



USTA/Midwest Section Tournament Regulations (Effective as of November 2015)

The USTA *Friend at Court* contains the complete listing of USTA regulations for tournaments. Please note that the regulations listed below are specific to the USTA/Midwest Section. A PDF of the [USTA Friend at Court](#) is also available via the USTA website.

I. PRE-TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

A. Applicability of USTA Regulations

See USTA *Friend at Court*

B. Application for Sanction and Appointment of Tournament Committee

See USTA *Friend at Court*

C. Tournament Committee

See USTA *Friend at Court*

D. Tournament Appeals Committee

See USTA *Friend at Court*

E. Match Formats and Scoring

See USTA *Friend at Court*

F. Balls and Ball Change Pattern

See USTA *Friend at Court*

G. Player Eligibility

See USTA *Friend at Court*

H. Entry Process

See USTA *Friend at Court*

II. DRAW REGULATIONS

A. Seeding

While there is no requirement that every tournament have seeding, most tournaments of the elimination and compass draw types, as distinguished from round robins, use seeding to ensure that players of recognized outstanding ability do not confront each other in the early rounds. See USTA *Friend at Court* for criteria.

B. Making the Draw

See USTA *Friend at Court*

C. Changes in Draw

See USTA *Friend at Court*

D. Scheduling Matches

See USTA *Friend at Court*

III. CONDUCTING THE TOURNAMENT

A. Tournament Committee Responsibilities Once Tournament Starts

See USTA Friend at Court

B. Referee Responsibilities After Draw Has Been Made

1. *Generally supervise all aspects of play.* The Referee (or in the Referee's absence the Deputy Referee) shall be present during play. The Referee exercises general supervision over all aspects of play, including, but not limited to, the conduct and actions of players, coaches, parents, spectators, officials, ballpersons, groundskeepers, and the administrative crew. The Referee shall use judgment in all situations not specifically covered by the **ITF Rules of Tennis** or **USTA Regulations**.

2. *Schedule matches.* The Referee is responsible for scheduling matches and assigning courts (including moving a match in progress to another court at any time). Normally a player's singles match will precede the player's doubles match, but this is not mandatory. A player's request for information as to the scheduled time of the player's first match shall be honored. (See **USTA Regulation II.D.6.**) The Referee shall not schedule any division to play on more than one surface type, except that the Referee may do so when necessary to complete the tournament on time.

- a. In junior tournaments when evening matches are planned, the younger age groups should be scheduled before older age groups.
- b. Players may not be required to play more than two singles matches per day in any event in all USTA/Midwest Section sanctioned junior tournaments, except when a tiebreaker is used in lieu of a third set, in which case a player would be allowed to play three (3) singles matches in one day.
- c. Players may participate in more than one age group in the same tournament, if permitted by the tournament committee. If due to rain or other unforeseen circumstances, dual participation results in the delay of the tournament, in the opinion of the Referee, the player may be defaulted from one of the events.
- d. A junior player should not be required to start the days' matches before 8:00 a.m.
 - A junior or senior player should be given at least 12 hours of rest between the completion of their last match of any day and the start of ~~play~~ of their first match on the following day;
 - In the 10 & Under divisions, no match shall start nor shall a suspended match resume after 9 p.m. *However, it is strongly recommended for 10 & Under divisions, no match should start, nor should a suspended match resume after 8:00 p.m.;
 - In the 12 and 14 divisions, no match should start nor should a suspended match resume after 9 p.m.; and
 - In the 16 and 18 divisions no match should start nor should a suspended match resume after 10 p.m.

(This does not apply to a player who enters more than one singles age division.) See USTA Regulation II.D. For additional information on scheduling matches, refer to the USTA *Friend at Court*.

IV. PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONDUCT

A. Checking in at Tournament

See USTA Friend at Court

B. Player Responsibilities under *The Code*

See USTA Friend at Court

C. Standards of Conduct

See USTA Friend at Court

D. Point Penalty System

1. *Mandatory use in any sanctioned tournament.* The Point Penalty System applies to violations occurring during the warm-up and the match in any sanctioned tournament except that it does not apply to Orange or Red Ball Tennis.

2. *Purposes of the System.* The purposes of the system are to:

- a. deter unsportsmanlike conduct;
- b. ensure compliance with the continuous-play rule; and
- c. ensure on-time appearance for matches.

