

junior competition
GUIDEBOOK
2016



MIDDLE STATES



MIDDLE STATES

USTA Middle States Junior Competition Guidebook



OVERVIEW

In an effort to improve the experience for thousands of young players throughout the USTA Middle States Section, the 2016 USTA Middle States Junior Competition Guidebook has been designed to maximize a player’s competitive experiences, whether that be at Play Days, Junior Team Tennis events or tournaments.

Players will advance to higher levels as they earn their way through the pathway. This booklet gives an overview of the entire structure which includes District, Sectional and National competition.

AGE ELIGIBILITY

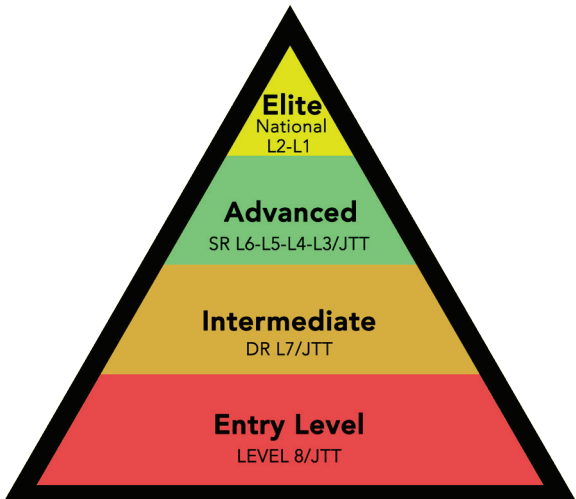
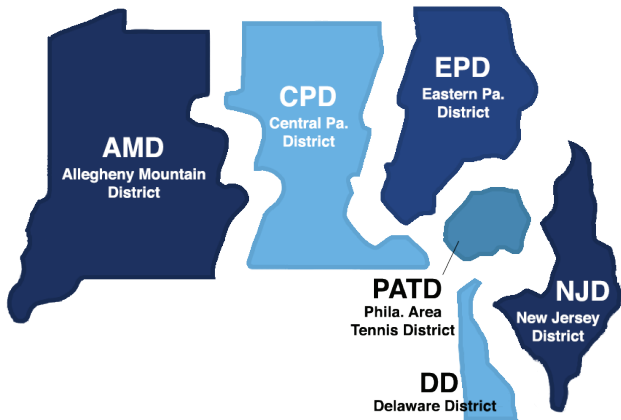
The USTA has adopted a *month of birth* age eligibility for junior players competing in sanctioned tournaments. Junior players may continue to play in the 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18 age division until the month they turn 9, 11, 13, 15, 17 or 19, respectively. Players competing are expected to know the rules of tennis and comply with the *Code of Conduct* of the USTA.

ABOUT USTA MIDDLE STATES

The USTA is organized geographically into 17 sections. The USTA Middle States section encompasses Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey (exclusive of a 35-mile radius around New York City) and northwestern West Virginia.

To better serve local needs, USTA Middle States section is further subdivided into six districts: Allegheny Mountain (Pittsburgh, Erie; Wheeling, WV), Central Pennsylvania (Lancaster, Harrisburg, Hershey, York, Williamsport, State College), Delaware (state of Delaware), Philadelphia Area (Philadelphia, Bucks, Montgomery, Delaware, Chester Counties), Eastern Pennsylvania (Reading, Allentown, Wilkes-Barre) and New Jersey (state of New Jersey).

As seen below, the districts are often referred to as AMD, CPD, DD, EPD, NJD and PATD.



THE NEW 10 AND UNDER YOUTH TENNIS PROGRESSION

Designed to help players develop their fundamentals and get the most out of tennis, the Youth Progression system rewards kids for competing and inspires them to play more often.



The Youth Progression serves as a guide for coaches, parents and players to ensure that kids 10 and under participate in events using the appropriate ball for their skill level. Now that balls and courts are tailored to a player’s skill level, children can improve and have fun right from the start. Kids will be able to track progress on their Player Progression Page. The more they play, and the more they improve their skills and clear each level, the more stars and trophies they accumulate.

