



USTA New England Junior Tournament Regulations  
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## I. GENERAL

- A. These regulations apply to the USTA New England Junior Ranking Tournaments all of which count for junior ranking. In addition, the point system and philosophy can be found [here](#).

## II. TOURNAMENT CIRCUITS

### A. Elite Level - Level 3 (Closed) & Level 4 (Open/Closed)

1. New England Level 3 (Closed) singles and doubles events offer an elite level of competition for USTA New England residents only and award National Ranking Points. Level 3 (Closed) events take place four times per year.
2. New England Level 4 (Open/Closed) singles and doubles events offer an advanced level of competition and award National Ranking Points. Level 4 events take place five times per year in which two events are allocated for USTA New England residents only. **Note: an additional closed Level 4 event also takes place and will be allocated as a team competition.**
3. Singles draws for the Level 3 events are limited to a maximum of 24-players during the indoor season and a maximum of 32-players during the outdoor season and are Feed-in Championship (FIC) through the round of 16 format. Semi-final losers play for third place (winner third, loser fourth) and quarter-final losers play for fifth place; the remainder of players will play for sixth place. All main 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 tiebreak in lieu of the third. Main draw matches will utilize ad scoring while consolation will utilize no-ad. The consolation should be played out through the finals. **Note: where applicable, an increase in draw size will be approved.**
4. Singles draws for the Level 4 events are limited to a maximum of 24-players during the indoor season and a maximum of 32-players during the outdoor season and are Feed-in Championship (FIC) through the round of 16 format. Semi-final losers play for third place (winner third, loser fourth) and quarter-final losers play for fifth place; the remainder of players will play for sixth place. All main and consolation draw matches are best of three tie break sets and use a 10 point tiebreak in lieu of the third. Only the Semifinals and Finals will play a full best of three set match. Main draw matches will utilize ad scoring while consolation will utilize no-ad. The consolation should be played out through the finals. **Note: where applicable, an increase in draw size will be approved.**
5. Doubles draws for Level 3 and Level 4 events are limited to a maximum of 16-teams and are a Feed-In Championship through the Round of 16. Semi-final loser's play for third and fourth place (winner third, loser fourth). All matches are eight game pro sets with regular scoring and a set tiebreak at 8-8 to 7-points. **Important: Consolation final will be played at the discretion of the Tournament Director based on court availability.**
  - a) **Note: During singles and doubles weekends, a 6 game pro set will be played for the doubles event.**
6. **Selection** into closed Level 3 and Level 4 singles 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 ranked players selected first. Selection is not on a first come, first-served basis.
7. **Selection** into closed Level 3 and Level 4 doubles events is based on the most recently published National Doubles Seeding list that is filtered to include only players who are residents of the sectional association. Players are selected in descending order with the highest ranked players selected first. Selection is not on a first come, first-served basis.
8. **Selection** into open Level 4 doubles events is based on the most recently published National Doubles Seeding list available, in descending order with the highest ranked players selected first. Selection is not on a first come, first-served basis.
9. **Seeding** into all Level 3 and Level 4 singles events is based on the World Tennis Number.
10. **Seeding** into all Level 3 and Level 4 doubles events is based on the National Doubles Seeding List.

