



## **NEW ENGLAND**

USTA New England 2021 Adult Regulations

Date: January 1, 2021

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## I. GENERAL

The following regulations outlined apply to the USTA Adult and Family Tournaments and Section and District Adult and Family Ranking tournaments all of which count for national ranking. The following regulations also reference and implement rules and regulations from the Friend at Court Handbook.

## II. TOURNAMENT CIRCUITS

### A. Divisions of Play

1. Men's Singles and Doubles, Women's Singles and Doubles, and Mixed Doubles are offered in the following divisions of play:
  - a) **Open Divisions:** Open events are the most competitive events offered, and provide a high level of competition for experienced players.
  - b) **Senior Divisions:** (35, 45, 50, 55\*, 60, 65\*, 70, 75, 80\*, 85\*, 90\*) – Senior division events follow USTA National age groupings and are open to any player who is at or older than the age level of the event, or turns that age within the calendar year. Players may play in a younger age group, but are not eligible to play in an older age division. Men's divisions are offered in ages with an asterisk (\*).
    - (1) Mixed 35 doubles - men and women 35 and above
    - (2) Mixed 45 doubles - men and women 45 and above
    - (3) Mixed 55 doubles - men and women 55 and above
    - (4) Mixed 65 doubles - men and women 65 and above
  - c) **Family Divisions:** (Father/Son, Mother/Daughter) Family doubles are open to members of the same family without age restrictions.
  - d) **NTRP Divisions** (3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 Singles and Doubles, and Combined Mixed 6.0, 7.0, 8.0 & 9.0 Doubles) - The National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) classifies players in specific skill categories (NTRP ratings) to ensure competitive competition. The following criteria and procedures apply:
    - (1) Players must enter NTRP events at or above their NTRP rating. (Example: a 3.5 singles player may play in 3.5 and 4.0 events, but not in 3.0 events.)
    - (2) In men's and women's doubles, both players must enter events at or above their NTRP rating. (Example: a 3.5 and 4.0 doubles team may play in 4.0 events, but not in 3.5 events.)
    - (3) In mixed doubles, both players must enter events at or above their combined NTRP rating, and their NTRP ratings must be within one point. (Same as USTA League rules. Examples: a 4.0-4.0 doubles team and a 3.5-4.5 doubles team may enter a Combined Mixed 8.0 or 9.0 event. A 3.0-5.0 doubles team may not enter any combined mixed event.
    - (4) A player must be 18 years or older in the calendar year of the event to play in an NTRP tournament.

### B. Elite Level - Level 4

1. New England Level 4 singles and doubles events offer an advanced level of competition and award National Ranking Points. Up to two closed Level 4 tournaments in each division and one or more open Level 4 tournaments in each division are allotted to the New England section.
2. **Important:** open Level 4 tournaments are open to players from any sectional association.
3. Singles draws for the Level 4 events are Feed-in Championship (FIC) through the round of 16 format. Semi-final losers playoff for third place (winner third, loser fourth). All main matches are best of three tie break sets and use regular scoring while all consolation matches are best of three tie break sets and use a 10 point tiebreak in lieu of the third.
4. Doubles draws for Level 4 events are a Feed-In Championship through the Round of 16. Semi-final loser's playoff for third and fourth place (winner third, loser fourth). All main matches are best of three tie break sets and use regular scoring while all consolation matches are best of three tie break sets and use a 10 point tie break in lieu of the third.
5. The Tournament Director has the right to limit the size of a draw if he or she deems it necessary and this limit is posted prior to the registration (entries) open date on the tournament home page.

6. **Selection** into closed Level 4 singles and doubles events is based on the most recently published National Standing list that is filtered to include only players who are residents of the sectional association. Players are selected in descending order with the highest rankings players selected first. Selection is not on a first come, first-served basis.
7. **Selection** into open Level 4 singles events is based on the most recently published National Standing list available, in descending order with the highest rankings players selected first. Selection is not on a first come, first-served basis.

