

## Summary of the 2014 National Junior Competitive Structure

### 2-Step Phase In:

#### The following changes became effective January 1, 2013:

- USTA National Masters was added to the 2013 calendar and will be held for the first time in October.
- The USTA National Doubles Tournament became the USTA National Doubles Championship with the draw and selection as described below, and a Level 1 National Ranking Tournament with the top finishers receiving gold, silver and bronze balls.
- The July 2013 USTA Regional Tournaments will be singles draws of 32 and doubles draws of 16.

If the proposal is approved, the structure described below will become effective January 1, 2014.

### USTA NATIONAL RANKING TOURNAMENTS

Players must meet the eligibility requirements of USTA Regulation IX.2. to enter and play in the National Ranking Tournaments described below.

*Note: The list of tournaments below includes only the National Ranking Tournaments sanctioned by the USTA or its Sections, except for USTA International Tournaments (USTA tournaments played using ITF tournament regulations). ITF tournaments and USTA International Tournaments will also count for national ranking, and it is anticipated they will have the same ranking levels as today.*

#### LEVEL 1

##### USTA National Masters

This singles-only tournament will have a special points table developed that will award points appropriately comparable to a Level 1 tournament. The goal is to have this be a hospitality event whereby the lodging and meals are paid by the tournament. The tournament shall consist of 25 players selected from the most recently published National Standings List as follows:

- 4 boys and 4 girls in the 14s divisions shall compete on the first day. The winner in each division advances to compete with the 16s and the remaining 3 stay to train.
- 7 boys and 7 girls in the 16s divisions (plus the 14s division winners) who shall play two rounds in a regular draw (first round losers play a consolation match) with the players reaching the finals advancing to compete with the 18s. The remaining 6 stay to train.
- 14 boys and 14 girls in the 18s divisions (plus the 16s division finalists) who shall play a Compass Draw.

##### USTA National Championships

- The USTA Nationals Championships (hard courts) and USTA National Clay Court Championships:  
 BG18/16 - singles draw of 128 with 64-draw singles qualifier; doubles draw of 64  
 BG14/12 - singles draw of 128; doubles draw of 64
- USTA National Winter Championships:  
 BG18/16/14/12 - singles draw of 128; doubles draw of 64

#### Draw Formats:

BG18: Singles FIC through R16 Draw Format (losers of first three rounds fed into the consolation, QF losers playoff - a new draw format to be programmed into TDM for 2014)

BG16: Singles FIC through the QF Draw Format

Qualifier Draws: First round losers will play one additional match.

BG14/12: Singles Compass Draw Format.

All doubles draws will be single elimination, unless a special request by a sanction holder is approved by the Committee.

#### Selection:

Method of Acceptance	National Clay Courts				Method of Acceptance	Clays Qualifier	
	BG18	BG16	BG14	BG12		BG18	BG16
Sectional Quota - Minimum of 2	112	112	120	120	Endorsed players on NSL	64	64
Qualifiers	8	8	0	0	Main Draw Remaining Vacancies are filled with endorsed players on the NSL		
Wild Cards	8	8	8	8			
	128	128	128	128			

Method of Acceptance	National Hard Courts			
	BG18	BG16	BG14	BG12
Sectional Champions	17	17	17	17
Sectional Quota - Minimum of 1	95	95	103	103
Qualifiers	8	8	0	0
Wild Cards	8	8	8	8
	128	128	128	128

Method of Acceptance	Hards Qualifier	
	BG18	BG16
Endorsed players on NSL	64	64

Main Draw Remaining Vacancies are filled with endorsed players on the NSL

Method of Acceptance	National Winters			
	BG18	BG16	BG14	BG12
Sectional Quota - Minimum of 2	120	120	120	120
Wild Cards	8	8	8	8
	128	128	128	128

Main Draw Remaining Vacancies are filled with endorsed players on the NSL

Replacing Withdrawing Players - Non Qualifier Tournaments: Withdrawing players shall be replaced using the same method as currently used: Before the draw is made, a withdrawing quota player or Sectional Champion is replaced with the next highest player on the Section's endorsement list and other withdrawing players (wild cards and any players selected off of the NSL to fill remaining vacancies) are replaced using the National Standings List used for tournament selection. After the draw is made, all withdrawing players are replaced using the National Standings List used for tournament selection.

Replacing Withdrawing Players - BG18/16 Tournaments with Singles Qualifier: Before the draw is made, a withdrawing quota player or Sectional Champion is replaced with the next highest player on the Section's endorsement list and other withdrawing players (wild cards and any players selected off of the NSL to fill remaining vacancies) are replaced with Lucky Losers. After the draw is made, all withdrawing players are replaced with Lucky Losers.

Quotas: Sectional quotas shall be based on the ratio that a Section's junior membership and number of players in the Top 150 in all divisions bears to the total junior membership and total players in the Top 150 in all divisions. All sections shall be guaranteed a minimum of 1 at the USTA National Hard Court Championships. All sections shall be guaranteed a minimum of 2 at the USTA National Clay Court Championships and USTA National Winter Championships. There shall be no maximum quota. 60% shall be based on strength of section; 40% shall be based on size of membership. See table that follows for actual quota numbers based on membership and Top 150 players as of the previous year's end.

