



# 2020 Junior Tournament Rules and Regulations

## I. Basic Information

### a. Residency Requirements

- i. In order to be considered for a USTA Kentucky year-end ranking or be included in the regular standings list, a player must meet all residency requirements of the USTA, USTA Southern, and USTA Kentucky as stated in their respective rules and regulations.
- ii. To be eligible to compete in the Joe Creason Kentucky State Qualifier, a player must have a permanent address in Kentucky. Residents of Boone, Campbell, and Kenton counties are not deemed to be residents of the Kentucky district. All entrants must all be U.S. citizens, resident aliens in possession of a valid alien registration receipt card, or aliens who have resided in the United States continuously for more than one year.
- iii. To be eligible to be selected to represent Team Kentucky in the Southern Junior Cup, a player must have a permanent residence in Kentucky (excluding Boone, Campbell, and Kenton counties) for three (3) months and participated in at least one (1) junior tournament held in Kentucky during the calendar year.
- iv. USTA Kentucky shall have full authority to make conclusive interpretations and decisions regarding residency

### b. Junior Sanctioned Events

- i. *Divisions Offered (not all divisions must be offered at each tournament)*
  - Boys and Girls 18U Singles, Doubles, Mixed Doubles
  - Boys and Girls 16U Singles, Doubles, Mixed Doubles
  - Boys and Girls 14U Singles, Doubles, Mixed Doubles
  - Boys and Girls 12U Singles, Doubles, Mixed Doubles
  - Boys and Girls 11U Singles, Doubles, Mixed Doubles
  - Boys and Girls 10U Singles, Doubles, Mixed Doubles
  - Boys and Girls 8U Singles, Doubles, Mixed Doubles
- ii. USTA Kentucky will not award any points for results in Mixed Doubles divisions

**c. 2020 USTA Tennis Age Eligibility Chart**

Age Division	Year Born	End of Eligibility
8	2011	Last day of month preceding month of 9 <sup>th</sup> birthday
10	2009	Last day of month preceding month of 11 <sup>th</sup> birthday
12	2007	Last day of month preceding month of 13 <sup>th</sup> birthday
14	2005	Last day of month preceding month of 15 <sup>th</sup> birthday
16	2003	Last day of month preceding month of 17 <sup>th</sup> birthday
18	2001	Last day of month preceding month of 19 <sup>th</sup> birthday

**II. Event Guidelines**

**a. Tournament Director Guidelines**

- i. All sanctioned tournaments must post seeds, draws, schedules, and results on the tournament homepage on Tennis Link.

**ii. Seeding Procedures**

- 1. Seeds shall be awarded on a 1:3 ratio using the “Power of Two”. Please use the following chart to determine the amount of seeds to place in your draw:

Total Players in Division	# of Seeds
2-11	1 or 2
12-23	4 or 2
24-47	8, 4, or 2
48-95	16, 8, 4, or 2
96+	32, 16, 8, 4, or 2

**2. Seeding for Singles and Doubles Divisions**

- a. All levels will seed based off the most recent Southern standings in that particular age division.
  - a. Southern Level 1, 1-A, 2, and 3
    - 1. All seeding procedures will be determined by USTA Southern.
  - b. Southern Level 4
    - 1. Triple the Southern standing of any player playing up and in the Top 100 of the Southern rankings.
    - 2. If a player does not have a Southern standing but does have a standing of another section, that players standing in another section will be considered equivalent to a Southern standing.

- c. Southern Level 5
  1. Triple the Southern standing of any player playing up
  2. If a player does not have a Southern standing but does have a standing of another section, that players standing in another section will be considered equivalent to a Southern standing.

