

Junior Tournament Regulations January 1, 2026

Updated or newly added regulations are in red.

Regulation 1: Junior Section Tournaments. *The Junior Section Tournaments consist of the USTA Missouri Valley Level 3 tournaments, USTA Missouri Valley Level 4 tournaments, and USTA Missouri Valley Level 5 tournaments; other district-level tournaments are **not** Junior Section Tournaments, even if they are included in the USTA National Standings List under Regulation 38.*

Regulation 2: Applicable Rules and Regulations. These regulations, the ITF Rules of Tennis, USTA Regulations, and The Code are in effect at all Junior Section Tournaments. It is a player's responsibility to know and understand them.

Regulation 3:

III. CONDUCTING THE TOURNAMENT

C. Electronic Line Calling The USTA authorizes the use of Electronic Line Calling at USTA sanctioned play except where other USTA regulations specifically prohibit its use.

1. System Types. Electronic Line Calling may be “Review” or “Live.” Review systems require the player to challenge a call. Live systems make calls without requiring a challenge. Only accredited and eligible Electronic Line Calling systems are authorized for use in USTA sanctioned play.

2. Accreditation. Unless otherwise authorized by the USTA, systems must be accredited by the ITF at the Bronze, Silver, or Gold level for use in USTA sanctioned play.

3. Eligible Systems. The USTA shall publish at usta.com a list of systems that meet the minimum requirements for use in USTA sanctioned play.

4. Process for Authorization. The USTA shall publish at usta.com the process for authorizing eligible systems for USTA sanctioned play.

5. Surfaces. Systems may only be used on the court surface for which they have been accredited and determined eligible.

6. Notification. Before the start of a Tournament utilizing Electronic Line Calling, the Tournament shall notify players via the Tournament homepage at usta.com of the name of the system utilized, the system instructions, the protocol for challenging, and the number of challenges allowed per set or per match.

7. Determination of Challenges. The sanctioning authority determines the number of challenges allowed during a set or match, or may delegate that authority to the sanction holder.

8. Cost to Players. No additional fees outside the entry fee may be charged to the player to be able to use an Electronic Line Calling system during the competition.

9. What May be Challenged. The following may be challenged when using Electronic Line Calling Review:

a. When players are calling their own lines, they may challenge: ● any call of “fault” or “out” made by their opponent; and ● an overrule made by an Official. A request for a challenge must be made immediately.

b. When a Chair Umpire or a Chair Umpire and Line Umpire(s) are Responsible for Making Line Calls:

● A player challenge of a line call or overrule shall be allowed only on either a point-ending shot or when a player stops playing the point during a rally (returns are permitted but then the player must immediately stop).

● In doubles a player must make a challenge in such a way that either stops play or the Chair Umpire stops play. If a challenge is made to the Chair Umpire, then the Chair Umpire must first determine that the correct procedure was followed. If it was not correct or if it was late, then the Chair Umpire may determine that the opposing team was deliberately hindered, in which case

the challenging team loses the point.

10. General Procedures for Electronic Line Calling Review. These procedures apply when utilizing Electronic Line Calling Review:

a. Players are responsible for making prompt calls in accordance with USTA regulations and The Code unless line calling responsibilities have been assumed by a Chair Umpire or by a Chair Umpire and Line Umpire(s).

b. The original call or overrule will always stand if the Electronic Line Calling Review is unable, for whatever reason, to make a decision on that line call or overrule.

c. An overturned call counts as an overrule.

d. If, and only if, in-match coaching is authorized, then a player may utilize coaching advice in determining whether to request a Challenge.

e. When players disagree on the particular ball impact to be reviewed, an official will use all available information to determine which particular ball impact is reviewed. If the official cannot come to a conclusion, the original call stands.

f. A request for a Challenge may be denied if a Tournament Official deems it is being used strictly as a way to delay play, there is gamesmanship involved, or the request was influenced by someone off the court when coaching is not authorized.

g. The on-court final decision will be the outcome of the Electronic Line Calling Review and is not appealable. The Official is the final authority on all questions of fact regarding a Challenge, and the Referee is the final authority on any question of tennis law.

h. The Referee determines if the use of the system shall be discontinued for a match.

Regulation 4: Junior Section Tournaments Committee. The Junior Play Committee Chair and USTA Missouri Valley Junior Competition Program Manager make up the Junior Section Tournaments Committee. This committee has the discretion to modify USTA Missouri Valley Junior Tournament Regulations for a USTA Missouri Valley Junior Section Tournament. Examples of situations in which the Committee might exercise its discretion include, but are not limited to: correcting administrative errors; change of tournament venue; and changes made to adjust for changes adopted by the USTA.

