

# USTA Northern California Junior Tournament Rules



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

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### **SUMMARY OF NEW RULES FOR 2017:**

- Universal Tennis has begun publishing a weekly average rating for players. Unlike the daily rating, this rating does not change each time a result is recorded; it only changes weekly. A past weekly average is reviewable in a player's history and most players have one. The weekly average will be used, when available for selection into Super Series, UTR Round Robins and Excellence Tournaments. (Effective 1/1/17)
- Match format for Single Consolation for Challenger Tournaments has changed from the best of 3 tiebreak sets with a 10-point Match Tiebreak in lieu of the 3<sup>rd</sup> set to an 8-game pro set. See **Rule 11.D.** (Effective 7/1/17)
- A Referee is now permitted to replace a player with a bye before publication of the draw if there are no alternates awaiting entry. See **Rule 18.**
- Entry deadlines for UTR Round Robins and Super Series have changed. Super Series will close three Mondays before the start date of the tournament. UTR Round Robins will close two Monday's before the start date of the tournament. UTR Round Robins will close a week later than the Super Series on Monday giving players that are not accepted into the Super Series and who do not want to remain on the alternate list for the Super Series the ability to enter and play in the UTR Round Robin. See **Rule 7.**
- When a player withdraws from a tournament in violation of the Concurrent Tournament Rule, a player is not entitled to a refund, regardless of when the withdrawal occurs. See **Rule 24.i.**

### **USTA JUNIOR SUSPENSION POINT SYSTEM:**

The USTA Junior Suspension Point System applies participants in all sanctioned junior tournaments, including Orange and Green Ball Tournaments. It can be found in USTA Regulation IV.F. in Friend at Court. All players will be assessed suspension points for misconduct, including a withdrawal that is not evidence by proper written notification, according to the suspension point table in the regulation.

***It is very important for players to keep records of emails, suspension point notices, and other information related to the assessment of suspension points.***

- 1. Rules of Play.** The USTA Regulations will govern all aspects of USTA NorCal sanctioned tournaments; *except* that when a USTA NorCal rule is different than the USTA Regulations, the USTA NorCal rule will govern play. Note that USTA Junior National Tournaments that may take place in NorCal are governed solely by the USTA Regulations.
- 2. USTA Membership.** USTA Membership is required to play in all USTA NorCal sanctioned junior tournaments.
- 3. Player Eligibility.**
  - A. Age Eligibility.** The USTA has adopted a "month of birth" age eligibility rule for junior players competing in USTA sanctioned tournaments. Junior players may continue to play in the 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18 age divisions until the month they turn 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, or 19, respectively. When a tournament begins in one month and ends in the next, the start date of a tournament will be used to determine age eligibility.
  - B. 12-and-Under Youth Progression.** Players aged 12 years and under must meet certain Progression requirements to enter tournaments. See Rule 10.
  - C. Residency and Citizenship or Alien Requirements for Sectional Championships and Excellence Tournaments.** Sectional Championships and Excellence Tournaments are open only to "Residents of Northern California." "Residents of Northern California" refers to permanent residents of USTA NorCal (as geographically defined in the USTA Bylaws) and temporary residents who do not reside in USTA NorCal solely for the purpose of participating in tournaments and who are:
    - i. U.S. Citizens.** Citizens of the United States.
    - ii. Certain Aliens.**
      - Permanent resident aliens. Permanent resident aliens of the United States.
      - Diplomats. Aliens who have resided in the United States continuously for more than one year and who are members of families of persons in the diplomatic or consular corps.
      - Aliens with Refugee Status. Aliens who have been granted Refugee Status.
      - Aliens with Asylee Status. Aliens who have been granted Asylee Status.
      - Aliens with Temporary Protected Status. Aliens who have been granted Temporary Protected Status.
      - Aliens with Adjustment Status. Aliens whose I-485 (Application to Register Permanent Resident or Adjust Status) has been accepted for filing.
- D. Loss of Eligibility.** Players who have made a declaration of citizenship to a foreign country or who have accepted endorsement from another federation into an international team competition will not be eligible to participate in Sectional Championships, Excellence Tournaments, and Championship Tournaments.
- E. Reinstatement of Eligibility.** A player who was previously qualified to play and who lost this right by:

- playing for another federation in an international team competition; or
- no longer being classified by the Department of Homeland Security as an alien with a status listed in Rule 3.C.ii.

may apply for reinstatement. The USTA NorCal junior staff, in consultation with the USTA NorCal General Counsel, will rule on the request. The player may appeal the ruling to the USTA NorCal Board.

**4. Method of Tournament Entry.** Players will enter USTA NorCal junior tournaments by the entry deadline using the online TennisLink Registration System.

**5. Entry Limitations on Players.** Players are limited to playing one singles event, one doubles event, and one mixed doubles event per tournament.

If a tournament offers events in more than one category, for example both Challenger and Open singles events, a player may only enter one singles event, not one Challenger singles event and one Open singles event.

A player's entries must be in one age division in a tournament unless the Tournament Committee has determined otherwise. For example, a player entered in the 14 age division in singles must play in the 14 age division in doubles, unless otherwise stated. If a Tournament Committee allows entries in multiple age divisions, that information will be published to the tournament web page.

**6. Entry In Concurrent Tournaments.**

**A. General Rule.** *Except* as set forth under Rule 6.B. below, when entries close, a player cannot be entered in two or more sanctioned tournaments if any parts of the tournaments overlap, unless each Tournament Committee involved understands the situation and concurs in writing. If entries for the overlapping tournaments close on different dates, approval must be received from all Tournament Committees no later than the entry closing date that occurs last. Players who enter a tournament and play it to completion, may then enter another tournament with overlapping dates without permission. A player who is on the alternate list in one tournament is not considered in violation of the Concurrent Tournament Rule if they enter another concurrent tournament.

**B. Exceptions to Entering a Concurrent NorCal Junior Tournament and USTA National Tournament.**

Entries for National tournaments close approximately 3 weeks and 1 day before the tournament starts.

Entries for NorCal tournaments that are concurrent with a National tournament close two Mondays before the start of the NorCal tournament and selection is published no later than two Fridays before the start of the tournament.

A player that enters a National tournament that is concurrent with a NorCal tournament may not be entered in the NorCal tournament when entries close for the NorCal tournament if the player has been accepted into the National tournament. Players that are on the acceptance lists for both tournaments are in violation of the concurrent tournament rule and will be assessed 5 suspension points.

Players may remain on the list of accepted players for the NorCal tournament and on the alternate list for a National tournament until midnight on the Sunday prior to the start date of the NorCal tournament. After such time, a player may not withdraw from the NorCal tournament to play in the National tournament. Doing so is a violation of the Concurrent Tournament Rule.

Players may remain on the alternate list of both tournaments, but once a player accepts a position into a draw of one tournament that player may not subsequently withdraw from that tournament to play in another after the Sunday deadline. Doing so is a violation of the Concurrent Tournament Rule.

**C. Entering the 14 and 18 Divisions of a NorCal Junior Super Series.** When the 14 and 18 divisions are part of the same tournament concurrent entries in both divisions are permitted without written permission. When the 14 and 18 divisions are not part of the same tournament, concurrent entries in both divisions are not permitted without the written permission described in Rule 6.A. Playing in two concurrent Super Series divisions is not permitted.

**7. Entry Deadlines.**

**A. Entry Deadlines for Sectional Championships, Excellence Tournaments, Championship Tournaments, and UTR Round Robins.** The entry deadline for Sectional Championships, Excellence Tournaments, Championship Tournaments, and UTR Round Robins, is 11:59 pm (one minute before midnight) two Monday's before the start date of the tournament.

**B. Entry Deadline for Super Series.** The entry deadline Super Series is 11:59 pm (one minute before midnight) three Mondays before the start date of the tournament.

**C. Entry Deadlines for Open Tournaments and Challenger Tournaments.** The entry deadline for UTR Round Robins, Open Tournaments, and Challenger Tournaments is 11:59 pm (one minute before midnight) six days prior to the start date of the tournament. For example, if a tournament starts on a Saturday, the entry deadline is 11:59 pm the previous Sunday.

**8. Late Entries.** Tournament entries received after the entry deadline are Late Entries. A player or team showing up at a tournament with no previous entry in the event (often called an "onsite alternate") is a Late Entry.

**A. Events with No Draw Size Limit.** When an event has no draw size limit, Late Entries may be accepted at the discretion of the Tournament Committee in the order they are received before the tournament draw or

start times are published. After the tournament draw or start times are published, a Late Entry may replace a withdrawing player or team if the replacement does not invalidate the seeding. A Late Entry is accepted into a draw in the order the Late Entry is received. Late Entries received at the same time are accepted by lot.

**B. Events with Limited Draw Sizes.** When an event has a limited draw size, Late Entries are placed on the Alternate List after timely entries in the order they are received. Late Entries received at the same time are ordered by lot.

**9. Right of Refusal.** The Tournament Committee reserves the right to decline any entry either before or after the draws have been published. Some draws may be limited.

