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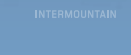


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HANDBOOK



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USTA INTERMOUNTAIN PLAYER HANDBOOK

Junior Recreation & Player Development

The USTA Intermountain Section offers a variety of opportunities for junior players of all skill levels. Beginning and intermediate junior players can participate in junior recreation programs offered by the USTA Intermountain Districts. As a junior progresses, he or she will play in more competitive tournaments and may choose to pursue a sectional ranking. Please refer to the USTA Intermountain Junior Pathway to see how a junior player might progress from junior recreation programs, to highly competitive events run by the Section, and finally to National events.

(See Player Development, Endorsement, Rankings and Standings for more information.)

USTA Intermountain Junior Tennis Pathway

The USTA Intermountain Junior Pathway is designed to provide both players and their parents with an overview of the junior programs and events available within the USTA Intermountain Section. Players and parents can use this pathway to determine where to start and what the next steps should be in the development of a junior's game.

10 and Under Tennis

10 and Under Tennis is an exciting play format for learning tennis. It is designed to bring kids into the game by utilizing specialized equipment, shorter court dimensions and modified scoring, all tailored to age and size. Now kids 10 and under can start playing tennis almost immediately. It also enables kids to have more enjoyable experiences early on in the learning process and having fun is always a factor in keeping kids involved. Please contact your District office to find a program near you, or visit the 10 and Under website: <http://10andundertennis.com>.

Junior Team Tennis

Junior Recreation programs are available at the district level. They are designed to be fun and educational tennis activities for beginning through advanced players. For information about the programs that are available in your area, contact your District office.

District Futures and Challengers Tournaments (Level 7/8)

These are entry level tournaments that are held at the local District area. These will not have any Sectional ranking points to them; however, these are great entry level events. All District Futures will be non-elimination formats. Some Challengers will be the same. Please contact your District office to learn more about these particular events.

District Open Championship Tournaments (Level 6)

District tournaments are designed to familiarize juniors with tournament play within their district. They are open to all juniors residing in the Intermountain Section. Please contact your District office if you have any questions about eligibility or requirements for district tournaments.

Early Development Camps

These EDCs are designed for players aged 8-10 years of age and will only be offered in certain Districts. They will happen 3-4 times a year and are created to provide another training opportunity to this group. Please contact the Section or District office to learn more about these.

Team USA Training Camps

Team USA Sectional Training Camps (formerly known as RTCs) are an intensive 2-3 day camps (weekend) run by a USTA National Coach with a focus on younger kids aged 10-13 years old. A maximum of 24 players from across the Intermountain Section and/or our neighboring sections could get selected to a camp. There are 2 camps per year. Players and coaches follow the Teaching and Coaching Philosophy set out by Jose Higuera, the USTA Director of Coaching. To learn more about these, please contact Intermountain Junior Tennis Manager.

ITA District Cup Series (Level 5)

ITA Cup Series tournaments are designed for players who have experience at the district level and are seeking more competition within the section. They are open to all juniors who meet the section's age eligibility requirements. Each District will assign two tournaments per year (12 total since there are 6 Districts) to be played and these events are open to all junior players within the Section.

USTA Intermountain Level 4 Masters Series (Level 4)

ITA Masters Series are designed for players who are looking for a higher level tournament past the District level events. They are open to all juniors who meet the section's age eligibility and residency requirements but have limited draw sizes of 32, 56, or 64 players. There are four Intermountain Masters Series each calendar year: Winter Masters, Spring Masters, Summer Masters, and Labor Day Masters. These events count toward a USTA Intermountain Ranking and carry more weight than district tournaments. In addition, these will count towards a USTA National Ranking as well. These are Level 4 Sectional and National events.

USTA Intermountain Level 3 Closed "Summer"/"Fall" Championships (Level 3)

Intermountain Championships are for players looking for the highest level of competition in tournament play within the section. They are open to all juniors who meet the section's age eligibility and residency requirements, but these events also have limited draw sizes of 64 players. Selection will be determined by the most recent Sectional Standings. There are two Intermountain Championships each calendar year: Intermountain Summer Championships and Intermountain Fall Championships. These events count toward a USTA Ranking as well as a USTA National Ranking. These are Level 3 Sectional and National events.

