



**PUERTO RICO TENNIS ASSOCIATION
AND CARIBBEAN TENNIS ASSOCIATION
JUNIOR CLASSIFYING RULES 2006**

1- BASE

- A. The computerized system of classification or ranking will be used. (Detailed explanation appears at the end.)
- B. The rules are the following:

2- MINIMUM CLASSIFYING OR RANKING REQUIREMENTS – SINGLES

- A. In order to obtain an interim ranking before the Sectional Championship, a junior must have played a junior ranking tournament in Puerto Rico.
- B. In order to obtain a final or interim ranking after the sectional, a junior must have played a junior ranking tournament in Puerto Rico and the Sectional Championship.
- C. When a junior does not meet the minimum requirement of the Sectional Championship and the other events designated as requirements, after said Championship or event, the junior will be eliminated from the interim ranking or classification and will be placed in the insufficient data category.

Once the junior turns older than the limit for his category, he/she will be eliminated from the interim ranking for that category and will be placed in the next category.

- D. (WHERE IT SAYS PUERTO RICO IT SHOULD SAY PUERTO RICO OR THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.)

3- MINIMUM RANKING REQUIREMENTS- DOUBLES

- A. In order to obtain an interim ranking before the Sectional, a junior must have played a junior ranking tournament in Puerto Rico.
- B. In order to obtain a final or interim ranking after the sectional, a junior must have played a junior ranking tournament in Puerto Rico, the Sectional Championship, and the Sectional doubles as required.
(THE DOUBLES SECTIONAL IS A DIFFERENT TOURNAMENT FROM THE SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AND IT IS PLAYED AT A DIFFERENT DATE.)

4- TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION

- A. A player may participate in a junior category as long as he/she does not exceed the maximum age of that category as of the last day of the month when the tournament begins.

(SEE ATTACHED PAGE – ELIGIBILITY BY AGE - WITH IMPORTANT INFORMATION.)

- B. Juniors may only play in one singles category and in one doubles category per tournament, except in the Sectional where juniors 16 years and younger may also play in the 18 & under category. After the first tournament of the year, only the juniors ranked number 1, 2, 3 & 4 in each category, except 10 & under, may play in two categories. This means whatever category the player is in, first, second, third or fourth and/or any other category that the player's age allows. No junior who plays in two singles category may play doubles.
- C. If there is a need for special arrangements regarding time, the request must be submitted and confirmed before the deadline for tournament inscriptions. Academic related circumstances, such as university entrance exams and study programs (SAT's, College Boards, etc.), as well as family activities which cannot be rescheduled – such as weddings or graduations –, will be taken into consideration.
- D. A player will be reimbursed for withdrawal from a tournament if he/she solicits it at least 7 days before the beginning of the event.
- E. A junior who, having participated in a national ranking tournament USTA Level I, Level II, or Level III, will not be able to participate in a PRTA/CTA tournament, will have his acquired points in said tournament validated for his ranking in that category. The points in Level I, II, III tournaments will be different for local ranking than for USTA National ranking. The player must show evidence that he/she participated in the national event. A player who wishes to have a tournament played abroad validated may choose which category he/she wants it validated in. This choice must be made no later than 10 calendar days after the conclusion of the tournament.
- F. A player may not register in two simultaneous tournaments.
Exception:
If a player is uncertain as to whether or not he/she will be playing a tournament outside of Puerto Rico, whose date is in conflict with a local tournament, said player will be allowed to register in both tournaments so that he/she will have the opportunity to play in the local tournament if he/she is not accepted to play in the tournament outside of Puerto Rico. If said player is accepted to play in the tournament outside of Puerto Rico, he/she must notify his/her retirement from the local tournament before it has initiated.
If a default or “no show” is reflected in the player's record, the points obtained in the tournament outside of Puerto Rico will not be awarded.
- G. In order to validate points from a higher category, there must be a minimum of eight players in the tournament. in that higher category.

- H. Juniors from other associations and federations will be allowed to play in PRTA/CTA tournaments, except those tournaments that are categorized as Closed.

