



## 2016 Award Criteria

Unless otherwise noted, **all nominees must be current members of USTA**, must have participated in USTA Missouri Valley events and cannot be members of the USTA Missouri Valley section staff. The supporting information for each nomination is critically important as the Section Awards Committee reviews up to 200 nomination forms each year. Any nomination form which does not have adequate information, does not provide photos or endorsement letters when appropriate places the nominee at a distinct disadvantage.

All nominations are to be submitted using the approved on-line nomination system no later than **October 1, 2016 at 11:59 p.m.**

### 2016 USTA Missouri Valley Awards

#### COMMUNITY SERVICE EXCELLENCE

Community service awards are given for recent significant contributions made to tennis development by individuals actively involved in teaching tennis through community centers, schools and parks, inner city or suburban programs.

Criteria to consider when nominating are:

- 1) Scope of program
- 2) Depth of involvement in community, e.g., impact on community's overall recreational picture
- 3) New and innovative features developed as a result of candidate's activities
- 4) Inspirational and motivational work with adults or juniors
- 5) Involvement of other recreational organizations such as the YMCA/YWCA, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc., in the establishment of a community oriented program
- 6) Association with the USTA Missouri Valley section and/or district
- 7) Must be a current USTA Member

#### FACILITY OF THE YEAR

Recognition will be awarded to outstanding tennis facilities under the jurisdiction of:

- 1) A parks and recreation department
- 2) An educational institution
- 3) Non-profit entities, or
- 4) Private and/or commercially owned and operated facilities with USTA and other 'growth of tennis' programs

Criteria to be considered when nominating a facility are:

- 1) Quality of each court area and surface
- 2) Quality of the court enclosure and lighting
- 3) Overall layout and adaptation to the site
- 4) Accessories and amenities
- 5) Evidence of good and green maintenance
- 6) Must be a current USTA Organizational Member

Tennis programs held should include:

- 1) USTA programs
- 2) 10 and Under Tennis
- 3) Other tennis-related programs
- 4) Important contributions to the game of tennis

Bonus factor: court time is donated for fundraising and community events.

USTA Outstanding Facility Award has a different national award nomination process, categories and timeline from the section award. [http://www.usta.com/About-USTA/USTA-Awards/outstanding\\_facility/](http://www.usta.com/About-USTA/USTA-Awards/outstanding_facility/)

### **MEMBER ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR\***

Recognition of outstanding service by clubs and other member organizations. The section winner will be submitted for consideration for the USTA Member Organization of the Year national award presented at the USTA Annual Meeting.

- 1) Service and impact to the community.
  - a) Donating facilities for amateur tournaments of all types
  - b) Providing courts for free clinics or seminars for the general public
  - c) Providing facilities for interscholastic play for high school and college tennis
  - d) Providing facilities for USTA programs (tournaments, Leagues, High Performance, etc.)
  - e) Allowing promising non-member juniors the use of the courts
  - f) Taking active role in section or district affairs
  - g) Allowing use of facilities for special event (e.g. charities, wheelchair, etc.)
  - h) Involvement and support of diversity and inclusion initiatives and programs
  - i) Allowing use of facilities for section or district events or training
- 2) Service to organization's members which demonstrates support of the USTA Mission and may include the following:
  - a) Maintaining an active tennis program including:
    - i) Tennis ladders and other recreational programs including intersectional/inter-organizational play
    - ii) Adult and junior tournaments in various categories, especially USTA Sanctioned Tournaments
    - iii) Encouraging and promoting play in USTA Leagues and USTA Junior Team Tennis
    - iv) 10 and Under Tennis programs, Schools Tennis and NJTL programs
    - v) Adaptive tennis programs
    - vi) Senior initiatives
  - b) Maintaining effective systems for keeping membership informed of USTA section and district tournaments and activities and of pertinent changes in USTA and sectional rules and regulations
  - c) Encouraging and assisting junior players
- 3) General service to the game of tennis
  - a) Activities that promote and strengthen tennis within the member organizations and in the community
  - b) Activities promoting the benefits of individual membership in the USTA
- 4) Must be a current USTA Organizational Member

### **TENNIS FAMILY OF THE YEAR\***

This award is made annually to the family who in recent years has done the most to promote amateur tennis - primarily on a volunteer basis. Ideally, all nominated members of the family should participate in some way, either as players or by offering their services in promoting tennis. The section winner will be submitted for consideration of the USTA Tennis Family of the Year national award that is presented at the USTA Annual Meeting.