USTA National Level 3 Tournaments (Level 3)

One or more tournaments in each division with 192 total draw spots per division will be sanctioned up to six times in 2018. The USTA Junior Competition Committee is responsible for determining where these events are held. Additionally, the Committee asked that tournament directors of these events consider innovative draw and match formats.

USTA National Level 2 Tournaments (Level 2)

Four segments of four concurrent tournaments shall be sanctioned as Level 2 National Ranking Tournaments and these events effectively replace the USTA National Selection Tournaments that were in place for 2016. The top 2 qualifiers in each tournament (except the BG18 tournament immediately preceding the USTA National Spring Championships) will qualify for the subsequent USTA National Championship. Note that there is no segment of tournaments that qualify for the USTA National Indoor Championships. Draw sizes will vary between 32 and 64.

USTA Zone Team, Intersectional, and BG18s Team Championships (Level 1/2)

These national tournaments are designed for the “top” juniors in the section and are only open to players who have met the Summer Endorsement requirements and have accepted an invitation to play (see About Endorsement for more information). These events have team format and are a great way to develop your game, plus gain national exposure.

* USTA National Spring Team Championships is a Level 1 event and players in the 12s-18s will be selected to compete in this event based on various ways set forth by USTA National.

** Selection to these events vary according to the event. Please see the Intermountain Junior Tennis Manager for more information.

USTA National Championships (Level 1)

These prestigious national events give players the opportunity to compete against other section’s elite players. They are open to players who have met sectional endorsement requirements. There are five:

USTA National Spring Championships

USTA National Indoor Championships

USTA National Clay Court Championships

USTA National Hard Court Championships

USTA Winter National Championships.

Each USTA Section is awarded a number of players that are guaranteed entry into these events. This quota is based on a section’s junior membership number and the strength of the Section. The size of the draw is also a determining factor.

Player Development

There are many ways to communicate with and gain information from the USTA Intermountain Section. In addition, if you are a parent or coach and would like to receive periodic email blasts regarding pertinent deadlines, rules, and other player development issues, please email Tiffany Milner, tmilner@ita.usta.com at the USTA Intermountain office.

USTA Intermountain Player Development strives to be flexible in meeting the needs and skill levels of players as they develop their game. In addition, Player Development challenges players by providing the appropriate number of matches at their age level and appropriate level of competition. In addition, the section provides general information every junior player should know about tournaments, competitive team settings, residency specifics, ranking requirements and endorsement requirements.

This handbook provides detailed information about Rankings, Standings and Endorsement.

For information about national events, please visit www.usta.com or www.usta.com/juniorcompetition. Please contact the Junior Tennis Manager at the USTA Intermountain office with any questions.

Description of Sanctioned Tournaments

District Tournaments - Introductory and /or Intermediate Tournaments held in each State (Level 6)

ITA District Cup Series Tournaments - Intermediate to Advanced Tournaments held in each District (Level 5)

Twelve (12) Tournaments per year - Each District will assign two tournaments

All tournament formats will be determined by the District, however, will guarantee at least two singles matches and one doubles match.

Intermountain Masters Series Tournaments - Advanced Tournaments held across the Section (Level 4)

Four (4) Tournaments per year

Singles: Feed-In Consolation through the round of 16 with a Quarterfinal Playoff; limited player size of 32, 56, or 64 players. Compass Draws for all draw sizes limited to 32 players. If any one division has more than

the allotted players applying, acceptance will be based on the most recent Sectional Current Standings for that particular division's draw. The maximum players per division APPLYING will be accepted.

(Players registering online and receiving a confirmation number are NOT guaranteed acceptance, this is only confirmation that registration was performed correctly)

Doubles: Single Elimination; limited draw sizes of 32 teams.

Length: 4-5 day event with doubles starting on Day 1 not before 3:00pm

Scoring: Main draw singles will be best 2 out of 3 sets; Consolation matches will be best 2 out of 3 sets with 10 point tiebreaker in lieu of the 3rd set. Doubles will be 8 game pro-set.

Intermountain Closed Championship Tournaments - Advanced Tournaments held across the Section (Level 3)

Two (2) Tournaments per year

Singles: Feed-In Consolation through the round of 16 with a Quarterfinal Playoff; limited draw size of 64 players. If any one division has more than 64 players applying, acceptance will be based on the most recent Sectional Current Standings for that particular division's draw. The top 64 players APPLYING will be accepted.

