



# ADULT/SENIOR RANKING RULES, REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

## Tournament Regulations

### 1. Players' Implicit Consent

Players competing in USTA Mid-Atlantic sanctioned events are expected to comply with *The Code* of the USTA and to avoid acts that are detrimental to the game of tennis. It is a player's responsibility to know and understand the rules of tennis. It is also the player's responsibility to know and understand these *Rules and Regulations*. The USTA Mid-Atlantic Section is a nonprofit organization comprised of volunteers and full time staff. By accepting entry into a USTA Mid-Atlantic sanctioned event, players and their entourage shall hold harmless the USTA MAS Section, its volunteers, USTA MAS staff, as well as its Tournament Directors, Referees, Organizational Members and tennis facilities from all liability which might result from errors that were not made in bad faith in the running of such sanctioned event.

### 2. Ranking Season

The ranking year begins on January 1 and ends on December 31. Adult standings will be posted on a monthly basis. Tentative Ranking Lists for the previous year will be posted January followed by Final Year-End Rankings.

### 3. Age Eligibility

Adult and Senior divisions (35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90) are open to players who have reached or will reach the minimum age limit of that division on or before the last day of the ranking season as defined above. Open Division are open to players of all ages. NTRP level tournaments (i.e 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5) are open to players who are or will be 18 before the last day of the ranking season as defined above.

### 4. Player Eligibility

Players must make themselves available for play during the sanction period and may not enter a tournament they know they cannot finish. A player with a scheduling conflict may submit an application that includes an explanation of the conflict. Such a conditional application may then be either accepted or rejected by the tournament committee. Players are entitled to a refund of their entry fee if their entry is not accepted or if they withdraw before entries have closed. A player may not enter more than one tournament scheduled for any part of the same time period without the written consent of each tournament director. The availability of on-line registration is mandatory for all Adult tournaments, but tournament directors may accept mail-in entries if they wish. Seeding information should be submitted at the time of entry. This is especially important for players new to the area or an age division. If a player has no current ranking or record, he/she should include any significant past records or rankings.

### 5. USTA Mid-Atlantic Residence

To be considered for a Mid-Atlantic ranking, a player must be a USTA member in good standing at the close of the ranking year (December 31). The player must also maintain a residence or reside within the USTA Mid-Atlantic Section for at least six consecutive months within the ranking year. And, the player may not be ranked in another USTA Section.

## 6. USTA Membership

Players must be enrolled with the USTA as a current member and in good standing at the close of the ranking year to be considered for ranking.

## 7. Starting Times

It is the responsibility of the player at all times to ascertain the starting times of matches.

## 8. Seeding

In seeding tournaments, tournament directors should consider all available information including previous years' rankings, current standings, and head-to-head results, as well as player comments as discussed above.

## 9. Tournament Entry

Players who have entered one singles and one doubles event may not be required to violate the daily play limits set by the Mid-Atlantic Section. Players participating in more than one age division shall be given a minimum of 30 minutes rest when required to play back-to-back matches. Players, at their option, may agree to a shorter rest period. For all adult divisions, except the Men's Open, a ten-minute rest period must be taken after the second set if either player or team requests it. A tournament may eliminate the 10-minute rest period for Women's Open events, if advance notice is given.

# Types of Tournaments

Mid-Atlantic Adult tournaments are defined as either Age Group or NTRP tournaments, as follows:

**Age Group Tournaments:** Tournaments defined by age eligibility shall be held for age groups Open and 30 to 90 at five-year intervals. A player becomes eligible for a new age division when his/her birthday occurs during the calendar year of the age group in question (i.e. a player may play in the 40s at any time in the year in which he/she turns 40).

## 1. Tournament Formats

- a) Tournament matches shall be best two out of three sets except that Local and Regional Tournaments and MAS Championship tournaments involving 70 and over age divisions may, at the discretion of the tournament director, employ a 10 point match tiebreak in lieu of a third set. The intention to employ a 10 point match tiebreak must be set forth in the available tournament information, such as on the Mid-Atlantic website ([www.midatlantic.usta.com](http://www.midatlantic.usta.com)) and tournament entry forms.
- b) In the event of inclement weather affecting outdoor tournaments, the standard format may be modified to permit a 10-point match tiebreak in lieu of a third set and/or no-ad scoring.
- c) "Express" tournaments, or any tournaments limited to one-day play, may employ shortened match formats.

