

USTA SOUTHERN REGULATIONS (Rules and Regs)

Effective January 1, 2023

I. GENERAL

A. Authority and Application

1. Authority. USTA Southern Regulations are established under the authority of the USTA Southern Bylaws. These regulations are subordinate to USTA Regulations and in any instance of conflict USTA Regulations govern. State Associations within USTA Southern may supplement these regulations but may not alter or modify them.

2. Application. USTA Southern Regulations must be observed and followed by USTA Southern Committees, Officers, Directors, and Members, and apply to all USTA Southern programs and events specified in USTA Southern Regulations, including those that are conducted by clubs, associations and organizations belonging to USTA Southern.

During USTA Southern events, all individual and organizational members of USTA Southern are subject to USTA Regulations, USTA Southern Bylaws, and USTA Southern Grievance Procedures.

3. Regulations for Additional Programs. The authority to establish guidelines or regulations for programs conducted within USTA Southern that are not specifically covered in these Regulations (NJTL, Schools, Special Populations, etc.) is granted to the USTA Southern committee established for their oversight and administration. Any such guidelines or regulations are subject to review and approval by the USTA Southern Board of Directors.

B. Residency:

1. Determination of Residency. Adult residents of USTA Southern are defined as individuals 18 years old and over who have established a legal residency within the geographic boundaries of one of the nine states of USTA Southern, as determined by USTA Bylaws and USTA Southern Bylaws. Such individuals must be citizens of the United States or Permanent Legal Resident Aliens. Residency for Junior players is addressed in USTA Southern Regulation II.B.

2. Challenges Regarding Residency. Requests to resolve any discrepancy regarding Adult residency requirements in order to participate in Southern Closed events or to gain eligibility to be ranked in USTA Southern shall be submitted in writing no later than 15 days prior to commencement of the tournament of interest or within the prescribed appeal period for ranking purposes to the USTA Southern Executive Director.

i. Requests will be resolved by a committee composed of the following:

The President of USTA Southern or his/her appointee, who shall serve as Chairman of the committee. The Chairman of the USTA Southern Grievance Committee. The President of the State Association where the player claims he/she is a resident.

ii. The burden of proof of eligibility rests with the player. The decision of the committee is final and binding.

C. Administration and Conduct:

1. Rules and Regulations Observed. The Rules of Tennis, USTA Regulations, and USTA Southern Regulations must be observed in all USTA Southern program activities and tournaments.
2. Tournament Sanctions. All USTA Southern sanctioned tournaments must receive an official sanction. Requirements for sanctions are published annually. All sanctions and tournament schedules are approved by the USTA Southern Board of Directors and published annually. USTA Southern sanctions for Championship Tournaments may be awarded only if the Tournament Director, or their designated representative, has met USTA Southern training requirements.
3. Tennis Court Lines. Tennis courts eligible for USTA Southern sanctioned competition, including, junior and adult tournaments and league, must contain only lines prescribed by the ITF Rules of Tennis, as set out in the USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations.

II. JUNIOR PROGRAMS

A. General

1. USTA Southern offers junior tournament competition, including championship closed and open tournaments. Such events are scheduled according to procedures defined by the USTA Southern Junior Competition Committee and approved by the USTA Southern Board of Directors. Only members who satisfy the residency criteria defined in USTA Southern Regulation II.B. are eligible to enter Southern Closed Tournaments.
2. All players are required to be members of the USTA to play in USTA Southern Tournaments, unless this requirement is waived by the USTA, USTA Southern, or a USTA Southern State Association.
3. Junior Tournament schedules are published annually by USTA Southern for all USTA Southern tournaments.

B. Residency

1. Determination of Residency. A junior player residing within the geographic boundaries of USTA Southern is a resident of USTA Southern. A junior player may be a resident of only one State Association within USTA Southern and may not be a resident of any other USTA Sectional Association while a resident of USTA Southern. The physical address of a boarding school, including a tennis academy, may be the basis for residency if the junior player is enrolled and residing at the school or academy.
2. Declaration of Residency. A junior player shall declare residency for the purposes of playing junior tournament and events. Assignment to the USTA Southern State Association is determined based on the geographic boundaries as determined by the USTA Bylaws and USTA Southern Bylaws.
3. US Citizens Living Abroad. A junior player who is a citizen of the United States and living abroad may declare residency in USTA Southern for the purposes of playing in junior tournaments and events by submitting a specific request to the USTA. This residency declaration is exempt from the requirement that a player must live within the geographic boundaries of USTA Southern, but is subject to the requirement that each player reside in only one USTA Section.

