

2010 USTA MS Junior Rules and Regulations

as of January 1, 2010,

Unless specifically modified or superseded by USTA MS, USTA Tournament Regulations govern all USTA Middle States (MS) sanctioned matches and tournaments.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.

During 2010 the USTA MS 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:

<http://www.middlestates.usta.com/juniors/custom.sps?iType=1470&icustompageid=2583>

Interpretation of the USTA MS Rules and Regulations are made by the Junior Competition Committee subject to appeal to the Grievance Committee and final appeal to the Board of Directors if appropriate.

Article 1. General Regulations Governing Junior Tournaments

1. Membership

All players must be current USTA members in good standing. Membership can be acquired on line at

<http://www.usta.com/membership/fullstory.sps?iNewsid=14006&itype=942&icategoryid=0>

2. Age Eligibility (Month of Birth)

For the ranking year Jan. 1, 2010, through Dec. 31, 2010, age eligibility requirements are as follows:

All junior players may play in an age division until their birthday month (the month in which they age up). For example, if a player turns 13 on May 22, that player can compete in 12s tournaments through April 30. Starting in May, the player’s birthday month, he/she would “age up” and be required to compete in 14s tournaments. The starting date of a tournament determines the player’s eligibility for that tournament. For example, a player who turns 15 in April is eligible to play the 14-and-under age division in a tournament that starts in March and continues into April.

3. Players/Parents implicit consent when entering a tournament

Players competing in USTA MS sanctioned events are expected to comply with *The Code* of the USTA and to avoid acts that are detrimental to the game of tennis. It is a player's responsibility to know and understand the rules of tennis. It is also the player’s responsibility to know and understand these *Rules and Regulations*. The USTA-Middle States section is a nonprofit organization comprised of volunteers and full time staff.

By accepting entry into a USTA-Middle States sanctioned event, parents/players and their entourage shall hold harmless the USTA-MS Section, its volunteers, USTA-MS staff, as well as its Tournament Directors, Referees, Organizational Members and Tennis facilities from all liability which might result from errors that were not made in bad faith in the running of such sanctioned event. If a player is improperly permitted to enter a tournament and subsequently is forced to be disqualified due to ineligibility the only remedy available to the player/parent or entourage shall be the return of their entry fee.

4. Tournament Entries

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.

Violation of this rule will most likely result in suspension points. A tournament application whether on line or in an acceptable written form must always exist and be received by the club by the closing date.

An on line entry must always be accompanied by a valid credit/debit card. Failure to follow these rules may result in an application being deemed invalid. Furthermore the Junior Competition Committee reserve the right to deny entry to all future tournaments if it can be proven that a previous form of payment such as a check or credit card was denied and proper restitution has not been made for that previous tournament. If a player was denied entry into the tournament in question for not having paid in a timely manner then there shall be no debt for future tournaments and players must be accepted into future tournaments.

5. Withdrawals, Walkovers and Defaults

The USTA MS Junior Competition committee requires that players pulling out of a tournament after the draw has been made notify the tournament chair or referee after determining that they will not be playing; Violation of this rule will most likely result in suspension points and the player will be designated as a default no show on the draw sheet. Should a player have two “default no show” listings on any tournament draw from a level 7 DR to a level 1 tournament in a 12 month period this player shall be suspended entirely from the next Middle States segment. Also this player will not appear on any of our endorsement lists for that segment. The suspension applies to all of our divisions and the default no shows are cumulative across all divisions. This suspension will also be reported to nationals. Please remember that the 12-month default no show rule counts for all divisions in both singles and doubles and at all level 1 National through level 7 DR tournaments.

The Difference among Withdrawal, Walkover, Default, and Retirement

A player withdraws due to an acceptable reason as determined by the referee and/or tournament director from a match or tournament after the draw has been made, but before the first match involving the player in question has been started (one point has not been played). A walkover occurs when a player pulls out of a tournament after having completed a match but not before starting another match for reasons accepted by the tournament director and/or referee.

A player retires from a match already in progress for reasons such as injury or illness. A default no show which occurs when the tournament director or referee determines that the reason for not playing a match is unacceptable may be listed by the tournament director on the published draw.

