

USTA NorCal Junior Regulations



Index of Regulations

Regulation 1.....	Rules of Play
Regulation 2.....	Player Eligibility
Regulation 3.....	Overview of USTA & USTA NorCal Junior Ranking Tournaments
Regulation 4.....	USTA Junior Rankings
Regulation 5.....	Ratings
Regulation 6.....	Player Entry and Withdrawal
Regulation 7.....	Deadlines for Tournament Entry, Doubles Partner Notification, Tournament Selection, and Publication of Draws with Start Times
Regulation 8.....	USTA Junior Ranking Tournament Descriptions
Regulation 9.....	Consolation Matches
Regulation 10.....	Website Posting Requirement
Regulation 11.....	Pairing of Players Without Partners
Regulation 12.....	Selection of Doubles Teams for Limited Size Doubles and Mixed Doubles Events
Regulation 13.....	Seeding
Regulation 14.....	Combining Events With 3 or Fewer Entries - Open Level 7 Tournaments and Open Level 6 Tournaments
Regulation 15.....	Responsibility for Start Times
Regulation 16.....	Changes to the Draw
Regulation 17.....	Restriction of Replacing Withdrawing Players with Byes
Regulation 18.....	Tournament Scheduling Guidelines and Requirements
Regulation 19.....	Tennis Ball Usage
Regulation 20.....	Singles Sticks and Scoring Devices
Regulation 21.....	Shortening Match Formats
Regulation 22.....	Determining Order of Finish When Round Robin Draw Format Played
Regulation 23.....	Suspension Point System, Point Penalty System, and Zero Tolerance Policy
Regulation 24.....	Penalties for Lateness
Regulation 25.....	Payment of Entry Fees and Refunds
Regulation 26.....	Unfinished Tournaments
Regulation 27.....	Cancellation of Tournaments
Regulation 29.....	Player Attire
Regulation 29.....	Warm-Up Period
Regulation 30.....	Certified Officials at Tournaments
Regulation 31.....	Awards
Regulation 32.....	T-Shirts & Player Gifts
Regulation 33.....	USTA NorCal Position on Videotaping and Photography
Regulation 34.....	Special Provisions for Excused Withdrawals: Air Quality & COVID-19
Regulation 35.....	Level 4 and Level 5 Super Series: Selection and Flighting of Players When Draw Not Full
Regulation 36.....	Level 4 and Level 5 Dominant Duo and Level 3, Level 4 and Level 5 Doubles-Only Tournaments: Selection of Players When Draw Not Full.

Index of Appendices

Appendix 1	U.S. Citizen and Other Alien Eligibility Requirements
Appendix 2	Residency Requirements for Playing in Closed Tournaments, Appearing on the NorCal Quota List and Representing NorCal in a Team Competition
Appendix 3	Nationwide Junior Points Per Round Ranking System
Appendix 4	National Standings List Criteria
Appendix 5	Seeding Lists
Appendix 6	Quota into Designated USTA National Championships (Level 1)

Glossary

USTA SUSPENSION POINT SYSTEM: The USTA Suspension Point System applies to participants in all sanctioned tournaments. It can be found in USTA Regulation IV.F. in *Friend at Court*. All players will be assessed suspension points for misconduct, including a withdrawal that is not evidenced by proper written notification, according to the suspension point table in the regulation.

It is very important for players to keep records of emails, suspension point notices, and other information related to the assessment of suspension points. Suspension points can't be appealed when they are assessed, but if a player accumulates enough points to be suspended, a suspension may be appealed and all points contributing to the suspension are reviewed.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES SINCE JANUARY 1, 2025

- Entry fees have been increased for all levels of tournaments as of January 1, 2024 - see Table 1.
- Level 5 Championship Tournaments that have 5 entries in a division are now required to play a Round Robin, all matches will be the Best of 3 Short Sets with a 7-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of the 3rd set, and a medal is only required as awards for the winner of the Round Robin. See Regulation 8.C.i.
- Level 4 and Level 5 Super Series that have 5 total entries in a division are now required to play a Round Robin, all matches will be the Best of 3 Tiebreak Sets with a 7-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of the 3rd set, and a medal is only required as awards for the winner of the Round Robin. See Regulation 8.C.iv.i., Regulation 8.D.iii.h., and Regulation 35 and Table 5.
- Effective July 1, 2025, the draw format for Level 3, 4 and 5 Doubles-Only tournaments (excluding the Dominant Duo) has been changed to a First Match Consolation, and if 3-5 entries are received, a Round Robin will be played. Adjustments have also been made to the match formats. See Regulation 8.C.ii., 8.D.ii. and 9.E.iii.
- Level 4 and Level 5 Dominant Duos have revised instructions on the number of entries to accept if 13 or fewer entries are received in a draw of 16 if 27 or fewer entries are received in a draw of 32. See Regulation 36
- Clarification has been added to the officials requirements for all tournaments. See Regulation 30.
- Adjustments to the Awards requirements as a result of the requirement that some Level 4 and 5 tournaments will use a Round Robin of 5 have been made. See Regulation 31.
- Clarification has been given to NorCal's position on videotaping and photography at USTA NorCal sanctioned events. Generally the policy remains the same - there are no restrictions at videotaping and photography at public facilities unless this is part of the rental agreement; private facilities can establish their own policies. See Regulation 33.

- 1. Rules of Play.** The USTA Regulations set forth in *Friend at Court* and the USTA Junior Tournament, Ranking, and Sanctioned Regulations will govern all aspects of USTA NorCal sanctioned tournaments that count for ranking; *except that* when a USTA NorCal Regulation is different than a USTA Regulation set forth in *Friend at Court*, the USTA NorCal Regulation will govern play. These USTA NorCal Junior Regulations are in conformity with the USTA Junior Tournament, Ranking, and Sanctioned Regulations as required by the USTA.

Regulation 1 Comment: Any USTA Junior National Tournament (Level 1s, Level 2s and National Level 3s) that may take place in NorCal are governed solely by the USTA Regulations set forth in *Friend at Court* and the USTA Junior Tournament, Ranking, and Sanctioned Regulations.

2. Player Eligibility.

- A. USTA Membership Required.** USTA Membership is required to play in USTA NorCal sanctioned junior tournaments.
- B. Mandatory Participation Waiver.** At least annually, a Participation Waiver in the form determined by USTA NorCal, must be submitted to USTA NorCal in order for a player to participate in a USTA NorCal Junior Tournament. A player who does not have a current Participation Waiver on file with USTA NorCal before the start of the player's first match will be withdrawn from the tournament for reason of a Personal Circumstance.
- C. Net Generation PlayTracker.** To play in a tournament that counts for junior ranking, players must either be 11 years of age or shall have completed the requirements of the Net Generation PlayTracker.

Regulation 2.C. Comment: The USTA Net Generation Pathway Regulations set forth the requirements that must be met in the Net Generation PlayTracker.

<https://netgeneration.usta.com/us-en/the-net-generation-playtracker.html>

- D. Age Eligibility.** The USTA has adopted a "month of birth" age eligibility rule for junior players competing in USTA sanctioned tournaments (USTA Regulation I.G.3.a.). Junior players may continue to play in the 12, 14, 16 and 18 age divisions until the month they turn 13, 15, 17, or 19, respectively. When a tournament begins in one month and ends in the next, the start date of a tournament will be used to determine age eligibility.
- E. U.S. Citizen and Other Alien Eligibility Requirements.** USTA Regulation IX.C. determines the U.S. citizenship and other alien requirements for:
- playing in Closed Level 3 Tournaments;
 - playing in Open and Closed Level 4 Tournaments; and
 - playing in USTA National Championships, USTA Team Championships (National Team, Intersectionals and Zonals), USTA Level 2 National Tournaments, and USTA National Level 3 Tournaments.

Regulation 2.E. Comment: See Appendix 1 for the U.S. Citizen and Other Alien eligibility requirements.

- F. Residency Requirements.** The USTA Junior Tournament, Ranking, and Sanctioning Regulations set

forth the residency requirements for:

- playing in Closed Level 3 Tournaments;
- playing in Closed Level 4 Tournaments;
- appearing on a Quota List that is used to select players into certain USTA National Championships; and
- representing a Sectional Association in a team competition.

There are no residency requirements to enter and play in any other USTA NorCal junior ranking tournament.

Regulation 2.F. Comment #1: See Appendix 2 for the applicable provisions of the Regulation IV. of the USTA National Junior Tournament, Ranking, and Sanctioning Regulations that govern residency.

Regulation 2.F. Comment #2: The other Sectional Associations sanction junior ranking tournaments and have the same residency requirements. Some Sectional Associations have subdivisions called District Associations, and these Sectional Associations are permitted to hold Closed District Level 5 Tournaments which are not open to players who are residents of USTA NorCal.

3. Overview of USTA & USTA NorCal Junior Ranking Tournaments.

A. National Tournaments. The USTA sanctions national junior ranking tournaments that are the highest level of USTA junior competition in the U.S.

Regulation 3.A. Comment: The national junior tournaments sanctioned by the USTA include:

- USTA National Championships (Level 1)
- USTA Team Championships (Level 2 Zonals, Level 1 Intersectionals and Level 1 National Team)
- USTA Level 2 National Tournaments
- USTA Level 3 National Tournaments
- USTA International Tournaments (various Levels)

The USTA also assigns ITF junior tournaments held in the U.S. with a ranking level and may assign additional events at its discretion with a ranking level or to only earn Bonus Points.

B. USTA NorCal Tournaments. USTA NorCal sanctions junior ranking tournaments are for intermediate to advanced players. "Open" tournaments are open to players regardless of their residency. "Closed" tournaments are only for players who are residents of USTA NorCal. See Regulation 2 for more information on eligibility.

i. Open Level 7 Tournaments. Open Level 7 Tournaments are for intermediate players. Open Level 7 Tournaments may be offered with singles, doubles, and/or mixed doubles events. See Regulation 8.A. for detailed tournament descriptions.

ii. Open Level 6 Tournaments. Open Level 6 Tournaments are for intermediate players. Open Level 6 Tournaments may be offered with singles, doubles, and/or mixed doubles events, or offered as team events.. Open Level 6 Tournaments are also offered using the Ratings Round Robin format. See Regulation 8.B. for detailed tournament descriptions.

iii. Level 5 Tournaments. Level 5 Tournaments are for intermediate to advanced players. Up to two of these tournaments each year may be designated as Closed:

- Level 5 Championship Singles-Only Tournaments
- Level 5 Championship Singles & Doubles Tournaments
- Level 5 Championship Doubles-Only and Mixed Doubles-Only Tournaments
- Level 5 Dominant Duo Team Tournaments
- Level 5 Super Series

Level 5 Team Tournaments may also be sanctioned. See Regulation 8.C. for detailed tournament descriptions.

iv. Open Level 4 Tournaments. Open Level 4 Tournaments are for advanced players:

- Open Level 4 Super Series
- Open Level 4 Excellence Singles & Doubles Tournaments
- Open Level 4 Excellence Doubles-Only Tournaments

Level 4 Team Tournaments may also be sanctioned. See Regulation 8.D. for detailed tournament descriptions.

v. Closed Level 4 Tournaments. Closed Level 4 Tournaments are for advanced players:

- Closed Level 4 Excellence Singles & Doubles Tournaments
- Closed Level 4 Excellence Doubles-Only Tournaments
- Closed Level 4 Mixed Dominant Duo Team Tournaments

See Regulation 8.D. for detailed tournament descriptions.

vi. Closed Level 3 Tournaments. Closed Level 3 Tournaments are also known as Sectional Championships and are for advanced players.

See Regulation 8.E. for detailed tournament descriptions.

USTA NorCal is also permitted to sanction or participate in with other Sectional Associations, one team

tournament annually that earns Level 2 ranking points.

- C. Tournaments Sanctioned by Other Sectional Associations.** All other Sectional Associations will sanction Open Level 4, Level 5, Level 6, and Level 7 Tournaments. So long as these tournaments are designated as Open and therefore have no residency requirement, NorCal players may play in them.

- 4. USTA Junior Rankings.** Players will earn ranking points for competing in Level 1-7 tournaments, regardless of whether they are sanctioned by USTA NorCal, the USTA, or another Sectional Association. The points earned are based on a nationwide junior points per round ranking system as determined by the USTA.

- A. National Standings Lists.** The USTA will publish National Standings Lists in all age divisions. These lists will be used for seeding and selection of USTA NorCal junior ranking tournaments to the extent described in these Regulations.
- B. Seeding Lists.** The USTA will publish seeding lists for singles and doubles in all age divisions. These lists will be used for seeding USTA NorCal junior ranking tournaments to the extent described in these Regulations.
- C. Quota Lists.** USTA NorCal is guaranteed a minimum Quota of players in all divisions into most USTA National Championships (Level 1). The order of acceptance of NorCal Quota players is published on Quota Lists.

Regulation 4. Comment:

- See Appendix 3 for information on the nationwide junior points per round ranking system.
- See Appendix 4 for information on the criteria for inclusion on and the method of calculating the National Standings Lists.
- See Appendix 5 for information on the criteria for inclusion on and the method of calculating the seeding lists.
- See Appendix 6 for more information on the criteria for inclusion on and the method of calculating the Quota Lists.

5. Ratings.

- A. WTN is Authorized Rating.** USTA NorCal has incorporated the use of ratings into its junior ranking tournament structure to the extent described in these Regulations. Whenever ratings are used, the International Tennis Federation's (ITF) World Tennis Number (WTN) will be used. No other rating system may be used in USTA NorCal junior ranking tournaments.
- B. Ordering of Players in WTN.** When WTN is used in the USTA's Serve Tennis platform, players are ordered using WTN in a manner consistent with the procedures adopted by the USTA for WTN.

Regulation 5.B. Comment #1: The following describes how players are automatically ordered by WTN in the USTA's Serve Tennis platform, which is based on ITF procedures. A Tournament Committee may not change this order unless it is expressly authorized to do so by these Regulations. The ordering is first based on a concept called "Confidence Factor." Confidence Factor uses many statistics including total matches, how current the matches are, total opponents, and the confidence factor of the player's opponents, to determine the reliability of a player's rating. It is next based on the WTN.

1. Players with a dark blue check mark next to their WTN widget (as seen on their USTA Player Profile) have a WTN with the highest level of confidence (70% to 100%) and are ordered first by WTN.
2. Players with a gray check mark next to their WTN widget (as seen on their USTA Player Profile) have a WTN with a lower level of confidence. There are two subsets of players within the gray-check group of players. The first subset are players who have a medium level of confidence (40%-60%). The second subset are players who have a low level of confidence (30% and lower). These players are ordered next as follows:
 - Medium-level confidence players are ordered next by WTN. (A Tournament Committee will identify these players by the light blue check mark that is next to a player's WTN in the Serve Tennis tournament system.)
 - Low-level confidence players are ordered last by WTN. (A Tournament Committee will identify these players by the gray check mark that is next to a player's WTN in the Serve Tennis tournament system.)
3. Within each of the groups (dark blue, light blue, and gray) players are first ordered by their WTNs to the hundredths (although players only see their WTNs to the tenths on their WTN widget) and then by their WTN confidence factor percentage.

Regulation 5.B. Comment #2: USTA NorCal uses WTN for seeding certain Level 3, Level 4, and Level 5 Tournaments as described in these Regulations. When it is used for seeding, only players that have a dark blue check mark are considered for seeding.

- C. Competitive Range.** Competitive Range in WTN refers to the range of players who are considered to be of the same level. The Competitive Range is determined by the USTA and will be published in a Comment in these Regulations.

Regulation 5.C. Comment: The USTA has advised NorCal that the competitive range is +/- 3 among players with the same dark blue, light blue and grey check. For example, two players with light blue checks, one with an 15.0 rating and one with a 18.0 rating, are considered to be the same level of player because there are 3 points or less separation between their WTNs.

- D. Other Use of WTN.** Whenever WTN is used for selection of wild cards or for selection of players to compete on a USTA NorCal team, the applicable selection committee will use WTN in a manner consistent with this Regulation 5.

6. Player Entry.

- A. Method of Tournament Entry.** Players will enter USTA NorCal junior tournaments by the entry deadline using the online Serve Tennis Registration System.

- B. Right of Refusal.** After reasonable notice is provided to USTA NorCal stating good cause shown, and subject to the Tournament Committee's exhaustion of all reasonable measures to address the cause including, but not limited to the USTA Suspension Point System, the USTA Zero Tolerance Policy, and the USTA NorCal grievance procedures, the Tournament Committee reserves the right to:

- Refuse to accept a player's entry; or
- After selection of an entry, remove a player from the list of accepted entries or from the draw before the tournament starts,

except that an entry may not be refused based on the basis of race, creed, sexual orientation, color, or national origin, or any other unlawful criteria under federal, state and local law. The removal of a player from the list of accepted entries or a withdrawal of a player in these circumstances this will be classified as a tournament administrative error. Some draws may be limited.