**10. Youth Progression for Competing in Tournaments.** USTA NorCal has established a Youth Progression for players aged 12 and under to enter into the competitive tournament structure. The purpose of the Progression is to ensure that juniors are playing at their appropriate age and skill level. The Progression is mandatory and has been implemented as of September 1, 2017. Information on the Youth Progression and requirements of each level can be found at <http://www.norcal.usta.com/juniors/progression/>.

## **11. Junior Tournament Descriptions**

Tournaments are offered for boys and girls in the following categories. Some tournaments may offer events in more than one tournament category. For example, a tournament may offer both Challenger and Open events. The tournaments are listed below in order of the NorCal Progression, from 10-and-under Orange Ball to the highest level of competition, the Sectional Championships and USTA NorCal Masters.

### **A. 10-and-Under Orange Ball Tournaments.**

**i. Event Profile.** The court is a 60' foot court (as described in *Friend at Court*) and a stage 2 orange ball of any composition will be used. Players must use a racquet that is 23" to 25" in length. Events may be coed, except at the 10-and-Under Orange Ball Sectional Championships.

**ii. Youth Progression Eligibility.** To enter and play in a 10-and-Under Orange Ball Tournament, players must:

- meet the age eligibility requirements for the 10-and-under division;
- first fulfill the Progression requirements as set forth in Rule 10.

**iii. Singles and Doubles Events Required.** Tournaments are required to offer both singles and doubles events and players that enter are required to play in both the singles and doubles events. The duration of all doubles events shall not exceed one hour.

**iv. Limits on Draw Size; Minimum Draw Size.** A draw may be limited, however it may not be limited to fewer than 8 players. Events must have a minimum of 3 players. Events with 2 or fewer players will be cancelled and players are entitled to an entry fee refund.

When draws are limited, players will be selected by lot. Alternates will be ordered by lot. Late entries are ordered as set forth in Rule 8.B.

**v. Sanction Periods and Draw Formats.** Draws will be one of the following formats that provides a player no fewer than 3 singles matches and no more than 6 singles matches:

- Events with 4 or 5 players will play a Round Robin that is scheduled so as to complete all matches in a division on one day in no more than a 4 to 6-hour period of time;
- Events with 6 or 7 players, or 9-15 players, or 17 or more players will play multiple concurrent Round Robins. A tournament may opt to have the best finishers from each Round Robin competing in one or more playoff matches that is scheduled so as to complete all matches in a division on one day in no more than a 4 to 6-hour period of time; or
- Events with 8 or 16 players will play a Compass Draw that is scheduled so as to complete all matches in a division on one day and in no more than a 4 to 6-hour period of time.

**vi. Match and Scoring Format.** The singles match format will be a short set whereby the first player to win 4 games wins the set. Regular or no-ad scoring may be used. The doubles match format will be one 10-Point Match Tiebreak. **Doubles are no longer required.**

**vii. Rest Between Matches.** The Referee will offer reasonable rest to players between matches, which may be less than 30 minutes. Additional rest should be offered when the length of a match, heat, humidity, total time on court during the day or other conditions justify more rest.

**viii. Entry Fee.** The entry fee for an Orange Ball Tournament will be a base fee that will not exceed \$35.00 per player.

**ix. Special Tournament Director and Referee Provision for 10-and-Under Orange Ball Tournaments.** The Tournament Director may also serve as the Referee and the recommendation in the USTA Regulations for the use of a USTA-certified Referee does not apply. When a person serves as both Tournament Director and Referee, that person cannot be a member of the Tournament Appeals Committee.

### **B. 10-and-Under Green Ball Tournaments.**

**i. Event Profile.** The court will be a full-sized 78-foot court and a stage 3 Green Dot Tennis Ball will be used. Players must use a racquet that is 25" to 27" in length.

**ii. Youth Progression Eligibility.** To enter and play in a 10-and-Under Green Ball Tournament, players must:

- meet the age eligibility requirements for a 10-and-under division; and
- first fulfill the Progression requirements as set forth in Rule 10.

**iii. Singles and Doubles Events Required.** Tournaments are required to offer both singles and doubles events and players that enter will be required to play in both the singles and doubles events. The duration of all doubles events will not exceed one hour.

**iv. Limits on Draw Size; Minimum Draw Size.** A draw may be limited, however it may not be limited to fewer than 8 players. Events must have a minimum of 3 players. Events with 2 or fewer players will be cancelled and players are entitled to an entry fee refund.

When draws are limited, players will be selected by lot. Alternates will be ordered by lot. Late entries are ordered as set forth in Rule 8.B.

**v. Sanction Periods and Draw Formats.** Draws will be one of the following formats that provides a player no fewer than 3 singles matches and no more than 6 singles matches:

- Events with 4 or 5 players will play a Round Robin that is scheduled so as to complete all matches in a division on one day;
- Events with 6 or 7 players, or 9-15 players, or 17 or more players will play multiple concurrent Round Robins. A tournament may opt to have the best finishers from each Round Robin competing in one or more playoff matches. This format may be scheduled on one day or the playoff matches may be scheduled on a second day so as to complete all matches in a division in no more than a 4-hour period of time; or
- Events with 8 or 16 players will play a Compass Draw that is scheduled so as to complete all matches in a division on one day. Alternatively, the final round or rounds of the Compass Draw may be scheduled on a second day so as to complete all matches in a division in no more than a 4-hour period of time.

**vi. Match and Scoring Format.** The singles match format will be one regular 6-game set with a 7-point tiebreak played at 6 games all, except that any final round(s) or playoff matches played on a second day will be the best of 3 tiebreak sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak in lieu of the 3rd set. Regular scoring shall be used. **Doubles are no longer required.**

**vii. Rest Between Matches.** The Referee will offer reasonable rest to players between matches that are one regular 6-game set, which may be less than 30 minutes. When final round(s) or playoff matches are played with the longer format on a second day, the USTA Regulations require a minimum rest between matches of 60 minutes be offered to players. Additional rest should be offered when length of a match, heat, humidity, total time on court during the day or other conditions justify more rest.

**viii. Entry Fee.** The entry fee for a Green Ball Tournament will be a base fee that will not exceed \$35.00 per player.

**ix. Special Tournament Director and Referee Provision for 10-and-Under Green Ball Tournaments.** The Tournament Director may also serve as the Referee and the recommendation in the USTA Regulations for the use of a USTA-certified Referee does not apply. When a person serves as both Tournament Director and Referee, that person cannot be a member of the Tournament Appeals Committee.

#### **C. 12-and-Under Green Ball Tournaments.**

**i. Event Profile.** The court will be a full-sized 78-foot court and a stage 3 Green Dot Tennis Ball will be used. Players must use a racquet that is 25" to 27" in length.

**ii. Youth Progression Eligibility.** To enter and play in a 12-and-Under Green Ball Tournament, players must:

- meet the age eligibility requirements for a 12-and-under division; and
- first fulfill the Progression requirements as set forth in Rule 10.

**iii. Doubles Events Not Required.** Tournaments are not required to offer both singles and doubles events.

**iv. Limits on Draw Size; Minimum Draw Size.** A draw may be limited, however it may not be limited to fewer than 8 players. Events must have a minimum of 4 players. Events with 3 or fewer players will be cancelled and players are entitled to an entry fee refund.

When draws are limited, players will be selected by lot. Alternates will be ordered by lot. Late entries are ordered as set forth in Rule 8.B.

**v. Sanction Periods and Draw Formats.** Draws will be one of the following formats that provides a player no fewer than 3 singles matches and no more than 6 singles matches:

- Events with 4 or 5 players will play a Round Robin that is scheduled so as to complete all matches in a division on one day;
- Events with 6 or 7 players, or 9-15 players, or 17 or more players will play multiple concurrent Round Robins. A tournament may opt to have the best finishers from each Round Robin competing in one or more playoff matches. This format may be scheduled on one day or the playoff matches may be scheduled on a second day so as to complete all matches in a division in no more than a 4-hour period of time; or
- Events with 8 or 16 players will play a Compass Draw that is scheduled so as to complete all matches in a division on one day. Alternatively, the final round or rounds of the Compass Draw may be scheduled on a second day so as to complete all matches in a division in no more than a 4-hour period of time.



- vi. **Match and Scoring Format.** The singles match format will be one regular 6-game set with a 7-point tiebreak played at 6 games all, except that any final round(s) or playoff matches played on a second day will be the best of 3 tiebreak sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak in lieu of the 3rd set. Regular scoring shall be used. The doubles match format will be one 10-Point Match Tiebreak.
  - vii. **Rest Between Matches.** The Referee will offer reasonable rest to players between matches that are one regular 6-game set, which may be less than 30 minutes. When final round(s) or playoff matches are played with the longer format on a second day, the USTA Regulations require a minimum rest between matches of 60 minutes be offered to players. Additional rest should be offered when length of a match, heat, humidity, total time on court during the day or other conditions justify more rest.
  - viii. **Entry Fee.** The entry fee for a Green Ball Tournament will be a base fee that will not exceed \$35.00 per player.
  - ix. **Special Tournament Director and Referee Provision for 12-and-Under Green Ball Tournaments.** The Tournament Director may also serve as the Referee and the recommendation in the USTA Regulations for the use of a USTA-certified Referee does not apply. When a person serves as both Tournament Director and Referee, that person cannot be a member of the Tournament Appeals Committee.
- D. Entry Level Yellow Ball Tournaments.** Entry Level Yellow Ball Tournaments offer entry level players non-ranking competition to introduce them into tournament competition in USTA NorCal. All events use a yellow ball on a 78' court and a player's racquet may not exceed 29" in length.