ORANGE LEVEL 1

HOW TO COLLECT STARS/TROPHIES	GEAR
1 Tournament = ★ ★ ★ ★	 Tennis Ball Orange Felt Racquet Up to 25" Court 60'x21' (Singles) 60'x27' (Doubles)
Team Tennis Season = ★ ★ ★ ★ ★	
Tournament Champion = 🏆 🏆 🏆 🏆	
Tournament Finalist = 🏆 🏆 🏆	

GREEN LEVEL 1

HOW TO COLLECT STARS/TROPHIES	GEAR
1 Tournament = ★ ★ ★ ★	 Tennis Ball Green Dot Racquet Up to 29" Court 78'x27' (Singles) 78'x36' (Doubles)
Team Tennis Season = ★ ★ ★ ★ ★	
Tournament Champion = 🏆 🏆 🏆 🏆	
Tournament Finalist = 🏆 🏆 🏆	

ENTRY LEVEL

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LEVEL 8 TOURNAMENTS - AGES 7 THROUGH 10 (YOUTH PROGRESSION)

The Middle States Junior Pathway promotes play in Red, Orange, Green and Yellow ball events. This level of competition is structured in a way that allows young players to remain at the appropriate level until they are granted advancement by way of age or participation. Junior tournaments enable kids to learn strategy and tactics through organized match play. USTA Membership or a free USTA account number is required to play events in the Youth Progression System. Visit www.membership.usta.com for account information.

The Youth Progression System tracks the progress of all brand new USTA MS 10 and under members **new to competition in 2016** through participation in Tournaments and Junior Team Tennis. Not only will players receive credit for participating, but they will also receive bonus points for doing well in a tournament. This helps more developed players move faster through the system.

Players will transition by collecting participation stars and trophies based on their results. One Star equals 50 participation points, and one Trophy equals 50 results points. To clear a specific level, players must reach 1,000 points, all of which are achieved through a combination of 20 virtual Stars and/or Trophies. The minimum age to begin playing orange and green ball events is 7 years old. On the first day of a player's 11th birthday month, he or she will automatically advance out of the 10 and Under progression tracking system.

Youth Progression Requirements for USTA Middle States

Requirements to advance	ORANGE	GREEN
	Age 7-10 1,000 orange points to advance to green	Age 7-10 1,000 green points or reaching age 11 to advance to yellow
Participation		
Level 8 Tournaments	4 stars 200 pts	4 stars 200 pts
Junior Team Tennis	5 stars 250 pts	5 stars 250 pts
Play Days	TBD	TBD
Bonus		
Level 8 Tournament Champion	4 trophies 200 pts	4 trophies 200 pts
Level 8 Tournament Finalist	3 trophies 175 pts	3 trophies 175 pts

LEVEL 8 TOURNAMENTS - AGES 11 AND OVER

Level 8 Tournaments are one-day tournaments available for junior players who want to play close to home. These non-ranking events are open to players ages 11-18. USTA Membership or a free USTA account number is required to enter these tournaments. Registration is available at tennislink.usta.com.



Register for a
Non-Member
USTA Account



middlestates.usta.com

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

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DISTRICT (DR) TOURNAMENT ENTRY INFORMATION

No junior player may enter more than one (1) USTA sanctioned tournament when the scheduled dates overlap, unless the player or parent has received written permission to do so from both tournament directors or from the Director of Junior Competition. However, under no circumstance can a player play in more than one (1) USTA sanctioned tournament when the scheduled dates are the same or overlap.

USTA DISTRICT RANKING (DR) TOURNAMENTS

DR L7 Junior Tournaments | District Level 7 - Intermediate

DR L7 is the abbreviation for District Ranking tournaments. These are designed for the developing player pursuing a district and/or sectional ranking. These tournaments are one or two days in duration. Players earn district points (points per round) and sectional points (points are awarded by the amount determined with the last round the player won). Ranking points tables are located at the back of this guidebook.

All matches will be 2 out of 3 short sets with no-ad scoring – starting at 2 games all with a 10-point match tiebreak in lieu of a third set. All players are guaranteed three matches at the tournament. All 12s Divisions will be played with Green Dot balls, excluding “Designated” tournaments. Singles events will be a compass draw or round robin format. **Players in an age division with a sectional ranking of 1-20 may not participate in that age division.**

**Order of Entry Process:
DR L7 Tournaments**

- (1) Sectionally ranked District players
- (2) District residents
- (3) Out-of-District Sectionally-ranked players
- (4) All other USTA Middle States players
- (5) All other eligible USTA members

USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS (JTT) - INTERMEDIATE

Designed for the developing players, Intermediate Junior Team Tennis brings individuals together as teammates to play other teams and gain valuable experience in singles, doubles and mixed doubles matches. The intermediate level consists of unranked players or intermediate players in the 12 and Under, 14 and Under and 18 and Under age divisions who fall outside of the Middle States **Benchmarks***.