6. Match Scheduling

- When school is in session a tournament may not start until Friday at 4PM.
- At least 60 minutes shall be mandatory between singles matches in the same division.
- At least 30 minutes shall be mandatory between doubles matches in the same or different divisions.
- At least 30 minutes shall be mandatory between singles and doubles matches.
- At least 60 minutes shall be mandatory between singles matches in different divisions.
- On Friday nights when school is in session matches may start at 9PM for the 12’s and 14’s division and 10:30 PM for the 16’s and 18’s division. In all other situations the rules as stated in Friend at Court shall apply.
- On Friday nights when school is in session no more than one round of singles (with a third set tiebreaker in lieu of a third set) and one round of doubles shall be played.
- On Friday nights when school is in session Doubles shall precede the playing of singles. It should be noted that doubles is mandatory in all sectional tournaments regardless of level.
- When school is in session all boys and girls 12’s and under sectional tournaments are to be played with regular scoring sets and a third set 10 point tiebreaker in lieu of a third set throughout the entire tournament.

It is mandated that all SR and Level 4 Sectional Championship draws be offered with a thirty-two-player draw. Only the Junior Competition Committee may authorize increased draw sizes.

In a planned alternate scoring tournament for level 6 SR events, postings to the Internet must occur with ample warning so as to give the players an opportunity to withdraw from the tournament without penalty if the player does not want to enter a tournament that uses alternate scoring.

All outdoor Level 3 and 4 Sectional Championships and all level 5 SR Tournaments must have regular scoring unless extenuating circumstances such as inclement weather occurs. If inclement weather dictates that alternate scoring must be used in a Level 3 or 4 Sectional Championship or level 5 SR tournament approval must be issued by a member of the Junior Competition Committee or the sectional staff office. The cancellation of Doubles in a level 3 or 4 Sectional championship or level 5 SR tournaments must also be approved by a member of the Junior Competition Committee or the sectional staff office. Tournaments must be concluded by the end of their sanction date unless an extension has been approved by either the chair of the Junior Competition Committee or the Director of Junior Competition.

A match may be played off site only if the tournament director and both players and a parent or coach for each player who is present agree. Such a match must be played within one day after the conclusion of the sanctioned date of the tournament. If a match is agreed to off site and is not played both players shall be defaulted. On a match played off site the responsibility of officiating and "bad calls" rests entirely with the players and not the tournament director or tournament referee.

All players are required to play at least two matches whenever possible at all of our sectional tournaments. This includes players having a bye in the first round and then losing in the second round, thus having only played one match. The tournament directors will use their best effort in non-full draws to pair up all players so that everyone plays at least two matches.

It is now mandated all sectional events that doubles in the form of 8 game pro sets, single elimination format be offered.

All level 7 tournaments which are designated district tournaments which count at the sectional level are to have a format determined by the district. These tournaments may be open or closed.

All sectional tournament directors are required to use the on line entry system ONLY through Tennislink <http://tournaments.usta.com/tournaments/Schedule/Search.aspx> for all sectional events. Mail and phone entries are not to be used for any sectional tournaments.

Level 3 and Level 4 Sectional events must have a certified referee and an appropriate number of rovers present. Level 5 and Level 6 tournaments do not require a certified referee though one is certainly encouraged.

All clubs that run outdoor Level 3, 4 and level 5 SR tournaments must provide indoor backup for their tournaments and by accepting these tournaments acknowledge that they will provide indoor backup. If a sectional tournament is forced indoors due to inclement weather the tournament director may charge no more than 10 dollars per player per match.

A draw size must equal at least one half of the maximum draw limit or else the Junior Competition Committee shall reserve the right to cancel the tournament if it deems this to be in the best interests of the section.

When draws are made for all of our junior sectional events players must be separated by district (or more limited when appropriate such as a sectional tournament where the majority of players are from the same district) in order to help ensure that players from the same town or club greatly decrease their chances of playing in the first round.