## B. Advanced Level - Level 5 (Open/Closed)

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. Level 5 events take place sixteen times per year in which two events are allocated for USTA New England residents only.
2. Singles draws for all Level 5 events are limited to a maximum of 24 players and are either First Match Consolation. Semi-final losers play for third place (winner third, loser fourth). All main and consolation matches are the best of three tie break sets and use a 10 point tiebreak in lieu of the third. Main draw matches will utilize ad scoring while consolation will utilize no-ad. One round of consolation should be scheduled. **Note: where applicable, an increase in draw size will be approved.**
3. Doubles draws for Level 5 events are limited to a maximum of 16 teams and are Modified Feed-in Format. Main draw semi-final loser's playoff for third and fourth place. All matches are eight game pro sets with regular scoring and a set tiebreak at 8-8. **Important: Consolation final will be played at the discretion of the Tournament Director based on court availability.**
  - a) **Note: During singles and doubles weekends, a 6 game pro set will be played for the doubles event.**
4. **Selection** for all Level 5 singles events is based on the most recently published National Standing list available, in descending order with the highest ranked players selected first. Selection is not on a first come, first-served basis.
5. **Selection** into closed Level 5 singles 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 ranked players selected first. Selection is not on a first come, first-served basis.
  - a) **Note on flighted draws:** Selections and flights are determined by the National Standing List and seeds are determined by the World Tennis Number. In a flighted draw of 24 players or less, the top flight will be made up of the top eight (8) best ranked players and bottom flight will be made up of the remainder of the players. When the draw consists of more than 24 players, the top flight will be made of the top sixteen (16) best ranked players and the bottom flight will be made up of the remainder of the players.
6. **Selection** for all Level 5 doubles events is based on the most recently published National Doubles Seeding list available, in descending order with the highest ranked players selected first. Selection is not on a first come, first-served basis.
7. **Seeding** for all Level 5 singles events is based on the World Tennis Number.
8. **Seeding** into all Level 5 doubles events is based on the National Doubles Seeding List.

## C. 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 (1) to two (2) day events with round robin flights or draw formats.
3. All Doubles draws are in Round Robin or Modified Feed-in formats.
4. All Round Robin matches are best two out of three short sets to 4 games with no-ad scoring and a set tiebreak to seven at 4-4 and a 7 point tie break in lieu of the third.
5. All Modified feed-in main draw matches are 2 out of 3 tie break sets with a 10 point tiebreak in lieu of the third and consolation matches are 2 of out 3 short sets to four with a 7 point tie break in lieu of the third and a set tiebreak at 4-4 with no-ad scoring. One round of consolation should be scheduled.
  - a) **Note:** if there are nine or fewer players, the draw format will be played as a Feed-in through the Quarterfinals. If there are five or fewer players, the format should be a Round Robin.
6. **Selection** into Level 6 singles events is based on the most recently published National Standing list, in descending order with the highest ranked players selected first. Selection is not on a first come, first serve basis.

7. **Selection** into Level 6 doubles events is based on the most recently published National Doubles Seeding list, in descending order with the highest ranked players selected first. Selection is not on a first come, first serve basis.
8. **Seeding** for all Level 6 singles events is based on the World Tennis Number.
9. Round Robin flights will be determined by the World Tennis Number.
  - a) Once players are selected, the software will group players into flights based on the WTN rating.
10. **Seeding** into all Level 6 doubles events is based on the National Doubles Seeding List.
11. 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 Tournament Director 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.

#### D. Entry Level - Level 7

1. New England Level 7 (both yellow and green ball) singles and doubles events are used as an entry into competition for USTA members of any Sectional Association and are awarded National Ranking Points.
2. Singles and doubles draws for all Level 7 events are one (1) day events with round robin flights.
3. All matches are best of one set to six (6) with no-ad scoring and a set tiebreak at 6-6.
4. **Selection** into Level 7 singles events is based on the most recently published 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.
5. **Selection** into Level 7 doubles events is based on the most recently published National Doubles Seeding 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.

#### E. Net Generation Play Tracker

1. New England [Net Generation Play Tracker](#) events offer an entry level of competition with half-day, non-elimination formats and no ranking points awarded.

#### F. Reseeding of Tournaments

1. Reseeding: Draws are published on Wednesdays, prior to the start of the tournament. If a seeded player withdraws after the published date and before noon the day before the start of the play, due to injury, illness, personal circumstance, the Tournament Director will reseed the event. If a player withdraws after noon the day prior to the start of play, an alternate will replace the seeded player in the draw.
  - a) Note: the USTANE office and tournament committee reserve the right to update seeding protocol for the Level 3 Junior Sectional event.

### III. TOURNAMENT ENTRY

#### A. Entry Limitations on Players

1. A player may enter any level of singles tournament for which they are age-eligible but they may only play in one (1) age division at each tournament.
2. **L3 and closed L4 singles tournaments:** Players may register for multiple age divisions, but will only be admitted to one. Selection is done for the older age groups first in the following order: 18; 16; 14; and 12. If a player is selected to an older age division, they will automatically be withdrawn from the younger division. Players who registered for two age divisions and were not

selected to the older age division are only eligible for selection or placement on the alternates list in the younger age division.