Eligibility Requirements

Regulation 5: Residence Requirement. Residency determines players who:

- May play in Closed Sectional and District Tournaments:
 - Are eligible to appear on a Sectional Quota List:
 - May be selected to represent a Sectional Association or District Association in a team competition.
- a) **Declaration of Residency.** A player residing within the geographic boundaries of the USTA must declare residency for the purposes of playing in junior tournaments. At any given time, a player is the resident of one Sectional Association (and, if applicable, one District Association) within the geographic boundaries only of the declared Sectional Association.
- Unless otherwise declared, a player's Section residency is the Sectional Association assigned through USTA membership.
 - USTA members who reside in British Columbia and who meet the eligibility criteria of USTA Regulation IX.C.1.b. are deemed to be residents of the USTA Pacific Northwest Section.
 - If applicable and unless otherwise declared, a player's District residency is the District Association assigned through USTA membership. 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.

- 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.
 - A player may change Section and District residency no more than once each calendar year.
- b) **Declaration of Residency by US Citizens Living Abroad.** A player who is a US citizen living abroad may declare residency by submitting a request for an assignment to a specific Sectional Association (and, if applicable, a specific District Association).
- c) **Form of Declaration.** A player who declares residency in a Sectional Association or District Association other than the Sectional Association or District Association assigned through USTA membership must complete the official USTA Declaration Form to make the declaration valid.

NOTE: A player who desires to change residency more than once per calendar year must request a waiver from the USTA Regulations. See USTA Regulation XX.

Regulation 6: USTA Membership. Each player shall have a USTA membership that is current through the last scheduled day of the tournament.

Regulation 7: Youth Progression Requirement. A player who is still eligible for the 8-and-under or 10-and-under divisions becomes eligible for older age divisions of sanctioned USTA Missouri Valley tournaments only by first completing the USTA Missouri Valley Youth Progression pathway.

Regulation 8: Age Eligibility. A player is age-eligible for an event if the player will not exceed the maximum age for the age division by the last day of the month in which the player's age division in the tournament is scheduled to start. See Table 4 of USTA Regulations. The USTA Missouri Valley may require a player to submit a copy of the birth certificate or other proof of age.

Regulation 9: Eligibility for Junior Section Tournaments. A player is eligible for a Junior Section Tournament if the player meets the requirements of USTA Missouri Valley Regulations 4-7.

Selection for Tournaments

Regulation 10: District Tournaments Designated for National Points. The Districts determine the selection process for district tournaments designated for National points. The Districts sanction and administer these tournaments, even though district tournaments that follow USTA Missouri Valley Regulations 39-40 are included in the USTA National Standings List, *unless* the district notifies USTA Missouri Valley that the tournament should not be included.

Regulation 11: Missouri Valley Level 5 Tournaments. Annually, the USTA Missouri Valley sanctions up to 14 (or 448 draw seats) Level 5 tournaments for boys and girls in the 18, 16, 14, and 12 divisions. Up to 2 Missouri Valley Level 5 tournaments may be closed to players who reside outside the USTA Missouri Valley.

a) *Maximum Draw Size.*

Indoors: The maximum draw size is 16 for singles and 8 for doubles.

Outdoors: The maximum draw is 24 for singles and 12 for doubles.

b) *Singles.* Players will be selected based on the Hybrid System using the most recent National Standings List and the World Tennis Number published at the time of the entry deadline. Players

will be selected in the following order:

16 Player Draw:

1. Top 12 players off the National Standings List (NSL);
2. Top 4 World Tennis Number (WTN) rated players. High-confidence players will be chosen first, followed by medium, and then low-confidence players.
3. Alternates will be ordered by the NSL.

24 Player Draw:

1. Top 20 players off the National Standings List (NSL);
2. Top 4 World Tennis Number (WTN) rated players. High-confidence players will be chosen first, followed by medium, and then low-confidence players.
3. Alternates will be ordered by the NSL.

c) *Doubles*. Players are selected into the doubles draw based on the Combined National Standings List (NSL) of the teams. Before the Doubles entry deadline, a team is paired in the doubles draw only after;

- accepting an invitation to play from the other player through Serve Tennis; or
- the tournament director receives confirmation from both players that they wish to be paired in the doubles draw before the doubles deadline.

If both players do not confirm with the tournament director, the team is not accepted into the doubles draw.

If a player is signed up for doubles and does not have a partner, the player will be placed in the blind draw unless the player withdraws from doubles prior to the doubles deadline. All doubles pairings must be confirmed by noon after the Singles online entry deadline.

- Players do not have to be in the singles draw to play doubles.
- A player has the responsibility to communicate with his or her partner about doubles at the tournament. If a player's partner does not make the singles draw or no longer wishes to play doubles, the player has the responsibility to communicate with the Tournament Director and find a new partner before the doubles deadline.
- If a player in the doubles draw withdraws and the player's partner still wants to play doubles, the partner may play with any other player who applied for doubles and is on the alternate list.

d) *Player must play in the same division in singles and doubles*. A player must play in the same age division in singles and doubles.