7. The USTA MS Suspension Point System

Suspension Point System: This is a system under which junior players are assessed points for unsportsmanlike behavior in sectional or national tournaments. A player who accumulates too many points is suspended from all sectional and all national play regardless of the level of the tournament.

Players, persons who appear to be associated with a player (including, but not limited to, parents and coaches), officials, and organizers of any tournament are under a duty to encourage and maintain high standards of proper conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship. They are under an obligation to avoid acts which may be considered detrimental to the game of tennis. Player's supporters who act in an unsportsmanlike manner may be banned by the USTA/Middle States Grievance Committee from attending future tournaments for a time period to be determined by the committee based on the severity of the act.

Furthermore 5 suspension points shall be assessed by the Junior Competition Committee against the player associated with the party or parties committing the infraction. Penalty points in addition to being cumulative between divisions shall be cumulative with regards to penalty points issued at the national level or others sections as reported by these entities to the Middle States Office. The dates for which these penalty points shall count will also be rolling in 12 month increments as they are for Middle States Tournaments which can be either sectional or district.

Falsifying of a birth certificate as required in these rules and regulations shall be worth a one years suspension including all endorsement during the one year interval and will be reported to the national office and all USTA sections. As an example a player suspended on February 10th cannot return to sectional play until the following February 10th. Failure to have a birth certificate of a player on file may result in the immediate removal of that player from any and all middle states tournaments. If a player has produced a valid birth certificate after being removed from a tournament the player may be let back into the tournament at the discretion of the tournament director and/or the Junior Competition Committee.

No abuse of players or officials.

1. *No person shall abuse an official or player.* The Chair Umpire, referee, and any other official responsible for ensuring that a match is played under conditions which are fair to all players shall make certain that no parent, relative, coach, or other person associated with a player abuses an official or player.

2. *Official may request abusive person to desist or leave tournament area.* A player who enters a sanctioned tournament or match consents to being penalized under the Point Penalty System for abusive conduct by a person who appears to be associated with the player. If the official observes such conduct, the official shall suspend play and request that the person desist. If the abuse continues, the official may direct the person to leave the tournament area. In a flagrant case the official may immediately direct the person to leave without requesting the person to desist.

3. *Point Penalty System applies to abuse.* If the person refuses to follow the instructions to leave, then the official may penalize the player associated with the person under the Point Penalty System. *Player shall not engage in unsportsmanlike conduct.* During the course of a match a player or persons who appear to be

associated with a player shall not engage in:

- *Verbal abuse.* Swear at an official, a spectator or an opponent in a voice that can be heard by any person
- *Visible or audible profanity.* Use profanity or insulting, abusive or obscene language in any way that may be heard by any person or use obscene, insulting or abusive gestures
- *Racket abuse.* Throw in any manner a racket
- *Ball abuse.* Deliberately throw or hit a ball in the direction of an official or the spectators
- *Physical abuse.* Threaten or inflict bodily injury to anyone; or Threaten or inflict bodily injury to anyone
- *Other unsportsmanlike conduct.*

The Suspension Point System shall apply to all sectional and national junior tournaments. 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.

Suspension points. The Middle States Sectional Office shall record suspension points upon being notified of the following violations:

I. *Point Penalty System.* For each violation under the Point Penalty System excluding time violations for delay between points, after warm up, after a 90-second changeover, after a Set Break, two points shall be assessed for the following:

- Point.....2
- Game.....2
- Default.....2

II. *Defaults.* In addition to the suspension points assessed additional suspension points shall be assessed for the following:

- Default for a flagrantly unsportsmanlike act on or off the court8
- Default for no-show.....5
- Default due to late arrival for a match1
- Disqualification for ineligibility.....3

III. *Withdrawals.*

- Entering two or more tournaments, matches, or exhibitions scheduled to take place at the same time, in whole or in part, unless each Tournament Committee involved approves the multiple entries in writing.....5
- Unsportsmanlike or inappropriate conduct off court at locations such as the tournament site, hotel, or housing5
- Not using best efforts to win.....2

IV. *Gross misconduct.*

- Physical act of violence against another person on or off the court by a player, parent, relative, coach, or other person associated with a player10
- Illegal use of drugs or possession of illegal drugs8
- Possession or consumption of alcohol beverages.8
- Gambling activity8
- Destruction of property.....8

- Improper conduct by a parent or other person(s) associated with the player.....5

Persons who appear to be associated with a player who engage in the gross misconduct cited above in section v. may cause the players to receive the points cited under v. gross misconduct.

