

Junior Regulations

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Note: These Rules and Regulations are subject to change during 2010

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I. Player Eligibility

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A. 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.

B. 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

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

C. 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 Designateds 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-48-5 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

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7. These documents need to be on file in the USTA Florida office by the deadline of Designated 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.*

D. Domicile

A 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.

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:

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

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.

Upon the determination of ineligibility based upon this section, the parent or guardian of the player may request reconsideration by the Junior Competitive Council. 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. The player and/or parent may submit any additional documents at anytime 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.

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 on the outcome.

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II. Standards of Excellence for Junior Tournaments

A. Standards for all Tournament Levels (QuickStart Format, Rookie, Local, Super Series, Designated, and Sectional)

1. Tournament sanction applications are submitted online using the rules set by the USTA Florida.
2. All tournaments pay the tournament sanction fee
3. Host organization, agency or facility must have a current USTA organization membership through the last day of the tournament's sanction.
4. All players must have current a USTA membership. Players can go to www.usta.com/membership to register online.
5. Players will enter online with the USTA Tennis Link registration.
6. Tournament director must use TDM to manage the tournament, make draws, and publish to the USTA website.
7. Post tournament draws and first match times: Rookie, Local and Super Series Levels a minimum of one day prior to the start of the tournament. Designated and Sectionals a minimum of three days prior to the start of the tournament.
8. All tournament sites and literature must display USTA Florida identification (such as the USTA Florida banner)
9. Southeast Florida region tournaments have "split" age divisions (exceptions can be made for the Rookie level).
10. Ice and water readily available at all sites where matches are played.
11. Bathroom facilities at all sites where matches are played.
12. Seating on court for players.
13. Awards and player recognition
14. Utilize and promote USTA Florida online tournament evaluation.

B. QuickStart Format Tournaments Standards:

1. Tournament registration will be online via TennisLink.
2. QuickStart Tennis tournaments should be no more than one full day in length. Rain date should be made available and scheduled.
3. Round robin non elimination style format.
4. Must have/provide all proper and approved QuickStart Tennis equipment for tournament including age appropriate "loaner" tennis racquets (21", 23" or 25"), foam and/or low compression tennis balls, 18' short court nets for u8 division and proper boundary lines for each age division of play clearly and safely marked. See www.quickstarttennis.com for details.
5. Must adhere to all six (6) components of QuickStart Tennis which includes age divisions, proper court dimensions, age appropriate tennis racquets, age appropriate tennis balls, net height and proper scoring for each age division. See www.quickstarttennis.com for details.
6. Format of play can be singles, doubles, mixed singles, mixed doubles following QuickStart Tennis format scoring for each age division dependent upon entries.
7. Awards for top 2 players (medals or trophies).
8. Participation certificates to each participant (USTA Florida to provide template).
9. Must provide on-court assistants to assist participants during event. Varsity high school tennis players are the best resource. They are quick learners and must do community service hours to graduate so they are free. Also, consider parents, league tennis players or teaching professionals that understand the QuickStart Tennis format of play and scoring. Cheat sheets will be provided by USTA Florida to aid in education of format of play.
10. Tournament Director must adhere to or submit a post-tournament evaluation provided by USTA Florida. Participants may also be asked to submit evaluation.

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C. Rookie Level Tournaments Standards:

1. Rookie tournaments are designed for and specifically limited to new players, recreational players, and players with few if any standing points under the Florida point system.
2. The events are not open to non-residents, academy or other players with advanced skills, or any player ranked in ANY DIVISION in the top 200 of the Standings List in the Boy's and Girl's 10s or top 400 in the Boy's and Girl's 12s, 14s, 16s, and 18s.
3. Playing up in an older age division will not be allowed as all players are required to play in their natural age division.
4. Maximum two (2) day sanction with an emphasis on completing the event in one day when possible.
5. Match play: Eight (8) game pro set with the set tiebreak at 8 games all. (Any alternate match play must be approved by a USTA Florida Junior Competitive staff member).
6. First match consolation (minimum), round robin or compass draw.
7. Maximum matches per day: Four (4).
8. Must provide on-court assistants to assist participants during event. Varsity high school tennis players are the best resource. They are quick learners and must do community service hours to graduate so they are free. Also, consider parents, league tennis players or teaching professionals.
9. Entry deadline: Four (4) days before the start of the tournament. (Allows tournament director time to ensure players are eligible and allow any player turned down the opportunity to still register for a local level tournament).
10. **QuickStart Format for 10 and under divisions in Rookie tournaments**
Starting in **2011** all USTA Florida sanctioned "Rookie 10 and under divisions" will be mandated to use the QuickStart Tennis format of play or which means playing tournament tennis on a 60-foot lined court and be inclusive of all [6 components](#) of the QuickStart Tennis format of play. USTA Florida sanctioned Local, Super Series, Designated, and Sectional level tournaments for the 10-and-under divisions will keep the full court for the 10-and-under divisions in 2011.

D. Local Level Tournaments Standards:

1. Maximum three (3) day sanction.
2. Maximum draw size: 64
3. Match play: USTA short scoring (best two out of three sets with a MATCH tie break of first player to win 10 points by 2 points in lieu of the third set). The 10s, 12s, 14s, and 16s divisions are allowed a 3 minute rest period between the 2nd set and Match Tie Break can receive coaching during the rest period.
4. First match consolation required.
5. Entry deadline: Three (3) days before the start of the tournament.
6. Must have a tournament director and separate referee plus a roving umpire or court monitor at one per 50 players.

E. Super Series Level Tournaments Standards:

1. Maximum three (3) day sanction.
2. Maximum draw size: 32
3. Doubles is required and is included in the entry fee.
4. Singles and doubles events are single elimination with no consolations.

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5. Entry deadline for singles: Monday 12:00am (midnight) before the tournament begins. (Allows tournament director time to ensure players are eligible and allow any player turned down the opportunity to still register for a local level tournament).
6. Entry deadline for doubles: Thursday 5:00pm. Players can sign up for doubles by contacting the tournament director via e-mail or telephone. Both the singles and doubles draws should be posted Friday - one day before the tournament starts.
7. Match play: Singles matches will be USTA short scoring (best two out of three sets with a MATCH tie break of first player to win 10 points by 2 points in lieu of the third set). The 10s, 12s, 14s, and 16s divisions are allowed a 3 minute rest period between the 2nd set and Match tie break can receive coaching during the rest period. Doubles matches will be eight (8) game pro sets with the set tiebreak at 8 games all.
8. Maximum matches per day: Four (4); provided at least two of the four matches are doubles matches.
9. First round of doubles must be played on Saturday.
10. Minimum of four (4) courts per event are required. Tournament courts need to be available for match play beginning at 8:00 a.m.
11. Must have a tournament director and separate certified tournament referee plus a roving umpire at a ratio of one per 50 players.

F. Designated Level Tournaments Standards:

1. Maximum three (3) day sanction
2. Maximum draw size: 64
3. Modified feed-in consolation with a 3/4 play off.
4. Match play: Full two out of three sets; age groups 12s, 14s, 16s, & 18s.
5. Maximum matches per day: two (2); unless tournament referee and both players agree
6. All players MUST have birth certificate and parent's proof of residency on file with the Florida Section office. Players who are eligible for Designated and above level tournaments will appear on the player Tentative *Ranking* list.
7. Entry deadline: 14 days prior to the start of the tournament.
8. No telephone, mail, fax, or e-mail entries will be accepted.
9. Player selection is made by the USTA Florida office staff ACCORDING TO THE LATEST TENTATIVE RANKING LIST. THE TOP 64 PLAYERS FROM ALL THOSE THAT APPLY WILL BE CHOSEN.
10. Minimum of eight (8) courts per event are required. The minimum required courts must be available beginning at 8:00a.m. all sanction dates.
11. Must have a tournament director and separate certified tournament referee plus a minimum of two (2) certified roving umpires per event.
12. Singles sticks required on all courts.
13. Hotel information and map available online to players in advance of the entry deadline.
14. Amenities: t-shirt or comparable souvenir
15. On site trainer optional.
16. Entry is set by the USTA Florida Junior Competitive Council.
17. Tournament sites are selected by geographic location.