There are currently no sanctioned Entry Level Yellow Ball Tournaments. The USTA NorCal ROGY Development Committee is working on plans for appropriate competition formats that will be adopted prior to the sanctioning of these new events.

- E. Challenger Tournaments.** Challenger Tournaments offer rookie to intermediate competition the 12, 14, 16 and 18 divisions. All events use a yellow ball on a 78' court and a player's racquet may not exceed 29" in length.
  - i. **Youth Progression Eligibility - Players Aged 12 Years and Younger.** To enter and play in a Challenger Tournament, players must first fulfill the Youth Progression requirements as set forth in Rule 10.
  - ii. **Traditional Draw Format.**
    - a. **Events and Draws Must Offer Minimum of 3 Matches.** Challenger Tournaments will offer a combination of draws and/or draw formats that offer each entered player a minimum of 3 matches, 2 of which must be singles. The following are examples:
      - singles with a consolation format (First Match Loser Consolation, Compass Draw, Feed-In Championship, Round Robin) and single elimination doubles. When a non-Round Robin format is played in singles, there will be a playoff for 3rd and 4th place;
      - singles ONLY with a Round Robin or Compass Draw format.

***While the draw offerings must offer a minimum of 3 matches, the number of entrants received in an event may result in a player having 2 matches.***
    - b. **Singles Draw Format When Singles is Only Event Offered.** When a tournament offers singles only, players will be guaranteed three singles matches, unless the number of entrants is too small to guarantee this number as follows:
      - (1) Draws with 2 entrants may play one match to determine the winner or may be combined with another event as set forth in Rule 16. Two-entrant draws only require an award for the winner.
      - (2) Draws with 3 entrants may either be a Round Robin or may be combined with another event as set forth in Rule 16.
      - (3) Draws with 4 to 7 entrants will be a Round Robin whereby each players play at least three matches; not all players in the Round Robin must play one another.
      - (4) Draws with 8 entrants will be a Compass Draw with a playoff for 3rd and 4th place.
      - (5) When there are more than 8 entrants a Compass Draw or Round Robin may be held:
        - If a Compass Draw is held, it is not required to finish; however each player must play at least 3 matches and the Tournament Committee is encouraged play it to completion with a playoff for 3rd and 4th place.
        - If a Round Robin is held, each player will play at least three matches; not all players in the Round Robin must play one another.

Tournaments will publish to the tournament website prior to entries opening the menu of draw options and that the draw format will be determined when entries close and the Tournament Committee has had the opportunity to evaluate the total entries received.
    - c. **Limited Draws.**
      - (1) **Limited Draws Permitted with Requirements.** The draw size for singles and doubles may be limited by the Tournament Committee, but the draw limits in numbers of players and/or teams must be published to the website by the time entries open. Additionally, when a base fee is charged for entry, the draw limit for doubles will not be less than half of the draw limit for singles.



For example, when a singles draw is limited to 16 players, the doubles draw will not be limited to fewer than 8 teams.

- (1) Selection of Players for Singles.** Challenger Tournaments with limited draw sizes will select players from the "bottom up." All players without ranking points will be selected first and then players will be selected from the bottom up of the most recently published Combined Sectional Final Ranking List at the time entries close.
- (3) Selection of Players for Doubles.** The Tournament Committee will accept doubles teams into the doubles event in the following order:
1. Teams comprising two players in the singles draw will be accepted.
  2. Teams comprising one player in the singles draw and one alternate not in the singles draw.
  3. Teams comprising two players not in the singles draw.
  4. If more than the maximum number of entries is received, selection order is based:
    - first, on lowest combined standings using the most recently published Doubles Seeding List; and
    - second, on lowest combined doubles ranking points, *except* that no team comprised of a Late Applicant will be selected before a team comprised of timely applicants. Tournaments are NOT authorized to expand the draw size in order to accommodate teams.

For the purpose of determining selection of teams, below is the process of calculating combined standings and combined ranking points:

- A team's 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 402.
- Combined Doubles Ranking Points are determined as follows: Player A has 25 doubles ranking points and Player B has 10 doubles ranking points. The Team of AB would have combined doubles ranking points of 35.

- (4) Alternates.** All players and teams not selected will be placed on Alternate Lists that are ordered using the same methods of selecting players or teams into the tournament described in above. The Alternate Lists will be used to replace withdrawing players and teams, *except* that a Late Entry may not be accepted into the draw if it invalidates the seeding.

- (5) Doubles Partner Notification Deadline; Paring of Players Without Partners.** No later than the end of the day on Monday prior to the Saturday start date of the tournament, any doubles players that have not previously entered as a team must notify the Tournament Committee of the partnership.

A Tournament Committee may elect to randomly pair any player entered in doubles without a partner after the Monday deadline provided a statement that this will take place is published on the tournament website by the time entries open. If random pairings will take place, players entered in doubles without a partner that do not desire to play doubles must notify the Tournament Committee of their desire to withdraw from doubles (without penalty) by the Monday deadline.

If random pairings are made and the draw is limited, players in the singles draw will be paired with other players in the singles draw first.

- iii. Challenger Ratings Round Robin Format.** Challenger Ratings Round Robin Tournaments are ratings-based tournaments that group players with similar ability into 4-player round robins, regardless of the players' ages. The draws will therefore all be designated as 18 division events. These tournaments will take place over a 2-day sanction period.

**a. Singles Draw.**

- (1) Draw Size.** There is no maximum or minimum draw size (although a maximum draw size can be set by the Tournament Committee), *except* that the total number of accepted players must be divisible by 4.

- (2) Round Robin Singles Draw.** All singles draws will be 4-player round robin draws providing players 3 singles matches.

- (3) Player Selection and Grouping.** Using the most recently available Junior NTRP rating players will be selected and grouped into 4-player round robin draws so that players with similar ratings are in each round robin draw.

- b. Doubles Draw Format; Doubles Required.** The four players in each round robin draw will be randomly paired into two doubles teams and will play one doubles match. Participation in doubles is required.

- c. Selection of Players When Draw Size Limited.** If the draw size has been limited by the Tournament Committee, players will be selected from the "bottom up." All players without a rating will be selected first and then players will be selected from the bottom up of the most recently available Junior NTRP ratings at the time entries close.

All players not selected will be placed on an Alternate List that are ordered using the same methods of selecting players into the tournament described in above. The Alternate List will be used to replace withdrawing players.

- iv. **Match and Scoring Formats.** The match formats are as follows:
- a. **Main Draw Singles and Round Robin Singles.** The singles match format and round robin singles format are the best of 3 tiebreak sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak in lieu of the 3rd set.
  - b. **Consolation Singles and Doubles.** The consolation singles format and doubles match format are an 8-game pro set.
- v. **Entry Fee.** There is no maximum per event entry fee for singles, doubles, and mixed doubles, and no maximum base fee in Challenger Tournaments. If the Challenger Ratings Round Robin Format is used, a base fee shall be charged.
- F. **Open Tournaments.** Open Tournaments offer intermediate competition in the 12, 14, 16 and 18 divisions. All events use a yellow ball on a 78' court and a player's racquet may not exceed 29" in length.
- i. **Youth Progression Eligibility - Players Aged 12 Years and Younger.** To enter and play in an Open Tournament, players must first fulfill the Progression requirements as set forth in Rule 10.
  - ii. **Events and Draws Must Offer Minimum of 2 Matches.** Open Tournaments will offer a combination of draws and/or draw formats that offer each entered player a minimum of 2 matches. The following are examples:
    - single elimination singles and single elimination doubles;
    - singles ONLY with a consolation format (FMLC, Compass, FIC, Round Robin).
 While the draw offerings must offer a minimum of 2 matches, the number of entrants received in an event may result in a player having 1 match. The singles draw in a non-Round Robin format will have a playoff for 3rd and 4th place.
  - iii. **Limited Draws.**
    - a. **Limited Draws Permitted with Requirements.** The draw size for singles and doubles may be limited by the Tournament Committee, but the draw limits in numbers of players and/or teams must be published to the website by the time entries open. Additionally, because a base fee is required in Open tournaments that offer singles and doubles events, the draw limit for doubles will not be less than ½ of the draw limit for singles. For example, when a singles draw is limited to 16 players, the doubles draw will not be limited to fewer than 8 teams.
    - b. **Selection of Players for Singles.** Open Tournaments with limited draw sizes will select players with the highest ranking from the most recently published Combined Sectional Final Ranking List at the time entries close.
    - c. **Selection of Doubles Teams.** Teams will be selected for Open Tournaments with limited doubles draw sizes as set forth in Rule 14.
    - d. **Alternates.** All players and teams not selected will be placed on Alternate Lists that are ordered using the same methods of selecting players or teams into the tournament described in above. The Alternate Lists will be used to replace withdrawing players and teams, *except* that a Late Entry may not be accepted into the draw if it invalidates the seeding.
  - iv. **Doubles Partner Notification Deadline; Paring of Players Without Partners.** No later than the end of the day on Monday prior to the Saturday start date of the tournament, any doubles players that have not previously entered as a team must notify the Tournament Committee of the partnership.
 

