Compass Draw. There will be one 1st place finisher 17+ Multiple Round Robin brackets with no cross play. There will be four 1st place finishers and four finalists Doubles-Single Elimination* <i>*Does not apply to doubles only events</i>



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6: Intermediate	Up to 2 days (unless 3-days approved)	Ad scoring Best of 3 sets with Match Tiebreak in lieu of 3rd set Best of 3 short sets, with 7 pt TB in lieu of 3rd Singles Consolation - Short sets, 8-game pro set Doubles - 8-game pro set Team Event - Dominant Duo	0-2 Draw Cancelled 3-5 One Round Robin Bracket 6-8 Feed-In Championship through Semifinals 9-12 Feed-in Championship through Quarters with 3rd/4th playoff 13-16 Feed-in Championship through the Quarters, Consolation final will not be played Compass Draw, Dominant Duo Doubles-Single Elimination* <i>*Does not apply to doubles only events</i>
6: Intermediate	Up to 2 (Unless 3-days approved)	Doubles Only: Best of 3 sets, Best of 3 sets with match tie break, Best of 3 short sets with 7 pt TB, 8-game pro set	0-2 Draw Cancelled 3-5 One Round Robin Bracket 6-8 Feed-In Championship through Semifinals 9-12 Feed-in Championship through Quarters with 3rd/4th playoff 13-16 Feed-in Championship through the Quarters, Consolation final will not be played
5: High-Level Intermediate	Up to 3 Days	Best of 3 Sets with 10 pt. match tiebreak in lieu of the 3rd set Best of 3 Short Sets with 7 pt. match tiebreaker in lieu of the 3rd set Consolation: Best of 3 short sets with 7pt. match tiebreaker in lieu of the 3rd set Best of 3 Sets with 10 pt. match tiebreak in lieu of the 3rd set Team Event: Dominant Duo	0-2 Draw Cancelled 3-5 One Round Robin Bracket 6-16 Feed-in Championship through Quarters with 3rd/4th playoff 17-24 Feed-in Consolation through Quarters or Feed-in Consolation through R16 with 5-8 playoff, 3rd/4th playoff Compass Draw, Dominant Duo Doubles-Single Elimination* <i>*Does not apply to doubles only events</i>
5: High- Level Intermediate	Up to 3 days	Doubles Only: Best of 3 sets, Best of 3 sets with match tie break, Best of 3 short sets with 7 pt TB, 8-game pro set	0-2 Draw Cancelled 3-5 One Round Robin Bracket 6-16 Feed-in Championship through Quarters with 3rd/4th playoff 17-24 Feed-in Consolation through Quarters or Feed-in Consolation through R16 with 5-8 playoff, 3rd/4th playoff
Level 4: Advanced	Up to 4 Days	Best of 3 with Match Tiebreak in lieu of 3rd Singles Consolation (indoors) - Best of 3 short sets Singles Consolation (outdoors) - Best of 3 with Match Tiebreak in lieu of 3rd Doubles - 8-game pro set (No doubles at indoor sites)	32 FIC-R16 Doubles - Single Elimination Dominant Duo Team Format
Level 3: Advanced (Section)	4+ Days Permitted	Best of 3 with Match Tiebreak in lieu of 3rd Singles Consolation (indoors) - Best of 3 short sets Singles Consolation (outdoors) - Best of 3 with Match Tiebreak in lieu of 3rd Doubles - 8-game pro set (No doubles at indoor sites)	32 FIC-R16 Doubles - Single Elimination



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Ranking System:

- 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 district and section tournaments (L3-L7), USTA National tournaments (L1-L3) or ITF tournament (that use TDM) will be included
- When ranking lists are used for selection for Section L3 and L4, L5, L6, L7, the USTA Missouri Valley Standings List will be the lists used. In the case of Closed section and Closed district tournaments, the USTA Missouri Valley Standings Lists will be used, but only players from the section or districts will be selected
- Standings Lists will be published weekly

Sectional Endorsement List (Name change to Quota List in 2021): Sectional Endorsement Lists will be based on the player's best 6 singles and best 6 doubles results during the previous 12-month period, except that