5- DEFAULTS

- A. Withdrawals and walkovers qualify as victories for the winning player and Points Per Round will be added.
- B. Retirements qualify as victories for the winning player. Points Per Round will be added.
- C. A player who advances because of a default that occurs before the first point of the match is played or because his opponent is disqualified will receive Points Per Round.
- D. A player who advances because of a default that occurs after the first point of the match is played will receive Points Per Round.
- E. A player who incurs in a default in a tournament from violations to the code under the "*Point Penalty System*" or for bad conduct will lose all of the points accumulated during that tournament. Players who incur in default in singles only will only lose points accumulated for matches in the singles main and feed in draw.

6- PENALTY SYSTEM

The referee, tournament Director, or the tournament official will fill out a Code of Conduct sheet as soon as the tournament is over. This form will be on file at the PRTA/CTA offices and the necessary restrictions will be implemented according to the USTA Code of Conduct.

7- ABUSIVE CONDUCT

No *player*, coach, relative, friend or representative of a player during a tournament sanctioned by the Caribbean Tennis Association and/or the Puerto Rico Tennis Association, ITF, USTA, or any other tournament representing the Puerto Rico Tennis Association or the Caribbean Tennis Association may, under any circumstance or at any time, conduct him/herself in a manner that reflects unacceptable or abusive conduct in violation of the Code of Conduct which governs these tournaments. (See Friend at Court, Standards of Conduct.)

Abusive conduct, including that directed at another player, a tournament official, or a spectator will be considered as a violation of this rule. Violations will result in the limitation of privileges or exclusion of that person from the tournament or from all of the tournaments published in our Tournament Schedule, or any other sanction which the Junior Competition Committee decides to impose.

8- MATCH SCHEDULING

During one given day, juniors will not be able to play more than two singles matches in which the third set is a complete set, EXCEPT THOSE WHO ARE PLAYING IN MORE THAN ONE CATEGORY. A player who is playing two

categories may have to play up to four matches per day: *two matches* in each category. *In the 12- year category and in all consolations, a 10 point “super tie-breaker” will be played in the third set and it will be possible to play a maximum of three singles matches per category.* In the 10 year category, a maximum of four matches per day may be played. A minimum of one hour rest is mandatory between each singles match in the same category, and half an hour between doubles matches. The tournament directors must take into account the temperature and weather conditions before they set up the matches itinerary. Players must have a minimum of twelve hours rest between the last match of one day and the first match of the following day.

Players will not be permitted to make game time arrangements among themselves. If it becomes necessary to make a change in the time schedule, it must be made with the participation and approval of the tournament Director.

9- CONSOLATION, THIRD AND FOURTH PLACE

Matches played for third and fourth place, and consolation (if any) are part of the tournament and all tournament rules will apply as with all other matches and the results will be applied for classification or ranking.

10- ELIGIBILITY

To be included in the PRTA or CTA classification or ranking, juniors must be citizens or permanent USA residents with official residency in Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands. Official residence means the parent's official residence, or that of the permanent guardian.

It shall be each player's responsibility to be sure that there is an original, or a copy certified by personnel of the Association, of his/her Birth Certificate in the Puerto Rico Tennis Association office. If there is none, it is the player's responsibility to submit one within the first thirty days of player's first tournament. If this is not done, the player will not be able to participate in sectional tournaments, will not be endorsed for national events and will not be in the final ranking.

11- CATEGORIES BY AGE

In reaching the ranking in one particular category, the results in other categories will be considered for interim ranking, not for final ranking. Rules specified by the USTA will be applied.

12- RANKING YEAR

Ranking will be based solely on the junior's results during the calendar year under consideration and not based on the personal opinion of the Ranking Committee.

13- DOUBLES

Doubles ranking will be made individually for each player.

Registration for doubles partners will be open until 3:00 p.m. on the first Saturday the tournament is played.

14- INTERIM CLASSIFICATION OR RANKING

A monthly standing list will be prepared at the end of each month including all junior tournaments played so far that year, and will be published on the 15th of the following month.

