

USTA COMPETITIVE PATHWAY MERIT-BASED WILD CARDS – 2019

In preparation for the 2019 Competitive Pathway Restructure (ATP / WTA / ITF), which goes into effect on December 31, 2018, the USTA has undertaken an integrated and deliberate process to develop a formal system of wild card linkages in order to create developmental and progression opportunities for our best American* players.

The wild card linkages were designed for four types of American players: High Performance Juniors, Transition Pros, Collegiate players and adult players (late-maturers). The specific linkages were determined by benchmarking historical performance in our premiere American events (USTA and Collegiate) against the current average level in Transition Tour and Pro Circuit events.

Throughout 2019, as new playing patterns emerge, the USTA will be engaging in third party data collection and analysis throughout the year to help us to identify areas where linkages need to be adjusted, in order to optimize in 2020.

*All wild cards awarded in this system will be given to American players only.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In designing the system of wild card linkages, the USTA was guided by three important guiding principles:

Transparency

The wild card linkages will be published and communicated broadly. Post-tournament wild card reports will be posted and accessible to the public after each event. All wild card information can be found here:

<http://www.playerdevelopment.usta.com/CompetitivePathway>

The Principle of Earned Advancement

Earned Advancement references the concept of upward mobility through winning at progressive levels. Tournament linkages are evaluated based on rankings data and ratings information (using prior year historical data). This process promotes the concept of earned advancement by providing merit-based opportunities to compete in the USTA's Competitive Pathway system, which includes the ITF World Tennis Tour.

Accessibility for American players

The new global (ATP / WTA / ITF) system allows for a clearly defined pathway from the ITF junior circuit to professional opportunities. However, the USTA linkage system provides access for American players who choose to play in USTA or Collegiate pathways. If they are successful in those pathways they will earn opportunities to compete in the ITF World Tennis Tour.

PROCEDURES

The following USTA wild card allocations are merit-based for 2019 USTA National, International Championships, Men's & Women's Championships, selected Collegiate events, Competitive Pathway linkages, National Standings List Incentives and are subject to change as per USTA Player Development. Individual tournaments Directors also have local wild cards for their individual events.

Players who earn a results-based wild card from one of the below mentioned events must submit an email to wildcards@usta.com within two weeks to arrange. The email must contain the players first three tournament choices in order of preference based on the applicable level mentioned. These tournaments must fall within a nine month window from the day a player earns their wild card. The player will then be instructed to complete the request online via the *Wild Card Request Form* by clicking [here](#). The USTA will make every effort to award the wild card to one of the players' selected events, but it is not guaranteed. Furthermore, circumstances may arise where a player must submit additional tournament choices.

CRITERIA

In order for a player to accept a wild card he or she must meet the below criteria:

- *Eligibility* - only those players who have not expressed an interest to compete for another country or have not represented another country in ITF team competition are eligible to receive wild cards. Players must have made every effort to become eligible for USA International Team Events and be Jr Davis Cup or Jr Fed Cup eligible
- *Good Standing* - players must be in good standing with USTA National, USTA Sectional, ITF, WTA & ATP bodies
- *Limits* - players are responsible for their own wild card management subject to WTA wild card eligibility & limits
- *Age* - for all ITF Junior events & events deemed professional, players must meet the age eligibility requirement subject to ITF, ATP & WTA rules

If the USTA or USTAPD finds that wild cards are being sold or bartered, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.



POST-COLLEGE



COLLEGE



ITF JUNIORS



USTA NATIONAL 18 & UNDER

National Opens & Closed Events
 Top 500 National List (used as 3rd order of acceptance in M15K & W15K)
 Pre-Qualifying Events

ITA & NCAA Wild Card Event Linkages
 National Opens & Closed Events
 M15K & W15K Events on Campuses
 National Top 500 List (used as 3rd order of acceptance in M15K & W15K)
 ITF Junior Ranking until 19th birthday into M15K & W15K Events

ITF Top 100 Junior Ranking – direct acceptance into W15K & M15K Events
 Top 10 National Ranking Incentive Wild Cards
 Junior Pathway Performance
 National Tournament Wild Card Linkages
 National Opens & Closed Events

National Tournament Wild Card Linkages
 National Opens & Closed Events
 Top 10 National Standings List Incentives Wild Cards
 Junior Pathway Performance