**NOTE:** EIGHT (8) GAME PRO-SETS ARE NOT ALLOWED FOR NATIONAL RANKING PURPOSES.

TOURNAMENTS DEVIATING FROM THE PRESCRIBED TOURNAMENT FORMATS WILL NOT BE COUNTED FOR USTA/MID-ATLANTIC RANKINGS.

## 2. Daily Play Limitations for Age Group Tournaments

Divisions	Max # Matches	Rest Between
Open, 30, 35, 40, 45s	2 Singles & 1 Doubles or 1 Singles & 2 Doubles or 3 Doubles	1 hr/Singles & Singles or 1 hr/Singles & Doubles or 1 hr/Doubles & Doubles
50s or 55s	2 Singles or 1 Singles & 2 Doubles or 3 Doubles	1.5 hrs/Singles & Singles or 1 hr/Singles & Doubles or 1 hr/Doubles & Doubles
60s or 65s	2 Singles or 1 Singles & 1 Doubles or 2 Doubles	2 hrs/Singles & Singles or 1.5 hrs/Singles & Doubles or 1.5 hrs/Doubles & Doubles
70s or 75s	1 Singles & 1 Doubles or 2 Doubles	2 hrs/Singles & Doubles or 1.5 hrs/Doubles & Doubles
80s or 85s	1 Singles & 1 Doubles or 2 Doubles	2 hrs 2 hrs
<i>Players participating in more than one age division shall be given a minimum of 30 minutes rest between matches. Playing 16 or more games of singles, or 20 or more games of doubles to complete a match carried over from a preceding day may be counted, at the players option, toward the above limits.</i>		

## 3. The Mid-Atlantic Age Group Tournament Schedule and System

a.) TOURNAMENTS: The Mid-Atlantic Age Group tournament schedule consists of (1) National level tournaments including Categories I, Super II, and II that take place in the Mid-Atlantic Section; (2) Mid-Atlantic Championships; (3) State/Regional Championships and specifically "Designated" tournaments; Local tournaments and 1-day tournaments labeled as Express or other, as follows:

i.) Mid-Atlantic Championships are the only tournaments that are mandatory for a Mid-Atlantic Year-End Final Ranking. These tournaments are played at various times throughout the year in a variety of different settings and surfaces (indoor, outdoor, clay court, hard court) in order to ensure players a number of chances at meeting ranking requirements.

Certain Doubles Championships may use a shortened format and receive Championship level points for Mid-Atlantic Section Standings, but in accordance with National regulations, which do not recognize 8-game formats, are not awarded National Ranking points.

ii.) State / Regional Championships may be closed to non-residents. This includes the Regional of Columbia. All closed tournaments are identified in the schedule. Designated tournaments are selected annually by the Ranking Authority on the basis of the recent popularity of the tournament, prize money, or other considerations pursuant to request of the tournament director and earn points equal to a State or Regional Championship.

iii.) Local\* Tournaments are sanctioned tournaments other than Mid-Atlantic or State Championships, or Designated Tournaments. They may be 1-day events using shortened formats. Results are included for Mid-Atlantic Standings and Rankings.

**NTRP Tournaments:** NTRP tournaments are based on players' NTRP ratings, which may range from 2.5 to 5.0 in singles and doubles, and 6.0 to 9.0 in combined doubles. Age is not a factor, except that NTRP tournaments are not open to those under 18 years of age. Players must use their current NTRP Rating to enter a sanctioned event. Self-Rating is allowed only if the player does not have a current NTRP rating.

The regulations set forth below apply, first, to age group tournaments, and secondly to NTRP tournaments where variations in the regulations may apply.

### 1. NTRP Tournament Formats

- a.) All singles matches in Championship tournaments shall be two tie-break sets with a match tie-break to 10 for the third set. Doubles matches may be the same or use an 8-game pro-set.
- b.) Matches in State or Regional Championships and Designated events may use tournament formats as determined by the Regionals.
- c.) Express or one day tournaments may use shortened formats, including short-sets and tie-break sets.

