



USTA Mid-Atlantic Junior Tournament Regulations

The purpose of these regulations is to:

- Foster the development of junior tennis players in the Mid-Atlantic Section;
- Meet the competitive needs of juniors at every skill level;
- Provide a pathway of advancement opportunities to higher skill levels;
- Extend competitive play throughout the year; and
- Address the concerns for school attendance and financial expenditure in pursuit of the sport.

It is the player's and parent's responsibility to be familiar with
USTA Mid-Atlantic Junior Tournament Regulations.

I. Eligibility Requirements

A. USTA Membership

In order to credit player match results for Standings/Rankings purposes, players must possess a current USTA membership* before registering for any tournament.

Where the tournament registration program (Tennislink) does not confirm that a player possesses a current, valid membership, Tournament Directors shall demand that a valid USTA membership card be presented at tournament check-in. USTA membership can be updated or purchased by credit card on-line or by calling 1-800-990-USTA (8782). Information about membership benefits is available from the Mid-Atlantic Section office.

* Membership is not required for Entry Level 8 tournaments:

A non-member identification number / player account must be created through the Tennislink Log-In page: <https://tennislink.usta.com/Dashboard/Main/Login.aspx?App=5>

B. Residency Requirements

Only players holding a current USTA membership card assigned to one of the States within Mid-Atlantic Section and who have established legal residency within USTA/MAS will be included in the Section Ranking lists.

Most Entry Level (L8 & L7) and Intermediate Level (L6 & L5) tournaments are open to all USTA junior members.

Advanced Level (L4) State Championships are closed by state residency. L4 Challengers are closed by Section residency – unless otherwise indicated. Advanced Level L4+ and L3 tournaments are closed by Section

A player's legal residence shall be the domicile of that player's parents, or in the absence of a parent, the player's legal guardian. Domicile is defined as the bona fide, true and permanent home of the player's parents or guardian. The USTA/Mid-Atlantic Section reserves the right to require proof of residency.

C. Age Eligibility

The USTA/Mid-Atlantic Section uses the same age-eligibility rule as USTA National. Junior players are able to play in an age division until the month of birth in the year in which they “age out” of their current age division. This means that players who are 10, 12, 14, 16, or 18 years old may continue to play in their age division until the last day of the month preceding the month in which they turn 11, 13, 15, 17, or 19, respectively. NOTE: The start date of a tournament determines the player’s eligibility for that tournament.

D. Birth Certificate

The Section reserves the right to require players to submit a copy of their birth certificate or other proof of age that is acceptable to the Section.

II. USTA/Mid-Atlantic BG12-18 Junior Tournaments

A. Junior Tournaments and Events

- a. Junior tournaments are defined by a specific level:
 1. Level 1 – Level 1 National Championships
 2. Level 2 – Level 2 National Selection Tournaments and events
 3. Level 3 -- USTA/MAS CHAMPIONSHIP SUPER 700 events
 4. Level 4+ - USTA/MAS CHAMPIONSHIP SUPER 660 events *and* National Regional Tournaments
 5. Level 4 – USTA/MAS Challengers; designated Closed State Championships and some ITF events
 6. Level 5 -- Advanced/Intermediate Events
 7. Level 6 -- Intermediate Events
 8. Level 7 – Entry Level Events
 9. Level 8 – Futures – Participation points only
- b. Junior Events
 10. Junior Team Tennis
 11. High School Dual Matches and Play-offs
 12. College Showcases
 13. Match Play Camps

B. Friend at Court

USTA/Mid-Atlantic Tournaments shall follow the rules and guidelines as published in the [Friend at Court](#), unless exception is noted. **For tournaments that do not count for national ranking, The Section has the authority to institute rules, regulations or practices that we deem beneficial to our players and/or our providers.**

C. Pathway

The MAS tournament pathway begins with short duration tournaments, short match formats and low entry fees, and logically and incrementally progresses to longer competitions, longer match formats and corresponding reasonable increases in maximum recommended entry fees.

