

2026 Southwest Junior Rules and Regulations

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I. GENERAL

These regulations apply to USTA Southwest Junior Tournaments all of which count for junior ranking on the National Standings List. Any authority delegated by these Regulations to the USTA Southwest Junior Competition Committee, unless otherwise stated, may not be delegated to a different authority.

- A. **Name.** The USTA Southwest Board of Directors has approved the adoption of these rules and regulations that will be known as the USTA SOUTHWEST JUNIOR TOURNAMENT, RANKING, AND SANCTIONING REGULATIONS.
- B. **Governance.** The USTA SOUTHWEST JUNIOR TOURNAMENT, RANKING, AND SANCTIONING REGULATIONS apply to all USTA Southwest Junior Ranking Tournaments, the process by which certain sectional USTA Junior Ranking Tournaments are sanctioned and junior rankings. USTA Constitution and Bylaws, FRIEND AT COURT-*The USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations*, apply to all matches played in USTA Junior Ranking Tournaments. In any match played without officials, THE CODE shall be observed. The USTA Point Penalty System and USTA Junior Suspension Point System shall be used.
- C. **Amendments.** These USTA SOUTHWEST JUNIOR TOURNAMENT, RANKING, AND SANCTIONING REGULATIONS may be amended by the USTA Southwest Junior Competition Committee.

Proposed amendments are subject to review and comment by the USTA Southwest Board of Directors.

Unless otherwise specified, amendments shall become effective on January 1 following the year of adoption.
- D. **Glossary of Terms.** For purposes of these Regulations, certain words and phrases are defined in a glossary.
- E. **Non-discrimination.** Discrimination in USTA Southwest Junior Ranking Tournaments is prohibited, except that participation may be limited to US Citizens and other aliens as set forth in the eligibility requirements of USTA Regulation V.

II. AUTHORIZED SOUTHWEST JUNIOR RANKING TOURNAMENTS

Annually, the Southwest shall be authorized to sanction tournament levels described below for junior ranking for boys and girls in the 18, 16, 14, and 12 divisions.

Closed Southwest Level 3 Tournaments. The Southwest shall sanction at least one and no more than two closed Level 3 Tournaments and shall conform to the following parameters:

1. *Duration.* The tournament shall not exceed more than 3 days. Players may not make up matches after the last sanctioned day of the tournament without prior written approval by the Southwest.
2. *Draw Size.* The draw size shall be limited to no more than 32 for the June L3 and no more than 32 for the second L3 occurring at a date between November and January.
3. *Draw Format.*
 - a. Formats permitted are as follows:
 - i. Round Robin
 - ii. Compass Draw
 - iii. Feed in through Quarters or R16
 - iv. Single Elimination for gender and mixed doubles divisions only when singles events are offered as part of the same tournament
 - b. Separating draws. Events may not be separated into more than one draw.
4. *Match Format.* No-ad scoring is permitted. The match format shall be any of the following:
 - Best of 3 tie break sets for main draw
 - Best of 3 tie break sets with a 10 point match tie-break in lieu of the third set
 - 8-game pro set for gender and mixed doubles events only when singles offered as part of the same tournament

Match formats may be shortened when inclement weather or other circumstances prevent a tournament from completing on time.
5. *Selection.* Players will be selected for draws by the most recent NSL.
 - Players may apply for a wildcard [wildcard application process](#) linked here
6. *Seeding.*
 - Players will be seeded by WTN for singles and doubles seeding list for doubles
 - Once draws have been published, if a seed withdraws, they will be replaced by an alternate if available. No reseeding will occur.

B. Open and Closed Southwest Level 4 Tournaments. The Southwest shall sanction at least three Level 4 Tournaments that are open to players from any Section and no more than two closed Level 4 Tournaments that are closed to residents of the Southwest and shall conform to the following parameters:

1. *Duration.* The tournament shall not exceed more than 3 days. Players may not make up matches after the last sanctioned day of the tournament without prior written approval by the Southwest.
2. *Draw Size.* The draw size shall be limited to no more than 32 for open and closed events.
3. *Draw Format.*
 - a. Formats permitted are as follows:
 - i. Round Robin
 - ii. Round Robin with Playoffs
 - iii. Compass Draw
 - iv. Feed-in Championship through Quarters or R16
 - v. Single Elimination for gender and mixed doubles divisions only when singles events are offered as part of the same tournament
 - b. Separating draws. Events may be separated into more than one draw.
4. *Match Format.* No-ad scoring is permitted. The match format shall be any of the following:
 - Best of 3 tie break sets with a 10 point match tie-break in lieu of the third set
 - 8-game pro set for gender and mixed doubles events only when singles offered as part of the same tournamentMatch formats may be shortened when inclement weather or other circumstances prevent a tournament from completing on time.
5. *Selection.* Players will be selected for draws by the most recent NSL
 - Players may apply for a wildcard [wildcard application process](#) linked here
6. *Grouping.* Players will be grouped by WTN
7. *Seeding.*
 - Players will be seeded by WTN for singles and doubles seeding list for doubles
 - Once draws have been published, if a seed withdraws, an alternate will replace them if available. Draws will not be reseeded once published.

C. Open and Closed Southwest Level 5 Tournaments. The Southwest shall sanction up to ten Level 5 Tournaments one may be closed and the remaining shall be open to out of section players and shall conform to the following parameters:

1. *Duration.* The tournament shall not exceed more than 3 days. Players may not make up matches after the last sanctioned day of the tournament without prior written approval by the Southwest.
2. *Draw Size.* The draw size shall be limited to no more than 32.
3. *Draw Format.*
 - a. Formats permitted are as follows:
 - i. Round Robin
 - ii. Round Robin with Playoff

- iii. Compass Draw
 - iv. Team format
 - v. Feed-in Championship through Quarters or R16
 - vi. Single Elimination for gender and mixed doubles divisions only when singles events are offered as part of the same tournament
- b. Separating (flighting) of draws. Events may be separated/flighted into more than one draw.
4. *Match Format.* No-ad scoring is permitted. The match format shall be any of the following:

- Best of 3 tie break sets with a 10 point match tie-break in lieu of the third set
- 8-game pro set for gender and mixed doubles events only when singles offered as part of the same tournament

Match formats may be shortened when inclement weather or other circumstances prevent a tournament from completing on time.

5. *Selection.* Players will be selected by the most recent National Standings List (NSL).

- Players may apply for a wildcard [wildcard application process](#) linked here

6. *Grouping.* Players will be grouped by WTN

7. *Seeding.*

- Players will be seeded by WTN for singles and doubles seeding list for doubles
- Once draws have been published, if a seed withdraws, an alternate will replace them. Draws will not be reseeded.

D. Southwest Level 6 Tournaments. The Southwest shall sanction a total determined by the Southwest Junior Competition Committee dependent on region participation. Level 6 Tournaments shall be open to out of section players and shall conform to the following parameters:

1. *Duration.* The tournament shall not exceed more than 2-1/2 days. Divisions must be completed within 2 days though. Ex: boys play Friday and Saturday and girls play Saturday and Sunday. Players may not make up matches after the last sanctioned day of the tournament without prior written approval by the Southwest.

2. *Draw Size.* The draw size shall be limited to no more than 16. Note that a provider can accept more than 16 players but must separate to not exceed 4 rounds of play in a draw.

3. *Draw Format.*

- a. Formats permitted are as follows:
 - i. Round Robin
 - ii. Round Robin with Playoff
 - iii. Compass Draw
 - iv. Team Format
 - vi. Single Elimination for gender and mixed doubles divisions only when singles events are offered as part of the same tournament

Vii. Modified feed-in is permitted for singles when doubles is offered in the same tournament

b. Separating draws. Events may be separated into more than one draw and may be waterfall or flighted.

C. Maximum number of rounds of play is four

D. Co-ed events are permitted.

4. *Match Format.* No-ad scoring is permitted. The match format shall be any of the following:

- Best of 3 short sets with a 7 point match tiebreak
- Best of 3 tie break sets with a 10 point match tie-break in lieu of the third set
- 8-game pro set for gender and mixed doubles events only when singles offered as part of the same tournament and this format for consolation rounds

Match formats may be shortened when inclement weather or other circumstances prevent a tournament from completing on time.

5. *Selection.* Players will be selected for draws based on the most recent NSL.

6. *Seeding.* Players will be seeded based on the most recent NSL.