V.. *Playing while under suspension.* Competing in any sanctioned tournament while under suspension by the USTA or one of its Sectional Associations10

Persons authorized to file suspension point reports with the Referee.

The following persons are authorized to file suspension point reports with the Referee for offenses they personally witness:

- 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; and
- Player development staff.

Notification to Middle States Sectional Office

The Tournament Committee shall promptly inform the *Middle States Sectional Office* of any points levied against any player.

Player suspension.

The Junior Competition Committee shall suspend players according to the following schedule:

I. *First suspension.* If a player receives 10 suspension points within a 12-month period, the player shall be suspended from competing in any USTA-sanctioned tournament at any level for three months. (If no USTA National Championship falls during the 3-month period, the player shall not be accepted or endorsed into the USTA National Championship immediately following the 3-month suspension period.) 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.

II. *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 any USTA-sanctioned tournaments at any level 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.

III. *Subsequent suspensions.* If a player receives 6 suspension points within the 12-month period immediately following the second suspension (and any suspension subsequent to the second suspension), the player shall be suspended from competing in any USTA-sanctioned tournament at any level for a period to be determined by the Junior Competition Committee. The suspension period shall not be less than one year and may be up to the remainder of the player's junior career. These 6 points shall be cleared from the player's record.

IV. *Written notice to player.* After the Junior Competition Committee has determined that a player should be suspended, the Administrator of Junior Competition shall send a notice by email(if known), 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.

V. *Player may request that suspension start immediately.* When a player accumulates sufficient points to be suspended, the player may request that the suspension period begin immediately. The player shall mail the request by certified mail, return receipt requested to the Administrator of Junior Competition. If the Administrator confirms that the player has accumulated sufficient points to be suspended, the suspension shall begin on the date that the certified notice was mailed.

VI. *Right to appeal suspension to USTA-Middle States Grievance Committee.* A player shall have the right to appeal a suspension to the Grievance Committee. Absent good cause shown, any appeal shall be barred unless it is made in writing within 21 days of the Administrator’s mailing the notice of suspension and shall be mailed first class, certified, or registered mail to the Administrator of Junior Competition for Middle States.

VII. *Effective date of suspension.* If an appeal of a suspension is not made to the Grievance Committee, the suspension begins 21 days after the Administrator mails the certified notice of suspension to the player or such earlier date as may be requested in writing by the player.

If an appeal of the suspension is made to the Grievance Committee and if the initial decision affirms the suspension, the suspension begins on the date the decision is mailed unless the decision states otherwise or unless a stay is granted. A stay is granted when the player elects to appeal to the Middle States Board of Directors.

8. Junior Ranking System

1. The Ranking and Standings Process

Our section uses the Junior National High Performance Points Per round Tables via the USTA Ranking Program. If the data inputted into this program is correct and the parameters entered by the Junior Competition Coordinators are correct then all data is final. The Points Per Round calculations themselves are un-appealable. Rankings will be a “Combined” Singles and Doubles rankings in a ratio to be determined by the Junior Competition Committee. A limited number of national tournaments may be used to calculate the sectional rankings and standings lists. The exact points tables are to be determined by the Junior Competition committee and shall be posted to the Middle States Web site and have other appropriate forms of distribution.

IMPORTANT

Once a ranked standings list has been published to the Internet there is a 7-day appeal period. If no objections to the data entry are raised in writing within this 7-day period the results may be considered final. If no objections to data entry of a published ranked standing list to the Internet have been raised by the end of the Junior Competition endorsement meeting the results may be considered final.

