



## USTA NorCal Point Penalty Suspension System

As of August 29, 2013

***The purpose of the USTA NorCal Point Penalty Suspension System is to maintain fair and reasonable standards of conduct by all USTA NorCal players competing in any USTA-sanctioned tournament.***

- A. Application.** The USTA NorCal Point Penalty Suspension System shall apply to tournaments sanctioned by USTA NorCal. It applies to conduct:
- During all matches (main draw, compass draw, consolation, qualifying, and doubles);
  - During tournament activities;
  - At tournament facilities; and
  - At facilities, such as hotels, dormitories, and homes where players stay.
- Additionally each Suspension Point assessed at USTA national tournaments, tournaments sanctioned by another Sectional Association or District Association, and ITF tournaments becomes one Suspension Point under the USTA NorCal Point Penalty Suspension System.
- For junior players, Suspension Points assessed by USTA NorCal shall count as one point in the national Suspension Point System.
- B. Persons Authorized to Report Violations to Referee.** The following persons are authorized to report violations of the USTA Regulations and USTA NorCal Rules to the Referee for offenses they have seen, heard, or otherwise observed enough to be able to determine with reasonable certainty that a violation has occurred:
- Tournament Committee members
  - Chief Umpire
  - Deputy Referees
  - On-court officials (including Roving Officials)
  - Court Monitors, if specifically authorized by the Referee
  - Club or facility managers
  - Hotel or dormitory managers
  - Families housing players
  - Sectional or national junior staff
- C. Treatment of Coaches, Player Relatives, and Player Representatives.** Abusive conduct on the part of a player's coach, relative, representative or any other person associated with the player, including conduct directed toward any player, tournament official or spectator, shall be considered a violation and penalties may be assessed to a player. Violations may result in denial of privileges or exclusion of such person(s) from any or all USTA sanctioned tournaments in USTA NorCal or such other sanctions as the Junior Council or Sportsmanship Committee may impose.
- D. Persons Authorized to Assess Suspension Points.** Suspension Points are assessed by the Referee or, in the cases involving violation of the Concurrent Tournament Rule and cases involving competing in a USTA tournament while suspended by USTA NorCal, the USTA or one of its Sectional Association, USTA NorCal staff may assess Suspension Points. Suspension Points are not assessed by the Tournament Director, Roving Umpires, Chair Umpires, or Line Umpires.
- E. Suspension Points.** Suspension Points shall be assessed as set forth in the **Suspension Point Table**. When a violation occurs that involves a doubles team, Suspension Points shall be assessed only to the doubles player who was responsible for the violation. For example, if only one partner caused a default for lateness, or if only one partner's behavior resulted in code violations under the Point Penalty System, only that partner shall be assessed Suspension Points. If, however, both the behavior of both partners contributed to a default under the Point Penalty System, both partners shall be assessed suspension points.
- F. Submission of Code of Conduct Reports.** Within three days after the end of a tournament, the Referee and USTA NorCal staff shall file with USTA NorCal, Code of Conduct Reports for all violations of USTA Regulations and USTA NorCal Rules, which shall include the Suspension Points assessed for violations listed in the **Suspension Point Table**.
- Failure of the Referee or USTA NorCal staff to file a Code of Conduct Report within three days after the end of the tournament shall not invalidate any post-tournament disciplinary action, nor shall it invalidate any penalties imposed.
- G. Notice to Player; Player's Responsibility to Track Suspension Points.** As soon as possible after the filing of a Code of Conduct Report, USTA NorCal shall notify a player of suspension points levied. It is a

player's responsibility to track their Suspension Points.

**H. Right to Appeal Suspension Points.** A player shall have the right to appeal Suspension Points levied. Absent good cause shown, any appeal shall be barred unless it is made in writing to the USTA NorCal Executive Director within 15 days of the date the notice of Suspension Points set forth in Rule G. If sent by email, it shall be sent to leube@norcal.usta.com. If by mail, it shall be by certified mail, return receipt requested, to 1920 North Loop Road, Alameda, CA 94502.

Upon receipt of an appeal, the Executive Director shall assign the appeal to an appropriate staff person for review and decision. Within 30 days of the assignment (unless further time is reasonable), the staff person shall render a decision on the appeal based on the investigation or consultation that the staff person deems appropriate and notify the Executive Director and player of the decision.

If the levying of the Suspension Points is overturned, USTA NorCal shall have the authority to make such adjustments as it deems necessary to a draw sheet to reflect the decision.

If the levying of the Suspension Points is upheld, the decision shall become part of the record reviewed by the Sportsmanship Committee if a player is suspended and subsequently appeals the suspension pursuant to Rule K.

**I. Player Suspension.** USTA NorCal shall suspend players according to the following schedule:

1. *First Suspension.* If a player receives 10 suspension points within a 12-month period, the player shall be suspended from competing in USTA-sanctioned tournaments for three months. Upon suspension, these 10 points shall be cleared from the player's record. All other Suspension Points shall remain on the player's record and count towards a second suspension.

In the case of a junior player, the national suspension point system states that if no USTA National Championship falls during the 3-month period, the junior player shall not be accepted into the USTA National Championship immediately following the 3-month suspension period.