E. Southwest Level 7 Tournaments. The Southwest shall sanction a total determined by the Southwest Junior Competition Committee dependent on region participation. Level 7 Tournaments shall be open to out of section players and shall conform to the following parameters:

1. *Duration.* Players may not compete in the tournament for a period longer than one day. Players may not make up matches after the last sanctioned day of the tournament without prior written approval by the Southwest.

2. *Draw Size.* The draw size shall be limited to a max of 4 rounds played by a player. Ex: 24 players registered and a provider divides into 2 groups of 12 players or in 3 groups of 8 players.

3. *Draw Format.*

a. Formats permitted are as follows:

- I. Round Robin
- II. Round Robin with Playoff
- III. Compass Draw
- IV. Team Format

b. Separating draws. Events may be separated into more than one draw and may be waterfall or flighted.

C. Maximum number of rounds of play is four

D. Co-ed events are permitted.

4. *Match Format.* No-ad scoring is permitted. The match format shall be any of the following:

- Best of 3 short sets with a 7 point match tiebreak
- One short set to 4
- Single 6-game set

Match formats may be shortened when inclement weather or other circumstances prevent a tournament from completing on time.

5. *Selection.* Players will be selected for draws based on the most recent NSL from the bottom up.

6. *Seeding.* Players will not be seeded at this level but will be grouped by level to ensure level-based competition by WTN.

F. Intersectional and Closed Intrasectional Team Tournaments. The Southwest will sanction one Intrasectional Level 4 team event to be open or closed one time annually. The Southwest will be represented in one Intersectional Level 2 team event open to two or more sections one time annually. The Southwest will be represented in one Intersectional Level 4 team event open to two or more sections one time annually.

III. DETERMINING ORDER OF FINISH WHEN ROUND ROBIN DRAW FORMAT PLAYED

The player who wins the most matches is the winner. If two players are tied, then the winner of their head-to-head match is the winner.

If three or more players are tied, the Referee shall use the steps set forth below that correspond with the match format played. The Referee shall use the steps in the order listed and shall break as many ties as possible using a given step before using the next step. Defaults, withdrawals, walkovers, and retirements shall be treated as set forth in USTA Regulation II.B.6.d.

A. Single Short Set, Single 6-Game Set, and Timed Matches (Game Format).

- The head-to-head win-loss record in matches involving just the tied players
- The player with the highest percentage of games won of all games completed;
- The head-to-head win-loss record in matches involving the players who remain tied;

If all the steps have been applied and a tie still cannot be broken, a random drawing among the remaining tied players shall be done to determine their order of finish.

B. Best of 3 10-Point Match Tiebreak Games.

- The head-to-head win-loss record in matches involving just the tied players;
- The player with the highest percentage of tiebreak games won of all games completed;
- The head-to-head win-loss record in matches involving the players who remain tied;
- The player with the highest percentage of points won;
- The head-to-head win-loss record in matches involving the players who remain tied;
- The player with the highest percentage of tiebreak games won of games completed among the players under consideration;
- The head-to-head win-loss record in matches involving the players who remain tied;
- The player with the highest percentage of points won; and
- The head-to-head win-loss record in matches involving the players who remain tied.

If all the steps have been applied and a tie still cannot be broken, a random drawing among the remaining tied players shall be done to determine their order of finish.

IV. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

A. Membership. All players, including non-U.S. citizens, are required to be members of the USTA in order to play in the USTA Junior National and Sectional Tournaments Levels 1-7

B. Age. The USTA month-of-birth age eligibility requirements will apply to all Level 1-7 events and players must also be either 11 years of age or shall have completed the USTA's PlayTracker System (10U Journey).

C. U.S. Citizens and Other Aliens. USTA Regulation IX.C. determines citizenship or other alien eligibility in order to play Level 1-5 closed tournaments

V. RESIDENCY

Residency shall determine the junior players who may play in Closed Southwest Tournaments, the junior players who may appear on a Sectional Quota List, and the junior players who may be selected to represent the Southwest in a team competition.

A. 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 purposes of playing in junior tournaments. A player may be the resident of one Sectional Association and, if applicable, one District Association within the geographic boundaries only of the declared Sectional Association at any given time.