- C. Entry Limitations on Players.** Players are limited to playing one singles event, one doubles event, and one mixed doubles event per tournament.

If a tournament offers events in more than one Level, for example both Open Level 6 and Open Level 7 singles events, a player may only enter one singles event, not one Open Level 6 singles event and one Open Level 7 singles event.

A player's entries must be in one age division in a tournament *unless* the Tournament Committee has determined otherwise. For example, a player entered in the 14-and-under division in singles must play in the 14-and-under division in doubles, *unless otherwise stated*. If a Tournament Committee allows entries in multiple age divisions, that information will be published to the tournament web page when entries open.

D. Entry In Concurrent Tournaments.

- i. General Rule.** *Except* as set forth under Regulation 6.D.ii., iii., and iv. below, when entries close, a player cannot be entered in two or more sanctioned tournaments if any parts of the tournaments overlap, unless each Tournament Committee involved understands the situation and concurs in writing. If entries for the overlapping tournaments close on different dates, approval must be received from all Tournament Committees no later than the entry closing date that occurs last. Players who enter a tournament and play it to completion, may then enter another tournament with overlapping dates without permission. A player who is on the alternate list in one tournament is not considered in violation of the Concurrent Tournament Rule if they enter another concurrent tournament; however, once a player accepts a spot in a concurrent tournament, they may not withdraw to play in another concurrent tournament without incurring suspension points for an improper withdrawal, unless they had the written authorization to do so at the time entries closed for both tournaments.

- ii. Exceptions to Entering a Concurrent NorCal Junior Tournament and USTA National Junior Tournament.** Entries for USTA National Junior Tournaments close approximately 3 weeks and 1 day before the tournament starts and selection for these tournaments happens approximately 3 days after the entry deadline.

- A player that appears on the alternate list for a USTA National Junior Tournament may subsequently enter and be accepted into a NorCal Junior Tournament with overlapping dates. This applies to acceptance into the NorCal Junior Tournament at the time of selection as well as acceptance into the tournament from the alternate list after selection. Such a player may remain on the list of accepted players for the NorCal Junior Tournament and on the alternate list for a USTA National Junior Tournament until midnight on the Sunday prior to the start date of the NorCal Junior Tournament.

Before such time, the player may withdraw from the NorCal Junior Tournament to accept a place in the USTA National Junior Tournament without penalty and the player is entitled to a refund as described in Regulation 25.C.ii.f.

After such time, a player may withdraw from the NorCal Junior Tournament to play in the USTA National Junior Tournament without penalty, but the player will not receive a refund.

- A player that appears on a list of selected players for a USTA Junior National Tournament and subsequently enters and is accepted into an overlapping NorCal Junior Tournament may be

assessed suspension points.

iii. Level 3 Sectionals and Level 4 Excellence Exceptions. Players may enter up to two consecutive divisions of the following tournaments:

- Level 4 Excellence Singles & Doubles Tournaments
- Level 4 Excellence Singles-Only Tournaments
- Level 3 Sectional Championships Singles & Doubles Tournaments
- Level 3 Sectional Championships Singles-Only Tournaments

For the purposes of this Rule, consecutive age divisions are: 12s and 14s; 14s and 16s; and 16s and 18s - it does not include: 12s and 16s; and 14s and 18s. The following rules apply to selection of a player entered in two consecutive age divisions - selection is done in descending division order:

- A player that is accepted into the older age division must play in the older age division;
- A player that is accepted into the younger age division must play in the younger age division;
- A player not accepted into either division will appear on the alternate lists of both divisions.
- If an alternate is accepted into a division, it is recommended that they remove themselves from the alternate list of the other division.
- Once a player accepts a spot in a division, they may not withdraw to play in another division without incurring suspension points for an improper withdrawal. The only exception to this is if both divisions are part of the same tournament and moving from one division to the other is permitted by the Tournament Committee and it does not invalidate the seedings.

iv. Entering Two Divisions of an Open Level 4 Super Series and Level 5 Super Series. For the purposes of this Rule, consecutive age divisions are: 12s and 14s; 14s and 16s; and 16s and 18s - it does not include: 12s and 16s; and 14s and 18s. When consecutive divisions are part of the same tournament, concurrent entries in up to two divisions are permitted without written permission; however, players are only eligible to play in one division. *When consecutive divisions are not part of the same tournament*, concurrent entries in more than one division are not permitted without the written permission described in Rule 6.D.i.

E. Maximum Entry Fees.

Table 1: Maximum Entry Fees

The fees in parentheses are the actual fees that will appear on the Serve Tennis Tournament Home Page when the maximum fee is charged. These fees include the administration fee charged by Serve Tennis for processing the entry.

Level	Singles Entry Fee	Doubles Entry Fee Per Player (When Held with Singles)	Doubles-Only Tournament Entry Fee Per Player
Level 7	\$68.00 (\$72.02)	\$7.00 (\$7.77)	\$30.00 (\$31.61)
Level 6 Ratings Round Robins	\$88.00 (\$91.71)	n/a	n/a
All Other Level 6	\$80.00 (\$83.42)	\$8.00 (\$8.81)	\$39.00 (\$40.93)
Level 5 Super Series	\$94.00 (\$97.83)	n/a	n/a
Level 5 Dominant Duo	\$106.00 (\$110.36)	n/a	n/a
All Other Level 5	\$89.00 (\$92.75)	\$8.00 (\$8.81)	\$44.00 (\$46.11)
Level 4 Super Series	\$105.00 (\$109.33)	n/a	n/a
Level 4 Dominant Duo	\$119.00 (\$123.83)	n/a	n/a
All Other Level 4	\$100.00 (\$104.15)	\$9.00 (\$9.84)	\$49.00 (\$51.30)
Level 3	\$109.00 (\$116.58)	\$9.00 (9.84)	\$55.00 (\$57.51)
Level 4, 5 and 6 Team Tournaments	Entry Fee to be determined at the time of sanctioning.		

F. Entry Deadlines. Table 2 sets for the entry deadlines.

G Late Entries. A tournament entry received after the entry deadline is a Late Entry.

- The Tournament Committee determines whether it will receive Late Entries.
- Late Entry Order: Late Entries are ordered based on the time they are received. Late Entries received at the same time are ordered randomly. Late Entries are never ordered based on standing or Rating.
- If the Tournament Committee is able to accept more players or teams into an event than have entered by the deadline, the Late Entries are accepted in Late Entry Order.
- If an event has an alternate list, Late Entries are placed on the alternate list after the timely entries in Late Entry Order.
- **Before the draw is published**, a Late Entry may replace a withdrawing player or team; however, the Tournament Committee must make changes to the seeding if required by the acceptance of the Late Entry to ensure that the seeding has not been invalidated. Similarly, before the draw is published, changes may need to be made to flighting of a Ratings Round Robin, a Level 4 Super Series, and a Level 5 Super Series to ensure players of similar ability are grouped together.
- **After the draw is published**, a Late Entry may replace a withdrawing player or team *only if* the replacement does not
 - Invalidate the seeding; or
 - Result in a Ratings Round Robin with a Late Entry who has a rating that has a WTN better than AND beyond the Competitive Rang of the other players in the round robin. See Regulation 5.C. for information on Competitive Range.

Regulation 6.G. Comment #1: The phrase “invalidate the seeding” refers to a circumstance when an alternate, typically a Late Entry, who would have been seeded had the alternate been accepted into the draw before the draw was made, is the #1 alternate and a player in the event withdraws. The only time acceptance of such an alternate is permitted is when the withdrawing player is a seed and the alternate is either the same seed as the withdrawing seed, or within the seeding group of the withdrawing seed. For example:

- If the withdrawing player is the #1 seed and the Late Entry would be the #1 seed, the Late Entry can be accepted because the Late Entry will be the same seed as the withdrawing player. The same example applies to the #2 seed.
- If the withdrawing player is the #3 seed or #4 seed and the Late Entry will either be the #3 or #4 seed, the Late Entry can be accepted onto the line vacated by the withdrawing seed because the #3 and #4 seeds are randomly drawn to two specified draw lines. Any required adjustment to the seed numbering must be made.
- If the withdrawing player is a #5 seed and the Late Entry will be in the #5 to #8 seeding group, the Late Entry can be accepted onto the line vacated by the withdrawing seed because the #5 through #8 seeds are randomly drawn to four specified draw lines. If seeds are listed numerically from #5 to #8, any required adjustment to the seed numbering must be made. This same principle applies to the #9-#16 seed group.

Additionally, if a seed withdraws and an alternate is put in on the seed’s line, the seeding is not invalidated, and the numbers of the remaining seeds do not change.

Regulation 6.G. Comment #2: The term “onsite alternate” is often used to describe either a player or team on the alternate list who has not yet been accepted into the tournament, but has shown up at the tournament with the hope of getting into the tournament if there is a last-minute withdrawal.

A player or team who has not previously entered and does not appear on the alternate list may also show up at the tournament site with similar hopes. These players/teams are also “onsite alternates;” however they are Late Entries and are placed at the bottom of the alternate list in the Late Entry Order.

- H. Player Withdrawal.** A withdrawing player must immediately notify the Tournament Committee or Referee by telephone, electronic communication, or in person that the player will not be playing. The Tournament Committee may specify the preferred method of communication and posted it to the tournament website. A withdrawing player is not guaranteed an entry fee refund. See Regulation 25.C.
- i. Excused Withdrawal.** A player’s withdrawal from a tournament after entries close will be excused if it is for previously authorized entry into another tournament, or it is for illness, injury, or personal circumstance that meets the requirements listed below.
- a. Injury or Illness.** If the player is not playing because of an injury or illness, the player will deliver written verification of the injury or illness from a medical professional to the Referee no later than the last scheduled day of the tournament.
 - b. Personal Circumstance.** If the player is not playing because of a personal circumstance, the player will deliver a written description of the situation to the Referee no later than the last scheduled day of the tournament. The Referee will determine whether the situation is a personal circumstance.

The Tournament Committee may waive these written verification requirements:

- If it has reasonable information to determine that the player is withdrawing for the reason stated;
- The withdrawal is received before players are selected; and

- If the withdrawal is related to air quality or COVID-19 - see Regulation 34.

Additionally, the Tournament Committee, at its sole discretion, may permit additional time for the written verification to be delivered.

- ii. **Unexcused Withdrawal.** If a player withdraws for a reason that does not meet the requirements of an excused withdrawal, the withdrawal is considered unexcused. An unexcused withdrawal will result in the assessed suspension points pursuant to the USTA Suspension Point System.

7. Deadlines for Tournament Entry, Tournament Selection, and Publication of Draws.

- A. Entry Deadlines.** Table 2 sets forth the deadlines for players to submit a timely entry. See Regulation 6.G. for information on Late Entries.
- B. Deadlines for Publishing Player Selection.** Table 2 sets for the deadlines for a Tournament Committee to publish the list of players selected for a tournament and the list of ordered alternates.
- C. Deadlines for Publishing Draws with Start Times.** Table 2 sets for the deadlines for a Tournament Committee to publish all draws in a tournament with start times.

Table 2: Deadlines for Tournament Entry, Doubles Partner Notification, Tournament Selection, and Publication of Draws				
Level	Entry Deadlines	Doubles Partner Notification Deadlines³	Player & Team Selection Deadlines⁴	Publication of Draws with Start Times⁵
Level 7	2:59 pm Pacific Time, five (5) days before the date of the tournament.	No later than the end of the day four (4) days before the start date of the tournament.	Three (3) days before start of the tournament.	10:00 am Pacific Time two (2) days before the start of the tournament
Level 6¹	2:59 pm Pacific Time, six (6) days before the date of the tournament.	No later than the end of the day five (5) days before the start date of the tournament.	Four (4) days before start of the tournament.	10:00 am Pacific Time three (3) days before the start of the tournament
Doubles-Only Level 3, Level 4, Level 5²	2:59 pm Pacific Time, two (2) Wednesdays before the start date of the tournament.	No later than the end of the day on Thursday following the entry deadline.	The Friday following the Wednesday entry deadline for the tournament.	10:00 am Pacific Time three (3) days before the start of the tournament.
Level 5²	2:59 pm Pacific Time, two (2) Wednesdays before the start date of the tournament.	No later than the end of the day on Thursday following the entry deadline in order for eligible teams to be selected the next day. The Final Deadline is Monday at 5:00 pm Pacific Time following the entry deadline. See Regulation 12 for team selection procedures.	The Friday following the Wednesday entry deadline for the tournament.* *For Level 3 Sectional Championships and Level 4 Excellence Tournaments, only, selection may not be done or finalized until authorized by USTA NorCal.	10:00 am Pacific Time three (3) days before the start of the tournament
Level 4				
Level 3				
No adjustment to these deadlines may be made without the written consent of USTA NorCal.				
1 If a Level 5 is held concurrently with the first weekend of a Level 3 or Level 4, the Level 5 deadlines will be adjusted to the deadlines for a Level 6. If a Level 5 is held concurrently with the second weekend a Level 3 or Level 4, the Level 5 deadlines will be adjusted to the deadlines for a Level 7. 2 If a Level 6 is held concurrently with the second weekend a Level 3 or Level 4, the Level 6 deadlines will be adjusted to the deadlines for a Level 7. 3 Doubles players that have not previously entered as a team must notify the Tournament Committee of the partnership by this deadline. This does not apply to tournaments that use the Dominant Duo format, which require entering with a partner by the entry deadline. 4 If a tournament has wild cards and the entries have exceeded the draw limit, the number of players or teams selected will be reduced by the number of wild cards. For example, if the draw limit is 32 and there are 2 wild cards, 30 players will be selected. 5 When a tournament is held over two weekends, the start times for the second weekend will be published the of days in this column before the start of the second weekend of the tournament.				

8. USTA NorCal Junior Ranking Tournament Descriptions. The regulations below describe the USTA NorCal junior tournaments that count for ranking. All events will use a yellow ball on a 78' court and a player's racquet may not exceed 29" in length.

A. Open Level 7 Tournaments. Open Level 7 Tournaments:

- offer intermediate competition in the 12, 14, 16 and 18 divisions;
- earn Level 7 Ranking Points based on results in these tournaments; and
- are open to all players, regardless of their citizenship or residency.

Singles-only tournaments, doubles-only tournaments, mixed doubles-only tournaments and tournaments with singles, doubles, and/or mixed doubles events may be held.

- i. **Sanction Period.** The tournament may be sanctioned for one or two days; however, players may not compete in the tournament for a period longer than one day.
- ii. **Maximum Number of Rounds.** Each draw will have a maximum of four rounds; no player will earn ranking points for playing more than four matches in an event.

Regulation 8.A.ii. Comment: When more than one event is offered, such as singles, doubles, and/or mixed doubles, the maximum number of rounds is per event, not per tournament. For example, a player that plays in singles and doubles can play four rounds of singles and four rounds of doubles. Additionally, when a team format is played and a Team Match consists of a player playing singles and doubles and/or mixed doubles, a player can play up to four matches of singles, four matches of doubles, and/or four matches of mixed doubles.

iii. **Minimum Number of Matches.**

- a. **Singles Events.** Each player will play at least three singles matches, and no more than four, in Singles-Only Tournaments.
- b. **Doubles Events.**
 - (1) **Doubles-Only Tournaments.** Each player will play at least three doubles matches, and no more than four doubles matches.
 - (2) **Tournaments with Singles and Doubles Events.** Each team will play at least one doubles match, and no more than four doubles matches. A match won by withdrawal, walkover, default, or retirement is considered a match for the purposes of meeting the minimum guaranteed match requirement. A bye is not considered a match.

See Regulation 14 for options on combining events with 3 or fewer players/teams.

iv. **Match Formats.** Ad scoring will be used.

- a. **Singles Match Format.** All matches will be one 6-game set with a 7-point Set Tiebreak at 6 games all.
- b. **Doubles and Mixed Doubles Match Format When Singles Offered as Part of Tournament:** All matches will be one Short Set with a 7-point Set Tiebreak at 4 games all.
- c. **Doubles and Mixed Doubles Match Format When Singles Not Offered as Part of Tournament:** All matches will be one 6-game set with a 7-point Set Tiebreak at 6 games all.