15- APPEALS

All appeals must be in writing and addressed to:

Junior Ranking Committee
Asociación de Tenis de Puerto Rico (PRTA)
Caribbean Tennis Association
Box 40456
San Juan, P.R. 00940-0456

16- PARENT & CHILD

Categories to be played are:

10 years and under
13 years and under
16 years and under
17 years and over – Open Category

17- ENDORSEMENTS FOR PRTA AND/OR CTA TOURNAMENTS

- A. In order to be endorsed by PRTA or CTA, a junior must be classified or ranked in the category which he/she wishes to be endorsed by the PRTA or CTA under the normal classification and ranking rules.

The Endorsement Committee shall have the discretion to endorse a player who for meritorious and special circumstances (as determined by the Endorsement Committee) has not met with the requirements of classification and ranking. It shall be the player's total responsibility to provide the necessary documentation of the meritorious or special situation as it arises. The Endorsement Committee may impose mandatory conditions in order to grant an endorsement.

- B. The necessary inscription documentation for endorsement for USTA Nationals or ITF Tournaments or any other tournaments which require PRTA and/or CTA endorsement must be received at the Association office,

properly completed, 10 days before the due date specified in the information blanks. It is not guaranteed that an inscription will be processed if the documentation arrives 10 days or less before the due date.

- C. A player who agrees to represent the Section in international or national tournaments but then retires without a reason that the Endorsement Committee considers valid may be sanctioned in future representations.

18- TEAM SELECTION

Teams will be selected by the Junior Competition Committee following the existing ranking at the time of the selection, taking into account the endorsement criteria established in these regulations.

Any substitution in a given team will be based on the position that the player held in the standing list at the time the selection took place.

19- DRESS CODE

All players must dress in proper tennis clothing *as determined by the tournament referee.*

20- MATCH FORMATS

- A. The main singles draw in the 14, 16, & 18 year old categories will play the best 2 out of 3 sets. The third set will be a complete set with a 7 point tie-breaker, winning by two points at 6-6.
- B. The 12 year category and the 14, 16 & 18 consolations will play the best 2 out of 3 sets. The third set will be a 10 point super tie-breaker winning by two points.
- C. In the ten-year category, a pro-set up to eight (8) games will be played in the main draw and consolation. In order to win, the player must win by two games (example: 8-6). If there is a tie at 8-8, a tie breaker will be played with the winner being the first player to reach seven (7) points, winning by two (2) points. (Example: 9-7 if the players tie at seven points each.)
- D. In all doubles matches, an 8 game Pro-Set will be played. If there is a tie at 7-7, they will play till 9 games. If they tie at 8-8, they will play a 7 point tie-breaker, winning by 2 points. In the doubles Sectional, 14, 16, & 18 will play the best 2 out of 3 sets. The third set will be a full set with a 7 point tie-breaker, winning by 2 points at 6-6. In the 12 year category they will play the best 2 out of 3 sets. The third set will be a 10 point super tie-breaker, winning by 2 points. The ten year category will not have a doubles draw. All doubles events will be single elimination.

- 21- Winning players are responsible for gathering the tennis balls after their match and returning them to the tournament director's table. If a player refuses to follow this rule he/she will be sanctioned.

- 22. *Friends at Court will govern any aspect not explicitly covered in these rules, including time of arrival.*

Detailed explanation of Junior Classification or Ranking

“Ranking” and “seeding” in a tournament are two different things. Tournament seeding is an evaluation process in which a committee places the participants in the order of the most likely to win that particular tournament. Although this decision is based on objective data and not on personal whims, and it is based mainly on classification, other factors come into play as well - factors such as most recent results, surface on which the tournament will be played, results of non-sanctioned tournaments, and, especially, the results of matches played between particular players. “Ranking”, on the other hand, is achieved by a totally objective process where person’s opinions do not come into play.