#### C. Advanced Level - Level 5

1. New England Level 5 singles and doubles events offer an advanced level of competition for USTA members of any Sectional Association and award National Ranking Points.
2. Singles draws for all Level 5 events are Feed-in Championship (FIC) through the round of 16 format. Semi-final losers playoff for third place (winner third, loser fourth) and round of 16 and quarter-final losers playoff for fifth place. All main draw matches are best of three tie break sets and use regular scoring while all consolation matches are best of three tiebreak sets and use a 10 point tie break in lieu of the third. **Note: where applicable, an increase in draw size will be approved.**
3. Double draws for Level 5 events are Feed-in Championship (FIC) through the round of 16 format. Main draw semi-final loser's playoff for third and fourth place. (Consolation finals are not played). All matches are eight game pro sets with regular scoring and a set tie break at 8-8.
4. The Tournament Director has the right to limit the size of a draw if he or she deems it necessary and this limit is posted prior to the registration (entries) open date on the tournament home page.
5. **Selection** into Level 5 singles events is based on the most recently published combined National Standing list available, in descending order with the highest rankings players selected first. Selection is not on a first come, first-served basis.

#### D. Intermediate Level - Level 6

1. New England Level 6 singles and doubles events offer an intermediate level of competition for USTA members of any Sectional Association and award National Ranking Points.
2. Singles and doubles draws for all Level 6 events are one or two day events with round robin flights or Feed-in Championship (FIC) through the round of 16 format.
  - a) Doubles - All matches are eight (8) game sets with no-ad scoring and a set tie break at 8-8. A multi day event offering singles and doubles may play the doubles with round robin, eight (8) game set.
3. The Tournament Director has the right to limit the size of a draw if he or she deems it necessary and this limit is posted prior to the registration (entries) open date on the tournament home page.
4. **Selection** into Level 6 singles and doubles events is based on the most recently published combined National Standing list available, in descending order with the highest rankings players selected first. Selection is not on a first come, first-served basis.
5. Players (teams) play 2 matches in flights of 3, 3 matches in a flight of 4, and 4 matches in flights of 5.
6. In a tie break set, the first player (team) to win six games, by a margin of at least two games, is the winner. If the score reaches 6-games all, a Set Tie break (12-point tie-break, first to 7 points by a margin of two) should be played. This means a player (team) can win 6-0, 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4, 7-5 or 7-6.
7. Determining the order of finish. The player who wins the most matches is the winner. If two players are tied, then the winner of the head to head match is the winner. If three or more players are tied, the Referee shall take the following steps to determine the order of finish:
  - a) The head-to-head win-loss record in matches involving just the tied players;
  - b) The player with the highest percentage of sets won of all sets completed;
  - c) The head-to-head win-loss record in matches involving the players who remain tied;
  - d) The player with the highest percentage of games won of all games completed;
  - e) To the extent that the above methods eliminate players (teams) from consideration at any step, the win-loss record between the remaining players (teams) shall be considered before going on to the next step.

- f) If the Referee has applied all the steps and a tie still cannot be broken, the Referee shall use a random drawing among the remaining tied players to determine their order of finish.

#### E. Entry Level - Level 7

1. New England Level 7 singles and doubles events are used as an entry into competition for USTA members of any Sectional Association and awards National Ranking Points.
2. Singles and doubles draws for all Level 7 events are one (1) day events with round robin flights. All matches are either timed matches or are best of one set to six (6) with no-ad scoring and a set tie break at 6-6. For doubles all matches are eight (8) game sets with no-ad scoring and a set tie break at 8-8. A multi day event offering singles and doubles may play the doubles with round robin, eight (8) game set.
3. In a flight of 3 players eight (8) game pro sets with no-ad scoring may be used - this includes a flight of four (4) players where one player withdraws. In a flight of three (3) players where one player withdraws the remaining two (2) players may play best two out of three tie break sets with a 10-point tiebreaker in lieu of a 3rd set.
4. The Tournament Director has the right to limit the size of a draw if he or she deems it necessary and this limit is posted prior to the registration (entries) open date on the tournament home page.
5. **Selection** into Level 7 singles and doubles events is based on the most recently published combined National Standing list available, players (teams) are selected to flights in ascending order, from the bottom up with players with no standing first and then up the standings. Selection is not on a first come, first-served basis.
6. Determining the order of finish. The player who wins the most matches is the winner. If two players are tied, then the winner of the head to head match is the winner. If three or more players are tied, the Referee shall take the following steps to determine the order of finish:
  - A. The head-to-head win-loss record in matches involving just the tied players;
  - B. The player with the highest percentage of sets won of all sets completed;
  - C. The head-to-head win-loss record in matches involving the players who remain tied;
  - D. The player with the highest percentage of games won of all games completed;
  - E. To the extent that the above methods eliminate players (teams) from consideration at any step, the win-loss record between the remaining players (teams) shall be considered before going on to the next step.
  - F. If the Referee has applied all the steps and a tie still cannot be broken, the Referee shall use a random drawing among the remaining tied players to determine their order of finish.