The quota calculations below are based on the membership and rankings as of December 31, 2012. This is for informational purposes only - the quota for each year will be recalculated and will be based on the previous year's end membership and rankings.

Section	Clay Courts		Hard Courts		Winters
	BG18/16	BG14/12	BG18/16	BG14/12	All Div.
	112 Quota for 128 Draw	120 Quota for 128 Draw	95 Quota + Sectional Champ for 128 Draw (112 TTL Spots)	103 Quota + Sectional Champ for 128 Draw (120 TTL Spots)	120 Quota for 128 Draw
Caribbean	2	2	2	2	2
Eastern	10	11	9	10	11
Florida	10	11	10	10	11
Hawaii Pacific	2	2	2	2	2
Intermountain	4	4	4	5	4
Mid-Atlantic	5	6	6	6	6
Middle States	4	4	5	5	4
Midwest	14	15	13	14	15
Missouri Valley	3	3	4	4	3
New England	4	4	4	5	4
Northern	2	2	3	3	2
Northern California	7	8	7	8	8
Pacific Northwest	3	3	3	3	3
Southern	17	19	16	17	19
Southern California	13	13	12	13	13
Southwest	3	3	3	3	3
Texas	9	10	9	10	10
	112	120	112	120	120

**BG18/16 Qualifier (Hards and Clays):** When held, the qualifier will have a draw size of 64 Sectionally endorsed players selected using the National Standings List. Players will play three rounds to qualify 8 players for the main draw. First round losers will play one additional consolation match, thereby guaranteeing a singles qualifier players a minimum of two matches. All 64 singles qualifier players will be guaranteed entry into the main doubles draw of the USTA National Championship if they play the singles qualifier to completion and if they partner with a main draw singles player or a singles qualifier player. First, second, and third round losers will be ordered by round lost using the most recently published National Standings List. This list of "Lucky Losers" will be used to replace certain withdrawing main draw singles players, provided they play the tournament to completion - see above.

**USTA National Doubles Championship**

This existing USTA National Doubles Tournament has been replaced with the new Level 1 Championship and 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers shall receive Gold, Silver and Bronze Balls. The draw shall be 32 teams in the 16s and 14s divisions only, with a Compass Draw format. Players must enter as teams by the entry deadline. Selection and seeding is based solely on doubles results - teams with the highest combined individual doubles standing are selected. Combined standing is determined as follows: *Player A holds the #200 standing and Player B holds the #201 standing. The Team of A&B would have the combined standing of 401.*

**USTA Team Championships**

- USTA Boys' and Girls' 18 National Team Championships
- USTA Boys' and Girls' 16 Intersectional Team Championships

New Team Championships:

- USTA Boys' and Girls' 14 Intersectional Team Championships: This new tournament shall have the same format as the existing 16s Intersectional tournament.
- USTA National Spring Team Championships - Level 1: This new team championship shall select the top 32 players in the 18, 16, 14, and 12 divisions (128 total boys and 128 total girls) and waterfall these players onto 16 teams in the boys' event and 16 teams in the girls' event. Up to 4 Wild Cards may be awarded. The remaining players shall be selected using the most recently published National Standings List. The competition shall be modeled after the college format (doubles 8-game pro sets followed by Best of 3 singles matches) using a Compass Draw format. Each team shall be comprised of two (2) 18s, two (2) 16s, two (2) 14s, and two (2) 12s. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams shall receive Gold, Silver and Bronze Balls. Coaches will be selected by the national Player Development Staff from among national coaches, RTC coaches, and USTA "faculty" coaches. The competition will include 2 days of training and education followed by 4 days of competition.

That players in each division shall be waterfalled onto 16 teams so as to distribute the players among the teams as set forth below. Before water-falling, players shall be ordered based on the order in which their names appear on the most recently published National Standings List of the division, except that, the players ranked in the top 1000 ATP/top 500 WTA shall be placed on the top of the list in rank order, followed by players ranked in the top 100 ITF in rank order.

Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
18 Div.	1→	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17
16 Div.	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	←1
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
14 Div.	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	1→	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	32	31	30	29	28	27	26	25
12 Div.	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	←1	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24

**LEVEL 1A**

**USTA Boys' and Girls' 16 and 14 National Sweet Sixteen.** This new tournament will be held over Memorial Day weekend and will have singles draws of 16 (Compass Draw) and doubles draws of 8 (single elimination), and shall have the 14s and 16s played at one tournament location. Players shall be selected as follows:

- Up to 4 wild cards selected by USTA Player Development using the wild card criteria established for USTA National Championships;
- 12 players from the most recently published National Standings List;
- Remaining vacancies and alternates selected using the most recently published National Standings Lists.

The 3-½ day tournaments shall incorporate training and education, with the competition taking place on the final two days of the tournament.