### iii. Draw Format and Size

1. 10U and 8U divisions of 3 or more players should use Round Robin formats to maximize match play opportunities.
2. The following tournaments must split their draws in both singles and doubles once the total registrations in that event reach 17 or higher:
  - a. Hilltopper Classic State Championship
  - b. LTC Clay Court State Championship
  - c. Stuart Blazer Memorial State Championship
  - d. Tornado Classic State Championship
  - e. Bluegrass Winter Slam
  - f. Kentucky Junior Open

### iv. Southern Level 4 Requirements

1. Southern Level 4 tournaments are required to offer both an “Intermediate” and “Advanced” division for all age divisions between 12-18U in both singles and doubles.
  - a. The 10U division shall offer just one flight and will be played with green ball.
  - b. Registrations must be accurate at the time of the registration deadline. Tournament directors will not change a player’s division after the deadline.
  - c. The Jason Isaacs Memorial Doubles Championship is exempt from this regulation.
  - d. All other Southern Level 4 regulations must be met in addition to this regulation.
  - e. Intermediate divisions will be awarded Southern Level 5 points and Advanced divisions will be awarded Southern Level 4 points.

v. **Special Provisions**

1. The following provisions may be granted to tournament directors running 10U or 8U divisions:
  - a. The tournament director may serve as the tournament referee if the tournament is only hosting 8U and/or 10U divisions.
  - b. A reasonable rest period should be allowed between matches. Previous Friend at Court editions indicate rest periods of no more than 15 minutes is appropriate.
- vi. **Head Tax:** Following the completion of the tournament, all tournaments Southern Level 3, 4, or 5 hosted in the state are required to submit their head tax payment to the USTA Kentucky office using the online Jotform. The head tax is \$1 per player in the tournament, which is the number of players listed in the Competitors List on the tournament's homepage.

### III. Scoring Formats

a. All Southern Level 1, 1-A, 2, and 3 scoring formats are determined by the USTA Southern Junior Competition Committee.

b. **Southern Level 4 Tournaments**

- i. Authorized singles scoring formats for 12-18's divisions:

**1. Regular Scoring – Best 2 out of 3 tiebreaker sets**

- a. All divisions must allow for a 10-minute break in between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> sets. No additional practicing is allowed during this break but coaching is allowed.
- b. The following events is required to use regular scoring format in main draw singles matches. This regulation will not apply for the 12U and 10U divisions:
  - a. Kentucky Clay Court Closed State Championship

**2. Match Tiebreak in Lieu of 3<sup>rd</sup> set: Best of 2 tiebreak sets with a 10-point tiebreaker for the 3<sup>rd</sup> set if players split first 2 sets.**

- a. All divisions must be given a 3-minute break before the 3<sup>rd</sup> set tiebreaker is played. Coaching is allowed during this break but players must not leave the court unless a bathroom break is requested. A reasonable amount of time is given for a bathroom break.
- b. The following events are required to use the Match Tiebreak scoring format in main draw singles matches in the 12's division:
  - a. Kentucky Clay Court Closed State Championship

3. Tournament directors must receive permission from the USTA Kentucky Competition Manager to use any of the following scoring formats in 12-18's singles divisions:
  - a. No-ad scoring
  - b. 8-Game Pro Set
  - c. Short Sets to 4 (not including 10U divisions)
- ii. Authorized scoring formats for doubles events in 12-18's divisions:
  1. 8-game pro set (tiebreaker at 8-8)
  2. 6-game pro set (tiebreaker at 6-6)
  3. No-Ad scoring
- iii. Authorized scoring formats for 10 and Under Singles and Doubles divisions are:
  1. Singles: Best of 2 Short Sets to 4 games with a 7-point match tiebreaker in place on a 3<sup>rd</sup> set. A 7-point set tiebreaker will be played at 4-4 in the first 2 sets.
  2. Doubles: 1 set to 6 games with a 7-point set tiebreaker played at 6-6.

**c. Southern Level 5 Tournaments**

- i. Authorized singles and doubles scoring formats for 12-18U divisions:
  1. Singles
    - a. Each format covered in III-b
    - b. Timed Matches
  2. Doubles
    - a. Each format covered in III-b
    - b. Timed matches
- ii. Authorized singles and doubles scoring formats for 8U and 10U divisions:
  1. All formats listed in III-b
  2. Timed Matches
  3. 1 set to 6 games

**IV. Ball and Equipment Regulations**

**a. Boys and Girls 12U Divisions**

- i. Ball Color
  1. All Southern Level 4 and higher events must use yellow balls in singles and doubles for the 12U through 18U division.
  2. All Southern Level 5 events have the option to use green or yellow balls but it is the recommendation of this committee to use yellow balls.
- ii. Court: The court shall be a full 78-foot court.