### III. TOURNAMENT ENTRY

A player may register online using the Serve Tennis Software, or may register by contacting the tournament director per the information that is available on the tournament home page.

#### A. Online Entry, Entry Deadlines and Withdrawal

1. Players enter USTA New England tournaments using the online Serve Tennis Platform.
2. Entry Deadlines are as follows:

Level	Registration Deadline
3	Wednesday - 9 days prior to start of play 5:59pm
4	Wednesday - 9 days prior to start of play 5:59pm
5	Thursday - 8 days prior to start of play 5:59pm
6 & 7	Sunday Night - 6 days prior to the start of play 5:59pm
Midweek	Sunday Night - 6 days prior to the start of play 5:59pm

3. Players withdrawing from tournaments prior to the entry deadline must use the online Serve Tennis Registration System to do so. Players withdrawing after the registration deadline must contact the tournament director immediately.

#### B. Late Entries and Onsite Alternates

1. Tournament entries (and requests to change divisions) received after the published tournament deadline may be accepted at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
2. After the tournament draw is made, a late entry, or a player coming to a tournament as an onsite alternate, may be accepted to replace a withdrawing player, **if the replacement does not invalidate the seeding**. (A replacement player who will be unseeded may replace a seeded or unseeded player, and a replacement player who will be seeded may replace a player with equal or higher seeding).

#### C. Refunds

1. The Tournament Director shall refund a player's entry fee is:
  - a) A player withdraws before the entry deadline;
  - b) If the player did not play a match because their only opponent withdrew;
  - c) If the player plays no matches because the tournament is cancelled due to inclement weather
2. The Serve Tennis processing fee is non-refundable in the above instances.
  - a) If a player is selected in error, the Tournament Director is responsible for refunding the full registration fee including the Serve Tennis processing fee.

### IV. TOURNAMENT DRAWS

#### A. Selection

1. Selection into all singles tournaments is based on the most recently published combined National Standing List available, in descending order, with the highest ranked players 1, 2, 3 ... selected first, and not on a first-come, first-served basis.
2. Selection into all doubles tournaments is based on the most recently published Doubles National Standing List in descending order and not on a first-come, first-served basis. Tournament Directors will randomly match selected doubles players who do not identify a partner.
3. Selected players are randomly selected into the draw using Serve Tennis software. Tournament Directors may separate siblings from playing each other in the first round of a singles or doubles draw or from a round robin flight.
4. Ties will be broken as follows: For singles a player whose best event has the highest number of points, second best, third best, etc through eight events. For doubles the total points of both players for each team are added together.
5. If the number of applications for entry exceeds the size limit of the draw, the following procedure will be used. Players are selected according to the most current standing list available. In all L7 divisions players must be selected using a bottom up approach whereby the unranked and lowest ranked players on the most current standing list available are selected first until the draw limit is reached.
6. USTA New England expects that all tournaments and events, once scheduled, will be held. An event consisting of 3 or less players will be played out in a Round Robin format.
7. At one day doubles only tournaments when a team withdraws from the main draw the tournament director will replace the withdrawn team in the consolation draw with a BYE. The withdrawn team will remain in the consolation if they are able to play (ex. they were defaulted late for the main draw or a player was temporarily ill but is able to play a consolation match a couple of hours later.) A team that gets a withdrawal win in the main draw and then loses will not go into the consolation draw. Tournament directors will be advised to attempt to give this team a second play opportunity for the practice but not as part of the consolation draw for points and scheduled as if it were a match for points.

#### B. Seeding

1. Seeding for singles tournaments is based on the most recently published National Seeding List available and is done using the auto seed function of the USTA Serve Tennis Software.

