



MIDDLE STATES

Junior Development Guidebook



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MIDDLE STATES



What is USTA Middle States?

USTA Middle States (USTA MS) is dedicated to carrying out the goals of the United States Tennis Association within its region, particularly with respect to promoting tennis opportunities for juniors and adults of all abilities and cultural backgrounds. USTA MS includes the states of Pennsylvania and Delaware, as well as parts of New Jersey and West Virginia.

The Middle States section is divided into six districts: Allegheny Mountain (Pittsburgh, Erie and part of West Virginia), Central PA (Lancaster, Harrisburg, York, Williamsport), Eastern PA (Reading, Lehigh Valley, Scranton), Philadelphia's five-county area, Delaware and New Jersey (*except for a 35 mile radius around NYC*).

What is Jr. Team Tennis?

USTA Jr. Team Tennis brings players together as teammates to play other teams in singles, doubles and mixed doubles matches.

The program is all about turning what was predominantly an individual sport into a team sport. USTA Jr. Team Tennis provides quality play opportunities for players of similar age and ability levels in a fun and competitive atmosphere.

Divisions — QuickStart Team Tennis

8-and-under	36 foot court and red foam ball
10-and-under	60 foot court and low compression ball
12-and-under Beginner	Intermediate
14-and-under Intermediate	Advanced
18-and-under Intermediate	Advanced

What is a Sanctioned Tournament?

A sanctioned tournament is one that is approved by the USTA. The club, organization or person running the tournament has paid a sanction fee to the USTA and agrees to run the tournament following USTA MS Tournament rules and regulations

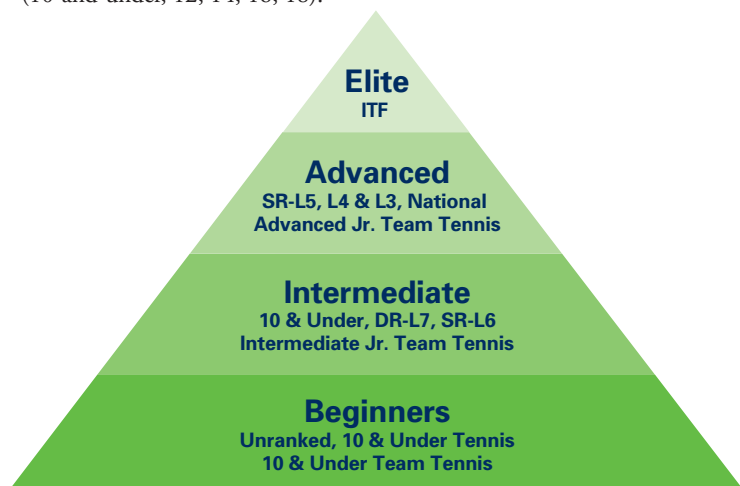
Residency/Membership

A junior player's residency shall be the domicile of that player's parents, custodial parent or player's legal guardian. The domicile is hereby defined as the bonafide, true, and permanent home of the player's parents, custodial parent or legal guardian.

At no point may a player claim two domiciles at the same time. Only players with a current USTA membership with a Middle States residency are eligible for either a ranking or entry into Section Tournaments.

Junior Development Pathway

The USTA junior pathway encompasses all of the junior divisions (10-and-under, 12, 14, 16, 18).



Beginner

Unranked (UR): UR events are designed for entry-level USTA junior members who have never received a ranking. UR tournaments count towards district rankings only.

10-and-under Team Tennis (10&U JTT): QST JTT is great way to get into tennis in a fun, team-based program. They like the camaraderie of playing with friends and teammates and the support and encouragement of a good coach. QST JTT helps children understand the structure of the game and allows them to keep track of the competition as it unfolds through a simpler scoring system.

Intermediate

10-and-under Tournaments: Enables kids to learn strategy and tactics through organized match play. These tournaments utilize the QuickStart Tennis format with the appropriate sized courts and equipment.

USTA Jr. Team Tennis Intermediate Division: Designed for developing players who are below a 3.0 rating looking for match experience as they become more comfortable playing advanced players.