JUNIOR RANKING SYSTEM (NJRS)

Points by NJRS Round. Included in the new ranking system is the plan to discontinue the Monthly Singles Classification presently used, and to move towards an end of the year classification in singles. These annual classifications will provide players, coaches and parents a clear way of evaluating the development and progress towards accomplishment of goals and results. We will produce and publish the *Standing Lists* monthly, but the lists will be calculated using the new logic of classification based on points using the player’s results from the current year.

The yearly classification of each player will be based on the accumulation of Points Per Round. The total number of points that a player wins throughout the year is determined in the following manner:

NJRS Points Per Round includes the following:

- A player must win a round in order to receive points in that tournament. The point tables which follow are based on draws as large as 256 players. In draws smaller than 256 players, players do not receive points until they have won a round. Byes don’t qualify as wins.
- Withdrawals and walkovers qualify as wins for the winning player and Points Per Round are added.
- Retirements qualify as wins for the winning player as well as Points Per Round.
- A player who advances because of a default that occurs before the first point of the game or because the player’s opponent is disqualified will receive Points Per Round.
- A player who incurs in a default in a tournament because of violations to the “*Point Penalty System*” or because of bad conduct will lose the points accumulated during that tournament. Players who incur in default in singles only will only lose points accumulated per match in the singles main and feed-in draw.
- Standing Lists are limited to players who remain eligible by age in the division. Points earned in a tournament of a higher age division are valid for the standing in the player’s natural age division, as well as the tournament’s division they have met the minimum ranking requirements.
- Rules for Tiebreak in the Standing Lists
 - a. A player whose mayor event has the most number of points, the second highest, the third highest, etc. in eight events.

- b. A decisive game will have to be played.
- The final ranking for the junior age division must include all players who have been eligible by age at any time during the year and have met the minimum ranking requirements. Only points earned in the division will count towards the classification in that division. Some players may qualify in more than one division by age if they were eligible by age in more than one division and if they meet the minimum requirements in each division.
- The Final Classification and the standing list will be based on a maximum of eight (8) events during one given year and out of those eight (8) events that are to be considered, there will be a maximum of four (4) Level IV events.

National Classification of Tournaments and Levels of Tournaments. The Junior Competition and Training Committee and the High Performance Division will determine the appropriate levels for the tournaments considered for the singles national classifications. Below are the levels for tournaments for 2004.

Level	National Classification Tournament
Level 1	USTA National Championship Tournament (presently called the USTA Super National Championship)
Level 2	USTA National Open Tournaments USTA Boys 18 Junior Davis Cup Championship USTA Girls 18 Junior Fed Cup Championship USTA BG 16 Intersectional Team Championships USTA BG 16, 14 & 12 Zonal Team Championships
Level 3	USTA BG 18 Intercollegiate Championship (East/West) BG 16, 14 & 12 ITF Events in the National Junior Tournaments Program (<i>Note: The BG 16, 14 & 12 Orange Bowl, Eddie Herr and International Winter Championships are the only tournaments in this category at present.</i>) Other non-ITF events in the National Junior Tournament Program
Level 4	Sectional Championships – 4 designated by each Section
Level 5	Other Section Tournaments – 8 designated by each Section

Relative Weight of Tournament Levels. The Junior Competition and Training Committee and the High Performance Division will determine the relative weight of the rounds won in each of the National Classifying Tournaments. In the following pages you will find the points tables for 2004.

Main Draw with Feed-in Championships in Points Per Round Quarterfinal

(Draw in which the losers in the quarterfinals go to the Feed-in Championship. The Feed-in Championship is considered part of the tournament to which it is connected. The points earned by the players who lose in the quarterfinals in the Main Draw are determined by the round they reach in the Feed-in Championship.) . This table identifies the value that will be given to the different level tournaments for PRITA/CTA ranking. To find out the value of these tournaments for National Ranking please refer to the Friend at Court or the National Junior Tournament Schedule.