III. Entry Level & Intermediate Tournaments

A. L8 Tournament Formats (Futures)

- a. Shall be no longer than half-day per draw
- b. Non-Elimination draw formats shall be used - guarantee 3 matches
- c. Entrants may be split into multiple draws to facilitate court time
- d. May use timed matches; short sets; Fast4 formats
- e. Use of the Green-dot balls is mandatory for L8 Boys and Girls (BG)12s

B. L7 Tournament Formats (Entry Level)

- a. Shall be no longer than one day per draw
- b. Match formats determined by number of rounds to be played
- c. Use of the Green dot ball is mandatory for L7 BG12s
- d. Summer/Outdoor: 2 matches guaranteed; Winter/Indoor: 2 match minimum recommended
- e. Draws of 33 or more players may be split

C. L6 Tournament Formats (Intermediate)

- a. Shall be no longer than 2 days (unless exception is granted and noted on website)
- b. Format is best 2 out of 3 sets with Tie-break in lieu of 3rd (unless noted)
- c. Summer/Outdoor: 2 matches guaranteed; Winter/Indoor: 2 match minimum recommended
- d. Sanctioning Limit: 3 per region per month for each age group
 - a. VA has 4 regions
 - b. MD has 3 regions
 - c. DC has 1 region
 - d. WV has 1 region

D. L5 Tournament Formats (Advanced Intermediate)

- a. Shall not exceed 3 days (unless exception is granted and noted on the website)
- b. Match Format is 2 out of 3 sets with Tie-break in lieu of 3rd; semi-finals & finals are 2 out of 3 sets
- c. Summer/Outdoor: 2 matches guaranteed; Winter/Indoor: 2 match minimum recommended
- d. Sanctioning Limit: 1 per region per month for each age group (See C. d.)

E. USTA/MAS Challenger Events: Non-designated (L4)

- a. Non-designated events will not count toward a player's National ranking
- b. The Challenger event schedule will consist of five (5) tournaments in each age division and each Challenger event will be limited in entry by the following schedule:

All Challengers: Open to 48 players using single elimination format and offering a doubles draw of up to 24 teams, single elimination format. A Play-off for 3rd/4th place shall be offered. Challenger tournaments will count for Section Level 4 points and will be indicated in title as L4. The schedule is as follows:

February: Challenger #1

April: Challenger #2
June/July: CLAY COURT Challenger #3 -based on available weekends in the National Schedule; May be open to Non-Residents
November: Challenger #4
December: Challenger #5

F. USTA/MAS Closed State Championships (L4)

- a. The section shall offer THREE (3) CLOSED STATE Championships in each of the four states (Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and The District of Columbia) per year. ('Closed' means – only residents of that state or district may enter)
- b. Draws Size may be limited, depending on Court availability
- c. The 3 events are as follows:
 - a. State Clay Courts: July
 - b. State Hard Courts: August
 - c. State Indoor Hard Courts: December

G. Selection – For ALL L8 to L4 Tournaments:

- a. When court space is limited, draw sizes may be limited
- b. Tournament Directors must indicate that draw size may be limited on their Tournament Home Page
- c. Players are selected based on their position on the most recent Mid-Atlantic Standing List*
- d. To fill a draw, non-ranked players may be selected randomly
- e. *Some Pilot tournaments may use a selection process based on a Published Player rating – insuring level-based play

H. Seeding

- a. Seeding shall be based on the most recent USTA/Mid-Atlantic Standing List*
- b. Seeding number *must* be a power of 2: 2, 4, 8, etc
- c. Seeding ratio is a maximum of 1 seed per 3 players, except that any draw size may have 2 seeds:
 - a. 2-11 Players: 2 Seeds maximum
 - b. 12-23 Players: 4 Seeds Maximum
 - c. 24-47 Players: 8 seeds Maximum
 - d. 48 +: 16 Seeds
- d. If there is not enough information to seed the maximum number, the tournament director may choose to seed the next lower power of 2
- e. Round Robins should not be seeded
- f. *Some Pilot tournaments may be seeded based on a Published Player Rating, with highest (strongest) players selected as seeds

I. Additional Events

- a. Junior Team Tennis (JTT) events are organized and run separately from the regular junior tournament structure which deals exclusively with individual and doubles tournament play (see the section on JTT on the Mid-Atlantic website). However, players in the Intermediate and Advanced JTT State and Sectional

Championship events will earn points toward their Mid-Atlantic Standings/Rankings. Please review associated [point tables](#).

