

Player Eligibility – Ranking -Endorsement

I. Player Eligibility

USTA Membership (Enrollments)

All players (except for foreign players presenting a current membership card in their own country's tennis association) must be current members of the USTA. Online registration (www.usta.com) or toll free phone (800-990-USTA) are available for new members to apply.

A. Age Divisions

1. Age Eligibility Definition

Under the USTA rule as established in 1999, juniors may play an age division until the month in which they age out of the division. This means players who are 10, 12, 14, 16, or 18 years old may continue, if they choose, to play in their respective age division until the month in which they turn 11, 13, 15, 17 or 19 respectively. The birth date of each entry will now be very important. If a tournament carries over into the next month, the starting date of that event will determine the player's eligibility.

2. Limitations

a. The age divisions for boys and girls offered for ranking are 18s, 16s, 14s, 12s, and 10s.

b. A player may not play in more than one age division in the same tournament except in Region I Local and Rookie tournaments, where the approval of the tournament director is needed. In these cases, regulations regarding the rest period and the number of matches per day must be waived by the player.

B. Residency

1. Florida residency is recommended for Rookie Tournaments (entry level tournaments).
2. Florida residency is not required for Local and Super Series tournaments.
3. Florida residency is required for all Junior Designated and Sectional Championships.
4. The Junior Competitive Tennis Council has mandated a strict enforcement of the Florida Residency Requirement for Florida Designated and Sectional Championship tournaments, endorsement to USTA National events, and Intersectional and Zonal teams. For all these events, USTA Florida follows the USTA eligibility rule for USTA National tournaments.

5. All Junior players who wish to obtain Florida Residency status, appear on the Tentative Ranking List, appear on the Final Ranking List, and appear on the National Endorsement List MUST take the following steps in order to satisfy the above requirements:
 - (a). Native Born players must mail a copy of their birth certificate to the USTA Florida office.
 - (b). Foreign born players must mail a copy of a valid alien registration receipt card and a certified birth certificate to the USTA Florida office.
 - (c). Transfer the player's valid USTA membership card to the USTA Florida.
 - (d). The **parents** of the player must obtain a Declaration of Domicile from the Florida county where they reside. The domicile may be obtained from the county courthouse. The player's eligibility depends upon the Florida domicile of the parents.
 - (e). There will be a \$25.00 filing fee for administration of this procedure. This check must be in the office before the player will be placed in the ranking system.

6. All Players Born in Foreign Countries - If the player's Birth Certificate is from a foreign country, the players must ALSO submit:
 - (a). A copy of one of the following:
 - i. The Permanent Resident Card, commonly called the "Green Card"
 - ii. I-551 Stamp from INS
 - iii. An I-94 showing either L-1, H-1B, E-1, E-2, or O-1 status (or derivative L-2, H-4, or E status)
 - iv. A letter from the INS showing permanent resident status
 - v. Proof of Filing (INS Receipt) of the I-485 adjustment of status application
 - vi. Such other INS designation which meets the spirit and intent of the regulation
 - (b). Visas, no matter what type, do not satisfy this rule

7. These documents need to be on file in the USTA Florida office by the deadline of Designated, Sectional, and State Closed tournaments in which a player intends to participate including the \$25.00 filing fee. In order to be selected to

Intersectional and Zonal teams, or if you ever intend to enter a USTA National event, these documents must be on file in the USTA Florida office.

NOTE: *Falsification of birth date information will result in a minimum one-year revocation of junior tennis privileges in Florida.*

C. Domicile

The player's residency shall be the domicile of that player's parents, or in the absence of a parent, the player's legal guardian. Domicile is hereby defined as the bona fide, true and permanent home of the player's parents.