Regulation 12: Missouri Valley Level 4 Tournaments. Annually, the USTA Missouri Valley sanctions five Level 4 tournaments for boys and girls in the 18, 16, 14, and 12 divisions. At least three Missouri Valley Level 4 tournaments are open to players who reside outside the USTA Missouri Valley.

a) *Maximum Draw Size*. The maximum draw size is 32 for singles and 16 for doubles.

b) *Singles*. Players are selected into the singles draw from among those who apply to enter in order of their standing on the most recent USTA National Standing List published at the time of the entry deadline.

c) *Doubles*. Players are selected into the doubles draw based on the combined singles rankings of the teams. Before the singles entry deadline, a team is paired in the doubles draw only after;

- accepting an invitation to play from the other player through Serve Tennis; or
- The tournament director receives confirmation from both players that they wish to be paired in the doubles draw before the doubles deadline.

If both players do not confirm with the tournament director, the team is not accepted into the

doubles draw.

If a player is signed up for doubles and does not have a partner, the player will be placed in the blind draw unless the player withdraws from doubles prior to the doubles deadline. All doubles pairings must be confirmed by noon on the Friday after the Singles online entry deadline.

- Players do not have to be in the singles draw to play doubles. If a player is not in the singles draw and wishes to play doubles, the player must still have applied for entry in the tournament and appear on the alternates list. Any player who was not selected for singles will be considered for the doubles draw only if the player informs the Tournament Director that the player still wants to play in the doubles draw before the doubles deadline.
- A player has the responsibility to communicate with his or her partner about doubles at the tournament. If a player's partner does not make the singles draw or no longer wishes to play doubles, the player has the responsibility to communicate with the Tournament Director and find a new partner before the doubles deadline.
- If a player in the doubles draw withdraws and the player's partner still wants to play doubles, the partner may play with any other player who:
 - Applied for doubles and is on the alternate list; or a
 - Is on the singles alternate but who also registered for doubles so long as the new team does not affect seeding. The player who seeks to play with a new partner is responsible for finding the partner and providing this information to the Referee. The Referee is not required to substitute the new partner into the draw if the Referee learns of the substitution less than one hour before the scheduled start of the first match in the doubles draw.
- Blind draw pairing: When there is a blind draw pairing, entry preference is given to singles main draw players and then to alternates in order.
- The entry deadline for doubles is at noon on the Sunday after the singles online entry deadline unless otherwise specified on the tournament homepage.

d) *Player must play in the same division in singles and doubles.* A player must play in the same age division in singles and doubles.

Regulation 13: Missouri Valley Level 3 Closed Tournaments. Annually, the USTA Missouri Valley can sanction up to two closed Level 3 tournaments (including a team tournament) for boys and girls in the 18, 16, 14, and 12 divisions that are open only to players with residency in the Missouri Valley.

a) *Maximum Draw Size.* The maximum draw size is 16 for singles and 8 for doubles ~~for the Level 3 Closed #1 and 32 for singles and 16 doubles for the Level 3 Closed #2.~~

b) *Singles.* Players are selected into the singles draw from among those who apply to enter in order of their standing on the most recent USTA National Standing List published at the time of the entry deadline.

c) *Doubles.* Players are selected into the doubles draw based on the combined singles rankings of the teams. Before the singles entry deadline, a team is paired in the doubles draw only after;

- accepting an invitation to play from the other player through Serve Tennis; or
- the tournament director receives confirmation from both players that they wish to be paired in the doubles draw before the doubles deadline.

If both players do not confirm with the tournament director, the team is not accepted into the doubles draw.

If a player is signed up for doubles and does not have a partner, the player will be placed in the blind draw unless the player withdraws from doubles before the doubles entry deadline. All doubles pairings must be confirmed by noon on the Sunday after the Singles online entry

deadline.

- Players do not have to be in the singles draw to play doubles. If a player is not in the singles draw and wishes to play doubles, the player must still have applied for entry in the tournament and appear on the alternates list. Any player who was not selected for singles will be considered for the doubles draw only if the player informs the Tournament Director that the player still wants to play in the doubles draw before the doubles deadline.
- A player has the responsibility to communicate with his or her partner about doubles at the tournament. If a player's partner does not make the singles draw or no longer wishes to play doubles, the player has the responsibility to communicate with the Tournament Director and find a new partner before the doubles deadline.
- If a player in the doubles draw withdraws and the player's partner still wants to play doubles, the partner may play with any other player who:
 - Applied for doubles and is on the alternate list; or a
 - Is on the singles alternate, but also registered for doubles so long as the new team does not affect seeding. The player who seeks to play with a new partner is responsible for finding the partner and providing this information to the Referee. The Referee is not required to substitute the new partner into the draw if the Referee learns of the substitution less than one hour before the scheduled start of the first match in the doubles draw.
- Blind draw pairing: When there is a blind draw pairing, entry preference is given to singles main draw players and then to alternates in order.
- The entry deadline for doubles is at noon on the Sunday after the singles online entry deadline unless otherwise specified on the tournament homepage.

d) *Player must play in the same division in singles and doubles.* A player must play in the same age division in singles and doubles.