G. Sectional Level Tournaments Standards:

1. Maximum three (3) day sanction
2. Maximum draw size: 32
3. Doubles is included in the entry fee.
4. Full feed-in consolation with a 3/4 play off for singles. No consolation for Doubles.
5. Match play: Singles matches in the main draw will be 2 out of 3 sets regular scoring for Boys and Girls 12s, 14s, 16s, & 18s. Singles matches in the Full Feed-in Consolation will be USTA

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short scoring (best two out of three sets with a MATCH tie break of first player to win 10 points by 2 points in lieu of the third set). The 10s, 12s, 14s, and 16s divisions are allowed a 3 minute rest period between the 2nd set and Match tie break can receive coaching during the rest period. Doubles matches will be eight (8) game pro sets with the set tiebreak at 8 games all.

6. Maximum matches per day: Four (4); provided at least one of the four matches is a doubles matches.
7. All players MUST have birth certificate and parent's proof of residency on file with the Florida Section office. Players who are eligible for Designated and above level tournaments will appear on the player *ranking* list.
8. Entry deadline: 14 days prior to the start of the tournament.
9. No telephone, mail, fax, or e-mail entries will be accepted.
10. Player selection is made by the USTA Florida office staff.
11. Minimum of eight (8) courts per event are required. The minimum required courts must be available beginning at 8:00a.m. on all sanction dates.
12. Must have a tournament director and separate certified tournament referee plus a minimum of one (1) certified roving umpires per event.
13. Singles sticks required on all courts.
14. Hotel information and map available online to players in advance of the entry deadline.
15. Amenities: t-shirt or comparable souvenir
16. On site trainer optional.
17. Entry is set by the USTA Florida Junior Competitive Council.
18. Tournament sites are selected by geographic location.

H. State Closed Sectional Level Tournament Standards:

1. Maximum six (6) day sanction
2. Maximum draw size: 64
3. Full feed-in consolation with a 3/4 play off for singles.
4. Match play: Full two out of three sets
5. All players MUST have birth certificate and parent's proof of residency on file with the Florida Section office. Players who are eligible for Designated and above level tournaments will appear on the player *ranking* list.
6. Entry deadline: 14 days prior to the start of the tournament.
7. No telephone, mail, fax, or e-mail entries will be accepted.
8. Player selection is made by the USTA Florida office staff.
9. Must have a tournament director and separate certified tournament referee plus a minimum of two (2) certified roving umpires\ per event.
10. Singles sticks required on all courts.
11. Hotel information and map available online to players in advance of the entry deadline.
12. Amenities: t-shirt or comparable souvenir
13. On site trainer optional.
14. Entry is set by the USTA Florida Junior Competitive Council.

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III. Tournament Rules and Procedures

