

FEED-IN CHAMPIONSHIP TENNIS DRAW (32 DRAW)

The Feed-In Championship (FIC) is a "consolation" tournament that "feeds in" losers from the main draw from the first through the quarter-final rounds. The FIC is designed to meet the needs of players in major tournaments such as USTA District, Sectional, Regional or National Championships. It is equally valuable in local tournaments. The FIC winner is the **5th** best player in the tournament. (NOTE: Remember that a 3rd/4th place playoff is needed also, whenever conducting a FIC tournament.) The FIC fulfills these competitive tennis needs:

- * Eliminates the hazard of an imperfect draw.
- * Provides almost double the amount of data for ranking purposes.
- * Provides more match play for each player against a wider variety of opponents.
- * Makes the high cost of traveling worthwhile because of the above reasons.

FEED-IN CHAMPIONSHIP INSTRUCTIONS

Please refer to the attached draw sheet to clarify these instructions.

1. Each player retains the same number of their line on the main draw sheet, 1-32.

- a. 1st round losers from the main draw are entered on the FIC draw sheet, listed "loser of 1 or 2"; "loser of 3 or 4", etc.
- b. The "winners" of the 1st round FIC matches play the "losers" from the 2nd round of the regular tournament in the 2nd round of the FIC.
- c. The "winners" of the FIC's 2nd round play quarter-final round FIC matches to determine who will meet the main draw's quarter-final "losers".

IMPORTANT! It is imperative that each "loser in the main draw be "fed in" to the FIC space corresponding to the space number and losing main draw round.

- * For example, the 2nd round main draw loser of 1,2,3&4 is placed at the bottom of the FIC draw sheet will play the "winner" of spaces labeled "29 or 30" versus "31 or 32".
- * Note that the 2nd round main draw "loser" who is fed in to the FIC is one of four numbers, and the main draw quarterfinalist "loser" is one of eight numbers.

2. If there are less than 32 players, byes are used in the FIC to indicate when no player feeds in to the FIC in any round.

- * Byes are used to fill in the FIC draw, just as if the byes are players.
- * Recent USTA changes in the method of drawing main draw matches have resulted in a more balanced number of matches for players in FIC draws. Players in the middle of the FIC draw no longer have many more matches than players at the top or bottom of the FIC draw.
- * **It is recommended that the referee use the FIC draw sheet corresponding to the number of players in the main draw.** For example, if the number of players is between 17 and 32 use the 32 draw FIC; if the number of players is from 33 to 64 use the 64 draw FIC; and so forth. Constructing ad-hoc FIC draws is not recommended.

3. Suggestions for running a successful FIC tournament.

- * Never schedule more than two singles per day, including the main draw and FIC.
- * Conduct the FIC under the same conditions as the main draw, including:
 - same type of court (hard versus clay),
 - same number of balls, and
 - same type of ball (hard court versus soft court).

If the tournament does not play the FIC under the same conditions, the results may not be valid for ranking.

- * To avoid scheduling problems, do not allow a player to enter two age divisions. However, entering both singles and doubles is encouraged.
- * In major championships, **do not schedule FIC 1st, 2nd or quarter-final FIC round matches respectively on the same day as matches in the same round of the main draw.** Instead, if at all possible schedule these FIC matches for the next day. There are sound psychological reasons for delaying these FIC matches.

REMEMBER to make two copies of each FIC draw sheet and attach them to the main draw USTA Official draw sheets. Be sure to follow all sectional instructions in sending these draw sheets to the section or district as soon as possible after the tournament.

TOURNAMENTS FOLLOWING YOUR TOURNAMENT ARE DEPENDING ON YOU TO SUBMIT ALL YOUR DRAW SHEETS SO THAT THE DISTRICT OR SECTION CAN PROVIDE LATER TOURNAMENTS WITH UP-TO-DATE SEEDING LISTS.