Regulation 14: Missouri Valley Level 3 Closed Team Tournament. Annually, the USTA Missouri Valley sanctions one Missouri Valley Level 3 Team Tournament for boys and girls in the 18, 16, 14, and 12 divisions.

- a) *Maximum Draw Size.* The maximum draw size is 24 players (8 teams of twelve).
- b) *Selection.* Players are selected from those who apply to enter in order of their standing on the most recent USTA National Standing List published at the time of the entry deadline.
- c) *Teams.* Teams are formed using the waterfall technique and the World Tennis Number rating as of the entry deadline.
- d) *Scorecard Position:* Positions on scorecards are determined by the most recent World Tennis Number publication at the entry deadline. The player with the higher rating will be placed in Position 1, followed by Position 2, and then Position 3, by age division, on the scorecards. In the event of a tie, the player with the higher USTA National Standing List ranking published at the time of the entry deadline is placed in the corresponding Position. If neither player has a ranking, then scorecard positions are determined by a coin flip.
- e) *Multi-Age Division.* Multi-Age division registration is not permitted for the L3 Closed Team Tournament.
- f) *Withdrawal of a Player.* No new entries are accepted after the entry deadline, unless authorized by the Tournament Committee.
- g) *Tournament Format.* Round Robin with Playoffs
In each round:

- Scorecard Position 1 will play singles against each other;
- Scorecard Position 2 will play singles against each other;
- Scorecard Position 3 will play singles against each other;
- All players will play doubles (two gendered matches and one mixed doubles per age division per round).

Match Tiebreak: Mixed Doubles, 10-pt. Tiebreak

Round 1: BG12 Position 2

Round 2: BG12 Position 1

Round 3: BG14 Position 2

Round 4: BG14 Position 1

Regulation 15: Missouri Valley Level 4 Team Tournament. Annually, the USTA Missouri Valley sanctions one Missouri Valley Level 4 Team Tournament for boys and girls in the 18, 16, 14, and 12 divisions.

- Maximum Draw Size.* The maximum draw size is 16 players (8 teams of two).
- Team Selection.* Teams are selected based on the combined singles ranking from the most recent USTA National Standing List published at the time of the entry deadline. If two teams have the same combined ranking, the team with the higher-ranked singles player will be placed ahead of the other team on the entry list.
- Seeding and Scorecard Position:* Teams are seeded, and positions on scorecards are determined by the most recent **USTA World Tennis Number** publication at the entry deadline. The player with the higher ranking will be placed in Position 1 on the scorecards. In the event of a tie, the player with the higher USTA National Standing List ranking published at the time of the entry deadline is placed in Position 1. If neither player has a ranking, then scorecard positions are determined by a coin flip.
- Online Entry.* Players must apply online for entry as a team. A team will be considered for selection only if each player correctly applied online for entry, which means each player applied for the tournament with the other player listed as a partner. Players are responsible for applying correctly and correcting any errors before the entry deadline.
- Multi-Age Division.* Multi-Age division registration is not permitted for the L4 Closed team Tournament.
- Withdrawal of a Player.* Because players are required to apply for entry in the tournament as a team, the withdrawal of one player is considered the withdrawal of the team. A player whose partner withdraws before the deadline may apply for entry with another partner. No new entries are accepted after the entry deadline, unless authorized by the Tournament Committee.
- Tournament Format.* The tournament uses a Round Robin format:

Draw Size	Draw Format
0-2	The event for the age division is canceled
3-5	Round Robin
6-8	2 Groups RR w/ Crossover Play

In each round:

- The two highest-ranked players will play singles against each other;
- The other two players will play singles against each other; and
- The players will play doubles.

Regulation 15: Missouri Valley Level 5 Open Team Tournament. Annually, the USTA Missouri Valley sanctions 2 Missouri Valley Level 5 Open Team Tournaments for boys and girls in the 18, 16, 14, and 12

divisions.

- a) *Maximum Draw Size.* The maximum draw size is 16 players (8 teams of two).
- b) *Online Entry:* Players can register with a partner or individually..
- c) *Team Selection.* Teams are given priority selection. After that, individual players who registered without a partner will be selected and paired based on their standing on the USTA National Standings List. Individual players are selected based on their combined singles ranking from the most recent USTA National Standing List published at the time of the entry deadline.
- d) *Multi-Age Division.* Multi-age division registration is not permitted for the L5 Open team Tournament.
- e) *Withdrawal of a Player.* A player whose partner withdraws after the deadline may request to pair with another player on the alternate list. No new entries are accepted after the entry deadline, unless authorized by the Tournament Committee.
- e) *Tournament Format.* The tournament uses a Round Robin format:

Draw Size	Draw Format
0-2	The event for the age division is canceled
3-5	Round Robin
6-8	2 Groups RR w/ Crossover Play

In each round:

- The two highest-ranked players will play singles against each other;
- The other two players will play singles against each other; and
- The players will play doubles.