3. **Doubles Weekends:** At all one-day doubles events, a player may register for two age divisions provided competition is scheduled on different days.
4. **Tournament Overlap:** When entries close, a player shall not be entered in two or more sanctioned tournaments with overlapping start or end dates. ***If any parts of the tournament overlap, the player will be awarded four suspension points. (Exceptions: NE closed L3 and L4 events).***
  - a) ***Note: If you are on the alternate list for an event, you are considered registered for that event.***
5. **National Tournaments:** A player shall not be entered in a New England and National sanctioned tournament with overlapping start or end dates regardless of competition start dates.

**B. Online Entry, Entry Deadlines and Withdrawal**

1. Players enter USTA New England tournaments using the online [Play Tennis Platform](#). In the event a player encounters technical difficulties with the online system and requires assistance from the Tournament Director (TD) for registration, they must submit a formal request via email. **This email request must be received by the TD no later than the official registration deadline.**
2. Entry Deadlines

| 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 | 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.
4. **Doubles Only Events - Partner Withdrawal:** If one accepted player in a pairing must withdraw, and the event has registered teams on the alternates list, then an alternate team shall be placed in the draw to replace the withdrawing team. If there are no registered alternate teams, the remaining partner may secure an alternate partner as long as the new partner does not impact seeding for the event and the alternate is secured in a timely manner.
5. **Play to Completion Statement:** All players are expected to play all scheduled matches to completion. This includes main draws, back draws and/or consolation matches. It is considered a violation of Good Sport protocol to withdraw from any scheduled match, as other players and families may be adversely affected. A documented injury, illness or personal/family emergency are the only acceptable grounds for withdrawal.
  - a) Junior players demonstrating a pattern of withdrawals and walkovers may be assessed penalty points if there is a demonstrated pattern of failure to play to completion. In the event a pattern of withdrawals and walkovers becomes apparent, the player will be asked to provide documentation associated with each withdrawal.
  - b) Please understand your responsibility as a player: when you sign up for a USTA event, you are making a commitment to play the entire event to its conclusion. By doing so you are not only honoring that commitment, but also showing strength of character, respect for your opponents and for the integrity of the event.

6. **USTANE Withdrawal Policy:** Players who need to withdraw from a USTA New England tournament must follow these steps:
  1. Send email confirmation and voice message of the withdrawal to the Tournament Director at least **three hours before** your first match of the day. Players who fail to contact the Tournament Director and withdraw at least three hours before the start of their first match (main draw or consolation) will be issued **five suspension points** for a default no-show.
  2. File the withdrawal with the USTA New England Office [through use of this form](#) immediately. This will allow the office to track withdrawals and player participation while helping to inform future decisions about updated policies.

#### 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, if the request has been submitted in writing, the draw has not been built and the late entry player will not invalidate the seedings.
  - a) Players who inquire about a late entry when the draw is full may be placed on the bottom of the alternate list in the case they would not invalidate the seeding upon entry.
  - b) After the tournament draw is made, 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. An on-site alternate is a player who registered for the event and was not accepted in the draw; however, has checked in at the tournament and has asked to be placed in the draw if a spot becomes available.

#### D. Refunds

1. The Tournament Director shall refund a player's entry fee if:
  - a) A player withdraws before the entry deadline;
  - b) The entry is not accepted;
  - c) If a player is selected in error;
  - d) If the player did not play a match because their only opponent withdrew;
  - e) If the player plays no matches because the tournament is canceled due to inclement weather
  - f) The Serve Tennis processing fee is non-refundable in the above instances.

