

## FAQ: Seeding

Q: Is seeding done by USTA national rankings for Category I and Category II National Championships?

A: No, the "all factors method of seeding is used"

Q: What is the "all factors method of seeding?"

A: The All Factors Method of seeding is based on the player's chances of winning the tournament as determined by the Tournament Committee.

Q: What factors are considered?

A: All reasonably available information including ranking lists, standing lists, recent records, types of surface and particularly head-to-head encounters.

Q: Can results from non-sanctioned matches be used in seeding?

A: Yes, for example, results from USPTA or ITF tournaments which are not USTA sanctioned may be used.

Q: Who determines the seeding?

A: The Tournament Committee. National seeding assistants do provide information to assist the tournament committee. A list of national Seeding Assistants can be found here:

- [Men](#)
- [Women](#)
- [Family](#)

Q: I won the tournament last year, but was not seeded #1 this year, why not?

A: The All Factors Method looks at rankings, standings and head-to-head. If you have losses to other players in the event this year or a very short record you will not necessarily be seeded #1.

Q: What time period is considered for seeding?

A: It varies, but normally 12-24 months. In the case of an outstanding player who has no recent record, older results may be used. For example, if a former US Open Champion entered a 50 and over tournament he or she might be considered for seeding.

Q: Are rankings or standings used for seeding?

A: Rankings and standings are a factors but not the only factor. Head-to-head results are the most important factor in seeding.

Q: For doubles, can a team which has not played together previously be considered for seeding?

A: Yes, if both players have good doubles records.

Q: Why aren't players seeded strictly based on ranking?

A: The Adult/Senior Competition Committee determined that the All Factors Method results in fairer and more accurate draws than seeding based on ranking.

Q: How many players are seeded in a tournament?

A: It varies by draw size as shown below (from Friend at Court (FAC) Table 23, 2013 FAC):

The number of players seeded shall be 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, or 32; and the maximum number of seeds shall be as follows:

- Draw of 128 with 97-128 players 32 seeds
- Draw of 128 with 65-96 players 16 seeds
- Draw of 64 with 33-64 players 16 seeds
- Draw of 32 with 17-32 players 8 seeds
- Draw of 16 with 9-16 players 4 seeds
- Draw of 8 with 5-8 players 2 seeds
- Draw of 4 with 3-4 players 2 seeds

(FAC Comment X.A-3: The Tournament Committee should seed the maximum number of players when adequate seeding information is available, but should not do so when information is not available.)

Q: I was seeded #3 in a tournament yet ended up on the same side as the #1 seed. Why wasn't I placed on the same side as the #2 seed?

A: The #1 and #2 seeds are placed at the top and bottom of the draw respectively. The #3 and #4 seeds are randomly drawn to the top or bottom half of the draw. The #5-8 seeds are randomly drawn into the four quarters of the draw. Tennis differs in its approach to separating seeds from other sports.

Q: If I think I am seeded too low, what can I do about it?

A: Category I and Category II tournament directors normally post seeds for 2-3 days prior to posting the draws. During this time period players can ask the referee and tournament director to have the seeds changed if they disagree with the seeding and have information to back up their request such as recent wins or losses which were not considered, information on the surface of a win or loss etc.

Q: Where can I find the 2013 FAC?

A. [Click here to read the 2013 FAC which includes the Adult/Senior and Family seeding regulations.](#)