Criteria: The family must be active in volunteering in some or all of the following:

- 1) Serving as a volunteer in fostering tennis at any level of the USTA such as national, section, district and/or local board or committee tournament and adult and/or junior programs.
- 2) Developing and/or sustaining junior and adult programs
- 3) Holding office(s) at the various levels of the USTA
- 4) Volunteer coaching
- 5) Competing in tennis, such as high school or college varsity (include age category rankings), League or other organized play, including social/recreational
- 6) Enriching the game of tennis in other related activities (i.e. non-tennis activity, honors and/or achievements.)

Please include the years of service for each activity for each nominated family member.

All family members listed in the nomination must be current USTA Members.

### **JUNIOR PLAYER (S) OF THE YEAR** (1 female and 1 male)

Junior Player(s) of the year award is based primarily on high performance results at USTA and USTA Missouri Valley tournaments, sportsmanship, and a demonstration of raising the game to its highest level. The nominated player should exhibit participation in the highest level of competition offered by USTA.

Please list by year all accomplishments that highlight the nominees' careers, including ranking information. Emphasis should be placed on the last 12 months, but previous performance could also be considered. Examples of accomplishments could be results at USTA tournaments, invitation to special camps or events, or selection to participate on special teams etc.

Must not have a Code of Conduct report on file in the last 12 months. Refer to the Suspension Points Record in TennisLink.

Must be a current USTA Member.

### **ADULT PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

Adult Player of the Year award is based on performance, current accomplishments, sportsmanship and the promotion of tennis in general, raising the standard of play to its highest level. Include ranking information.

Please list by year all accomplishments that highlight the nominees' careers, including ranking information. Note: Recreational Players should be nominated for the Recreational Player Award.

Must be a current USTA Member.

### **RECREATIONAL PLAYER(S) OF THE YEAR** (1 adult and 1 junior)

Recognition of an Adult player (4.0 and below) who participates in USTA League Tennis or USTA Team Tennis (adult) on a regular basis **AND** recognition of a junior player who participates in USTA Junior Team Tennis on a regular basis. Both recipients should demonstrate good sportsmanship and a love of the game.

Must be a current USTA Member.

### **OUTSTANDING JUNIOR TOURNAMENT**

An outstanding sanctioned junior tournament will include most of the following criteria and must not be a section level event:

- 1) Excellent tournament organization
- 2) Fair and proper seeding
- 3) Fair and equitable scheduling
- 4) Adequate staffing for tournaments (referees and umpires, monitors, desk staff and other volunteers)
- 5) Amenities such as water and ice or concessions, towels, spectator viewing area, shade (outdoors)
- 6) Information dissemination, the use of technology to improve tournament
- 7) Good site conditions with adequate indoor backup if needed
- 8) Applicable rules and regulations followed
- 9) Efforts to promote and reward good sportsmanship

Please include details on what distinguishes this event as an outstanding tournament (number of participants, exemplary use of technology, organization of volunteers, tournament survey results, etc.)

This award will not be given to a Junior section level event that is run by USTA Missouri Valley staff.

### **OUTSTANDING ADULT/SENIOR TOURNAMENT**

An outstanding sanctioned adult/senior tournament will include most of the following criteria:

- 1) Excellent tournament organization
- 2) Fair and proper seeding
- 3) Fair and equitable scheduling
- 4) Adequate staffing for tournaments (referees and umpires, monitors, desk staff and other volunteers)
- 5) Amenities such as water and ice, concessions, towels, spectator viewing area, shade (outdoors)
- 6) Information dissemination, the use of technology to improve tournament
- 7) Good site conditions with adequate indoor backup if needed
- 8) Multiple matches and/or creative formats (e.g. 1 day tournaments)
- 9) USTA Missouri Valley regulations and contract requirements followed
- 10) Rules and regulations followed as outlined in Friend at Court

This award will not be given to an Adult section level event that is run by Missouri Valley staff.