The objective of the Point Penalty System is not to punish, but to secure compliance with the **ITF Rules of Tennis** and **USTA Regulations**.

3. *Code violations for misconduct.* Misconduct shall be penalized pursuant to **Table 14**.

4. *Time violations.* Time violations shall be penalized pursuant to **Table 15**.

5. *Delay between points.* When practical in tournaments using a certified official in direct observation of the match, the time that shall elapse from the moment the ball goes out of play until the ball is struck shall not exceed 20 seconds.

6. *Officials authorized to impose penalties.*

a. *Referee.* A Referee may impose a penalty only if the Referee has seen or heard enough to be able to determine with reasonable certainty that a violation has occurred. A Referee may also impose a penalty based on the report of what a Court Monitor or official has seen or heard or an admission from a player whose conduct is in question.

b. *Chair Umpire.* The Chair Umpire is primarily responsible for imposing penalties in a chaired match. If a Line Umpire observes a conduct violation or is the object of unsportsmanlike conduct by a player, the Line Umpire shall, as soon as possible and without disrupting play, Inform the Chair Umpire. The Chair Umpire shall then make a decision, under the Point Penalty System.

c. *Roving Umpire.* Roving Umpires are primarily responsible for imposing penalties in matches without Chair Umpires. Roving Umpires may impose a penalty only if they have seen, heard, or otherwise observed enough to be able to determine with reasonable certainty that a violation has occurred.

7. *Flagrant violations.* While the imposition of penalties normally follows the progression of penalties from point to game to default found in **Table 14**, any flagrantly unsportsmanlike act may result in immediate default. If an Umpire imposes the default, the player may appeal to the Referee. If the Referee imposes the default, the player may appeal to the Tournament Appeals Committee.

8. *Appeal of penalty to Referee.* A player has the right to appeal a penalty, but the appeal is limited to questions of law. See **Appendix V, ITF Rules of Tennis**.

9. *Penalties to be imposed on a doubles team.* A penalty on a member of a doubles team is considered to have been imposed on the team for all purposes except that a doubles partner who was not responsible for the penalty:

- IS not penalized under the USTA Suspension Point System;
- Does not lose ranking points for the tournament in junior divisions (See USTA Regulations IX.C.8.e); and
- May play in other events in the tournament (See USTA Regulation IV.E.6)

10. *Penalties treated as if points actually played.* All penalties under the Point Penalty System are treated as though the penalty points or penalty games actually had been played so far as serving order, court occupancy, and ball change are concerned. One exception, as **Table 16** indicates, is that a player penalized for lateness also shall be deemed to have lost the toss provided for in **Rule 9 of the ITF Rules of Tennis**. The penalized player is allowed to choose an option, but only after the opponent has chosen. A second exception is that the first ball change shall be calculated from the first game played. The choice to serve or receive shall apply to the first game played.

11. *Time delays when each side is responsible.* If both players or both teams are equally responsible for delay during a match, any penalty will be imposed upon the server.

12. *Penalties after medical condition develops.* Except during the warm-up, a player suffering from a medical condition may buy time with a penalty.

13. *Penalties imposed between games or before match.* A penalty imposed between games or before the start of a match shall apply to the first point of the next game scheduled to be played.