*BENCHMARKS		JTT CATEGORIES	
*Benchmarks are based on the USTA Middle States Rankings List on 8/1/2015. If a player in the 12s is sectionally ranked in the top 40, or a 14s/16s/18s player is top 70 in the sectional rankings, he/she must play at the Advanced level in any age division.		LOCAL	CHAMPIONSHIP
		-Non-advancing -Free USTA account number or USTA membership required	-Advancing* -USTA Membership required

The age cutoff for the JTT Championship track is August 31 of that championship year. For example, a player may participate in the 14 and Under division if they remain 14 through August 31 of the championship year.

All six Districts hold a District Championship in July. Only the eligible winning team from each League are guaranteed to advance to their respective District Championship. Winning teams from 14 and Under and 18 and Under Sectional Championships are eligible to advance to USTA National Championships.

*Eligibility Requirements to Advance to District/Section/National Championships: A player is eligible to progress if:

- (1) meets all Middle States section benchmark requirements for intermediate levels of play
- (2) participated on a team that is from an age-validated advancing program within TennisLink Team Tennis
- (3) played on an advancing team in at least two team matches over two days during the local season
- (4) The results of the two minimum matches must be recorded in TennisLink Team Tennis. A retired match can count toward the two-match requirement, but defaults can not.

ADVANCED LEVEL

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SECTIONAL (SR) TOURNAMENT ENTRY INFORMATION

No junior player may enter more than one (1) USTA sanctioned tournament when the scheduled dates overlap, unless the player or parent has received written permission to do so from both tournament directors or it is a specified concurrent tournament weekend with a Level 3 or 4 (Jan/Feb/Aug/Nov). However, under no circumstance can a player play in more than one (1) USTA sanctioned tournament when the scheduled dates are the same or overlap.

USTA SECTIONAL RANKING (SR) TOURNAMENTS

Sectional Level 6 and Level 5 - Advanced

These events count toward section rankings, and their primary purpose is to provide competition among the transitioning USTA MS juniors who are pursuing a sectional ranking.

Sectional Level 3 and Level 4 - Advanced

These events count toward section rankings and national rankings, and their primary purpose is to provide competition among the USTA MS juniors who are pursuing USTA National Tournament eligibility.

Order of Entry Process: Singles Divisions for Sectional Tournaments

- (1) Players with rankings of 100 or better on the most recently-published National Standings List in the age division
- (2) With a maximum of only three, consideration will be given to players with rankings of 50 or better on the most recent National Standings List in the division one level beneath the division in question and, secondly, to players ranked in the top 10 on the most recent published Sectional Standings List in the age division one level beneath the division in question
- (3) Players on the most recently published Sectional Standings List in the age division
- (4) All other USTA Middle States members, by lottery
- (5) **For SR Level 6 Tournaments only**, all other eligible USTA members, by lottery

USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS (JTT) - ADVANCED

Designed for advanced players, Advanced Junior Team Tennis brings individuals together as teammates to play other teams and gain valuable experience in singles, doubles and mixed doubles matches. The advanced level consists of experienced players in the 14 and Under and the 18 and Under age divisions.

The age cutoff for the JTT Championship track is August 31 of that championship year. For example, a player may participate in the 14 and Under division if they remain 14 through August 31 of the championship year.

All six Districts hold a District Championship in July. Only the eligible winning team from each League are guaranteed to advance to their respective District Championship. Winning teams from 14U and 18U District Championships advance to the USTA Middle States Section Championship. Winning teams in the Section Championships 14U and 18U divisions are eligible for National Championships. Players in the Advanced divisions are awarded 10 points for a singles win and 1.5 points for a gender doubles win at the JTT National Championships.

*Eligibility Requirements to Advance to District/Section/National Championships: A player is eligible to progress if:
(1) Participated on a team from an age-validated advancing program (Championship Track) within TennisLink Team Tennis
(2) Played on the advancing team (Championship Track) in at least two team matches over two separate days during the local USTA Junior Team Tennis Season
(3) Results of the two minimum matches must be recorded in TennisLink Team Tennis. A retired match can count toward the two-match requirement, but defaults can not.

