

# USTA Adult and Family Tournament, Ranking & Sanctioning Regulations

**AS AMENDED THROUGH DECEMBER 9, 2024.  
NEW REGULATIONS IN RED.**

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# I. General

These Regulations apply to USTA Adult and Family Tournaments and Section and District Adult and Family Ranking tournaments, all of which count for national ranking. Any authority delegated by these Regulations to the USTA Adult Competition Committee, USTA Manager of Adult Tournaments, the USTA Adult Tennis Department or any other person or entity stated herein, unless otherwise stated, may not be delegated to a different authority.

- A. **Name.** The USTA Board of Directors has approved the adoption of these rules and regulations that will be known as the USTA ADULT AND FAMILY TOURNAMENT, RANKING & SANCTIONING REGULATIONS.
- B. **Governance.** The USTA ADULT AND FAMILY TOURNAMENT, RANKING & SANCTIONING REGULATIONS apply to all USTA Adult and Family Tournaments, the process by which certain national USTA Adult and Family Ranking Tournaments are sanctioned, and Adult and Family rankings. USTA Constitution and Bylaws, FRIEND AT COURT: The USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations, apply to all matches played in USTA Adult and Family Ranking Tournaments (unless modified by these USTA ADULT AND FAMILY TOURNAMENT, RANKING & SANCTIONING REGULATIONS). In any match played without officials, the USTA official publication, THE CODE, will be observed. The USTA Point Penalty System and the USTA Suspension Point System will be used.
- C. **Waiver of Regulations.** Except where a waiver is specifically permitted herein or by **USTA Regulation XX**, no USTA ADULT AND FAMILY TOURNAMENT, RANKING & SANCTIONING REGULATION may be waived.
- D. **Amendments.** These USTA ADULT AND FAMILY TOURNAMENT, RANKING & SANCTIONING REGULATIONS may be amended by the USTA Adult Competition Committee upon the recommendation of an Adult and Family Regulations Subcommittee. The Adult and Family Regulations Subcommittee is comprised of members appointed by the Chair of the USTA Adult Competition Committee. Proposed amendments are subject to review and comment by the Office of General Counsel and Chair of the Constitution and Rules Committee prior to adoption. Each amendment will be in writing and forwarded to the USTA Adult Competition Committee and the Executive Directors of each Sectional Association at least 21 days before any meeting of the USTA Adult Competition Committee at which the amendment will be considered. Unless otherwise specified, amendments will become effective on January 1 following the year of adoption.
- E. **Conforming Changes.** If the Chair and the Staff Member of the USTA Adult Competition Committee jointly request that a change be made to the USTA ADULT AND FAMILY TOURNAMENT, RANKING & SANCTIONING REGULATIONS, the Office of General Counsel may authorize the change if it:
- Conforms with the USTA Constitution, USTA Bylaws, ITF Rules of Tennis and USTA Regulations;
  - Makes language and stylistic changes;
  - Promotes clarity;
  - Eliminates ambiguity;
  - Corrects a mistake; or
  - Provides additional guidance.

- F. **Glossary of Terms.** For purposes of these Regulations, certain words and phrases are defined in a glossary included herein. This glossary has been prepared as a reference to many terms included in these Regulations. The definitions provided have been drawn from these Regulations and, in some cases, other documents published by the USTA.
- G. **Non-Discrimination.** Discrimination in USTA Adult and Family Ranking Tournaments is prohibited as specified in the USTA Constitution, USTA Bylaws and USTA Regulations.

## II. Player Eligibility

- A. **Membership.** All players, including non-U.S. citizens, are required to be members of the USTA in order to play in the USTA Adult and Family National Tournaments listed in **Regulation VI.** and the Section and District Adult and Family Ranking Tournaments listed in **Regulation VII.**, except that players are exempt from this requirement when ITF ranking points are earned at the tournament.
- B. **Age.** The age-eligibility requirements set forth in **USTA Regulations I.G.3.b.ii., c.ii. and c.vi.** apply to Adult and Family Divisions with age restrictions. As a group, Adult Divisions with age restrictions (excluding any Adult NTRP division with age restrictions) are also known as the Adult Age Group Divisions. The age eligibility requirements for Adult NTRP Divisions are set forth in **Regulation II.C.2.** below.

**Regulation II.B. Comment:** The following are the applicable age-eligibility requirements for events with age restrictions in **USTA Regulations I.G.3.b.ii., c.ii. and c.vi.:**

- **USTA Regulation I.G.3.b.ii. - Adult Age Group Divisions:** A player, if otherwise eligible, may enter if the player will reach the minimum age by December 31 of the year during which the division is scheduled to start.
- **USTA Regulation I.G.3.c.ii. - Parent-Child Division with Minimum Age Restriction for Parent:** A team, if otherwise eligible, may enter if the parent will reach the minimum age by December 31 of the year during which the division is scheduled to start.
- **USTA Regulation I.G.3.c.vi. - Combined Ages Family Division with Minimum Age Restriction:** A team, if otherwise eligible, may enter if the combined age of the players will reach the minimum combined age for the division by December 31 of the year during which the division is scheduled to start.

### C. Adult NTRP Divisions.

1. *Valid NTRP rating required.* A player is required to have one of the following types of valid NTRP ratings to play in an Adult NTRP Tournament:
  - Computer (C) rating;
  - Tournament Exclusive (T) rating;
  - Appeal (A) rating (including Automatic Tournament Exclusive Appeal and Medical Appeal);
  - Self (S) rating.

Players with a valid Mixed Exclusive (M) rating or a valid Automatic Appeal Mixed Exclusive (X) rating must self-rate to receive a Self (S) rating to register for an Adult NTRP Tournament.

**Regulation II.C.1. Comment 1.** Singles and doubles results in Adult NTRP-sanctioned tournaments, except mixed doubles, combo doubles and combo mixed doubles, count toward a player's NTRP rating.

2. *Age eligibility.*

- a. *Minimum age of 18 required for 18 & Over Adult NTRP Divisions.* A player, if otherwise eligible, may enter if the player will reach the age of 18 by the first day of the month during which any event in the tournament is scheduled to start.
- b. *40 & Over Adult NTRP Division and 55 & Over Adult NTRP Division.* A player, if otherwise eligible, may enter if the player will reach the minimum age by December 31 of the year during which the division is scheduled to start.

3. *Maximum NTRP rating for Adult NTRP Combo Divisions.* Adult NTRP Combo Divisions are doubles and mixed doubles divisions in which the sum of the partners' NTRP ratings is equal to or less than the rating of the division and the difference between the partners' ratings is one or less. For example, teams eligible for an Adult NTRP 9.0 Combo Division may include partners having a 5.0 rating and a 4.0 rating and two partners each with 4.5 ratings; the Adult NTRP 9.0 Combo Division may not include teams with partners having a 5.5 rating and a 3.5 rating because the difference between the two ratings is greater than one.

4. *Maximum and minimum NTRP ratings for other Adult NTRP Divisions.* To enter all other Adult NTRP Divisions, a player's NTRP rating must be:

- Less than or equal to the NTRP rating of the division; and
- Not more than one NTRP level lower than the division.

For example, a 4.0 NTRP Division may have players with 4.0 and 3.5 NTRP ratings, but may not have players with NTRP ratings higher than 4.0 or lower than 3.5.

5. *Appeal of NTRP rating.* NTRP rating appeals shall be administered pursuant to the USTA NTRP Computer Methodology Procedures.

D. **Citizenship Not Required.** All Adult and Family tournaments are open to U.S. citizens and non-U.S. citizens.

E. **Residency.** Closed Section Level 4 Tournaments, Closed Section Level 5 Tournaments and Closed District Level 5 Tournaments require players to be residents within the geographic boundaries of the Sectional Association or District Association that has been authorized to sanction the tournament. Residency is determined as set forth in **Regulation III**. Tournaments between teams representing Sectional or District Associations require players to be residents within the geographic boundaries of the respective Sectional or District Association to play on a team.

# III. Residency

Residency shall determine the players who may play in Closed Sectional and District Tournaments and the players who may be selected to represent a Sectional Association or District Association in a team competition.

- A. **Declaration of Residency by Players Living within the Geographic Boundaries of the USTA.** A player residing within the geographic boundaries of the USTA must declare residency for the purposes of playing in Adult and Family tournaments. A player may be the resident of one Sectional Association and, if applicable, one District Association within the geographic boundaries only of the declared Sectional Association at any given time.
- Unless otherwise declared, a player's Section residency shall be the Sectional Association assigned through USTA membership and which is based on the geographic boundaries set forth in the USTA Bylaws.
  - USTA members who reside in British Columbia and who meet the eligibility criteria of **USTA Regulation VIII.D.2.** shall be deemed to be residents of the USTA Pacific Northwest Section.
  - If applicable, and unless otherwise declared, a player's District residency shall be the District Association assigned through USTA membership and which is based on the geographic boundaries assigned to the District Association in the Sectional Association's Bylaws.
  - The physical address of a player's legal guardian may be the basis for a player's declaration of residency if the player is residing with that legal guardian.
  - The physical address of a boarding school, including a tennis academy, may be the basis for a player's declaration of residency if the player is enrolled and residing at the school or academy.
  - Players may declare a different Section and District residency no more than once each calendar year.

**Regulation III.A. Comment:** If a player desires to change residency more than once per calendar year, the player must request a waiver from the USTA Regulations. See **USTA Regulation XX.**

- B. **Declaration of Residency by U.S. Citizens Living Abroad.** A player who is a U.S. citizen living abroad may declare residency by submission of a request for an assignment to a specific Sectional Association and, if applicable, a specific District Association within the boundaries of that Sectional Association.
- C. **Form of Declaration.** A player electing to declare residency in a Sectional Association or District Association other than the Sectional Association or District Association assigned through USTA membership must complete the official USTA Declaration Form.