- b. High School Participation will be awarded participation points and match win points, as long as the match is posted on the tennislink searchable schedule and the player holds a current USTA Membership OR a non-membership Player Identification Number. Please review [point tables](#).
- c. College Showcases; Match Play Camps and Pilot Events may award points as noted on the event Home Page.

IV. BG12-18 Advanced Junior Tournaments: L4+, L3

These events are open to juniors in the Mid-Atlantic Section meeting the Residency Requirements as set forth in ELIGIBILITY. Level 4+ and Level 3 Tournaments count for *both* Section and National Ranking. **They are titled as a 'Super Six Series'.**

EXCEPTION: Some DOUBLES ONLY events offer L4+ Points, but do NOT count for National Points. They are NL0 events.

A. L4+ and L3 Tournaments

- a. **LATE ENTRIES ARE NOT ACCEPTED!**
- b. There shall be a total of 6 Advanced Singles and 6 Advanced Doubles Super Six Series events per Age Division per Year.
- c. SINGLES ONLY events shall be scheduled as 3-day events; 2 out of 3 tie-break sets; **EXCEPTION: The JUNE SECTION CHAMPIONSHIP (see SCHEDULE, below)**
- d. DOUBLES ONLY shall be scheduled as a 1-day event; 8 game pro-set
- e. All draws shall be Full Feed-In (FIC) Draw Format
- f. Selection and seeding of USTA/MAS Section Junior tournaments is completed by the Mid-Atlantic Section office.
- g. **SELECTION: BG14s, 16s, 18s** Selection of players to the Super Six Series SINGLES:
 - i. In Draws of 32 players, 28 will be selected from the most recent USTA/MAS Standing List in the age division of the event; 4 Players will be selected from the next younger age division, as long as the player is:
 - In the Top 8 of the USTA/MAS Standing List in the next Younger Age Division AND
 - The Player is in the Top 150 of the most recent National Standing List of the Younger Age Division
 - If no players from the younger age division meet these criteria, the remaining 4 spots will be awarded to players from the Standing List of the age division of the event.
 - ii. In Draws of 48 players, 44 will be selected from the most recent USTA/MAS Standing List in the age division of the event; 4 Players will be selected from the next younger age division, as long as the player is:
 - In the Top 8 of the USTA/MAS Standing List in the next Younger Age Division AND
 - The Player is in the Top 150 of the most recent National Standing List of the Younger Age Division

- If no players from the younger age division meet these criteria, the remaining 4 spots will be awarded to players from the Standing List of the age division of the event.

h. SELECTION: BG12s Singles and/or Doubles

- i. Players will be selected from the most recent USTA/MAS Standing list in the BG12s Age Division

B. Schedule: USTA/MAS Championship SUPER SIX SERIES (Level 4+ and Level 3)

Tournaments – Designated Events

a. LEVEL 3- SUPER 700 EVENTS

- i. SUPER 700 Events will receive both National and Section Level 3 Points.
- ii. USTA/MAS CHAMPIONSHIP SUPER 700 singles events will be held twice per year (2) tournaments in each age division with a “back draw” or full feed in consolation (FIC). Championship #1 will be limited to a draw of 32; Championship #4 will be a maximum draw of 64.
- iii. USTA/MAS CHAMPIONSHIP Doubles Only SUPER 700 events will be held twice per year. Doubles only draws will be limited to 16 teams with a Full Feed In consolation through the quarters. The match format for Championship #1 will be 8-game pro-sets. The match format for Championship #4 may be an 8-game pro-set or 2/3 tie-break sets.
- iv. The Level 3 SUPER 700 events will be held as follows:

January:

Championship #1 Singles Only; 2/3 tie-break sets; FIC; Draw limit = 32

Championship #1 Doubles Only; 8-game Pro-sets; FIC; Draw limit = 16 teams

June:

Championship #4 Singles Only; 2/3 tie-break sets; FIC; Draw limit = 64

Championship #4 Doubles Only; 2/3 tie-break sets; FIC; Draw Limit = 16 teams

- v. A Play-Off for 3rd/4th Place *shall* be held.