## **b. Boys and Girls 10U Divisions**

- i. Ball Color
  1. Ball Color for 10U division will be determined during the sanctioning process in consultation with the USTA Kentucky Tournament Manager. 10U divisions must follow specifications for ball and court regulations depending on the sanctioning designation as part of the Youth Tennis Progression.
  2. All Southern Level 4 events and the Joe Creason Kentucky State Qualifier are required to offer a 10U Green Ball division.
- ii. Court
  1. Orange Ball divisions: The court shall be a 60-foot court
  2. Green Ball divisions: The court shall be a 78-foot court

## **V. Inclement Weather Guidelines**

### **a. Change of scoring format**

- i. Scoring formats may be changed after a tournament has begun as a result of inclement weather.
- ii. Permission must be given to alter the scoring format to short sets, 8-game pro sets, or no-ad scoring.
  1. For Southern Level 3, 4, or 5 tournaments, permission is granted by the USTA Kentucky Competition Manager.
  2. For Southern Level 2, 1-A, or 1 tournaments, permission is granted by USTA Southern.
- iii. Tournament referees are encouraged to alert all players of any scoring format changes immediately once permission is granted **and scoring changes should be noted on the online tournament homepage.**

## **VI. Rest Periods and Match Limitations**

### **a. Rest Period Between Matches**

- i. A minimum rest period of 60 minutes must be offered between all singles and doubles matches consisting of at least 2 sets, including regular scoring, no-ad scoring, and tiebreak in place of the 3<sup>rd</sup> set.
  1. In all singles matches where the format is two out of three standard tiebreak sets, a rest period of two hours shall be offered. This does not apply to any no-ad, short set, or match tiebreak matches.
- ii. A minimum rest period of 30 minutes must be offered between all singles and doubles matches using an 8-game pro set.
- iii. Players should be offered a minimum of 12 hours from the conclusion of their final match and the start of their next match the following day (“12-hour rule”).

## **b. Daily Playing Limitations**

- i. All daily playing limitations can be found in the Friend at Court Table 8.
- ii. 8U and 10U Divisions
  1. While no official regulation is currently in place, the recommendation is 3-4 matches combined singles and doubles in a day for the 8U and 10U divisions.
- iii. 12U Divisions
  1. Best of 3 Tiebreak Sets: Players may play any of the following combination of matches in a day:
    - a. 2 singles matches
    - b. 1 singles + 2 doubles matches
    - c. 3 doubles matches
  2. Tiebreak in Place of 3<sup>rd</sup> set
    - a. 3 singles matches
    - b. 2 singles + 1 doubles matches
    - c. 3 doubles matches
- iv. 14-18U Divisions:
  1. Best of 3 Tiebreak Sets: Players may play any of the following combination of matches in a single day:
    - a. 2 singles + 1 doubles matches
    - b. 1 singles + 2 doubles matches
    - c. 3 doubles matches
  2. Tiebreak in Place of 3<sup>rd</sup> set
    - a. 3 singles + 1 doubles matches
    - b. 2 singles + 2 doubles matches
    - c. 1 singles + 3 doubles matches
    - d. 4 doubles matches

## **c. Night Play Limitations**

- i. Children aged 8-14 can not begin or resume any match later than 8 p.m.
- ii. Children aged 15-18 can not begin or resume any match later than 10 p.m.

## **d. Multiple Entry Violations**

- i. Players may not enter two tournaments at the same time. This is a violation of USTA Friend at Court Rules. If a player breaks this rule this will be assessed two (2) Junior Suspension Points for a first offense and five (5) Junior Suspension points for a 2<sup>nd</sup> offense.
- ii. Players can not play in the same event type in two different age divisions. For example, a player can not sign up for both the Girls 12's singles and Girls 14's singles division.
  1. Players can play in two different event types in different age divisions. For instance, a player can sign up for Boys 12's singles and Boys 14's doubles.