14. *Point penalties.* A point penalty is scored as though the player had played and lost what would have been the next point.
15. *Player may not decline penalty.* A player who is the beneficiary of a penalty imposed upon the opponent may not decline to accept it. A player who disobeys the instructions of an official in such a case is liable to being defaulted.
16. *Reporting penalties to Referee.* When feasible, a Chair Umpire or Roving Umpire should promptly notify the Referee that a code violation has been assessed. After a match, officials shall report to the Referee each code violation imposed.
17. *Other disciplinary action.* Nothing in the Point Penalty System rules out a subsequent imposition of monetary fines, suspensions, or other disciplinary actions by whatever governing body has jurisdiction.
18. *Announcing score after penalty.* After a point or game penalty, the new score should be announced. After assessing a penalty that ends the match, the official should delay announcing the score until the official determines whether the penalized player will appeal.
19. *Lateness.* Lateness for a match, lateness for resumption of a suspended match, and lateness after a rest period shall be penalized pursuant to **Table 16**.
20. *Default for failure to arrive on time.*
- a. *Discretion of Referee.* The Referee is responsible for issuing defaults for failure to arrive on time. After considering all relevant circumstances, the Referee may elect not to default a player or to reverse a default for failure to arrive within 15 minutes of the time when the match was scheduled and called.
 - b. *Appeal of default.* If the Referee defaults a player for failure to arrive within 15 minutes of the time when the match was scheduled and called, the player may appeal the default to the Tournament Appeals Committee. The Committee may reverse the default after consideration of all relevant circumstances. If the Committee reverses the default and if an alternate already has been placed in the draw, the Committee may not reinstate the defaulted player in the main draw or add the player to the consolation unless an opening becomes available.
 - c. *Penalties assessed before default.* If the Referee elects not to declare a default, or if a declared default is reversed by either the Referee or the Tournament Appeals Committee, any penalties for lateness assessed before the default shall stand unless the lateness was caused by an error of a tournament official. For example, if player A, after having been assessed a penalty of loss of toss plus 3 games, is defaulted for failure to arrive within 15 minutes of the time when the match was scheduled and called, and the default is subsequently reversed, the penalty of loss of toss plus 3 games shall stand, and player A begins play with the score 0-3.
- The player who received the benefit of the default shall have no right to appeal the reversal of the default.
21. USTA/Midwest Section Suspension Point System
See *USTA Friend at Court* for USTA Suspension Point System.
- a. *Application.* The Suspension Point System shall apply to all USTA sanctioned singles and doubles events. Suspension points will not be assessed against a player for the action of that player's doubles partner.

b. *Suspension Points*. Suspension Points will be assessed against a player for the following:

Violation	Midwest Suspension Points
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i. Point Penalty System. For each violation under the Point Penalty System (USTA Regulation IV.D.) (excluding time violations for delay between points, after warm-up, after 90-second changeover, after a Set Break), two points shall be assessed for the following:

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

ii. Defaults. In addition to the suspension points assessed under **USTA Regulation III.A.12.b.**, suspension points shall be assessed for the following:

• Default for a flagrantly unsportsmanlike act on or off the court	8
• Default for refusal to play or continue to play for any reason other than illness, injury, or personal emergency	5
• Default because of an adult decision	5
• Default for no-show	5
• Default due to later arrival for a match	1
• Disqualification for ineligibility	3

iii. Withdrawals.

• Entering two or more tournaments, matches or exhibitions scheduled to take place at the same time, in whole or in part, unless each Tournament Committee involved approves the multiple entries in writing	5
• Withdrawal from a tournament (singles or doubles) after entries have closed for any reason other than injury, illness or personal emergency	4

iv. Unsportsmanlike conduct.

• Unsportsmanlike or inappropriate conduct off court at locations such as the tournament site, hotel or housing	5
• Not using best efforts to win	2

v. Gross misconduct.

• Physical act of violence against another person on or off the court by a player, parent, relative, coach or other person associated with a player	10
• Illegal use of drugs or possession of illegal drugs	8
• Possession or consumption of alcohol beverages	8
• Gambling activity (as defined in USTA Regulation IV.C.20)	8
• Destruction of property	8

vi. Playing while under suspension. Competing in any sanctioned tournament while under suspension by the USTA or one of its Sectional Associations

vii. Suspension points received at international tournaments. Each suspension point assessed a player by the International Tennis Federation at tournaments not on the National Junior Schedule

c. *Persons authorized to file suspension point reports with the Referee.*

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

- Tournament committee members;
- Chief Umpire;
- Deputy Referees;
- On-court officials (including Roving Officials);
- Court Monitors specifically authorized by the Referee;
- Club or facility managers;
- Hotel or dormitory managers
- Families housing players; and
- Player development staff.

d. *Reporting of suspension points assessed.* The tournament referee of any USTA/Midwest Section Level 1-4 tournament is responsible for inputting the suspension points assessed in TennisLink within three days of the end of the tournament.

e. *Notice to player and request for reconsideration.* Only the Referee, Designee of a Sectional Association that sanctions the tournament, or the Director of Junior Competition may assess suspension points. Points shall be reported within three days after the end of a tournament. Failure to report shall not invalidate any penalties imposed or suspension points assessed.

f. *Reconsideration decision.* Upon receipt of a timely request for reconsideration, the Officials Committee shall review the decision to assess the suspension points. If the Officials Committee disagrees with the decision to assess the suspension points, the assessment of suspension points shall be rescinded. The USTA/Midwest Section shall notify the player's parent or guardian of the rescission of the decision to assess suspension points. The decision of the Officials Committee to rescind the assessment of suspension points is final and cannot be appealed. If the Officials Committee agrees with the decision to assess the suspension points, the USTA/Midwest Section shall finalize the assessment of the suspension points against the player.