Regulation 16: Missouri Valley Level 5 Flighted Compass Draws.

- a) *Maximum Draw Size.* The maximum draw size is 32 players for singles and 16 teams for doubles.
- b) *Singles.* Players are selected based on the Hybrid System using the most recent National Standings List and the World Tennis Number published at the time of the entry deadline.

Players are selected in the following order:

- Up to 27 players off the National Standings List (NSL);
- The remaining 5 players or spots World Tennis Number (WTN) rated players.
- Any remaining spots not filled by the National Standings List (NSL) or the World Tennis Number, are selected by the entry timestamp.
- High-confidence players will be chosen first, followed by medium, and then low-confidence players.

Alternates are ordered:

- First by the NSL;
- Second by WTN; and
- Third by the entry timestamp.

- c) *Tournament Format.* The tournament uses compass draws with two flights of 16 players. Players will be flighted by WTN.

The precise format is determined after entries close:

# of Players	Format
0-3	Flight Cancelled or players placed on the Alternate List for Flight 1
4	Compass Draw
5	4-player Compass Draw with 5th player on the Alternate List

6-8	Compass Draw
9	8-player Compass Draw with 9th player on the Alternate List
10-16	16-player Compass Draw with byes as needed

d) Doubles. Players are selected into the doubles draw based on the Combined National Standings List (NSL) of the teams. Before the Doubles entry deadline, a team is paired in the doubles draw only after:

1. accepting an invitation to play from the other player through Serve Tennis; or
2. the tournament director receives confirmation before the doubles entry deadline from both players they wish to be paired in the doubles draw.

If both players do not confirm with the tournament director, the team is not accepted into the doubles draw.

If a player is signed up for doubles and does not have a partner, the player will be placed in the blind draw unless the player withdraws from doubles before the doubles deadline. All doubles pairings must be confirmed by noon after the Singles online entry deadline.

- a) Players do not have to be in the singles draw to play doubles.
- b) A player has the responsibility to communicate with his or her partner about doubles at the tournament. If a player's partner does not make the singles draw or no longer wishes to play doubles, the player has the responsibility to communicate with the Tournament Director and find a new partner before the doubles deadline.
- c) If a player in the doubles draw withdraws and the player's partner still wants to play doubles, the partner may play with any other player who applied for doubles and is on the alternate list
- e) A player must play in the same age division in singles and doubles.

Regulation 17: USTA National Standing List. At least monthly, the USTA publishes National Standings Lists (NSLs) for 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. Annually, the USTA publishes the criteria and method of calculation.

National Tournaments and Endorsement Process

Regulation 18: Sectional Quota List. No later than the entry deadline, the USTA Missouri Valley will provide each Tournament Committee with its Sectional Quota List. USTA National provides publication dates for the Missouri Valley Sectional Quota Lists for players in each junior division. The USTA Junior Competition Committee determines the criteria for inclusion on the lists and the method of calculating the lists. Annually, it publishes the criteria.

1. **National Quota List Criteria and Method of Calculating Lists** The criteria for inclusion on the lists and method of calculating the lists is the same criteria used for National Standings Lists (See Regulation IV.C. Comment), *except*:
 1. Players must meet the requirements of USTA Regulation IX.C.1.
 2. Only residents of the USTA Missouri Valley may appear on its Sectional Quota List.
 3. The following results are included:
 - A player's best six singles and best six doubles and/or mixed doubles results may not include more than two singles and two doubles and/or mixed doubles results from tournaments sanctioned by governing bodies other than the sectional

association or one of district associations.

4. If the USTA Missouri Valley adopts a wild card or waiver process to place players on the USTA Missouri Valley Quota list, it will publish the process on its website.

a) *National Clay Court Championships Endorsement List*. Players are listed in the order in which they appear on the USTA National Quota list published on June 11th.

b) *National Championships Endorsement List*. Players are listed in the order in which they appear on the USTA National Quota list published on July 8th.

c) *National Indoor Championships Endorsement List*: Players are listed in the order in which they appear on the USTA National Quota list published on October 29th.

d) *National Winter Championships Endorsement List*. Players are listed in the order in which they appear on the USTA National Quota list published immediately on November 26th.

e) *National Doubles Championships Endorsement List* (BG14-18 Divisions): USTA Missouri Valley will order teams who register based on the highest combined singles ranking of the most recent USTA National Standings list available. Quota preference is awarded to USTA Missouri Valley paired players.