4. Changing Residency. Except as authorized by a waiver issued by USTA, after first declaring residency pursuant to USTA Southern Regulation II.B.2., a junior player may change residency only once per calendar year.

5. Proof of Citizenship and Challenges Regarding Residency, Age, and Citizenship. Proof of citizenship or Permanent Resident Legal Alien status is required only when a junior player first desires to enter Level 3 and Level 4 tournaments. Challenges regarding residency, age, and citizenship must be pursued as provided in USTA Bylaw 43 (Grievance Procedures).

C. Ranking

1. Ranking and Standing. A junior player's ranking and standing is based on the player's best six singles and best six doubles results during the previous 12-month period and is calculated in the same manner as the USTA system.

2. National Standing Lists. When ranking lists are used for selection to USTA Southern teams, the National Standing Lists must be used. There is no minimum point requirement for selection to a team. In the case of Closed Sectional and District Tournaments, the National Standing List must be used, but only players from USTA Southern or the relevant State Association may be selected.

3. Publication of Standing Lists. USTA Southern and State Associations within USTA Southern shall publish standing lists at least monthly.

4. Coed and Mixed Doubles. USTA Southern's ranking system promotes the inclusion of ranking points earned at coed (mixed gender) and mixed doubles play. Points earned by a junior player for playing mixed doubles matches count toward a junior player's individual doubles ranking.

D. Intersectional Teams and National Team Championships Teams

Selection for Teams. Junior players meeting the residency requirements of USTA Southern Regulation II.B. are eligible for selection to USTA Southern Intersectional and National Team Championships teams. The USTA Southern Coaches Commission selects junior players for USTA Southern teams. The USTA Southern Coaches Commission's decision is final and binding.

E. Suspension Point System

1. USTA Suspension Point System. The USTA Suspension Point System is used in tournaments for age divisions 12-18.

2. Appeal Process. If any of the ten accrued suspension points are from USTA National tournaments, appeals must go to the USTA Grievance Committee.

If all ten accrued suspension points are from USTA Southern tournaments, appeals must go to the USTA Southern Grievance Committee.

F. USTA Southern Closed Championship Tournaments

Draw Determination. The draw size in every age division in the USTA Southern junior closed tournament is determined by the USTA Southern Junior Competition Committee. The USTA Southern Junior Competition Committee shall assign a quota for each of the State Associations within USTA Southern. Alternates are accepted in the draw in the order of their current USTA Southern standings. Any alternates remaining after the draw is completed are posted in the draw in the same order. Such alternates are accepted as vacancies occur in the order of their current USTA Southern Standings until the completion of the first round of play.

G. USTA Southern World Team Tennis Junior National Team

Team Selection. The USTA Southern Coaches Commission may select up to three boys and three girls to represent the Section at the World Team Tennis Junior Nationals. The USTA Southern Coaches Commission's decision is final and binding.

H. USTA Southern Endorsement Procedures to USTA National Junior Championships

1. Championships. USTA Southern Endorsement Procedures apply to:

USTA National Clay Courts Championships;

USTA National Hard Court Championships;

USTA National Winter Championships; and

USTA National Indoor Championships

2. Sectional Quota System. Each of the 17 USTA Sectional Associations has a guaranteed quota for every USTA National Junior Championship. The quota is calculated annually and varies for different size draws.

3. Sectional Quota Lists. Sectional Quota Lists are based on the junior player's best six singles and best six doubles results during the previous 12-month period, except that no more than three singles and three doubles results can be from tournaments sanctioned by an entity other than USTA Southern. The Sectional Quota List is published monthly, or more frequently. There is no endorsement requirement for a junior player to be included on the Sectional Quota List for USTA Southern.

4. Order of Selection. National Standing List Players are eligible for selection for the listed National Junior Championships before consulting the Sectional Quota List. After the National Standing List, the Sectional Quota List is used.

I. Waiver for USTA Southern Events

Waivers Only Granted for Injury or Illness. A junior player may apply for a waiver for a USTA Southern tournament only for reasons of injury or illness. The USTA Southern Waiver Subcommittee has the sole authority to grant or decline the waiver.

J. National Championship Junior Team Tennis

Regulations. The USTA Southern National Championship Junior Team Tennis program is governed by the USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis Regulations. The USTA Southern Junior Team Tennis Committee may adopt additional regulations for National Championship Junior Team Tennis that are consistent with USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis Regulations. Such additions to USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis Regulations are published annually.

