USTA Eastern strives to provide quality competitive opportunities for players to contest and develop their skills against other players, as they progress through the USTA Eastern and USTA National tournament pathways. The utmost levels of courtesy and sportsmanship are expected of all participants and spectators at all times. Players are required to know and understand all other rules and regulations detailed in the USTA’s Official Rule Book: The Friend at Court; and those posted on the Junior Competition Homepage at eastern.usta.com.

Requirements and Regulation Reminders:

- Players must be current USTA Members to participate in sanctioned tournaments and be eligible for ranking.
  - To obtain a USTA Membership, please call: 1-800-990-8782
- Tournaments are offered in the 10 & Under (10U), 12U, 14U, 16U, & 18U divisions.
  - Players become ineligible to play in an age division on the 1st day of their birthday month, the year they turn 11, 13, 15, 17, or 19.
- Playing in or registering for *Concurrent Tournaments* is not allowed; and penalizable by the Code of Conduct with Suspension Points. Players may not play or register for overlapping tournaments; unless the start dates of the tournaments are more than three days apart. Limited exceptions apply:
  - Entering two tournaments where the player can reasonably expect (based on current standings or tournament homepage) to play the starting weekend of one tournament and reasonably expect to start play the following weekend for the second tournament (Eastern +L1 Grand Prix events) is allowed.
  - Entering a Super Six or Sweet 16 event with a limited draw, as well as a concurrent lower level event; however if a player is accepted into the limited draw event, they must withdraw from one event prior to the posting of either draw to avoid penalty for concurrent registrations.
- Players and spectators are required to know and abide by all other rules and regulations in the USTA’s Official Rule Book: The Friend at Court; and those posted on the Junior Competition Homepage at eastern.usta.com

Changes for 2015:

- Doubles:
  - Increased %; Importance in Rankings: In 2015 the percentage of doubles results included in a players standing will increase from 15% to 25%. This change will not be retroactive.
  - Empire Cup Doubles Series: The Empire Cup Doubles Circuit will track a team’s doubles results over the course of this six tournament series. The teams who earn the most ranking points in each age division in the Empire Cup Doubles series in 2015 will win the 2015 Empire Cup for that age division. Standings will be updated after each segment on eastern.usta.com.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Empire Cup in National Standings</th>
<th>Empire Cup in Eastern &amp; Cup Standings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April &amp; May Segments = National L3</td>
<td>April &amp; May Segments = National L1A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan, Feb, Oct &amp; Dec = National L4</td>
<td>Jan, Feb, Oct &amp; Dec = Empire Cup</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Super Six Selection Process: All draws of 32 will select up to 2 players that are in the top 25 of the Eastern Standing list of the next younger age division and all draws of 64 will select up to 4 players in the top 25 of the Eastern Standing list of the next younger age division, except in the 12U division: players will not be selected from the 10U standings.

- L1 Concurrent → L1A: To alleviate confusion surrounding which L1 tournaments are worth which point values, the “L1 Concurrent” level designation of 2013 has been replaced by L1A. Point values are not changing from 2013 to 2014, just the name of the level.

- Northern & Western Region Upstate Super Six, +L1, & Empire Cup tournaments will run Sat-Mon as opposed to Fri-Sun in order to decrease the # of players missing school and provide consistent scheduling.

- 2015 Point Tables are located here at eastern.usta.com; ranking point increases have been made to advancing JTT Intermediate and Advanced leagues.
2015 USTA Eastern Tournament Pathway

Eastern Super Six:
National L3 (January/June) & National L4 (March, April, September & November) “Sectional” tournaments; that will be limited to 32 or 64 (June) Eastern players; selected based on their section standing in the age group of the event and the next youngest age division. Up to 2 players in draws of 32, and up to 4 players in draws of 64 players will be selected to the events from the next youngest age group, provided the applicants are in the top 25 of the Eastern Standing list of the next youngest age division; please note this will not occur in the 12U division: players will not be selected from the 10U standings. Players may register for multiple age groups, but will only be admitted to one; selection is done for the older age groups first – if a player is selected to an older age division they will automatically withdrawn from the younger division.

Divisions: Boys & Girls 12’s, 14’s, 16’s & 18’s
Registration Fee: $108 + tennislink fee

Draw Size: 32 Singles (January, March, April, September & November)
64 Singles (June)
Draw Type: FIC-R16 with a QF-Playoff
Match Formats:
- BG 12’s MD - 2/3 Sets w/10 point tiebreak in lieu of 3rd set
- BG 12-18 Consolation - 2/3 Sets w/10 point tiebreak in lieu of 3rd set
- BG 14-18’s MD- 2/3 Sets

Dates: January 16th - 18th
March 20th - 22nd
April 18th - 20th
June 5-7 (12’s & 14’s) & 12–14 (16’s & 18’s)
September 19th – 21st
November 20th - 22nd

Empire Cup Doubles:
A Six tournament Doubles ONLY circuit, in which Eastern players have the opportunity to compete for National L3 & National L4 points as well as the opportunity to win the Empire Cup. (The April & May segments of the Cup will count as National L1A tournaments in section and cup standings.) The doubles *team* in each age division who earns the most points over the course of all six Empire Cup segments each year, will win the Empire Cup; and have their names etched onto the Cup and into the history of USTA Eastern. Standings will be updated on eastern.usta.com
Divisions: Boys & Girls 12’s, 14’s, 16’s & 18’s