# IV. Authorized USTA Adult and Family National Tournaments

Annually the USTA will publish the National Adult and Family Tournament Schedule, which will include the following tournaments:

- A. **Annual USTA Level 1 Adult and Family National Championships.** The USTA will sanction at least one Category I USTA National Championship in each of the divisions set forth below. USTA Level 1 National Championships may be sanctioned on hard, grass, clay or indoor surfaces.
1. Adult Open Divisions. Men's and Women's Open Divisions.
  2. Adult Age Group Divisions. Men's and Women's 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, and 100 Divisions.
  3. Adult NTRP Divisions.
    - a. *18 & Over Adult NTRP Divisions.* Singles and doubles events in the Men's and Women's 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0, and 5.5 18 & Over Adult NTRP Divisions;
    - b. *40 & Over Adult NTRP Divisions.* Singles and doubles events in the Men's and Women's 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, and 5.0 40 & Over Adult NTRP Divisions; and
    - c. *55 & Over Adult NTRP Divisions.* Singles and doubles events in the Men's and Women's 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, and 5.0 55 & Over Adult NTRP Divisions.
- B. **Optional USTA Level 1 Adult and Family National Championships.** The USTA may sanction one or more USTA Level 1 National Championship in each division below. These USTA Level 1 National Championships may be sanctioned on hard, grass, clay, or indoor surfaces.
1. *Adult NTRP Divisions.*
    - a. *18 & Over Adult NTRP Singles and Doubles Divisions.* Singles and doubles events in the 2.5 18 & Over Adult NTRP Divisions;
    - b. *18 & Over Adult NTRP Mixed Doubles Divisions.* Mixed doubles events in the Men's and Women's 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 and 5.0 18 & Over Adult NTRP Divisions;
    - c. *18 & Over Adult NTRP Combo Divisions.* 5.0, 5.5, 6.0, 6.5, 7.0, 7.5, 8.0, 8.5, 9.0, 9.5, 10.0, 10.5, 11.0 18 & Over Adult NTRP Combo Divisions;
    - d. *40 & Over Adult NTRP Singles and Doubles Divisions.* Singles and doubles events in the 2.5 40 & Over Adult NTRP Divisions;
    - e. *40 & Over Adult NTRP Mixed Doubles Divisions.* Mixed doubles events in the Men's and Women's 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5 40 & Over Adult NTRP Divisions;
    - f. *40 & Over Adult NTRP Combo Divisions.* 5.0, 5.5, 6.0, 6.5, 7.0, 7.5, 8.0, 8.5, 9.0, 9.5, 10.0, 10.5, 11.0 40 & Over Adult NTRP Combo Divisions;
    - g. *55 & Over Adult NTRP Singles and Doubles Divisions.* Singles and doubles events in the 2.5 55 & Over Adult NTRP Divisions; and
    - h. *55 & Over Adult NTRP Mixed Doubles Divisions.* Mixed doubles events in the Men's and Women's 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5 55 & Over Adult NTRP Divisions.

## 2. *Family Divisions.*

- Father-Son: Father (60 & Over)-Son, Father (70 & Over)-Son, Father (80 & Over)-Son;
- Father-Daughter: Father (60 & Over)-Daughter, Father (70 & Over)-Daughter, Father (80 & Over)-Daughter;
- Mother-Son: Mother (60 & Over)-Son, Mother (70 & Over)-Son;
- Mother-Daughter: Mother (60 & Over)-Daughter, Mother (70 & Over)-Daughter;
- Same Gender Male Couples Doubles: Same Gender Male Couples Doubles (Combined Ages 80 Years), Same Gender Male Couples Doubles (Combined Ages 100 Years), Same Gender Male Couples Doubles (Combined Ages 120 Years), Same Gender Male Couples Doubles (Combined Ages 140 Years);
- Same Gender Female Couples Doubles: Same Gender Female Couples Doubles (Combined Ages 80 Years), Same Gender Female Couples Doubles (Combined Ages 100 Years), Same Gender Female Couples Doubles (Combined Ages 120 Years), Same Gender Female Couples Doubles (Combined Ages 140 Years); and
- Husband-Wife Mixed: Husband-Wife Mixed (Combined Ages 90 Years), Husband-Wife Mixed (Combined Ages 100 Years), Husband-Wife Mixed (Combined Ages 110 Years), Husband-Wife Mixed (Combined Ages 120 Years), Husband-Wife Mixed (Combined Ages 130 Years), Husband-Wife Mixed (Combined Ages 140 Years), Husband-Wife Mixed (Combined Ages 150 Years).

**C. USTA National Level 2 Adult and Family Tournaments.** Annually the USTA Adult Competition Committee may sanction USTA National Level 2 Adult and Family Tournaments in the divisions listed in **Regulation IV.A.** and **B.**

**D. USTA National Level 3 Adult and Family Tournaments.** Annually the USTA Adult Competition Committee may sanction USTA National Level 3 Adult and Family Tournaments in the divisions listed in **Regulation IV.A.** and **B.**

**E. USTA National Intersectional Team Tournaments.** Annually the USTA Adult Competition Committee may sanction USTA National Intersectional Team Tournaments in the divisions listed in **Regulation IV.A.** and **B.**

**F. Additional USTA Adult and Family National Tournaments.** Annually the USTA may sanction one or more additional USTA Adult and Family National Tournaments.

# V. National Standings List

- A. Criteria and Publication of National Standings Lists.** The USTA will publish National Standings Lists in each Adult and Family Division listed in **Regulation IV.A.** and **B.** The USTA Adult Competition Committee determines the criteria for the National Standings Lists and the frequency with which the lists are published. The criteria will be published in **Table 1.**
- B. Procedure for Selecting Teams for Limited Adult Division Draws and Seeding Using National Standings Lists.** When a doubles or mixed doubles draw size in an Adult Division is limited, teams will be selected using the most recently published individual doubles or mixed doubles National Standings List of the division. Teams will be selected in the order of their combined individual standings. (For example, Player A holds the #1



standing, and Player B holds the No. 10 standing. The team of A&B would have the combined standing of 11.) If there is a tie, the team with the player that has the highest individual doubles standing on the list must be selected first. If a player has no standing, for the purpose of determining the combined standing, this player will be assigned a standing one lower than the last player on the individual doubles or mixed doubles National Standings List. The same procedure applies when National Standings Lists are used.

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## TABLE 1

### National Standings List (NSL) Criteria

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#### Eligibility Criteria to Appear on a National Standings List

- Players must have a current USTA membership.
- Players must reside within the geographic boundaries of the USTA or be Canadian citizens and landed Canadian immigrants who reside in British Columbia, provided that they were USTA members for at least one month during 2010 and as long as they do not allow their USTA memberships to lapse for a period of more than six months.
- Players must have accumulated at least one ranking point during the previous 52-week period (the “NSL Rolling Period”).
- Players are not required to meet the citizenship/certain alien eligibility requirements to appear on an NSL.

#### NSL Calculation

National Standings Lists in the Adult and Family Divisions will be calculated using the same method used to calculate ranking lists as described in **Regulation IX.F.5.**, except that the NSL Rolling Period is used.

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#### Breaking Ties

The order of the NSL is based on ranking points earned during the previous 12-month rolling period. When more than one player has the same number of total ranking points, tie-breaks on an NSL will be determined in the following order:

1. Most total points earned in tournaments assigned as a Level 1 Ranking Tournament
2. Most total points earned in tournaments assigned as a Level 2 Ranking Tournament
3. Most total points earned in tournaments assigned as a Level 3 Ranking Tournament
4. Most total points earned in tournaments assigned as a Level 4 Ranking Tournament
5. Most total points earned in tournaments assigned as a Level 5 Ranking Tournament
6. Most total points earned in tournaments assigned as a Level 6 Ranking Tournament
7. Most total points earned in tournaments assigned as a Level 7 Ranking Tournament

See **Regulation IX.F.2.** For tournaments assigned to each Level.

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#### NSLs for Closed Section Level 4 Tournaments and Closed Section and District Level 5

**Tournaments** When National Standings Lists are used to select players for Closed Section Level 4 Tournaments and Closed Section and District Level 5 Tournaments, the lists will be filtered to only list players who are residents of the Sectional or District Association.

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#### Publication of NSLs

- National Standings Lists in the Adult Divisions will be published at least monthly.
  - Team NSLs in the Family Divisions will be published quarterly on or about January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1.
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# VI. USTA Adult and Family National Tournament Regulations

Collectively all tournaments sanctioned by the USTA Adult Competition Committee shall be known as the USTA Adult and Family National Tournaments. Some USTA Level 1 National Championships, USTA Level 2 National Tournaments and USTA Level 3 National Tournaments receive ITF Ranking Points and may be required to be played under ITF World Tennis Masters Tour Regulations. Unless inconsistent with an ITF World Tennis Masters Tour Regulation, these tournaments must conform to the requirements set forth in **Regulation VI**.

**Regulation VI. Comment:** USTA Level 1 National Championships, USTA Level 2 National Tournaments and USTA Level 3 National Tournaments are played under a memorandum of understanding with the ITF that permits exemption from most of the provisions of the ITF World Tennis Masters Tour Regulations. Contact the USTA Adult Tennis Department at [adulttournaments@usta.com](mailto:adulttournaments@usta.com) for information on these exemptions.

- A. **Gold, Silver and Bronze Balls.** Gold balls will be awarded to the winners, silver balls to the runners-up and bronze balls to the third-place playoff winners of USTA Level 1 Adult and Family National Championships, except those tournaments held in the Adult NTRP Divisions.

**Regulation VI.A. Comment:** Top finishers in the USTA Level 1 NTRP National Championships will receive a customized award.

## B. Seeding Procedure.

1. *Method of seeding.* The USTA Adult Competition Committee determines the method of seeding for USTA Adult and Family Tournaments (except those tournaments that are also sanctioned by the ITF and are played under ITF World Tennis Masters Tour Regulations). The seeding criteria are published in **Table 2**. See **Regulation VI.J.** for regulations governing USTA National Intersectional Team Tournaments.

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## TABLE 2

### Method of Seeding for USTA Adult and Family National Tournaments

#### A. Adult Open and Adult Age Group Divisions

The All Factors Method of seeding, as described in **USTA Regulation II.A.4.b.**, will be used to seed USTA Level 1 National Championships and USTA National Level 2 and 3 Tournaments in the Adult Open Divisions and Adult Age Group Divisions.

#### B. Adult NTRP Divisions

The Computerized List Method of seeding, as described in **USTA Regulation II.A.4.a.**, will be used to seed USTA Level 1 National Championships and USTA National Level 2 and 3 Tournaments in the Adult NTRP Divisions as follows:

- **Singles:** Seeding will be done using the most recently published singles National Standings List of the division.
- **Doubles and Mixed Doubles:** Seeding will be done by using the most recently published individual doubles or mixed doubles National Standings List of the division. Teams will be seeded in the order of their combined individual standings. (For example, Player A holds the No. 1 standing, and Player B holds the No. 10 standing. The team of A&B would have the combined standing of 11.) If there is a tie, the team with the player that has the highest individual doubles standing on the list must be seeded in the higher position. If a player has no standing, for the purpose of determining the combined standing, this player will be assigned a standing one lower than the last player on the individual doubles or mixed doubles National Standings List.