A Tournament Committee may elect to randomly pair any player entered in doubles without a partner after the Monday deadline provided a statement that this will take place is published on the tournament website by the time entries open. If random pairings will take place, players entered in doubles without a partner that do not desire to play doubles must notify the Tournament Committee of their desire to withdraw from doubles (without penalty) by the Monday deadline.

If random pairings are made and the draw is limited, players in the singles draw will be paired with other players in the singles draw first.
  - v. **Match and Scoring Formats.**
    - a. **Singles.** The singles match format will be the best of 3 tiebreak sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak in lieu of the 3rd set.
    - b. **Doubles.** The doubles match format will be an 8-game pro set.
  - vi. **Entry Fee.** There is no maximum per event entry fee for singles, doubles, and mixed doubles, and no maximum base fee in Open Tournaments. When both singles and doubles events are offered, a base fee will be charged.
- G. **UTR Round Robins.** UTR Round Robins are ratings-based tournaments that group players with similar ability into 4-player round robins. Tournaments are intended for intermediate players. UTR Round Robins will take place over a 2-day sanction period. All events use a yellow ball on a 78' court and a player's racquet may not exceed 29" in length.
- i. **Eligibility.** To enter and play in a UTR Round Robin Tournament, players must first fulfill the Progression requirements as set forth in Rule 10.
  - ii. **Draw Type.**
    - a. **Draw Size.** There is no maximum or minimum draw size (although a maximum draw size can be set by the Tournament Committee), except that the total number of accepted players must be divisible by 4.
    - b. **Round Robin Singles Draw.** All singles draws will be 4-player round robin draws providing players 3 singles matches.

- iii. **Player Selection and Flighting.** Players will be selected using the most recently available weekly average Universal Tennis Ratings. If no weekly average rating is available for a player, that player's daily rating shall be used. These same ratings will be used to flight players into 4-player round robin draws so that players with similar ratings are in each round robin draw.
- iv. **Doubles Required.** The four players in each round robin draw will be randomly paired into two doubles teams and will play one doubles match. Participation in doubles is required.
- v. **Match and Scoring Formats.**
  - a. **Singles.** The singles match format will be the best of 3 tiebreak sets; however, beginning with the July UTR Round Robins, the singles match format will be the best of 3 tiebreak sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak in lieu of the 3rd set.
  - b. **Doubles.** The doubles match format will be an 8-game pro set.
- vi. **Entry Fee.** The entry fee will be \$60 per player.
- H. **Championship Tournaments.** Championship Tournaments offer advanced competition in the 12, 14, 16 and 18 divisions. All events use a yellow ball on a 78' court and a player's racquet may not exceed 29" in length.
  - i. **Youth Progression Eligibility - Players Aged 12 Years and Younger.** To enter and play in a Championship Tournament, players must first fulfill the Progression requirements as set forth in Rule 10.
  - ii. **Match and Scoring Formats.** Regular scoring will be used.
    - a. **12 Divisions**
      - Singles: best of 3 tiebreak sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak in lieu of the 3rd set
      - Doubles: 8-game pro set
    - b. **18, 16, and 14 Divisions**
      - Main Draw Singles (including 3rd place playoff): best of 3 tiebreak sets
      - Consolation Singles (including playoff matches for 5th, 6th, and 8th place): best of 3 tiebreak sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak in lieu of the 3rd set
      - Doubles: 8-game pro set
  - iii. **Championship Singles-Only Tournaments.**
    - a. **Sanction Period.** Championship Singles-Only Tournaments will be held over a 3-day sanction period.
    - b. **Draw Size and Format.** The singles draw size will be limited to 32 total players. A Feed-In Championship that feeds players in through the Round of 16, with a playoff for 3rd and 4th place, and a playoff for 5th and 6th place will be played. No doubles will be played.
    - c. **Selection Process.** Championship Singles-Only Tournaments will select players with the highest ranking from the most recently published Combined Sectional Final Ranking List of the division at the time entries close. All players not selected will be placed on an Alternate List that is ordered using the same list used to select the players. The Alternate List will be used to replace withdrawing players, *except* that a Late Entry may not be accepted into the draw if it invalidates the seeding.
    - d. **Player Selection Publication Requirement.** The singles selection lists will be published no later than the Friday following the Monday entry deadline.
    - e. **Entry Fee.** The entry fee will be \$55 per player.
  - iv. **Championship Singles & Doubles Tournaments.**
    - a. **Sanction Period.** Championship Singles & Doubles Tournaments will be held over either a 4 or 5-day sanction period.
    - b. **Draw Size and Format.**
      - (1) **Singles.** The singles draw size is limited to 48 total players. Unless a different draw format is specified by the Tournament Committee, a single elimination draw is to be played. Regardless of the draw format, a playoff for 3rd and 4th place will be held.
      - (2) **Doubles.** The doubles draw size is limited to 24 teams. A single elimination draw will be played with a playoff for 3rd and 4th place.
    - c. **Selection Process.**
      - (1) **Singles.** The Tournament Committee will select players with the highest ranking from the most recently published Combined Sectional Final Ranking List of the division at the time entries close. All players not selected will be placed on an Alternate List that is ordered using the same list used to select the players. The Alternate List will be used to replace withdrawing players, *except* that a Late Entry may not be accepted into the draw if it invalidates the seeding.
      - (2) **Doubles.** Teams will be selected as set forth in Rule 14. All teams not selected will be placed on Alternate Lists that are ordered using the same method of selecting teams into the tournament described in Rule 14. The Alternate Lists will be used to replace withdrawing teams, *except* that a Late Entry may not be accepted into the draw if it invalidates the seeding.
    - e. **Player Selection Publication Requirement.** The singles selection lists will be published no later than the Friday following the Monday entry deadline.
    - f. **Doubles Partner Notification Deadline; Paring of Players Without Partners.** No later than the end of the day on Monday prior to the Saturday start date of the tournament, any doubles players that have not previously entered as a team must notify the Tournament Committee of the partnership. A Tournament Committee may elect to randomly pair any player entered in doubles without a partner after the Monday deadline provided a statement that this will take place is published on the tournament website by the time entries open. If random parings will take place, players entered in

doubles without a partner that do not desire to play doubles must notify the Tournament Committee of their desire to withdraw from doubles (without penalty) by the Monday deadline.

If random pairings are made, players in the singles draw will be paired with other players in the singles draw first.

**g. Entry Fee.**

**(1) 4-Day Tournaments.** The entry fee for a 4-day Championship Singles & Doubles Tournament will be a base fee of \$55 per player.

**(2) 5-Day Tournaments.** The entry fee for a 5-day Championship Singles & Doubles Tournament will be a base fee of \$60 per player.