Registration Fee: $40/player or $80/team + tennislink fee

Draw Size: Unlimited Draws
Draw Type: FMLC Consolation
Match Formats:
- MD - 2/3 Sets w/10 point tiebreak in lieu of 3rd set
- Consolation - 2/3 Sets w/10 point tiebreak in lieu of 3rd set or Pro Set

Dates: January 23rd -25th
February 6th-8th
April 24th – 26th
May 15th - 17th
October 3rd - 4th
December 3rd-6th

Eastern Sweet 16:
A high-performance compass draw event, in which players are guaranteed at least 4 scheduled singles matches. Selection will be based off of standings in the age group of the event. Players may register for multiple age groups, but will only be admitted to one; selection is done for the older age groups first – if a players is selected to an older age division they will automatically withdrawn from the younger division.

Divisions: Boys & Girls 12’s, 14’s, 16’s & 18’s
Registration Fee: $95/player + tennislink fee

Draw Size: 16 Singles Players + 8 Doubles teams
Draw Type: Singles Compass Draw + Single Elimination Doubles
Match Formats:
- BG 12-18’s Singles MD & Consolation - 2/3 Sets w/10 point tiebreak in lieu of 3rd set
- Doubles: 8 game pro-sets

Dates: November 13th – 15th
**+L1 Eastern Grand Prix:**
Two weekend long (1st weekend qualifier; 2nd weekend Main Draw) advanced level tournaments that provide all Eastern players the opportunity to participate regardless of ranking. If registration totals 50 or more players, 24 players will be accepted directly into the MD, and the remaining players will compete for the 8 remaining Q slots in the draw. If fewer than 50 players register, 28 will be accepted directly into the MD and the rest of the players will compete for the remaining 4 Qualifier slots. **Divisions:** Boys & Girls 12’s, 14’s, 16’s & 18’s  **Registration Fee:** $50/player + $35 for MD Players + tennislink fee.

**Draw Size:** 32 Main Draw + Open Qualifier  
**Draw Type:** FIC-QF  
**Match Formats:**
- BG 12’s MD - 2/3 Sets w/10 point tiebreak in lieu of 3rd set  
- BG 12-18 Qualifying & Consolation - 2/3 Sets w/10 point tiebreak in lieu of 3rd set  
- BG 14-18’s MD - 2/3 Sets

**Dates:** January 2-4, 9-11  
February 20-22, 27-March 1  
August 7-9, 14-16  
October 16-18, 24-26  
December 11-13, 18-20

**L1 & L1A Championships:**
Advanced level events open to all players. The match format may be best of three sets with a mandatory 10-minute rest period after the second set; or may include a deciding match tie-break in lieu of the 3rd set, with a 2 minute mandatory rest period after the 2nd set. Eastern will sanction 2 L1’s per age group during each of the following dates; one venue upstate and one venue down-state unless otherwise specified. When L1 events fall during a Super Six or National Selection tournament, they will be labeled L1A’s to designate the reduced point value associated with the tournament. **10U events will utilize a Short Set format** (the 1st player/team to wins 4 games by a margin of 2 games, with a 7pt tiebreak at 4-all) and include a consolation match providing each participant with at least a two matches; and will not follow the schedule below.

**Dates:** (*denotes L1A distinction, ^denotes downstate only)  
*Dates do not apply to the 10U Divisions*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>January 16-18*</th>
<th>April 10-12</th>
<th>July 17-19</th>
<th>October 9-12*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>April 17-19*^</td>
<td>July 24-26</td>
<td>August 7-9</td>
<td>November 13-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 6-8</td>
<td>May 22-25*</td>
<td>August 28-30</td>
<td>November20-22*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 20-22*</td>
<td>June 26-28</td>
<td>September18-20*^</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 10-12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**L1B Challengers:**
Intermediate level events open to all USTA members. Draws are not limited. The match format may be best of three sets with a mandatory 10-minute rest period after the second set; or may include a deciding match tie-break in lieu of the 3rd set, with a 2 minute mandatory rest period after the 2nd set. **10U events will utilize a Short Set format** (the 1st player/team to wins 4 games by a margin of 2 games, with a 7pt tiebreak at 4-all) and include a consolation match providing each participant with at least a two matches; and will not follow the schedule below. **L1B events may be scheduled during any week on the calendar.**

**L2O Opens/L2R Regionals:**
Intermediate events open to either ALL USTA members (L2O) or ONLY Players from the Region of the event (L2R). **L2O/R BG 10-12’s will utilize a Short Set format** (the 1st player/team to wins 4 games by a margin of 2 games, with a 7pt tiebreak at 4-all) and include a consolation match providing each participant with at least a two matches. **L2O/R BG14-18’s may run full set (6-game) format, and may include either a Consolation Match or Doubles option for all players.** Maximum entry fees for L2O/R events is $50 for singles and $25 for doubles. **L2O/R events may be scheduled during any week on the calendar.**

**L3 UPS:** Unranked, non-elimination events for entry level players. Tournaments may be Round Robin or Compass Draws formats. Events are 2-4 hours and will utilize either short sets, timed matches, or game based formats is allowed. **L3 events may be scheduled during any week on the calendar.**