2. Seeding for doubles tournaments is based on the most recently published National Seeding List available using the average doubles rankings of each team (pair). Ties will be broken by adding the total points of both players for each team together.
3. Ties will be broken as follows: A player whose best event has the highest number of points, second best, third best, etc through eight events.
4. Number of seeds in singles and doubles draws:

Draw Size	Number of Seeds
Up to 8	2 seeds: all seeded numerically
Up to 16	4 seeds: all seeded numerically
Up to 32	8 seeds: all seeded numerically

5. A player may register online using the Serve Tennis Software, or may register by contacting the tournament director per the information that is available on the tournament home page.

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1. Players enter USTA New England tournaments using the online Serve Tennis Platform.
2. Entry Deadlines are as follows:

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3. Players withdrawing from tournaments prior to the entry deadline must use the online Serve Tennis Registration System to do so. Players withdrawing after the registration deadline must contact the tournament director immediately.

#### C. Late Entries and Onsite Alternates

1. Tournament entries (and requests to change divisions) received after the published tournament deadline may be accepted at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
2. After the tournament draw is made, a late entry, or a player coming to a tournament as an onsite alternate, may be accepted to replace a withdrawing player, **if the replacement does not invalidate the seeding**. (A replacement player who will be unseeded may replace a seeded or unseeded player, and a replacement player who will be seeded may replace a player with equal or higher seeding).

#### D. Refunds

6. The Tournament Director shall refund a players entry fee is:
  - a) A player withdraws before the entry deadline;
  - b) If the player did not play a match because their only opponent withdrew;
  - c) If the player plays no matches because the tournament is cancelled due to inclement weather
7. The Serve Tennis processing fee is non-refundable in the above instances.
  - a) If a player is selected in error, the Tournament Director is responsible for refunding the full registration fee including the Serve Tennis processing fee.

## V. TOURNAMENT MATCH PLAY

### A. Match Start Times

1. All Tournament Directors must publish the draw with all match times for each event to the tournament homepage by 8:00pm on Tuesday night or 72 hours before the start time of the first match of the tournament (whichever comes first). Players are responsible for obtaining their own match time by checking the Serve Tennis Tournament Home Page.

### B. Earliest Start Time

1. All divisions: no earlier than 8:00am on a weekend or holiday weekend and no earlier than 4:00pm for a weekday match.
  - a) Important Note: Tournament Directors have the flexibility to begin Senior Division matches prior to 4pm for weekdays.
  - b) **Note: A player must be given 12 hours rest between the end of a night match and the beginning of the next day's match.**

### C. Latest Start Time

1. In all divisions: no later than 10:00pm.

### D. Start Day

1. The first date of a scheduled event, unless 16 or fewer entries in a division, where play may not start before Saturday or second day of scheduled 3 day event. Summer or school vacation events with a division with 16 or fewer entries may start play on the first date of the scheduled event if this is posted on the tournament home page before the 'Entries Open' date. Round Robin events may not start on a Friday of a week that public schools are in session.

### E. Lateness Penalty

1. Players are expected to check and comply with all scheduling done by the tournament. A player is deemed to have arrived when the player checks in at the place designated for checking in and is properly clothed, equipped and ready to play. The lateness penalty clock starts when the match is called, a court is available and a player has not arrived.
2. Penalties for late arrival are as follows:

Timing	Penalty
5 minutes or less	Loss of Toss plus 1 game
5:01-10:00 minutes	Loss of toss plus 2 games Doubles team: loss of toss plus 1 game and two points
10:01 - 15:00	Loss of toss plus 3 games Doubles team: loss of toss plus 2 games
More than 15:00 minutes	Default

### F. Number of Matches Per Day

1. Round-Robin: Maximum of 4 matches per day, of which only four (4) may be singles sets.
2. Feed-in Championships through the Round of 16 - Maximum of two (2) singles matches per day, of which can be best 2 out of 3 sets. Maximum of four (4) doubles matches per day.
3. In the 70's and above divisions, In any combination of singles and doubles (including consolations) the total matches played per day may not exceed two.

### G. Rest Periods - Friend at Court - Time Allowed Between Sets

1. Changeovers: There is no rest period on the changeover after the first game of each set and during a tie-break. After the end of every odd game, players are entitled to a maximum of 90 seconds (a minute and a half) of rest.
2. Between First and Second Sets - Maximum of 120 seconds (2 minutes) of rest.