Doubles: Single Elimination; limited draw sizes of 32 teams.

Length: 5 day event with doubles starting on Day 1 not before 3:00pm

Scoring: Main draw singles will be best 2 out of 3 sets; Consolation matches will be best 2 out of 3 sets with 10 point tiebreaker in lieu of the 3rd set. Doubles will be 8 game pro-set.

Points Per Round

The Intermountain Section uses a Points Per Round Ranking System (PPR) for all Standings, Rankings, and Endorsement Lists. It has been in effect since January 1, 2006.

This PPR system has been created to highlight and premiere the Intermountain Section Junior Tournaments.

The Intermountain Section will only use the top five (5) results from tournaments toward your Standings and Rankings. Like National, points earned in higher age divisions will count down toward a player's standing in one or more younger age divisions in addition to the higher age division. Aging up to a new age division requires careful planning. Players aging up may want to begin competing in the next higher age division three to six months before actually aging up. Lastly, the Intermountain Section will use Bonus Points

for wins over sectional players ranked #1 through #30. Tournament Point Tables as well as player Bonus Points are outlined on the Intermountain website.

Rankings and Standings Rules

Eligibility – Only those players who are residents of the USTA Intermountain Section and USTA members are eligible to receive a ranking or standing.

Points Tables – Players shall earn points for winning rounds at ITA Ranking Tournaments listed below, subject to the following:

A player must win a round to receive any points for tournaments. Byes do not qualify as wins. Withdrawals, walkovers, retirements, and disqualifications count as wins.

Defaults Under the Point Penalty System – Any player who is defaulted from a tournament for code violations under the Point Penalty System or misconduct forfeits any points accumulated during the tournament. Players defaulted in singles only lose points accumulated for play in the singles draws. Players defaulted in doubles only lose points accumulated for play in the doubles draws.

Tiebreak Rules for Sectional Rankings and Standings Lists - Tiebreak on ITA Standings and Rankings Lists will be determined as follows:

A player whose best event has the highest number of points, second best, third best, etc. through five events.

Total Bonus Points earned in all events played during the computation period.

Best random draw number.

Standing Lists

Combined Standings: All Sectional Standings will be a combined standings list which includes both singles and doubles play. In order to find consistency with USTA National, the Intermountain Section opted this route which will include 15% of doubles play and results to make up a person's standing/ranking.

Calculations of Combined Standings will be: 100% of the Ranking Points earned at 5 best singles Sectional or National Ranking Tournaments

15% of the Ranking Points earned at 5 best doubles Sectional or National Ranking Tournaments

100% of the singles Bonus Points earned at Sectional Events = Total Ranking Points

The USTA Intermountain Section Standing List will include the previous 12 months of data based on the Points Per Round Ranking. Points earned in higher age divisions will count down towards a player's standing in one or more younger age divisions. A player must accumulate 1 point to appear on the list. Results taken from the best five (5) tournaments will comprise your point total on the Standings List.

Points Earned at 5 Best Intermountain Ranking Tournaments* = Total Ranking Points

* Points Earned include Points Per Round from the Point Ranking Tables below PLUS any Bonus Points earned at the tournament. These Bonus Points are "attached" to the event at which they are earned. If a tournament is not among a player's best five tournaments, neither the Points Per Round nor the Bonus Points for that event will count toward the player's ranking point total.

Year End Rankings

Combined: Each player's annual year-end combined ranking will be based on the accumulation of points for winning rounds ("Points Per Round") and having wins over "top 30" sectional players ("Bonus Points") at USTA Intermountain Ranking Tournaments during the calendar year. Combined calculations will be the same as the Standings List (see above). Players must accumulate at least 200 ranking points during the calendar year in order to earn a year-end ranking. Points earned in a higher age division will also count down towards a player's year end ranking in one or more younger age divisions. The total number of points a player earns during the year is determined as follows:

Tournament Selection - The 2018 Sectional Tournament Directors will use the Points Per Round Standing lists for tournament selection and seeding. Tournament selection is based strictly off of the current Intermountain Standing's lists unless there is a younger player playing one age division up. If the younger player appears high* on the ITA younger age division's standings lists, they may be automatically accepted into the higher age division.