ELITE LEVEL

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USTA NATIONAL JUNIOR TOURNAMENTS

Access to the USTA National Championships will be primarily through the Section Endorsement which places importance on achieving excellence at the Sectional level before advancing to regional/national competition. USTA Middle States endorses to the following National Championships, Team Championships and Closed Regionals. Players must apply in order to be considered for these events.

NATIONAL EVENTS - Entry based on Endorsement Lists

- *Level 3 or 4 - "Closed" Regionals (Region 3):* Held in February and October for the BG12-18 divisions with a 32-player draw.
- *Level 1 - USTA National Clay Championship:* Consist of 128 players for BG12-14, and 192 players for BG 16-18, held in July.
- *Level 1 - USTA National Championship:* Consist of 128 players for BG12-14, and 192 players for BG 16-18, held in August.
- *Level 1 - USTA National Winter Championship:* Consists of 128 players for BG12-18, held in December.

ENDORSEMENT DATES

Jan. 11 - February Regionals (closed)
June 1 - July Clay Courts Nationals
July 1 - August Hard Courts Nationals
Sept. 1 - October Regionals (closed)
Nov. 30 - December Winter Nationals

NUMBER OF PLAYERS ENDORSED FROM MIDDLE STATES

NATIONAL EVENTS	BG12s	BG14s	BG16s	BG18s
Closed Regionals	6	6	6	6
Clay Courts	4	4	6	5
Hard Courts	4*	4*	5*	5*
Winter Nationals	4	4	4	4

**June Sectional Level 3 Championships singles winner earns automatic entry into Level 1 National Hard Court Championship event*

NATIONAL TEAM EVENTS - Entry based on Endorsement Lists

- *Level 2 - USTA Zone Team Championships:* Held in July for the BG12, BG14 and the BG16 divisions
- *Level 1 - USTA Intersectional Team Championships:* Held in July for the BG14 divisions and BG16 divisions
- *Level 1 - USTA National Team Championship:* Consists of 17 teams (one per section) for BG18, held in July.

These are national level team tournaments where players get to compete alongside fellow Middle States players against players from other sections.

Below are the dates and number of players endorsed from Middle States for each Boys and Girls division into National Team Championship Events. These are non-elimination, round robin National team championships:

- June 3 for the July Zone Team and Intersectional Team Championships
- July 1 for the July National Team Championships

NUMBER OF PLAYERS ENDORSED FROM MIDDLE STATES

NATIONAL TEAM EVENTS	BG12s	BG14s	BG16s	BG18s
Zone Team	12	12	18	n/a
Intersectional Team	n/a	3*	3*	n/a
National Team	n/a	n/a	n/a	6*

*The Junior Competition Committee reserves the right, if it is deemed in the best interest of the Section, to select one (1) additional player.

OTHER NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS - Entry based on the National Standings Lists

- USTA National Selection Tournaments
- USTA National Doubles Championship
- USTA National Spring Team Championships
- National Warm Up Tournament
- USTA "Open" Regional

RANKINGS POINTS TABLES

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DISTRICT (DR) RANKINGS AND STANDINGS

Players shall earn district points for winning rounds at a district tournament that are set forth on the rankings points table below. Check your district website for year-end ranking requirements.

District Points Per Win Table

District (DR L7) Ranking Points Per Round	DR L7	DR L7*
Main Draw Points Per Round Won	20	40
Consolation Draw Points Per Round Won	10	20

*For District “Designated” tournaments, the points per round value will be double.
The champion receives 30 bonus points and the finalist receives 20 bonus points.

SECTIONAL (SR) COMBINED RANKINGS AND STANDINGS

The last round the player won in the tournament produces the only points the player receives. Byes do not count as a win. Combined rankings are calculated using the best four Sectional (SR), District (DR L7) and/or one national tournament on the USTA National Calendar in a 12-month period. Combined rankings are calculated using 100 percent of the singles points awarded and 15 percent of the doubles points awarded.