- I. Super Series.** Super Series Tournaments are ratings-based singles tournaments for advanced players offered in the 18 and 14 divisions. Players with similar ability are grouped into 8-player compass draws. Players that typically enter the 12 division should play the 14 division. Players that typically enter the 16 division should play the 16 division. Tournaments will take place over a 2-day sanction period. All events use a yellow ball on a 78' court and a player's racquet may not exceed 29" in length.
- i. Youth Progression Eligibility - Players Aged 12 Years and Younger.** To enter and play in a Super Series Tournament, players must be at least 8 years of age and first fulfill the Progression requirements as set forth in Rule 10.
- ii. Draw Size and Type.** 64 total players per gender will compete in each Super Series. Players will be flighted into draws of 8 as described below. The draw format will be a compass draw with a playoff for 3rd and 4th place.
- iii. Selection.** Players will be selected based on the most recently available weekly average Universal Tennis Ratings as follows:
- a. 18 Divisions.** The top 32 rated boys and top 32 rated girls with timely entries, regardless of age, are selected for the boys' and girls' 18 division events.
- b. 14 Divisions.** The top 32 rated boys and top 32 rated girls with timely entries that meet the age eligibility requirements for a 14-and-under division tournament, will be selected for the boys' and girls' 14 division events. When both divisions are part of the same tournament, if a player has entered both divisions and has been selected for the 18 division, they must play the higher division. (See Concurrent Tournament Rule 6.C. for entering two divisions that are part of the same tournament.)
- If no weekly average rating is available for a player, that player's daily rating shall be used. In the event two or more players have the same rating, the tie will be broken as set forth in Rule 11.I.vii. below.
- iv. Division Selection Order.** When the 18 and 14 divisions are part of the same tournament, selection will be done in descending division order (18 division, followed by 14 division). A player entered in both divisions that is not accepted into the 18 division will be eligible for selection into the 14 division. Before the draws are published, a player may be moved from the 14 to 18 division.
- v. Player Selection Publication Requirement.** Singles selection lists will be published no later than the Friday following the Monday entry deadline. In the event of a delay, the publication date will be published to the tournament website.
- vi. Flighting and Seeding.** Players will be flighted into 8-player compass draws using the most recently available weekly average Universal Tennis Ratings so that players with similar ratings are in each compass draw. If no weekly average rating is available for a player, that player's daily rating shall be used. These ratings will also be used to seed the draws. In the event two or more players have the same rating, the tie will be broken as set forth in Rule 11.I.vii. below.
- vii. Breaking Selection, Flighting, and Seeding Ties.** In the event two or more players have the same rating, a tie will be broken based on the players' highest rankings on the most recently published Combined Sectional Final Ranking Lists as follows:
- a. 18 Divisions.** The players' highest rank on the 18 Division list will be used. If both players do not appear on the 18 Division list, the 16 Division list will be used. If both players do not appear on the 16 Division list, the 14 Division list will be used. If both players do not appear on the 14 Division list, the 12 Division list will be used.
- b. 14 Divisions.** The players' highest rank on the 14 Division list will be used. If both players do not appear on the 14 Division list, the 12 Division list will be used.
- viii. Match and Scoring Formats.** Regular scoring will be used.
- a. Singles.** The singles match format will be the best of 3 tiebreak sets.
- b. Doubles.** The doubles match format will be an 8-game pro set.
- ix. Entry Fee.** The entry fee will be \$60 per player.
- J. Excellence Tournaments.** Excellence Tournaments offer advanced competition in the 12, 14, 16 and 18 divisions and each is designated as a Level 4 National Ranking Tournament. All events use a yellow ball on a 78' court and a player's racquet may not exceed 29" in length.
- i. Youth Progression Eligibility - Players Aged 12 Years and Younger.** To enter and play in an Excellence Tournament, players must be at least 8 years of age and first fulfill the Progression requirements as set forth in Rule 10.
- ii. Singles Draw Size and Format.** The singles draw size is limited to 32 total players. The draw format will be a Feed-In Championship that feeds players in through the Round of 16, with a playoff for 3rd and 4th place, and a playoff for 5th and 6th place.

- iii. **Match and Scoring Formats.** Regular scoring will be used.
- a. **12 Divisions**
    - Singles: best of 3 tiebreak sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak in lieu of the 3rd set
    - Doubles: 8-game pro set
  - b. **18, 16, and 14 Divisions**
    - Main Draw Singles (including 3rd place playoff): best of 3 tiebreak sets
    - Consolation Singles (including playoff matches for 5th, 6th, and 8th place): best of 3 tiebreak sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak in lieu of the 3rd set
    - Doubles: 8-game pro set
- iv. **Singles Selection Process.** Excellence Tournaments will select players into the singles draw as follows:
- a. **Ranking Lists:** Up to 20 players will be selected from the most recently published Combined Sectional Final Ranking Lists of the division, in the order in which their names appear on the list.
  - b. **Ratings:** Up to 12 players will be selected based on each player's most recently available weekly average Universal Tennis rating as follows: the players with the 12 highest ratings will be selected, provided a player's rating is higher than the lowest rated player selected under step #1 above. In the event two players have the same rating, a tie will be broken based on the players' rankings on the Combined Sectional Final Ranking Lists used under step #1. If no weekly average rating is available for a player, that player's daily rating shall be used.
  - c. **Vacancies and Alternates:** If vacancies remain, players will be selected from the Combined Sectional Final Ranking Lists used to select players under step #1 in the order in which their names appear on the list. Alternates will also be ordered in the same manner. Any late entry will be placed on the bottom of the alternate list regardless of ranking or rating.
- v. **Doubles.**
- a. **Draw Size and Format.** The doubles draw size is limited to 16 teams. A single elimination draw will be played with a playoff for 3rd and 4th place.
  - b. **Special Scheduling for Excellence Tournament Held in January over Martin Luther King Holiday Weekend.** The doubles events for the Excellence Tournament held in January over Martin Luther King Holiday Weekend will begin on the second weekend of this tournament. If the event is not started due to weather concerns that would not permit the event to finish, the doubles events at the Championship Singles & Doubles Tournament scheduled to be held in March 2017 will be designated the National Level 4 Ranking Tournaments to replace the Excellence doubles events.
  - c. **Selection Process.** Teams will be selected as set forth in Rule 14. All teams not selected will be placed on Alternate Lists that are ordered using the same methods of selecting players or teams into the tournament described in above. The Alternate Lists will be used to replace withdrawing players and teams, *except* that a Late Entry may not be accepted into the draw if it invalidates the seeding.
  - d. **Player Selection Publication Requirement.** Unless delayed due to the availability of USTA NorCal staff to make singles selections, the singles selection lists will be published no later than the Friday following the Monday entry deadline. In the event of a delay, the publication date will be published to the tournament website.
  - e. **Doubles Partner Notification Deadline; Paring of Players Without Partners.** No later than the end of the day on Monday prior to the Saturday start date of the tournament, any doubles players that have not previously entered as a team must notify the Tournament Committee of the partnership.
 

A Tournament Committee may elect to randomly pair any player entered in doubles without a partner after the Monday deadline provided a statement that this will take place is published on the tournament website by the time entries open. If random pairings will take place, players entered in doubles without a partner that do not desire to play doubles must notify the Tournament Committee of their desire to withdraw from doubles (without penalty) by the Monday deadline.

If random pairings are made, players in the singles draw will be paired with other players in the singles draw first.
- v. **Entry Fee.**
- a. **4-Day Tournaments.** The entry fee for a 4-day Excellence Tournament with singles and doubles events will be a base fee of \$60 per player.
  - b. **5-Day Tournaments.** The entry fee for a 5-day Excellence Tournament with singles and doubles events will be a base fee of \$65 per player.
- K. **Sectional Championships.** The Sectional Championships offer the highest tier of competition for the advanced player in the 12, 14, 16, and 18 divisions. Each event is designated as a Level 3 National Ranking Tournament. All events use a yellow ball on a 78' court and a player's racquet may not exceed 29" in length.

Note: 10-and-Under Orange Ball Sectional Championships, 10-and-Under Green Ball Sectional Championships and 12-and-Under Green Ball Sectional Championships will be held. The rules in this section and throughout the Junior Tournament Rules relating to Sectional Championships do not apply to those tournaments. See USTA NorCal website for more information on 10-and-Under Orange Ball Sectional Championships, 10-and-Under Green Ball Sectional Championships, and 12-and-Under Green Ball Sectional Championships.

- i. Youth Progression Eligibility - Players Aged 12 Years and Younger.** To enter and play in a Sectional Championship, players must first fulfill the Progression requirements as set forth in Rule 10.
- ii. Match and Scoring Formats.** Regular scoring will be used.
- Main Draw Singles (including 3rd place playoff): best of 3 tiebreak sets
  - Consolation Singles (including playoff matches for 5th, 6th, and 8th place): best of 3 tiebreak sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak in lieu of the 3rd set
  - Doubles: 8-game pro set through the quarterfinals; best of 3 tiebreak sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak in lieu of the 3rd set for semifinals, finals and playoff for 3rd and 4th place.
- iii. June Sectional Championships - Singles and Doubles Events Held**
- a. Singles Draw Size, Draw Format, and Playoff for Third Place.** The singles event is limited to 64 players and will have a Feed-in Championship that feeds players in through the round of 16. The singles will also have a playoff for third and fourth place and the quarterfinal losers will play off for 5th and 6th place.
- b. Selection for Singles.** Players will be selected for the June Sectional Championships as follows:
- (1) Players on Combined Sectional Final Ranking Lists.** 60 players will be selected based on their ranking on the most recently published Combined Sectional Final Ranking List of the division of the event.
- (2) Up to Four Wild Cards.** Up to four wild cards may be selected by the Wild Card Committee as follows:
- To be considered for a Wild Card, a player must submit a timely entry into the tournament and apply for a Wild Card no later than the entry deadline (see tournament website for Wild Card application information).
  - The Wild Card Committee will be comprised of two members of the NorCal junior staff and Chair of Junior Council.
- Wild Cards do not have to be awarded.
- (3) Additional Players on Combined Sectional Final Ranking List.** If the Wild Card Committee awards fewer than the maximum number of wild cards, the remaining spots in the draw will be filled with players remaining on the Combined Sectional Final Ranking List used to select players into the draw.
- c. Alternates.** The Alternate List will be ordered using the Combined Sectional Final Ranking List used to select players into the draw. The Alternate List will be used to replace player who withdraw from the main draw.
- d. Player Selection Publication Requirement.** Unless delayed due to the availability of USTA NorCal staff to make singles selections, the singles selection lists will be published no later than the Friday following the Monday entry deadline. In the event of a delay, the publication date will be published to the tournament website.
- e. Doubles.**
- (1) Doubles Draw Size, Draw Format, and Playoff for Third Place.** The doubles draw is limited to 32 teams, will be a single elimination draw and will have a playoff for third and fourth place.
- (2) Selection Process.** Teams will be selected as set forth in the following order:
1. Teams comprising two players in the singles main draw will be accepted.
  2. Teams comprising one player in the singles draw and one singles alternate.
  3. Teams comprising two singles alternates.
  4. If more than the maximum number of entries is received, selection order is based:
    - first, on highest combined standings; and
    - second, on highest combined doubles ranking points,
 except that no team comprised of a Late Applicant will be selected before a team comprised of timely applicants. Tournaments are NOT authorized to expand the draw size in order to accommodate teams.
- All teams not selected will be placed on Alternate Lists that are ordered using the same methods of selecting players or teams into the tournament described in above. The Alternate Lists will be used to replace withdrawing players and teams, *except* that a Late Entry may not be accepted into the draw if it invalidates the seeding.
- (3) Doubles Partner Notification Deadline; Paring of Players Without Partners.** No later than the end of the day on Monday prior to the Saturday start date of the tournament, any doubles players that have not previously entered as a team must notify the Tournament Committee of the partnership.
- A Tournament Committee may elect to randomly pair any player entered in doubles without a partner after the Monday deadline provided a statement that this will take place is published on the tournament website by the time entries open. If random pairings will take place, players entered in doubles without a partner that do not desire to play doubles must notify the Tournament Committee of their desire to withdraw from doubles (without penalty) by the Monday deadline.
- If random pairings are made, players in the singles draw will be paired with other players in the singles draw first.