* There are 2 definitions of an exceptional player when looking at tournament selection:

1) In draw sizes of 32, the player must be top 4; in draw sizes of 56, the player must be top 6; in draw sizes of 64, the player must be top 8 in the younger age division. OR

2) if a player is ranked top 150 in the country in the lower age division, they will automatically be accepted into the next higher age division based on the limits set forth above.

Intermountain Seeding Policy

The Seeding Policy for 2018 has been decided by the Junior Competition Committee:

Seeding for all of the Intermountain Tournaments (Intermountain Masters Series and Intermountain Championships) will be taken straight off of the current ITA Combined Standing's Lists except if there is an exceptional player playing/aging up. An exceptional player is a player listed as top 100 in the lower age division based on the most current national standings list. This exceptional player will be considered for seeding. If this player or multiple players that meet this criteria do get seeded, they will take the last seeds in the seeding group (exceptional players can not make up more than 25% of the seeds within a draw).

USTA Intermountain Ranking Tournaments & Tournament Levels

The USTA Intermountain Section Junior Programs Committee shall annually evaluate and recommend the appropriate levels of the events considered for the USTA Intermountain Section Junior Ranking and Standing Lists. The event levels are as follows (point values are on the following page):

Level 1:

USTA Level 1 Tournaments on National Junior Tournament Schedule

Level 2:

USTA Level 1A and Level 2 Tournaments on National Junior Tournament Schedule

Level 3:

USTA Intermountain Level 3 Closed Summer Championships

USTA Intermountain Level 3 Closed Fall Championships

USTA Level 3 Tournaments on National Junior Tournament Schedule

Level 4:

USTA Intermountain Level 4 Winter Masters
USTA Intermountain Level 4 Spring Masters
USTA Intermountain Level 4 Summer Masters
USTA Intermountain Level 4 Labor Day Masters

Level 5:

All USTA Intermountain Junior District hosted ITA Cup Series

Level 6:

All other USTA Intermountain Junior District Open Championship Tournaments

The Difference between Ranking and Endorsement

It is very important that juniors and their parents understand that there is a difference between Ranking and Endorsement in the USTA Intermountain Section.

Rankings

Rankings reflect a player's year-end position in the section compared to other rank-eligible players. Players must meet the sectional ranking requirements to qualify for a ranking.

Endorsement spots are earned by sectional players who have completed the necessary sectional endorsement requirements. Endorsement enables these eligible players to participate in selected National Level 1 tournaments.

About Endorsement

Endorsements are earned by section players who have completed the necessary sectional endorsement requirements. Endorsement enables eligible players to participate in selected National Level 1 and USTA team events during the summer. USTA Intermountain endorsement will occur three times per year. ALL three periods of Endorsement will be calculated using the last twelve (12) months of tournament results with the Point Per Round Ranking System. Only a player's top five (5) tournaments will count during this twelve (12) month period. There will be no waiver of the requirement of play unless a junior is invited by the USTA and participates in an international tournament or event, a USTA National event, or in a professional tournament which conflicts with the required tournaments. All waivers must be submitted to the JPC prior to the start of the required tournament and then be approved by the JPC in order to be granted.

***Endorsement Requirements:
Junior Boys/Girls 12, 14, 16 & 18***

I. Endorsement Period #1 (Zone Team, Clay Courts, Hard Courts Endorsement 2018)

To be considered for Zone Team Championships Clay Courts Championships or Hard Court Championships in 2017, a player must meet the minimum requirements listed below:

- One (1) Intermountain Level 4 Winter Masters OR
- One (1) Intermountain Level 4 Spring Masters OR
- One (1) Intermountain Level 3 Summer Championships

II. Endorsement Period #2 (Indoor Nationals Endorsement 2018)

To be considered for the Indoor National Championships in 2018, a player must meet the minimum requirements listed below:

- One (1) Intermountain Level 3 Summer Championships OR
- One (1) Intermountain Level 4 Summer Masters OR
- One (1) Intermountain Level 4 Labor Day Masters

III. Endorsement Period #3 (Winter Endorsement 2018)

To be considered for the Winter National Championships in 2018, a player must meet the minimum requirements listed below:

- One (1) Intermountain Level 3 Summer Championships OR
- One (1) Intermountain Level 4 Summer Masters OR
- One (1) Intermountain Level 4 Labor Day Masters OR
- One (1) Intermountain Level 3 Fall Championships

District Ranking Requirements

Each district within the Intermountain Section has established its own set of requirements that players must meet in order to establish a district ranking. Please contact your district office for specific information regarding its ranking requirements.

