

USTA/Mid-Atlantic Section Code of Conduct Applicable to Adult/Senior Tournament Play

1. Standard of Conduct.

USTA Tournament Regulations apply to all sanctioned events. As such, players competing in USTA-sanctioned tournaments within Mid-Atlantic Section are subject to all USTA rules and regulations governing player conduct, including, without limitation: (i) USTA Tournament Regulations I.N. (Standards of Conduct); (ii) Regulation I.O. (Player Responsibilities under *The Code*) and (iii) Rule 31 of the Rules of Tennis (Coaching) as promulgated by the International Tennis Federation. The complete text of these rules, regulations, and orders are contained in the current edition of the USTA publication *Friend At Court*. Players (and any individuals associated with players) and tournaments have an obligation to maintain high standards of conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship.

2. Examples of Behavior Constituting a Violation

- (a) The following constitute poor sportsmanship/unacceptable behavior:
 - (i) A pattern of “bad” calls or a pattern of unjustifiably challenging opponents’ calls.
 - (ii) Physical abuse or threats on or off the court directed against players or spectators or officials.
 - (iii) Verbal abuse on or off the court directed against players or spectators or officials.
 - (iv) Violation of the Section’s by-laws, rules or regulations.
- (b) A pattern of withdrawals from tournaments after the draw has been made or a pattern of defaulting matches-except for illness, injury or personal emergencies.
- (c) Entering two sanctioned tournaments where match times may conflict unless each tournament committee involved understands the situation and concurs in writing.

3. Filing a Grievance

A written grievance must be in writing and must be filed with the USTA/Mid-Atlantic Section office within seven days of the alleged incident. An MAS Disciplinary Grievance Report form may be filed by a player, player’s coach, spectator, or tournament official utilizing established Mid-Atlantic Section Grievance Procedures. Mid-Atlantic Section or District tournament staff may file a Grievance Report

form at anytime when an apparent pattern of improper withdrawals or defaults has been noted. Players against whom a grievance has been filed will be notified in writing within 14 days of receipt of the grievance.

4. Decision by the Grievance Committee Chair

USTA Mid-Atlantic Section Grievance Procedures apply to the adjudication of grievances arising out of Adult-Senior tournament competition, including the right of the parties to request a hearing. After careful consideration of all relevant information, the Grievance Committee Chair may:

- (a) dismiss the grievance claim; or
- (b) warn or censure the individual; or
- (c) suspend the player from tournament play for up to a year; or
- (d) remove the player from the current year-end Sectional rankings or declare the player ineligible to be ranked within the Section for the ensuing year.

The Chairperson’s decision shall be communicated within 14 days by overnight letter to the respective parties to the grievance. If a player is suspended, that information will be reported to all Mid-Atlantic Districts and the National office.

5. Appeal Process

The Chairperson's decision shall be considered final and binding unless a written notice of appeal is filed with the USTA/MAS Executive Director within one week after receipt of the Chairperson's decision.

The full MAS Grievance Committee shall be convened to hear any appeals. In such instances, the Chairperson shall not be involved in the appellate hearing, except to answer specific questions from the Grievance Committee concerning the grievance decision. The Grievance Committee shall affirm, modify, reverse, or remand the decision of the Chairperson as it deems appropriate.

The decision of the Grievance Committee shall be final and binding, except that any suspension of thirty (30) days or more, or expulsion from USTA/MAS sanctioned tournament play, may be immediately appealed to the USTA/MAS Board of Directors pursuant to Section 6 of the Mid-Atlantic Section Grievance Procedures.