District Level (DR): This level of competition is for local players, but events are normally open to player from other districts and all USTA members unless designated as "closed." They are designed for the developing player who is either pursuing a district ranking, working his/her way up to the SR-Level, or who elects to play tournaments close to home.

Section Level (SR): These events include players from each district within the section and are not open to players from outside the section. These events are only open to USTA MS residents.

SR-L6: These events count towards USTA MS Section Rankings and are designed for the serious competitor.

Advanced

USTA Jr. Team Tennis Advanced Division: This level consists of experience ranked tournament players. Any players ranked in the top 80 for age groups 14-18, and top 40 for 12s in Middle States must play advanced.

Section Level (SR) L5, L4, and L3 Section Championship: These events count towards section and national rankings but their primary purpose is to provide competition among the outstanding USTA MS juniors who pursuing USTA national tournament eligibility.

National Level: Encompasses all USTA junior members from each section in the United States. USTA National Championships have restrictions on the participation of players who are not U.S. citizens or permanent resident aliens.

USTA National L3-Regional Events, L2-National Opens, Zone Team Events and L1-National Championships: These events are on the National Schedule and they count towards national rankings. Specific national events based on the USTA MS rules may count towards section rankings.

Elite

International Tennis Federation (ITF): ITF encompasses the world. These events include players from all around the world.

How to Enter

How to Enter a Tournament

The preferred way to enter a tournament is online via tennislink.usta.com/tournaments.

TENNISLINK 

Additional information for entering a tournament can be found on www.middlestates.usta.com by clicking the tournament information link under the Junior Competition tab on the left rail.

- Players competing in USTA MS sanctioned events are expected to know the rules of tennis and comply with the Code of Conduct of the USTA (www.usta.com).
- No junior player may enter more than one (1) USTA sanctioned tournament and/or (1) ITF sanctioned tournament when the scheduled dates overlap unless the player or parent has received written permission to do so from both tournament directors. Under no circumstance can a player play in more than one (1) USTA sanctioned tournament and/or (1) ITF sanctioned tournament when the scheduled dates are the same or overlap.
- It is the responsibility of the player to check their e-mail, voicemail, the tournament Web site or call the tournament director to obtain their starting times at least 48 hours before the start of the tournament.
- Players are responsible for checking in 15 minutes before their starting time. Check the draw and report any discrepancies in the draw to the tournament director or referee.

Age Eligibility for Tournaments

The USTA has adopted a “month of birth” age eligibility for junior players competing in USTA sanctioned tournaments.

Junior players may continue to play in the 12, 14, 16 and 18 age divisions until the month they turn 13, 15, 17, or 19 respectively. Players should use the starting date of the tournament to determine eligibility when a tournament begins.

How to Join a Jr. Team Tennis Team or League

The best way to register is online at tennislink.usta.com/TEAMTENNIS. Click FIND A PROGRAM, then enter your zip code to see programs in your area. You can either register on the spot or request more information.

Enter USTA Number (*Don't have one, click join today!*), then select division, select a shirt size and checkout!

USTA Jr. Team Tennis Age Cutoff

The age cutoff for USTA Jr. Team Tennis is August 31 of that championship year.* (*i.e., A player may participate in 14-and-under division if they remain 14 through August 31 of the championship year.*)

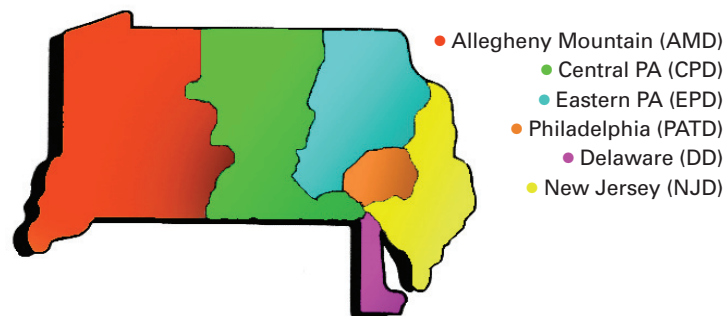
* Championship year runs September through September. Fall of 2010 player needs to remain age eligible through September 1, 2011.

Birth Certificate

In addition to having a valid residency, all players wishing to play in any of our SR-Level tournaments must have a copy of a valid birth certificate or other document of Government Issue available for review by the Middle States office.