### **OUTSTANDING OFFICIAL\***

The USTA Missouri Valley Officials Award shall recognize dedication, service, and expertise, and be based upon a high standard of officiating and providing appropriate leadership, on and off the court, in the pursuit of umpiring in the USTA Missouri Valley. The umpire shall have worked substantially at section/amateur USTA events, have a current certification based at least in part on chair or line umpiring, be a positive role model, and have a supportive attitude toward the grassroots program. The USTA database will be used as the source of the current work record. The recipient shall be selected in consultation with the USTA Missouri Valley Officials Committee Chair.

Bonus factor: Referee or Roving certification.

Note: an official who is working predominately ITA and/or professional events will not be considered.

### **OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTOR TO YOUTH HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM**

This person has done the most to advance High Performance programs. He/She has assisted in searching for new talented junior players, 10 and Under Tennis, involvement with Team USA camps and/or is a Regional Training Center Coach working with a highly successful junior(s).

Junior successes to be considered include:

- Players with high national rank
- Players making it to the Quarters and beyond in National tournaments
- Players are top finishers in top Section event (Sweet 16)
- Players who earn sportsmanship awards
- Players who are invited to National Camps

Bonus factor: Completed a USTA High Performance program

Must be a current USTA Member.

### **OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTOR TO THE USTA LEAGUE TENNIS PROGRAM**

This person(s) has made significant contributions to the USTA League Tennis program. He/She has participated on teams, assisted in the promotion of the program, assisted in the administration of the leagues and/or volunteered at section championships.

Please provide years of service, type of service provided and community activity. Documented information showing how, through their efforts, the league player experience has been enhanced, program was developed and implemented, and/or has increased league participation or retention in the section.

Bonus factors: long-time service, and participation on section or district committees.

Must not be anyone who receives a stipend or monetary remuneration.

Must be a current USTA Member.

### **EVENT OF THE YEAR**

Recognition of a non-tournament, **non-section** or non-national level event such as membership appreciation events, community clinics and trainings, fundraisers, Tennis Play Days or Play Events, Kids' Tennis Club and other similar events. This event brought tennis to the forefront in the community and mobilized community resources.

USTA organization membership is not required.

### **OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY TENNIS ASSOCIATION\***

A USTA Community Tennis Association (CTA) defined as: "Any incorporated, geographically defined, not-for-profit, volunteer-based tennis organization that supports or provides programs, which promote and develop the growth of tennis." The organization must be an incorporated, tax exempt association. The section award winner will be required to submit a copy of a certificate of good standing from your Secretary of State in order to complete the national award application. The 2016 section award winner will be considered for nomination for the national award that is awarded at the USTA Semiannual Meeting.

Criteria to consider include:

CTA History, Strong Leadership, Mission Statement, Strategic Plan, Organization Structure, Program offerings, Volunteer recruitment, Community Relationships, Fundraising, Marketing and PR Plans, Staff positions, Special Recognitions.

Must be a registered USTA-CTA and a current USTA Organization Member.

### **USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS ORGANIZER\***

This award will be presented to one USTA Junior Team Tennis Organizer who has expanded an existing USTA official league or has developed a new USTA official league. The 2016 section award winner will be considered for

nomination for the Janet Louer National Organizer of the Year national award that is awarded at the USTA Semiannual Meeting.

Criteria to consider when nominating are:

- 1) Successfully implemented official USTA Junior Team Tennis
- 2) Successfully implemented other USTA Tennis programs
- 3) Generated interest in USTA Junior Team Tennis programs through local promotions
- 4) Creatively and effectively utilized Section and or National funding
- 5) Sponsorship development – ability to find and utilize resources other than the USTA
- 6) Community Tennis Association participation and/or development
- 7) Number of participants in USTA Junior Team Tennis
- 8) Must not work for the section or district office

Must be a current USTA Member

#### **10 AND UNDER TENNIS FACILITY** (Formerly 10 and Under Tennis Provider)

The 10 and Under Tennis Facility award is given to a facility that is providing a full-service USTA 10 and Under Tennis program.