III. ADULT PROGRAMS:

A. USTA Southern Tournaments

1. Adult Tournaments. USTA Southern offers adult tournament competition. Such events are scheduled according to procedures defined by the USTA Southern Adult Tournament Competition Committee and approved by the USTA Southern Board of Directors. Both open and closed tournaments are offered. Only members who satisfy the residency criteria defined in USTA Southern Regulation I.B. are eligible to enter USTA Southern Closed Tournaments.

2. Adult Tournament Regulations. USTA Adult Tournament Regulations apply to adult tournaments. USTA Adult Tournament Regulations may be expanded by the USTA Southern Tournament Committee as authorized by USTA Adult Tournament Regulations to facilitate USTA Southern adult tournaments. Such regulations are published annually.

3. USTA Membership Required. All players must have a valid USTA membership to participate in USTA Southern adult tournaments. All players must have an NTRP rating to participate in USTA Southern NTRP tournaments.

4. Online Entry Mandatory. Online entry is mandatory for USTA Southern Championships.

5. Adult Tournament Schedules. USTA Southern adult tournament schedules are published annually. All Southern singles Adult/Senior Championships shall hold a USTA Regulations-approved form of consolation round and/or round robin formats in order to maximize playing time. When the draw size in a Southern Adult/Senior Championship is four (4) or fewer round robin play is required. All players shall be limited to (2) events in a single tournament with a maximum of one (1) singles and one (1) doubles, or two (2) doubles.

B. Ranking system

USTA Regulations address ranking criteria.

C. Suspension Point System

USTA Regulations address the Suspension Point System.

D. Callen Cup

1. Callen Cup Conducted Annually. This tournament provides competition on a team basis between USTA Southern State Associations. Each State Association is invited to enter one team that will consist of members in age groups to be determined by the USTA Southern Adult Tournament Competition Committee – Age Based
2. Host Site Approval. Host site and dates for the Callen Cup are approved by the USTA Southern Board of Directors.
3. Format. Format of play and playoff structure is organized by the USTA Southern Adult Tournament Competition Committee – Age Based.
4. Team Selection. Each USTA Southern State Association electing to participate in the Callen Cup shall develop procedures to establish a team.
5. Minimum and Maximum Players Per Team. The number of participants for each team participating in the Callen Cup will be determined by the USTA Southern Adult Tournament Competition Committee – Age Based and will be distributed no later than three (3) months prior to each championship.
6. Residency. Members of a State Association Callen Cup teams must reside within the State Association they represent. Geographical boundaries of State Associations are determined by USTA and USTA Southern Bylaws.
7. Scoring and Awards. Team standings are determined according to a scoring procedure approved by the USTA Southern Adult Tournament Competition Committee – Age Based. Scoring procedures must be published by the USTA Southern Annual Tournament Competition Committee – Age Based no later than three (3) months prior to each championship.
8. Awards. Awards are presented and published as determined by the USTA Southern Adult Tournament Competition Committee – Age Based.

E. USTA Southern Intersectional Team

1. General. USTA Southern will make every effort to field Men's and Women's Intersectional Teams to participate in intersectional competition sponsored by the USTA.
2. Team Selection. The USTA Southern Adult Tournament Competition Committee – Age Based selects captains annually. The USTA Southern Adult Tournament Competition Committee – Age Based develops and administers selection criteria for teams, which is published by USTA Southern.

F. Adult League Programs

1. USTA Leagues. USTA League Regulations govern USTA League play within USTA Southern.
2. USTA Southern League Regulations. USTA League Regulations may be expanded by the USTA Southern League Committee as authorized by USTA League Regulations to facilitate administration of programs within USTA Southern. Such additional regulations adopted by the USTA Southern Adult League Committee cannot be in violation of USTA League Regulations and shall be published annually.

G. USTA Southern Leagues

1. USTA Southern may establish adult league programs not included within the USTA League program. Any such additional USTA Southern Adult League programs must be approved by the USTA Southern Board of Directors.
2. Regulations to facilitate the administration of USTA Southern league programs are developed and administered by the USTA Southern Adult League Committee and published annually.
3. USTA Southern League Tennis Regulations may be expanded by the State Associations to facilitate the administration of these programs in the States. Such additional regulations cannot be in violation of USA Southern Regulations and must be published annually.

H. Tennis On Campus

1. USTA College Tennis on Campus. USTA College Tennis on Campus Regulations govern the USTA Southern College Tennis on Campus program.
2. USTA Southern College Tennis on Campus Regulations. USTA Southern may adopt additional regulations for the Tennis-on-Campus program, not inconsistent with USTA Regulations. Any USTA Southern additions to USTA Regulations are adopted by the USTA Southern Tennis on Campus Committee and shall be published and made available to all program participants.