3. Between Second and Third Sets a ten-minute rest period is mandatory in all divisions. Two minutes in all divisions if a Match Tie-Break is being played in lieu of a third set. Coaching is allowed during this three-minute break.
4. Consecutive Days - A player must be given 12 hours rest between the end of a night match and the beginning of the next day's morning match.

#### **H. Postponed and Interrupted Matches**

1. The postponing and interrupting of matches because of weather, darkness or court conditions shall be at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director. Interrupted matches shall be resumed from the point of interruption as soon as ordered by the Tournament Director. If matches cannot be completed by the published tournament end date then all matches completed to that point will earn points-per-round and count in the standings. The remaining matches will not be rescheduled at a later date.

#### **I. Inclement Weather**

1. In the event of inclement weather forecasts, tournaments do not get cancelled, nor do they get rescheduled. In the event of actual inclement weather; each Tournament Director has the sole authority to exercise their discretion to continue their tournament based upon the ability of the facility being open to do so, and each player (parent), has the sole authority to exercise their own discretion as to whether or not it is safe for them to travel to their match. Any matches that are played and any player(s) that are on site and advance due to a withdrawal will be awarded points-per-round reached.
2. Heat Advisory Rule: In the event of high temperatures, each Tournament Director has the sole authority to exercise their discretion to continue their tournament based upon the ability of the facility. Tournament Directors also have the authority to extend allotted rest times or reschedule match times upon agreement of players.
3. When inclement weather or safety concerns require a Tournament Director to take steps to shorten the tournament to keep the tournament on schedule, they have the sole authority to do so.

#### **J. Continuity of Play**

1. Tournament court time shall be continuous, with a minimum of interruptions by other activities (e.g., clinics, club matches or lessons). Matches should begin as early as possible on each day of a tournament.

#### **K. Different Court Surfaces**

1. In L5, L6 and L7 tournaments matches may be scheduled on different surfaces at the same event, in one age division, only if this is stated prior to the entry deadline on the tournament home page in the schedule.

#### **L. Use of Balls**

1. Three new regulation yellow balls are to be supplied to players at the beginning of every main draw match as well as playoffs in L3, L4 and L5 tournaments.
2. Three new regulation yellow balls are to be supplied to players at the beginning of each Round Robin flight.
3. Tournament Directors have the option of providing three new yellow balls prior to the start of the third set. This should be conveyed to the players prior to the start of the match and if so then the request of either player for a new can of balls to start the third set will be granted.

#### **M. Officiating**

1. It is a USTA New England requirement to have a certified official onsite during match play at L4 singles events. A player must tell their opponents what they are doing when they leave the court to seek an official. The official does not have to stay on one court for the duration of that match.
2. At L5, L6 and L7 events, a player may request an umpire or Tournament Director if need has been demonstrated by a pattern of code violations by an opponent. A player must tell their opponents what they are doing when they leave the court to seek an official or if they leave the court to request a bathroom break. The umpire does not have to stay on that court for the duration of that match.

- The Tournament Director must be prepared to provide an umpire over 18 years of age who knows the rules of tennis and conditions of tournament play for a match. An umpire should be unbiased; therefore, a parent or coach of one of the players in the contested match is not an appropriate umpire for the match. When a Tournament Director assigns someone to adjudicate a match each player continues to call his or her own lines, then if a questionable call has been made a player may appeal to the assigned umpire, this umpire then gives his or her decision based on what he or she has seen. That decision is final.

**N. Tournament Feedback**

- Players are encouraged to provide the Section office with feedback about any adult tournament by using the online tournament evaluation form which can be found on the USTA New England website at this link [Tournament Feedback Form](#).

**VI. SPORTSMANSHIP & CONDUCT**

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 Promise.” Players, persons who appear to be associated with a player (including, but not limited to, parents and coaches), officials, and organizers of any tournament are under a duty to encourage and maintain high standards of proper conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship. They are under an obligation to avoid acts that may be considered detrimental to the game of tennis.