### IV. TOURNAMENT DRAW

#### A. Selection

1. Selection into all singles tournaments is based on the most recently published 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. In the Level 7 round-robin flights, players are selected to flights in ascending order, from the bottom up with players with no standing first and then up the standings 350, 200, 180.... until all available flights are filled and by filling the smallest size flight for that tournament first.
2. Selection into all doubles tournaments is based on the most recently published Doubles National Seeding 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 inserted into the draw using the 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. The Tournament Director has the right to limit the size of an L6 or L7 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. 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, once scheduled, will be held. Any event consisting of 5 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 was 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 L3, L4, and L5 singles events is based on the World Tennis Number.
  - a) Seeding for all levels is done using the World Tennis Number. Should a player withdraw from an event and an alternate becomes eligible to participate however, has a WTN that would make them a seed, the seeding will be redone if and only if the draw has not yet been published. When the draw has been published, the alternate will replace what withdrawing player on the appropriate line in the draw.
2. Seeding for doubles tournaments is based on the most recently published National Doubles Seeding List.
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                 |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| 4-11      | 2 seeds: all seeded numerically |
| 12-23     | 4 seeds: all seeded numerically |
| 24-32     | 8 seeds: all seeded numerically |

#### C. Wild Cards

1. At all New England closed Level 3 and Level 4 singles tournaments up to one eighth of the draw may be reserved for players who are granted a wild card.
2. Wild cards may be granted to any eligible player with a good record of being a good sport and who follows the normal online entry process for the tournament by the entry deadline. Wild cards may be used to select players into a closed Level 3 or Level 4 New England tournament in which the following criteria may be considered:
  - a) We may grant wild cards to any eligible player who has a good record of being a good sport and who follows the normal online entry process for the tournament by the entry deadline. Wild cards may be used to select players into a closed Level 3 or Level 4 New England tournament in which the following criteria may be considered:
  - b) We may consider any player with the potential to improve the overall strength of the tournament field.
  - c) We may consider a player whose ability to qualify was affected by injury, illness, or other personal circumstances.
  - d) We may consider a player with a high standing in a younger age division of the event.
  - e) We will not consider any player who submits a late wild card application.
3. Wild card requests must be filed [here](#) and must be received prior to the respective tournament entry deadline.

4. Players (teams) requesting a wild card must also follow the normal online entry process for the tournament by the entry deadline.
5. Wild Card Requests are reviewed by the USTA New England Director of Player Development, Shawna Fors (tournaments@newengland.usta.com) and may be approved by either the chair of the USTA New England National Selection Committee or the chair of the New England Coaches Commission.

## 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 Wednesday morning 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.
2. Earliest Start Time:
  - a) All Divisions: 8:00am and no earlier than 4:00pm on public school days.
3. Latest Start Time:
  - a) 10U Division: 7:30 pm
  - b) 12U Division: 8:30 pm
  - c) 14U Division: 9:00 pm
  - d) 16U and 18U Divisions: 10:00 pm
  - e) ***A player must be given 12 hours rest between the end of a night match and the beginning of the next day's match.***
4. Start Day:
  - a) The first date of a scheduled event, unless there are 16 or fewer entries in a division, where play may not start before Saturday or the second day of a 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 when public schools are in session.

### B. 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<br>Doubles team: loss of toss plus 1 game and two points |
| 10:01 - 15:00           | Loss of toss plus 3 games<br>Doubles team: loss of toss plus 2 games               |
| More than 15:00 minutes | Default  |

### C. 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. Singles and Doubles Event: Maximum of two (2) singles matches per day and a maximum of four (4) doubles matches per day.

#### D. Rest Periods

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 the 12, 14, 16 and 18 divisions. Coaching is allowed during this ten-minute rest period. Three 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. Between 12, 14, 16, 18 divisions the draw format offers a one hour minimum between consecutive singles matches. A half-hour between a singles and a doubles match and ten-minutes between consecutive doubles matches.
5. **\*Recovery Rule:\*** Requires the Referee to offer a player two hours of rest after a singles match that uses a format consisting of the best of 3 tiebreak sets or more if the player's next match is singles. The regulation does not apply to short set matches, matches that play a tiebreak in lieu of a final third set, nor to any indoor match that lasts less than two hours.
6. Between 12, 14, 16, 18 Division Round-Robin singles matches -Tournament Director discretion. Suggested up to five minutes rest between a player's first two tiebreak set matches, and up to a ten-minute rest between his or her second and third tiebreak set matches. Up to ten-minutes between consecutive doubles pro-set matches.
7. 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.