A. Preparing and Planning

1. *Apply for Sanction*
 - a. Sanction applications are online at www.ustaflorida.com.
 - b. Tournament sanction applications will be accepted online beginning July 1st.
 - c. The tournament sanction application deadline is September 1st.
 - d. No mail, phone or fax applications will be accepted.
 - e. **Any tournament/director in violation of sanctioning requirements, including publishing and reporting deadlines and outstanding fees, for the current year will not be considered for a tournament the following year.**
 - f. Sanctions must be paid by credit card upon application.
 - g. The host Club or Organization must be a current member of the USTA, and continue the current membership through the last day of the last day of the sanctioned tournament.
 - h. The tournament director must be a current member of the USTA, and continue the current membership through the last day of the sanctioned tournament.
 - i. The Tournament Director Comprehensive Test must be completed and submitted for the sanction application to be considered. As of the 2010 sanction period
2. *Tournament Data Manager System (TDM)*
 - a. TDM must be used for all USTA Florida sanctioned tournaments.
 - b. All tournaments must be published within 2 days of the last day of the sanction.
 - c. Tournaments not published within 2 days of the last day of the sanction will be fined \$50.00.
3. *Entry Fees*
 - a. Tournaments having a combined entry fee for singles and doubles must also have a separate fee for a doubles only player.
 - b. Super-Series tournament entry fees include both singles and doubles.
 - c. Designated entry fees are \$60.
 - d. All sectional championship fees are at the discretion of the JCTC.
 - e. All fees must be specified on the sanction application
4. *Entry Deadline*
 - a. The entry deadline for Rookie tournaments will be the Tuesday prior to the start of the tournament.
 - b. The entry deadline for Local tournaments will be the Wednesday prior to the start of the tournament.
 - c. The entry deadline for Super Series tournaments will be the Monday prior to the start of the tournament
 - d. The entry deadline for Designateds and Sectional Championships will be Saturday, 2 weeks prior to the start of the tournament.
 - e. Entries cannot be closed prior to the deadline.
 - f. Every entry submitted on time must be considered for acceptance. The turndown procedure must be adhered to (*see reference-Turn Down Procedures*)
 - g. The entry deadline must also be specified on the sanction application.
5. *Changes in Sanctioned Divisions*
 - a. There shall be no changes unless approved in advance by the Director of Play Tennis Division or Junior Competitive Council.
 - b. Divisions with a minimum of 2 players **must** be played. It is recommended that the players be contacted under these situations.
 - c. Divisions are not to be dropped or combined because of small entry numbers.
6. *Referee*
 - a. The Tournament Director and the referee of a USTA Florida sanctioned junior tournament **must not** be the same person.
 - b. Rookie and local junior tournaments can be officiated with a minimum of "out of pocket" expenses paid to the official. This referee should be highly knowledgeable of the rules of the game of tennis and thoroughly familiar with the regulations and procedures for

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operating USTA Florida junior tournaments. It is recommended but not required that the referee be certified for this level.

- c. It is required that the referee be certified for all Super-Series, Designated, and Sectional (State Closed) Championships.

7. Cancelled Tournaments

- a. USTA Florida sanctioned tournaments may be canceled by a representative of the host facility, tournament director, Adult/Junior Sanction and Schedule Chairman with consultation from the USTA Florida Director of the Play Tennis Division or USTA Florida staff personnel for any reason deemed necessary to maintain the integrity and standard expectations associated with USTA Florida tournaments. Tournament cancellations should be displayed publicly by stating cancelled in the title of the tournament on the web site. Cancellations may be made anytime up until the start of the tournament. USTA Florida is not responsible for any player expenses incurred due to the cancellation of a tournament such as travel costs, hotel fees, etc.

8. Matches

- a. USTA Florida Designated tournaments, in the 18-, 16-, 14- and 12-and-under age divisions, matches shall be the "best-of-three" full sets using the set tiebreak (1st to 7 by 2).
- b. In a Local, Super Series, and Sectional tournament for age divisions: 10s, 12s, 14s, 16s, & 18s singles matches will use USTA Short Scoring (Matches shall be modified in that the third set shall consist solely of a match tiebreak (1st to 10 by 2.) There will be a 3 minute break before the start of the match tiebreak with coaching allowed, but players do not leave the court. The 18s play through with no break going into the match tiebreak.
- c. In all the 10-and-under age divisions (except Rookie 10 & under with QuickStart format), USTA Short Scoring will be used. (Matches shall be modified in that the third set shall consist solely of a match tiebreak (1st to 10 by 2.) See reference- (Split Sets Rest Period) for rest periods between 2nd and 3rd sets
- d. Play in all matches is governed by the USTA Code; USTA Florida Rules; USTA Florida Tournament Regulations, with the current USTA Point Penalty System in effect for all matches.
- e. The Referee may switch to Deciding Match Tiebreak (10-point) from regular scoring before the start of any round without prior notice when in the Referee's discretion the change is necessary to complete the tournament after inclement weather or other factors cause the tournament to fall behind its published schedule.
(Note: Never switch during a round because each round must be completed with the same format.)