### 2. Daily Play Limitations for NTRP Tournaments

- a.) For 2 out of 3 Tie-break sets or Tie-break in lieu of 3rd Set:

Max # Matches	Rest Between
2 Singles & 1 Doubles or 1 Singles & 2 Doubles or 3 Doubles	1 hr/Singles & Singles or 1 hr/Singles & Doubles or 1 hr/Doubles & Doubles

- b.) For 8-game Pro-set:

Max # Matches	Rest Between
3 Singles & 1 Doubles or 2 Singles & 2 Doubles or 4 Doubles	1/2 hr minimum

- c.) For other formats: Not to exceed 24 Games in a day.

### 3. The NTRP Tournament Schedule and System

- a.) There will be at least one Mid-Atlantic Sectional Championship.
- b.) State / Regional Championships and Designated
  - i.) State / Regional Championships may be closed to non-residents. This includes the Regional of Columbia. All closed tournaments are identified in the schedule.
  - ii.) Designated tournaments are selected annually by the Ranking Authority on the basis of the recent popularity of the tournament, prize money, or other considerations pursuant to request of the tournament director and earn points equal to State/Regional Championships.
- c.) Local and one day tournaments are sanctioned tournaments. Results are included for Mid-Atlantic Standings and Rankings.

### 4. NTRP Standings System

- a.) Rankings vs. Standings

Rankings are generated once per year and are based upon calendar year play, with results published by mid-January of the following year. To qualify for a Ranking a player must have a minimum of 25 ranking points. Standings are published monthly, and include results in the most recent 12-months play (12-Month Rolling Standing List). The only requirement to be included in the 12-Month Rolling Standing List is to have at least one match win. Both Rankings and Standings will be based upon a player's best four tournaments.

- b.) USTA Mid-Atlantic Standing Lists

The MAS 12-Month Rolling Standing List for adults and seniors will be published monthly and may be found on the USTA MAS website at [www.midatlantic.usta.com](http://www.midatlantic.usta.com). Select "Competitive

Tennis", then NTRP, and then Rankings/Standings. Lists will be calculated using all match results from the previous 12 months that have been entered into the ranking database at the time the respective division is being published. Corrections or inquiries regarding the Standing List must be submitted by email only to [fowle@mas.usta.com](mailto:fowle@mas.usta.com). Corrections will be researched and changes will be made when appropriate.

**c.) Results Considered for Standing and Final Ranking Lists**

i.) Only USTA sanctioned tournaments played within the USTA MAS will be considered for Section Standing and Ranking Lists. In order for tournament results to count, tournament directors must have entered complete results into the tournament management database. For doubles, both individual and team results will be calculated.

ii.) Each adult and senior player who participated in a USTA MAS tournament is responsible for verifying his/her player record on the MAS website or by mail. Players submitting inaccurate, incomplete, or illegible data (omission of losses, no names of opponents, defaults reported as wins, etc.) may suffer ranking penalties (including ranking denial) at the discretion of the Ranking Authority.

iii.) Players must use their current NTRP Rating to enter a sanctioned event. Self-Rating is allowed only if the player does not have a current NTRP rating.

iv.) Only adults (18 years of age and older) are allowed admittance into any USTA MAS NTRP tournament.

v.) Ranking categories- Men's and Women's 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 singles and doubles; Combined men's, women's and mixed doubles 6.0 to 9.0.

## **Ranking Process and Appeals**

**Rankings:** A numerical comparison of the won-lost records of a group of players competing in a specific age division, during a specific year, covering a specific set of tournaments.

Adult/Senior and NTRP Mid-Atlantic Standings and Rankings are based upon the Points Per Round (PPR) System, which awards points based upon the level of tournament played. (See Table 1 below for the point values assigned to the tournament levels) and the following:

A.) A player's point total for each tournament is derived from:

- 1.) For FIC draws, based on Round Reached
- 2.) For FMLC or FRLC draws: Points earned in the Main Draw (Round Reached) **or** Points earned in each consolation win
- 3.) For Round Robin draws, based on final position. Also - a player must win a match to earn points

B.) The player must win a match in the main draw to obtain main draw points. Completed match wins, retirement wins, and walkover wins, all count as matches won. Defaults do not qualify for points unless after an actual win. Byes do not count as matches won.