- f. **Entry Fee.** The entry fee for the June Sectional Championships will be a base fee of \$70.00 per player.
- iv. **Fall Singles Sectional Championships with Singles Events Only.**
- a. **Singles Draw Size, Draw Format, and Playoff for Third Place.** The singles event is limited to 64 players and will have a Feed-in Championship that feeds players in through the round of 16. The singles draw will also have a playoff for third and fourth place and the quarterfinal losers will play off for 5th and 6th place.
- b. **Selection for Singles.** Players will be selected for the Sectional Championships as follows:
- (1) **Players on Combined Sectional Final Ranking Lists.** 60 players will be selected based on their ranking on the most recently published Combined Sectional Final Ranking List of the division of the event.
- (2) **Up to Four Wild Cards.** Up to four wild cards that may be selected by the Wild Card Committee as follows:
- To be considered for a Wild Card, a player must submit a timely entry into the tournament and apply for a Wild Card no later than the entry deadline (see tournament website for Wild Card application information).
  - The Wild Card Committee will be comprised of two members of the NorCal junior staff and Chair of Junior Council.
- Wild Cards do not have to be awarded.
- (3) **Additional Players on Combined Sectional Final Ranking List.** If the Wild Card Committee awards fewer than the maximum number of wild cards, the remaining spots in the draw will be filled with players remaining on the Combined Sectional Final Ranking List used to select players into the draw.
- d. **Alternates.** All players not selected will be placed on an Alternate List that is ordered using the Combined Sectional Final Ranking List used to select players into the draw. The Alternate Lists will be used to replace withdrawing players, *except* that a Late Entry may not be accepted into the draw if it invalidates the seeding.
- e. **Player Selection Publication Requirement.** Unless delayed due to the availability of USTA NorCal staff to make singles selections, the singles selection lists will be published no later than the Friday following the Monday entry deadline. In the event of a delay, the publication date will be published to the tournament website.
- f. **Entry Fee.** The entry fee for the Fall Sectional Championships with singles events only will be a fee of \$60 per player.
- v. **Doubles-Only Sectional Championships.**
- a. **Draw Size and Format.** The doubles draw size is limited to 32 teams. A compass draw will be played with a playoff for 3rd and 4th place. The draw format will guarantee each team three matches:
- Non-main draw compass draw brackets with teams that have won their third match will be played out to completion.
  - Once a team has lost three matches, it will not play an additional match unless playing that additional match guarantees another team its minimum three matches.
- b. **Sanction Periods.** The Doubles-Only Sectional Championships will be sanctioned for a 2-day.
- c. **Doubles Partner Notification Deadline; Pairing of Players Without Partners.** No later than the end of the day on Monday prior to the Saturday start date of the tournament, any doubles players that have not previously entered as a team must notify the Tournament Committee of the partnership.
- A Tournament Committee may elect to randomly pair any player entered in doubles without a partner after the Monday deadline provided a statement that this will take place is published on the tournament website by the time entries open. If random pairings will take place, players entered in doubles without a partner that do not desire to play doubles must notify the Tournament Committee of their desire to withdraw from doubles (without penalty) by the Monday deadline.
- d. **Selection Process.** Teams will be selected in the order of their combined standings using the most recently published Doubles Seeding List of the division. For example, Player A holds the #1 standing and Player B holds the #10 standing. The Team of A&B would have the combined standing of 11. A team with a combined standing greater than 11 is selected after Team A&B. If there is a tie, the team with the player that has the highest doubles standing on the list will be selected first.
- All teams not selected will be placed on Alternate Lists that are ordered using the same methods of selecting players or teams into the tournament described in above. The Alternate Lists will be used to replace withdrawing players and teams, *except* that a Late Entry may not be accepted into the draw if it invalidates the seeding.
- e. **Team Selection and Alternate Publication Requirement.** The doubles team selection and alternate lists will be published no later than 10:00 am on the Wednesday before the start of the tournament.
- f. **Replacement of Withdrawing Teams.** Because players are selected for the tournament as part of a team, the withdrawal of one player after the entry deadline is effectively the withdrawal of a team. When there are no alternate teams, the remaining player may find another partner provided if this



happens after the draws are published, the new team may not affect the seedings. When there is an alternate team, the withdrawing team is replaced with the first alternate.

- g. Entry Fee.** The entry fee for the Doubles-Only Sectional Championships will be a fee of \$35 per player.

- L. USTA NorCal Masters.** The USTA NorCal Masters is an annual, elite competition for the top players in NorCal in the 12, 14, 16, and 18 divisions. All events use a yellow ball on a 78' court and a player's racquet may not exceed 29" in length.

- i. Youth Progression Eligibility - Players Aged 12 Years and Younger.** To enter and play in the USTA NorCal Masters, players must first fulfill the Progression requirements as set forth in Rule 10.
- ii. Sanction Date and Tournament Schedule.** When possible, the two-day USTA NorCal Masters will be held each year after the conclusion of the last Championship Tournament of the year and before the USTA National Winter Championships. The tournament will be organized by USTA NorCal. Provided inclement weather doesn't affect the schedule, the rounds will be played as follows:

Day 1: First two rounds of Round Robin

Day 2: Third round of Round Robin; Championship, 3rd/4th Playoff and Mixed Doubles Matches

- iii. Selection of Players and Seeding.**

**a. Eligibility.** Only those players who have not received a default for misconduct or under the Point Penalty System between January 1 and the time of selection will be eligible.

**b. Selection Process.** The top eight (8) eligible players on the most recently published Combined Sectional Final Ranking List in the boys' and girls' 18, 16, 14, and 12 divisions will be selected. Selection will be done following the conclusion of the last USTA NorCal Championship Tournament of the calendar year. The next highest eligible player on the most recently published Combined Sectional Final Ranking List will be designated as the alternate and will replace any player who withdraws or who is defaulted.

**c. Seeding.** Seeding will be based on the most recently published Single Seeding List.

**d. Breaking Ties.** In the event there is a tie between two players under consideration for selection or for the purposes of determining the seeds, a coin toss will determine selection and seeding.

- iv. Competition Format - Round Robin with Playoffs of Ordered Finishers from Each Flight**

**a. Preliminary Rounds.** The preliminary rounds will be played using a Round Robin format. The players in each division will be divided into two flights of four players each. The 1st seed will be placed in one flight and the 2nd seed will be placed in other flight. The 3rd and 4th seeded players will be drawn to separate flights. The 5th and 6th seeded players will be drawn to separate flights. The 7th and 8th seeded players will be drawn to separate flights.

**b. Treatment of Defaults, Withdrawals, Walkovers and Retirements.** A player is credited with a win when there is a default, retirement, withdrawal or walkover of the opponent (unless an alternate takes the place of a player - see below). A player who is defaulted for any reason other than lateness will not play in subsequent matches and may not be declared the winner of the round robin. A player who is defaulted, retires, or creates a walkover will finish lower than every other player who has an identical match record.

**c. Substitution of a Player with an Alternate.** During the preliminary rounds, a player that withdraws or is defaulted for any reason other than lateness, whether it is before the first match or a subsequent match in the preliminary rounds, will be replaced with an alternate, if an alternate is available.

**d. Determining Top Finishers.** After completion of the preliminary rounds (whereby each player plays every other player in the flight - 3 rounds per player), the top finishers will be determined as described in the USTA Regulations (USTA Regulation II.B.6.c. and d.).

**e. Championship Match.** The top finisher in each of the two flights will play one Championship match to determine the winner of the tournament.

**f. Playoff for 3rd & Fourth Place.** The 2nd best finishers in each of the two flights will play one match to determine 3rd and 4th place.