9. *Balls* - A minimum of three (3), new USTA approved tennis balls shall be furnished for each main draw match, each consolation match, and each doubles match. The ball change pattern will be determined by the Tournament Committee prior to the start of the tournament. The referee may alter the ball change pattern when, in his opinion, abnormal conditions warrant doing so.

10. *Telephone Entries* - Telephone entries may not be made; only entries online are accepted.

11. *Turn Down Procedures* - If the entry limit for any division has been exceeded at deadline time, then the players shall be accepted using the following procedure:

- a. Every player properly entered by the deadline time must be considered equally (first come first served will have no bearing).
- b. Players accepted for the draw will be selected strictly by the latest ranking/standing list.

Note: Any exceptions to the above procedures must be approved in advance by the Director of Play Tennis Division. Players who have been turned down must be notified at least two (2) days before the tournament is due to start. A list of turned-down players must be furnished to the Director of the Play Tennis Division within two (2) days after the draw is made.

12. *Refunding of Entry Fee*

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- a. Refunds must be requested from the Tournament Director or Tournament Site not from the USTA Florida office. In Rookie, Local, and Super Series tournaments, full entry fees minus the Active.com registration fee must be refunded if the player's entry is turned down or if the player withdraws from play 2 days prior to the start of the tournament. No entry fees will be refunded after that time.
 - b. In Designated and Sectional Championship tournaments, full entry fees minus the Active.com registration fee must be refunded if the player's entry is turned down or if the player withdraws from play 5 days prior to the start of the tournament. No entry fees will be refunded after that time.
 - c. If a division is canceled and a player has not played his or her first match, the entire entry fee must be refunded minus the Active.com registration fee.
 - d. The refund of entry fees as stated above would apply regardless of whether or not the tournament committee subsequently adds a replacement player.
14. *Seeding* - The Tournament Director is responsible for acquiring, prior to the draw, the necessary information for seeding. The latest information on Florida players can be obtained by visiting the USTA Florida web site at www.ustaflorida.com. If obtaining the latest information via the web site is not possible, then contact the USTA Florida Section Office
- a. In Rookie, Local and Super-Series Tournaments, the draws should be completed at least 2 days prior to the scheduled starting time of the tournament.
 - b. Designated and Sectional Championship Tournaments
 - (1). The draws should be completed at least 4 days prior to the scheduled starting time of the tournament.
 - (2). The Tournament Director, Referee, and/or Deputy Referee **MUST** be present when the draw is done.
 - (3). The place and time when the draw will be done must be made public.
 - c. The draws are to be made strictly according to USTA regulations.
 - d. A copy of the draws should be posted online (with the player's first and last names, and the city, state or country noted next to the names) 1 day prior to the match start. The draws should be posted to the public can look at it during the hours of tournament play. Scores should be entered in a reasonably prompt fashion.
16. *First Match Time*
- a. It is the player's responsibility to contact the tournament for their first match time.
 - b. First match times must be available at least 1 day prior to the start of the tournament for Rookie, Local, and Super Series.
 - c. First match times must be available at least 3 days prior to the start of the tournament for Designated and Sectionals.
- B. During the Tournament
1. *Verification of Member Numbers* - Tournament Directors of all USTA Florida sanctioned junior tournaments must verify the USTA membership numbers (including expiration date and section the card is assigned to) of all U.S. players before they play their first match. Foreign players must present proof of membership in their country's tennis federation or purchase a USTA card.