Middle States Ranking Points Tables - Effective 1/1/2016

Feed-in Championship Through Round of 16 (FIC-16)

Description	Finish	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Champion	1	660	300	220	165
2nd Place	2	540	250	180	135
3rd Place	3	480	220	160	120
4th Place/SF	4	420	220	160	105
5th Place/QF Playoff Winner	5	390	175	130	98
6th Place/QF Playoff Runner-up	6	360	160	120	90
7th & 8th Place/Playoff Cons Losers	7/8	330	140	110	83
FIC Winner	9	330	140	110	83
FIC Runner-up	10	310	130	105	80
FIC Semi-Finalist	11-12	300	125	100	75
FIC Quarterfinalist	13-16	270	115	90	68
Reach FIC R16	17-24	240	95	80	60
Reached FIC R16 Qualifier	25-32	210	80	70	53
Reached FIC R32	33-48	180	65	60	45
Reached FIC R32 Qualifier	49-64	150	0	50	38
Reached FIC R64	65-96	120	0	40	30
Reached FIC R64 Qualifier	97-128	90	0	30	23
Reached FIC 128	129-192	60	0	20	15

RANKINGS POINTS TABLES

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Middle States Ranking Points Tables - Effective 1/1/2016

Feed-In Through Quarterfinals (FICQ)

Description	Finish	Level 1	Level 3	Level 5
Champion	1	660	220	88
2nd Place	2	540	180	72
3rd Place	3	480	160	64
4th Place/SF	4	420	140	56
FIC Winner	5	300	130	52
FIC Runner-up	6	300	120	48
FIC SF PL Winner	7	300	110	44
FIC SF	7-8	300	110	44
FIC Qtrfinalist	9-12	240	100	40
FIC Qtrfinalist Qual.	13-16	240	90	36
Reached FIC R16	17-24	180	80	32
Reached FIC R16 Qual.	25-32	180	70	28
Reached FIC 32	33-48	120	60	24
Reached FIC R32 Qual.	49-64	120	50	20
Points Per Consolation	-	30	-	-

First Match Loser’s Consolidation (FMLC)

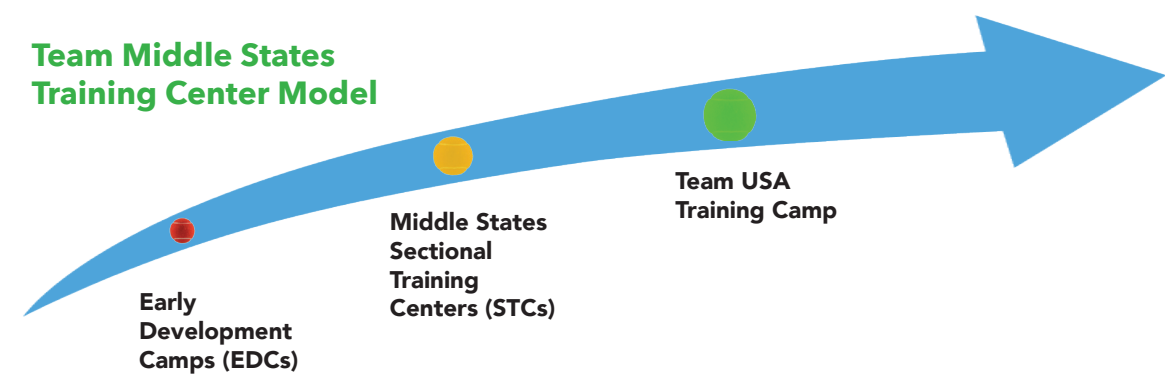
Description	Level 6	Level 7
Champion	56	33
2nd Place	46	29
3rd Place	41	21
4th Place/SF	36	16
Quarterfinalist	26	12
Reached R16	20	8
Reached R32	15	4
Reached R64	10	0
Reached R128	5	0
Reached R256	0	0
Consolation	10	5

Team Events Points Per Win

Description	Level 1 Nationals/Intersectionals	Level 2: Zone Team	Level 7: Advanced JTT
Position 1 Points/Win	100	50	10
Position 2 Points/Win	90	45	10
Position 3 Points/Win	80	40	10
Position 4 Points/Win	70	35	10
Position 5 Points/Win	60	30	10
Position 6 Points/Win	50	25	10

A look at the Middle States Junior Development Pathway

Competitive players in Middle States ages 7-14 may choose to participate in Team Middle States Camps and Training Centers. These are broken down into two categories: Early Development Camps (EDCs) and Sectional Training Centers (STCs.)