See Regulation 21 for information on shortening match formats in the event of inclement weather, health concerns, or safety concerns.

v. **Draw Formats Permitted.** The draw must be one of the following formats:

- a. **Round Robin.** One of the following round robin formats may be used:
 - One round robin of 4 or 5 players may be used.
 - One round robin of more than 5 players may be used whereby all players have the same number of matches, but not every player plays every other player in the round robin draw, and players play the minimum of 3 or maximum of 4 matches.
 - An event may be separated into two or more round robin draws, *provided that* all round robins have the same number of players (a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 5). Players will be waterfalled into each draw using the most recently published National Standings List. Regardless of whether there is a draw limit stated on the tournament website, if the number of entered players is not divisible by the draw size for each round robin (4 or 5, depending on what has been chosen by the Tournament Committee), not all players that enter will be selected.
- b. **Team Format.** Any team format that provides the minimum number of matches required and does not exceed the maximum number of matches may be used. If the format allows for the tournament to separate players onto teams, players will be waterfalled using the most recently published National Standings List.
- c. **Single Elimination.** The single elimination format may only be used for doubles and mixed doubles events when singles events are offered as part of the same tournament.

vi. **Limited Draws.**

- a. **Limited Draws Permitted with Publication Requirements.** The draw size(s) may be limited by the Tournament Committee, but the draw limits in numbers of players and/or teams must be published to the website by the time entries open.
- b. **Selection of Players for Singles.**
 - i. **Wild Cards.** The Tournament Committee may select players to receive wild cards in each age division up to the following maximum: 1 wild card when 16 or fewer total players are selected for an age division; 2 wild cards when 17 to 32 total players are selected for an age division; 4 wild cards when 33 or more players are selected for an age division. These limits are based on players selected for each age division - for example, Girls' 14 singles, not the entire 14 division comprised of Boys' and Girls' 14s players. The Tournament Committee will

determine the criteria for selecting the wild card players.

- ii. **Bottom-Up Selection.** All other players will be selected as follows: Players without a standing will be selected first and then players will be selected from the bottom up of the most recently published National Standings List of the division.
 - c. **Selection of Teams for Doubles and Mixed Doubles When Singles Offered as Part of Tournament.** Teams will be selected as set forth in Regulation 12.A. and C. after the Doubles Partner Notification Deadline (see Table 2).
 - d. **Selection of Teams for Doubles-Only and Mixed Doubles-Only Tournaments.** Teams will be selected after the Doubles Partner Notification Deadline (see Table 2) as follows:
 - i. **Wild Cards.** The Tournament Committee may select teams to receive wild cards in each age division up to the following maximum: 1 wild card when 16 or fewer total teams are selected for an age division; 2 wild cards when 17 to 32 total teams are selected for an age division; 4 wild cards when 33 or more teams are selected for an age division. These limits are based on teams selected for each age division - for example, Girls' 14 doubles, not the entire 14 division comprised of Boys' and Girls' 14s doubles. The Tournament Committee will determine the criteria for selecting the wild card players.
 - ii. **Bottom-Up Selection.** The Individual Doubles Seeding List of the division will be used for bottom-up selection. Teams will be selected as follows: Teams comprised of players without a standing will be selected first. Remaining teams will be selected in the order described below.
 - first, teams with one player on the Individual Doubles Seeding List and one that is not will be selected based on lowest standing of the one player on the Individual Doubles Seeding List of the division; and
 - second, on lowest combined standings using the most recently published Individual Doubles Seeding List of the division - see Regulation 12.E. for the procedure to calculate the combined standing of a team.If there is a tie, the team with the player that has the lowest doubles standing on the list shall be selected first.
 - e. **Alternates.** All players and teams not selected will be placed on Alternate Lists that are ordered using the same methods of selecting players or teams into the tournament. The Alternate Lists will be used to replace players and teams who withdraw from the main draw. See Regulation 6.G. regarding requirements and restrictions related to the acceptance of a Late Entry that invalidates the seeding.
 - f. **Replacement of Withdrawing Teams in Doubles-Only and Mixed Doubles-Only Tournaments.** Because players are selected for the tournament as part of a team, the withdrawal of one player after the entry deadline is effectively the withdrawal of a team. When there are no alternate teams, the remaining player may find another partner, *except that* if this happens after the draws are published, the new team may not invalidate the seedings.
 - vii. **Doubles Partner Not Required by Entry Deadline.** Entry with a partner into a doubles or mixed doubles event is not required by the entry deadline - see Table 2 for Doubles Partner Notification Deadline and Regulation 11 for option of Tournament Committee to randomly pair players without partners.
 - viii. **Seeding.** Singles events will be seeded as described forth in Regulation 13.B.i. Doubles and mixed doubles events will be seeded as described in Regulation 13.B.ii.
 - ix. **Special Tennis Ball Re-Use Provisions.**
 - a. **Singles-Only and Doubles-Only Tournaments.** One can of balls will be used on each tennis court for the duration of the tournament.
 - b. **Tournaments with Singles and Doubles Events.** One can of balls will be used on each tennis court for singles matches; one can of balls will be used on each tennis court for doubles matches.
- B. Open Level 6 Tournaments.** Open Level 6 Tournaments offer:
- offer intermediate competition in the 12, 14, 16 and 18 divisions;
 - earn Level 6 Ranking Points based on results in these tournaments; and
 - are open to all players, regardless of their citizenship or residency.
- i. **Sanction Period.** Tournaments will be held over a 1 or 2-day sanction period.
 - ii. **Minimum Number of Matches.**
 - a. **Singles Events.** Each player will play at least two singles matches, and no more than four singles matches, *except that* in a Feed-In Championship a player may play a fifth match in order for their opponent to play a fourth match.
 - b. **Doubles Events.**
 - (1) **Doubles-Only Tournaments.** Each player will play at least two doubles matches, and no more than four doubles matches, *except that* in a Feed-In Championship format a team may play a fifth match in order for their opponent to play a fourth match.
 - (2) **Tournaments with Singles and Doubles Events.** Each team will play at least one doubles match, and no more than four doubles matches, *except that* in a Feed-In Championship

format a team may play a fifth match in order for their opponent to play a fourth match. A match won by withdrawal, walkover, default, or retirement is considered a match for the purposes of meeting the minimum guaranteed match requirement. A bye is not considered a match. See Regulation 14 for options on combining events with 3 or fewer players/teams.

Regulation 8.B.ii. Comment: If a player or team plays a fifth match, the player will only earn ranking points for four rounds. If players have played four matches, it is possible that the final round of the consolation will not be played.

iii. **Traditional Draw Format.** Open Level 6 Tournaments with traditional draw formats are those that use standings to select and seed players and meet the parameters listed below.

a. **Events Offered.** Singles-only tournaments, doubles-only tournaments, mixed doubles-only tournaments and tournaments with singles, doubles, and/or mixed doubles events may be held.

b. **Doubles Partner Not Required by Entry Deadline.** Entry with a partner into a doubles or mixed doubles event is not required by the entry deadline - see Table 2 for partner notification deadline and Regulation 11 for option of Tournament Committee to randomly pair players without partners.

c. **Draw Formats Permitted.**

(1) **Round Robin.** One of the following round robin formats may be used:

- One round robin of 3 or 4 players may be used.
- An event may be separated into two or more round robin draws, *provided that* all round robins have the same number of players (a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 4). Players will be waterfalled into each draw using the most recently published National Standings List. Regardless of whether there is a draw limit, if the number of entered players is not divisible by the draw size for each round robin (3 or 4, depending on what has been chosen by the Tournament Committee), not all players that enter will be selected.

(2) **Feed-In Championship.** One of the following Feed-In Championship formats may be used:

- A draw of 5-8 players must use a Modified Feed-In Championship (the playoff for third place is the consolation final).
- A draw of 9-16 players must use a Feed-In Championship through the Quarterfinals with a playoff for third place.

An event may be separated into multiple draws, *provided that* players are waterfalled into each draw using the most recently published National Standings List, and the draw size must have the same number of draw lines. For example, an event may be separated into a draw of 5 players and a draw of 6 players (two draws of 8 lines with byes); but an event may not be separated into a draw of 8 players and a draw of 9 players because this results in a draw of 8 and a draw of 16 with byes.

An event also may not be separated into a Feed-In Championship draw and a Round Robin draw; the draw formats must be the same.

Regardless of whether there is a draw limit stated on the tournament website, if the number of players entered does not permit separation of players into more than one event as described in this regulation, not all players that enter will be accepted.

(3) **Team Format.** Any team format that provides the minimum number of matches required and does not exceed the maximum number of matches permitted may be used. If the format allows for the tournament to separate players onto teams, players will be waterfalled using the most recently published National Standings List.

(4) **Single Elimination.** The single elimination format may only be used for doubles and mixed doubles events when singles events are offered as part of the same tournament.

d. **Match Formats.** Ad scoring will be used.

(1) **Singles Main Draw and Round Robin; Doubles Main Draw and Round Robin in**

Doubles-Only Tournaments: Best of 3 Tiebreak Sets (6 game sets) with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of the 3rd set. If the score in the set reached 6 games all, a 7-point Set Tiebreak will be played.

(2) **Singles Consolation, Doubles Consolation in Doubles-Only Tournaments, and All Doubles Matches in Tournaments when Singles Also Held:** Best of 3 Short Sets (4-game sets) with a 7-point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of a 3rd Set. If the score in the Short Set reaches 4 games all, a 7-point Set Tiebreak will be played.

(3) **Special Provision for Team Tournament Match Formats.** Shorter match formats than are described in Regulation 8.B.iii.d.(1) and (2) above may be used, *provided that* the formats are approved by USTA NorCal at the time the tournament is sanctioned, and the format is permitted by the USTA.

See Regulation 21 for information on shortening match formats in the event of inclement weather, health concerns, or safety concerns.

e. **Limited Draws.**

- (1) **Limited Draws Permitted with Publication Requirements.** The draw size(s) may be limited by the Tournament Committee, but the draw limits in numbers of players and/or teams must be published to the website by the time entries open.
 - (2) **Selection of Players for Singles.** Players will be selected in the order their names appear on the most recently published National Standings List of the division, *except that* the Tournament Committee may select players to receive wild cards in each age division up to the following maximum: 1 wild card when 16 or fewer total players are selected for an age division; 2 wild cards when 17 to 32 total players are selected for an age division; 4 wild cards when 33 or more players are selected for an age division. These limits are based on players selected for each age division - for example, Girls' 14 singles, not the entire 14 division comprised of Boys' and Girls' 14s players. The Tournament Committee will determine the criteria for selecting the wild card players.
 - (3) **Selection of Teams for Doubles and Mixed Doubles Events When Singles Offered as Part of Tournament.** Teams will be selected as set forth in Regulation 12.A. and C. after the Doubles Partner Notification Deadline (see Table 2).
 - (4) **Selection of Teams for Doubles-Only and Mixed Doubles-Only Tournaments.** Teams will be selected as set forth in Regulation 12.B. and C. after the Doubles Partner Notification Deadline (see Table 2) , *except that* the Tournament Committee may select teams to receive wild cards in each age division up to the following maximum: 1 wild card when 16 or fewer total teams are selected for an age division; 2 wild cards when 17 to 32 total teams are selected for an age division; 4 wild cards when 33 or more teams are selected for an age division. These limits are based on players selected for each age division - for example, Girls' 14 singles, not the entire 14 division comprised of Boys' and Girls' 14s players. The Tournament Committee will determine the criteria for selecting the wild card players.
 - (5) **Alternates.** All players and teams not selected will be placed on Alternate Lists that are ordered using the same methods of selecting players or teams into the tournament. The Alternate Lists will be used to replace players and teams who withdraw from the main draw. See Regulation 6.G. regarding requirements and restrictions related to the acceptance of a Late Entry that invalidates the seeding.
 - (6) **Replacement of Withdrawing Teams in Doubles-Only and Mixed Doubles-Only Tournaments.** Because players are selected for the tournament as part of a team, the withdrawal of one player after the entry deadline is effectively the withdrawal of a team. When there are no alternate teams, the remaining player may find another partner, *except that* if this happens after the draws are published, the new team may not invalidate the seedings.
- f. **Seeding.** Singles events will be seeded as described forth in Regulation 13.B.i. Doubles and mixed doubles events will be seeded as described in Regulation 13.B.ii.
- iv. **Ratings Round Robin Format.** Open Level 6 Ratings Round Robins are level-based tournaments that group players with similar ability into 4-player round robins using Ratings, regardless of a player's age. The draws will therefore all be designated as 18 division events.
- a. **Singles Draw.**
- (1) **Draw Size.** The maximum draw size will be determined by the Tournament Committee. The total number of accepted players per division must be divisible by 4. Regardless of whether there is a draw limit, if the number of entered players is not divisible by 4, not all players that enter will be accepted.
 - (2) **Round Robin Singles Draw.** All singles draws will be 4-player round robins.
 - (3) **Player Selection.** Players will be selected using the most recently available WTNs and in an order that selects the best rated players (See Regulation 5.B. for information on ordering players) , *except that* the Tournament Committee may select players to receive wild cards in each age division up to the following maximum: 1 wild card when 16 or fewer total players are selected for an age division; 2 wild cards when 17 to 32 total players are selected for an age division; 4 wild cards when 33 or more players are selected for an age division. These limits are based on players selected for each age division - for example, Girls' 14 singles, not the entire 14 division comprised of Boys' and Girls' 14s players. The Tournament Committee will determine the criteria for selecting the wild card players.
 - (4) **Flighting.** Accepted players will be flighted into 4-player round robin draws using the same WTNs used to select players, so that players with similar WTNs are in each round robin draw. (See Regulation 5.B. for information on how players are ordered.)
When siblings are flighted into the same round robin, the Tournament Committee may move one of the siblings to the higher or lower round robin provided the player replacing the sibling has a WTN that has the same color check mark and is within the player's WTN competitive range (See Regulation 5.C. for information on competitive range).
 - (5) **Alternates.** All players not selected will be placed on an Alternate List that is ordered using the WTNs used to select players. The Alternate List will be used to replace withdrawing

players. See Regulation 6.G. regarding requirements and restrictions related to the acceptance of a Late Entry.

- b. Doubles Draw Format; Doubles Required.** The four players in each round robin draw will be randomly paired into two doubles teams and will play one doubles match. Participation in doubles is required.

- c. Match Formats.** No-Ad Scoring is not permitted.

(1) Singles Match Format: All matches will be the Best of 3 Tiebreak Sets (6-game sets) with a 10-point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of a 3rd set. If the score in the set reached 6 games all, a 7-point Set Tiebreak will be played.

(2) Doubles Match Format: All matches will be the Best of 3 Short Sets (4-game sets) with a 7-point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of a 3rd Set. If the score in the Short Set reaches 4-games, a 7-point Set Tiebreak will be played.

See Regulation 21 for information on shortening match formats in the event of inclement weather, health concerns, or safety concerns.

C. Level 5 Tournaments. Level 5 Tournaments:

- offer advanced competition in the 12, 14, 16 and 18 divisions;
- earn Level 5 Ranking Points based on results in these tournaments; and
- are Open to all players, regardless of their citizenship or residency, unless they are designated as Closed in the title.

i. Level 5 Championship Singles & Doubles Tournaments.

a. Sanction Period; Number of Concurrent Tournaments.

(1) Singles-Only Tournaments. Up to three concurrent Level 5 Championship Singles-Only Tournaments may be held over a 2 to 3-day sanction period.

(2) Singles & Doubles Tournaments. Up to three concurrent Level 5 Championship Singles & Doubles Tournaments may be held over a 2-3-day sanction period.

Regulation 8.C.i.a.(2). Comment: Level 5 Championship Singles & Doubles Tournaments may be sanctioned for a Saturday to Monday date block (if a 3-day sanction period is chosen) during periods when school is in session. Players should not enter a 3-day sanctioned tournament if they are not able to play on Monday and players that do so may be assessed suspension points.

b. Singles Draw Size and Format. Each singles draw size is limited to 16 players, *except that*

(1) If only one Level 5 is held, the draw size may be 32 players; or

(2) If at the time entries close:

- A division receives at least 24 entries, and
- The tournament has enough courts,

the draw size may be expanded to 24 players, *provided that* prior approval has been given by USTA NorCal.

A Feed-In Championship through the Quarterfinals with a playoff for 3rd place will be played when the draw size is 16 players. A Modified Feed-In Championship that feeds in the first two rounds of losers into the consolation and a playoff for 3rd place will be played when the draw size is 24 or 32 players. If 8 or fewer entries are received, the following draws will be played:

- If 6-8 entries are received, A Feed-In Championship through the Quarterfinals with a playoff for 3rd place will be played.
- If 3, 4, or 5 entries are received, a Round Robin will be played.
- If 1-2 entries are received, the event will be cancelled. Players in cancelled events must be given the opportunity to play another singles event in the tournament that is not full. The Tournament Director must notify the affected players by email or telephone message immediately after entries close and are permitted to set a deadline for a player to accept or decline. Players that decline to play will not be penalized and will not be selected for the tournament. See Regulation 25.C.ii.e. for information on entry fee refunds.