#### C. Family Divisions

The All Factors Method of seeding, as described in **USTA Regulation II.A.4.b.**, will be used to seed USTA Level 1 National Championships and USTA National Level 2 and 3 Tournaments in the Family Divisions.

2. Number of seeds. The number of players seeded will be as set forth in Table 3.

**TABLE 3****Number of Seeds for USTA Adult and Family National Tournaments**

The number of players seeded shall be 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, or 32; and the maximum number of seeds shall be as follows:	
Draw of 128 with 97-128 players	32 seeds
Draw of 128 with 65-96 players	16 seeds
Draw of 64 with 48-64 players	16 seeds
Draw of 64 with 33-47 players	8 seeds
Draw of 32 with 24-32 players	8 seeds
Draw of 32 with 17-23 players	4 seeds
Draw of 16 with 12-16 players	4 seeds
Draw of 16 with 9-11 players	2 seeds
Draw of 8 with 5-8 players	2 seeds
Draw of 4 with 3-4 players	2 seeds

Players seeded 1-4 will be seeded numerically. The following seeding groups will be seeded alphabetically: 5-8, 9-16, 17-32.

**Regulation VI.B. Comment:** The Tournament Committee should seed the maximum number of players when adequate seeding information is available but should not do so when information is not available.

C. **Playing on Sanctioned Surface.** The Tournament Committee arranges to have all matches played on the surface on which the tournament has been sanctioned. The Tournament Committee is authorized to have matches played on a different surface to complete the tournament within the sanction period. The designation “hard courts” includes all types of hard courts, and the designation “clay courts” includes all types of clay courts.

**D. Scheduling.**

1. *Limit on number of matches per day.* The scheduling guidelines in USTA **Regulation II.D.9.** and **Table 9** are mandatory for all USTA Adult and Family National Tournaments.
2. *Order of play.* On any day of play, players' matches should be scheduled as follows:
  - All singles main-draw matches should take precedence over all consolation matches;
  - All round-robin matches are main-draw matches;
  - The first singles consolation match of the day may be scheduled before a main-draw doubles or main-draw mixed doubles match; and
  - The first main draw doubles match of the day should be scheduled before a second singles consolation match. For the purpose of this regulation, playoff matches for third place are considered part of the main draw. Consolation matches include all non-main draw singles matches, such as the non-east draw matches in a Compass draw.

- E. **Practice Courts.** Practice courts should be available on the day before the start of the tournament and on each day during the tournament.
- F. **Shortening Tournaments.** When inclement weather, health concerns or safety concerns require a referee to take steps to shorten the tournament to keep the tournament on schedule, the manager of Adult Competition or the manager's designee may authorize the referee of any USTA Adult and Family National Tournament to use any match format not previously authorized provided that all matches in each round are played with the same format.

**G. USTA Level 1 Adult and Family National Championships.**

1. *Duration.* All events in a division (singles, doubles and mixed doubles) must be completed in seven days. Play may not continue after the last sanctioned day of the tournament without prior written approval of the USTA Adult Tennis Department.
2. *Draw size.* The draw size will not be limited, unless the USTA Adult Competition Committee specifies a draw limit when the tournament is sanctioned. At the time of sanctioning, the USTA Adult Competition Committee may authorize a qualifying draw.

**Regulation VI.G. 2. Comment:** The Tournament Committee should seed the maximum number of players when adequate seeding information is available but should not do so when information is not available.

3. *Draw format.* The draw format(s) will be designated by the USTA Adult Competition Committee at the time the tournament is sanctioned.

**H. The draw format shall be any of the following:**

**a. Level 1 Men and Women**

- 8 or more players in the draw (must play a playoff for 3rd place):
  - Feed-In Championship (including a Feed-In Championship through the quarterfinals with a playoff for 3rd place; a Feed-In Championship through the round of 16 with a quarterfinal playoff for 5th place and a playoff for 3rd place; and a Modified Feed-In Championship that feeds in the first two rounds of losers into the consolation and a playoff for 3rd place)
  - Voluntary Consolation
- 6 or 7 players in the draw (must play a playoff for 3rd place)
  - Voluntary Consolation
- 5 or fewer players in the draw:
  - Single Round Robin

**b. Level 1 Mixed, Family, and Same Gender**

- 8 or more players in the draw (must play a playoff for 3rd place):
  - Feed-In Championship (including a Feed-In Championship through the quarterfinals with a playoff for 3rd place; a Feed-In Championship through the round of 16 with a quarterfinal playoff for 5th place and a playoff for 3rd place; and a Modified Feed-In Championship that feeds in the first two rounds of losers into the consolation and a playoff for 3rd place)
  - Voluntary Consolation
  - Multiple round robins with a playoff
  - Compass Draw
- 6 or 7 players in the draw (must play a playoff for 3rd place):
  - Voluntary Consolation
- 5 or fewer players in the draw:
  - Single Round Robin

- The draw format(s) will be designated by the USTA Adult Competition Committee at the time the tournament is sanctioned.

**c. Level 2 or Level 3**

- One round robin;
- Multiple round robins with a playoff that includes a method to determine the 3rd-place Finisher, the format of which will be determined by the USTA Manager of Adult Tournaments in consultation with the Tournament Committee;
- Compass draw with a playoff for 3rd place;
- Feed-In Championship (including a Feed-In Championship through the quarterfinals with a playoff for 3rd place; a Feed-In Championship through the round of 16 with a quarterfinal playoff for 5th place and a playoff for 3rd place; a 64-player Curtis Consolation with a playoff for 3rd place; and a Modified Feed-In Championship that feeds in the first two rounds of losers into the consolation and a playoff for 3rd place);
- Team format; or
- Voluntary Sign-Up Consolation with a playoff for 3rd place.

Additionally, the single-elimination draw format that includes a playoff for 3rd place may be used for doubles and mixed doubles events if approved in advance by the USTA Adult Tennis Department.

- c. *Block seeding permitted in certain draw formats with permission of USTA Adult Tennis Department.* Tournament Committees are permitted to use a block-seeded draw if such use is approved in advance by the USTA Adult Tennis Department, but the draw format must offer a second match to a block-seeded player who loses in the first match.

**Regulation VI.G. 3.b. Comment:** The permitted draw formats that will offer a second match to a block-seeded player who loses in the first match are:

- Compass draw; and
- Any of the permitted Feed-In Championship formats, *except* the Modified Feed-In Championship.

- d. *Separating event into multiple draws.* An event may not be separated into more than one draw, unless the round robin with a playoff format is used. When such format is used, players shall be waterfalled.

1. *Match format.* The match shall be any of the following:  
**The match format shall be any of the following:**

- **Level 1 Men and Women**
  - **Main Draw Singles**
    - Best of 3 tiebreak sets (Age Division 30-75 & Open)
    - Best of 3 tiebreak sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of the third set (Age Division 80-100 or Age Division 30-75 if tournament is 3 days or less)
    - Regular scoring
  - **Main Draw Doubles**
    - Best of 3 tiebreak sets (Age Division 30-75 & Open)
    - Best of 3 tiebreak sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of the third set
    - Regular scoring
  - **Consolation Draw (Singles and Doubles)**
    - Best of 3 tiebreak sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of the third set;
    - Regular or No-Ad scoring may be used
- **Level 1 Mixed, Family, and Same Gender**
  - **Main Draw**
    - Best of 3 tiebreak sets
    - Best of 3 tiebreak sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of the third set
    - Regular scoring
  - **Consolation Draw**
    - Best of 3 tiebreak sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of the third set;
    - Regular or No-Ad scoring may be used
- The procedure for shortening match formats when inclement weather, health concerns or safety concerns prevent a tournament from finishing on time are set forth in **Regulation VI.F.**

**Regulation VI.G.4. Comment:** The 5-Point Short Set Tiebreak procedure is described in **Appendix V.2.** of the ITF Rules of Tennis. The first player/team to win 5 points wins the set, with a deciding point if the score reaches 4 points all.

2. *Selection.*

a. *Adult Open Divisions.*

- i. *Wild cards.* The maximum numbers of wild cards that can be awarded in a USTA Level 1 Adult Open National Championship are as follows: four in a draw of 64 or higher; two in a draw of 32; one in a draw of 16 or fewer.

**Regulation VI.G.5.a.i. Comment:** Criteria for selection of a player or team to receive a wild card is at the discretion of the Tournament Committee. Information on applying for wild cards, including the deadline, must be posted on the tournament website no later than the date entries open.

- ii. *Players from National Standings List.* When a singles draw size is limited, all other players will be selected (and alternates will be ordered) in the order their names appear on the most recently published National Standings List of the division. When a doubles draw size is limited, all other teams will be selected (and alternates will be ordered) using the procedure described in **Regulation V.B.**
- b. *Adult Age Group Divisions.* When a singles draw size is limited in an Adult Age Group Division, players will be selected (and alternates will be ordered) in the order their names appear on the most recently published National Standings List of the division. When a doubles draw size is limited, teams will be selected (and alternates will be ordered) using the procedure described in **Regulation V.B.** Wild cards may not be awarded.
- c. *Adult NTRP Divisions.* The USTA Adult Competition Committee will determine the method of selecting players to the USTA Level 1 National Championships in the Adult NTRP Divisions and will publish the method. Wild cards may not be awarded.

**Regulation VI.G.5.c. Comment:** The USTA Adult Competition Committee, in consultation with the USTA Adult Tennis Department, has determined that each Sectional Association will be entitled to a minimum number of players who are residents of the Sectional Association who will be accepted into USTA Level 1 National Championships in the Adult NTRP Divisions. This number shall be known as Quota. Quota is based on the total number of players competing in Adult tournaments in each Sectional Association, except that each Sectional Association will have a minimum quota of one.

- d. *Family Divisions.* When a draw size is limited in a Family Division, teams will be selected (and alternates will be ordered) using the most recently published team National Standings List of the division. Wild cards may not be awarded.
- e. *Special procedures when qualifying draw has been authorized.* If a qualifying draw has been authorized, players and teams will be selected for the qualifying draw (and alternates will be ordered) using the National Standings List of the division, as described in the applicable **Regulation VI.G.5.a., b. and d.** above. Spots in the main draw will be reserved for the number of players or teams who will qualify. Withdrawing main-draw players and teams will be replaced with a lucky loser from the qualifying draw. Lucky losers will be ordered by round lost (finals, semifinals, quarterfinals, etc.) and then in the order they were selected for the qualifying draw.