Regulation 19: National Team Events. The USTA National Team Events are defined by the USTA National Junior Tournament Rules & Regulations. If these regulations specify Team Event selections are under the purview of USTA Missouri Valley, the USTA Missouri Valley Junior Play Committee decides the method for selections.

Regulation 20: Intersectional. “The Battle of the Sections” are National Team events in which separate events are held for the Boys’ 16s and 18s division and the Girls’ 16 and 18 divisions. Players are awarded Level 1 ranking points. Each USTA Sectional Association sends eight players for each event, four of whom are 16-and-under and four of whom are 18-and-under. These eight players play as one team in four singles and four doubles matches.

Entry and Withdrawal Process

Regulation 21: Submission of Entries. An online application for entry is required for each tournament. The application must be completed before the entry deadline. In case of a problem with an online application, contact the Junior Competition Program Manager via phone or email before the entry deadline. If you reach voicemail, leave a message so the Junior Competition Program Manager can verify that your call was received before the entry deadline. No late applications are permitted.

Regulation 22: Entry Restrictions and Order of Selection.

a) *Players are restricted to playing in one age division.* If a player plays singles and doubles, the player must play in the same age division.

b) *Order in which draws are filled.* The USTA Missouri Valley fills the draws in its tournaments in the following order: 18, 16, 14, and 12 divisions.

c) *Player who enters two age divisions.* For USTA Missouri Valley Junior Section Tournaments that have limited draws, players may apply for entry in up to two age divisions. Unless notified to the contrary, the USTA Missouri Valley assumes that a player who applies for two age divisions prefers to play in the older division. A player who applied for entry in two age divisions and who is selected for the older age division is removed from the entry list for the younger division unless the player previously notified the USTA Missouri Valley that the player prefers to play in the younger division. A player who applied for entry into two age divisions and who was not selected for entry into the older age division is then considered for entry into the younger age division. If the player is not selected for the younger age division, the player is placed on the alternate list for

the younger age division only. A player is not allowed to appear on two alternate lists.

Alternates may petition to play up or down a division if a draw is not full.

Regulation 23: Late Entries. The Tournament Committee shall not accept late entries or add players to the alternates list.

Regulation 24: Withdrawal from Tournament. A withdrawal occurs when a player withdraws from a tournament after the entry deadline but before playing the first match because of injury, illness, personal circumstance (which includes a personal emergency), or an administrative error made by the tournament. A player who decides to withdraw from a tournament shall immediately notify the Tournament Director of the reason for the withdrawal. The Tournament Director shall notify the Junior Competition Program Manager of the identity of all players who withdrew from the tournament after the draw has been made. Players may be required to submit verification of the reason for the withdrawal (doctor's note, written description, and other relevant information) before the last scheduled day of the tournament. See MV Regulation 36.

Regulation 25: Alternate List. The Tournament Committee must prepare an alternate list of players who applied for entry into the tournament but were not accepted into the draw. The players shall be listed in the order in which their names appear on the USTA National Standing List that was used to accept players into the draw.

- The Tournament Committee must use the Alternate List to replace withdrawing players up to
- 9:00 p.m. on the day before the draw is scheduled to start. A tournament official shall promptly notify the player at the top of the Alternate List when an opening occurs. The Tournament Director has the discretion to set the amount of time in which a player has to respond before a tournament official notifies the next player on the list or uses the on-site alternate list.
- After 9:00 p.m. on the day before the draw is scheduled to start, the On-Site Alternate List shall replace withdrawing players.

Regulation 26: On-Site Alternates. The Tournament Committee must prepare an on-site alternate list of those on-site players who applied for entry into the tournament but were not accepted into the draw. The players must be listed in the order in which their names appear on the USTA National USTA Missouri Valley Standing List that was used to accept the players into the draw. The Tournament Committee must accept alternates into the draw in the order in which the names appear on the on-site alternate list. Only on-site alternates who are on-site for the first round of the age division in which they are on-site alternates are eligible for entry into the draw.

Regulation 27: Refund of Entry Fee. No refunds. The Tournament Committee shall refund a player's entry fee (minus processing fees) under the following circumstances. In all other cases, a refund is not required:

- Administrative error
- The withdrawal is for previously authorized entry into another tournament
- For the Level 4 Team Tournament, if one member of the team withdraws within six days of the start of the tournament, the team member who did not withdraw is entitled to a refund.

Important: Refunds processed through Serve Tennis are partial refunds. Stripe fees and USTA are non-refundable.

Regulation 28: Playing to Completion. To play to completion means to play all the player's matches in a tournament, including the main draw, mandatory FIC, mandatory consolation, and mandatory place play-offs. A player may be issued a Code of Conduct violation and receive suspension points for withdrawing for any other reason than:

- Retirement from a match because of injury, illness, or personal circumstance;
- Inability to play because of injury, illness, or personal circumstance when the player's problem becomes apparent before the match or during the warm-up; or
- Tournament administrative error.