USTA Junior National Tournament Information

The most current information about USTA National Tournaments, entry information, and selection procedures will be found on the web at usta.com/juniorcompetition.

National Ranking

USTA National Combined Singles and Doubles Rankings will be based on a Point Per Round (PPR) Ranking System. You must accumulate at least 200 points to earn a year-end National Ranking. Your National Ranking will be based on a combined Singles and Doubles point calculation. This was put into affect in 2008.

You must win a match to earn points.

The Ranking system will include both points earned for winning rounds and points for beating players in the top 100 ("Bonus Points").

Players may be ranked in more than one division if they have been age eligible in more than one division during the year, and have met the minimum point requirement for each age group.

Each Section will designate 6 tournaments to count for National Rankings, two of which will be Level 3 and four of which will be Level 4. Refer to www.usta.com for National Point Tables and additional information.

National Standings Lists

National Standings Lists will be limited to players who remain age eligible for play in the division. The National Standings Lists will include all age eligible players who have accumulated at least 1 point during the computation period. Points earned in a higher age division tournament count towards a player's standing in the player's natural age division, as well as in the age division of the tournament itself. The computation period includes the previous 12 months of matches from National Ranking Tournaments.

2018 Sectional Junior Tournament Rules

Please abide by the following rules for all sectional events (Intermountain Championships and ITA Sectional Championships)

I. ENTRIES FOR ALL USTA INTERMOUNTAIN JUNIOR TOURNAMENTS:

Please be aware of the procedure used for submitting entry forms for all USTA Intermountain Sectional tournaments. It is the PLAYERS' RESPONSIBILITY to keep track of any deadlines. If a player has entered a tournament by submitting a mailed in entry form to the tournament director, it is also his/her responsibility to contact the tournament director PRIOR to the entry deadline to make sure the entry was received. If a player enters a tournament using the TennisLink Internet registration system, the player will receive a confirmation order number at the confirmation window of their entry and an e-mail restating: who entered, the events entered and fees charged, along with the order confirmation number.

II. AGE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS (AGE APPROPRIATE):

The USTA adopted a "month of birth" age eligibility rule effective January 1, 1999 for ALL junior players competing in ANY USTA sanctioned events. This rule applies to ALL district, section and national USTA sanctioned events. Instead of all juniors aging up together January 1st, junior players will be able to play in an age division up until, but not including, their "month of birth". An example: Player X is 14 and has a birthday of March 19, XX. Player X may play in the 14s age division through and including the month of February immediately prior to their 15th birthday if they so choose. Player X may not participate in a 14s tournament in March of their 15th birthday.

III. USTA INTERMOUNTAIN SECTION STANDARDS OF GOOD CONDUCT:

General: The endorsement of any junior whose behavior does not meet the USTA Intermountain Standards of Good Conduct may be refused or revoked by members of the ITA Junior Programs Committee. Endorsement events shall include, but not be limited to, both Intermountain Championships, all four ITA Sectional Championships, ITA Masters Series tournaments, any USTA Zone Team or Intersectional Team Championship, a USTA National Surface Championship, a USTA National Invitational event, or any tournament listed on the USTA National Junior Tournament Schedule.

Violations may include:

Being defaulted from a tournament for improper behavior on the court (USTA Point Penalty System);

Failing to complete a tournament or play-off match for illness or injury reasons without a proper excuse from a local tournament physician;

Failure to notify a tournament director for non-attendance at any sanctioned tournament or event, or failure to notify a tournament director of withdrawal prior to the next scheduled match;

Criminal or other improper off-site conduct while attending a sanctioned tournament or event (which may cause personal injury or property damage or usage of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs);

Improper behavior while participating in a sanctioned tournament or event (such as evictions, official complaints from tournament directors or tournament referees, non-compliance of coaching rules);

Any other conduct or behavior which may be deemed inappropriate by the ITA Junior Programs Committee.