## **I. USTA National Level 2 Adult and Family National Tournaments.**

1. *Duration.* All events in a division (singles, doubles and mixed doubles) must be completed in five days, unless a longer period has been authorized in advance by the USTA Adult Tennis Department. Play may not continue after the last sanctioned day of the tournament without prior written approval of the USTA Adult Tennis Department.
2. *Draw size.* The draw size will not be limited, *unless* the USTA Adult Competition Committee specifies a draw limit when the tournament is sanctioned. At the time of sanctioning, the USTA Adult Competition Committee may authorize a qualifying draw.
3. *Draw format.* The draw format(s) will be designated by the USTA Adult Competition Committee at the time the tournament is sanctioned.
  - a. *Formats permitted.* The draw will be one of the following formats:
    - One round robin or multiple round robins with a playoff, the format of which will be determined by the USTA Manager of Adult Tournaments in consultation with the Tournament Committee;
    - Compass draw with a playoff for 3rd place;
    - Feed-In Championship (including a Feed-In Championship through the quarterfinals with a playoff for 3rd place; a Feed-In Championship through the round of 16 with a quarterfinal playoff for 5th place and a playoff for 3rd place; a 64-player Curtis Consolation with a playoff for 3rd place; and a Modified Feed-In Championship that feeds in the first two rounds of losers into the consolation and a playoff for 3rd place);
    - Voluntary Sign-Up Consolation with a playoff for 3rd place;
    - Team format; or
    - Single elimination.
  - b. *Block seeding permitted in certain draw formats with permission of USTA Adult Tennis Department.* Tournament Committees are permitted to use a block-seeded draw if such use is approved in advance by the USTA Adult Tennis Department, but the draw format must offer a second match to a block-seeded player who loses in the first match.

**Regulation VI.H.3.b. Comment:** The permitted draw formats that will offer a second match to a block-seeded player who loses in the first match are:

- Compass draw; and
- Any of the permitted Feed-In Championship formats, *except* the Modified Feed-In Championship.

c. *Separating event into multiple draws.* An event may not be separated into more than one draw, unless the round robin with a playoff format is used. When such format is used, players will be waterfalled.

4. *Match format.* The match format must be one of the formats set forth in **Regulation VI.G.4.**

5. *Selection.*

a. *Adult Open Divisions.* When a draw size is limited, selection will be done as set forth in **Regulation VI.G.5.a.**

b. *Adult Age Group and NTRP Divisions.* When a singles draw size is limited in an Adult Division, players will be selected (and alternates will be ordered) in the order their names appear on the most recently published National Standings List of the division. When a doubles draw size in an Adult Division is limited, teams will be selected (and alternates will be ordered) using the procedure described in **Regulation V.B.** Wild cards may not be awarded.

c. *Family Divisions.* When a draw size is limited in a Family Division, teams will be selected (and alternates will be ordered) using the most recently published team National Standings List of the division. Wild cards may not be awarded.

#### **J. USTA National Level 3 Adult and Family National Tournaments.**

1. *Duration.* All events in a division (singles, doubles and mixed doubles) must be completed in five days, unless a longer period has been authorized in advance by the USTA Adult Tennis Department. Play may not continue after the last sanctioned day of the tournament without prior written approval of the USTA Adult Tennis Department.
2. *Draw size.* The draw size will not be limited, unless the USTA Adult Competition Committee specifies a draw limit when the tournament is sanctioned. At the time of sanctioning, the USTA Adult Competition Committee may authorize a qualifying draw.
3. *Draw format.* The draw format(s) will be designated by the USTA Adult Competition Committee at the time the tournament is sanctioned.

- a. *Formats permitted.* The draw will be one of the following formats:
- One or more round robins;
  - Multiple round robins with a playoff, the format of which will be determined by the USTA Manager of Adult Tournaments in consultation with the Tournament Committee;
  - Compass draw with a playoff for 3rd place;
  - Feed-In Championship (including a Feed-In Championship through the quarterfinals with a playoff for 3rd place; a Feed-In Championship through the round of 16 with a quarterfinal playoff for 5th place and a playoff for 3rd place; a 64-player Curtis Consolation with a playoff for 3rd place; and a Modified Feed-In Championship that feeds in the first two rounds of losers into the consolation and a playoff for 3rd place);
  - Voluntary Sign-Up Consolation with a playoff for 3rd place;
  - Team format; or
  - Single elimination.
- b. *Block seeding permitted in certain draw formats with permission of USTA Adult Tennis Department.* Tournament Committees are permitted to use a block-seeded draw if such use is approved in advance by the USTA Adult Tennis Department, but the draw format must offer a second match to a block-seeded player who loses in the first match.

**Regulation VI.I.3.b. Comment:** The permitted draw formats that will offer a second match to a block-seeded player who loses in the first match are:

- Compass draw; and
- Any of the permitted Feed-In Championship formats, except the Modified Feed-In Championship.

- c. *Separating event into multiple draws.* An event may be separated into more than one draw. Players may either be waterfalled or be flighted, except that when the round robin with a playoff format is used, players must be waterfalled.

**4. Match format.** The match format must be one of the formats set forth in **Regulation VI.G.4.**

**5. Selection.** When a draw size is limited, selection will be done as set forth in **Regulation VI.H.5.**

**K. USTA National Intersectional Team Tournaments.**

1. *Scheduling guidelines and match limitations.* The scheduling guidelines and match limitations set forth in **USTA Regulations II.D.9.** and **Table 9** do not apply to players who play in both singles and doubles on the same day.
2. *Coaching.* Coaching is allowed in USTA National Intersectional Team Tournaments.
3. *Other regulations.* Other regulations for the USTA National Intersectional Team Tournaments are prepared by the USTA Adult Competition Committee and the USTA Adult Tennis Department and are published.

- L. **Additional USTA Adult and Family National Tournaments.** Regulations for additional USTA Adult and Family National Tournaments shall be prepared by the USTA Adult Competition Committee and the USTA Adult Tennis Department and shall be published.

# VII. Section and District Adult and Family Tournament Regulations

Annually each Sectional Association is authorized to sanction or cause to be sanctioned by its District Associations the tournaments described below in each of the divisions listed in **Regulation V.A.** and **B.** Non-sanctioned tournaments may be held in divisions not listed in **Regulation V.A.** and **B.**

A. **Section Level 4 Adult and Family Tournaments.** Annually each Sectional Association shall be authorized to sanction:

- Up to two Closed Section Level 4 Tournaments in each division that are limited to residents of the Sectional Association; and
- One or more Open Section Level 4 Tournaments in each division that are open to players from any Sectional Association,

*except that* total number of Section Level 4 Adult and Family Tournaments sanctioned in each division must be less than the number of Section and District Level 5 Adult and Family Tournaments sanctioned in each division. Sanctioning Section Level 4 Tournaments may not be delegated to the District Associations.

These tournaments must conform to the following parameters:

1. *Duration.*

- a. *Completion of all events in each division.* All events in a division (singles, doubles and mixed doubles) must be completed in five days, unless a longer period has been authorized in advance by the Sectional Association.
- b. *Completion of tournament by end of sanction period.* Play may not continue after the last sanctioned day of the tournament without prior written approval of the USTA Adult Tennis Department.

2. *Draw size.* The draw size will not be limited, unless the Sectional Association specifies a draw limit when the tournament is sanctioned. At the time of sanctioning, the Sectional Association may authorize a qualifying draw.

3. *Draw format.*

a. *Formats permitted.* The draw shall be one of the following formats:

- i. Round robin;
- ii. Multiple round robins with a playoff;
- iii. Compass draw;
- iv. Feed-In Championship (including a Feed-In Championship through the quarterfinals with a playoff for 3rd place; a Feed-In Championship through the round of 16 with a quarterfinal playoff for 5th place and a playoff for 3rd place; a 64-player Curtis Consolation with a playoff for 3rd place; and a Modified Feed-In Championship that feeds in the first two rounds of losers into the consolation and a playoff for 3rd place);
- v. First Match Consolation;
- vi. Team format; or

vii. Voluntary Sign-Up Consolation.

Additionally, the single-elimination draw format may be used if approved in advance by the Sectional Association.

b. *Block seeding permitted in certain draw formats with permission of Sectional Association.*

Tournament Committees are permitted to use a block-seeded draw if such use is approved in advance by the Sectional Association, but the draw format must offer a second match to a block-seeded player who loses in the first match.

**Regulation VII.A.3.b. Comment:** The permitted draw formats that will offer a second match to a block-seeded player who loses in the first match are:

- Compass draw; and
- Any of the permitted Feed-In Championship formats, except the Modified Feed-In Championship.

c. *Separating event into multiple draws.* An event may be separated into more than one draw. Players must be flighted using either the National Standings List or a rating. If a rating is used, refer to Regulation VII.A.5.a.iv.A for doubles teams. The only draw formats that may be used are the following: First Match Consolation, Single Elimination, or Voluntary Sign-up Consolation.

4. *Match format.* No-Ad scoring may be used. The match shall be any of the following:

- Best of 3 tiebreak sets;
- Best of 3 tiebreak sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of the third set;
- Best of 3 short sets (with a 5-Point Short Set Tiebreak played at 3 games all); and
- 8-game pro set with a 7-Point Tiebreak at 8 games all.

Match formats may be shortened when inclement weather or other circumstances prevent a tournament from finishing on time.

**Regulation VII.A.4. Comment:** The 5-Point Short Set Tiebreak procedure is described in **Appendix V.2.** of the ITF Rules of Tennis. The first player/team to win 5 points wins the set, with a deciding point if the score reaches 4 points all.

5. *Selection.*

a. *Adult Open Divisions.* The Sectional Association determines the process of selection, *provided* that it is limited to wild cards, standings, and ratings as described below,

- i. *Wild cards.* The maximum numbers of wild cards that may be awarded are as follows: four in a draw of 64 or higher; two in a draw of 32; one in a draw of 16 or fewer.

**Regulation VI.G.5.a.i. Comment:** Criteria for selection of a player or team to receive a wild card is at the discretion of the Tournament Committee. Information on applying for wild cards, including the deadline, must be posted on the tournament website no later than the date entries open.

ii. *Players from National Standings List.*

(A) *Open tournaments.* When a singles draw size is limited, players will be selected (and alternates will be ordered) in the order their names appear on the most recently published National Standings List of the division. When a doubles draw size is limited, teams will be selected (and alternates will be ordered) using the procedure described in **Regulation V.B.**

(B) *Closed tournaments.* When the draw size is limited, the same procedures described in **Regulation VII.A.5.a.ii.(A)** will be used, except that the National Standings List will be filtered to include only players who are residents of the Sectional Association.

iii. *Players based on rating.*

(A) *Open tournaments.* When a singles draw size is limited, players will be selected (and alternates will be ordered) based on the most recently published singles rating, if using the World Tennis Number (WTN). When a doubles draw size is limited, all other teams will be selected (and alternates will be ordered) based on the combined doubles ratings from the most recently published ratings, if using WTN. For example, in a draw of 16, if the 16th best doubles combination had a combined WTN of 46.0 (22.4 and 23.6), they would be selected over the 17th-best doubles combination of a WTN of 46.5 (22.5 and 24.0).