**A. Point Penalty System - Code Violations and Penalties - [USTA Friend at Court](#)**

TABLE 14 POINT PENALTY SYSTEM (PPS) Code Violations and Penalties	
Code Violations	Penalties
<p><b>Delay</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not resuming play within 30 seconds after a medical timeout or bleeding timeout</li> <li>Delay caused by obvious cramping (but only if the player has already received a medical timeout for cramping)</li> <li>Recast of evaluation or treatment for one condition on more than two changeovers or set breaks</li> <li>Taking more than two medical timeouts during one stoppage of play</li> <li>Not resuming play after a changeover or set break during which the player received treatment</li> <li>Not playing within 25 seconds of having been directed to resume play</li> <li>Passage of 25 seconds after any time violation</li> <li>Delay caused by getting a replacement racket that is not on court</li> <li>Leaving the playing area for an unauthorized reason</li> </ul> <p><b>Misconduct</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visible or audible profanity or obscenity</li> <li>Abuse of racket, balls, or equipment</li> <li>Verbal or physical abuse of a player or official</li> <li>Audible or visible coaching</li> <li>Abusive conduct by a player or a person associated with a player (USTA Regulation IV.C.11. refers to this situation)</li> <li>Retaliatory calls (obviously bad calls made in retaliation for the opponent's calls)</li> <li>Other unsportsmanlike conduct that is abusive or detrimental to the sport</li> <li>Failure to follow the instructions of an official</li> <li>Violation of any USTA Tournament Regulation (USTA Regulation IV.C.20.)</li> </ul>	<p>Violations shall be penalized as follows:</p> <p>First Offense ..... Point            Second Offense ..... Game            Third Offense ..... Default</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>A single flagrant unsportsmanlike act may be penalized by defaulting the player. See USTA Regulation IV.D.7.</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>A game penalty assessed during a set tiebreak results in loss of the set. If assessed during a 10-Point Match Tiebreak, this results in the loss of the match.</p> </div>

## B. Time Violations and Penalties for Lateness - USTA Friend at Court

TABLE 15 Time Violations	
Time Violations	Penalties
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delay between points or after warm-up</li> <li>• Violation of the 90-second changeover or 120-second set break provisions</li> <li>• Violation of the 3-minute Rest Period</li> </ul>	Violations shall be penalized as follows: First Offense..... Warning Each additional violation..... One Point Penalty
<b>Important note:</b> Two consecutive time violations shall not be assessed unless an intervening actual point has been played. Delay after the time violation is treated as a Code Violation.	

TABLE 16 Penalties for Lateness		
<p>When a player is late in arriving for the player's scheduled match time and any court is available, the Referee shall start the lateness penalty clock. The Referee is not required to keep a court open while waiting for a player.</p> <p>A player is not deemed to have arrived until the player checks in at the place designated for checking in for matches and is properly clothed, equipped, and ready to play. A team is not deemed to have arrived until both partners have arrived.</p>		
<b>A. Lateness for Start of Match</b>		
<b>Match Formats:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best of 3 and 5 set matches, including when Match Tiebreak is played in lieu of deciding final set</li> <li>• Pro set matches played to 7 or more games</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best of 3 Short Set matches, including when Match Tiebreak is played in lieu of 3rd set</li> <li>• Pro set matches played to 6 or fewer games</li> </ul>
<b>Penalties</b>		
If one player or team is late	5 minutes or less: Loss of toss plus 1 game	
	5:01-10 minutes: Loss of toss plus 2 games	5:01 - 10 minutes: Loss of toss plus 1 game and 2 points
	10:01 - 15 minutes: Loss of toss plus 3 games	10:01 - 15 minutes: Loss of toss plus 2 games
	More than 15 minutes: default	
	Except for a default, the Referee shall never assess more than a 3-game penalty for lateness	Except for a default, the Referee shall never assess more than a 2-game penalty for lateness
Both players equally late up to 15 minutes	No penalty	
Both players 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.	
Both players 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.	

<b>B. Lateness for Resumption of Suspended Match</b>	<b>Penalties</b>
	The same penalties are assessed as for lateness for the start of a match <i>except</i> there is no loss of toss.
<b>C. Lateness after 10-Minute Rest Period</b>	<b>Penalties</b>
Lateness of one player up to 5 minutes	Game penalty
Lateness of one player for more than 5 minutes	Default
Both players equally late up to 5 minutes	No penalty
Both players late but arrive at different times	The last player to arrive loses one game <i>unless</i> the difference in arrival times is more than 5 minutes, in which case the last player to arrive is defaulted.
Both players are more than 5 minutes late	The Referee may: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Default both players;</li> <li>• Allow the match to continue without penalty; or</li> <li>• Allow the match to continue and penalize the last player to arrive one game <i>unless</i> the difference in arrival time is more than 5 minutes, in which case the last player to arrive is defaulted.</li> </ul>