Policy Regarding Publishing of Ranked Standings Lists to the Internet

1. Weekly and usually on Thursday a ranked standings list will be published to the Internet for each division. The timing of this publishing may vary depending on current events such as an upcoming level 4 sectional championship or level 5 SR tournaments or the need to show recent results as determined by the Junior Competition Committee.
2. This ranked standings list cover matches in the previous 12-month cycle as is the rules with rollover rankings.
3. A player aging out in the month in question will not show up on this list as an eligible player. For example a 14-year-old player turning 15 years old in April will not show up on the April ranked standings list since they are ineligible for play during the month of April.
4. This is not to be confused with a final rankings list, which is published only at the end of the calendar year and is used primarily for recognizing the highest ranked player in each division at the Middle States Annual Awards Banquet.
5. To be on either the monthly ranked standings list or the final rankings list a player must have accumulated one point.

Policy Regarding Publishing of the Year-end Rankings List to the Internet.

The final year-end rankings should be posted by January 15th of the following year. Once a player record of any kind has been published to the Internet, the player has one week to notify the ranking coordinator in writing of any errors. Otherwise the corrections may be considered final.

2. General Ranking Regulations

A. Ranking Period

The ranking year will be rolling rankings (previous 12 months) for purposes of endorsement or monthly ranked standings lists. Rankings shall be calendar year (January 1st to December 31st) in regards to final year rankings, which are used essentially for the annual awards.

B. Residency

Only Players with a legal USTA MS domicile are eligible for either a ranking or entering an SR or Level 3 and 4 Sectional Championship. Domicile is defined as:

Domicile

A player's residency shall be the domicile of that player's parents, custodial parent, or the player's legal guardian. Domicile is hereby defined as the bonafide, true and permanent home of the player's parents, custodial parent, or the player's legal guardian. In the event of a dispute as to the eligibility of a player under this section, the following factors shall be used to determine domicile:

1. Where the parent files a state tax return.
2. Where the head of household (primary wage earner) resides and is employed.
3. Address on the parents' federal income tax return.
4. Affidavit of domicile executed by the head of the household.
5. Intent to permanently reside in the USTA MS Section notwithstanding the eligibility of the player to qualify for closed tournaments.
6. Siblings declared residence for higher education tuition aid.

7. Residence of dependent children of player's parents.

The above list is not intended to be definitive or all inclusive and other factors may be considered by the USTA MS Section Junior Competition Committee, or may be submitted by the player's parent, to assist in determining the players' domicile. The USTA MS Junior Competition Committee may request any documents reasonably believed to be necessary in the determination of a player's eligibility.

In the event that the player's parents are divorced or legally separated, the custodial parent or the legal custodian who in fact resides with the player shall be presumed to be the player's parent for determining domicile.

A player or the parent or guardian of the player may request a reconsideration of domicile determination to USTA MS Junior Competition Committee. All reconsideration requests shall be in writing and filed with the Committee Chair within 10 days after the receipt of notice of ineligibility. Any additional documents requested by the Committee shall be submitted within 30 days after their request. The player and/or parent may submit any additional documents at anytime prior to the reconsideration review by the Committee or its appointed subcommittee. The reconsideration shall be considered based upon all documents submitted to the USTA MS Junior Competition Committee.

Under no circumstances may a player claim 2 domiciles at the same time. A player with a USTA card that does not specify Middle States and/or a player who is in the USTA database as being from another section (checked by calling the National USTA Office or accessing the TDM Membership lookup section) shall not be allowed in an SR or Level 4 Sectional Championship and shall not be eligible for a ranking. Simply having a USTA card that states Middle States as the section of record of the player of and by itself shall not be satisfactory to determine that a player has a middle states domicile since the national office issues these cards based on the address they are given with no domicile verification.

C. USTA Membership

Players must be registered USTA members in good standing at the close of the ranking period in order to be considered for final ranking, ranked standings, endorsement or selection.

D. Birth Certificates

All players wishing to play in any of our SR and/or Level 3 or 4 Sectional Championships in addition to having a valid domicile as described above must have a copy of a valid birth certificate or other document of Government Issue available for review in the USTA-Middle States office at all times. Failure to have produced such a document may result in removal from an SR and/or Level 3 or 4 Sectional Championship and may result in failure to be endorsed or selected for national events even if the player has otherwise qualified.