(B) *Closed tournaments.* When the draw size is limited, the same procedures described in **Regulation VII.A.5.a.i.(A)** will be used, except that the ratings will be filtered to include only players who are residents of the Sectional Association.

iv. *First Come, First Served* – Players may be selected on a first come, first served basis. This may only be done using registrations in Serve Tennis. For example, in a draw of 32, the first 32 players to register would be selected and the remainder would be alternates based on when they registered.

b. *Adult Age Group and NTRP Divisions.* The Sectional Association determines the process of selection as set forth in **Regulation VII.A.5.a**

c. *Family Divisions.* The Sectional Association determines the process of selection as set forth in **Regulation VII.A.5.a**

6. *Seeding.*

a. *Adult Open, Adult Age Group and Adult NTRP Divisions.* The Sectional Association determines the method of seeding. Seeding shall be consistent with the provisions of **USTA Regulation II.A.**, and the Tournament Committee shall use the most recently available information to seed.

i. When ratings are used to seed doubles teams the combined doubles ratings from of each teammate shall be used. For example, if the best doubles combination had a combined World Tennis Number (WTN) of 46.0 (22.4 and 23.6), they would be seeded over the 2nd best Doubles combination of a WTN of 46.5 (22.5 and 24.0).

b. *Family Divisions.* The All Factors Method of seeding, as described in **USTA Regulation II.A.4.b.**, will be used to seed.

B. **Section and District Level 5 Adult and Family Tournaments.** Annually each Sectional Association shall be authorized to sanction Section Level 5 Adult and Family Tournaments. Sectional Associations with Districts may delegate the responsibility for holding some or all of these Section Level 5 Tournaments to the District Associations. When District Associations sanction Level 5 Adult and Family Tournaments, they will be called District Level 5 Adult and Family Tournaments. Section and District Level 5 Adult and Family Tournaments will be subject to the following limitations:

- Sectional Associations with District Associations may sanction up to two Closed District Level 5 Adult and Family Tournaments in each division that are limited to residents of the District Association;



- Sectional Associations without District Associations may sanction up to two Closed Section Level 5 Adult and Family Tournaments in each division that are limited to residents of the Sectional Association;
- All other Section and District Level 5 Adult and Family Tournaments will be open to residents of any Sectional or District Association, *except that* it is recommended that the total number of Section and District Level 5 Adult and Family Tournaments sanctioned in each division be less than the number of Section and District Level 6 Adult and

Family Tournaments sanctioned in each division. Section and District Level 5 Tournaments must conform to the following parameters:

1. *Duration.*
  - a. *Completion of all events in each division.* All events in a division (singles, doubles and mixed doubles) must be completed in five days, unless a longer period has been authorized in advance by the Sectional Association. Sectional Associations with Districts may delegate the responsibility for authorizing a longer period to the District Associations.
  - b. *Completion of tournament by end of sanction period.* Play may not continue after the last sanctioned day of the tournament without prior written approval of the applicable USTA Adult Tennis Department.
2. *Draw size.* The draw size of a Section Level 5 Adult and Family Tournament will not be limited, unless the Sectional Association specifies a draw limit when the tournament is sanctioned. When a District Association sanctions a District Level 5 Adult and Family Tournament, the draw size will not be limited, unless the Sectional Association or the District Association specifies a draw limit. At the time of sanctioning, the applicable Sectional Association or District Association may authorize a qualifying draw.
3. *Draw format.*
  - a. *Formats permitted.* The draw formats permitted are those set forth in **Regulation VII.A.3.a.**, except that when the tournament is sanctioned by the District Association, the single-elimination draw format may be used if approved in advance by the District Association.
  - b. *Block seeding permitted in certain draw formats with permission of the Sectional Association or District Association.* Block seeding is permitted to the extent permitted in **Regulation VII.A.3.b.**, if such use is approved in advance by the applicable Sectional or District Association.
  - c. *Separating event into multiple draws.* Events may be separated into multiple draws to the extent permitted in Regulation VII.A.3.c.
4. *Match format.* The match format must be one of the formats set forth in **Regulation VII.A.4.**
5. *Selection.*
  - a. *Adult Divisions.*
    - i. *Open Adult tournaments.* The selection process must follow the options set forth in **Regulation VII.A.5.b** Wild cards may be awarded using Regulation VII.A.5.a.i.
    - ii. *Closed Section Adult tournaments.* The selection process must follow the options set forth in **Regulation VII.A.5.b** Wild cards may be awarded using Regulation VII.A.5.a.i.
    - iii. *Closed District Adult tournaments.* When the draw size of a Closed District Adult Tournament is limited, the same procedures described in **Regulation VII.A.5.a.ii** will be used, except that the National Standings List or most recent published rating will be filtered to include only players who are residents of the District Association.
  - b. *Family Divisions.*
    - i. *Open Family tournaments.* The selection process must follow the options set forth in **Regulation VII.A.5.a.ii.** Wild cards may be awarded using Regulation VII.A.5.a.i.

- ii. *Closed Section Family tournaments.* The selection process must follow the options set forth in **Regulation VII.A.5.a.ii.** Wild cards may be awarded using Regulation VII.A.5.a.i.
- iii. *Closed District Family tournaments.* When the draw size of a Closed District Adult Tournament is limited, the same procedures described in **Regulation VII.A.5.a.ii.** will be used *except that* the National Standings List or most recent published rating will be filtered to include only players who are residents of the District Association.

6. *Seeding.* Seeding will be done as described in **Regulation VII.A.6.**

C. **Section and District Level 6 Adult and Family Tournaments.** Annually each Sectional Association shall be authorized to sanction Section Level 6 Adult and Family Tournaments, except that it is recommended that the total number of Section and District Level 6 Adult and Family Tournaments sanctioned in each division be less than the number of Section and District Level 7 Adult and Family Tournaments sanctioned in each division. Section Level 6 Adult and Family Tournaments will be open to residents of any Sectional Association or District Association. Sectional Associations with Districts may delegate the responsibility for holding some or all of these Section Level 6 Adult and Family Tournaments to the District Associations. When District Associations sanction Level 6 Adult and Family Tournaments, they shall be called District Level 6 Adult and Family Tournaments. Section and District Level 6 Adult and Family Tournaments must conform to the following parameters:

1. *Duration.* The Sectional Association will determine the sanction period at the time the sanction is approved. All events in a division (singles, doubles and mixed doubles) must be completed in three days. The duration permitted to complete all events in a division may be extended at the discretion of the Tournament Committee when inclement weather or other circumstances prevent the events from finishing on time, except that the sanction period may not be extended without the approval of the Sectional Association. Sectional Associations with Districts may delegate the responsibility for authorizing a longer period for District Level 6 Tournaments to the District Associations.
2. *Draw size.* The draw size of a Section Level 6 Adult and Family Tournament will not be limited, unless the Sectional Association specifies a draw limit when the tournament is sanctioned. When a District Association sanctions a District Level 6 Adult and Family Tournament, the draw size will not be limited, unless the Sectional Association or the District Association specifies a draw limit. At the time of sanctioning, the applicable Sectional Association or District Association may authorize a qualifying draw.
3. *Draw format.*
  - a. *Formats permitted.* The draw shall be one of the following formats:
    - Round robin;
    - Multiple round robins with a playoff;
    - Compass draw;
    - Feed-In Championship (including a Feed-In Championship through the quarterfinals with a playoff for 3rd place; a Feed-In Championship through the round of 16 with a quarterfinal playoff for 5th place and a playoff for 3rd place; a 64-player Curtis Consolation with a playoff for 3rd place; and a Modified Feed-In Championship that feeds in the first two rounds of losers into the consolation and a playoff for 3rd place);
    - First Match Consolation;



- Team format; or
- Voluntary Sign-Up Consolation.

Additionally, the single-elimination draw format may be used if approved in advance by the Sectional Association.

- b. *Block seeding not permitted.* Block seeding is not permitted in Section and District Level 6 Adult and Family Tournaments.
- c. *Separating event into multiple draws.* Events may be separated into multiple draws to the extent permitted in Regulation VII.A.3.c

4. *Match format.* No-Ad scoring may be used. The match shall be any of the following:

- Best of 3 tiebreak sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of the third set;
- Best of 3 short sets (with a 5-Point Short Set Tiebreak played at 3 games all);
- Best of 3 short sets with a 7-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of the third set (a 5-Point Short Set Tiebreak played at 3 games all);
- 8-game pro set with a 7-Point Tiebreak at 8 games all;
- One 6-game set with a 7-Point Tiebreak at 6 games all; and
- One short set with a 5-Point Short Set Tiebreak at 3 games all.

Match formats may be shortened when inclement weather or other circumstances prevent a tournament from finishing on time.

**Regulation VII.C.4. Comment:** The 5-Point Short Set Tiebreak procedure is described in Appendix V.2. of the ITF Rules of Tennis. The first player/team to win 5 points wins the set, with a deciding point if the score reaches 4 points all.

5. *Selection.*

- a. *Adult Divisions.* The selection process must follow the options set forth in **Regulation VII.A.5.a.ii.** Wild cards may be awarded using Regulation VII.A.5.a.i.
- b. *Family Divisions.* When a draw size is limited in a Family Division, teams will be selected (and alternates will be ordered) using the most recently published team National Standings List of the division. Wild cards may be awarded using Regulation VII.A.5.a.i.

6. *Seeding.* Seeding will be done as described in **Regulation VII.A.6.**

D. **Section and District Level 7 Adult and Family Tournaments.** Annually, each Sectional Association shall be authorized to sanction Section Level 7 Adult and Family Tournaments. Section Level 7 Adult and Family Tournaments will be open to residents of any Sectional Association or District Association. Sectional Associations with Districts may delegate the responsibility for holding some or all of these Section Level 7 Adult and Family Tournaments to the District Associations. When District Associations sanction Level 7 Adult and Family Tournaments, they will be called District Level 7 Adult and Family Tournaments. Section and District Level 7 Adult and Family Tournaments must conform to the following parameters:

- 1. *Duration.* The Sectional Association will determine the sanction period at the time the sanction is approved. All events in a division (singles, doubles and mixed doubles) must be completed in one

day. The duration permitted to complete all events in a division may be extended at the discretion of the Tournament Committee when inclement weather or other circumstances prevent the events from finishing on time, except that the sanction period may not be extended without the approval of the Sectional Association. Sectional Associations with Districts may delegate the responsibility for authorizing a longer period for District Level 7 Tournaments to the District Associations.