C.) In consolation matches, the player or team that advances by default will receive credit for a win, as long as that player or team does not default their next match. In round robin matches, a player or team that plays a match, but then withdraws/defaults, will have the defaulted match count as a loss for the defaulting player or team and as a win for the player or team that advances

D.) In determining final rankings among the Top Ten (10) players in any age group, the Adult Tournament Manager is authorized to factor in head-to-head results when the point values are identical, when the USTA

Ranking Program parameters fail to separate the players, in accordance with USTA Regulations X.F.6.d. (Breaking ranking ties)

E.) Residentially restricted tournaments other than Regional Championships are excluded from counting toward a player's qualifications for MAS rankings and standings.

**APPEALS:** An appeal based on factual error must be directed, in writing, to the Adult Tournament Manager, no later than ten(10) days after the tentative rankings have been published to the Internet.

## **Ranking Rules & Criteria**

The following criteria are factors used in determining rankings:

**A.** Rankings are generated once per year and are based upon calendar year play, with results published no later than the end of January of the following year. To qualify for a Ranking a player must play at least one Mid-Atlantic Section Championship tournament, or a National Level tournament held in MAS and must have a minimum of 25 ranking points. Standings are published monthly, and include results in the most recent 12-months play (12-Month Rolling Standing List\*\*). The only requirement to be included in the 12-Month Rolling Standing List is to have at least one match win. Both Rankings and Standings will be based upon a player's best four tournaments.

**B.** Fulfillment of requirements in the division the player/team wishes to be ranked.

**C.** The MAS 12-Month Rolling Standing List for adults and seniors will be published monthly\*\* and may be found on the USTA MAS website at [www.midatlantic.usta.com](http://www.midatlantic.usta.com). Select "Competitive Tennis", then Adults/Seniors, and then Rankings/Standings. Lists will be calculated using all match results from the previous 12 months that have been entered into the ranking database at the time the respective division is being published. Corrections or inquiries regarding the Standing List must be submitted by email only to [fowle@mas.usta.com](mailto:fowle@mas.usta.com). Corrections will be researched and changes will be made when appropriate.

**D.** Only USTA sanctioned tournaments played within the USTA MAS will be considered for Section Standing and Ranking Lists. In order for tournament results to count, tournament directors must have entered complete results into the tournament management database. For doubles, both individual and team results will be calculated.

**E.** Each adult and senior player who participated in a USTA MAS tournament is responsible for verifying his/her player record on the MAS website or by mail. Players submitting inaccurate, incomplete, or illegible data (omission of losses, no names of opponents, defaults reported as wins, etc.) may suffer ranking penalties (including ranking denial) at the discretion of the Adult Tournament Manager.

**Table 1**  
**2016 USTA MAS Points-Per-Round Table – Point Values**

Player Result Round reached					
	Express* (one day)	Local	State/Designated**	Sectional Championship	National Cat I or II***
<b>Champion</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>375</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>315</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Place#</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>250</b>
<b>Quarterfinalist</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>160</b>
<b>Round of 16</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Round of 32</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Round of 64</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Consolation</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>30</b>

\* One Day tournaments may be named as Express, Shoot-Out or Smash and may use shortened formats in

\*\* Designated tournaments will be determined by the Adult Programming Department based on the recent popularity of the event, prize money, or after consideration of a request by the tournament director.

\*\*\* Any National Category I, Super or other Category II and III events played within the Section.

# If there is no playoff for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place, the semi-final losers will receive the same points as reflected in this row.

This table applies to single elimination, first round or first match loser consolation, full feed-in and round robin tournaments.

### **Adults Intersectional Team Requirements:**

A. All players on a Mid-Atlantic Intersectional team must meet the following criteria:

1. All team members must have a current USTA membership;
2. Each player must meet USTA/Mid-Atlantic Residency requirements;
3. All team members shall have played a USTA Mid-Atlantic Sanctioned event within the previous twelve (12) months dating back from one month prior to the Cup event/selection, or played on a USTA League Team in the same time span.
4. Captains of Intersectional teams are required to invite the #1 ranked player in the team's corresponding age division on the USTA Mid-Atlantic 12 Month Rolling Standing List published one month prior to the Cup event.