E. Waivers

It is not the general practice of the Junior Competition Committee to grant waivers for rankings or endorsements except under exceptional circumstances as determined by the Junior Competition Committee

3. Sectional Ranking Requirements

A limited number of level 1, 2 and 3 national events and national team events may be counted at the sectional level. Level 3, 4 Sectional Championships, and level 5 tournaments may count at both the sectional and national level. Level 6 SR tournaments and specifically designated district tournaments (level 7 tournaments) may count at the sectional level.

4. Sectional Ranking/Standings Requirements by Age Division

Combined Singles and Doubles Rankings

One point will place a player on the rankings lists for the age division in question. The final rankings are based on the calendar year of January 1st to December 31st of the year in consideration for ranking. The exact formula to determine combined singles and doubles rankings will be determined by The Junior Competition Committee and will be appropriately publicized. The criteria for what is to be eligible to be counted as a tournament for points eligibility has been determined by the Junior Competition Committee.

Sectional 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 rankings and standings lists are calculated using a player's top four tournament finishes according to point value set by the Junior Competition Committee. Section ranking players must compete in a minimum of one tournament with one match win. Byes do not count as a win. The tournaments used to calculate a player's sectional ranking and standing may include: SR-L3, SR-L4, SR-L5 & SR-L6, National, and/or DR-L7 events.

Of the four tournament finishes used to calculate a player's ranking and standing, only one can be a National tournament, if it is in fact one of the player's highest four tournament finishes.

National Tournaments that could count towards your sectional ranking/standing:

Level 1 • USTA National Championships • USTA BG 18 National Team Championships • USTA BG 16 Intersectional Team Championships • Level 2 USTA BG 16, 14 & 12 Zone Team Championships
 • Only USTA Level 2 National Open & Level 3 Regional events in the following USTA Sections: USTA Middle States, USTA Midwest, USTA New England, USTA Eastern, USTA Mid-Atlantic Section.

9. Junior Endorsements

General Information

- Definition of Endorsement-Endorsement is a formal process of player nominations as described elsewhere in this document, which is used for, USTA Level 1 National Championship events whereby a set of players are determined and sent by Middle States to these events. While the process is for the most part non-discretionary, under extraordinary circumstances and with a majority vote of the Junior Competition Committee the endorsement list may be changed at the discretion of the Junior Competition Committee.
- Definition of Selection Process- This is a process used by the Junior Competition Committee to pick players for the national team competitions (Zonal, intersectional, Junior Davis Cup, Junior Fed Cup). 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 interests 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 Sectional Championship, followed by the Sectional ranked standings published immediately after the Level 3 Sectional 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. This is a selection process which is made by the Junior Competition Committee. *ANY APPEAL OF THIS PROCESS IS TO BE SENT DIRECTLY TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WHO WILL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO HANDLE THE APPEAL.*

- An example of the Junior Competition Committee choosing to not select a player during its selection process is described here.

The player in question has qualified for a national team representing our section but has a history of unsportsmanlike behavior as documented by a tournament director or directors and/or referees. It may be determined that it is not in the best interests of the section to “select” such a player for national team competition. One act of bad behavior may be felt by the Junior Competition Committee to have reached a level egregious enough as to warrant non-selection to a future team competition or competitions.

The USTA MS quota for 128-player draw is two players per age division. The USTA MS quota for 192-player draw is four players per age division. USTA Zone Team Championships are non-elimination, round-robin team events and are held in the 12-, 14-, and 16-and-under divisions. In each age division, USTA MS selects ten (12) boys and ten (12) girls in the 12s and 14s and (18) boys and (18) girls in the 16s who participate under the guidance of USTA MS selected coaches.

Boy’s and Girl’s 16 Intersectional Championships is also a team competition. Four (4) boys and four (4) girls will be selected from the USTA MS to participate. USTA MS will select six (6) boys for the Boys 18’s National Team Championship and (6) girls for the Girls 18’s National Team Championship.