The Referee determines what constitutes a legitimate personal circumstance.

Tournament Administration

Regulation 29: Serve Tennis. USTA Missouri Valley Junior Section Tournaments and all tournaments included in the USTA National Standings list are required to use Serve Tennis for seeding, making the draw, score entry, updating and processing withdrawals, and all other tasks associated with recording results.

Regulation 30: Seeding. Seeding is done to ensure that players of recognized outstanding ability do not meet each other in the early rounds.

- a) *Singles.* Seeding for singles events is based on the most recent Combined National Standings List published at the time of the entry deadline. In the event of a tie, the player with the higher ranking on the USTA National Standings List published at the entry deadline receives the higher seed. If neither player has a ranking, seeding will be determined by a coin flip.
- b) *Doubles.* Seeding for all doubles events is based on the most recent Combined National Standings List published at the time of the entry deadline. In the event of a tie, the team with the higher ranking on the USTA National Standings List published at the entry deadline receives the higher seed. If neither team has a ranking, the seeding will be determined by a coin flip.
- c) *Number of Seeds.* The number of seeds is determined by the number of players in the draw and the seeding ratio specified by USTA Regulations.

Regulation 31: Separating players from the same district. Whenever possible, when making the draw, players will be randomly placed in the draw to avoid meeting a player from the same district in the player's first match. Sometimes changes in the draw are necessary after the draw has been published. No attempt will be made to separate players by district after the draw has been published unless it becomes necessary to remake the entire draw.

Regulation 32: Separating players from the same section. Whenever possible, when making the draw, players will be randomly placed in the draw to avoid meeting a player from the same section in the player's first match. Sometimes changes in the draw are necessary after the draw has been published. No attempt will be made to separate players by section after the draw has been published unless it becomes necessary to remake the entire draw.

Regulation 33: Draw Formats at Section Events. Only the following draw types may be used *unless* the USTA Missouri Valley Junior Competition Program Manager, Chair of the USTA Missouri Valley Junior Competition Committee, and Vice Chair of the Junior Competition Committee determine that a change of format is necessary.

- a) Level 3, Level 4, and Level 5 *Doubles.* All doubles events use a single elimination draw.

- b) *Level 5 tournaments:*
 - Indoor: Singles, Compass
 - Outdoor: FIC-R16, **Compass**
- c) *Level 3 tournaments:*
 - Outdoor: Compass
 - Indoor: FIC-R16
- d) *Level 4 tournaments:*
 - Indoor: FIC-R16
 - Outdoor: FIC-R16
- e) *Level 4 and Level 5 Team Tournament. Round Robin*

Regulation 34: Publishing draws and earliest start times. No later than five days before the start of an event in a tournament, the tournament director shall notify the players of the earliest possible start times and update the tournament homepage with this information. A draw for an event will be posted by noon two days before the first day of the event.

Regulation 35: Match Formats for Section Events

- a) *Level 3, Level 4, and Level 5 Tournaments*
 - Singles Main Draw and 3-4 Playoff.* The best of three tiebreak sets with a 10-point Match tiebreak in lieu of the third set. Ad scoring.
 - Consolation and 5-6 Playoff.* The best of three tiebreak sets with a 10-point Match tiebreak in lieu of the third set. No Ad scoring.
 - Doubles.* Doubles matches are an 8-game Pro Set with a 7-point tiebreak if the score reaches 8 all. No Ad scoring.
- (b) *Level 4 Team and Level 5 Team Event:*
 - Singles.* All singles main draw matches shall be the best of three tiebreak sets with a 10-point Match Tiebreak in lieu of the third set.
 - Doubles L4.* Doubles matches are an 8-game Pro Set with a 7-point tiebreak if the score reaches 8 all.
 - Doubles L5.* **Doubles matches are a 6-game Pro Set with a 7-point tiebreaker if the score reaches 6 games all.**
 - Shortening Singles Matches.* When conditions justify shortening singles match formats, the USTA Missouri Valley Junior Competition Program Manager may authorize the playing of an 8-game Pro Set, 6-game set, and Short Sets *provided that* the shortened format is used in all matches in the same round.

Regulation 36: Starting Times and Days. Tournaments with doubles may start no earlier than 8am , *provided that* the Referee may set an earlier start time if the Referee determines that inclement weather requires an earlier start. Tournaments run on the following days:

Level 5:	Saturday-Monday
Level 5 Team:	Friday-Sunday
Level 4 Team:	Saturday-Sunday
Indoor Level 4:	Saturday-Monday
Indoor Level 3	Saturday-Monday
Outdoor Level 4:	Saturday-Monday
Summer Level 3:	Wednesday or Thursday-Sunday

Regulation 37: Scheduling. The scheduling guidelines in USTA Regulation II.D.9. and Table 8 are mandatory.