## **Boys' and Girls' 16, 14, and 12 Event Held Concurrent with BG18 Easter Bowl ITF**

This new tournament will have singles draws of 64 using the new FIC through the R16 format, and doubles draws of 32 (single elimination). All players will be selected using the National Standings List of the division. The intent is to hold this tournament concurrent with and at the same site as the Easter Bowl ITF 18s.

## **LEVEL 2**

### **USTA National Selection Tournaments - Level 2**

Three segments of four concurrent tournaments shall be sanctioned as Level 2 National Ranking Tournaments (one additional segment will be sanctioned as Level 3) and held concurrent with Level 4 Closed or Open USTA Regional Tournaments. Up to one segment will have singles draw sizes of 64 and doubles draw sizes of 32. The remaining segments will have singles draw sizes of 32 singles and 16 doubles single elimination. The draw format will be the new FIC through the R16 format for singles and single elimination for doubles and it will permit the FIC to be played through the finals. Selection shall be based on the most recently published National Standings Lists of the division and the next-younger division. Similar to the existing USTA National Opens, players may enter up to 4 tournaments and up to 2 divisions.

### **USTA Boys' and Girls' 16, 14, and 12 Zone Team Championships**

These events will be held concurrent with the Interregionals using the same format as existed prior to 2014.

## **LEVEL 3**

### **USTA National Selection Tournaments - Level 3**

One segment of four concurrent tournaments shall be sanctioned as Level 3 National Ranking Tournaments and held concurrent with the USTA National Sweet Sixteen. All aspects of these tournaments shall be the same as the USTA National Selection Tournaments - Level 2, except the national ranking level assigned to the tournament.

*Note: Because the Level 3 USTA National Selection Tournaments are held concurrently with the USTA National Sweet Sixteen, an automated selection process will be in place that allows players to enter USTA National Selection and the higher-level Sweet Sixteen, but shall require a deadline by which a player must commit to an acceptance in a USTA National Selection Tournament and no longer be considered an alternate for the higher-level tournament.*

### **Warm Up Tournament before The USTA National Championships (hard courts) - Level 3**

These new tournaments will have singles draws of 64 and doubles draws of 32. The draw format is yet to be determined. Each division will be sanctioned in close proximity to each USTA National Championship so that players can have a warm up event for the tournament (e.g. the warm up tournament for the G18/16 will be held in or near San Diego, CA; the B14 warm up tournament will be held in or near San Antonio, TX). The BG18/16 dates will not conflict with the BG18/16 qualifier; however the BG18 dates will overlap with the USTA National Boys' and Girls' Team Championships. All players will be selected using the National Standings List of the division.

### **Sectional Ranking Tournaments - Level 3**

Each Section shall have two tournaments designated as national Level 3 tournaments. One of these tournaments shall be sanctioned in June of each year. The first place finishers in the singles events shall qualify for acceptance into The USTA National Championship held in August (hard courts), provided they submit a timely entry and remain age eligible.

## **LEVEL 4**

### **Closed USTA Regional Tournaments - Level 4**

Two segments of Closed USTA Regional Tournaments shall be sanctioned as Level 4 National Ranking Tournaments and held concurrent with USTA National Selection Tournaments. The draw sizes shall be 32 singles with the new FIC through the R16 format and 16 doubles single elimination. The new singles draw format will permit the FIC to be played through the finals.

Each time a concurrent segment of Closed USTA Regional Tournaments - Level 4 is held, one will be sanctioned in each of four Regions. Players must play in their own region and shall be selected based on the same sectional quota formula used for the USTA National Championships. The Sections in each Region and the quota to each tournament are as follows (The quota calculations below are based on the membership and rankings as of December 31, 2012. This is for informational purposes only - the quota for each year will be recalculated and will be based on the previous year's end membership and rankings.):

Region 1	
Hawaii Pacific	1
Intermountain	5
No. California	7
Pacific Northwest	3
So. California	13
Southwest	3
	32

Region 2	
Midwest	15
Missouri Valley	4
Northern	2
Texas	11
	32

Region 3	
Eastern	13
Mid-Atlantic	7
Middle States	6
New England	6
	32

Region 4	
Caribbean	1
Florida	12
Southern	19
	32

#### **Open USTA Regional Tournaments - Level 4**

One segment of four concurrent tournaments shall be sanctioned as Level 4 National Ranking Tournaments and held concurrent with a USTA National Selection Tournament segment. One tournament shall be sanctioned in each Region, but players are not restricted to Region. Selection shall be based on the most recently published National Standings Lists of the division and the next-younger division. The draw format shall be the same as the Closed USTA Regional Tournaments.

*Note Regarding Open and Closed USTA Regional Tournaments: Because Open and Closed USTA Regional Tournaments are held concurrently with the USTA National Selection Tournaments, an automated selection process will be in place that allows players to enter Open and Closed USTA Regional Tournaments and these other higher-level tournaments, but shall require a deadline by which a player must commit to an acceptance in an Open or Closed USTA Regional Tournament and no longer be considered an alternate for the higher-level tournament.*

#### **Sectional Ranking Tournaments - Level 4**

Each Section shall have four tournaments designated as national Level 4 tournaments. They may be sanctioned at any time during the year.