- vi. The Main draw shall be played to completion, barring inclement weather.

- vii. The FIC Consolation will be played to the finals.

b. LEVEL 4+ - SUPER 660 EVENTS

- i. SUPER 660 Events will receive both National Level 4 and Section Level 4+ points
- ii. USTA/MAS CHAMPIONSHIP SUPER 660 events will be held four (4) times per year as follows:

March:

Championship #2 Singles Only; 2/3 tie-break sets; FIC; Draw limit = 32

Championship #2 Doubles Only; 8-game Pro-sets; FIC; Draw limit = 16 teams

April:

Championship #3 Doubles Only; 8-game Pro-sets; FIC; Draw limit = 16 teams

May:

Championship #3 Singles Only 2/3 tie-break sets; FIC: Draw limit = 48

September:

Championship #5 Singles Only; 2/3 tie-break sets; FIC: Draw limit = 48

Championship #5 Doubles Only; 8-game Pro-sets; FIC: Draw Limit = 16 teams

October:

Championship #6 Singles Only; 2/3 tie-break sets; FIC; Draw limit = 32
Championship #6 Doubles Only; 8-game Pro-sets; FIC; Draw limit = 16 teams

iii. The main draw will be played to completion

iv. A Play-Off for 3rd/4th Place *shall* be held

v. The Consolation for all SECTION L4+ events shall conclude **ON SUNDAY**;
No consolation matches will be played on Monday

***ENDING CONSOLATION PLAY ON SUNDAY will
eliminate players missing school.**

V. USTA BG12-18s National Tournaments and Events

A. National Level Tournaments are scheduled by the USTA National Office. These events include but are not limited to:

Certain International Tennis Federation (ITF) Levels 4 to 1

National Regional Tournaments Levels 4+

National Selection Tournaments Level 2

National Championships Level 1 or 1A

Other events as listed on the National Junior Schedule

Entry to these events may be based on a player's position on the Section Endorsement List, on the National Standing List, results in a Qualifying draw, a Wild Card, or USTA/MAS Section Selection/Endorsement.

It is the Player's responsibility to know and understand [the entry process for these events](#).

The deadline for most of the tournaments on the [National Junior Schedule](#) will be:

THURSDAY AT NOON EASTERN TIME!

B. Endorsement and Selection to National Team Events, including but not limited to:

Zone Team Championships Level 2

Intersectional Team Championships Level 1

BG18s National Team Championship Level 1

MAS Endorsement and Selection to National Team Championships and Zone Team Events will be determined by player position on the most current USTA-MAS Standings list.

Various Sections and private organizations coordinate "Invitational" events and offer Sections the opportunity to enter players or a team. Where USTA/MAS agrees to participate in such events, players are selected based on their position on the current Standings List after considering any specific selection criteria stipulated by the event organizers and the need for time-certain commitments. For example, if an invitational event is available for boys and girls with national Standings greater than 100, then the first boy (or girl) offered a place on the USTA/MAS team is the player whose current Standing is #101. That child is contacted regarding the opportunity and given a set period of time in which to commit to participate. If the child accepts, his/her place on the team is guaranteed. If the child declines or fails to commit by the stated deadline, then the next player in the Standings (#102) is contacted. This procedure is repeated until all positions have been filled.

Note: The Youth Programs Committee (YPC) has final approval on all players selected to National and or Team events. The YPC may decline to endorse a player's participation in any National or Team event where that player (or related party, including a parent or

coach) has exhibited unacceptable personal behavior, poor sportsmanship, withdrawal after selection of players has been determined, or any acts determined detrimental to the game.