## VII. Southern Closed Regulations

- a. Quota spots for the Southern Closed Championships will be determined by USTA Southern based on the most recent Southern ranking at the time determined by that office. For 2020, Kentucky has been allocated the following guaranteed spots in the draw:

Age Division	# of Quota Spots
10's Boys-Girls (32 draw)	8
12's Boys-Girls (128 draw)	7
14's Boys-Girls (160 draw)	9
16's Boys-Girls (160 draw)	9
18's Boys-Girls (160 draw)	9

- b. Players must register for the Southern Closed Championships themselves whether they receive an automatic bid or not. USTA Kentucky will not be responsible for any player that does not register for the event before the deadline.

## VIII. Levels/Points/Standings/Rankings

### a. Standings

- i. A players STANDING is a regularly occurring and updated list of current standing in each of the 5 age divisions. Players can earn points in both singles and doubles divisions. The following formula is used in determining a player's standing:

**100% of player's Six (6) best singles results**

+

**25% of player's Six (6) best doubles results**

- ii. A player's "best results" are determined by the amount of points received for that event, not by the round reached in an event.
- iii. A player's point earned in an older age division will count in the younger age division as long as the player is still age eligible in that division.
- iv. Players will retain 20% of their points earned when they age out of a division.

## IX. Rules of the Court

### a. Rules of Tennis and The Code

- i. The Code shall govern all matches in un-officiated play. Players can familiarize themselves with the code, which is found in the 2020 Friend at Court.

### b. Player Conduct and Suspension

- i. The USTA Point Penalty System (PPS) shall be used in all USTA Kentucky sanctioned tournaments. This system can be used for player tardiness as well as overall conduct of players and spectators. The point

- penalty system can be used at all tournament activities and facilities, including tournament hotels or private housing for the tournament.
- ii. Players can file a formal grievance against another player, parent, or official by completing an official grievance form, which can be obtained by contacting the USTA Kentucky office.
  - iii. Players can receive suspension points or violations for the following offenses:
    1. A parent/guardian interferes with a match by coaching, harassing the player or another player, or general unsportsmanlike behavior.
      - a. USTA Kentucky has the right to suspend parents/guardians for 30-90 days for unsportsmanlike behavior.
  - iv. The following process will be used to assign suspension points to a player:
    1. A referee or tournament official will fill out and sign a code of conduct report and return it to the USTA Kentucky office. A player has the ability to review the report and claim they were unjustly penalized before the report is turned into USTA Kentucky. This report must be turned in within 48 hours of the completion of an event.
    2. The tournament director or referee will also input the violation into the Suspension Functionality in Tennis Link. The player will receive a copy of the report at that time.
    3. If a player reaches six (6) suspension points, the player and parent will be notified they are approaching the possibility of a suspension.
    4. The player will officially be suspended once they reach ten (10) suspension points. The player will have one week to file a written appeal to the suspension. If the appeal is denied, the player will be suspended for a team of three (3) months from any USTA Kentucky sanctioned events.
    5. At the conclusion of the suspension, the first ten suspension points will be removed from the player's record.

## **X. Special Selections and Endorsements**

### **a. Southern Closed Championships**

- i. USTA Kentucky is given a quota of spots into each age and gender division of the Southern Closed Championships. You can find that table in VII-a.
- ii. Players who do not earn an invitation from the Kentucky quota are still eligible to register for the Southern Closed Championship but will only get in based off a USTA Southern invitation.

## **b. Southern Junior Cup**

- i. 3 boys and 3 girls from the 12, 14, 16, and 18's division will be invited to play for Team Kentucky.
- ii. The USTA Kentucky Junior Competition Committee will make decisions on the team invites in July 2020. Players must be age eligible in their invited age group as of September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- iii. **Players will be selected based off current Southern standing in that age division at the time of selection, UTR rating, head to head results against other players under consideration, as well as behavior incidents and suspension points.** If players qualify for the team in 2 different age divisions, the player will be allowed to choose which division they wish to represent the state for at the competition.
- iv. USTA Kentucky will select one (1) coach for the 12U team and two (2) coaches for the 14-18U team. These coaches will be selected on consultation with the Junior Competition Committee and active coaches throughout the state. Coaches will be selected before team invites have been released.