**g. Mixed Doubles Exhibitions.** Time and weather permitting, the remaining finishers will be drawn, by age division, into mixed doubles teams and will play exhibition matches.

- v. Match and Scoring Format.** The match will be the best of three tiebreak sets. Regular scoring will be used.

- vi. Entry Fee.** The entry fee for the USTA NorCal Masters will be \$30.00 per player.

- 12. Consolation Matches.** Players are required to play consolation matches (including all Compass Draw matches), if offered.

- 13. Website Posting Requirement.** As required by the USTA Regulations I.H.2., by the time entries open, the Tournament Committee will post to the TennisLink Tournament Home Page information about the tournament including, but not limited to

- the draw format(s) and whether consolation is offered;
- the specific limit, if any, on the size of the draw(s);
- the match and scoring formats;

- the method of seeding;
- the locations of play;
- any clothing or shoe restrictions;
- the ball type, the number of balls for play, and the ball-change policy;
- the court surface;
- the time and place of the draw.

In addition to the information required by USTA Regulation I.H.2., when the draw is limited, the Tournament Committee will also post process by which players are selected.

#### **14. Selection of Players for Limited Size Doubles Events in Open Tournaments, Championship Tournaments, Excellence Tournaments with Both Singles and Doubles Events, and Sectional Championships with Both Singles and Doubles Events**

The Tournament Committee will accept doubles teams into the doubles event in the following order:

1. Teams comprising two players in the singles draw will be accepted.
2. Teams comprising one player in the singles draw and one alternate not in the singles draw.
3. Teams comprising two players not in the singles draw.
4. If more than the maximum number of entries is received, selection order is based:
  - first, on highest combined rankings using the most recently published Doubles Seeding List; and
  - second, on highest combined doubles ranking points,

*except* that no team comprised of a Late Applicant will be selected before a team comprised of timely applicants. Tournaments are NOT authorized to expand the draw size in order to accommodate teams.

For the purpose of determining selection of teams, below is the process of calculating combined rankings and combined ranking points:

- A team's combined ranking is determined as follows: Player A holds the #200 ranking in the division and Player B holds the #201 ranking in the division. The Team of A&B would have the combined ranking of 402.
- Combined Doubles Ranking Points are determined as follows: Player A has 25 doubles ranking points in the division and Player B has 10 doubles ranking points in the division. The Team of AB would have combined doubles ranking points of 35.

If one partner does not have a ranking in the division, for the purposes of calculating the combined ranking, the unranked player will be assigned a rank that is equivalent to one lower than the lowest ranked player on the Final Ranking List. For example, if Partner C holds the #1 ranking, Partner D does not have a ranking, and the Final Ranking List for this event has a total of 100 players on the list, Partner D is assigned a ranking of 101 and Team C&D have a combined ranking of 102.

#### **15. Seeding.**

- A. 10-and-Under Orange/Green Ball and 12-and-Under Green Ball Tournaments.** 10-and-Under Orange/Green Ball and 12-and-Under Green Ball tournaments will not be seeded.
- B. Procedure for Seeding Challenger, Open, and Championship Singles Events.** The Tournament Committee will seed Challenger, Open, and Championship singles events. Singles seeding will be based on the most recently published Singles Seeding Lists; however, when a tournament receives entries from players who have a USTA national standing as of the date entries close in the top 50 of any division, they will be considered for seeding. See Rule 15.F. for the doubles seeding procedure.
- C. Super Series.** The seeding procedure is set forth in Rule 11.I.iv.
- D. Sectional Championships and Excellence Tournaments - Singles Events.** The USTA NorCal junior staff will seed singles events at the Sectional Championships and Excellence Tournaments. The most recently published Singles Seeding Lists will be used as a start for determining seeding. The following additional information will also be considered: USTA standings, ITF, ITA, WTA, and ATP rankings, ratings. See Rule 15.F. for the doubles seeding procedure.
- E. USTA NorCal Masters.** The seeding procedure is set forth in Rule 11.L.iii.c.
- F. Procedure for Seeding Doubles Teams.** Teams will be seeded by the Tournament Committee in the order of their combined ranking using the most recently published Doubles Seeding List. For example, if Partner A holds the #1 ranking and Partner B holds the #10 ranking, Team A&B would have a combined ranking of 11. Teams that have the same combined ranking will be seeded in the order of the total number of doubles ranking points held by each team. If one partner does not have a ranking, for the purposes of calculating the combined ranking, the unranked player will be assigned a rank that is equivalent to one lower than the lowest ranked player on the Final Ranking List. For example, if Partner C holds the #1 ranking, Partner D does not have a ranking, and the Final Ranking List for this event has a total of 100 players on the list, Partner D is assigned a ranking of 101 and Team C&D have a combined ranking of 102.

Teams with USTA National, ITF, ITA, WTA and ATP standings and rankings may also be considered for seeding if permitted in Rule 15.B. or D. above.

#### **16. Combining Events When There are Three (3) or Fewer Entries - Challenger and Open Tournaments.**

Events that receive three (3) or fewer entries may be combined as follows:

- any age division in a tournament may be combined with the next-higher age division in a tournament provided the tournament category is the same (for example, a Challenger 14s may be combined with a Challenger 16s, but not with a Challenger 18s); and
- any age division in a tournament may be combined with the same age division in the next-higher tournament category (for example, a Challenger 14s may be combined with an Open 14s, but not with an Open 16s and not with a higher tournament category such as an Open 18s),  
*provided that* the Tournament Director must notify the players involved by email or telephone message immediately after entries close. Players will accept or decline to compete in the next-higher age division or category. Players declining may withdraw from the event or the tournament without penalty and are entitled to an entry fee refund, if applicable.

- 17. Changes in the Draw.** Except as set forth under “Restriction on Replacing Withdrawing Players with Byes” below, changes may be made in the draw as authorized in USTA Regulations. Should match times be changed, it is USTA NorCal's policy to notify all players involved by phone message.
- 18. Restriction on Replacing Withdrawing Players with Byes.** After a draw has been published, the Referee will not make changes in the draw as described in USTA Regulation II.C.i.b.iii. and iv. as follows: when a player who is not seeded withdraws from a tournament after the draw is published and there are no alternates awaiting entry, a Referee may not replace the withdrawing player with a Bye. If there are no alternates awaiting entry, the Referee is required to leave the unseeded withdrawing player in the draw and advance the opponent by means of a Withdrawal or Default, whichever describes the circumstances of the withdrawal.
- 19. Tournament Scheduling Guidelines and Requirements.**
- A. Latest Start Time Guideline.** No match should start nor suspended match be resumed:
- after 8:00 pm in the 18 and 16 divisions; and
  - after 7:00 pm in all other junior divisions,  
*except that* no match should start nor suspended match be resumed after 6:00 pm on school nights.
- B. 12-Hour Overnight Rule Requirement.** All players will be given at least 12 hours of rest between the completion of their last match of any day and the start of play of their first match of the following day.
- C. Maximum Number of Matches in a Day Requirement – All Divisions.** The scheduling guidelines for junior divisions in USTA Regulation II.D.12. will be mandatory for all junior tournaments. Matches played in the 10s and 8s divisions will follow the scheduling guidelines in USTA Regulation II.D.12. for the 12s divisions.
- D. Doubles Scheduling Requirement.** Doubles events will be scheduled as early as possible during the sanction period at all junior tournaments.
- 20. First Match Times.**
- A. Tournament Responsibility for Publicizing First Match Start Times.** The draw for each event must be published with start times to the USTA website no later than 10:00 am three days before the start date of the tournament, *except that* a tournament may delay the publication of a doubles draw with start times until 10:00 am two days before the start date of the tournament provided the tournament posts a notice about the delayed publication of the doubles draw on its home page. A waiver to this rule may be approved by prior written consent of the USTA NorCal staff.
- B. Players Responsible for Obtaining Start Times.** Players are responsible for obtaining their own starting time by checking the TennisLink Tournament Home Page or by calling the pre-tournament phone number beginning three days prior to the tournament if the start times are not available on the website.
- 21. Change to Alternate Match Format.** The Tournament Committee may change the match format before the start of play in any round in a draw without notice on the tournament web page when in the Tournament Committee’s discretion the change is necessary to complete the draw after inclement weather, health concerns, or safety concerns causes the tournament to fall behind its published schedule; *however*, the Tournament Committee may not switch from regular scoring to No-Ad scoring. The Tournament Committee will use their best efforts to have all matches in a round in a draw use the same match format.  
 In the event the Tournament Committee has to change the match format in more than one singles draw, the Tournament Committee will use their best efforts to use the same alternate match format in all changed singles draws. In the event the Tournament Committee has to change the match format in more than one doubles draw, the Tournament Committee will use their best efforts to use the same alternate match format in all changed doubles draws. Once the match format in a draw has been changed, the Tournament Committee may revert back to the original match format provided that when doing so all matches in a round in a draw use the same match format.
- 22. USTA Junior Suspension Point System and Point Penalty System.** The USTA Junior Suspension Point System (SPS) will apply to all USTA NorCal sanctioned junior tournaments, including Orange and Green Ball Tournaments. SPS is a system that levies suspension points for violations of the standards of conduct, including code violations under the Point Penalty System, no shows, defaults, and other misconduct.