Players who enter a National Championship or National Regional Tournament and are selected based on their Quota position on the USTA/MAS Endorsement List may NOT withdraw to compete in another tournament (for example, an ITF event). If a player is discovered in another draw, FIVE (5) penalty points will be added to their Point Penalty Record. Taking a Quota Spot from another potential player and then failing to participate is considered Unsportsmanlike Conduct.

VI. Scheduling and Junior Match Play

A. Online Entry Acceptance and Notification

- a. We urge all players to register online and refer to the tournament home page for pertinent information regarding registration, draws, scoring, hotels, directions and weather updates
- b. Main draw players and alternates may view lists published on the TennisLink Tournament Home Page for a specific event in which they've registered, no later than six days after on-line registration has closed
- c. When possible, draws will be published on the Wednesday prior to every Friday/Saturday start date for L4, L4+ and L3 events

FOR LEVELS L4, L4+ and L3: LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES

B. Tournament Withdrawal

- a. A player desiring to withdraw from a tournament after the entry deadline has passed must notify the Tournament Director (TD) in writing. Fax or e-mail is acceptable. Sending a copy of the communication to the MAS office is appreciated, but does not alleviate the player of the responsibility to notify the TD directly.
- b. Refunds are NOT required after the tournament deadline
- c. After play has started, a player who does not intend to play the next match (complete the tournament), shall notify the tournament director in writing with in one (1) hour of the end of the previous match of his/her intention not to play. Failure to do so will result in a Default/no show code for the match; five (5) penalty points on a player's record; loss of points for the tournament; and the event will not count toward the player's Endorsement List eligibility.

MAS/YPC Comment: Failure to notify the tournament director is considered Unsportsmanlike Conduct. If you are unable to complete the next match, it is strongly recommended that the player plays one point and retires.

C. Making the Draw(s) for USTA/MAS Junior Tournaments

The making of the draw for all USTA/MAS Junior Tournaments is the responsibility of the Tournament Referee, assisted by at least one but preferably two members of the Tournament Committee Scheduling Junior Match Play

- a. USTA Tournament Regulations as found in the [Friend at Court](#) establish formal guidelines for scheduling junior tournament match play. While USTA/MAS requires Tournament Directors to adhere to these Guidelines in planning their events, circumstances

can and do arise that require Referees/Directors to exercise their authority to revise the schedule in a manner consistent with the Guidelines. At all times, the health of the players involved should receive consideration.

Exception: For all Level 4 and Level 4+ tournaments, to complete the tournament in 3 days, the Referee may schedule up to two (2) singles matches and two (2) doubles matches per day.

VII. Section Rankings, Standings

A. Residency Requirements

To be considered for any USTA/Mid-Atlantic Ranking List, a player must be a USTA member in good standing. The player must also maintain a residence or reside within the USTA/Mid-Atlantic Section. No player qualifying and receiving a ranking in another USTA section will be ranked in the USTA/Mid-Atlantic Section.

B. Tournaments that count for Mid-Atlantic Section Ranking Lists

- a. Junior Team Tennis State, Section and National Championships
- b. High School Tennis Matches
- c. All USTA/Mid-Atlantic sanctioned Section tournaments
- d. National Tournaments on the USTA Online Searchable Schedule
- e. Some special events, as noted on the Tournament Home page