- In the BG 18,16, and 14 divisions, no more than 3 singles and 3 doubles results can be from tournaments sanctioned by an entity other than the USTA Missouri Valley; and
- In the BG 12 divisions, no more than 2 singles and 2 doubles results can be from tournaments sanctioned by an entity other than the USTA Missouri Valley
- Section Endorsement Lists will be published as follows:
 - USTA National Clays - players are listed in the order in which they appear on the USTA Missouri Valley Standings List published immediately after June Level 4
 - USTA National Hards - players are listed in the order in which they appear on the USTA Missouri Valley Standings List published immediately after June Level 3
 - USTA National Indoors - players are listed in the order in which they appear on the USTA Missouri Valley Standings List published immediately after September Level 4
 - USTA National Winter Championships (BG14-18 Divisions) - players are listed in the order in which they appear on the USTA Missouri Valley Standings List published immediately after November Level 3
 - National Doubles Championships - USTA Missouri Valley will order teams who register based on the highest combined singles ranking of the most recent USTA Missouri Valley Standing List available

USTA Junior Tour Powered by Net Generation	<i>Tournament</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Summarized Definitions</i>	<i>Skills</i>	<i>Other Comments</i>
	ITF Juniors	Advanced				
	L1	Advanced	USTA: top 200 MV: top 10	Having success at L3 and L2. Intensive training for national competition. Regional and national travel. On an established college pathway.	This player has mastered power and/or consistency as a major weapon. The player can vary strategies and styles of play in a competitive situation and hit dependable shots in a stress situation	Up to week long, elimination formats
	L2	Advanced	USTA: top 300 MV: top 20	Having success at L3. Intensive training for national competition. Regional and national travel. On an established college pathway.	This player has mastered power and/or consistency as a major weapon. The player can vary strategies and styles of play in a competitive situation and hit dependable shots in a stress situation	4+ days, elimination formats
	L3	Advanced (Section)	USTA: top 400 MV: top 30	Highest level of Section competition, bridgeway to national level events, consistently winning matches at multiple L4. On an established college pathway.	This player has good shot anticipation and frequently have an outstanding shot or attribute around which a game may be structured. The player can regularly hit winners or force errors off of short balls and can put away volleys. You can successfully execute lobs, drop shots, half volleys, overhands and have good depth and spin on most second serves.	4+ days, elimination formats
	L4	Advanced	MV: top 50	Higher level of competition for the advanced player consistently winning matches at multiple L5. Willing to commit up to 4 days of competition. Expanded travel within the region. Interested in collegiate pathway	This player has developed your use of power and spin and can handle pace. The player has sound footwork, can control depth of shots, and attempt to vary game plan according to your opponents. This player can hit first serves with power and accuracy and place the second serve. This player tends to overhit on difficult shots. Aggressive net play is common in doubles.	Up to 4 days, elimination formats
	L5	High-Level Intermediate	MV: top 100	Opportunity for a player that has competed at the L7 and L6 levels. Entry point for players aging up. Increasing travel within district and beginning to participate in section level tournaments	This player can vary the use of pace and spins, has effective court coverage, can control depth of shots, and is able to develop game plans according to strengths and weakness. This player can hit the first serve with power and accuracy and can place the second serve. This player has good shot anticipation and frequently has an outstanding shot or attribute around which his or her game can be structured. This player can regularly hit winners or force errors off of short balls and puts away volleys. This player tends to overhit on difficult shots. Aggressive net play is common in doubles.	Up to 3 days, may be elimination formats
	L6	Intermediate		Continued opportunity to build a ranking. Play closer to home. Level based play draw formats Open division with multiple levels	This player is fairly consistent when hitting medium-paced shots, but is not comfortable with all strokes and lacks accuracy when trying for directional control, depth, pace or altering distance of shots. This player is more comfortable at the net, has improved court awareness, and is developing teamwork in doubles. Players at this level may start to utilize mental skills related to concentration, tactics and strategy	Up to 2 days, non-elimination
	L7	Low-Level intermediate		First opportunity to earn points and gain a ranking. Selects players from the bottom up to allow new (to ranking tournaments) players an opportunity.	This player is learning to judge where the oncoming ball is going and how much swing is needed to return in consistently. Movement to the ball and recovery are often not efficient. Can sustain a backcourt rally of slow pace with other players of similar ability and is beginning to develop strokes. This player is becoming more familiar with the basic positions for singles and doubles, and is ready to play social matches, leagues and low-level tournaments. Ability to keep score independently.	half day up to one day, non-elimination