- a. In the event of a dispute as to the eligibility of a player under this section, based upon the domicile of the player's parent, the following factors shall be used to determine the true domicile:
 - i. Where the head of household (primary wage earner) resides and is employed.
 - ii. Address on the parents' federal income tax return.
 - iii. Affidavit of domicile executed by the head of the household.
 - iv. Intent to permanently reside in Florida notwithstanding the eligibility of the player to qualify for closed tournaments.
 - v. Siblings declared residence for higher education tuition aid.
 - vi. Residence of dependent children of player's parents.
- b. The above list is not intended to be definitive or all inclusive and other factors may be considered by the Director of the Play Tennis Division and Junior Competitive Council, or submitted by the player's parent, in determining the issue of domicile. The Director and Council may request any documents reasonably believed to be necessary in the determination of a player's eligibility.
- c. In the event of a claim that the player's parents are divorced or legally separated, the legal custodian and parent who in fact reside with the player, shall be presumed to be the player's parent for domicile purposes.
- d. Upon the determination of ineligibility based upon this section, the parent or guardian of the player may request reconsideration by the Junior Competitive Council.
- e. All reconsideration requests shall be in writing and filed with the Council Chair within 10 days after the receipt of notice of ineligibility. Any additional documents requested by the Council shall be submitted within 30 days after their request.
- f. The player and/or parent may submit any additional documents at any time prior to the reconsideration review by the Council or its appointed

subcommittee. The reconsideration shall be considered based upon all documents submitted to the Council.

- g. A request to appear in person before the Council or subcommittee shall be in writing within 30 days from the notice of ineligibility, along with the name, address, and phone number of any additional persons who desire to appear and be heard on the issue.

Players who have made a declaration of citizenship to a foreign country or who have accepted endorsement from another federation to an ITF Junior or Open tournament shall not be eligible to participate in Florida's Sectional, State Closed or Designated events and shall not be endorsed by the Florida Section to any national or team event. Players may ask for reinstatement in writing to the Director of the Play Tennis Division and the Junior Council shall vote.

II. Junior Ranking Regulations

A. Overview - The Florida United States Tennis Association uses a Points Per Round Combined Ranking System (PPR) to rank junior players and publish Standings Lists and Tentative Ranking Lists. Ranking Points are earned by winning singles and doubles matches at various types of USTA Florida sanctioned tournaments and certain National USTA tournaments. Ranking Points are combined (with greater weight placed on Ranking Points earned in singles) for a player's Ranking Point total and players are ordered based on this total.

B. Objective - To promote play, to make it easy to follow progress, to create a pathway through the age divisions, to establish fair value for accomplishments, and to enable players to calculate their individual rankings.

C. Combined Ranking - The USTA Florida publishes combined ranking, which includes results from singles and doubles; 15% of the doubles points are added to the singles ranking. The USTA Florida made this change to encourage players to play more doubles and to reward players for their success in doubles. Players receive credit for 100% of their singles points from their best eight (8) events along with 15% of their doubles points for their best eight (8) doubles events. See the example below:

Example #1 Player with better results in singles than doubles	
Points	How Points Earned
1500	100% of Ranking Points from Best 8 singles tournaments
180	15% of Ranking Points from Best 8 doubles tournaments (1,200 total points x 15% = 180)
= 1680	Total combined ranking points

Example #2 Player with better results in doubles than singles	
Points	How Points Earned
1200	100% of Ranking Points from Best 8 singles tournaments
225	15% of Ranking Points from Best 8 doubles tournaments (1,500 total points x 15% = 225)
= 1425	Total combined ranking points

Rankings are computer generated using a Points Per Round Ranking Program. All players with points will be ranked.

D. Published Lists

1. **Standing Lists** – Includes any players having played and won 1 match in a tournament that Florida takes into their ranking. This includes National Championships, which results in non-Florida residents being included in the list. This list is primarily used for tournament director seeding purposes. Players listed **solely** on the Standings list will not be allowed to play in Designated events, Sectional Championships, or State Closed, and will not be endorsed by the Florida Section.
2. **Tentative Ranking Lists** – Player must have complied with the Florida Residency requirement by submitting the players birth certificate and the declaration of domicile of the parents to the USTA Florida office. Players on the Tentative Ranking list are eligible to play in all Florida section tournaments including the Designated events, Sectional Championships, and State Closed. Players included on the Tentative Ranking list will also be eligible (if in good standing with the Florida Section) to be on the USTA Florida Endorsement list. (See I. C. Residency Requirements)
3. Both lists will be updated as needed for the Designated and Sectional selection process. This will be approximately 1 time per month. They will include 12 months of results ending on the last day of the previous month and will be available on the Internet.
4. **Endorsement List** - This list is published prior to each USTA National Championship, for selection purposes. Players on this list have met the USTA Florida endorsement policies listed in section V. Endorsement Procedures, A.
4. Player records are available for viewing and printing on the USTA Florida Web Site - www.ustaflorida.com

5. A player with points in the ranking system cannot request to be removed from the Tentative Ranking or Standings List.
6. **Correction Procedures** - Any corrections to player records must be made in writing via email: Gladstone@florida.usta.com , however corrections to tournament results must be addressed to the respective tournament director.