District Tournaments (DR)

USTA Middle States Map and District Breakdown



District Tournament Selection Process

In district tournaments, priority is given to players who live in the district of the tournament by order of rank, followed by players living in the USTA MS section, followed by all other USTA members.

Most district tournaments have a limited draw size therefore entry to the tournament may be subject to a selection process. Just entering the tournament does not guarantee acceptance into the tournament due to limited draw sizes.

District Rankings

USTA MS districts shall rank junior players in singles in the boys' and girls' 18, 16, 14, 12, and some 10 age divisions and doubles depending on the USTA MS district you reside in.

If a player wishes to be ranked in multiple age divisions, the player must satisfy all requirements for all age divisions.

All players must reside in the district in order to receive a final ranking in that district with some exceptions. Check your district rules.

District Rank Year

The rank year for the district rankings is Jan. 1 - Dec. 31. Year-end rankings are published on Jan. 15.

District Rankings and Standings

District rankings and standings are made up of district resident players who participated in the minimum number of their districts' tournaments with the minimum number of wins based on that district's requirement.

District standings will be published monthly starting in the 2nd quarter of the calendar year.

How are Rankings and Standings Calculated?

Section Combined Rankings are structured so that 100 percent of the top four singles events are counted and 15 percent of the top four doubles events are counted. The points are combined based on the USTA MS Junior Rules and Regulations.

District Points Per Round

The PATD, NJD, EPD, DD, and CPD district points are earned based on each round the player wins per tournament with possible bonus points given to the finalist and winner of the district tournament. For PATD, NJD, EPD, DD, and CPD district level rankings use the top four district tournaments in your district and division to determine your rankings.

Players shall earn points for winning each round at the district level that are set forth from the Points Per Round Table below. The Finalist receives 20 bonus points and the Winner receives 30 bonus points.

Point Per Round Table CPD – DD – EPD – NJD – PATD: DR-L7

DESCRIPTION	DR-L7 and UR
Main Draw Points Per Round won	20
Consolation Points Per Round won	10

For juniors in AMD, district level rankings use your top six district tournaments in your district and in an age division is used to determine your rankings.

The AMD players shall earn points based on the size of the draw and the last round won by the player who won the tournament, as listed from the Points Per Round Table.

Check your districts rules. Some districts require players to compete in a minimum number of district tournaments.

Points Per Round Table AMD: DR-L7

DESCRIPTION	FINISH	64 DRAW	32 DRAW	16 DRAW	8 DRAW	4 DRAW
Champion	1	21	18	15	12	10
2nd Place	2	16	13	10	7	5
3rd Place	3	13	10	7	4	2
4th Place/SF	4	12	8	5	2	0
Quarterfinalist	5-8	8	5	2	0	0
Reached R16	9-16	5	2	0	0	0
Reached R32	17-32	2	0	0	0	0

Players and parents are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with their USTA MS District Tournament Rules and Regulations which can always be found on the Web site.

Section Tournaments (SR)

Section Tournament Selection Process

- The purpose of setting criteria for entry to a SR tournament is to have an orderly and objective process that allows as many players as possible to gain access into the ranking and endorsement process while ensuring that the quality of the draw and match interactions between the highest ranked players is optimal. The purpose of the selection process of a SR tournament is not to simply pick the top ranked 32 players.
- Most tournaments have a limited draw size therefore entry to the tournament may be subject to a selection process.

Order of Priority Entry

SR-L3 Section Championship, SR-L4 and SR-L5 Section Events

1. High Performance Player
 - A. All players with rankings of 100 or better on the most recent National Standings list in the division in question will be given priority entry to SR tournaments in the division in question.
 - B. With only a maximum of three, consideration will first be given to players with rankings of 50 or better on the most recent National Standings list in the division one level beneath the division in question, and secondly, to players ranked in the top 10 on the USTA MS most recent published ranked standings list in the division one level beneath the division in question.
2. Players will next be picked by ranking in the division in question based on the most recently published section ranked standings list.