Resultado del Jugador		Nivel 1	Nivel 2	Nivel 3	Nivel 4	Nivel 5
Campeón	1	165(4)/88(5)	165(4)/88(5)	88	165	88
2do lugar	2	165(4)/88(5)	165(4)/88(5)	88	135	72
3er lugar	3	165(4)/88(5)	165(4)/88(5)	88	120	64
4to lugar/SF**	4	165(4)/88(5)	165(4)/88(5)	88	105	56
FIC Campeón	5	165(4)/88(5)	165(4)/88(5)	88	98	52
FIC Finalista	6	165(4)/88(5)	165(4)/88(5)	88	90	48
FIC SF	7-8	165(4)/88(5)	165(4)/88(5)	88	83	44
FIC QF (los jugadores entran a esta ronda del QF del MD)	9-12	165(4)/88(5)	165(4)/88(5)	88	75	40
FIC QF Qualifying	13-16	165(4)/88(5)	165(4)/88(5)	88	68	36
FIC R16 (los jugadores entran a esta ronda del R16 del MD)	17-24	165(4)/88(5)	165(4)/88(5)	88	60	32
FIC R16 Qualifying	25-32	165(4)/88(5)	135(4)/72(5)	72	53	28
FIC R32 (los jugadores entran a esta ronda del R32 del MD)	33-48	165(4)/88(5)	120(4)/64(5)	64	45	24
FIC R32 Qualifying	49-64	165(4)/88(5)	105(4)/56(5)	56	38	20
FIC R64 (los jugadores entran a esta ronda del R64 del MD)	65-96	135(4)/72(5)	90(4)/48(5)	48	30	16
FIC R64 Qualifying	97-128	105(4)/56(5)	83(4)/44(5)	44	23	12
FIC R128 (los jugadores entran a esta	129-192	90(4)/48(5)	75(4)/40(5)	40	15	8

ronda del R128 del MD)						
FIC R128 Qualifying	193-256	0	0	0	0	0
FICR256 (los jugadores entran a esta ronda del R256 del MD)		0	0	0	0	0

** If there is no tie-break for 3rd and 4th place, the semifinalist will receive points on this line.

Players in each position receive the number of points per victory that appear in this table.

(4) Amount of points in the validation of a level 4 tournament

(5) Amount of points in the validation of a level 5 tournament

Note: Validation of points: When a player participates in a team competition and has the right to validate that tournament, the points this player receives will correspond to the position said player occupied at the time of team selection. This means that if the player holds the first position in the standing list at the time of team selection, this player will obtain points as if he/she had won the tournament that he/she is validating, and so forth.

ELIGIBILITY BY AGE

(and what this really means)

REGULATIONS

In tournaments endorsed by the USTA/CTA/PRTA, the player may participate in the category of his age group up until the month before he/she turns the age of the next category. Instead of all players having to change categories on January 1st of the year they turn the next age, each player will have the option of continuing in the same category until the month before his/her birthday. This means that players who are 12, 14, 16, or 18 may continue playing in their respective divisions until the month before they turn 13, 15, 17, and 19, respectively. For example, a player who turns 15 in October may play in the 14 and under category until September 30. From October 1st on, said player will have to play in the 16 and under division. What happens if a tournament begins one month and ends the next? The starting date determines the player's eligibility for said tournament. For example: a player who turns 15 in April will be eligible to play in the 14 and under category in a tournament that begins in March and ends in April.

Players must also note that the International Tennis Federation (ITF) has not changed its rules and that in those events sanctioned by them the eligibility rules will continue to be the same as they are now (calendar year).

The Junior Competition Committee, as well as the Endorsement Committee are available to advise any player who wishes advice.

These eligibility rules eliminate the traditional "bad birthday". Each player will have the opportunity to play at a more leveled field. This will benefit all players at all levels of competition, whether they be beginners or already classified nationally. Each player will have the opportunity to be one of the oldest in his/her division at some point. Players

whose birthdays are at the end of the year will be able to play against players of their same age for a longer period of time, instead of having to compete against those older than them many months before their birthday. This change also permits players who are 18 years old and are in their senior year of high school and who will turn 19 during the last semester to be able to participate in junior events during their last high school semester.

This change will not be detrimental to any player; instead, it favors most of them.

Should any doubt result regarding these changes, please contact the PRTA office.