2. *Draw size.* The draw size of a Section Level 7 Adult and Family Tournament will not be limited, unless the Sectional Association specifies a draw limit when the tournament is sanctioned. When a District Association sanctions a District Level 7 Adult and Family Tournament, the draw size will not be limited, unless the Sectional Association or the District Association specifies a draw limit. Section and District Level 7 Adult and Family Tournaments may not have qualifying draws.
3. *Draw format.*
  - a. *Formats permitted.* The draw formats permitted are those set forth in **Regulation VII.C.3.a.**, except that the single-elimination format is never permitted.
  - b. *Block seeding not permitted.* Block seeding is not permitted in Section and District Level 7 Adult and Family Tournaments.
  - c. *Separating event into multiple draws.* Events may be separated into multiple draws to the extent permitted in Regulation VII.A.3.c
4. *Match format.* No-Ad scoring may be used. The match shall be any of the following:
  - Best of 3 short sets with a 7-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of the third set (a 5-Point Short Set Tiebreak played at 3 games all);
  - 8-game pro set with a 7-Point Tiebreak at 8 games all;
  - One 6-game set with a 7-Point Tiebreak at 6 games all;
  - One short set with a 5-Point Short Set Tiebreak at 3 games all;
  - Timed matches (game format) of 20 minutes or longer.

Match formats may be shortened when inclement weather or other circumstances prevent a tournament from finishing on time.

**Regulation VII.D.4. Comment:** The 5-Point Short Set Tiebreak procedure is described in Appendix V.2. of the ITF Rules of Tennis. The first player/team to win 5 points wins the set, with a deciding point if the score reaches 4 points all.

5. *Tournament Director Dual Role Permitted.* A Tournament Director of a Level 7 Tournament may also serve as Referee provided the Tournament Director has fulfilled the required training set forth by the USTA Officiating Department.

**Regulation VII.D.5. Comment #1:** When the Point Penalty System is in effect, the Tournament Director shall be responsible for reporting Code of Conduct violations and Suspension Reports.

**Regulation VII.D.5. Comment #2:** When a person serves as both Tournament Director and Referee, that person shall not be a member of the Tournament Appeals Committee. See **USTA Regulation I.D.**

6. *Selection.* When a draw size is limited, selection will be done as described in **Regulation VII.A.5.a.ii**, except that Sections may use Bottom Up Selection of Players for Singles and Doubles. Players without a standing on the NSL will be selected first. Players on the NSL will then be selected utilizing the bottom up selection process. Alternates will be ordered utilizing the bottom up selection process. In doubles divisions teams will be selected (and alternates will be ordered) using the lowest combined ratings from the most recently published ratings. For example, in a draw of 16, if the 17<sup>th</sup> best doubles combination of a WTN of 46.5 (22.5 and 24.0), they would be selected over the 16<sup>th</sup> best doubles combination had a combined World Tennis Number (WTN) of 46.0 (22.4 and 23.6).
7. *Seeding.* Seeding will be done as described in **Regulation VII.A.6**.

**E. Intersectional and Closed Intrasectional Team Tournaments.**

1. *Intersectional Team Tournament.* Annually Sectional Associations are authorized to sanction Intersectional Team Tournaments between two or more Sectional Associations in any Adult or Family Division. Participation on each Sectional Association's team will be closed to players from outside the Sectional Association. The Sectional Associations participating in the Intersectional Team Tournament will determine the regulations that govern the competition. The USTA Adult Competition Committee will determine the ranking level of these tournaments, except that the highest ranking level assigned will be Level 3.
2. *Closed Intrasectional Team Tournament.* Annually a Sectional Association is authorized to sanction Intrasectional Team Tournaments in any Adult or Family Division. The tournament is closed to players from outside the Sectional Association. The Sectional Association determines the regulations that govern the competition. The USTA Adult Competition Committee will determine the ranking level of these tournaments, except that the highest ranking level assigned will be Level 4.

**Regulation VII.E. Comment:** No later than August 1 of each year prior to the holding of an Intersectional or Closed Intersectional Team Tournament or such other date determined by the USTA Adult Competition Department, the Sectional Association must submit a request to the USTA Adult Competition Committee to assign a ranking level to the following year's tournament. The Committee will assign the ranking level no later than the earlier of December 31 of that year or 90 days before the start of the tournament.

# VIII. Special Draw and Match

## Format Provisions

A. **Determining Order of Finish When Round-Robin Draw Format Played.** The player who wins the most matches is the winner. If two players are tied, then the winner of their head-to-head match is the winner. If three or more players are tied, the Referee uses the steps set forth below that correspond with the match format played. The Referee uses the steps in the order listed and will break as many ties as possible using a given step before using the next step. Defaults, withdrawals, walkovers and retirements will be treated as set forth in **USTA Regulation II.B.6.d.**

1. *One Short Set, One 6-Game Set and Timed Matches (Game Format).*

- The head-to-head win-loss record in matches involving just the tied players;
- The player with the highest percentage of games won of all games completed;
- The head-to-head win-loss record in matches involving the players who remain tied.

If all the steps have been applied and a tie still cannot be broken, a random drawing among the remaining tied players is done to determine their order of finish.

2. *All Other Match Formats.* The Referee uses the steps set forth in **USTA Regulation II.B.6.c.** and **D.**

B. **Penalties for Lateness When Timed Matches (Game Format) of 20 Minutes or Longer Used.**

1. *Timed matches (game format) of 20-30 minutes.*

- If one player or team is late five minutes or less: loss of toss plus 1 game;
- If one player or team is late 5:01-10 minutes: loss of toss plus 1 game and 2 points;
- If one player or team is late 10:01-15 minutes: loss of toss plus 2 games;
- If one player or team is late more than 15 minutes: default;
- If both players or teams are equally late up to 15 minutes: no penalty;
- If both players or teams are more than 15 minutes late: the Referee may default both players, or the Referee may reinstate the match using the principle in effect when both players are late but arrive at different times;
- If both players or teams are late but arrive at different times: In singles, the penalty accrues when the first player arrives. In doubles, the penalty accrues when the first team arrives. Penalize the opponent(s) based on the difference in their arrival times.

2. *Timed matches (game format) of more than 30 minutes.* See **USTA Regulation IV.D.20.** and the corresponding **Table 16** of the **USTA Regulations.**

The same penalties are assessed when the lateness is for resumption of a suspended match, except that there is no loss of toss. Penalties for lateness for all other match formats are set forth in **Table 16** of the **USTA Regulations.**

# IX. Adult and Family National Rankings

## A. Divisions and Categories Ranked.

### 1. *Divisions ranked.*

#### a. *Adult Open Divisions.*

- Singles and doubles rankings will be issued in the Men's and Women's Adult Open Divisions; and
- Mixed doubles rankings will be issued in the Adult Open Division.

#### b. *Adult Age Group Divisions.*

- Singles and doubles rankings will be issued in the Men's and Women's 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, and 100 Divisions; and
- Mixed doubles rankings will be issued in the 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95 and 100 Divisions.

#### c. *Adult NTRP Divisions.*

- 18 & Over Adult NTRP Divisions.* Singles, doubles and mixed doubles rankings will be issued in the Men's and Women's 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0, and 5.5 18 & Over Adult NTRP Divisions.
- 40 & Over Adult NTRP Divisions.* Singles and doubles rankings will be issued in the Men's and Women's 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, and 5.0 40 & Over Adult NTRP Divisions.
- 55 & Over Adult NTRP Divisions.* Singles and doubles rankings will be issued in the Men's and Women's 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, and 5.0 55 & Over Adult NTRP Divisions.

In the doubles and mixed doubles divisions, individual doubles rankings will be issued. The USTA Adult Competition Committee and the USTA Adult Tennis Department will determine the divisions listed above in which team doubles rankings will be issued and whether mixed doubles rankings will be issued in the 40 & Over Adult NTRP Divisions and the 55 & Over Adult NTRP Divisions.

2. *Divisions that may be ranked.* The USTA Adult Competition Committee will determine whether rankings are issued in other divisions.

B. **USTA Membership Required.** Only persons with a current USTA membership on the last day of the ranking period will be considered for a ranking.

C. **Eligibility for Ranking.** Eligibility for ranking is governed by **USTA Regulation VIII.D.**

D. **Adult and Family Ranking Period.** The Adult and Family ranking period for all players and teams is January 1 through December 31.

E. **Adult and Family Ranking Tournaments.** The following tournaments are the Adult and Family Ranking Tournaments, and only results from these tournaments are considered for ranking:

- The USTA Adult and Family National Tournaments set forth in **Regulation VI.G.-K.**;
- The Section and District Adult and Family Tournaments set forth in **Regulation VII.**; and
- ITF tournaments listed on the National Adult and Family Tournament Schedule.

**F. Points Per Round Ranking System.**

1. *Ranking points.* Players earn ranking points in Adult and Family Ranking Tournaments based on a Points Per Round ranking system. Annually the USTA Adult Competition Committee determines the ranking points earned as follows:
  - a. *Points Per Round.* The Points Per Round are those points assigned to each round in each level of an Adult and Family Ranking Tournament.
  - b. *Participation Points.* Participation Points are those points earned for participating in an Adult and Family Ranking Tournament. A player is considered a participant in a tournament when at least one point has been played or the player wins all matches by reason of withdrawal, walkover, disqualification or default. The ranking points will be published annually on the USTA website.

**Regulation IX.F.1. Comment:** The USTA Adult Competition Committee has determined that Points Per Round will not be earned in qualifying draws. Additionally, players competing in a qualifying draw do not earn Participation Points unless they qualify for the main draw.