g. *Assessing suspension points and notice of right to appeal.* After the denial of a player's request for reconsideration, the USTA/Midwest Section shall notify the player's parent or guardian, in writing of the reconsideration decision and that the suspension points will be assessed. The player may appeal the matter to the Grievance Committee of the USTA/Midwest Section. The notice shall be sent to the player's parent or guardian, by certified mail, return receipt requested or by any other means capable of providing proof of receipt of notice. The notice shall also state that the assessment of the suspension points shall become final unless the player's written appeal is received at the USTA/Midwest Section within ten (10) days.

h. *Appeal process.* After a timely appeal is filed, the Grievance Committee shall hear the appeal in accordance with Article VI, Section 5(d), of the Bylaws of the USTA/Midwest Section and render a decision. The player may submit any additional information concerning the assessment of the suspension points to the Grievance Committee. The Grievance Committee shall not be bound by the Officials Committee's decision on reconsideration.

The player may appeal the decision of the USTA/Midwest Section Grievance Committee, to the USTA/Midwest Section Board of Directors in accordance with Article VI, Section 5(e) of the Bylaws.

The player's appeal, addressed to the President of the USTA/Midwest Section, must be received at the USTA/Midwest Section within ten (10) days after receipt of the written notice of the decision of the Grievance Committee. The appeal to the Board of Directors shall be accompanied by the filing fee of \$225.00. The filing fee shall be refunded if the player wins the appeal. The decision of the Board of Directors as to the appeal shall be final.

i. *Suspension of Player.* Any player who receives 10 or more suspension points (the assessment of each has become final) within a 12- month period shall be suspended for 12 consecutive weeks from competing in any USTA sanctioned events. As a consequence of being suspended:

- i. If, during the period of a player's suspension, no USTA/Midwest Section Championship or Designated Tournaments are held, the player shall not be eligible to play in the next USTA/Midwest Section Championship or Designated Tournament that is held following the expiration of the suspension period.
- ii. During the period of the suspension a player shall not be endorsed, and any prior endorsement shall be withdrawn, to any or all USTA National Championships that require USTA/Midwest Section endorsement and occur during the suspension period.
- iii. If no USTA National Championship requiring USTA/Midwest Section endorsement is held during the period of a player's suspension, the player shall not be eligible for endorsement to the next USTA National Championship that is held following the expiration of the suspension period.

At the conclusion of the suspension period, 10 suspension points shall be removed from the player's suspension point record. IT SHALL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH PLAYER TO BE AWARE OF THE NUMBER OF SUSPENSION POINTS THE PLAYER HAS ACCUMULATED.

j. *Notification of suspension.* When the USTA /Midwest Section has verified that a player has accumulated 10 or more suspension points within a 12-month period, it shall notify the player's parent and/or guardian of the suspension. This notice shall be sent to the player's parent and/or guardian by certified mail, return receipt requested or by any other means capable of providing proof of receipt of notice. The notice shall also inform the player of rights to appeal the suspension.

k. *Right to appeal suspension.* The player may appeal the decision of suspension to the USTA/Midwest Section Grievance Committee only if the appeal, is received at the USTA/Midwest Section within ten (10) days of receipt of the notice of suspension. The player shall not be permitted to raise in the appeal any issue in connection with the suspension decision that the player previously waived or that the player did timely challenge but that was previously decided. The Grievance Committee shall hear the appeal in accordance with Article VI, Section 5(d) of the Bylaws, and shall notify the player in writing of its decision and of the player's further appeal rights. The player may appeal the decision of the USTA/Midwest Section Grievance Committee to the USTA/Midwest Section Board of Directors in accordance with Article VI, Section 5(e) of the Bylaws. The player's appeal, addressed to the President of the USTA/Midwest Section, must be received at the USTA/Midwest Section office within ten (10) days of the player's receipt of the notice of the decision of the Grievance Committee. Only those issues that were the subject of the appeal before the USTA/Midwest Section Grievance Committee may be appealed to the Board of Directors. The appeal to the Board of Directors shall be accompanied by the filing fee of \$225.00. The filing fee shall be refunded if the player wins the appeal. The decision of the Board of Directors as to the suspension is final.

