

USTA Junior Suspension Point System

A Snapshot

(for full details please visit [Friend at Court](#))



Why is there a Suspension Point System? The purpose of the USTA Suspension Point System is to ensure fair and reasonable standards of conduct by all Missouri Valley players playing in any USTA sanctioned tournament. It is also designed to create a fair environment for junior players.

Where are points applied? The USTA Junior Suspension Point System applies to all sanctioned junior tournaments and is tracked online. It applies to conduct during all matches (main draw, compass draw, consolation, qualifying, and doubles), during tournament activities, at tournament facilities, and at facilities such as hotels, dorms, and homes where players stay. Additionally, each suspension point assessed at ITF Junior Tournaments becomes one point under the USTA Junior Suspension Point System.

What are the Suspension Points?: The USTA Missouri Valley will follow the schedule of suspension Points outlined in [Friend at Court](#). A player may receive anywhere from 2-10 suspension points depending on the severity of the violation. The table of suspension points is outlined in Table 18 of [Friend at Court](#) and at the end of this document.

How will I know if I received a suspension point?: Anytime you are assessed a point, game, or match penalty by an official, a code of conduct report should be filed indicating assessment of suspension points. The Referee and/or Tournament Director is asked to notify the player of any points earned within 7 days after the end of the tournament, however the player is ultimately responsible for tracking his or her own points. Failure to notify the player or record the method of notification does not invalidate points assessed. If you are not sure of your status, please check with your section Program Manager.

What actions are considered violations?

Please see the listing of violations at the end of this document

Who is authorized to assess points? Anyone who observes misconduct should report it to the Referee, however only the Referee, Designee of a Sectional Association that sanctions the tournament, or the Director or Junior Competition may assess points.

How many points can I receive before getting suspended?

First Suspension: When 10 or more points are accumulated within a 12 month period, the player will be suspended from competing in sanctioned tournaments for three months. (If no USTA National Championship falls during the 3-month period, the player shall not be accepted into the USTA National Championship immediately following the 3-month suspension period). Upon suspension, these 10 points shall be cleared from the player's record. All other suspension points shall remain on the player's record and count towards a second suspension.

Second Suspension: If a player received 8 suspension points within the 12 months immediately following the first suspension, the player shall be suspended from competing in sanctioned tournaments for six months. Upon suspension, these 8 points shall be cleared from the player's record. All other suspension points shall remain on the record and count towards a third suspension.

Subsequent Suspensions: If a player receives 6 suspension points within the 12 month period immediately following the second suspension (and any suspensions subsequent to the second suspension), the player shall be suspended from competing in sanctioned tournaments for a period to be determined by the Director of Junior Competition, the Chairperson of the Junior Competition and Sportsmanship Committee and one additional member of the Committee to be appointed by the Chair. The suspension period shall not be less than one year and may be up to the remainder of the player's junior career. These 6 points shall be cleared from the player's record.

How will I know I've been suspended?

The Director of Junior Competition shall send a notice by first class mail and by certified mail to the player address listed with USTA membership.

When will my suspension begin?

Your suspension will begin 30 days after the date the notice was mailed unless you choose to appeal the suspension OR the player requests that the suspension start immediately. If the player appeals and the appeal is denied, the suspension begins on the date the decision is mailed unless the decision states otherwise.

What if I think the suspension is unfair?

You have the right to appeal the suspension. If any or all of the points on the player record occurred at national or ITF events, the player must appeal to the USTA Grievance Committee. If the suspension points are assessed at Missouri Valley tournaments, the player must appeal to the USTA Missouri Valley Grievance Committee. All appeals must be made in writing within 30 days of the mailing notice of the suspension.

Suspension Point System:

1. **Application.** The USTA Junior Suspension Point System applies to sanctioned Junior Tournaments
 - during all matches (main draw, compass draw, consolation, qualifying, and doubles);
 - during tournament activities;
 - at tournament facilities; and
 - at facilities, such as hotels, dormitories, and homes where players stay.

2. **Suspension Points.** The Tournament Director and/or Referee shall record suspension points online upon being notified of the following violations(table published annually in Friend at Court):
 - a. Code Violations under the Point Penalty System. Each Code Violation(point, game, or default) except that players who receive Code Violations because of delay immediately after a Medical Timeout or because of obvious cramping are not assessed suspension points
 - Point 2 points
 - Game 2 points
 - Default 2 points

 - b. Defaults.
 - Default for a flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant inappropriate conduct on or off the court 8 points
 - Default for refusal to play or continue to play for any reason other than illness, injury, or Personal emergency 5 points
 - Defaults because of adult discipline 5 points
 - Default for no-show 5 points
 - Default due to late arrival for a match. 1 point
 - Disqualification for ineligibility 3 points

Suspension Points for defaults are in addition to points previously assessed for codes

 - c. Improper Entry or Withdrawals.
 - Being entered when entries close in two or more sanctioned tournaments scheduled to overlap unless each Tournament Committee approves the **multiple entries** in writing 5 points
 - Withdrawal from a tournament (singles or doubles) after entries have closed for any reason other than injury, illness, personal circumstance, or previously authorized entry into another tournament 4 points

 - d. Unsportsmanlike Conduct.
 - Unsportsmanlike conduct or inappropriate conduct on court after a match that would have resulted in a code violation had it occurred during the match 2 points
 - Unsportsmanlike or inappropriate conduct on court after a match or off court at locations such as the tournament site, hotel, housing, or tournament sponsored events 5 points
 - Flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant inappropriate conduct regardless of the venue or medium. This includes but is not limited to, conduct at tournament sites, activities, hotels or other housing, or online 8-10 points
 - Not using best efforts to win 2 points

 - e. Gross Misconduct.
 - Physical act of violence against another person on or off the court by a player, parent, relative, coach, or other person associated with a player 10 points
 - Illegal use of drugs or possession of illegal drugs 8 points
 - Possession or consumption of alcohol beverages 8 points
 - Gambling activity (as defined in USTA Regulation IV.C.19) 8 points
 - Destruction of property 8 points

 - f. Playing While Under Suspension. Competing in any sanctioned tournament while under suspension by the USTA or one of its Sectional Associations 10 points

 - g. ITF Suspension Points. Each suspension point assessed at ITF Junior tournaments and USTA International Tournaments become one suspension point under the Suspension Point System 1 point

3. **Reporting Misconduct.** Persons who observe misconduct on or off the court should report it to the Referee
4. **Assessing and Reporting Suspension Points:** Only the Referee, Designee of a Sectional Association that sanctions the tournament, or the Director of Junior Competition may assess suspension points. Points shall be assessed pursuant to Table 18 and reported within three days after the end of the tournament. Failure to report shall not invalidate any penalties imposed or suspension points assessed.

Note: The Referee, designee of a sectional association that sanctions the tournament, or the Director of Junior Competition shall determine the number of suspension points between 8-10 that shall be assessed based on the seriousness of the conduct.