Regulation 38: Inclement Weather. Indoor court backup is not required for USTA Missouri Valley Section events. If indoor courts are available and the referee decides after consulting with the tournament director, players may be required to pay an additional fee, which is determined by the Tournament Director. If the Referee determines that there is inclement weather, the Junior Competition Program Manager (after consulting with the Tournament Director) may change the match format (provided the format is used for an entire round) or cancel an event. When canceling events, USTA Regulation III.G.5.a. is followed. Tournaments normally do not get canceled or rescheduled due to inclement weather forecasts.

Regulation 39: Suspension Point System. The USTA Suspension Point System applies to all junior tournaments sanctioned by the USTA Missouri Valley, including the Junior Section Tournaments. It is a player's responsibility to know and understand the suspension point system and his or her status. Every effort is made to notify the player each time a suspension point is assessed. Failure to notify the player does not invalidate any penalties or points assessed. Suspension points are listed in a player's USTA membership account. Please refer to Table 17 (Suspension Points) in Friend at Court.

Regulation 40: Injury, Illness, or Personal Circumstance. If because of illness, injury, or personal circumstance, a player withdraws from the tournament after the draw has been made or decides not to play a match, then the Referee, USTA Missouri Valley Junior Competition Program Manager, or Tournament Committee will require the player to provide a document that verifies the illness, injury, or personal circumstance. If the reason for the withdrawal is illness or injury, the player must deliver written verification of the illness or injury from a medical professional no later than the last scheduled day of the tournament. If the reason for the withdrawal is personal circumstance, the player must deliver a written description of the situation to the Referee before the last scheduled day of the tournament. The Referee determines whether the situation is a personal circumstance. Failure to provide the required documentation in a timely manner may result in the match being treated as a default rather than a withdrawal or walkover.

Junior Ranking Regulations

Regulation 41: National Standing Lists and Combined Ranking Lists. USTA Junior Tournament, Ranking, and Sanctioning **Regulation VII. National Standing Lists** lists the criteria for inclusion on National Standings Lists and the method of determining the order of players on the list.

Regulation 42: Mandatory Draw Types. Only the following draw types may be included in the USTA Missouri Valley Tournaments (See MV Regulation 30, which specifies which draw types are authorized for USTA Missouri Valley Junior Section Tournaments.):

Level	Draw Type
7	0-2 Draw Canceled 3-5 One Round Robin bracket 6-7 Two Round Robin bracket with cross play (4th place finisher in 4-draw pool will not participate in cross play) 8-9 Two Round Robin brackets with no cross play. There will be two 1st place finishers.

	10 Two Round Robin brackets with no cross play. There will be two 1st Place finishers. 11-13 Three Round Robin brackets with no cross play. There will be three 1st place finishers and three finalists 14-16 Compass Draw. There will be one 1st place finisher 17+ Multiple Round Robin brackets with no cross play. There will be four 1st place finishers and four finalists Doubles- Single Elimination (Does not apply to doubles only tournaments)
6	0-2 Draw Canceled 3-5 One Round Robin Bracket 6-12 Main draw with 3rd/4th playoff and Feed-in Championship through Quarters with 5th-8th playoffs. 13-16 Main draw with 3rd/4th playoff and Feed-in Championship through the Quarters with no 5th-8th playoffs Dominant Duo: Compass Draw unless fewer than 8 teams are entered, in which case a round robin or two round robins with playoffs are authorized. Doubles- Single Elimination (Does not apply to doubles-only tournaments)
5	Indoor: 16 player Compass draw Outdoor: 6-16 Players: Main draw with 3rd/4th playoff and Feed-in Championship through Quarters 17-24 Players: Main draw with playoffs for 3rd-4th and Feed-in Consolation through R16 with 5th-8th playoffs. Dominant Duo team Format 32-Player Flighted Compass draw Doubles- Single Elimination (Does not apply to doubles-only tournaments)
4	32 FIC-R16 Doubles - Single Elimination Dominant Duo Team Format
3	Outdoor - 16 Compass draw Indoor - 32 FIC-R16 Doubles - Single Elimination

Regulation 43: Match Formats. Only tournaments that use the following match formats are considered for USTA National Standing Lists (See **MV Regulation 31**, which specifies which formats are authorized in USTA Missouri Valley Junior Section Tournaments):

- Best of three tiebreak sets;

- Best of three tiebreak sets with a Match Tiebreak in lieu of the deciding final set;

- Best of three tiebreak Short Sets;

- Best of three tiebreak short sets with a Match Tiebreak in lieu of the deciding final set; and

- 8-game Pro Set.

- 6-game Pro Set

Match formats not included on this list that have received prior section approval are included on the USTA National Lists. (Match formats must sometimes be shortened to complete the tournament.)