Regulation 8.C.i.b. Comment: If applicable, it is recommended that Tournaments post on the website that there is a possibility the draw size will be expanded from 16 to 24 players; however, this is not required for the draws to be expanded.

- c. Singles Selection Process and Alternate List.** Players will be selected in the order their names appear on the National Standings List of the division published on Wednesday following the entry deadline. All players not selected will be placed on an Alternate List that is ordered using the same list used to select the players. The Alternate List will be used to replace players that withdraw from the main draw. See Regulation 6.G. regarding requirements and restrictions related to the acceptance of a Late Entry that invalidates the seeding.

Regulation 8.C.i.c. Comment: If a Level 5 Championship Singles & Doubles Tournament has a

delayed entry deadline because it is concurrent with a Level 3 or 4 Tournament, the most recently published National Standings List as of the entry deadline will be used.

- d. **Doubles.** When doubles is offered as part of a tournament that offers singles, the following provisions will apply to the doubles events:
- (1) **Draw Size and Format.** Each doubles draw size is limited to 8 teams, *except that*
 - If the singles draw size is 32 players, the doubles draw size is limited to 16 teams; or
 - If the singles draw size is 24 players, the doubles draw size is limited to 12 teamsA single elimination draw with a playoff for 3rd place will be played.
 - (2) **Doubles Partner Not Required by Entry Deadline.** Entry with a partner in the doubles event is not required by the entry deadline - see Table 2 for Doubles Partner Notification Deadline and Regulation 11 for option of Tournament Committee to randomly pair players without partners.
 - (3) **Doubles Selection Process.** Teams will be selected as set forth in Regulation 12.A. and C. after the Doubles Partner Notification Deadline (see Table 2). All teams not selected will be placed on Alternate Lists that are ordered using the same method of selecting teams into the tournament. The Alternate Lists will be used to replace teams that withdraw from the main draw. See Regulation 6.G. regarding requirements and restrictions related to the acceptance of a Late Entry that invalidates the seeding.
- e. **Match Formats.** Ad scoring will be used.
- (1) **Singles Main Draw, Playoff for 3rd Place, and Round Robin:** Best of 3 Tiebreak Sets (6 game sets) with a 10-point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of a 3rd set. If the score in a set reaches 6-games all, a 7-point Set Tiebreak will be played.
 - (2) **Singles Consolation and Doubles:** Best of 3 Short Sets (4 game sets) with a 7-point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of a 3rd Set. If the score in the Short Set reaches 4-games, a 7-point Set Tiebreak will be played.
- See Regulation 21 for information on shortening match formats in the event of inclement weather, health concerns, or safety concerns.
- f. **Seeding.** Singles events will be seeded as described forth in Regulation 13.B.i. Doubles events will be seeded as described in Regulation 13.B.ii.
- ii. **Level 5 Championship Doubles-Only and Mixed Doubles-Only Tournaments.**
- a. **Sanction Period.** Level 5 Championship Doubles-Only and Mixed Doubles-Only Tournaments will be held over a 2-day sanction period.
 - b. **Doubles Partner Not Required by Entry Deadline.** Entry with a partner into a doubles or mixed doubles event is not required - see Table 2 for Doubles Partner Notification Deadline and Regulation 11 for option of Tournament Committee to randomly pair players without partners.
 - c. **Draw Size and Format.**
 - (1) **Weekend Tournaments.** When a tournament is sanctioned over a weekend, each doubles draw size will be limited to 32 teams. The draw format will be based on the number of entries as follows:
 - 3 to 5 teams: Round Robin
 - 6 or more teams: First Match Consolation
 - (2) **Mid-Week Tournaments.** When a tournament is sanctioned mid-week (not on a Saturday to Sunday date block), each doubles draw size will be limited to 16 teams. The draw format will be based on the number of entries as follows:
 - 3 to 5 teams: Round Robin
 - 5 or more teams: First Match Consolation
 - d. **Match Format.** Ad scoring will be used. All matches will be the Best of 3 Tiebreak Sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of a 3rd set. If the score in a set reaches 6-games all, a 7-point Set Tiebreak will be played. See Regulation 21 for information on shortening match formats in the event of inclement weather, health concerns, or safety concerns.
 - e. **Selection Process and Alternate List.** Teams will be selected as set forth in Regulation 12.B. and C. after the Doubles Partner Notification Deadline (see Table 2). All teams not selected will be placed on Alternate Lists that are ordered using the same methods of selecting teams into the tournament. The Alternate Lists will be used to replace teams that withdraw from the main draw. See Regulation 6.G. regarding requirements and restrictions related to the acceptance of a Late Entry that invalidates the seeding.
 - f. **Replacement of Withdrawing Teams.** Because players are selected for the tournament as part of a team, the withdrawal of one player after the entry deadline is effectively the withdrawal of a team. When there are no alternate teams, the remaining player may find another partner, *except that* if this happens after the draws are published, the new team may not invalidate the seedings.
 - g. **Seeding.** Doubles and mixed doubles events will be seeded as described in Regulation 13.B.ii.
- iii. **Level 5 Dominant Duo Team Tournaments.**
- a. **Sanction Period.** Level 5 Dominant Duo Team Tournaments will be held over a 2-day sanction

- period.
- b. Draw Format, Draw Size and Team Match Description.** Sixteen (16) 2-player teams will be selected for each division as described below. When 13 or fewer entries are received, teams will be selected and placed on an alternate list as set forth in Regulation 36.
 A compass draw format with a playoff for 3rd place will be played (except when 7 or fewer entries are received, as described in Regulation 36).
 Each Team Match consists of 1 doubles match followed by 2 singles matches. The two players from each team with the highest ranking as of the time selection is done will play in the #1 position; the remaining two players from each team will play in the #2 position. The team that wins 2 out of the 3 matches wins the Team Match and advances in the draw.
 - c. Team Entry Required by Deadline.** Only players that are entered as a doubles team at the time of the entry deadline will be considered for selection. Players may enter prior to the deadline without a partner, but notice to the Tournament Committee by email from both players is required by the entry deadline to be considered entered as a team. The Tournament Committee will use its best efforts to assist players in finding partners; however, forming a team by the entry deadline is the sole responsibility of the players.
 - d. Selection Process and Alternate List.**
 - (1) Up to One Wild Card.** Up to one wild card may be awarded by the Wild Card Committee from among the timely team entries. The Wild Card Committee is comprised of two members of the NorCal Junior Staff and Chair of Junior Council. The wild card does not have to be awarded.
 - (2) Remaining Teams Based on Combined Standing.** The remaining spots in the draw will then be filled with teams using the procedure described in Regulation 12.C.
 - (3) Alternates.** All teams not selected will be placed on an Alternate List that will be ordered using the procedure described in Regulation 12.C. The Alternate List will be used to replace teams that withdraw from the main draw. See Regulation 6.G. regarding requirements and restrictions related to the acceptance of a Late Entry that invalidates the seeding.
 - e. Replacement of Withdrawing Teams.** Because players are selected for the tournament as part of a team, the withdrawal of one player after the entry deadline is effectively the withdrawal of a team. When there are no alternate teams, the remaining player may find another partner, *except that* if this happens after the draws are published, the new team may not invalidate the seedings.
 - f. Seeding.** Teams will be seeded as described in Regulation 13.C.
 - g. Match Format.** Ad scoring will be used. All matches will be the Best of 3 Short Sets (4 game sets) with a 7-point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of a 3rd Set. If the score in the Short Set reaches 4-games all, a 7-point Set Tiebreak will be played. See Regulation 21 for information on shortening match formats in the event of inclement weather, health concerns, or safety concerns.
- iv. Level 5 Super Series.** Level 5 Super Series Tournaments are level-based singles tournaments offered in all age divisions. Players with similar ability are flighted into 8-player compass draws.
- a. Sanction Period.** Level 5 Super Series will be held over a 2-day sanction period.
 - b. Draw Size and Type.** Up to 32 total players per age division will compete in each Super Series. Players will be flighted into draws of 8 as described below. The draw format will be a compass draw with a playoff for 3rd place, *except that* when 13 or fewer entries are received, the draw format will be as set forth in Regulation 35.
 - c. Number of Concurrent Tournaments.** One Level 5 Super Series may be held in a date block.
 - d. Selection Process and Alternate List.** When 32 or more entries are received in a division, the best 32 rated players with timely entries will be selected for each division using WTN. When fewer than 32 entries are received, players shall be selected and placed on an alternate list as set forth in Regulation 35.
 - e. Selection of Players with Concurrent Entries When More than One Division is Part of Same Tournament.** When more than one age division is part of the same tournament, selection will be done in descending division order (18 division, followed by 16 division, followed by 14 division, followed by 12 division). The following rules apply to selection of a player entered in two consecutive age divisions that are part of the same tournament:
 - A player that is accepted into the older age division must play in the older age division;
 - A player that is not accepted into the older division will be eligible for selection into the younger division and will also appear on the alternate list of the older division.
 - A player not accepted into either division will appear on the alternate list of both divisions.
 - Before the draws are published, a player may be moved from the main draw of the younger division to the main draw of the older division.
 - f. Flighting.** When 32 players have been selected, players will be flighted into four 8-player compass draws using the same WTNs used to select players. (See Regulation 5.B. for information on how players are ordered.) When fewer than 32 players are selected, players will be flighted as set forth in Regulation 35.
 - g. Seeding.** The same WTNs used to select players will be used to seed 2 players in each of the 8-

player the draws, *except that* only those players with WTNs that have a high degree of confidence (as indicated by a dark blue check mark next to the WTN) may be seeded. (See Regulation 5.B. for information on how players are ordered.)

h. Alternates, Late Entries, and Replacement of Withdrawing Players.

- (1) Alternate List.** All players not selected will be placed on an Alternate List that is ordered using the WTNs used to select players. The Alternate List will be used to replace players who withdraw from the main draw.
- (2) Late Entries.** See Regulation 6.G. regarding discretion, requirements and restrictions related to the acceptance of a Late Entry.
- (3) Replacement of a Withdrawing Player After Draws Published.** When a player withdraws after the draws are published, the withdrawing player will be replaced with the next player on the Alternate List, regardless of the player's WTN, unless the acceptance would invalidate the seeding. If the withdrawing player is a seed, and there is sufficient time to notify affected players, the affected flight will be re-seeded and players will be moved, if necessary, consistent with the procedures set forth in the USTA Regulations.

- i. Match Format.** No-Ad Scoring is not permitted. The singles match format will be the Best of 3 Tiebreak sets (6-game sets) *except that* if a Round Robin of 5 players is used, the singles match format will be the Best of 3 Tiebreak sets (6-game sets) with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of the 3rd set. In either format, if the score in a set reaches 6-games all, a 7-point Set Tiebreak will be played. See Regulation 21 for information on shortening match formats in the event of inclement weather, health concerns, or safety concerns.

iv. Level 5 Team Tournaments.

- a. Sanction Period.** Level 5 Team Tournaments will be held over a 2 or 3-day sanction period.
- b. Draw Size.** The draw size will be determined at the time the tournament is sanctioned.
- c. Draw Type.** The Round Robin or the Round Robin with a Playoff format will be used. The number of teams participating in the playoff matches will be determined at the time the tournament is sanctioned.
- d. Selection Process and Alternate List.** Players will be selected and ordered onto alternate lists using the most recently published National Standings List of the division.
- e. Waterfall of Players onto Teams.** Players will be waterfalled onto teams using the most recently published National Standings List of the division.
- f. Waterfall of Teams.** If the Round Robin with a Playoff is used, teams will be waterfalled into two or more Round Robins based on the combined rank of all players on the team using the most recently published National Standings List of the division.
- g. Match Format.** No-Ad Scoring is not permitted. The match format will be determined at the time the tournament is sanctioned, *except that* it must be a format permitted by the USTA. See Regulation 21 for information on shortening match formats in the event of inclement weather, health concerns, or safety concerns.

D. Open and Closed Level 4 Tournaments. Level 4 Tournaments:

- require all players to meet the US citizen or other alien eligibility requirement;
 - offer advanced competition in the 12, 14, 16 and 18 divisions;
 - earn Level 4 Ranking Points based on results in these tournaments;
 - require players to be residents of USTA NorCal when the tournament is designated as Closed; and
 - are open to all players, regardless of their residency when the tournament is designated as Open.
- i. Open and Closed Level 4 Excellence Singles & Doubles Tournaments.**
 - a. Sanction Period.** The tournament will be held over a 3 or 4-day sanction period.
 - b. Singles Draw Size and Format.** The singles draw size is limited to 32 players. The draw format will be a Feed-In Championship through the Round of 16 with a quarterfinal playoff for 5th place and a playoff for 3rd place.
 - c. Singles Selection Process - 12 Division.** Players will be selected by USTA NorCal staff as follows:
 - (1) Players from National Standings List.** 32 players will be selected from the most recently published National Standings List of the division, in the order in which their names appear on the list.
 - (2) Alternates.** All players not selected will be placed on an Alternate List that is ordered using the same list used to select the players. The Alternate List will be used to replace players who withdraw from the main draw. See Regulation 6.G. regarding requirements and restrictions related to the acceptance of a Late Entry that affects seeding.
 - d. Singles Selection Process - 18, 16 and 14 Divisions.** Players will be selected by USTA NorCal staff as follows:
 - (1) Players from National Standings List.** Up to 20 players will be selected from the most recently published National Standings List of the division, in the order in which their names appear on the list.
 - (2) WTN Ratings.** Only those players who have a WTN with a high degree of confidence (as

indicated by a dark blue check mark next to the WTN) will be selected using this step. Up to 12 players with the highest WTNs will be selected, provided a player's WTN is higher than the lowest rated player selected under step #1 above. (See Regulation 5.B. for information on how players are ordered.)

- (3) **Vacancies and Alternates.** If vacancies remain, players will be selected from the National Standings List used to select players under step #1 in the order in which their names appear on the list. Alternates will also be ordered in the same manner. The Alternate List will be used to replace players who withdraw from the main draw. See Regulation 6.G. regarding requirements and restrictions related to the acceptance of a Late Entry that invalidates the seeding.
- e. **Doubles.** When doubles is offered as part of a tournament that offers singles, the following provisions will apply to the doubles events:
- (1) **Draw Size and Format.** The doubles draw size is limited to 16 teams. A single elimination draw will be played with a playoff for 3rd place.
- (2) **Doubles Partner Not Required by Entry Deadline.** Entry with a partner in the doubles event is not required by the entry deadline - see Table 2 for Doubles Partner Notification Deadline and Regulation 11 for option of Tournament Committee to randomly pair players without partners.
- (3) **Doubles Selection Process.** Teams will be selected as set forth in Regulation 12.A. and C. after the Doubles Partner Notification Deadline (see Table 2). All teams not selected will be placed on Alternate Lists that are ordered using the same methods of selecting teams into the tournament. The Alternate Lists will be used to replace teams that withdraw from the main draw. See Regulation 6.G. regarding requirements and restrictions related to the acceptance of a Late Entry that invalidates the seeding.
- f. **Match Formats.** Ad scoring will be used.
- (1) **12 Division Singles:** Best of 3 tiebreak sets (6-game sets) with a 10-point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of a 3rd set. If the score in a set reaches 6-games all, a 7-point Set Tiebreak will be played.
- (2) **18, 16, and 14 Division Singles:**
- **Main Draw Singles and 3rd Place Playoff:** Best of 3 Tiebreak sets (6-game sets). If the score in a set reaches 6-games all, a 7-point Set Tiebreak will be played.
 - **Consolation Singles (including playoff matches for 5th place):** Best of 3 Tiebreak sets (6-game sets) with a 10-point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of a 3rd set. If the score in a set reaches 6-games all, a 7-point Set Tiebreak will be played.
- (3) **All Divisions Doubles:**
- **Doubles Through Quarterfinals:** The Best of 3 Short Sets (4 game sets) with a 7-point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of a 3rd Set. If the score in the Short Set reaches 4-games, a 7-point Set Tiebreak will be played.
 - **Doubles Semifinals, Finals, and 3rd Place Playoff:** Best of 3 Tiebreak sets (6-game sets) with a 10-point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of a 3rd set. If the score in a set reaches 6-games all, a 7-point Set Tiebreak will be played.
- See Regulation 21 for information on shortening match formats in the event of inclement weather, health concerns, or safety concerns.
- ii. **Open and Closed Level 4 Excellence Doubles-Only Tournaments.**
- a. **Sanction Period.** The tournament may be held over a 2 or 3-day sanction period.

Regulation 8.D.ii.a. Comment: Open or Closed Level 4 Doubles-Only Tournaments may be sanctioned for a Saturday to Monday date block (if a 3-day sanction period is chosen) during periods when school is in session. Players should not enter a 3-day sanctioned tournament if they are not able to play on Monday and players that do so may be assessed suspension points.