#### E. 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.

#### F. Inclement Weather

1. In the event of inclement weather forecasts (any severe or harsh weather condition that makes it unsafe or impractical to travel, commute, or work outdoors,) tournaments do not get canceled, 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.
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 shorten matches so long as all matches in that round are played with the same format.

#### G. 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.

#### H. 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.

## I. 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. 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.
3. In 12, 14, 16, 18 and under round-robin events, three new yellow balls shall be provided before the start of the round.
4. In 12 and under green ball round-robin events, three new green balls shall be provided after every three (3) sets of use.
5. In 10 and under Net Generation events, three new regulation balls shall be provided at the beginning of play at the tournament.

## J. Officiating

1. It is a USTA New England requirement to have a certified official onsite during match play at L3 and 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.
3. 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.
4. Parents, coaches and spectators do not have a voice in player disagreements.
5. Referees may assign umpires to a match whether the players request it or not.

## K. Tournament Feedback

1. Players, parents and coaches are encouraged to provide the Section office with feedback about any junior 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. BEING A GOOD SPORT & 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 being a good sport. 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<br>POINT PENALTY SYSTEM (PPS)<br>Code Violations and Penalties   |   |               |       |                |      |               |         |
|---|---|---------------|-------|----------------|------|---------------|---------|
| Code Violations   | Penalties   |               |       |                |      |               |         |
| <b>Delay</b> <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>• Receipt 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></ul> | <p>Violations shall be penalized as follows:</p> <table><tr><td>First Offense</td><td>Point</td></tr><tr><td>Second Offense</td><td>Game</td></tr><tr><td>Third Offense</td><td>Default</td></tr></table> <p>A single flagrant unsportsmanlike act may be penalized by defaulting the player. See USTA Regulation IV.D.7.</p> <p>A game penalty assessed during a set</p> | First Offense | Point | Second Offense | Game | Third Offense | Default |
| First Offense   | Point   |               |       |                |      |               |         |
| Second Offense  | Game  |               |       |                |      |               |         |
| Third Offense   | Default   |               |       |                |      |               |         |

## B. Time Violations and Penalties for Lateness - [USTA Friend at Court](#)

| TABLE 15<br>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:<br>First Offense..... Warning<br>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<br>Penalties for Lateness   |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 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.<br>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. |   |   |
| A. Lateness for Start of Match   |   |   |
| Match Formats:   | <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> |
| Penalties  |   |   |
| If one player or team is   | 5 minutes or less: Loss of toss plus 1 game   |   |
|  | 5:01-10 minutes:<br>Loss of toss plus 2 games   | 5:01 - 10 minutes:<br>Loss of toss plus 1 game and 2 points   |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <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            | <p>The Referee may:</p> <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<br>Suspension Points           |   |                   |
|---|---|-------------------|
| Violation                               |   | Suspension Points |
| <b>A. Code Violations</b>               | 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                 |
| <b>B. Defaults*</b>                     | 1. <b>Default</b> for flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct or flagrant inappropriate conduct on or off court  | 8-10*             |
|   | 2. <b>Default</b> for refusal to play or continue to play (for reasons other than illness, injury, or personal circumstance)  | 5                 |
|   | 3. <b>Default</b> because of an adult discipline  | 5                 |
|   | 4. <b>Default</b> for no-show   | 5                 |
|   | 5. <b>Default</b> for late arrival  | 1                 |
|   | 6. <b>Disqualification</b> for ineligibility  | 3                 |
|   | *Suspension points for defaults are in addition to points previously assessed for code violations.  |                   |
| <b>C. Improper Entry or Withdrawal*</b> | 1. Failure to pay an entry fee  | 2                 |
|   | 2. 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   | 4                 |
|   | 3. <b>Withdrawal</b> from tournament after entries closed for reason other than injury, illness, personal circumstance, or previously authorized entry into another tournament.   | 4                 |
|   | * If a player is <b>concurrently</b> entered in overlapping tournaments without approval and withdraws from one or more tournaments, the player is assessed a total of 4 suspension points for improper withdrawal  |                   |
| <b>D. Unsportsmanlike Conduct</b>       | 1. Not using <b>best efforts</b> to win   | 2                 |
|   | 2. <b>Unsportsmanlike conduct</b> or inappropriate conduct by a player or person associated with a player while the player is still in the playing area but not during a match, if the conduct would have resulted in a code violation had it occurred during the match   | 2                 |
|   | 3. <b>Unsportsmanlike conduct</b> or inappropriate conduct off court by a player or person associated with a player, regardless of location or medium. This includes, but is not limited to, conduct at tournament sites, tournament activities, hotels or other housing, and all forms of communication including online medium or otherwise                   | 5                 |
|   | 4. <b>Flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct</b> or <b>flagrant inappropriate conduct</b> , by a player or person associated with a player, regardless of location or medium. This includes, but is not limited to, conduct at tournament sites, tournament activities, hotels or other housing, and all forms of communication, including online medium or otherwise | 8-10*             |
| <b>E. Gross Misconduct</b>              | 1. <b>Physical violence</b> against another person on or off court by a player or person associated with a player   | 10                |
|   | 2. Illegal use or possession of <b>drugs</b>  | 8                 |
|   | 3. A minor possessing or drinking <b>alcoholic beverages</b>  | 8                 |
|   | 4. Gambling activity as defined in <b>USTA Regulation IV.C.19.</b>  | 8                 |
|   | 5. <b>Destruction of property</b>   | 8                 |