EASTER BOWL ITF CHAMPIONSHIPS	Wild Card Awarded
Boys' 18's Singles Champion	US Open Junior*: Singles Main Draw & One (1) Men's USTA ATP 80/ATP 90: Singles Main Draw & One (1) Men's USTA 25K: Singles Main Draw
Boys' 18's Singles Finalist	One (1) Men's USTA 25K: Singles Main Draw & One (1) Men's USTA 15K: Singles Main Draw
Girls' 18's Singles Champion	US Open Junior*: Singles Main Draw & One (1) Women's USTA 60K: Singles Main Draw & One (1) Women's USTA 25K: Singles Main Draw
Girls' 18's Singles Finalist	One (1) Women's USTA 15K: Singles Main Draw
EASTER BOWL USTA NATIONAL SPRING CHAMPIONSHIPS	Wild Card Awarded
Boys 16's Singles Champion	One (1) Men's USTA 15K: Singles Main Draw
Boys 16's Singles Finalist	One (1) Men's USTA 15K: Singles Main Qualifying
Girls' 16's Singles Champion	One (1) Junior ITF Grade 1 College Park*: Singles Main Draw
Girls' 16's Singles Finalist	One (1) Junior ITF Grade 4 TBD*: Singles Main Draw
Girls' 14's Singles Champion	One (1) Junior ITF Grade 4 TBD*: Singles Main Draw
USTA NATIONAL CLAY COURT CHAMPIONSHIPS	Wild Card Awarded
Boys' 18's Singles Champion	US Open Junior*: Singles Main Draw & One (1) Men's USTA 25K: Singles Main Draw
Boys' 18's Singles Finalist	One (1) Men's USTA 25K: Singles Main Draw Qualifying
Boys' 16's Singles Champion	One (1) Men's USTA 15K: Singles Main Draw
Boys' 16's Singles Finalist	One (1) Men's USTA 15K: Singles Qualifying
Girls' 18's Singles Champion	US Open Junior*: Singles Main Draw & One (1) Women's USTA 25K: Singles Main Draw
Girls' 18's Singles Finalist	One (1) Women's USTA 15K: Singles Main Draw
Girls' 16's Singles Champion	One (1) Junior ITF Grade A Orange Bowl International Tennis Championship*: Singles Main Draw
Girls' 16's Singles Finalist	One (1) Junior ITF Grade 4 TBD*: Singles Main Draw
Girls' 14's Singles Champion	One (1) Junior ITF Grade 4 TBD*: Singles Main Draw
USTA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (HARD COURTS)	Wild Card Awarded
Boys' 18's Singles Champion	US Open: Singles Main Draw & US Open Juniors*: Singles Main Draw & Two (2) Men's USTA ATP 80/ATP 90: Singles Main Draw
Boys' 18's Doubles Champions	US Open: Doubles Main Draw (required to play with the same partner) US Open Juniors*: Doubles (required to play with the same partner)
Boys' 18's Singles Finalist	US Open: Singles Qualifying & US Open Juniors*: Singles Main Draw & One (1) Men's USTA ATP 80/ATP 90: Singles Main Draw & One (1) Men's USTA 25K: Singles Main Draw