Order of Priority Entry

SR-L6 Tournament

1. The high performance players shall be selected first as described previously.
2. The next set of players to be accepted to the tournament shall be those players on the list who have applied to a previous SR-L6 in the segment and have been rejected in the same age division as the tournament in question.

For the purposes of this discussion a segment shall be defined as the four quarters of a year. This would be January 1st to March 31st, April 1st to June 30th, July 1st to September 30th and October 1st to December 31st.
3. Then the ranking coordinator shall use the most recently published section ranked standings list. This list shall be based on the previous 12-month period and shall include those players who have accumulated one point in the division in question.

Seeding

The All Factors Method of seeding is based on the players' chances of winning the tournament as determined by the Tournament Seeding Coordinators. Tournament Seeding Coordinator shall consider all reasonably available information, including, but not limited to: ranking lists, standing lists, recent records, types of surface, and recent head-to-head encounters in the USTA MS SR-Level tournaments and National tournaments. The committee does not just look at the points-per-round standings of the players to do seeds even though the outcome of the seeding is sometimes very similar to the current standings list.

Section Rankings

USTA MS section shall rank junior players in singles in the boys' and girls' 18-and-under, 16-and-under, 14-and-under, 12-and-under age divisions. If a player wishes to be ranked in multiple age divisions, the player must satisfy all requirements for all age divisions.

All players must reside in the USTA MS section in order to participate in SR tournaments based on the USTA MS domicile requirements.

Section Current Standings

USTA MS uses a rolling year in order to determine current standings, meaning your ranking in the current section standings is based on results in the previous 11 months leading up to the most recent tournament played; published weekly at the section level.

Example: If you just played in an SR-L4 in May, your rank using a rolling standing format is based off all the tournaments played from June of the previous year until the present.

How are Section Rankings and Standings Calculated?

Section Combined Rankings are structured so that 100 percent of the top four singles events are counted are 15 percent of the top four doubles events are counted. The points are combined based on the USTA MS Junior Rules and Regulations.

The section rankings and standings lists are made up of all the USTA MS players who participated in USTA MS section and/or district tournaments attaining a minimum of one round win. The rankings and standings list are calculated using a player's top four tournament finishes according to a point value. The tournaments used to calculate a player's section ranking and standing may include: SR-Level 3, 4, 5, and 6 as well as DR-L7 events. In addition, one of the four tournaments may be a National tournament, if it is in fact one of the players highest four tournament finishes.

National Tournaments that Could Count

Level 1

- USTA National Championships
- USTA BG 18 National Team Championships
- USTA BG 16 Intersectional Team Championships

Level

- USTA BG 16, 14 and 12 Zone Team Championships
- USTA National Open and Regional events
- Regional Level 3
- USTA Jr. Team Tennis National Championships – Advanced Level Only

For a section ranking players must compete in a minimum of one tournament with one match win. Byes do not count as a win.

The Section Points are based on the level of tournament and the players' results in the tournament – the last round the player won in the tournament is the only points the player receives for that tournament.

10 and Under Tennis



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10-and-Under Tennis

The goal of the 10-and-Under Tennis is to get kids playing as quickly and capably as possible. Here are two options to get started.

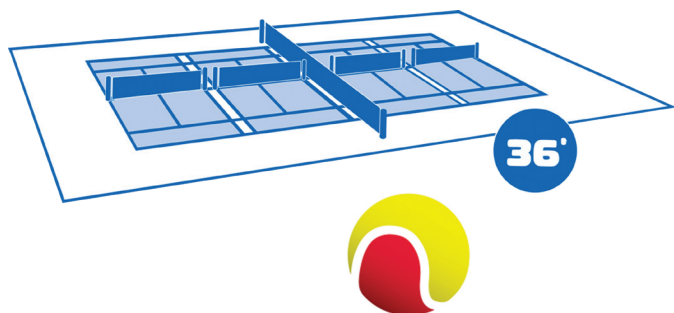
10-and-Under Tournaments

The goal is to standardize tennis competition for players 10-and-under using formats that optimize their development. All USTA Middle States sanctioned 10-and-under tournaments will use the QuickStart Tennis format. Players will receive DR ranking points towards their district ranking if the events are located in their district.