#### 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 junior tournaments follow these procedures:
  - a) **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.
  - b) **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.
  - c) **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 Good Sport 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.
3. 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 Good Sport 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 Good Sport 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)).
4. If the Committee affirms the suspension, the suspension will commence the day after the committee has made a decision affirming such suspension.
5. If a hearing is not requested, the suspension will commence the day after the expiration of the five-day period.
6. 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.
7. ***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. Refer to Table 17 for further information.***

## **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."

### **Parent Pledge**

1. Set a positive example by treating players, tournament officials, parents, coaches and spectators with respect.
2. Cheer positively and appropriately for well played points, not for double faults and unforced errors.
3. Refrain from getting involved during a match, including coaching or signaling; allow players to resolve court disputes themselves with the help of tournament officials.
4. Observe all USTA rules and regulations as well as local club directives that ensure safety of all participants.
5. Emphasize the importance of fair play and of being a good sport.

## **VII. RANKING SYSTEM AND POINT TABLES**

### **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, a USTA L1 National Championship tournament and a USTA L2 or L3 National Selection tournament will award points to the winner. All matches played in the USTA Level 1 Boys & Girls 18's National Team Championships, Boys & Girls 14's and 16's Intersectional Team Championships, L1 National Spring Team Championships and L2 Boys & Girls 12's, 14's and 16's Zone Team Championships 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. Every week the USTA shall publish National Standings Lists (NSL) for individual players in each Junior division. The USTA Junior 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.
2. Criteria for inclusion

- a) A player must meet the age eligibility requirements of the division.
  - b) A player must have played at least one Junior Ranking Tournament in the division or the next-younger division.
  - c) A player must have accumulated at least 1 Ranking Point as a result of an on-court win. 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.
3. Method of Calculating National Standing List
- a) 100% of the singles ranking points from a players' 6 best Junior Ranking Tournaments.
  - b) 100% of the singles bonus points earned at BG18 ITF Bonus-Point Only Events on the National Junior Tournament Schedule
  - c) 15% of the ranking points from a player's best 6 doubles and/or mixed doubles Junior Ranking Tournaments player. When a team tournament is played and a player earns ranking points in both doubles and mixed doubles, the total points earned in doubles and mixed doubles at the tournament are used to determine whether the tournament is among the player's best 6.
  - d) Rankings points at the percentages listed above earned in an older age division tournament count towards a players' standing in one of more younger age divisions provided that a Junior Ranking Tournament has been played in the division and they are among the players' best 6 results.
  - e) 20% of the Ranking Points earned in a younger age division tournament count towards a players' standing in the next-older age division if they are among the players' best 6 results, regardless of whether a Junior Ranking Tournament has been played in that division.
  - f) Order of National Standing List
    - (1) The NSL is based on Ranking Points earned during the previous 12-month rolling period. When more than one players has the same number of total ranking points, tie-breaks on the NSL will be determined in the following order:
    - (2) A player whose best event has the highest number of ranking points, second best, third best, etc. through the sixth event.
    - (3) Total bonus points earned in all events played during the computation period.
    - (4) Best random draw number.