E. Ranking Guidelines

1. Only matches in the main or consolation draws from the following tournaments will award ranking points to the winner:
 - a. USTA Florida sanctioned tournaments
 - b. USTA National Championship sanctioned tournaments
 - c. National Opens (played in the State of Florida)
 - d. Junior Orange Bowl - Coral Gables (12-14)
 - e. The Florida Open - Ft Myers (16-18)
 - f. ATP Gator Bowl - Jacksonville area (12-18)
 - g. Tennis Plaza Cup - Coral Gables (12-18)
 - h. Summer Smash Region - Delray Beach (12-18)
 - i. Tier One Tennis – Coral Gables (12 – 18)

2. Points Per Round

- a. Main draw points are a fixed number; the round the players reach determines the points awarded.
- b. Consolation points per round are cumulative. First Match Loser, First Round Loser, and Modified Feed-in consolations are added to the main draw points. (*please refer to the point charts*)

2. Defaults, Retirements & Byes

- a. If a player receives a retirement or a disciplinary default during a match (main or consolation) the player is awarded points as if the player had won the match.
- b. When a bye occurs, The player must win the next round to receive points.

3. Acceptance into a tournament will be based on the most current Tentative Ranking list or Standing List.
4. **Best of 8** - This term refers to the number of singles tournaments and doubles tournaments that count for standing and ranking (effectively 16 total tournaments). A player may have more than 8 singles and 8 doubles ranking tournaments on their player record, but only the results from the best 8 of each will be used to in the PPR Calculation.
5. A maximum of three (3) national tournaments, (of the above mentioned), will count toward your best 8 tournaments in the ranking calculations.

6. Other Ranking Considerations –

- a. Results of workshops, exhibitions, or unsanctioned tournaments will not be counted toward the point tabulations.

7. Ranking Certificates - USTA Florida ranking certificates showing player's name, division in which ranked and numerical rankings are available at the USTA FLORIDA office. Players who would like one (1) (or more) should write the USTA Florida Section and give name, address, division (state singles or doubles), month and year. There will be a \$5.00 charge for each certificate.

8. Ranking points earned in an older age division will count down to the players natural age division only if the player has earned points in their natural age division in the last 12 months.

III. Endorsement Procedures for USTA National Junior Tournaments

A. USTA Florida Office and USTA Florida Player Responsibilities

1. USTA Florida coordinates and oversees the selection of qualified Florida junior players eligible to participate in all USTA national tournaments.
2. USTA Florida encourages and maximizes participation of eligible Florida junior players in all USTA national tournaments throughout the calendar year.
3. Because all National Championships and National Open Tournaments use online registration, all information regarding these events is online. The Florida Section will assist players and/or parents in obtaining all necessary information.
4. Players wishing to be endorsed for USTA National Championships will be required to play in at least one USTA Florida Designated or Sectional tournament in the months prior to the scheduled National Championship.

BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER 2010 Eligibility Schedule:

- a. USTA Winter National Championships- December
 - 1) September Designated
 - 2) October Sectional
 - 3) November Designated
- b. USTA Spring National BG 18 – March
 - 1) December Designated
 - 2) January Sectional
 - 3) February Designated
- c. USTA Spring National BG 16–12 April
 - 1) January Sectional
 - 2) February Designated
 - 3) March Sectional
- d. USTA National Clay Courts BG 18-12 – July
 - 1) April Designated
 - 2) May Designated
 - 3) June State Closed