2. *Second Suspension.* If a player receives 8 Suspension Points within the 12 months immediately following the first suspension, the player shall be suspended from competing in USTA-sanctioned tournaments for six months. Upon suspension, these 8 points shall be cleared from the player's record. All other Suspension Points shall remain on the player's record and count towards a third suspension.

3. *Subsequent Suspensions.* If a player receives 6 Suspension Points within the 12-month period immediately following the second suspension (and any suspensions subsequent to the second suspension), the player shall be suspended from competing in USTA-sanctioned tournaments for a one year. Upon suspension, these 6 points shall be cleared from the player's record. All other Suspension Points shall remain on the player's record and count towards a subsequent suspension.

In the case of a junior player, the player shall lose eligibility for endorsement into any USTA national tournaments for the remainder of the player's eligibility in junior tennis.

**J. Notice to Tournaments and Written Notice to Player of Suspension.** After USTA NorCal has determined that a player is to be suspended, USTA NorCal staff shall post the player's name on the USTA NorCal website to inform Tournament Committees of players that may not compete in a USTA-sanctioned tournament. The Chairman of the Sportsmanship Committee or the Chairman's designee shall send a notice by first class mail and by certified mail (return receipt requested) to the player at the address shown on the records of the USTA Membership Department. The notice shall set forth:

- That the player is being suspended;
- The length of the suspension;
- The player's right to appeal the suspension;
- The procedure for appealing the suspension; and
- A statement that if the player chooses not to appeal the suspension, then the suspension shall begin 21 days after the date the notice was mailed.

**K. Right to Appeal Suspension to Sportsmanship Committee and Request Hearing.**

1. *Right to Appeal Suspension Points.* Prior to a suspension, a player may appeal the levying of suspension points as set forth in Rule H.

2. *Request for Hearing.* A player shall have the right to appeal a suspension by requesting a hearing before the Sportsmanship Committee. Absent good cause shown, any appeal shall be barred unless it is made in writing within 15 days of the mailing the notice of suspension and shall be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Sportsmanship Committee Chairperson, c/o USTA NorCal, 1920 North Loop Road, Alameda, CA 94502.

3. *Decision of Sportsmanship Committee.* Whenever a quorum is present, the vote of a majority of the members present shall constitute the decision of an appeal by the Sportsmanship Committee. The Sportsmanship Committee shall make a decision on an appeal within 20 days of the date of the hearing and the decision shall be binding and final. The Chairman, or the Chairman's designee shall prepare a written decision of the Committee notifying all parties of the decision.

**L. Effective Date of Suspension.**

1. If an appeal of a suspension is not made to the Sportsmanship Committee, the suspension begins 16 days after the certified notice of suspension is mailed to the player.
2. If an appeal of the suspension is made to the Sportsmanship Committee and the suspension is upheld, the suspension begins on the date one day after the decision is made by the Sportsmanship Committee.

<b>USTA NorCal Suspension Point Table</b>	
<b>Violation</b>	<b>Points</b>
Each code violation under the USTA Point Penalty System (point, game, or default) except that players who receive code violations because of delay immediately after a medical timeout or because of obvious cramping are not assessed suspension points.	2
Default for flagrant unsportsmanlike conduct on or off the court	8
No Show Default	5
Default for refusal to play or continue to play (for reason other than illness injury, or personal circumstance)	5
Default because of an adult discipline	5
Default for lateness	1
Disqualification for ineligibility	3
*Suspension points for defaults are in addition to points previously assessed for code violations.	
Violation of the Concurrent Tournament Rule (See Junior or Adult Tournament Rules) <i>Note: Additional ranking penalties may be imposed in the Junior and Adult Ranking rules. Refer to these rules for additional information.</i>	5
Withdrawal from tournament after the draw has been published - includes matches coded as Withdrawals and Walkovers, <i>except</i> as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A player shall receive a maximum 2 points per tournament for withdrawing (for example, a player shall receive 2 points if the player withdraws from singles, singles consolation, and/or doubles); and</li> <li>• No suspension points shall be levied if the player withdraws from the main draw of an event and plays in the consolation.</li> <li>• No suspension points shall be levied if a player retires from a match due to injury, illness, or personal circumstance and subsequently has to withdraw from one or more events in the tournaments.</li> </ul>	2
Unsportsmanlike conduct or inappropriate conduct on court after a match or off court, at locations such as the tournament site, hotel, housing, or tournament sponsored event	5
Unsportsmanlike or inappropriate conduct by parent, relative or coach	3
Leaving the court during a match without the permission of the Umpire or Referee	2
Not using best efforts to win	2
Physical act of violence against another person on or off court by a player, relative, coach, or other person associated with a player	10
Illegal use or possession of drugs; possessing or drinking alcoholic beverages by a minor; destruction of property, including vandalism; stealing	10
Gambling activity (see USTA Regulation IV.C.19.)	10
Incidents relating to the tournament in which police take action.	10
Competing in a USTA tournament while suspended by USTA NorCal, the USTA or one of its Sectional Associations	10
Each suspension point assessed at USTA national tournaments, Sectional or District tournaments, or ITF tournaments becomes one suspension point under the USTA NorCal Point Penalty Suspension System	1