Daily Playing Limitations For Matches Using Regular Scoring

When the USTA Deciding Match Tiebreak (10 points) is used in lieu of a third set, the Maximum Matches per day is increased from 3 to 4 no more than 3 of which can be singles.

Summer Months: May - September

Divisions	Maximum Matches per Day	Rest Periods Between Matches

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All Ages	2 Singles & 1 Doubles	2 Hrs/ Singles & Singles or
All Ages	1 Singles & 2 Doubles	1 Hr/ Singles & Doubles or
All Ages	3 Doubles	1 Hr/ Doubles & Doubles
Winter Months: October - April		
All Ages	2 Singles & 1 Doubles	1.5 Hrs/ Singles & Singles or
All Ages	1 Singles & 2 Doubles	1 Hr/ Singles & Doubles or
All Ages	3 Doubles	1 Hr Doubles & Doubles

2. Daily Exceptions To Playing Limitations

- a. Singles – During the summer months 18 & 16 age divisions using regular scoring cannot be required to play more than two singles matches in one day (see the Daily Playing Limitations chart above). Exceptions to this rule can be made with the following provisions: A third singles match may be played if neither participant was involved in a three-set match in his or her previous two matches, and provided the referee and both players agree. The tournament must adhere strictly to the rest period rules. During the winter months, a third singles match may be played provided the referee and both players agree. The tournament must adhere strictly to the rest period rules.
- b. 14, 12 & 10 age divisions using regular scoring will not be allowed to play a third match in one day under any circumstances during the summer months (see chart). Exceptions to this rule can be made during the winter months with the following provisions: A third singles match may be played if neither participant was involved in a three set match in his or her previous two matches, and provided the referee and both players agree. The tournament must adhere strictly to the rest period rules.
- c. Doubles - 18 & 16 age divisions' players are permitted to play as many as two doubles matches following their two singles matches from October through April, but only one doubles match from May through September. If a participant is asked to play a third singles match, he or she cannot play any doubles matches in addition to the three singles matches. 14, 12 & 10 age divisions are not allowed to play more than two singles and one doubles match, or any combination thereof in any one day. If a participant is asked to play a third singles match during the winter months, he or she cannot play any doubles matches in addition to the three singles matches.

Note: In SS events, when 8 game pro sets are used for doubles, the match limit is 2 singles & 2 doubles.

3. Rest Period Between Matches

- a. A minimum rest period of not less than 1-1/2 hours is required between two singles matches from October through April.
- b. A minimum rest period of at least 2 hours is required between two singles matches from May through September.
- c. A minimum rest period of one hour will be required between a singles match and a doubles match or two doubles matches throughout the entire year.

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- d. Should players be involved in a lengthy match which runs into late evening – it is mandatory that they be given a minimum of 12 hours before their first match the next day.

Note: *In a SS event, where an 8 game pro set is used for doubles matches, the rest period between 2 doubles matches is flexible.*

4. Split Sets Rest Period

- a. Boys & Girls 18 divisions are allowed no rest period, except under certain conditions when the referee, in his or her judgment, may permit a 10-minute rest period.
- b. Boys & Girls 16, 14 and 12 divisions must take a 10-minute rest period before the third set.
- c. Boys & Girls 10 divisions must take a 3-minute rest period before the match tiebreak. Players are not permitted to leave the court; however, coaching is permitted during the rest period.
- d. If for any reason, the scoring format is changed, for the 12-16 age divisions, to a third set match tiebreak in lieu of a full third set, then the 3-minute rest period will be allowed. Players are not permitted to leave the court; however, coaching is permitted during the rest period.

5. Play Under Lights

- a. 14, 12 & 10 age divisions must begin or resume play prior to 7:30pm. No exceptions!
- b. 18 & 16 age divisions may begin or resume play as late as 8:30pm year round.