- b. **Draw Size and Format.** The doubles draw size is limited to 32 teams. The draw format will be based on the number of entries as follows:
- 3 to 5 teams: Round Robin
 - 6 or more teams: First Match Consolation
- c. **Doubles Partner Not Required by Entry Deadline.** Entry with a partner in the doubles event is not required by the entry deadline - see Table 2 for Doubles Partner Notification Deadline and Regulation 11 for option of Tournament Committee to randomly pair players without partners.
- d. **Selection Process and Alternate List.**
- (1) **Up to Two Wild Cards.** Up to two wild cards may be awarded by the Wild Card Committee from among the timely applicants as of the Doubles Partner Notification Deadline (see Table 2). The Wild Card Committee is comprised of two members of the NorCal Junior Staff and Chair of Junior Council. Wild Cards do not have to be awarded.
- (2) **Remaining Teams Based on Combined Standing.** All remaining teams will then be

selected as set forth in Regulation 12.B. and C. after the Doubles Partner Notification Deadline (see Table 2).

- (3) Alternates.** All teams not selected will be placed on Alternate Lists that are ordered using the same method of selecting teams into the tournament. The Alternate Lists will be used to replace teams who withdraw from the main draw. See Regulation 6.G. regarding requirements and restrictions related to the acceptance of a Late Entry that invalidates the seeding.
- e. Replacement of Withdrawing Teams.** Because players are selected for the tournament as part of a team, the withdrawal of one player after the entry deadline is effectively the withdrawal of a team. When there are no alternate teams, the remaining player may find another partner, *except that* if this happens after the draws are published, the new team may not invalidate the seedings.
- f. Match Formats.** Ad scoring will be used. All matches will be the Best of 3 Tiebreak Sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of a 3rd set. If the score in a set reaches 6-games all, a 7-point Set Tiebreak will be played.
- iii. Open Level 4 Super Series.** Open Level 4 Super Series Tournaments are level-based singles tournaments for advanced players offered in all age divisions. Players with similar ability are flighted into 8-player compass draws.
- a. Sanction Period.** The tournament will be held over a 2-day sanction period.
- b. Draw Size and Type.** Up to 32 total players per age division will compete in each Super Series. Players will be flighted into draws of 8 as described below. The draw format will be a compass draw with a playoff for 3rd place, *except that* when 13 or fewer entries are received, the draw format will be as set forth in Regulation 35.
- c. Selection Process and Alternate List.** When 32 or more entries are received in a division, the best 32 rated players with timely entries will be selected for each division, using WTN. When fewer than 32 entries are received, players shall be selected and placed on an alternate list as set forth in Regulation 35.
- d. Selection of Players with Concurrent Entries When More than One Division is Part of Same Tournament.** When more than one age division is part of the same tournament, selection will be done in descending division order (18 division, followed by 16 division, followed by 14 division, followed by 12 division). The following rules apply to selection of a player entered in two consecutive age divisions that are part of the same tournament:
- A player that is accepted into the older age division must play in the older age division;
 - A player that is not accepted into the older division will be eligible for selection into the younger division and will also appear on the alternate list of the older division.
 - A player not accepted into either division will appear on the alternate list of both divisions.
 - Before the draws are published, a player may be moved from the main draw of the younger division to the main draw of the older division.
- e. Flighting.** When 32 players have been selected, players will be flighted into four 8-player compass draws using the same WTNs used to select players. (See Regulation 5.B. for information on how players are ordered.) When fewer than 32 players are selected, players will be flighted as set forth in Regulation 35.
- f. Seeding.** The same WTNs used to select players will be used to seed 2 players in each of the 8-player the draws, *except that* only those players with WTNs that have a high degree of confidence (as indicated by a dark blue check mark next to the WTN) may be seeded. (See Regulation 5.B. for information on how players are ordered.)
- g. Alternates, Late Entries, and Replacement of Withdrawing Players.**
- (1) Alternate List.** All players not selected will be placed on an Alternate List that is ordered using the WTNs used to select players. The Alternate List will be used to replace players who withdraw from the main draw.
- (2) Late Entries.** See Regulation 6.G. regarding discretion, requirements and restrictions related to the acceptance of a Late Entry.
- (3) Replacement of a Withdrawing Player After Draws Published.** When a player withdraws after the draws are published, the withdrawing player will be replaced with the next player on the Alternate List, regardless of the player's WTN, unless the acceptance would invalidate the seeding. If the withdrawing player is a seed, and there is sufficient time to notify affected players, the affected flight will be re-seeded and players will be moved, if necessary, consistent with the procedures set forth in the USTA Regulations.
- h. Match Format.** No-Ad Scoring is not permitted. The singles match format will be the Best of 3 Tiebreak sets (6-game sets) *except that* if a Round Robin of 5 players is used, the singles match format will be the Best of 3 Tiebreak sets (6-game sets) with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of the 3rd set. In either format, if the score in a set reaches 6-games all, a 7-point Set Tiebreak will be played. See Regulation 21 for information on shortening match formats in the event of inclement weather, health concerns, or safety concerns.
- iv. Closed Level 4 Mixed Dominant Duo Team Tournament.**

- a. **Sanction Period.** Dominant Duo Team Tournaments will be held over a 2 or 3-day sanction period.
 - b. **Draw Size and Tournament Description.**
 - (1) **Three-Day Tournaments.** 32 two-player teams will be selected for each division as described below. When 27 or fewer entries are received, teams will be selected and placed on an alternate list as set forth in Regulation 36. A compass draw format with a playoff for 3rd place will be played (except when 7 or fewer entries are received, as described in Regulation 36).
 - (2) **Two-Day Tournaments.** 16 two-player teams will be selected for each division as described below. When 13 or fewer entries are received, teams will be selected and placed on an alternate list as set forth in Regulation 36. A compass draw format with a playoff for 3rd place will be played (except when 7 or fewer entries are received, as described in Regulation 36).

Each Team Match consists of 1 doubles match followed by 2 singles matches. The team that wins 2 out of the 3 matches wins the Team Match and advances in the draw.
 - c. **Team Entry Required by Deadline.** Only players that are entered as a doubles team at the time of the entry deadline will be considered for selection. Players may enter prior to the deadline without a partner, but notice to the Tournament Committee by email from both players is required by the entry deadline to be considered entered as a team. The Tournament Committee will use its best efforts to assist players in finding partners; however, forming a team by the entry deadline is the responsibility of the players.
 - d. **Selection Process and Alternate List.**
 - (1) **Wild Cards.**
 - **Three-Day Tournaments (Draw of 32) - Up to Two Wild Cards.** Up to 2 wild cards may be awarded by the Wild Card Committee from among the timely applicants.
 - **Two-Day Tournaments (Draw of 16) - Up to One Wild Card.** Up to 1 wild card may be awarded by the Wild Card Committee from among the timely applicants.

The Wild Card Committee is comprised of two members of the NorCal Junior Staff and Chair of Junior Council. The wild card does not have to be awarded.
 - (2) **Remaining Teams Based on Combined Standing.** The remaining spots in the draw will then be filled with teams using the procedure described in Regulation 12.C. after the Doubles Partner Notification Deadline (see Table 2).
 - (3) **Alternates.** All teams not selected will be placed on an Alternate List that will be ordered using the procedure described in Regulation 12.. The Alternate List will be used to replace teams that withdraw from the main draw. See Regulation 6.G. regarding requirements and restrictions related to the acceptance of a Late Entry that invalidates the seeding.
 - e. **Replacement of Withdrawing Teams.** Because players are selected for the tournament as part of a team, the withdrawal of one player after the entry deadline is effectively the withdrawal of a team. When there are no alternate teams, the remaining player may find another partner, *except that* if this happens after the draws are published, the new team may not invalidate the seedings.
 - f. **Seeding.** Teams will be seeded as described in Regulation 13.C.
 - g. **Match Format.** No-Ad Scoring is not permitted. All matches will be the Best of 3 Short Sets (6-game sets) with a 7-point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of a 3rd Set. If the score in the Short Set reaches 4-games all, a 7-point Set Tiebreak will be played. See Regulation 21 for information on shortening match formats in the event of inclement weather, health concerns, or safety concerns.
- v. **Level 4 Team Tournaments.**
- a. **Sanction Period.** Level 4 Team Tournaments will be held over a 2 to 4-day sanction period.
 - b. **Draw Size.** The draw size will be determined at the time the tournament is sanctioned.
 - c. **Draw Type.** The Round Robin or the Round Robin with a Playoff format will be used. The number of teams participating in the playoff matches will be determined at the time the tournament is sanctioned.
 - d. **Selection Process and Alternate List.** Players will be selected and ordered onto alternate lists using the most recently published National Standings List of the division.
 - e. **Waterfall of Players onto Teams.** Players will be waterfalled onto teams using the most recently published National Standings List of the division.
 - f. **Waterfall of Teams.** If the Round Robin with a Playoff is used, teams will be waterfalled into two or more Round Robins based on the combined rank of all players on the team using the most recently published National Standings List of the division.
 - g. **Match Format.** No-Ad Scoring is not permitted. The match format will be determined at the time the tournament is sanctioned, *except that* it must be a format permitted by the USTA. See Regulation 21 for information on shortening match formats in the event of inclement weather, health concerns, or safety concerns.
- E. **Closed Level 3 Sectional Championships.** Closed Level 3 Sectional Championships:
- require all players to meet the US citizen or other alien eligibility requirement;

- offer advanced competition in the 12, 14, 16 and 18 divisions;
- earn Level 3 Ranking Points based on results in these tournaments;
- are Closed and require players to be residents of USTA NorCal.

i. **Match Formats.** Ad scoring will be used.

- (1) **Main Draw Singles and 3rd Place Playoff:** Best of 3 Tiebreak sets (6-game sets). If the score in a set reaches 6-games all, a 7-point Set Tiebreak will be played.
- (2) **Consolation Singles (including playoff matches for 5th place):** Best of 3 Tiebreak sets (6-game sets) with a 10-point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of a 3rd set. If the score in a set reaches 6-games all, a 7-point Set Tiebreak will be played.
- (3) **Doubles Through Quarterfinals:** The Best of 3 Short Sets (4-game sets) with a 7-point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of a 3rd Set will be played through the quarterfinals. If the score in a Short Set reaches 4-games all, a 7-point Set Tiebreak will be played.
- (4) **Doubles Semifinal, Finals, and 3rd Place Playoff:** The Best of 3 Tiebreak sets (6-game sets) with a 10-point Match Tiebreak in lieu of a 3rd set. If the score in a set reaches 6-games all, a 7-point Set Tiebreak will be played.

See Regulation 21 for information on shortening match formats in the event of inclement weather, health concerns, or safety concerns.

ii. **Closed Level 3 Sectional Championships Singles & Doubles Tournaments**

a. **Sanction Period.**

- (1) **Singles-Only Tournaments.** Singles-only Closed Level 3 Sectional Championships will be held over a 4-day sanction period.
- (2) **Singles & Doubles Tournaments.** When singles and doubles are offered as part of the same Closed Level 3 Sectional Championship, the tournament will be held over a 5-day sanction period.

b. **Singles Draw Size and Draw Format.** The singles event is limited to 64 players and will have a Feed-in Championship that feeds players in through the round of 16 with a playoff for 3rd place and the quarterfinal losers will play off for 5th place.

c. **Selection for Singles.** Players will be selected by USTA NorCal staff as follows:

- (1) **Up to Four Wild Cards.** Up to four wild cards may be awarded by the Wild Card Committee from among the timely applicants as of the entry deadline. The Wild Card Committee is comprised of two members of the USTA NorCal Junior Staff and Chair of Junior Council. Wild Cards do not have to be awarded.
- (2) **Remaining Players Based on National Standing Lists.** All remaining players will then be selected based on their ranking on the most recently published National Standings List of the division of the event published on Wednesday following the entry deadline.
- (3) **Alternates.** The Alternate List will be ordered using the National Standings List used to select players into the draw. The Alternate List will be used to replace players who withdraw from the main draw. See Regulation 6.G. regarding requirements and restrictions related to the acceptance of a Late Entry that invalidates the seeding.

d. **Doubles.** When doubles is offered as part of a tournament that offers singles, the following provisions will apply to the doubles events:

- (1) **Doubles Draw Size and Draw Format.** The doubles draw is limited to 32 teams, the draw will be single elimination with a playoff for third place.
- (2) **Doubles Partner Not Required by Entry Deadline.** Entry with a partner in the doubles event is not required by the entry deadline - see Table 2 for Doubles Partner Notification Deadline and Regulation 11 for option of Tournament Committee to randomly pair players without partners.
- (3) **Selection Process.** Teams will be selected as set forth in Regulation 12.A. and C. after the Doubles Partner Notification Deadline (see Table 2). All teams not selected will be placed on Alternate Lists that are ordered using the same method of selecting teams into the tournament. The Alternate Lists will be used to replace teams that withdraw from the main draw. See Regulation 6.G. regarding requirements and restrictions related to the acceptance of a Late Entry that invalidates the seeding.

iii. **Closed Level 3 Doubles-Only and Mixed Doubles-Only Sectional Championships.**

a. **Sanction Period.** The tournament will be held over a 2 to 3-day sanction period.

Regulation 8.E.iii.a. Comment: Closed Level 3 Doubles-Only and Mixed Doubles-Only Tournaments may be sanctioned for a Saturday to Monday date block (if a 3-day sanction period is chosen) during periods when school is in session. Players should not enter a 3-day sanctioned tournament if they are not able to play on Monday and players that do so may be assessed suspension points.

b. **Draw Size, Draw Format, and Match Format.** The doubles draw size is limited to 32 teams. The draw and match formats will be based on the number of entries as follows:

- When 3-5 teams are in the draw, a Round Robin draw format will be played. The match format will be Best of 3 Tiebreak Sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of a 3rd set. If the score in a set reaches 6-games all, a 7-point Set Tiebreak will be played.
- When 6 or more teams are in the draw, a First Match Consolation will be played with a playoff for 3rd place. The main draw matches and playoff for 3rd place will be the Best of 3 Tiebreak Sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of a 3rd set. If the score in a set reaches 6-games all, a 7-point Set Tiebreak will be played. The consolation matches will be the Best of 3 Short Sets (4 game sets) with a 7-point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of a 3rd Set. If the score in the Short Set reaches 4-games, a 7-point Set Tiebreak will be played.
- c. **Doubles Partner Not Required by Entry Deadline.** Entry with a partner in the doubles event is not required by the entry deadline - see Table 2 for Doubles Partner Notification Deadline and Regulation 11 for option of Tournament Committee to randomly pair players without partners.
- d. **Selection Process.**
 - (1) **Up to Two Wild Cards.** Up to two wild cards may be awarded by the Wild Card Committee from among the timely applicants as of the Doubles Partner Notification Deadline (see Table 2). The Wild Card Committee is comprised of two members of the NorCal Junior Staff and Chair of Junior Council. Wild Cards do not have to be awarded.
 - (2) **Teams Based on Combined Standing.** All remaining teams will then be selected as set forth in Regulation 12.B. and C.
 - (3) **Alternates.** All teams not selected will be placed on Alternate Lists that are ordered using the same methods of selecting teams into the tournament described above. The Alternate Lists will be used to replace teams that withdraw from the main draw. See Regulation 6.G. regarding requirements and restrictions related to the acceptance of a Late Entry that invalidates the seeding.
- e. **Replacement of Withdrawing Teams.** Because players are selected for the tournament as part of a team, the withdrawal of one player after the entry deadline is effectively the withdrawal of a team. When there are no alternate teams, the remaining player may find another partner provided if this happens after the draws are published, the new team may not invalidate the seedings.

9. **Consolation Matches.** Players are required to play consolation matches (including all Compass Draw matches), if offered.

10. Website Posting Requirements.

A. **Requirements of the USTA Regulations.** As required by the USTA Regulation I.H.2., by the time entries open, the Tournament Committee will post to the Serve Tennis Tournament Home Page information about the tournament including, but not limited to

- the draw format(s) and whether consolation is offered;
- the specific limit, if any, on the size of the draw(s);
- the match and scoring formats;
- the method of seeding;
- the locations of play;
- any clothing or shoe restrictions;
- the ball type, the number of balls for play, and the ball-change policy;
- the court surface;
- the time and place of the draw.

In addition to the information required by USTA Regulation I.H.2., when the draw is limited, the Tournament Committee will also post process by which players are selected.