The Endorsement System

Player endorsement is a primary responsibility of the Junior Competition Committee of Junior Competition. The committee has at least three members, including the age division Junior Competition Coordinator, the Junior Competition Committee chair, the Vice President of Junior Competition and Staff member who is the Director of Junior Competition

Endorsements are made based on specific dates and the creation of ranked standings lists on these dates or thereabouts. The dates shall be as follows:

- February 1st for the Spring National Championships
- June 1st for the Clay Courts National Championships
- July 1st for the Hard Courts National Championships
- November 1st for the Winter National Championships

The date for selecting the portion of the team competitions that comes from the sectional list shall also be in June after the Sectional Level 3 Championship. The Junior Competition Committee reserves the right if it is deemed in the best interests of the section to extend these dates if a tournament is in progress on these deadlines to wait for the tournament in progress to end. These dates may also be made earlier if national deadlines make it necessary to do so.

Appeals to the decision of the Junior Competition Committee must be made, in writing, to the Staff liaison for junior competition within five (5) days of the endorsement lists being posted to the internet, or if national tournament application deadlines conflict with the five-day rule, within the time frame directed by the chair of the Junior Competition committee. *SUCH APPEALS ARE REFERRED TO A REVIEW COMMITTEE COMPRISED OF THREE USTA MS BOARD MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE USTA MS PRESIDENT. THE DECISION OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE COMPRISED OF THREE USTA MS BOARD MEMBERS IS FINAL.*

Specific Endorsement Requirements

A. Residency/Membership

Only junior players who fulfill the domicile requirements as described previously in these rules and regulations, hold a current USTA membership card assigned to the USTA MS section, and who satisfy U.S. citizenship or resident alien requirements for national ranking may be eligible for endorsement. Furthermore a valid copy of a birth certificate or other government issued document must be on file in the USTA-Middle States office.

B. Order of Priority Entry to a Level 3, Level 4 Sectional Championship and a Level 5 Sectional Event.

The purpose of setting criteria for entry to an Sectional SR Level 3, 4 and 5 tournaments 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 Sectional SR Level tournament is not to simply pick the top ranked 32 players.

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 Level 3, 4 and 5 tournaments in the division in question.
- B. With 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. After the high performance players described above, the first players to access our Sectional SR Level 3, 4 and 5 tournaments will be the players to be seeded.

3. The ranking coordinator shall use the most recently published sectional 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

C. Order of Priority Entry into Level 6 Events

1. The high performance players shall be selected first as described above:
2. Effective immediately after the high performance player described above the first players to access our Sectional SR Level 6 tournament will be the players to be seeded.
3. 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 level 6 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 Jan 1 to March 31st, April 1st to June 30th, July 1st to September 30th and October 1st to December 31st

4. Players will next be picked by ranking in the division in question based on the most recently published sectional ranked standings list.

D. Age Eligibility

There is no “age protection” for SR and/or Level 3 or 4 Sectional Championships. Players are admitted based on the criteria set forth above. Players are encouraged to play more than one age division when applicable.

E. Sportsmanship

Good sportsmanship is an essential element of all junior sports and junior development. A player who has exhibited poor sportsmanship, as defined by the USTA MS Suspension Point System, may not receive USTA MS endorsement (anywhere on any list) to USTA national championships or selection to a team competition. In addition, the Junior Competition Committee may refuse selection to a team competition or endorsement to a national championship to a player who may not have accumulated 10 suspension points, but whose behavior as defined by the Junior Competition Committee otherwise justifies denial of endorsement to a national tournament or selection to a team competition.

F. Waiver from Endorsement Requirements

It is not the general practice of the Junior Competition Committee to grant waivers for rankings or endorsements except under exceptional circumstances as determined by the Junior Competition Committee.

G. USTA National Top Player Selection List

Any player with one point in a division will appear on our sections endorsement list. This means that a player who has played one level 1 through 7 tournaments in a specific division and has accumulated one point within the last twelve months will appear on a specific divisional endorsement list. If a player does not meet these requirements and still wishes to apply to be on an endorsement list for a specific age division and meets all other requirements such as domicile and is in good standing they may apply to the Junior Competition Committee for a wild card to the endorsement list up until two weeks before the closing date of the national championship in question.