Note: *For SS events where an 8 game pro set is used for doubles matches, play may begin up to 30 minutes later. A player must be given a minimum of twelve (12) hours before his or her first match the next day.*

6. **Officials** - In a non-officiated match, a player may leave the playing area for the purpose of contacting the referee or director. An umpire may be furnished when requested by a player after some dispute or alleged infraction of rules has occurred during the match being played. If there is a shortage of umpires, then an "observer", preferably an adult, may be assigned to report back to the referee any further infractions or misbehavior on the part of either player or team. Umpire requests made prior to the start of a match need not be honored. All umpires should familiarize themselves with the USTA Florida Rules, the USTA Code and the USTA Florida Tournament Regulations to facilitate their serving as the tournament referee or as the solo chair umpire of a particular match should it become necessary. The current Point Penalty System, as authorized by the USTA Florida Section, will be in effect in all USTA Florida sanctioned tournaments.

7. Coaching and On-Court Infractions

- a. The umpire must take action as soon as he or she becomes aware that coaching, advice, or instructions (either verbally or by signals of any kind) is being given to a player. If the umpire is unaware that "coaching" is being given, a player may make a quick visit to the desk to notify the referee or tournament official that coaching is being given to his or her opponent.
- b. The umpire must take immediate action if a player becomes unsportsmanlike and continually stalls; makes bad line calls; foot faults; uses profanities and/or obscenities; abuses the racquet, equipment or balls, etc. If the umpire is unaware of this situation, the player may make a quick trip to the desk to advise the referee or tournament official that these infractions are both audible and visible violations by his opponent.

8. Abusive Conduct

- a. 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 that 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.

Junior Regulations

- b. 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, he or she 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 him to desist.
 - c. 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.
 - d. The Florida Suspension Point System will be implemented in Designated, Sectional, and State Closed events.
9. *Retirements*- A retirement occurs when a player is unable or unwilling to continue play after a match has commenced. When a player retires, it is a loss for the player retiring and a win for that player's opponent.
10. *Disciplinary Defaults* - When a player is defaulted for disciplinary reasons, it is a loss on his or her record and a win for his or her opponent. A disciplinary default in the main draw precludes a player from further competing in the tournament (singles, consolation or doubles). Tardiness is not considered to be a misconduct infraction.
11. *Completion of Suspended Matches* – When a match is carried over from a previous day, it should be counted as a match if the player so elects and if 12 or more games of singles or 16 or more games of doubles are required to finish the match.
12. *Heat Index Rule* - Whenever the temperature and humidity are expected to be 90(F) or higher; and humidity 30% or higher the Referee may invoke the Heat Index Procedures:
- a. *Defined*: Heat Index is the combination of temperature and humidity that could result in a serious combination of dehydration and overheating within the body.
 - b. *Procedure*: Activation of the Heat Index Rule simply means that everyone will take a mandatory ten-minute rest before starting a third set.
- Note: This applies to BG 18's and BG 10's who do not normally get a full ten-minute mandatory rest if they split sets. This has no impact on the 12, 14, and 16 age divisions who get a ten-minute rest anyway.
- c. When the Heat Index Rule is put into effect, it will apply to all singles and doubles matches already in progress. It will remain in effect for all matches that started under the Heat Rule even if rescinded by the Referee during the match. (If you start with it – you finish with it).
 - d. The ten-minute rest is mandatory for everyone even if the match format requires a Match Tiebreak in lieu of a third set.
13. *Lightning Procedures*: Referees should be prepared for immediate cessation of all matches if lightning is sighted. All activities should stop and everyone should seek appropriate shelter.
- The 30 – 30 rule may be used:*
- If lightning is sighted and the thunder occurs in 30 seconds or less, clear all court activity and seek shelter.
 - Dividing the number of seconds from “flash to bang” by 5 gives the distance of lightning in miles. (Ex. 30 seconds equals 6 miles).
 - Court activity should not resume until a minimum of 30 minutes has elapsed since the last lightning was seen.