B. **Additional USTA NorCal Requirements.** USTA NorCal also requires that the following be posted on the Serve Tennis Tournament Home Page:

- Inclement Weather Policy, including whether the tournament has indoor back up and the match formats permitted to be used when shortening the tournament (see Regulation 21);
- If applicable, any health and safety requirements related to COVID or any other relevant policy;
- Information on player services, amenities, awards (as required in Regulation 30), player gifts, and practice courts;
- If applicable, information on doubles entries, including the Doubles Partner Notification Deadline (see Table 2), whether the tournament will randomly pair players without partners into teams, and information on whether the tournament will facilitate communication between players looking for partners.
- If applicable, instructions on whether concurrent entries are permitted without prior authorization.
- The NorCal standardized statement on customer service surveys.

11. Pairing of Players Without Partners.

A Tournament Committee may elect to randomly pair any player entered in doubles without a partner after

the applicable Doubles Partner Notification Deadline (See Table 2 for Doubles Partner Notification Deadline) provided that a statement that this will take place is published on the tournament website by the time entries open. If random pairings will take place, players entered in doubles without a partner that do not desire to play doubles must notify the Tournament Committee of their desire to withdraw from doubles (without penalty) by the Doubles Partner Notification Deadline.

If random pairings are made and the draw is limited, players in the singles draw will be paired with other players in the singles draw first.

12. Selection of Doubles Teams for Limited Size Doubles and Mixed Doubles Events

These selection procedures do not apply to tournaments that use the Dominant Duo format - see specific Dominant Duo Team Tournament regulations for selection process.

A. Level 6 and 7 Tournaments: Selection Process When Doubles and/or Mixed Doubles Offered with Singles.

The Tournament Committee will accept doubles teams into the doubles event in the following order:

- i. Teams comprising two players in the singles draw will be accepted.
- ii Teams comprising one player in the singles draw and one player not in the singles draw.
- iii. Teams comprising two players not in the singles draw.

If there is a tie in the ordered steps above, selection order is based:

- first, on highest combined standings using the most recently published Individual Doubles Seeding List; and
- second, if there is a tie, the team with the player that has the highest doubles standing on the list shall be selected first,

except that no Late Entry and no team comprised of a Late Entry will be selected before a team comprised of timely applicants. Tournaments are NOT authorized to expand the draw size in order to accommodate teams.

Note: This process also applies to Level 5 Tournaments that have delayed deadlines when they are concurrent with Level 3 or Level 4 Tournaments.

B. Level 3, Level 4 and Level 5 Tournaments: Selection Process When Doubles and/or Mixed Doubles Offered with Singles.

Note: This process also does not apply to Level 5 Tournaments that have delayed deadlines when they are concurrent with Level 3 or Level 4 Tournaments – see Regulation 12.A. above and Table 2.

- i. **Team Selection at Time of Singles Selection.** The Tournament Committee will accept all doubles teams comprised of two players that are being accepted into the singles draw. All other teams and singles players without partners will be considered alternates until the following Monday at 5:00 pm.

- ii. **Selection of Additional Teams Following Final Doubles Partner Notification Deadline.**

Following the Final Doubles Partner Notification Deadline at 5:00 pm Pacific Time on Monday following the entry deadline, the Tournament Committee will accept doubles teams into the doubles event in the following order:

- (1) Teams comprising two players in the singles draw will be accepted.
- (2) Teams comprising one player in the singles draw and one player not in the singles draw.
- (3) Teams comprising two players not in the singles draw.

If there is a tie in the ordered steps above, selection order is based:

- first, on highest combined standings using the most recently published Individual Doubles Seeding List; and
- second, if there is a tie, the team with the player that has the highest doubles standing on the list shall be selected first,

except that no Late Entry and no team comprised of a Late Entry will be selected before a team comprised of timely applicants. Tournaments are NOT authorized to expand the draw size in order to accommodate teams.

C. Selection Process for Doubles-Only and/or Mixed Doubles-Only Tournaments.

The Tournament Committee will accept doubles teams into the doubles event in the following order:

- first, on highest combined standings using the most recently published Individual Doubles Seeding List of the division; and
- second, if there is a tie, the team with the player that has the highest doubles standing on the list shall be selected first,

except that no team comprised of a Late Entry will be selected before a team comprised of timely applicants. Tournaments are NOT authorized to expand the draw size in order to accommodate teams.

D. Level 5 Dominant Duo Team Tournaments and Closed Level 4 Mixed Dominant Duo Team Tournaments.

Teams will be selected in the same manner described under Regulation 12.C. *except that* the National Standings List of the division will be used instead of the Individual Doubles Seeding Lists.

E. Procedure for Calculating Combined Standings of a Team.

For the purpose of determining selection of teams, a team's combined standing is determined by adding the two standings together. For example, if Player A is the #200 player on the list and Player B is the #201 player on the list, the Team of A&B would have the combined standing of 401.

If a player does not appear on the list, that player will be assigned a standing that is equivalent to one lower than the lowest player on the Individual Doubles Seeding List. For example, if Partner C is #1, and Partner D does not appear on the list, and the Individual Doubles Seeding List has a total of 100 players on the list, Partner D is assigned a standing of 101 and Team C&D have a combined standing of 102.

13. Seeding.

A. Closed Level 3 Sectional Championships in the 18, 16, and 14 Divisions and Open and Closed Level 4 Excellence Tournaments in the 18, 16, and 14 Divisions.

i. Singles Events.

a. **Identifying Players for Seeding.** The group of players to be seeded will be identified as follows:

- (1) **Singles Standings.** 1/2 of the seeds will be selected from the most recently published Singles Seeding Lists of the division, in the order in which their names appear on the list.
- (2) **WTN Ratings.** Up to 1/2 of the seeds will be selected based on each player's WTN as follows:
 - Only players with a WTN that has a high degree of confidence (as indicated by a dark blue check mark next to the WTN) may be seeded; players that do not have a dark blue check mark next to their WTN will not be considered for seeding based on their WTN.
 - The players with the best WTNs will be selected, provided that a player's WTN is higher than the lowest-rated player selected under step #1 above.
- (3) **Vacancies and Alternates.** If fewer than 1/2 of the number of seeds meet the rating criteria in step #2, the remaining players to be seeded will be selected from the Singles Seeding Lists used to select players under step #1 in the order in which their names appear on the list.

b. **Ordering Seeded Players.** Seeds will be ordered using the Singles Seeding Lists used to select players under step #1 in the order in which their names appear on the list.

c. **Numerical and Alpha Seeds.** Seeds 1-4 will be seeded numerically. Seeds 5-8 will be seeded as a group as the #5 seed. Seeds 9-16 will be seeded as a group as the #9 seed.

ii. Doubles Events.

a. **Identifying Teams for Seeding.** The group of teams to be seeded will be identified as follows:

- (1) **Combined Doubles Standings.** 1/2 of the seeds will be selected from the most recently published Individual Doubles Seeding Lists of the division, in the order of the teams based on their combined standing. See Regulation 12.C. for calculating the combined standing of a team. If there is a tie, the team with the player that has the highest doubles standing on the Individual Doubles Seeding List will be seeded first.
- (2) **Combined WTN Ratings.** Up to 1/2 of the seeds will be selected based on each team's combined WTN rating as follows:
 - Only teams comprised of players with WTNs that have a high degree of confidence (as indicated by a dark blue check mark next to the WTN) may be seeded; teams comprised of one or both players that do not have a dark blue check mark next to their WTN will not be considered for seeding based on their WTN.
 - The teams with the best combined WTNs will be selected, provided a team's combined rating is higher than the lowest-rated team selected under step #1 above. Teams comprised of one or both players that do not have a dark blue check mark WTN are all considered lower-rated than a dark blue check marked-rated team, regardless of the actual combined WTN.
 - In the event two teams have the same combined WTN, a tie will be broken based on the teams' combined standing on the Individual Doubles Seeding Lists used under step #1. A team's combined rating is determined as follows: Player A has a rating of 5.00 rating and Player B has a rating of 4.00. The Team of A&B would have the combined rating of 9.00. Players with no rating will have a rating of 0.00.
- (3) **Vacancies and Alternates.** If fewer than 1/2 of the number of teams meet the rating criteria in step #2, the remaining teams to be seeded will be selected as described under step #1.

b. **Ordering Seeded Teams.** Seeds will be ordered using the combined standings of the teams in the order of the teams based on their combined standing.

c. **Numerical and Alpha Seeds.** Seeds 1-4 will be seeded numerically. Seeds 5-8 will be seeded as a group as the #5 seed. Seeds 9-16 will be seeded as a group as the #9 seed.

B. Closed Level 3 Sectional Championships in the 12 Divisions, Closed Level 4 Excellence Tournaments in the 12 Divisions, Level 5 Championship Tournaments (except Super Series), Open Level 6 Challenger Tournaments, and Open Level 7 Tournaments. Round robin draws are not seeded.

i. **Singles Events.** That players will be seeded for singles events using the most recently published

Singles Seeding List of the division, in the order in which their names appear on the list. Seeds 1-4 will be seeded numerically. Seeds 5-8 will be seeded as a group as the #5 seed. Seeds 9-16 will be seeded as a group as the #9 seed.

- ii. **Doubles Events.** Teams will be seeded for doubles events in the order of their combined standing using the most recently published Individual Doubles Seeding List of the division. See Regulation 12.C. for calculating the combined standing of a team. If there is a tie, the team with the player that has the highest doubles standing on the Individual Doubles Seeding List will be seeded first.

- C. **Level 5 Dominant Duo Team Tournaments and Closed Level 4 Mixed Dominant Duo Team Tournaments.** Teams will be seeded in the same manner described under Regulation 13.A.ii. (seeding doubles events for Sectional Championships and Excellence tournaments), *except that* the National Standings List of the division will be used instead of the Individual Doubles Seeding Lists.

Regulation 13. Comments:

- Events with a Round Robin draw format are not seeded.
- See Regulation 8.D.iii.f. for information on seeding Open Level 4 Super Series.
- See Regulation 8.C.iv.g. for information on seeding Level 5 Super Series.
- The number of seeds will be determined as set forth in the USTA Regulations: The number of players seeded shall equal a power of two (for example, 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, or 32). The maximum ratio of players seeded shall be one to three, *except that* any draw may have one or two seeds.

- 14. **Events With 3 or Fewer Entries - Open Level 7 Tournaments and Open Level 6 Tournaments.** Note that a Level 7 event with 3 entries does not allow for the 3-match minimum required in Regulation 8.A.iii. A Level 7 event with 3 entries must either be combined as described in Regulation 14.A. below or cancelled.

- A. **Singles and Doubles Events with 3 Entries.** Singles and doubles events with 3 entries when registration closes may be combined as follows:

- any age division in a tournament may be combined with the next-higher age division in a tournament provided the tournament category is the same (for example, an Open Level 7 14s may be combined with an Open Level 7 16s, but not with an Open Level 7 18s); and
- any age division in a tournament may be combined with the same age division in the next-higher tournament Level (for example, an Open Level 7 14s may be combined with an Open Level 6 14s, but not with an Open Level 7 16s and not with a higher tournament Level such as a Level 5 14s), *provided that* the Tournament Director must notify the players involved by email or telephone message immediately after entries close and are permitted to set a deadline for a player to accept or decline. Players that decline to play will not be penalized and will not be selected for the tournament. See Regulation 25.C.ii.e. below for information on entry fee refunds.

- B. **Singles and Doubles Events with One or Two Entries.** Singles and doubles events with one or two entries when registration closes will be cancelled. Players in cancelled events must be given the opportunity to play another singles or doubles event in the tournament that is not full. The Tournament Director must notify the affected players by email or telephone message immediately after entries close and are permitted to set a deadline for a player to accept or decline. Players that decline to play will not be penalized and will not be selected for the tournament. See Regulation 25.C.ii.e. below for information on entry fee refunds.

- 15. **Responsibility for Start Times.**

- A. **When Draws First Published.** When draws are published (see Table 2 for publication requirements), players are responsible for obtaining their match start times by viewing the Serve Tennis Tournament Home Page.

- B. **When Second Weekend Start Times Published Following First Weekend.** When start times for a second weekend of a two-weekend tournament are published following the first weekend, the Tournament Committee, players are responsible for obtaining their match start times by viewing the Serve Tennis Tournament Home Page.

- C. **When Published Match Time Changes or Omitted Match Time is Added.** If a published match time is changed, or an omitted match time is added, the Tournament Committee has the sole responsibility of ensuring that the affected players are notified of the new start time. The Tournament Committee will notify the players by email, and/or phone message, and/or text message; it is recommended that more than one method of communication be used. Any match that results in a player advancing because of a failure to communicate will be recorded as a Walkover for a Tournament Administrative Error and the player who was not advised of the new start time will receive a refund - see Regulation 25.C.ii.a.(2).

- D. **When Match Time Delayed and When Player Advances by Walkover.** If a match time for a player is delayed due to the length of the opponent's previous round, or an opponent as advanced by walkover to the next round that is played on the same day, the Tournament Committee will use its best efforts to communicate this delay by email, and/or phone message, and/or text message.

- E. **Inclement Weather Delays.** If the tournament is delayed due to inclement weather, information must be posed to the tournament website. Additionally, it is recommended that a Tournament Committee

communicate this information by email and/or text message to all players using the Serve Tennis communication system.

- 16. Changes to the Draw.** Except as set forth under “Restriction on Replacing Withdrawing Players with Byes” below, changes may be made to the draw as authorized in USTA Regulation II.C.
- 17. Restriction on Replacing Withdrawing Players with Byes.** After a draw has been published, the Referee will not make changes in the draw as described in USTA Regulation II.C.i.b.iii. and iv. as follows: when a player who is not seeded withdraws from a tournament after the draw is published and there are no alternates awaiting entry, a Referee may not replace the withdrawing player with a Bye. If there are no alternates awaiting entry, the Referee is required to leave the unseeded withdrawing player in the draw and advance the opponent by means of a Withdrawal or Default, whichever describes the circumstances of the withdrawal.
- 18. Tournament Scheduling Guidelines and Requirements.**
- A. Latest Start Time Guideline.** No match should start nor suspended match be resumed:
- after 8:00 pm Pacific Time in the 18 and 16 divisions; and
 - after 7:00 pm Pacific Time in all other junior divisions, *except that* no match should start nor suspended match be resumed after 6:00 pm Pacific Time on school nights.
- B. 12-Hour Overnight Rule Requirement.** All players will be given at least 12 hours of rest between the completion of their last match of any day and the start of play of their first match of the following day.
- C. Maximum Number of Matches in a Day Requirement – All Divisions.** The scheduling guidelines for junior divisions in USTA Regulation II.D.9. will be mandatory for all junior tournaments.
- D. Doubles Scheduling Requirement.** Doubles events will be scheduled as early as possible during the sanction period at all junior tournaments.
- 19. Tennis Ball Usage.**
- A. Level 7 Tournaments.** See Regulation 8.A.viii. for special re-use provisions.
- B. Best of 3 Tiebreak Set Matches.** Each match will start with one can of three new balls. If the players split sets, a new can will be provided for the third set.
- C. All Other Matches.** Each match will use one can of three new balls.
- 20. Singles Sticks and Scoring Devices.** Singles sticks are required on nets during singles matches. Scoring devices are required on all tournament courts.
- 21. Shortening Match Formats.** The Tournament Committee may shorten the match format before the start of play in any round without notice on the tournament web page when in the Tournament Committee’s discretion, it is necessary to complete the draw after inclement weather, health concerns, or safety concerns causes the tournament to fall behind its published schedule, *provided* it is a match format permitted in the Table 3 below. The Tournament Committee will use its best efforts to have all matches in a round in a draw use the same match format.
- In the event the Tournament Committee has to change the match format in more than one singles draw, the Tournament Committee will use their best efforts to use the same alternate match format in all changed singles draws. In the event the Tournament Committee has to change the match format in more than one doubles draw, the Tournament Committee will use their best efforts to use the same alternate match format in all changed doubles draws.
- Once the match format in a draw has been changed, the Tournament Committee may revert back to the original match format provided that when doing so all matches in a round in a draw use the same match format.

Table 3: Permitted Shorter Match Formats	
Match Format	Permitted Shorter Format(s)*
Best of 3 Tiebreak Sets	• Best of 3 Tiebreak Sets with a 10-point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of a 3rd Set • Best of 3 Short Sets with a 7-point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of a 3rd Set
Best of 3 Tiebreak Sets with a 10-point Match Tiebreak played in lieu a 3rd Set	Best of 3 Short Sets with a 7-point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of a 3rd Set
Best of 3 Short Sets with a 7-point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of a 3rd Set	• 8-game Pro Set • One 6-game Set

Table 3: Permitted Shorter Match Formats	
Match Format	Permitted Shorter Format(s)*
8-game Pro Set	• One 6-game Set • One Short Set
One 6-game Set	One Short Set
One Short Set	Timed Match of 20 minutes (Game Format)
Switch to No-Ad Scoring	Permitted Regardless of Format
* Written permission of USTA NorCal Staff is required to shorten the match format beyond what is permitted in this table.	