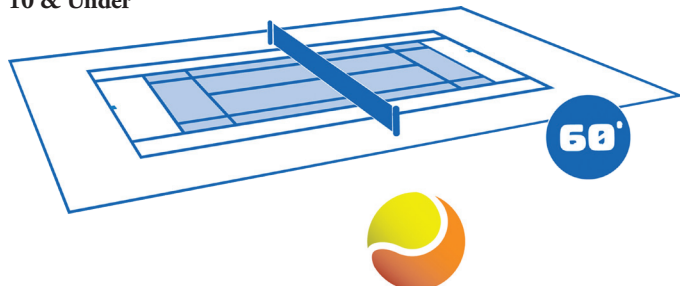
Six Components of QuickStart Tennis

AGE	COURT SIZE	RACQUETS	BALL	NET HEIGHT	SCORING
8 & Under	36' x 18'	Up to 23"	Foam and oversized low compression balls (red ball)	2' 9"	Best of 3 games; first to 7 points
10 & Under	60' x 21' (singles) 60' x 27' (doubles)	Up to 25"	Low compression balls (orange ball)	3'	Best of 3 sets; first to 4 games with third set first to 7 points

8 & Under



10 & Under



USTA Jr. Team Tennis

USTA Jr. Team Tennis brings kids together in teams to play singles, doubles, and mixed doubles against other teams. It promotes social skills and important values by fostering a spirit of cooperation and unity, as well as individual self growth. It's a fun environment for kids in which they learn.

Jr. Team Tennis Championship Series

District Championship

- Local teams have the opportunity to compete in their USTA Jr. Team Tennis District Championship.
- Each of the six districts holds a championship in July. Winning teams advance to the USTA Middle States Section Championship.

Section Championship

- Winning teams from the 12-and-under, 14-and-under Intermediate and Advanced, and the 18-and-under Intermediate and Advanced divisions of their District Championship win a bid to the section championships held the first week in August.
- Teams may advance from this championship to the USTA National Jr. Team Tennis Championships in October.

National Championship

- Winning teams in the 14-and-under Intermediate and Advanced, and the 18-and-under Intermediate and Advanced from the Section Championships will be eligible to advance to the National Championship.
- The USTA National Jr. Team Tennis Championship is held every October and typically features teams representing at 17 sections of the USTA.

USTA Middle States Section and National Tournaments Points Tables

National L1, L2 and L3, Section L3, L4 and L5,

The Section Points table below is based on the level of tournament and the players' results in the tournament - the last round the player won in the tournament is the only points the player receives for that tournament.

DESCRIPTION	FINISH	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4	LEVEL 5
Champion	1	660	300	220	165	88
2nd Place	2	540	250	180	135	72
3rd Place	3	480	220	160	120	64
4th Place/SF	4	420	190	140	105	56
Full Feed in Thru Qtrs.						
FIC Winner	5	390	175	130	98	52
FIC Runner-up	6	360	160	120	90	48
FIC SF	7 Thru 8	330	140	110	83	44
FIC Quarterfinalist	9 Thru 12	300	125	100	75	40
FIC Quarterfinal Qual	13-16	270	115	90	68	36
Reached FIC R16	17-24	240	95	80	60	32
Reached FIC R16 Qual	25-32	210	80	70	53	28
Reached FIC R32	33-48	180	65	60	45	24
Reached FIC R32 Qual	49-64	150	0	50	38	20
Reached FIC R64	65-96	120	n/a	40	30	16
Reached FIC R64 Qual	97-128	90	n/a	30	23	12
Reached FIC R128	129-192	60	n/a	20	15	8
Reached FIC R128 Qual	193-256	0	n/a	0	0	0
Reached FIC R256		0	n/a	0	0	0

National L1 and L3, Section L5 and L6, and District L7 with a First-round Consolation (Modified Consolation)

The Section Points table below is based on the level of tournament and the players' results in the tournament - the last round the player won in the tournament plus the consolation round points are the total points the player receives for that tournament.