Boys' 18's Singles 3 rd Place	US Open Juniors*: Singles Main Draw & One (1) Men's USTA 25K: Singles Main Draw
Boys' 18's Singles 4 th Place	US Open Juniors*: Singles Qualifying & Two (2) Men's USTA 15K: Singles Qualifying
Boys' 18's Singles 5 th Place	US Open Juniors*: Singles Qualifying & One (1) Men's USTA 15K: Singles Main Draw
Boys' 16's Singles Champion	US Open Juniors*: Singles Main Draw & One (1) Men's USTA 15K: Singles Main Draw
Boys' 16's Singles Finalist	One (1) Men's USTA 15K: Singles Qualifying
Boys' 16's Singles 3 rd Place	One (1) Junior ITF Grade A Orange Bowl International Tennis Championships*: Singles Main Draw
Boys' 16's Singles 4 th Place	One (1) Junior ITF Grade 1 TBD*: Singles Main Draw
Boys' 16's Singles 5 th Place	One (1) Junior ITF Grade 1 TBD*: Singles Main Draw
USTA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (HARD COURTS)	Wild Card Awarded
Girls' 18's Singles Champion	US Open: Singles Main Draw & US Open Juniors*: Singles Main Draw & Two (2) Women's USTA 60K: Singles Main Draw
Girls' 18's Doubles Champions	US Open: Doubles Main Draw (required to play with the same partner) US Open Juniors*: Doubles (required to play with the same partner)
Girls' 18's Singles Finalist	US Open: Singles Qualifying US Open Juniors*: Singles Main Draw & One (1) Women's USTA 60K: Singles Main Draw & One (1) Women's USTA 25K: Singles Main Draw
Girls' 18's Singles 3 rd Place	US Open Juniors*: Singles Main Draw & One (1) Women's USTA 25K: Singles Main Draw
Girls' 18's Singles 4 th Place	US Open Juniors*: Singles Qualifying
Girls' 18's Singles 5 th Place	US Open Juniors*: Singles Qualifying
Girls' 16's Singles Champion	US Open Juniors*: Singles Main Draw
Girls' 16's Singles Finalist	One (1) Junior ITF Grade B1 Easter Bowl Championships*: Singles Main Draw
Girls' 16's Singles 3 rd Place	One (1) Junior ITF Level 4 TBD*: Singles Main Draw
Girls' 14's Singles Champion	One (1) Junior ITF Level 4 TBD*: Singles Main Draw
USTA NATIONAL INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS	Wild Card Awarded
Boy's 18's Singles Champion	One (1) Men's USTA 15K: Singles Main Draw
Girls' 18's Singles Champion	One (1) Junior ITF Grade B1 Easter Bowl Championships*: Singles Main Draw
Girls' 14's Singles Champion	One (1) Junior ITF Level 4 TBD*: Singles Main Draw
USTA NATIONAL WINTER CHAMPIONSHIPS	Wild Card Awarded
Boys' 18's Singles Champion	Two (1) Men's USTA 15K: Singles Main Draw

Girls' 18's Singles Champion	One (1) Women's USTA 25K: Singles Qualifying & One (1) Junior ITF Carson – International Spring Championships*: Singles Main Draw
Girls' 18's Singles Finalist	One (1) Women's USTA 15K: Singles Qualifying Draw & One (1) Junior ITF Level 4 TBD*: Singles Main Draw
Girls' 14's Singles Champion	One (1) Junior ITF Level 4 TBD*: Singles Main Draw
DI NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS	Wild Card Awarded
Mens' Singles Champion	US Open: Singles Qualifying OR Strong Consideration for Main Draw & Two (2) Men's USTA ATP 80/ATP 90: Singles Main Draw
Mens' Singles Finalist	Two (2) Men's USTA 25K: Singles Main Draw
Mens' Singles Semi-Finalist	Two (2) Men's USTA 25K: Singles Qualifying
Mens' Doubles Champions	US Open: Doubles Main Draw (required to play with the same partner)
Womens' Singles Champion	US Open: Singles Qualifying OR Strong Consideration for Main Draw & One (1) Women's USTA 60K: Singles Main Draw & One (1) Women's USTA 25K: Singles Main Draw
Womens' Singles Finalist	One (2) Women's USTA 25K: Singles Main Draw
Womens' Doubles Champions	US Open: Doubles Main Draw (required to play with the same partner)
ORACLE ITA NATIONAL SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIPS	Wild Card Awarded
Mens' Singles Champion	One (1) Men's USTA 25K: Singles Main Draw
Mens' Singles Finalist	One (1) Men's USTA 25K: Singles Qualifying
Womens' Singles Champion	One (1) Women's USTA 15K: Singles Main Draw
Womens' Singles Finalist	One (1) Women's USTA 15K: Singles Qualifying
ORACLE ITA MASTERS	Wild Card Awarded
Mens' Singles Champion	One (1) Men's USTA 25K: Singles Main Draw
Mens' Singles Finalist	One (1) Men's USTA 25K: Singles Qualifying
Womens' Singles Champion	One (1) Women's USTA 25K: Singles Main Draw
Womens' Singles Finalist	One (1) Women's USTA 25K: Singles Qualifying
ITA ALL-AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS	Wild Card Awarded
Mens' Singles Champion	One (1) Men's USTA ATP 80/ATP 90: Singles Main Draw
Mens' Singles Finalist	One (1) Men's USTA 25K: Singles Main Draw
Mens' Singles Semi-Finalist	One (1) Men's USTA 25K: Singles Qualifying
Womens' Singles Champion	One (1) Women's USTA 25K: Singles Main Draw
Womens' Singles Finalist	One (1) Women's USTA 25K: Singles Qualifying