C. Suspension Points - [USTA Friend at Court](#)

TABLE 17 Suspension Points		
	Violation	Suspension Points
Code Violations	Each <b>code violation</b> (point, game, or default) <i>except that</i> players who receive code violations because of delay immediately after a medical timeout or because of obvious cramping are not assessed suspension points	2
Defaults*	<b>Default</b> for flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant inappropriate conduct on or off court	8-10*
	<b>Default</b> for refusal to play or continue to play (for reasons other than illness, injury, or personal circumstance)	5
	<b>Default</b> because of an adult discipline	5
	<b>Default</b> for no-show	5
	<b>Default</b> for late arrival	1
	<b>Disqualification</b> for ineligibility	3
*Suspension points for defaults are in addition to points previously assessed for code violations.		
Improper Entry or Withdrawal	Being entered when entries close in two or more sanctioned tournaments scheduled to overlap unless each Tournament Committee approves the <b>multiple entries</b> in writing	5
	<b>Withdrawal</b> from tournament after entries closed for reason other than injury, illness, personal circumstance, or previously authorized entry into another tournament	4
Unsportsmanlike Conduct	Not using <b>best efforts</b> to win	2
	<b>Unsportsmanlike conduct</b> or inappropriate conduct on court after a match that would have resulted in a code violation had it occurred during the match	2
	<b>Unsportsmanlike conduct</b> or inappropriate conduct off court regardless of location or medium. This includes, but is not limited to, conduct at tournament sites, tournament activities, hotels or other housing, or online	5
	<b>Flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct</b> or <b>flagrant inappropriate conduct</b> , regardless of location or medium. This includes, but is not limited to, conduct at tournament sites, tournament activities, hotels or other housing, or online	8-10*
Gross Misconduct	<b>Physical violence</b> against another person on or off court by a player, relative, coach, or other person associated with a player	10
	Illegal use or possession of <b>drugs</b>	8
	Possessing or drinking <b>alcoholic beverages</b>	8
	Gambling activity as defined in <b>USTA Regulation IV.C.19.</b>	8
	<b>Destruction of property</b>	8
Playing Under Suspension	Playing in any sanctioned tournament while <b>suspended</b> by USTA or one of its Sectional Associations	10
ITF Suspension Points	Each <b>suspension point assessed at ITF Junior tournaments and USTA International Tournaments</b> becomes one suspension point under the USTA Suspension Point System	1
*The Referee, designee of a Sectional Association that sanctions the tournament, or the Director of Junior Competition shall determine the number of suspension points (8 to 10 inclusive) that shall be assessed based on the seriousness of the conduct.		

#### D. Suspension and Appeal Process - [USTA Friend at Court](#)

1. If a player is assessed suspension points from the national schedule tournament(s) then the process is as per [USTA Friend at Court](#)
2. Suspensions from points assessed at sectional tournaments follow these procedures:
3. **First Suspension** - If a player receives ten (10) suspension points within a twelve (12) month period, he or she will be suspended from competing in USTA sanctioned tournaments for three (3) months. 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.
4. **Second Suspension** - If a player receives eight (8) suspension points within the 12 months immediately following the first suspension the player shall be suspended from competing in USTA sanctioned tournaments for six (6) months. Upon suspension these 8 points shall be cleared from the player's record. All other suspension points shall remain on the player's record and count towards a third suspension.
5. **Subsequent Suspensions** - If a player receives six (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 USTA sanctioned tournaments for a period to be determined by the New England Junior Sportsmanship Committee. 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 will be cleared from the player's record.
6. Upon receipt of a sectional suspension notice, a suspended person or player will have the right to contact the section office to correct any errors in the record, and the right to a hearing before the USTA New England Junior Sportsmanship Committee. To correct the record or to request a hearing, a suspended person or player must make a written request to the USTA New England Junior Sportsmanship Committee within five (5) days following the receipt of the suspension notice and mailed or emailed to the USTA New England Player Development Manager, Shawna Fors ([shawna.fors@newengland.usta.com](mailto:shawna.fors@newengland.usta.com))
7. If the Committee affirms the suspension, the suspension will commence the day after the committee has made a decision affirming such suspension.
8. If a hearing is not requested, the suspension will commence the day after the expiration of the five-day period.
9. The Committee may also suspend a player or not endorse a player to National individual and team events if a pattern of unsportsmanlike conduct (including line call overrules) is documented and the player is provided written warning first.
10. ***Player Associates Conduct - Unsportsmanlike or inappropriate conduct against an official, player, spectator, or other person at a tournament site by a parent, relative, coach or other person associated with a player may result in that player associate being suspended from attending USTA sanctioned tournaments and events.***