Criteria to consider:

- 1) Facility is registered on youthtennis.com
- 2) Facility includes USTA Missouri Valley Youth Progression Pathway competition progression (red to orange to green to yellow)
- 3) Facility may be a Kids' Tennis Club
- 4) Hosts Tennis Play Days or Tennis Play Events
- 5) Facility hosts USTA Junior Team Tennis
- 6) Facility hosts Youth Progression tournaments
- 7) Staff members have participated in 10 and Under Tennis workshops
- 8) Must be a current USTA organization member

Bonus factors:

- 1) Hosted a 10 and Under Tennis workshop
- 2) Worked with schools
- 3) Facility has blended lines or permanent 36' or 60' courts

#### **MEDIA EXCELLENCE**

Presented annually to an individual or media outlet in recognition of outstanding contributions to the coverage of tennis. Part-time or full-time anchor, reporter, writer, editor, photojournalist, videographer, or other member of the media or freelancers who provide extensive media support for the sport of tennis and its related activities. Criteria include coverage of USTA Missouri Valley programs and events, awareness building of USTA and/or the game of tennis through features, frequency and depth of coverage and overall involvement in the tennis field.

Nominees need to be in one of three categories:

- 1) Print media (newspaper, magazine)
- 2) Broadcast media (TV, Radio)
- 3) Internet based media (websites, social media, blogs, digital publications, internet radio)

Examples of their coverage must be submitted with the application.

USTA Membership is not required.

#### **HIGH SCHOOL COACH OF THE YEAR**

Recognition of a high school coach who meets the following criteria:

Supports and promotes USTA programs; high school team had a record of success in win-loss and/or in improvement of players during the season; develops players' physical, mental and emotional abilities during the season and promotes development throughout the rest of the year; maintains high ethical and sportsmanship standards; promotes a passion for tennis in the team, school and community.

Please include in the nomination 1-2 specific example(s) of how the nominee promotes play and supports USTA programming outside of the high school.

Bonus: Registered USTA No-Cut Coaches who meet the above-mentioned criteria.

Must currently be coaching a team (not retired).

Must be a current USTA individual member or school must be a current USTA organization member.

### **OUTSTANDING DIVERSITY ACHIEVEMENT**

Given to an outstanding USTA Missouri Valley program leader, athlete, organization or administrator for success in providing outreach to the diverse tennis community. This award may include NJTL chapters and/or leaders.

This award is presented to an individual or organization that has championed the cause for diversity both on and off the tennis court. Through hard work, persistence, and unwavering dedication, the nominee has helped to expand the image of tennis to be inclusive of diverse populations. Other considerations are demonstrating a high degree of organizational ability, success in serving all players in the area, quality off and on court programs, management structure, and involvement with the tennis community.

Must be a current USTA individual member or organization must be a current USTA organization member

### **JUNIOR SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD\***

The USTA Missouri Valley Junior Sportsmanship award is given to a male and female junior player in each age group, boys and girls 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18's who best exemplifies the finest qualities of sportsmanship in competitive play including tournaments, USTA Junior Team Tennis and 10 and Under Tennis tournaments. Good sportsmanship is an essential element of all junior sports and junior development.

The junior player is ineligible if he or she has a code of conduct on file in the last 12 months.

The nomination must have a minimum of two instances (in detail) where the nominee exemplified the finest qualities of sportsmanship on and/or off the court (quotes from coaches, parents or players are acceptable).

Must be a current USTA member

### **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE**

Distinguished Service Award recognizes outstanding, long-time performance, dedication and accomplishment of an individual's effort in **section-level** service to the **USTA Missouri Valley**.

Criteria to consider when nominating are:

- 1) Must be a current USTA member
- 2) Outstanding and sustained service to the sport through active participation, advocacy, or leadership at the section level of the USTA Missouri Valley, in a manner consistent with the highest standards of the field. These standards may be met in a variety of ways, including activity which involves exceptional creativity, innovation, intellectual, moral courage and leadership.
- 3) A willingness to work with others to improve the game of tennis
- 4) Candidate should have a minimum of 10 years of service to the section (e.g., section-level committees, section board of directors, section advisor)
- 5) The award may be given posthumously

### **PRESIDENT'S AWARD**

To be defined and selected by the section president annually.

\*indicates section nominee may be considered for a USTA national award nomination.

### **USTA National Award Calendar and Nomination Process Documents:**

<http://www.usta.com/About-USTA/USTA-Awards/Get-Involved/?intloc=headernavsub>