l. *Effective date of suspension:*

- i. If an appeal to the USTA/Midwest Section Grievance Committee is not requested, the suspension will begin on the day following the ten (10) day period within which the player had the right to appeal.
- ii. If an appeal to the USTA/Midwest Section Grievance Committee is requested, and if the Grievance Committee affirms the suspension, then the suspension will begin one day after the date of the decision of the Grievance Committee affirming the suspension. However, the suspension will be stayed if the player timely files an appeal of the decision to the USTA/Midwest Section Board of Directors.
- iii. If any appeal from a decision of the USTA/Midwest Section Grievance Committee is made to the USTA/Midwest Section Board of Directors, and if the Board of Directors affirms the suspension, then the suspension will begin on the date of the decision of the USTA/Midwest Section Board of Directors affirming the suspension.

All District Associations in the USTA/Midwest Section will also be notified in writing when the suspension becomes effective. The USTA will be notified of the suspension and other Sections may be notified of the suspension.

m. *No Suspension Points assessed for withdrawals due to illness, injury, or personal emergency.* No suspension points shall be assessed for a default or withdrawal that is due to illness, injury or personal emergency.

n. The USTA/Midwest Section Board of Directors shall adopt such rules as may be appropriate for the implementation of the Suspension Point System.

22. *USTA/Midwest Section Recognition of Suspended Players.* The USTA/Midwest Section shall maintain a record of suspended players. The sharing of information regarding player suspensions includes, but it is not limited to, tournament directors, tournament referees, tournament committees, districts, sections, and the USTA.

23. *USTA/Midwest Section Recognition of a Suspension From Another Section.* The USTA/Midwest Section shall recognize a suspension of a player from another section provided that the affected player has exhausted all appeals in connection with the suspension.

POINT PENALTY SYSTEM (PPS) Code Violations and Penalties Tables

See *USTA Friend at Court*

E. Defaults and Disqualifications

See *USTA Friend at Court*

POST-TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS

A. Responsibilities of Tournament Committee and Referee After Completion of Tournament

See *USTA Friend at Court*

B. Grievances

Any official, volunteer, player, or person associated with a player (including, but not limited to, a parent or coach) who observes a violation of **USTA Regulations**, Tournament Regulations for the USTA/Midwest Section, standards of conduct, fair play, or good sportsmanship in any tournament sanctioned by the USTA/Midwest Section may file a written grievance with the Chairman of the Grievance (or comparable) Committee of the USTA/Midwest Section.

COMPLAINTS MUST BE MADE ON THE OFFICIAL USTA/MIDWEST SECTION GRIEVANCE FORM. THE FORM, AS WELL AS A COPY OF THE USTA/MIDWEST SECTION GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE, MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE USTA OFFICE OR FROM THE USTA/MIDWEST SECTION WEBSITE:

USTA/Midwest Section Grievance Committee

1310 East 96th Street, Suite 100

Indianapolis, IN 46240

Tel: 317-577-5130

Website: http://www.midwest.usta.com/Juniors/rules_and_regulations/

If the grievance involves conduct arising out of any of the following tournaments, the grievance shall be filed with the Chair of the USTA Grievance Committee, c/o USTA Executive Director, 70 West Red Oak Lane, White Plains, New York 10604:

- Junior tournaments on the National Junior Tournament Schedule;
- Adult, Senior, and Family tournaments on the National Adult, Senior, and Family Tournament Schedule;
- USTA National Intersectional Team events;
- Category I USTA Wheelchair National Championships, or
- International competitions in which USTA players participate. (See **USTA Bylaw 43** for procedures and time frames for the filing of grievances and appeals.)

C. Suspensions by Sectional Associations

A Sectional Association that imposes a suspension from participation in tournaments as the result of a grievance arising out of a sectional matter, or as a result of a suspension imposed under its Suspension Point System, shall report the suspension to the USTA National office within seven days of the suspension becoming final under the Sectional Association's procedures. If the suspension involves Adult, Senior, Family, or Wheelchair tournaments, the Sectional Association shall forward a copy of the notice of suspension to the USTA National Competitive Play Department. If the suspension involves Junior tournaments, the Sectional Association shall forward a copy of the notice of suspension to the USTA Junior and Collegiate Competition Department. The failure to forward the notice of suspension within seven days after the suspension becomes final shall not invalidate the suspension.