

Junior Southern Closed Championship Info

A. In the AR Qualifier, players must play in the same age division in which they are seeking endorsement to the Southern Closed Championship.

B. Selection for five (5) slots per division in each age division (10s, 12s, 14s, 16s, and 18s) will be based on the top five finishers in the State Qualifying.

All remaining slots in each age division will be filled based on the strength of a player's current tournament record. National, Southern, and State records will be considered. The Selection Committee will be the Endorsers, the Junior Tennis Council Chairman, and the Vice President responsible for Junior Tennis.

Note: In cases where it is not possible to complete the Qualifying tournament due to prolonged inclement weather, the Committee will select players for the remaining quota slots.

C. Participation in the Arkansas Junior Qualifying Tournament is mandatory unless waived in advance by the Waiver Committee.

1. Any request for waiver must be submitted to the ATA **by the Arkansas Junior Qualifying entry deadline**. Supporting documentation must be included with the request.
2. A waiver request based on injury or illness must be supported by a doctor's letter stating the injury or illness and providing a prognosis on the player's ability to play in the Southern Closed Championship.
3. Waiver approval shall be at the sole discretion of the Waiver Committee by a majority vote but will not be granted in the absence of extraordinary circumstances.
4. The Waiver Committee will be the Chairman of the Junior Tennis Council (if co-chairmen, both shall be members) and up to two other people appointed by the ATA President as needed to comprise a three-member committee."
5. Any appeal of the Waiver Committee's decision must be in writing to the Executive Committee of the ATA which will consider the facts and make a final ruling.
6. Waivers will be evaluated on a case by case basis. All players receiving a waiver will be placed on the endorsement list based on the strength of a player's current tournament record. National, Southern, and State records will be considered. This may or may not be within our quota.

Waiver requests must be received in the ATA office no later than the **Junior Qualifying entry deadline**. All players receiving a waiver will be placed on the endorsement list with the order being based on the AR Qualifier results and the most recent Southern Standings. **A granted waiver only waives the**

requirement of playing the AR Qualifier—it does not guarantee that the waived player will be in the endorsed quota for the Southern Closed.

D. Southern Closed Direct Acceptance List

USTA Southern will create a direct acceptance list for the Southern Closed Championships that includes the top 16 age-eligible players **(based on Southern standings)** for each of the Boys' and Girls' 12s-18s divisions. This list will exempt players from playing their state qualifier.

The Southern Direct Acceptance list for each age division (BG12-18s) will be published in May. This list will be comprised of the top 16 age-eligible players **(based on Southern standings)** in their respective age divisions. Players not listed on the direct acceptance list are not eligible for this exemption. Players on the Direct Acceptance list must register for the Southern Closed Championships to take advantage of this exemption.

Note: Arkansas players on the Southern Closed Direct Acceptance List choosing to play the AR State Qualifier must play in a higher age division than the age division in which they already have direct acceptance, and they must play singles and doubles in the same upper age division.

E. Players from the Qualifier that are not listed in the Arkansas quota will be considered alternates.

All players, those in the Arkansas quota and the alternates, should sign up for the Southern Closed in their age division. Alternates cannot be selected into the Southern Closed if they have not completed the entry process. Credit cards will only be charged if the player is selected into the tournament.

Arkansas Quotas for the Southern Closed Championships

Boys' and Girls' 10s (West)	Quota 9
Boys' and Girls' 12s	Quota 7
Boys' and Girls' 14s	Quota 8
Boys' and Girls' 16s	Quota 8
Boys' and Girls' 18s	Quota 8