22. Determining Order of Finish When Round Robin Draw Format Played. The player who wins the most matches is the winner. If two players are tied, then the winner of their head-to-head match is the winner.

If three or more players are tied, the Referee will use the steps below that corresponds with the match format played. The Referee shall use the steps in the order listed and shall break as many ties as possible using a given step before using the next step. Defaults, withdrawals, walkovers and retirements shall be treated as set forth in USTA Regulation II.B.6.d.

A. Single Short Set, One 6-Game Set, 8-Game Pro Set and Timed Matches of 20 Minutes (Game Format).

- The head-to-head win-loss record in matches involving just the tied players;
- The player with the highest percentage of games won of all games completed;
- The head-to-head win-loss record in matches involving the players who remain tied.

If all the steps have been applied and a tie still cannot be broken, a random drawing among the remaining tied players shall be done to determine their order of finish.

B. All Other Match Formats. The Referee shall use the steps set forth in USTA Regulation II.B.6.c. and d.

23. USTA Suspension Point System, Point Penalty System, and Zero Tolerance Policy.

A. USTA Suspension Point System. The USTA Suspension Point System (SPS) found in the USTA Regulations applies to all USTA NorCal sanctioned junior tournaments. SPS is a system that levies suspension points for violations of the standards of conduct, including code violations under the Point Penalty System, no shows, defaults, and other misconduct.

B. Code Violation for 3rd Overrule. In a USTA NorCal Junior Ranking Tournament, a code violation under the Point Penalty System will be assessed for unsportsmanlike conduct when a player is overruled for the third time during the tournament, and for each time the player is overruled thereafter during the tournament.

C. Zero Tolerance Policy. To promote a more enjoyable and fair experience for all, USTA NorCal has implemented a Zero Tolerance Policy for unsportsmanlike conduct by players and spectators. This policy will be diligently and strictly enforced.

For more information, click the following link:

https://www.usta.com/content/dam/usta/sections/northern-california/norcal/pdfs/jtt/Zero_Tolerance_Policy_2018.pdf

24. Penalty for Lateness. Players are expected to check and comply with all scheduling done by the Tournament Committee. A player is deemed to have arrived when the player checks in at the place designated for checking in and is properly clothed, equipped, and ready to play. The lateness penalty clock starts at the scheduled match time regardless of court availability.

25. Payment of Entry Fees and Refunds. Players are charged the following fees when accepted into a USTA NorCal tournament:

- the entry fee for each event;
- a one-time USTA NorCal fee ("Head Tax") that is included in the entry fee, but is paid to USTA NorCal per tournament (not per entry); and
- a Serve Tennis administrative fee ("Serve Tennis Fee") paid to the service provider for processing the online entry.

A. Serve Tennis Fee May Not be Charged to Accept Entries Not Paid for in Serve Tennis.

Tournament Committees may not collect the Serve Tennis Fee when it selects a player that has not been electronically charged fees in Serve Tennis.

B. Collection of Head Tax for Entries Not Paid for in Serve Tennis. When a player competes in a tournament without making payment in the Serve Tennis system, within 30 days of the completion of the tournament, the organizer must pay the Head Tax to USTA NorCal. Failure to pay an outstanding Head Tax may result in the loss of future sanctioned tournaments and/or consideration of future sanctioned

tournaments.

C. Refunds.

- i. Refund Method and Deadline.** When a refund is required, the refund is required to be postmarked, or sent digitally through Serve Tennis or other electronic transfer of funds, no later than 30 days following the last day of the tournament.
- ii. Circumstances Requiring a Refund.** The following circumstances require a refund:
 - a. Tournament Administrative Error.**
 - (1) Error in Accepting Player Into Tournament.** When a player is accepted due to a tournament administrative error, the entire fee paid must be refunded (entry fee, Head Tax, and Serve Tennis Fee).
 - (2) Failure to Communicate a Change in Start Time or Omitted Time is Added.** When a Tournament Committee fails to communicate a change in a start time or an omitted start time is added, and the player's opponent is advanced by walkover,
 - The entire fee paid for the event (entry fee; Head Tax, if applicable; and Serve Tennis Fee) must be refunded if no match has been played in the tournament; or
 - 50% of the player's fee paid for the event (entry fee; Head Tax, if applicable; and Serve Tennis Fee) must be refunded if at least one match has been played in the tournament.
 - b. Full Cancellation of Tournament or Event.** See Regulation 25.C.vi.
 - c. Partial Cancellation of Tournament or Event.** See Regulation 25.C.vii.
 - d. Withdrawal for an Approved Concurrent Entry into Another NorCal Tournament.** When a player who has received the proper prior written approval to enter a concurrent tournament (see Regulation 6.D.i.) withdraws to play in that current tournament, the fee paid, minus the Head Tax and Serve Tennis Fee, will be refunded.
 - e. Player Who Declines to Play in a Combined Event.** When a player, by the deadline set by the Tournament Committee, declines the opportunity to play in another event when the event they registered for is cancelled (see Regulation 14), the declining player is entitled to a refund of the total fee paid at the time of selection, including the Head Tax (if applicable) and the Serve Tennis Fee. Players declining after the deadline are entitled to a refund of the fee paid, minus the Head Tax (if applicable) and Serve Tennis Fee. Players who have not been selected have not paid any fee and are not entitled to any refund.
 - f. Withdrawal to Play in Concurrent USTA National Junior Tournament.** When a player withdraws from a USTA NorCal Tournament before midnight on the Sunday prior to the start of the tournament to play in a USTA National Junior Tournament (see Regulation 6.D.ii.) the fee paid, minus the Head Tax and Serve Tennis Fee, will be refunded.
- iii. No Refund for Withdrawals in Violation of Concurrent Tournament Rule.** When a player withdraws from a tournament in violation of the Concurrent Tournament Rule (Regulation 6.D.), a player is not entitled to a refund, regardless of when the withdrawal occurs.
- iv. Other Withdrawals Before Start of Tournament.**
 - a. Level 6 and 7 Tournaments.** No refunds are required after the entry deadline.
 - b. Level 3, 4 and 5 Tournaments.** No refund is required after 12:00 pm Pacific Time (noon) on the Friday following the Wednesday entry deadline, *except that* if a Level 5 has a delayed deadline (see footnote 1 of Table 2), no refund is required.
- v. Credits Not Permitted.** The Tournament Committee may not issue a credit for the entry fee in lieu of a refund.
- vi. Fees for Refunding Not Permitted; Administrative Fee for Full Cancellation Permitted in Certain Circumstances.** The Tournament Committee will not charge any fee (such as a processing, service, or handling fee) for refunding the entry fee except an Administrative Fee as follows:
 - a. Cancellation of Tournament.** When a tournament is cancelled before a match is played due to inclement weather, or other reason approved by the USTA NorCal staff to protect the health and safety of the players, the tournament may withhold an Administrative Fee as follows:
 - \$2.00 per player for a Level 7 Tournament;
 - \$3.50 per player for a Level 5 and 6 Tournament; and
 - \$4.00 per player for a Level 3 and 4 Tournament.When making the refund, the player will receive the fee paid for all events selected for, net of the Administrative Fee, the Head Tax, and the Serve Tennis Fee.
 - b. Cancellation of Event.** When an event in a tournament (but not all events in the tournament) is cancelled before a match is played due to inclement weather, or other reason approved by the USTA NorCal staff to protect the health and safety of the players, the tournament may withhold an Administrative Fee as follows:
 - \$1.00 per player for a Level 7 Tournament;
 - \$1.50 per player for a Level 5 and 7 Tournament; and
 - \$2.00 per player for a Level 3 and 4 Tournament.When making the refund, the player will receive the fee paid for the event, net of the Administrative Fee, the Head Tax (if applicable), and the Serve Tennis Fee.

As soon as possible after the completion of the tournament, and no later than 30 days after the last day of the tournament, the Tournament Committee will provide a report to USTA NorCal of all Head Taxes refunded. USTA NorCal will reimburse the organizer for this expense within 30 days of receiving the report. Failure to submit this report absolves USTA NorCal from the requirement to reimburse the refunded Head Taxes.

vii. Partial Cancellation Policy.

a. Level 7 Tournaments. The refund will be determined by the number of matches played by each player in each event.

- **Singles Events and Doubles-Only Tournaments.** If only one match is played, a player is entitled to a 50% refund that is calculated after deducting from the total fee paid for the event, the Head Tax and the Serve Tennis Fee. If a player completes two or more matches in the Doubles-Only Tournament or a singles event, no refund is required.

- **Doubles Events.** If one doubles match is played in a doubles event that is held as part of a tournament that also plays singles, no refund is required.

b. Level 3, 4, 5, and 6 Tournaments.

- **Singles Events and Doubles-Only Tournaments.** If only one match is played in an event, the player is entitled to a refund of 25% of entry fee for event that is calculated after deducting the Head Tax and the Serve Tennis Fee. If a player(s) completes two or more matches in the event, no refund is required.

- **Doubles Events.** If one doubles match is played in a doubles event that is held as part of a tournament that also plays singles, no refund is required.

D. Nonpayment of Entry Fee. The tournament may charge a collection fee for returned entry fee checks or nonpayment of outstanding fees. Nonpayment of entry fees or cancellation of payment after the entry deadline will result in player suspension until such payment is received by the tournament.

26. Unfinished Tournaments. Junior players may not make up matches after the end of the sanction dates. Tournament Committees are instructed to use their best efforts to keep the progression of a draw even so that one half of a draw does not progress further than another. All players will earn Ranking Points accumulated as of the last scheduled day of a tournament.

27. Cancellation of Tournaments.

A. Authorization by Staff to Cancel Tournament. Notwithstanding subparagraphs B. and C. below, USTA NorCal staff may, upon the request by the Tournament Committee, and when good cause is shown, authorize:

- The cancellation of a tournament; or
- The cancellation of one or more days of play, one or more days before the start date of the tournament.

B. Level 7 Tournaments. The Tournament Committee may make the decision to cancel all matches in an event or the entire tournament, no more than 24 hours prior to the start of the tournament. The Tournament Committee is responsible for notifying all registrants about the cancellation and processing refunds per the refund guidelines.

C. Level 6, 5, 4, and 3 Tournaments. The Tournament Committee will not make the decision to cancel all matches for the remainder of the day until at least 12 Noon of the day in question, or the remainder of the tournament until at least 12 Noon of the last scheduled day of play.

28. Player Attire. Appropriate tennis attire is required for all matches. Rules of the host club will govern. Any dress code must be published to the tournament website no later than the time entries open.

29. Warm-Up Period. Warm-up time is limited to 5 minutes. All practice serves must be taken during warm-up.

30. Certified Officials at Tournaments.

A. Level 6, 5, 4, and 3 Tournaments. Each Level 6, 5, 4 and 3 Tournament must have a USTA-certified Referee. A Site Referee is required at each satellite site. The Site Referee must be a USTA Certified Official, but certification as a referee is not required. The total number of officials required at each site are based on the number of tournament courts in use, and are as set forth in Table 4. Any waiver to these rules is subject to the prior written approval of the USTA NorCal Junior Staff.

Table 4: Minimum Officials Required for L6, L5, L4, and L3 Tournaments	
Number of Courts	Minimum Requirement
1 to 4	1 Total: 1 Certified Official*
5 to 8	2 Total: 1 Certified Official* + 1 Additional Certified Official or Approved Court Monitor

Table 4: Minimum Officials Required for L6, L5, L4, and L3 Tournaments	
Number of Courts	Minimum Requirement
9 to 12	3 Total: 2 Certified Officials* + 1 Additional Certified Official or Approved Court Monitor
13 to 16	4 Total: 2 Certified Officials* + 2 Additional Certified Officials or Approved Court Monitors
17 to 20	5 Total: 3 Certified Officials* + 2 Additional Certified Officials or Approved Court Monitors
21 to 24	6 Total: 3 Certified Officials* + 3 Additional Certified Officials or Approved Court Monitors
25 to 28	7 Total: 4 Certified Officials* + 3 Additional Certified Officials or Approved Court Monitors
29 to 32	8 Total: 4 Certified Officials* + 4 Additional Certified Officials or Approved Court Monitors
* At the primary site, one of the Certified Officials is the USTA-certified Referee; at a satellite site, one of the Certified Officials is the Site Referee.	

B. Level 7 Tournaments.

- USTA Certified Officials are not required at Level 7 Tournaments, however, a person acting in the role of Referee is required.
- The Tournament Director may also serve as Referee, *provided that* the training required by the USTA Officiating Department to serve the dual role of Tournament Director/Referee, has been completed, and *provided that* the Tournament Director/Referee must be present during play. When a person serves as both Tournament Director and Referee, that person will assume all of the responsibilities of Referee, *except that* the person must not be a member of the Tournament Appeals Committee.
- Tournament Director is required to be on site at all hours of tournament play.
- When a person other than the Tournament Director is serving as Referee, the person must have fulfilled the training required by the USTA Officiating Department.
- When a satellite site is used, a person must serve in the role of Site Referee at the satellite site, and that person must have fulfilled the training required by the USTA Officiating Department.
- Level 7 Tournaments must have met the minimum number of officials required in Table 4, with the Referee fulfilling one of the Certified Official requirements, and all other persons may be Approved Court Monitors.

Regulation 30.B. Comment. A person who is a USTA-Certified Referee has met the training required by the USTA Officiating Department. A person who has completed the training to serve in the dual role of Tournament Director/Referee, regardless of whether that person is serving as Tournament Director or not, has met the training required by the USTA Officiating Department.

31. Minimum Awards Requirements. The regulations below set for the minimum awards requirements. A Tournament Committee may exceed these requirements.

- A. All Round Robins, Regardless of Tournament Level.** Awards will go to the 1st place finishers in each Round Robin. Medals are acceptable awards.
- B. Non-Round Robin Level 6 Tournaments.** In draws of 8 players, awards must go to the 1st and 2nd place finishers. In draws of 16 players, awards must go to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place finishers and the consolation winner. Medals are acceptable awards for Level 6 Tournaments.
- C. Level 4 Super Series and Level 5 Super Series.** Awards will go to the 1st and 2nd place finishers in all flights, *except that* if a Round Robin of 5 is played, an award will go to the 1st place finisher (see Regulation 31.A.). 1st place finishers must receive trophies; 2nd place finishers may receive medals.
- D. All Other Tournaments.**
- Singles Events.**
 - Round Robins of 3, 4 or 5 Players.** See Regulation 31.A.
 - Draws of Up to 8 Players.** Singles awards will be presented to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers, and consolation winners, *except that* when a Compass Draw is held, the tournament is not required to give awards to the winner of all consolation draws. Medals are acceptable awards for 3rd place finishers and consolation winners. 1st and 2nd place finishers must receive trophies.
 - Draws of 16 or More Players.** Singles awards will be presented to:
 - 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place finishers;
 - when a Feed-In Championship through the round of 16 is held, the 5th place finishers; and
 - consolation winners, *except that* when a Compass Draw is held the tournament is not required to give awards to the winners of all consolation draws.
Medals are acceptable awards for 3rd, 4th, and 5th place finishers and consolation winners. 1st and 2nd place finishers must receive trophies.
 - Doubles Events - All Draw Sizes.** Doubles awards will be presented to 1st and 2nd place finishers,

except that in Level 3 and 4 Tournaments only, doubles awards will also be presented to the 3rd place finishers, and only to the 4th place finishers when the draw is 16 or more teams. Medals are acceptable awards for 3rd and 4th place finishers. 1st and 2nd place finishers must receive trophies.

E. Sportsmanship Awards. The following Sportsmanship Awards are required:

- i. **Level 5, 6 and 7 Tournaments.** At least one boy and one girl in each tournament must be recognized with an award or gift for outstanding sportsmanship.
- ii. **Level 3 and 4 Tournaments.** At least one boy and one girl in each division must be recognized with an award or gift for outstanding sportsmanship.

32. T-Shirts & Player Gifts.

- A. **Level 5-7.** T-shirts and/or other player gifts may be distributed to all players but are not required. They are strongly encouraged to enhance the overall player experience.
- B. **Level 4 Requirement.** T-shirts and/or player gifts are required to be distributed to all players and must be customized to display the tournament name and level, and must include the USTA NorCal logo.
- C. **Level 3 Requirement.** T-shirts are required to be distributed to all players and must be customized to display the tournament name and level, and must include the USTA NorCal logo.