#### **C. New England Sectional Standing List**

1. The National Standing List will be used to select players for Closed Section tournaments, the lists will be filtered to only list players who meet the residency requirements of the Section or District, respectively.
2. A player must be a USTA Member and must be a New England Section resident to be eligible for section standing.
3. All eligible players who have played at least one (1) match in a USTA sanctioned tournament as described.
4. Once a player is no longer age-eligible for an age division, his/her name will no longer appear on the standing list for that division. However, all tournament results will remain for that division for a 52-week period of time.

#### **D. Player Records and Ranking Information**

1. A player's New England and National records and ranking information are available for viewing and printing on the Serve Tennis software.
2. Players are responsible for regularly reviewing their player records and should promptly submit corrections to the Tournament Director.
3. Players with questions on the New England standings should review ranking system information above and contact the Tournament and Ranking Manager, Carolyn Bohmiller, at the Section office at [bohmillier@newengland.usta.com](mailto:bohmillier@newengland.usta.com) with further questions.

## **VIII. NEW ENGLAND TEAMS - NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS**

### **A. Events**

1. **USTA 16/18 National Team Championships:** Matches played each year between teams from the 17 sections of the USTA in late July. USTA New England sends eight (8) players and a section-provided coach to each event. The section covers apparel for all players.

### **B. New England Team Championships Selection Requirements**

1. All players who wish to be considered for the National team must register on the Battle of the Sections registration page listed on the Serve Tennis Platform.
  - a) Note: The winner of the Boys and Girls 16s Level 3, Junior Sectionals Championship will receive an automatic spot on the team.
2. Team entry information and procedures will be available online on Serve Tennis by April 1st.
3. Selection for teams will be based on the current combined endorsement list. Players who have exhibited poor behavior on or off the court may be refused selection. A maximum of two boy and two girl players each, for the USTA Boys 18 and Girls 18 National Team Championships respectively, a maximum of one boy and one girl player each for the USTA 16 Intersectional Championships and a maximum of one boy and one girl player each for the USTA 14 Intersectional Championships

## **IX. NATIONAL ENTRY, ENDORSEMENT AND QUOTA**

### **A. Online Entry System**

1. All players who wish to be considered for any USTA National Championship L1 tournament or National Selection L2 and L3 tournaments listed on the USTA National Junior Tournament Schedule must apply to the tournament using the Serve Tennis Platform.

### **B. Quota**

1. Eligible players from New England can gain acceptance into the USTA National Championship L1 tournaments by Section quota.
2. Each Sectional Association is guaranteed a minimum number of players who may be accepted into certain Level 1 Championships. The number of Section Quota spots in the draw is determined by a ratio that combines the number of Unique Registrations at the end of each year in Level 3 Closed-Level 7 events and players from each Section who are in the top 150 from the Year End Rankings. It is important to note that quota numbers adjust each and every year because of this ratio calculation. To see the 2024 Section Quota Numbers [click here](#).
3. Criteria and method of calculator lists:
  - a) Only those players who are residents of the Sectional Association may appear on each Sectional Quota List.
  - b) The following results will be included:
    - (1) A player's best 6 singles results and best 6 doubles and/or mixed doubles results may include no more than 2 singles results and 2 doubles and/or mixed doubles results, respectively, that are from tournaments sanctioned by a body other than the Sectional Association or one of its District Associations, except that an Intersectional Team Tournament and the USTA Battle of the Sections shall be considered as though sanctioned by each Sectional Association participating in the tournament.