DESCRIPTION	FINISH	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 5	LEVEL 6	LEVEL 7
Champion	1	660	220	88	56	33
2nd Place	2	540	180	72	46	29
3rd Place	3	480	160	64	41	21
4th Place/SF	4	420	140	56	36	16
Quarterfinalist	5 Thru 8	300	100	40	26	12
Reached R16	9 Thru 16	240	80	32	20	8
Reached R32	17-32	180	60	24	15	4
Reached R64	33-64	120	40	16	10	0
Reached R128	65-128	0	20	0	5	0
Reached R256	129-256	0	0	0	0	0
Points per consolation round won		30	10	5	2	1

Section Endorsement Procedures to USTA National Events

Key Endorsement Terms:

- Endorsement: A player must fulfill certain requirements in order to be given “permission” to participate at the National Level from the USTA MS section.
- TennisLink: USTA computer software that is used to register players to tournaments, USTA Jr. Team Tennis, etc. For more information about products, please see “Entering a Tournament” section in this guide.

Age Divisions	USTA Event	Selection Process
BG12, 14, 16, 18	USTA National Spring Championship	All players that appear on the Middle States Standings list as of February 1st will be placed on the endorsement list.
BG12, 14, 16, 18	USTA National Clay Court Championship	All players that appear on the Middle States Standings list as of June 1st will be placed on the endorsement list.
BG12, 14, 16, 18	<p>USTA Zone Team Championship</p> <p>USTA BG 16 Intersectional Team Championship</p> <p>BG 18 National Team Championship</p>	<p>Selection of these teams is at the discretion of the Junior Competition Committee and will be determined by what is felt to be in the best interest of the section. The selection of our teams will be based on the top 100 players for the age division in question based on the most recent published National Top 100 list immediately after the Level 3 Section Championship, followed by the Section Ranked Standings list published immediately after the Level 3 Section Championship of the age division in question. No more than half of any team should be taken from the national lists of the age division in question.</p> <p>This is a selection process which is made by the Junior Competition Committee. To be considered for selection, each player must apply through the TennisLink Registration system on the USTA Middle States Web Site. If special requirements are needed, go to www.middlestates.usta.com for rules.</p>
BG12, 14, 16, 18	USTA National Hard Court Championship	All players that appear on the Middle States Standings list as of July 1st will be placed on the endorsement list.
BG12, 14, 16, 18	USTA National Winter Championship	All players that appear on the Middle States Standings list as of November 1st will be placed on the endorsement list.

What are Zone Team, Intersectional Team and National Team Championships?

Boys and Girls 12, 14, 16 Zone Teams - Level 2 National Event

The USTA Zone Team Championships provides an opportunity to play against players outside of Middle States and earn national points. The team members are selected based upon performance at national and section level events.

Intersectional and National Teams Championships --Level 1 National Event

The Boys and Girls 16 Intersectional and Boys and Girls 18 National teams provide an opportunity to play against players outside of Middle States, to be seen by college coaches and to earn National points. The points table is based on the level of the team event and the players' position on the team during the National Team Championship for each match.

Team Events		
DESCRIPTION	Level 1	Level 2
Position #1 Points/Win	60	50
Position #2 Points/Win	55	45
Position #3 Points/Win	50	40
Position #4 Points/Win	45	35
Position #5 Points/Win	40	30
Position #6 Points/Win	35	25

Jr. Team Tennis National Championships - Level 5 National Event

Co-ed teams in the 14 & under and 18 & under Advanced divisions who have advanced from the local Jr. Team Tennis Section Championships will be awarded 5 points per win at Jr. Team Tennis National Championships in the Advanced division only.



MIDDLE STATES

Contact Information

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www.middlestates.usta.com

To contact the Competition Department directly, please email: tournaments@ms.usta.com. For more information on USTA Jr. Team Tennis, please email JTT-MS@ms.usta.com

District information can be found on the USTA Middle States Web site by clicking on the "Districts" button.

Junior Guidebook Disclaimer

Unless specifically modified or superseded by USTA MS, USTA Tournament Regulations govern all USTA MS sanctioned matches and tournaments. Players and parents are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the "USTA Tournament Regulations" which can always be found in the most recent edition of Friend at Court which can be inexpensively purchased at the USTA national office in New York.

The USTA Middle States Junior Rules and Regulations are subject to change. The official web site for the updated changes to the rules and regulations can be found at: www.middlestates.usta.com.