In a USTA NorCal Junior Tournament, a code violation under the Point Penalty System will be assessed for unsportsmanlike conduct when a player is overruled for the third time during the tournament, and for each time the player is overruled thereafter during the tournament.

For more information, click the following link: [www.norcal.usta.com/sportsmanship/](http://www.norcal.usta.com/sportsmanship/)

**23. Penalty for Lateness.** Players are expected to check and comply with all scheduling done by the Tournament Committee. A player is deemed to have arrived when the player checks in at the place designated for checking in and is properly clothed, equipped, and ready to play. The lateness penalty clock starts at the scheduled match time regardless of court availability.

**24. Entry Fees.**

**A. Processing Fee May Not be Charged by Tournament Committee to Accept Entries.** Tournament Committees may not collect the Active.com fee when a player does not register online.

**B. Per Event and Base Fees.**

**i. Per Event Fee.** A per event fee is an entry fee charged for entering each event in a tournament. For example, if a player enters singles and doubles, one fee is charged for entering the singles event and one fee is charged for entering the doubles event. If a player only enters the singles, only the singles per event fee is charged. Per Event fees may be charged at Open tournaments that only hold singles and at Challenger tournaments and will be charged when a tournament offers only singles or only doubles.

**ii. Base Fee.** A base fee is an entry fee charged for entering a tournament that offers multiple events to a player. A base fee can only be charged for a division when:

- multiple events are available to all players in the division,
- doubles events do not require a player to enter with a partner, and
- the tournament pairs players without partners into teams.

If draws are limited in singles, the doubles team draw limit may not be less than one-half of the singles draw limit. For example, if a tournament has Boys' 16 Open singles with a draw limit of 32, Boys' 16 Open doubles must also be offered and the doubles draw limit must be not less than 8.

When an alternate replaces a withdrawing player in one event in a base fee tournament, the alternate will be charged the entire base fee, regardless of whether the alternate is also playing another event because the alternate has the option to decline acceptance.

**C. Refunds.** Pursuant to this section, when an entry fee refund is required the Tournament Committee will not be obligated to refund the Tennis Link non-refundable registration fee.

**i. Withdrawals in Violation of Concurrent Tournament Rule.** When a player withdraws from a tournament in violation of the Concurrent Tournament Rule (Rule 6), a player is not entitled to a refund, regardless of when the withdrawal occurs.

**ii. Withdrawals No Later than 7 Days Before Start of Tournament.**

**a. Per Event Fee.** If a player withdraws from an event no later than seven days before the start date of the tournament, the player's per event entry fee will be refunded. No refund is required beginning 6 days before the start date of the tournament.

**b. Base Fee.** If a player withdraws from the tournament no later than seven days before the start date of the tournament, the player's base entry fee will be refunded.

If a player has entered both singles and doubles and the player withdraws from the singles event no later than seven days before the start date of the tournament, 2/3 of the player's base entry fee will be refunded.

If a player enters both singles and doubles and the player withdraws from the doubles event no later than seven days before the start date of the tournament, 1/3 of the player's entry fee will be refunded.

No refund is required beginning 6 days before the start date of the tournament.

**iii. Entries Not Accepted.**

**a. Per Event Fee.** If a player is not accepted into an event when there is a per event fee, the player's entire entry fee for the event will be refunded.

**b. Base Fee.** If a player's entry is not accepted in all events entered, the player's entire entry fee will be refunded.

If a player enters both singles and doubles and the singles entry is not accepted, 2/3 of the player's entry fee will be refunded.

If a player enters both singles and doubles and the doubles entry is not accepted, 1/3 of the player's entry fee will be refunded.

**iv. Credits Not Permitted.** The Tournament Committee may not issue a credit for the entry fee in lieu of an entry fee refund.

**v. Fees for Refunding Not Permitted; Administrative Fee for Full Rain Out Permitted.** The Tournament Committee will not charge any fee (such as a processing, service, or handling fee) for refunding the entry fee. *However*, in the case where the tournament is rained out before a match is played, the tournament may withhold an administrative fee of \$2.00 per entry in the case of a tournament that charges a per-entry fee or a total of \$2.00 in the case of a tournament that charges a base fee.

**vi. Partial Rain Out Policy.**

- a. **When Per Event Fee Charged.** No refund of the per event fee will be required to be made to a player if that player finishes one match in an event and the event is subsequently rained out.
  - b. **When Base Fee Charged.** No refund of the base fee will be required to be made to a player if that player finishes one match in the tournament, regardless of whether it is a singles or doubles match. A finished match is a match that takes place on court and is played to completion, meaning a player has either won a match point or has won after the start of the match because their opponent has retired or been defaulted.
- D. Nonpayment of Entry Fee.** The tournament may charge a collection fee for returned entry fee checks or nonpayment of outstanding fees at the tournament. Nonpayment of entry fees or cancellation of payment after the entry deadline will result in player suspension until such payment is received by the tournament.
- 25. Unfinished Tournaments.** Junior players may not make up matches after the end of the sanction dates. Tournament Committees are instructed to use their best efforts to keep the progression of a draw even so that one half of a draw does not progress further than another. All players will earn Ranking Points accumulated as of the last scheduled day of a tournament.
- 26. Cancellation of Tournaments.** The Tournament Committee will not make the decision to cancel all matches for the remainder of the day until at least 12 Noon of the day in question, or the remainder of the tournament until at least 12 Noon of the last scheduled day of play.
- 27. Player Attire.** Appropriate tennis attire is required for all matches. Rules of the host club will govern. Any dress code must be published to the tournament website no later than the time entries open.
- 28. Warm-up Period.** Warm-up time is limited to 5 minutes. All practice serves must be taken during warm-up.
- 29. Certified Officials at Tournaments.**
- A. 10-and-Under Orange/Green Ball Tournaments.** See Rule 11.A.ix. for requirements.
  - B. 12-and-Under Green Ball Tournaments.** A Referee is required, but the Referee does not need to be USTA-certified. An official is required at each satellite site, and one official is required for each eight (8) courts in play, but the officials do not need to be USTA-certified. Notwithstanding this provision, USTA-certified officials are highly recommended.
  - C. Other Tournaments.** The Referee of each Challenger, UTR Round Robin, Open, Championship, Super Series and Excellence Tournament and the Sectional Championships will be a referee certified by the USTA. A Certified Official is required at each satellite site. A minimum of two Certified Officials are required for each eight (8) courts in play, one of whom must be a USTA-certified official; the remaining official may be a USTA-certified official or a court monitor. Any waiver to these rules is subject to the prior written approval of the USTA NorCal junior staff.
- 30. Awards.**
- A. All Round Robins.** Awards will go to the 1st place finishers in each singles Round Robin. Medals are acceptable awards for Challenger Tournaments, Open Tournaments, and UTR Round Robins.
  - B. Non-Round Robin Challenger and Open Tournaments.** Awards shall go to the 1st and 2nd place finishers. Medals are acceptable awards for Challenger and Open Tournaments.
  - C. Super Series.** Awards will go to the 1st and 2nd place finishers in all flights.
  - D. All Other Tournaments.** Singles and doubles awards will be presented to:
    - i. 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place finishers;
    - ii. when a Feed-In Championship is held, the 5th place finishers; and
    - iii. consolation winners, *except* when a Compass Draw is held the tournament is not required to give awards to the winners of all consolation draws.
 Medals are acceptable awards for 4th and 5th place finishers and consolation winners.
  - E. Sportsmanship Awards.** Sportsmanship Awards must be presented to two players each day of a tournament. USTA NorCal will provide the Sportsmanship Awards no later than the start date of the tournament.
- 31. NTRP Tournaments.** Players who are age eligible to enter junior tournaments may not enter NTRP tournaments, *except* that junior players may enter and play in NTRP tournaments designated as pilots for adult and junior level-based competition.
- 32. USTA NorCal Summer Grand Prix Circuit and Invitational.** USTA NorCal has established a summer circuit of Open, and UTR Round Robin Tournaments. Based on results from these tournaments, players will qualify for a summer-ending Invitational. For more information on the Circuit and Invitational, go to <https://s3.amazonaws.com/ustaassets/assets/635/15/junior-grand-prix.pdf>.
- 33. USTA NorCal Position on Videotaping and Photography.** Videotaping and photography for personal, non-commercial purposes, of any portion of a sanctioned USTA NorCal event is permissible under the law, much like

any event in a public place. If a player, parent or other person affiliated with a player objects to that player being videotaped or photographed, that player, parent or person may ask, or request that a Tournament Director or Certified Official intercede on their behalf to ask, that any videotaping and photography stop, or that the camera be repositioned to exclude that player. Other than optional compliance or respectful consideration, there are no grounds to deny anyone the right to videotape or photograph.

Notwithstanding this position, facilities used for sanctioned events may have videotaping and/or photography policies of their own pertaining to events within the boundaries of their property, which may supersede the position of USTA NorCal stated here.