## **X. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

- A. **USTA New England Player Grants:** A limited amount of financial assistance is available for New England players who are in need and who are competing either at the New England L3 Championships, L1 National Championships, and L2 National team events . Please submit a [Financial Assistance Grant Form](#) to the Director of Player Development, Shawna Fors (shawna.fors@newengland.usta.com) at the USTA New England section office if financial assistance is needed. All inquiries are kept strictly confidential. Positive behavior and conduct records of players applying are also taken into consideration.
- B. **Reduced Entry Fee Program:** The goal of this program is to assist with the financial aspect of entering tournaments to ensure all players, regardless of socioeconomic and other factors, are able to play tennis competitively. Families of USTA juniors with a family Taxable Income (income after adjustments and deductions) of \$75,000 or less, and other families who may have extenuating circumstances, are

encouraged to apply for the Reduced Tournament Fee Program. For families with two or more USTA juniors, the family Taxable income threshold increases by \$5000 per additional junior, to a maximum of \$90,000 Taxable income. [Additional Information and Application](#).

## **XI. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

### **A. Residency**

1. Residency shall determine the junior players who may play in Closed Sectional and District tournaments, the junior players who may appear on a sectional quota list, and the junior players who may be selected to represent sectional association or district association in a team competition.
2. Declaration of Residency by Junior Players Living within the Geographic boundaries of the USTA. A player residing within the geographic boundaries of the USTA must declare residency for the purpose of playing in junior tournaments. A player may be a resident of a sectional association and, if applicable, one district association within the geographic boundaries only of the declared sectional association at any given time.
  - a) Unless otherwise declared, a players 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.
  - b) USTA members who reside in British Columbia and who meet the eligibility criteria of the USTA Regulation IX.C.1.b. Shall be deemed to be residents of the USTA Pacific Northwest Section.
  - c) If applicable, and unless otherwise declared, a players District residency shall be the District Association assigned through USTA membership and which is based on the geographic boundaries assigned to the District Association in the Sectional Associations Bylaws.
  - d) The physical address of a player's legal guardian may be the basis for the player's declaration of residency if the player is residing with that legal guardian.
  - e) The physical address of a boarding school, including a tennis academy, may be the basis for a player's declaration of residency if the player is enrolled and residing at the school or academy.
  - f) Players may declare a different Sections or District residency no more than once each calendar year.

### **B. Age Eligibility**

1. The USTA uses a "month of birth" age eligibility rule for junior players competing in USTA sanctioned tournaments. Juniors may continue to play in the 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18 age divisions until the month they turn 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, or 19, respectively. Players should use the starting date of a tournament to determine eligibility when a tournament begins in one month and ends in the next. Players may "play up" in a higher age group but may not "play down." Players are not eligible to register for yellow ball tournaments until the month of their 11th birthday or until they have cleared the orange and green ball competition levels of the Net Generation Play Tracker (whichever comes first). The Section reserves the right to require players to submit a copy of their birth certificate or other proof of age that is acceptable to the Section.

## **XII. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

All non-USTA League or non-USTA Jr. Team Tennis 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 being a good sport shall be submitted in writing on the USTA New England Grievance [Initial Filing Form](#).

## **XIII. PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO**

Video recording is allowed during a USTA New England Section Junior Tournament match only if consent is obtained in advance from both the Organization and the parent or guardian of the opponent. The parent or guardian who provides the consent must be over 18 years of age.

The video recording must be unobtrusive and done at a reasonable distance from the court that does not constitute a hindrance to the players or the match. A hindrance refers to a situation in which a player is hindered from making a shot by anything that is not within the player's control other than a permanent fixture. Under no circumstances is a parent, coach, guardian, or any person other than a videographer who has been officially authorized by the USTA New England Section allowed to be on the court during the filming of a match.

The video or audio obtained during the match as approved by the parent or guardian and Organization will only be used for personal and/or educational purposes. The video or audio cannot be modified, republished, posted, distributed, or used in any other manner or for any other purpose without the express written consent of the Organization and the opponent's parent or guardian.

USTA New England Section reserves the right to revoke the privileges of any individual seeking to video (or through any other means) record a match at any time, in its sole discretion.