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	<i>Event</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Net Generation Circuit	Level-Based Play Events	Intermediate/Advanced	Use of ratings to group players of like ability together
	Team Tournament - Round Robins	Advanced	A non-elimination format for individual competition emphasizing results and ratings
	Team Tournament - Dominant Duo	Intermediate	A fun non-elimination team format using a compass draw focusing more on individual play
	Team Tournament - Team 3v3	Novice	An innovative substitution format with increased competition focusing on team results
	Team League	Intermediate/Advanced	A team commitment to a season of match play counting towards league standings
	Team Challenge	Novice/Intermediate	A low pressure team environment introducing competition without an emphasis on results



2020 USTA Missouri Valley Rule Changes FAQ

Q. What tournaments are considered USTA Missouri Valley tournaments?

A. USTA Missouri Valley tournaments will be Level 3 and Level 4 events
Levels 5, 6, and 7 will be sanctioned by one of the 7 districts in USTA Missouri Valley

Q. I thought the Sweet 16 is a Level 1 USTA Missouri Valley event and Supers is a Level 2 USTA Missouri Valley event. What will happen to these events?

A. With the levels of these events changing, there will not be Sweet 16, Supers, or Futures moving forward in 2020. The tournament level structure will change in the following ways:

- Sweet 16: Will become USTA Missouri Valley Level 3 sanctioned events
- Supers and Futures: Will become USTA Missouri Valley Level 4 sanctioned events

Q. How will I be endorsed into national tournaments if there is no Sweet 16 or Supers?

A.

- USTA National Clays - players are listed in the order in which they appear on the USTA Missouri Valley Standings List published immediately after June Level 4
- USTA National Hards - players are listed in the order in which they appear on the USTA Missouri Valley Standings List published immediately after June Level 3
- USTA National Indoors - players are listed in the order in which they appear on the USTA Missouri Valley Standings List published immediately after September Level 4
- USTA National Winter Championships (BG14-18 Divisions) - players are listed in the order in which they appear on the USTA Missouri Valley Standings List published immediately after November Level 3
- National Doubles Championships - USTA Missouri Valley will order teams who register based on the highest combined singles ranking of the most recent USTA Missouri Valley Standing List available

Q. Can I be endorsed into USTA Missouri Valley Level 3 or USTA Missouri Valley Level 4 events? What will the selection process look like?

A. For all USTA Missouri Valley events Levels 3-7, selection will be based upon the USTA Missouri Valley Standings List

Q. What can we expect from the new rankings system? What will be included in the calculations of the new rankings?

A.

- 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 district and section tournaments (L3-L7), USTA national tournaments (L1-L3) or ITF tournament (that use TDM) will be included
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- Standings Lists will be published weekly



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Q. What do you mean my ranking points will be counted up?

A. 20% of the points earned in your current age group will count up towards the next division. Our hope of counting points up is that it will encourage the junior players to compete in their specific age division.

Consider the following examples:

- I'm age-eligible for 12s and I played in a 14s event. Of the points I earned in this event for the 14s, the total points will count down in the 12s (provided they are one of my top 6 singles and top 6 doubles) and 20% will count up in the 16s (provided they are one of my top 6 singles and top 6 doubles).
- I'm age eligible for the 16s, but decided to play in an 18s event. Of the points I earned in this event (assuming they are eligible to be counted in my USTA Missouri Valley ranking) the total amount of points will be counted toward the 18s and the 16s. Since there is no junior age group after the 18s, the points will not advance past the 18s.

Q. What do you mean there will be open borders in the USTA Missouri Valley in 2021?

A. USTA Missouri Valley players will be able to compete in others sections and allow points earned to count toward their USTA Missouri Valley ranking in 2021.

Q. I am part of USTA Missouri Valley and compete in a USTA national tournament. Will the points I won from this event be counted towards the USTA Missouri Valley Standings List?

A. Yes, 3 singles and 3 doubles scores can be counted towards your USTA Missouri Valley Ranking. For these points to be included, they must be in your top 6 singles and doubles points totals.

Q. With the new levels in our section, how do I know which tournament my novice/intermediate player should sign up for?

A. Levels 3 and 4 will be designated to our advanced section level tournaments. Tournaments that are Levels 5,6,7 will be designated to our USTA Missouri Valley District Junior Competition. Please see the Levels Definition chart on page 5.

Q. What are the definitions of "Open District" versus "Closed District" tournaments?

A.

- Open District: Events that any junior members of USTA Missouri Valley will be able to register for regardless of the district he or she lives in.
- Closed District: Events that only junior members of the district in which the event is being hosted will be able to register for.