Junior Regulations

C. After the Tournament

1. Publish the tournament using TDM to the Internet.
 - a. Before you publish, be sure to check the draw sheets for accuracy including the player's name, city, state (or country), phone #, birth date & USTA # with expiration date and any missing scores, defaults, retirements, etc.
 - b. The tournament must be published within 2 days of the last day of the sanction.
2. Mail the following material to the USTA Florida office within seven (7) days of the completion of the tournament:
 - a. Grievance Forms (if necessary).
3. Violation of Tournament Regulations - Junior tournaments violating any one or a combination of the above regulations will be placed on probation by the Chair of the Junior Competitive Council and may lose their sanction for the following year.
 - a. Tournaments/Directors who fail to publish within 2 days will be fined \$50.00
 - b. Tournaments/Directors who fail to submit the required paperwork by the 7-day deadline will be fined \$50.00.
 - c. Tournaments/Directors who submit inaccurate player data and/or scores will be fined \$50.00.

Junior Regulations

IV. Junior Ranking Regulations

The USTA Florida Section uses a points per round rollover ranking system.

Objectives - 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.

*Please note that starting January 2005, the Junior Competitive Council decided to adopt the policy of *points counting down* for all age divisions in USTA Florida sectional play.

Combined Ranking as of January 1, 2008.

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:

Player X (a player with better singles results)
Best eight (8) singles tournaments = 1500 points
Best eight (8) doubles tournaments = 1200 points
15% of 1200 = 180 points
1500 + 180 = 1680 total combined ranking points

Player Y (a player with better doubles results)
Best eight (8) singles tournaments = 1200 points
Best eight (8) doubles tournaments = 1500 points
15% of 1500 = 225 points
1200 + 225 = 1425 total combined ranking points

- A. Combined Rankings – Rankings are computer generated using a Points Per Round Ranking Program. All players with points will be ranked.
- B. Published Lists
 - 1. Tentative Ranking Lists – only players who have met the residency requirements and have the proper paperwork on file will be included on the Florida Tentative Ranking list (see I. C. 5.)
 - 2. Standing Lists – Any player who wins a minimum of 1 match in a Florida sanctioned tournament will be included on this list.
 - 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. Player records are available for viewing and printing on the USTA Florida Web Site - www.ustaflorida.com
 - 5. A player with points cannot request to be removed from the Tentative Ranking or Standings List.
- C. 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.

Junior Regulations

D. Ranking Guidelines

1. Matches - Only matches in the main or consolation draws played in USTA Florida sanctioned tournaments, USTA National Championships, USTA National Open tournaments played in Florida, the Junior Orange Bowl (12-14), the Florida Open (16-18), and the Gator Bowl (12-18), Tennis Plaza Cup (12-18), Summer Smash Regional (12-18) will award points to the winner. Main draw points are a fixed number; the round you reach determines the points awarded. Consolation points per round are cumulative and are added to the main draw points. *(please refer to the point charts)*
2. Defaults, Retirements & Byes - If you receive a retirement or a disciplinary default during a match (main or consolation) you are awarded points as if you had won the match. When a bye occurs, you 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. Rankings will be based on the best eight (8) tournaments played.
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.

Junior Regulations

V. 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 3 months prior to the scheduled National Championship. BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER 2010: to be eligible for endorsement to the USTA Winter National Championships, on December 27, 2010 a player will need to compete in one of the following tournaments to be endorsed by the Florida section: September 11, 2010 Designated, October 9, 2010 - Sectional, and November 6, 2010 – Designated.*
 5. *Players will only be endorsed in the age division they play in the Designated or Sectional tournaments 3 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).
 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.

Junior Regulations

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 Intersectionals* - The Girls and Boys 16's Intersectionals 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.