C. Weekly Standings List

- a. Published every Tuesday
- b. The Combined Standings List consists of 100% of a player's best six (6) singles point totals and 15% of a player's best six (6) doubles point totals recorded in the Standings program over the preceding twelve (12) month period
- c. All age-eligible players who have played at least one tournament in an age division and have at least one match win in the division, will receive a Standing
- d. Bonus Points for wins over players in the top 100 of the Final Ranking List from the previous month will be added according to the point chart
- e. New Residents Rule: Players whose families have moved to the Mid-Atlantic Section, holding a National Standing in the Top 150 of an age group, will be placed as 'Eligible' on the Mid-Atlantic Standing List, at a position commensurate with the rankings of adjacent players, *for a period not to exceed 4 months of adjusted position*, for the sake of selection into a Section Level 4, 4+ or 3 event. The 'New Residents Rule' will be used for Selection into tournaments with limited draws and for seeding, **but not for selection to USTA Mid-Atlantic Competitive teams**, as long as the Parents can show proof of residency to the satisfaction of the Junior Competition Committee, such as (but not limited to):
 - i. Military Transfer Orders
 - ii. School registration
 - iii. Driver's License
 - iv. Home Purchase

For example: A new player whose national standing is 89 will be placed on the MAS Weekly Standing List between 2 players who are ranked 72 and 105 on the National

Standing List, for the purpose of selection and seeding in tournaments with limited draws.

D. Doubles Only Standings List

- a. Individual doubles rankings will be published weekly
- b. Includes a player's best six (6) doubles results
- c. Used for Selection and Seeding in Doubles Only Tournaments

E. Monthly Final Ranking List

- a. Published at the beginning of each month for the preceding month
- b. Removes players who age up in the month of publishing
- c. Is used to calculate Bonus Points during the current month

F. Yearly Final Ranking List

- a. Published in January for the preceding year
- b. Contains all players who were age eligible for any portion of the preceding year from January 1 to December 31
- c. Players must be a USTA/MAS resident on December 31 to be included

G. Endorsement List for National Regional Tournaments

- a. Establishes players in the Quota
- b. Published on the Monday before the deadline for the National Tournaments
- c. Uses the same criteria as the Weekly Standing List

H. Endorsement List for National Championships

- a. Establishes Players in the USTA/MAS Quota
- b. When possible, published the Monday prior to the tournament deadline - must be published before Close of Business the Wednesday before the deadline
- c. Must have at least 1 match win (played)
- d. Player must enter and compete in at least 3 of the USTA/MAS SUPER SIX events in the 12 months preceding the publish date
 - 1. Enter and compete means that the player must enter the tournament and play until he or she is eliminated. Withdrawals and/or Defaults DO NOT COUNT as completing the tournament; Results will not be added to a player's Standing and would not qualify the player for inclusion on the Endorsement List
 - 2. If a player is unable to complete the tournament, the player should retire.

MAS/YPC Comment: The reason that Withdrawals and Defaults do not count toward a player's participation in SUPER SIX EVENTS is to encourage play within the Section. A player shall not enter and then withdraw, expecting the event to count.

Players who enter a National Championship or National Regional Tournament and are selected based on their Quota position on the USTA/MAS Endorsement List may NOT withdraw to compete in another tournament (for example, an ITF event). If a player is discovered in another draw, FIVE (5) penalty points will be added to their Point Penalty Record. Taking a Quota Spot from another potential player and then failing to participate is considered unsportsmanlike conduct.

VII. Points

To receive points for a tournament, the following rules apply:

- A. Points are based on the level of tournament, the draw type and the player's results (where they finish)
- B. In Closed State Championships, players will be awarded extra points per round won, to account for the larger draw sizes of some states
- C. For all ranking lists*, Points count down one (1) age division as long as the player is age eligible for the younger age division and has at least 1 match win (played) in the younger age within the previous twelve (12) months.
***EXCEPTION:** BG12 results do not count down to BG10 rankings
- D. Byes do not qualify as wins; Player must win the following match to earn points
- E. Withdrawals qualify as wins for the advancing player and earn Points-Per-Round, but do not earn Bonus Points
- F. Retirements and Walkovers qualify as wins for the advancing player; earn Points-Per-Round; and if eligible, Bonus Points
- G. A player who advances because of a default that takes place before the commencement of the first point in the match or because the opponent is disqualified, shall receive Points-Per-Round for advancing, but shall not receive Bonus Points
- H. A player who is defaulted from a tournament for code violations under the Point Penalty System or misconduct forfeits any points accumulated during the tournament