ORACLE ITA FALL CHAMPIONSHIPS	Wild Card Awarded
Mens' Singles Champion	One (1) Men's USTA 25K: Singles Main Draw
Mens' Singles Finalist	One (1) Men's USTA 25K: Singles Qualifying
Womens' Singles Champion	One (1) Women's USTA 25K: Singles Main Draw
Womens' Singles Finalist	One (1) Women's USTA 25K: Singles Qualifying
USTA NATIONAL OPEN GRASS COURT CHAMPIONSHIPS	Wild Card Awarded
Mens' Singles Champion	One (1) Men's USTA 15K: Singles Main Draw
Womens' Singles Champion	One (1) Women's USTA 15K: Singles Main Draw
USTA NATIONAL OPEN HARD COURT CHAMPIONSHIPS	Wild Card Awarded
Mens' Singles Champion	One (1) Men's USTA 15K: Singles Main Draw
Womens' Singles Champion	One (1) Women's USTA 15K: Singles Main Draw
USTA NATIONAL OPEN CLAY COURT CHAMPIONSHIPS	Wild Card Awarded
Mens' Singles Champion	One (1) Men's USTA 15K: Singles Main Draw
Womens' Singles Champion	One (1) Women's USTA 15K: Singles Main Draw
USTA NATIONAL OPEN INDOOR COURT CHAMPIONSHIPS	Wild Card Awarded
Mens' Singles Champion	One (1) Men's USTA 15K: Singles Main Draw
Womens' Singles Champion	One (1) Women's USTA 15K: Singles Main Draw
USTA NATIONAL CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS #1	Wild Card Awarded
Mens' Singles Champion	One (1) Men's USTA 15K: Singles Main Draw
Mens' Singles Finalist	One (1) Men's USTA 15K: Singles Qualifying
Womens' Singles Champion	One (1) Women's USTA 15K: Singles Main Draw
Womens' Singles Finalist	One (1) Women's USTA 15K: Singles Qualifying
USTA NATIONAL CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS #2	Wild Card Awarded
Mens' Singles Champion	One (1) Men's USTA 15K: Singles Main Draw
Mens' Singles Finalist	One (1) Men's USTA 15K: Singles Qualifying
Womens' Singles Champion	One (1) Women's USTA 15K: Singles Main Draw
Womens' Singles Finalist	One (1) Women's USTA 15K: Singles Qualifying
USTA NATIONAL CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS #3	Wild Card Awarded
Mens' Singles Champion	One (1) Men's USTA 15K: Singles Main Draw

Mens' Singles Finalist	One (1) Men's USTA 15K: Singles Qualifying
Womens' Singles Champion	One (1) Women's USTA 15K: Singles Main Draw
Womens' Singles Finalist	One (1) Women's USTA 15K: Singles Qualifying
USTA NATIONAL CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS #4	Wild Card Awarded
Mens' Singles Champion	One (1) Men's USTA 15K: Singles Main Draw
Mens' Singles Finalist	One (1) Men's USTA 15K: Singles Qualifying
Womens' Singles Champion	One (1) Women's USTA 15K: Singles Main Draw
Womens' Singles Finalist	One (1) Women's USTA 15K: Singles Qualifying
USTA COMPETITIVE PATHWAY WILD CARD LINKAGE	Wild Card Awarded
Mens' USTA 15K - Singles Champion	One (1) Men's USTA 25K: Singles Main Draw (player will receive one wild card per tournament win)
Womens' USTA 15K - Singles Champion	One (1) Women's USTA 25K: Singles Main Draw (player will receive one wild card per tournament win)
USTA 18's NATIONAL STANDINGS LIST INCENTIVES	Wild Card Awarded
Male Players #1-5 on USTA 18's National Standings List calculated immediately following the conclusion of the 18's National Hard Court Championships on August 14, 2019	Two (2) Men's USTA 25K: Singles Main Draw
Male Players #6-10 on USTA 18's National Standings List calculated immediately following the conclusion of the 18's National Hard Court Championships on August 14, 2019	One (1) Men's USTA 15K: Singles Main Draw
Female Players #1-5 on USTA 18's National Standings List calculated immediately following the conclusion of the 18's National Hard Court Championships on August 14, 2019	Two (2) Women's USTA 60K: Singles Main Draw
Female Players #6-10 on USTA 18's National Standings List calculated immediately following the conclusion of the 18's National Hard Court Championships on August 14, 2019	One (1) Women's USTA 25K: Singles Main Draw