Usage: The USTA Intermountain Section will use the Code of Conduct Reports at both Intermountain Championships and all four ITA Sectional Championships. This point penalty system will be used to deter unsportsmanlike conduct, to ensure compliance with the continuous play rule, and to ensure on-time appearance to matches. Any junior receiving ten points during a 12-month period will be suspended from ITA endorsement.

Overrule Rule Enforcement: The USTA Intermountain Section will enforce the Code of Conduct for all players who receive 2 overrules in one match. Once a player receives 2 overrules in one match, the Code will be enforced. On the 3rd overrule, the player will receive a point penalty. The 4 overrule will result in a game penalty. The 5th overrule will be an immediate disqualification. Once the Code has been enforced, players will also accrue suspension points.

IV. GENERAL RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS:

The term "primary residence" shall mean, with respect to an adult individual member, one or more residences within the Section

Boundaries of the ITA at which the member has spent at least nine months per calendar year or has lived forty-five days immediately preceding the event in which the Member wishes to play if the Member has lived within the Section Boundaries for less than one year, and the Member declares a state within the Section Boundaries as the state of residence for federal and state income tax purposes.

In the case of a junior individual member, "primary residence" shall mean the residence of a parent or legal guardian who meets the residency requirements of an adult individual member set forth immediately above and with whom the junior member lives at least nine months of the year; or if the junior member attends school full-time outside the Section Boundaries, with whom the junior member lives at least sixty-six percent (66%) or more of the time during the calendar year when not attending school. In the case of legal custodianship, a notarized copy of proof of legal custodianship must be on file with the Junior Tennis Manager at the USTA Intermountain Section office.

In the case of any questions as to whether a member's primary residence is within the Section Boundaries, the ITA or any of its Committees addressing the question may request satisfactory evidence proving that the member's primary residence is within the Section Boundaries.

Sectional Intermountain Tournament Schedule

Intermountain Level 4 Winter Masters

Date: January 12-15, 2018 ******(see below for details of this)

Location: Salt Lake City, UT

Intermountain Level 4 Spring Masters

Date: March 30-April 3, 2018 (doubles only on 30th)

Location: Las Vegas, NV

Intermountain Level 3 Closed Summer Championships

Date: June 9-13, 2018 (doubles only on 9th)

Location: Denver, CO

Intermountain Level 4 Summer Masters

Date: August 8-12, 2018 *******(see below for details of this)

Location: Boulder, CO

Intermountain Level 4 Labor Day Masters

Date: August 31-September 4, 2018 (doubles only on 31st)

Location: Salt Lake City, UT

Intermountain Level 3 Closed Fall Championships

Date: November 9-13, 2018 (doubles only on 9th)

Location: Las Vegas, NV

**** Winter Masters –**

The Winter Masters is running a trial event in January so changes have been made to the old format. The purpose is to shorten the event and make matches more competitive. In an effort to get more players in (originally, it was a 48 players cut off) and shorten the event, the Junior Programs Committee voted to try 24 automatic spots into the round of 32 (block seeding type) leaving 8 spots available for players from the round of 128 & 64 to move into.

The first 2 rounds will consist of a 32 players competing in the round of 128 starting on Friday morning. The players who win their first 2 rounds (round of 128 & round of 64) will move into the round of 32 to face the 24 top ranked players beginning Saturday morning. There will be a full feed-in back draw to the round of 16 with a Quarterfinal Playoff. Points earned in this event will count at the Sectional level and the National level.

The schedule will be:

Friday morning / afternoon – first 2 singles rounds: Rounds of 128 & 64

Friday afternoon / evening – doubles begins for all players not before 4:00pm

Saturday – Monday – Round of 32 singles and conclude doubles

For selection into the round of 32, we will select the top 24 players in that age group. The exception to this is if there is an “exceptional player” ranked top 100 in the nation in the lower age division. We will accept a maximum of 4 “exceptional players” into the Main Draw. All others will get placed in the round of 128 to a maximum of 32.

***** Summer Masters –**

12s-14s – Compass Draw (4 days)

16s-18s – Feed in through round of 16 with Quarterfinal Playoff (5 days but doubles only begins on Day 1)