- Unless otherwise declared, a player's Section residency shall be the Sectional Association assigned through USTA membership and which is based on the geographic boundaries set forth in the USTA Bylaws.
- USTA members who reside in British Columbia and who meet the eligibility criteria of USTA Regulation IX.C.1.b. shall be deemed to be residents of the USTA Pacific Northwest Section
- 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.
- Players may declare a different Section and District residency no more than once each calendar year.

B. Declaration of Residency by US Citizens Living Abroad. A junior player who is a US citizen living abroad may declare residency by submission of a request for an assignment to a specific Sectional Association and, if applicable, a specific District Association, within the boundaries of that Sectional Association.

C. Form of Declaration. A junior player electing to declare 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.

VI. NATIONAL STANDINGS LIST AND SOUTHWEST QUOTA

At least weekly, the USTA shall publish National Standings Lists (NSLs) for individual players in each junior division and the quota list will publish at least one time per month.

A. National Standings List (NSL) Criteria for Inclusion

- Player must meet the age eligibility requirements of the division;
- Player must have played at least one Junior Ranking Tournament in the division or the next-younger division and
- Player must have accumulated at least 1 Ranking Point as the 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.

Method of Calculating NSLs

- 100% of the singles ranking points from a player's 6 best Junior Ranking Tournaments.
- 100% of the singles bonus points earned at BG18 ITF Bonus-Point Only Events on the National Junior Tournament Schedule. 15% of the ranking points from a player's best 6 doubles and/or mixed doubles Junior Ranking Tournaments played. (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.)
- Ranking Points at the percentages listed above earned in an older age division tournament count towards a player's standing in one or more younger age divisions provided that a Junior Ranking Tournament has been played in the division and they are among the player's best 6 results.
- 20% of the Ranking Points earned in a younger age division tournament count towards a player's standing in the next-older age division if they are among the player's best 6 results, regardless of whether a Junior Ranking Tournament has been played in that division.

The order of the NSL is based on Ranking Points earned during the previous 12-month rolling period. When more than one player has the same number of total Ranking Points, tie-breaks on an NSL will be determined in the following order:

1. A player whose best event has the highest number of Ranking Points, second best, third best, etc. through sixth event;
2. Total Bonus Points earned in all events played during the computation period; then
3. Best random draw number.

B. Southwest Quota List. Each section is entitled to a quota of players for the events listed below by definition below. Players must be on the quota list in order to be eligible to compete.

- USTA National Clay Court Championships
 - USTA National Championships
 - USTA National Winter Championships
 - USTA National Indoor Championships
1. 40% of quota shall be based on unique registrations (includes players from in and out of the section) from closed Level 3 through Level 7
 2. 60% of quota shall be based on the overall strength of the Southwest player's ranked top 150 in each of the BG12-18 age divisions based on December 31st (final standings list) of the preceding year. Note that quota can be different for each age division.

Sectional Quota List Criteria

1. Players must meet the player eligibility requirements
2. Players only from the Southwest will be on this list
3. Boys and girls 12-18 age divisions will include no more than 2 singles and 2 doubles (gender or mixed) of their best results from the 6 singles and 6 doubles results sanctioned by a body other

than Southwest except that L1 Battle of the Sections for BG16-18 and L2 Intersectional Team Tournament will be considered as though sanctioned by the Southwest.

C. Player Selection and Ordering for USTA National Battle of the Sections

1. **BG 16/18 Battle of the Sections:** Separate tournaments are held for boys and girls. Each team is composed of 8 players (4 from 16u and 4 from 18u).
 - Team Wildcard Applications: [Review guidelines and apply here.](#)
 - Alternates will be ordered based on their position on the most recently published NSL, except that if a Wild Card player withdraws, Southwest has the right to replace that player with another Wild Card player.
 - Ordering of teams is completed by USTA National by WTN

Sportsmanship Pertaining to All Events: Notwithstanding the selection process described above, players with a history of poor sportsmanship may be excluded from selection by the Southwest.

VII. Ranking Regulations-refer to the national [tournament regulations](#) on USTA resources page

VIII. Sanctioning Regulations-refer to the national [-tournament regulations](#) on USTA resources page

IX. Suspension Point System-refer to USTA Regulations IV.F; players may not appeal suspension points until they are suspended/have reached a total of 10 suspension points within a 12-month period