- e. USTA National Hard Courts BG 18-12 August
 - 1) April Designated
 - 2) May Designated
 - 3) June State Closed
5. Players will only be endorsed in the age division they play in the Designated or Sectional tournaments months prior to the National Championship they are trying to qualify.
6. There will be no waivers issued for any situation.
7. **It is the player's responsibility to check the published USTA Florida endorsement list to verify the player's name appears.**
8. USTA Florida communicates and coordinates during the year with USTA Florida officials, USTA officials, and the USTA National Tournament Committees as needed in obtaining and supplying necessary information and data in a timely fashion.
9. USTA Florida will withhold endorsement of an otherwise qualified junior player whose actions and behavior are deemed not to be at the standards required for representing the Florida Section at the national level, with the concurrence of the President of USTA Florida and the Chairs of the Grievance Committee and the Junior Competitive Tennis Council. Any player under suspension or probation during the current endorsement year can be denied endorsement to national tournaments.

B. USTA National Championships

1. Quotas - The USTA Florida Section has a guaranteed quota determined by the USTA for all USTA National Championships. Because of the strength of USTA Florida junior players, it is sometimes possible for a small number of additional players to be accepted.
2. Eligibility - Only the top ranked players in their divisions are eligible to play in the USTA National Championships. To be considered for selection as one of the Florida quota to play in all USTA National Championships a player must be a Florida resident (see Junior Tournament Regulations) and listed on the Endorsement List.
3. USTA Nationals - Players interested in playing in the USTA National Tournaments or in any out-of-state tournament must keep a complete record of their tournament results (date, tournament, division, name of opponent, score). A schedule of all national USTA sanctioned events is available online at www.usta.com
4. Entry Forms - Entry to all USTA National Championships Tournaments will be done via the online USTA Registration System at www.usta.com.

- C. Team Events** - Florida players are selected to be part of "Team Florida" based strictly on the latest Florida Sectional Ranking List. Matches in the 12's Zonals, 14's Zonals, and 16's Zonals will count for Florida Section Ranking and National Ranking. Matches in the 16's Intersectional and 18's National Team Championships only count for National ranking.

1. *National Team Championships (18's)* - These events are National team championships presented by the USTA. The team format consists of six singles and three doubles in an elimination tournament with feed-in consolation. All matches are included on a player's national record. (7) Boys and (7) Girls. USTA Florida will provide one (1) coach for the event and coach will also act as chaperone.
2. *Girls & Boys 16's Intersectional's* - The Girls and Boys 16's Intersectional's are National team championships presented by the USTA. The team format consists of three singles and one doubles in an elimination tournament with feed-in consolation. All matches are included on a player's national record. (4) Boys and (4) Girls. USTA Florida will provide one (1) coach for the event and coach will also act as chaperone.
3. *16's Zonal Competition* - The best six (6) boys and the best six (6) girls in the 16-and-under age division that apply will be selected to participate in the USTA 16 Zonal Competition. All matches in this event will count toward national and sectional ranking. This event counts as a USTA Level 2 tournament. All matches are included on a player's national record. USTA Florida will provide one (1) coach for the event. Each player is required to provide his or her own chaperone.
4. *14's Zonal Competition* - The best six (6) boys and the best six (6) girls in the 14-and-under age division that apply will be selected to participate in the USTA 14 Zonal Competition. All matches in this event will count toward national and sectional ranking. This event counts as a USTA Level 2 tournament. All matches are included on a player's national record. USTA Florida will provide one (1) coach for the event. Each player is required to provide his or her own chaperone.
5. *12's Zonal Competition* - The best six (6) boys and the best six (6) girls in the 12-and-under age division that apply will be selected to participate in the USTA 12 Zonal competition. All matches in this event will count toward national and sectional ranking. This event counts as a USTA Level 2 tournament. All matches are included on a player's national record. USTA Florida will provide one (1) coach for the event. Each player is required to provide his or her own chaperone.
6. *10's Team Florida Challenge* – The 10's Team Florida Challenge is a competitive team event that utilizes a similar format to the National Zonals (16) Boys and (16) girls are selected in the 10 and under division. All matches count only for Florida ranking. USTA Florida will provide three (3) coaches for the event. Each player is required to provide his or her own chaperone.