2. *Assignment of ranking levels.* The Adult and Family ranking system will have 7 Levels of Adult and Family Ranking Tournaments. The following tournaments will be assigned to each Level:
  - a. *Level 1.* The tournaments assigned Level 1 are the USTA Level 1 Adult and Family National Championships;
  - b. *Level 2.* The tournaments assigned Level 2 are the USTA Level 2 Adult and Family National Tournaments;
  - c. *Level 3.* The tournaments assigned Level 3 are the USTA Level 3 Adult and Family National Tournaments;

- d. *Level 4.* The tournaments assigned Level 4 are the Section Level 4 Adult and Family Tournaments;
  - e. *Level 5.* The tournaments assigned Level 5 are the Section and District Level 5 Adult and Family Tournaments;
  - f. *Level 6.* The tournaments assigned Level 6 are the Section and District Level 6 Adult and Family Tournaments;
  - g. *Level 7.* The tournaments assigned Level 7 are the Section and District Level 7 Adult and Family Tournaments;
  - h. *ITF Tournaments on the National Adult and Family Tournament Schedule.* Annually the USTA Adult Competition Tennis Committee and the USTA Adult Tennis Department assign ranking levels to the ITF tournaments listed on the National Adult and Family Tournament Schedule and publish the levels on the USTA website.
  - i. *USTA National Intersectional Team Tournaments.* Annually the USTA Adult Competition Committee will assign a ranking level to the USTA National Intersectional Team Tournaments.
  - j. *Intersectional and Closed Intrasectional Team Tournaments.* Annually the USTA Adult Competition Committee will assign a ranking level to the Intersectional and Closed Intrasectional Team Tournaments sanctioned by the Sectional Associations.
  - k. *Additional Adult and Family National Tournaments.* Additional USTA Adult and Family Tournaments will be assigned a ranking level by the USTA Adult Competition Committee at the time the tournaments are sanctioned. The ranking level will be published.
3. *Treatment of byes, withdrawals, walkovers, disqualifications, defaults, retirements and abandonments or cancellations.*
- a. *Byes.* A player who advances because of a bye does not receive ranking points for advancing.
  - b. *Withdrawals, walkovers, disqualifications, defaults and retirements.* A player who advances because of a withdrawal, walkover, disqualification, default or retirement receives ranking points for advancing.
  - c. *Abandoned or canceled matches.* If a match is abandoned or canceled by tournament decision, players will be awarded ranking points based on the last round in which they won a match.
4. *Treatment of results in ITF tournaments by player under suspension by the USTA.* A player will not earn ranking points for results in ITF tournaments that count for Adult and Family ranking that are played while the player is under suspension.
5. *Ranking calculation.* Singles, doubles and mixed doubles rankings are based on the total ranking points earned during the ranking period in the division from the six ranking tournaments in which the player earned the most ranking points in singles, doubles and mixed doubles, respectively. No match may count for ranking in more than one Adult or Family division.
- 6. When players qualify for a new age group (not including NTRP), they shall carry over all ranking points to the new age group.**



- G. **Players Ranked.** Annually the USTA Adult Competition Committee will determine the minimum number of ranking points required to be earned during the ranking period to be ranked and will publish this minimum number.

**Regulation IX.G. Comment:** The USTA Adult Competition Committee has determined that players who received at least 50 ranking points in a division in tournaments that start during the ranking period will be ranked in that division. In divisions with age restrictions, players will be ranked regardless of age at the time the final rankings are published.

- H. **Responsibilities of Adult and Family Players Seeking National Ranking.** Players are responsible for regularly reviewing their player records and promptly submitting corrections to their player records to the USTA Adult Tennis Department. All corrections must be submitted no later than January 15.
- I. **Adult and Family National Ranking Committee.** The USTA Adult Competition Committee shall have a subcommittee charged with overseeing national rankings.
- J. Publication of Rankings.**
1. *Tentative rankings published by January 5.* This is the first ranking published for both singles and doubles. The tentative rankings and the individual player records shall be published by January 5 of each year.
  2. *Corrections must be received no later than January 15.* Any corrections to a player's record must be received by the USTA Adult Competition Department no later than January 15 of each year.
  3. *Final rankings published by January 20.* These final rankings are published after corrected data have been received and acted upon by the USTA and no later than January 20. Final rankings are not subject to appeal.



# X. Adult and Family National Sanctioning Regulations

The provisions of **USTA Regulations XVII.A.** apply to the sanctioning of Adult and Family national tournaments unless modified by this **Regulation XI.**

- A. **Primary Host Site Must be Organization Member.** The primary host site of each tournament listed in **Regulation V.** must be an Organization Member.
- B. **Sanctioning Process.** This process applies to all tournaments listed in **Regulation VI.**, except those tournaments that the USTA Adult Competition Committee has determined will not be put out for bid and will instead be assigned to a sanction holder by the Committee.
  - 1. *Submission of application.* The applicant submits the application on the USTA-approved form to the USTA Adult Competition Committee.

**Regulation XI.B.1. Comment:** The online sanction application form may not gather all of the information needed by the Committee to evaluate the bid. If additional information is needed, it will be submitted in writing to the Committee by the deadline.

- 2. *Application deadlines.* The USTA Adult Competition Committee sets the application deadlines and notifies the Sectional Associations and current sanction holders of these deadlines.

**Regulation XI.B.2. Comment #1:** The USTA Adult Competition Committee has set the application deadline for national tournaments as July 1 of the year before the start of the tournaments.

**Regulation XI.B.2. Comment #2:** USTA staff is responsible for publicizing the process for submitting applications for national tournaments and the deadline by which applications are due. Generally, this information is published on the USTA website, is sent to existing sanction holders and is sent to Sectional Associations, which are asked to forward the information to potential applicants.

- 3. *Approval by Sectional Associations.* Each Sectional Association approves or disapproves the applicants from its Sectional Association, except as set forth in **Regulation X.B.4.** below. If a Sectional Association disapproves an applicant, the USTA Adult Competition Committee will not consider that particular application.
  - 4. *Sectional Association approval not required when it submits competing application.* When a Sectional Association has submitted a competing application for a tournament, the USTA Adult Competition Committee approves or disapproves all applicants from that Sectional Association for that tournament.
  - 5. *Notice to competing applicants of Category I USTA Adult and Family National Championships of their right to appear before appropriate competition committee.* The chair or the chair's designee will inform all applicants of competing applications for the USTA Level 1 Adult and Family National Championships and may require them to submit additional information in order to consider the competing applications. Representatives of all applicants will be permitted to appear in person, by proxy or by electronic means to make presentations to the USTA Adult Competition Committee in support of their applications at all meetings in which applications are considered.

6. *Approval of sanctions.* The USTA Adult Competition Committee will review only the applications from:

- Applicants approved by Sectional Associations;
- Sectional Associations; and
- Applicants that are not subject to approval or disapproval by a Sectional Association because the Sectional Association submitted a competing application.

The committee approves or disapproves applications as soon as possible after the application deadline. Upon approval of a sanction, the chairperson or the chairperson's designee will notify the successful applicant. If the committee does not approve any application, or any approved applicant declines or is unable to host the tournament, then the committee may select a sanction holder to host the tournament.

7. *Tournament contract.* No sanction approval is considered final until the applicant completes and returns a tournament contract in the form approved by the USTA Adult Competition Committee and payment of the sanction fee (see **Regulation XI.C.**) has been received.

C. **Sanction Fees.** The USTA Adult Competition Department will determine the sanction fee for all tournaments it sanctions.

**Regulation XI.C. Comment:** The USTA Adult Competition Department will publish the sanction fees by September 1 of the prior year.

D. **Tournament Titles.** The USTA Adult Competition Committee establishes the titles for tournaments under its jurisdiction. The title will include, where applicable, the age, sex, surface and any other divisions of the tournament. The initials "USTA" must also be used.

E. **Television, Cable, Satellite, Internet, Radio, Film and Video Rights.** The USTA reserves all television, cable, satellite, internet, radio, film and video rights for all tournaments sanctioned by the USTA Adult Competition Committee as set forth in **USTA Regulation XVII.F.**

# Glossary

**5-Point Short Set Tiebreak.** The 5-Point Short Set Tiebreak procedure is described in Appendix V.2. of the ITF Rules of Tennis. The first player/team to win 5 points wins the set, with a deciding point if the score reaches 4 points all. The points won in the tiebreak by the losing player is put in parentheses following the set score. For example, 4-3(2).

**7-Point Set Tiebreak.** The 7-Point Tiebreak is played when the players reach 6-all in a tiebreak set or 4-all in a short set. The first player or team to win 7 points by a margin of at least 2 wins the set. The points won in the tiebreak by the losing player is put in parentheses following the set score. For example, 7-6(2) or 5-4(2).

**7-Point Tiebreak.** The 7-Point Set Tiebreak is played when the players reach 8-all in an 8-game pro set, 6 games all when one 6-game set, or 4 games all one short set is played. The points won in the tiebreak by the losing player is put in parentheses following the set score. For example, 9-8(5).

**7-Point Match Tiebreak.** The 7-Point Match Tiebreak is played in some matches in lieu of the deciding final set. The first player or team to win 7 points by a margin of at least 2 wins the final set 1-0 and the match. The points won in the tiebreak by the losing player is put in parentheses following the final-set score. For example, a match score when short sets are played is 4-2, 1-4 1-0(2).

**10-Point Match Tiebreak.** The 10-Point Match Tiebreak is played in some matches in lieu of the deciding final set. The first player or team to win 10 points by a margin of at least 2 wins the final set 1-0 and the match. The points won in the tiebreak by the losing player is put in parentheses following the final-set score. For example, a match score when Tiebreak Sets are played is 6-4, 2-6 1-0(4).

**Adult Age Group Divisions.** As a group, the Adult Divisions with age restrictions are known as the Adult Age Group Divisions. This does not include any Adult NTRP Division that has an age restriction.

**Adult and Family Ranking Tournaments.** These are the tournaments that are used for rankings.

**All-Factors Method of Seeding.** This seeding method is based on the players' chances of winning the tournament as determined by the Tournament Committee.

**Bottom-Up Selection.** This selection process selects players with no USTA ranking first.

**“Closed” Tournaments.** Tournaments designated as “closed” are open to players who meet the residency requirements in a specific geographic boundary. For example, Closed Section Level 4 Adult and Family Tournaments are open only to residents of the Sectional Association.

**Closed Section Level 4 Adult and Family Tournaments.** These are Adult and Family Ranking Tournaments sanctioned by the Sectional Associations that have been assigned a Ranking Level 4 and are closed to residents of the Section.

**Closed District Level 5 Adult and Family Tournaments.** These are Adult and Family Ranking Tournaments sanctioned by the District Associations that have been assigned a Ranking Level 5 and are closed to residents of the District.

**Closed Section Level 5 Adult and Family Tournaments.** These are Adult and Family Ranking Tournaments sanctioned by the Sectional Associations that have been assigned a Ranking Level 5 and are closed to residents of the Section.