USTA Middle States Early Development Camps

Early Development Camps (EDC) is a new initiative developed by USTA National Coaches that focus on local players 7 to 10. The goal is to bring together players currently competing in a local area for intensive ½ day Orange Ball and/or Green Ball training sessions.

EDCs located throughout the Section will develop the talent pool of Middle States junior players.

USTA Middle States Sectional Training Centers (STCs)

Sectional Training Centers (STCs) fit the specific needs of our local players between the ages of 10-14. These centers leverage a network of USTA National Faculty coaches, Section high performance coaches, and top players to facilitate a STC program.

During STCs, young players are invited to train and compete at the STC designated for their specific Region. The STC East Initiative will combine players from Delaware, New Jersey, Philadelphia and Central/Eastern Pa. districts. The STC West will focus solely on the Allegheny Mountain District.

Team USA Training Camps

Team USA Sectional Training Camps (formerly Regional Training Centers) are intensive two-day, weekend camps run by a USTA National Coach. Players and coaches follow the Teaching and Coaching Philosophy set out by Jose Higuera, the USTA Director of Coaching. Players train using the same methods that are implemented in the three USTA National Training Centers.

Frequently Asked Questions – USTA MS Junior Tournaments

The entry deadline for a tournament has passed. Can I still get in?

No, late entries are not accepted for any section SR level events. Be sure to plan your tournament schedule early. All tournaments are available on the searchable calendar. Make sure to check our Middle States Tournament Schedule for entry deadlines.

When registering for a tournament, why am I asked for a phone number and email?

Tournament directors do not have access to membership information. In order for the tournament director to contact you for any reason, they will need the correct contact information.

How do I register for doubles?

All players who want to participate in doubles MUST register online for a doubles event with a confirmed partner before midnight on the closing date. If you registered for doubles with a partner, but your partner did not register by the closing date, you cannot play doubles with that partner. For all tournaments, you must e-mail the tournament director BEFORE the close of the tournament if you do NOT want to play doubles if you don't get selected into the singles draw. If you don't e-mail the tournament director, you will get selected into the doubles draw if you qualify even if you didn't get selected for singles.

How do I withdraw from a tournament?

- To withdraw from a tournament before the entry deadline, return to the tournament homepage via TennisLink and click the "Withdraw" link under the Edit Registration title.
- To withdraw from a tournament after the entry deadline, send an email to the tournament director listed on the tournament homepage.

Will I receive a refund if I withdraw from a tournament?

If you withdraw online before the entry deadline, you will not be charged for the tournament so there is no need for a refund.

How are the draws made?

For all USTA Middle States section SR events, the draws are made by a computer using software that has been developed for USTA tournaments.

How are the seeds determined for a tournament?

- To determine the seeds in the singles draws, players are placed in order by their position on the most current USTA Middle States Standing List at the time of the entry deadline.
- To determine the seeds in the doubles draws, the singles ranking for each player is added together to get a combined ranking. The team with the lowest combined ranking will be the number 1 seed.

Does anybody read the comments from the tournament surveys?

Yes, all submitted responses are reviewed by the Competition Coordinator. A copy of the results and any specific feedback is sent to each tournament director.

Do byes count as a win?

No.

How often are the Standing Lists updated?

The Standings list is run every Wednesday. Any changes made to a tournament after the lists have been calculated and published will not be included until the following Wednesday. It is a player's responsibility to check his or her results and notify the tournament director in a timely manner for errors.

What does "doesn't count toward ranking" mean?

Since not all tournaments are included in the overall point total, when this note is next to a tournament it means that it is not one of the player's top four results.

Do tournaments played outside the Middle States Section count toward my Middle States ranking?

Only one National tournament will count if it is one of your best 4 events.

MIDDLE STATES

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USTA MIDDLE STATES JUNIOR COMPETITION & PLAYER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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Unless specifically modified or superseded by USTA Middle States, USTA Tournament Regulations govern all USTA Middle States (MS) sanctioned matches and tournaments. Players and parents are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the "USTA Tournament Regulations" which can be found in the most recent edition of Friend at Court. Friend at Court can be purchased online at USTAShop.com or viewed in PDF form on the USTA Middle States website.

Interpretation of the USTA MS Rules and Regulations are made by the Junior Competition Committee subject to appeal to the Grievance Committee and final appeal to the Board of Directors if appropriate.

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TOURNAMENTS



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