#### E. Player Pledge

"I recognize that tennis is a sport that places the responsibility for fair play on me. I promise to abide by the rules of the game, which require me to give the benefit of the doubt to my opponent. At all times I should strive to compete with the true spirit of sportsmanship, recognizing that my behavior on the court is a direct reflection of my character. Whether this match ends with my victory or defeat, I promise to conduct myself in a way that honors my opponents, my team, those who support me, and the game of tennis."

## VII. **RANKING SYSTEM**

### A. **Awarding of Points**

1. All matches played in the main draw or consolation draw of a USTA New England L3, L4, L5, L6 or L7 tournament will award points to the winner.
2. Main draw and consolation draw points are a fixed number; the round a player reaches determines the points awarded.
3. A player must win a round to receive any points for the tournament.
4. A player who advances because of a withdrawal, walkover, default or retirement shall receive points for advancing.
5. Byes do not qualify as wins and a player who advances when a bye occurs must win the next round to receive points.
6. A player who is defaulted from a tournament for code violations under the Point Penalty System forfeits all points earned during the tournament.
7. A player who withdraws after having already started the tournament or is defaulted for not informing the tournament director he or she is not going to play will have all matches completed in the tournament up to the point of withdrawal count toward their standing.
8. A player who is entered when entries close in two or more sanctioned tournaments scheduled to overlap, without the written consent of both tournament directors, and who attempts to play both may forfeit all points awarded at the second tournament.
9. Non-sanctioned events will not be considered in determining the standing in any division.
10. Even if sanctioned, interscholastic and intercollegiate tournaments are not considered in determining standing.

### B. **National Standing List Calculation**

1. The USTA shall publish National Standings Lists (NSL) for individual players in each Adult division. The USTA Adult Competition Committee determines the dates on which the lists are published, the criteria for inclusion on the lists, and the method of calculating the lists.
11. Criteria for inclusion
  - a) A player must have a current USTA membership.
  - b) A player must reside within the geographic boundaries of the USTA.
  - c) A player must have accumulated at least 1 Ranking Point as a result of an on-court win during the previous 52-week period. An on-court win is one that takes place on-court after the start of the match. Matches won by withdrawal, walkover, default, or disqualification prior to the start of the match are not considered on-court wins. Matches won by winning a match point, or if the opponent retires or is defaulted after the start of the match are considered on-court wins.

## VIII. **RESIDENCY**

- A. Residency shall determine the players who may play in Closed Sectional and District Tournaments and the players who may be selected to represent a Sectional Association or District Association in a team competition.
- B. Declaration of Residency by Players Living Within the Geographic Boundaries of the USTA. A player residing within the geographic boundaries of the USTA must declare residency for the purposes of playing in Adult and Family tournaments. A player may be the resident of one Sectional Association and, if applicable, one District Association within the geographic boundaries only of the declared Sectional Association at any given time.
  1. Unless otherwise declared, a player's Section residency shall be the Sectional Association assigned through USTA membership and which is based on the geographic boundaries set forth in the USTA Bylaws.
  2. USTA members who reside in British Columbia and who meet the eligibility criteria of **USTA National Regulation X.C.2.** shall be deemed to be residents of the USTA Pacific Northwest Section.

3. The physical address of a player's legal guardian may be the basis for a player's declaration of residency if the player is residing with that legal guardian.
4. Players may declare a different Section and District residency no more than once each calendar year.

**IX. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

All grievances alleging that any person has violated the USTA or USTA New England Constitution or By-laws, the Rules and Regulations of the USTA or USTA New England, the Rules of Tennis, or the accepted standards of conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship shall be submitted in writing on the USTA New England Grievance [Initial Filing Form](#).