**The Code.** *The Code* is a summary of the procedures and unwritten rules that custom dictates players should follow. USTA Regulation IV.B. requires players to follow the code in all matches without officials.

**Compass Draw.** This is a non-elimination format that is so named because players advance in four to eight different directions depending upon when they lose their first match and when they lose their subsequent matches.

**Computerized List Method of Seeding.** This seeding method is based on a computerized system of rankings or standings.

**Consolation Draw.** A consolation draw describes a group of different types of draws in which losers in the main draw play an additional match or matches against other players who have lost a match in the main draw.

**Curtis Consolation.** A 64-player Curtis Consolation is a form of Feed-In Championship that feeds losers from the round of 16 and the round of 32 into the Feed-In Consolation and the losers from the round of 16 and quarterfinals into a separate draw to play for 5th and 6th place.

**Date Block.** A date block is a date or group of dates over which a tournament has been sanctioned to take place.

**Default.** A default occurs when a player is eliminated from an event under the Point Penalty System (which includes penalties for lateness) or refuses to play for reasons other than injury, illness or personal circumstance. It is also considered a default when a junior does not start a match because of an adult deciding to discipline the junior. (Note that failure to finish a match because of an adult discipline is considered a retirement.)

**Disqualification.** A disqualification occurs when a player is removed from an event because the player was ineligible for the event.

**District Associations.** The term "District Associations" applies equally to any subdivisions of Sectional Associations.

**Division.** Division refers to one or two events in a tournament in which the eligibility criteria are identical. For example, the Adult NTRP 4.0 Women's Singles and Adult NTRP 4.0 Women's Doubles are two events but only one division because their eligibility criteria are identical.

**Event.** In the narrow sense, this term refers to one draw in a tournament. For example, the Men's Open Singles and Men's Open Doubles are two separate events within the same division—the Men's Open division. The main draw, any associated consolation and place-playoffs are considered one event. Sometimes this term is also used to refer to an entire tournament.

**Feed-In Championship (FIC).** This term refers to a type of consolation draw in which the losers of multiple rounds from the main draw are fed back into a consolation draw. There are four types of Feed-In Championships played at Adult and Family tournaments:

- A Modified FIC that feeds the losers from the first two rounds of the main draw into the consolation draw and includes a playoff for 3rd place;
- An FIC that feeds players in through the quarterfinals and includes a playoff for 3rd place; and
- An FIC that feeds players in through the round of 16 and includes a quarterfinal playoff for 3rd place and for 5th place; and
- A Curtis Consolation that feeds losers from the round of 16 and the round of 32 into the Feed-In Consolation and the losers from the round of 16 and quarterfinals into a separate draw to play for 5th and 6th place.

**First Match Consolation.** This is a consolation draw in which the losers in the first round and those second-round losers who advanced to that round by virtue of a bye or a default are entered into the consolation draw.

**Flighting.** This is a method of distributing players entered in an event into separate draws so that players of the same level are in the same draw and compete against each other. For example, assuming there are four draws (A-D) and 16 players entered, the distribution would be:

Draw A (strongest flight)	Draw B	Draw C	Draw D (weakest flight)
1	5	9	13
2	6	10	14
3	7	11	15
4	8	12	16

**Gold Ball Event.** This refers to the highest level of national competition at which USTA Gold, Silver and Bronze Balls are awarded.

**Inclement Weather.** Inclement weather may cause a Referee to suspend or postpone matches, lengthen Rest between matches or shorten a tournament to keep it on schedule.

**ITF Rules of Tennis.** The ITF Rules of Tennis are the rules for the sport of tennis. They are made by the International Tennis Federation (ITF). The USTA, as a member of the ITF, has agreed that the ITF Rules of Tennis apply to all USTA-sanctioned tournaments.

**ITF Tournaments on the National Adult and Family Tournament Schedule.** The ITF tournaments on the National Adult and Family Tournament Schedule are tournaments sanctioned by the ITF and USTA that are placed on the National Adult and Family Tournament Schedule. These tournaments are played under ITF World Tennis Masters Tour Regulations, unless these requirements have been waived by the ITF, and count for Adult and Family ranking.

**Lucky Loser.** A lucky loser is a player who has lost in the final round of the qualifying draw but replaces a withdrawing main-draw player. If there are many withdrawals from the main draw, a lucky loser may come from an earlier qualifying round.

**Modified Feed-In Championship (MFIC).** This term refers to a special form of consolation draw in which the losers from two or more rounds of the main draw are fed into the consolation draw. In Adult and Family Ranking Tournaments, the only form of Modified Feed-In that is used is one that feeds in the losers from the first two rounds.

**National Adult and Family Tournament Schedule.** This schedule is published yearly by the USTA Adult Competition Committee and the Adult Tennis Department and lists all tournaments sanctioned by the USTA Adult Competition Committee and ITF tournaments that count for ranking.

**National Standings List.** This is a monthly standings list of players in each division used, when authorized, for selection and seeding. When it is used for a Closed tournament, it can be filtered to only include residents of a Sectional Association or District Association.

**No-Ad Scoring.** This is a scoring system that is the same as the traditional system, except that when the score reaches 40-40, only one additional point is played to determine the winner of that game. In mixed doubles, a male server serves this point to the male receiver, and the female player serves this point to the female receiver. In all other events, the receiver chooses the side from which the server must serve.

**NSL Rolling Period.** The tournament results that take place during a specified period of time are used to calculate the standing and ranking lists. The NSL Rolling Period is the 52 weeks prior to the publication of National Standings Lists that is the specified period for these lists, except that as a result of the pause in USTA-sanctioned tournaments in 2020 as a result of COVID-19, an extended number of calendar weeks of results are included in the NSL Rolling Period to ensure that a full 12 actual months of results are a part of the calculation.

**NTRP Rating.** NTRP stands for National Tennis Rating Program. The system rates players by ability levels, ranging from 1.5 to 7.0. Players must have a Computer NTRP Rating (C), Tournament Exclusive NTRP Rating (T) or a Self NTRP Rating (S) to play in an Adult NTRP Tournament.

**“Open” Tournaments.** Tournaments designated as “open” are open to all players, regardless of their residence. All tournaments are “open”, unless the word “closed” is part of the title.

**Place Playoff.** A place playoff is a match that is played to determine a player’s final place in the tournament, such as a third-place playoff or a seventh-place playoff in a Feed-In Championship.

**Participation Points.** Participation Points are ranking points that are earned by participation in a tournament. They are earned when a player plays at least one point in a tournament or wins all matches by reason of withdrawal, walkover, disqualification and default.

**Points Per Round.** Points Per Round are the ranking points that are awarded for reaching specified rounds in a tournament.

**Points Per Round Ranking System.** This is a method of ranking players or teams that is based on earning ranking points for the round reached, and in some cases, for wins over highly ranked players or teams.

**Qualifiers.** Players included in the main draw as a result of their success in the qualifying tournament.

**Qualifying Draw.** A qualifying draw is a draw in which those players who advance far enough earn places in the main draw.

**Quota.** Each Sectional Association is guaranteed a minimum number of players who will be accepted into the USTA Level 1 National Championships in the Adult NTRP Divisions. This number is the Sectional Association’s quota. It is based on the number of Adult tournament players residing in the Sectional Association.

**Ratings.** Ratings are a system of categorizing or grouping players by their ability. Ratings are based on a player’s match results. NTRP is a USTA rating system that helps match opponents of similar skill levels. The USTA may require a specific rating system be utilized for determining eligibility in a level-based Adult Division.

**Sanction Period.** This is the period of time that a tournament has to complete all events in all divisions. It begins with the tournament start date and ends with the last day of the tournament. The sanction period is determined by the sanctioning body.

**Section Level 4 Adult and Family Tournaments.** See Closed Section Level 4 Tournaments.

**Section and District Level 5 Adult and Family Tournaments.** These are Adult and Family Ranking Tournaments sanctioned by the Sectional Associations that have been assigned a Ranking Level 5. Responsibility for sanctioning these tournaments may be delegated to a District Association. A limited number of these tournaments may be closed.

**Short Sets.** This is a scoring system in which the first player to win four games wins the set. If the score reaches 3-3, a 5-Point Short Set Tiebreak is played.



**Single-Elimination Format.** In this tournament format, once you lose, you are out and do not get to play any additional matches.

**Suspension Point System.** This is a system under which Adult and Family players are assessed points for unsportsmanlike behavior in USTA-sanctioned tournaments and ITF tournaments played in the U.S. A player who accumulates too many points is suspended.

**Timed Matches (Game Format).** A Timed Match (Game Format) format consists of an ongoing set during which the players continue playing games until the end of the specified period of time. The player who has won the most completed games wins the match. If the game score is tied, the player ahead in the game in progress is the winner. If a game is not in progress or the score in the game in progress is tied, one final point is played to determine the winner. The player due to serve the next point shall serve the final point.

**USTA Level 1 Adult and Family National Championship.** These are the highest level of national Adult and Family Ranking Tournaments sanctioned by the USTA Adult Competition Committee that have been assigned a Ranking Level 1. Up to four may be sanctioned annually in each division.

**USTA National Intersectional Team Tournaments.** USTA National Intersectional Team Events are tournaments for men and women in designated Adult Divisions between teams representing the Sectional Associations.

**USTA National Level 2 Adult and Family Tournaments.** These are the second highest level of national Adult and Family Ranking Tournaments sanctioned by the USTA Adult Competition Tennis Committee that have been assigned a Ranking Level 2.

**USTA National Level 3 Adult and Family Tournaments.** These are the third highest level of national Adult and Family Ranking Tournaments sanctioned by the USTA Adult Competition Committee that have been assigned a Ranking Level 3.

**Walkover.** A walkover occurs when there has been an administrative error or when a player decides not to play a match in an event because of injury, illness or personal circumstance.

**Waterfall.** This is a method of distributing players into separate draws or teams so that each draw or team is of similar overall strength. For example, assuming there are four draws (A-D) with 16 players entered, the distribution would be:

Draw A	Draw B	Draw C	Draw D
1	2	3	4
8	7	6	5
9	10	11	12
16	15	14	13

The same principle can be used to waterfall players onto teams.

**Wild Card.** The selection process for USTA Level 1 Adult Open National Championships permits the awarding of a limited number of wild cards by the Tournament Committee.

**Withdrawal.** A withdrawal occurs when a player decides not to play all matches in the event because of injury, illness or personal circumstance. A withdrawal also may occur because of tournament administrative error.