33. USTA NorCal Position on Videotaping and Photography.

- A. **Events Held at Public Facilities.** Videotaping and photography for personal, non-commercial purposes, of any portion of a sanctioned USTA NorCal event that takes place at a public facility, such as a public park or public school, is generally permitted under the law, much like any event in a public place. Other than optional compliance with a request not to videotape or take photos, there are no grounds on which to deny anyone the right to videotape or photograph at a public facility. An organizer leasing a public facility may have terms in the lease that legally designate the facility as private for the duration of the lease.
- B. **Events Held at Private Facilities.** Private facilities used for sanctioned events, such as a private club or private school, may have videotaping and/or photography policies of their own pertaining to events within the boundaries of their property.

34. Special Provisions for Excused Withdrawals: Air Quality & COVID-19.

- A. **Coding of Matches for Air Quality Withdrawals.** Players who make a decision not to play in a tournament because of concerns over the air quality will have their match(es) coded on the draw sheet as a Withdrawal or Walkover for Personal Circumstances. Players who are sick will continue to have their match(es) coded on the draw sheet as a Withdrawal or Walkover due to Illness.
- B. **Coding of Matches for COVID-19 Withdrawals.** Players who make a decision not to play in a tournament because of concerns over COVID-19 will have their match(es) coded on the draw sheet as a Withdrawal or Walkover for Personal Circumstances. Players who are sick will continue to have their match(es) coded on the draw sheet as a Withdrawal or Walkover due to Illness.

35. Level 4 and Level 5 Super Series: Selection and Flighting of Players When Draw Not Full. When fewer than 32 players are entered, the number of players selected will be as set forth in the table below. When fewer than 32 players are selected at the time draws are made, players will be flighted as set forth in Table 5 below.

TABLE 5: Selection and Flighting of Players when Draw Not Full						
*Number of Entries	**Total Players Selected	Alternates	Flight A	Flight B	Flight C	Flight D
32 or more	32	Any over 32	8	8	8	8
31	31	0	8	8	8	7
30	30	0	8	8	7	7
29	29	0	8	7	7	7
28	28	0	7	7	7	7
24-27	24	0-3	8	8	8	0
23	23	0	8	8	7	0
22	22	0	8	7	7	0
21	21	0	7	7	7	0
16-20	16	0-4	8	8	0	0
15	15	0	8	7	0	0
14	14	0	7	7	0	0

TABLE 5: Selection and Flighting of Players when Draw Not Full						
*Number of Entries	**Total Players Selected	Alternates	Flight A	Flight B	Flight C	Flight D
10-13	10-13	0	10-13 (Compass Draw)	0	0	0
9	8	1	8	0	0	0
6-8	6-8	0	6-8	0	0	0
5	5	0	One Round Robin of 5 players			
1-4***	0	1-4	Event Cancelled			
* When this number of entries received at deadline, select the number of players in the Total Players Selected column.						
** If late entries are added after the deadline and before the draw is made, flight players into draws based on the new total entries according to this column. Examples: If 24 players are accepted, but 8 late entries are added before the draws are made, flight based on the numbers in the row for 32 Total Selected Players; If 22 players are accepted, but 3 late entries are added before the draws are made, flight based on the numbers in the row for 24 Total Selected Players, with the last entry being the #1 alternate.						
*** If 1-4 entries are received, give these players the option to play the next-older age division if feasible.						

- 36. Level 4 and Level 5 Dominant Duo Tournaments: Selection of Players When Draw Not Full.** When fewer than the maximum numbers of teams are entered as required in the applicable provision of Regulation 8, the number of teams selected will be as set forth in the table below.

TABLE 6: Selection of Teams when Draw Not Full			
*Number of Entries	**Total Players Selected	Alternates	Special Draw Instructions
24-27	24	0-3	Compass Draw of 32 with 8 byes.
16-23	16	0-7	Compass Draw of 16 with no byes.
15	15	0	Compass Draw of 16 with 1 bye.
14	14	0	Compass Draw of 16 with 2 byes.
12-13	12	1	Compass Draw of 16 with 4 byes.
8-11	8	0-3	Compass Draw of 8 with no byes.
5-7	5	0-2	One Round Robin of 5 Teams Played (Consists of 5 rounds; each team gets 4 matches)
4	4	0	One Round Robin of 4 Teams Played (Consists of 3 rounds; each team gets 3 matches)
1-3	0	1-3	Event Cancelled. If feasible, give these players the option to play the next-older age division.
* When this number of entries received at deadline, select the number of players in the Total Players Selected column. ** If late entries are added after the deadline and before the draw is made, flight players into draws based on the new total entries according to this column. Examples: If 24 players are accepted, but 8 late entries are added before the draws are made, flight based on the numbers in the row for 32 Total Selected Players; If 22 players are accepted, but 3 late entries are added before the draws are made, flight based on the numbers in the row for 24 Total Selected Players, with the last entry being the #1 alternate.			

Appendices to USTA NorCal Junior Regulations

APPENDIX 1: U.S. Citizen and Other Alien Eligibility Requirements (USTA Regulation IX.C.)

Players that fall into one of the categories below meet the U.S. Citizen and Other Alien eligibility requirement for playing in the following USTA NorCal and USTA National Tournaments:

1. Closed Section Level 3 Tournaments;
2. Open or Closed Section Level 4 Tournaments
3. USTA National Championships, USTA Team Championships (National Team, Intersectionals and Zonals), USTA Level 2 National Tournaments, and USTA National Level 3 Tournaments.

U.S. Citizen and Other Alien Categories:

- *U.S. Citizens.* Citizens of the United States.
- *Permanent resident aliens.* Permanent resident aliens of the United States.
- *Diplomats.* Aliens who have resided in the United States continuously for more than one year and who are members of families of persons in the diplomatic or consular corps.
- *Aliens with Refugee Status.* Aliens who have been granted Refugee Status.
- *Aliens with Asylee Status.* Aliens who have been granted Asylee Status.
- *Aliens with Temporary Protected Status.* Aliens who have been granted Temporary Protected Status.
- *Aliens with Adjustment Status.* Aliens whose I-485 (Application to Register Permanent Resident or Adjust Status) has been accepted for filing.

Documents commonly used to support a particular alien status include a permanent resident alien card (green card), Form I-94, or a receipt confirming filing of the I-485.

APPENDIX 2: Residency Requirements for Playing in Closed Tournaments, Appearing on the NorCal Quota List and Representing NorCal in a Team Competition

Below are the applicable provisions* of the Regulation IV. of the USTA National Junior Tournament, Ranking, and Sanctioning Regulations that govern residency:

VI. RESIDENCY

Residency shall determine the junior players who may play in Closed Sectional Tournaments, the junior players who may appear on a Sectional Quota List, and the junior players who may be selected to represent a Sectional Association in a team competition.

A. Declaration of Residency by Junior Players Living Within the Geographic Boundaries of the USTA.

A player residing within the geographic boundaries of the USTA must declare residency for the purposes of playing in junior tournaments. A player may be the resident of one Sectional Association within the geographic boundaries only of the declared Sectional Association at any given time.

- Unless otherwise declared, a player's Section residency shall be the Sectional Association assigned through USTA membership and which is based on the geographic boundaries set forth in the USTA Bylaws.
- The physical address of a player's legal guardian may be the basis for a player's declaration of residency if the player is residing with that legal guardian.
- The physical address of a boarding school, including a tennis academy, may be the basis for a player's declaration of residency if the player is enrolled and residing at the school or academy.
- Players may declare a different Section residency no more than once each calendar year.

USTA Regulation VI.A. Comment: If a player desires to change residency more than once per calendar year, the player must request a waiver from the USTA Regulations. See **USTA Regulation XX.**

B. Declaration of Residency by US Citizens Living Abroad. A junior player who is a US citizen living abroad may declare residency by submission of a request for an assignment to a specific Sectional Association within the boundaries of that Sectional Association.

C. Form of Declaration. A junior player electing to declare residency in a Sectional Association other than the Sectional Association assigned through USTA membership must complete the official USTA Declaration Form.

* Provisions that do not apply to USTA NorCal do not appear in this note (references to British Columbians and District Associations have been removed).

APPENDIX 3: Nationwide Junior Points Per Round Ranking System

Below are the provisions of the Regulation IX. of the USTA National Junior Tournament, Ranking, and Sanctioning Regulations that govern ranking:

IX. JUNIOR RANKING REGULATIONS

- A. Divisions Ranked.** The USTA shall publish rankings in the Boys' and Girls' 18, 16, 14, and 12 Divisions.
- B. Ranking Period.** The ranking period for all players shall be January 1 through December 31.
- C. USTA Membership Required.** Only persons with a current USTA membership on the last day of the ranking period will be considered for a ranking.
- D. Eligibility for Rankings.** Eligibility for ranking is governed by **USTA Regulation VIII.D.**
- E. Junior Ranking Tournaments.** The following tournaments shall be known as Junior Ranking Tournaments and only results from these tournaments shall be considered for junior rankings:
- The Authorized USTA Junior National Tournaments set forth in **Regulation II**;
 - The Authorized Section and District Ranking Tournaments set forth in **Regulation III**;
 - ITF tournaments listed on the National Junior Tournament Schedule;
 - Results for players representing the United States at ITF Junior International Team Competitions such as, ITF Junior Davis Cup, ITF Junior Billie Jean King Cup, ITF World Junior Team Finals and
 - Additional tournaments authorized by the USTA Junior Competition Committee in consultation with the USTA Competitive Pathway Department. (See **Table 12**)

TABLE 12: Additional National Ranking Tournaments
There are currently no authorized Additional National Ranking Tournaments.

- F. Ranking Points.** Players shall earn ranking points in singles and doubles as follows:
1. *Points Per Round.* Points Per Round are those points that are awarded based on the round that the player or team reached.
 2. *Bonus points.* Bonus points are those points that are awarded based on wins over highly ranked players.
- G. Assignment of Ranking Levels.** The junior ranking system shall have 7 Levels of National Ranking Tournaments. The following tournaments shall be assigned to each Level:
1. *Level 1.* The tournaments assigned Level 1 shall be:
 - USTA National Championships;
 - USTA National Doubles Championships;
 - USTA Boys' 18 National Team Championships;
 - USTA Girls' 18 National Team Championships;
 - USTA Boys' and Girls' 16 and 14 Intersectional Team Championships; and
 - USTA National Brewer Team Cup.
 2. *Level 2.* The tournaments assigned Level 2 shall be:
 - USTA National Level 2 Tournaments;
 - USTA Boys' and Girls' 16, 14, and 12 Zone Team Championships; and
 - Intersectional Level 2 Team Tournaments described in **Regulation III.F.1.**
 3. *Level 3.* The tournaments assigned Level 3 shall be:
 - USTA National Level 3 Tournaments; and
 - Closed Section Level 3 Tournaments described in **Regulation III.A.**
 4. *Level 4.* The tournaments assigned Level 4 shall be:
 - Section and District Level 4 Tournaments described in **Regulation III.B.**; and
 - Intrasectional Level 4 Team Tournaments described in **Regulation III.F.2.**
 5. *Level 5.* The tournaments assigned Level 5 shall be the Section and District Level 5 Tournaments described in **Regulation III.C.**
 6. *Level 6.* The tournaments assigned Level 6 shall be the Section and District Level 6 Tournaments described in **Regulation III.D.**
 7. *Level 7.* The tournaments assigned Level 7 shall be the Section and District Level 7 Tournaments described in **Regulation III.E.**
- The USTA Junior Competition Committee and the USTA Competitive Pathway Department shall annually assign Ranking Levels to the Additional USTA National Tournaments, USTA International Tournaments and ITF tournaments listed on the National Junior Tournament Schedule.
- H. Assignment of Ranking Points.** Annually the USTA Junior Competition Committee and the USTA Competitive Pathway Department determines:
- The Points Per Round assigned to each round in each Level of Junior Ranking Tournament; and
 - The Bonus Points awarded, if any, for wins over highly ranked players.
- The assigned Ranking Points shall be published on the USTA website.
- I. Combined Rankings.** Junior rankings are based on singles and doubles ranking points. A player's junior

ranking shall be calculated by adding:

- 100% of the ranking points earned in singles from the six Junior Ranking Tournaments which the player received the most singles ranking points; and
- A percentage of the ranking points earned in doubles from the six Junior Ranking Tournaments in which the player received the most doubles or mixed doubles ranking points, which percentage shall be determined by the USTA Junior Competition Committee. The percentage shall be published on the USTA website. When a team tournament format is played and a player earns ranking points in both doubles and mixed doubles, the total points earned in doubles and mixed doubles at the tournament are used to determine whether the tournament is among the player's best six.

Regulation IX.I. Comment: The percentage assigned to doubles is 15%.

J. Treatment of Byes, Withdrawals, Walkovers, Disqualifications, Defaults, and Retirements.

1. *Byes.* A player who advances because of a bye does not receive Points Per Round for advancing.
2. *Withdrawals, walkovers, and disqualifications.* A player who advances because of a withdrawal, walkover, or disqualification shall receive Points Per Round for advancing but shall not receive any Bonus Points.
3. *Defaults before first point of match.* A player who advances because of a default before first point of a match shall receive Points Per Round for advancing but shall not receive any Bonus Points. Examples of these defaults include, but are not necessarily limited to, defaults for:
 - Lateness for the start of a match;
 - Failure to show up for a match;
 - Refusal to start a match;
 - Code violations under the Point Penalty System occurring during the warm-up; and
 - Misconduct before a match or between matches.
4. *Defaults after first point of match.* A player who advances because of a default after the first point of the match receives Points Per Round and any Bonus Points that apply to the match. Examples of these defaults include, but are not necessarily limited to, defaults for:
 - Code violations under the Point Penalty System;
 - Lateness after a rest period;
 - Lateness for resumption of a suspended match; and
 - Refusal to continue to play a match.
5. *Player defaulted for misconduct or code violations receives no Ranking Points.* A player who has been defaulted for misconduct or code violations under the Point Penalty System shall not receive any Ranking Points that the player had accumulated in the tournament, provided that a doubles player who was not responsible for the default or any of the code violations shall not be penalized.

Regulation IX.J.5. Comment: A player who is defaulted because of a code violation for delay caused by obvious cramping (or another medical condition that makes it difficult to resume play), normally should not lose ranking points.

6. *Retirements.* A player who advances because of the opponent's retirement shall receive Points Per Round for advancing and any bonus points.

K. Treatment of Results in ITF Tournaments by Player Under Suspension by the USTA. A player will not earn ranking points for results in ITF tournaments that count for Junior ranking that are played while the player is under suspension.

L. Matches Generally May Count in Only One Division. No match may count for ranking in more than one division, *except that* results in the Boys' and Girls' 18 Divisions from the USTA National Championships shall be considered in the Boys' and Girls' 18 Divisions, the Adult Open Men's and Women's ranking categories, and the Professional/Adult Open Men's and Women's ranking categories.

M. Players Ranked. All players, regardless of age at the time the final rankings are published, who received at least 200 ranking points in a division in tournaments that start during the Ranking Period shall be ranked in that division.

N. Responsibilities of Junior Players Seeking Ranking. Players are responsible for regularly reviewing their player records and shall promptly submit corrections to their player records to the USTA Competitive Pathway Department. All corrections must be submitted no later than January 15.

O. Junior Ranking Committee. The USTA Junior Competition Committee shall have a subcommittee charged with overseeing national junior rankings. The USTA President may appoint a Junior Ranking Coordinator to serve as chair of this subcommittee. Subject to the approval of the USTA President and if a Coordinator is appointed, vacancies in the Junior Ranking Coordinator position may be filled by the chair of the USTA Junior Competition Committee.

P. Publication of Rankings.

1. *Tentative rankings published by January 5.* This is the first ranking published for both singles and

doubles. The tentative rankings and the individual player records shall be published by January 5 of each year.

2. *Corrections must be received no later than January 15.* Any corrections to a player's record must be received by the USTA Competitive Pathway Department no later than January 15 of each year.
3. *Final rankings published by January 20.* These final junior rankings are published after corrected data have been received and acted upon by the USTA and no later than January 20. Final junior rankings are not subject to appeal.

The points tables can be found on the USTA website: <https://www.usta.com/en/home/play/youth-tennis/programs/national/resources-for-players.html>

APPENDIX 4: National Standings List Criteria

National Standings List (NSL) Criteria for Inclusion

- Player must meet the age eligibility requirements of the division;
- Player must have played at least one tournament that counts for L1-7 ranking in the division or the next-younger division; and
- Player must have accumulated at least 1 Ranking Point as the result of an on-court win. An on-court win is one that takes place on-court after the start of the match. Matches won by withdrawal, walkover, default, or disqualification prior to the start of the match are not considered on-court wins. Matches won by winning a match point, or if the opponent retires or is defaulted after the start of the match are considered on-court wins.

Method of Calculating NSLs

- 100% of the singles ranking points from a player's 6 best tournaments.
- 100% of the singles bonus points earned at BG18 ITF Bonus-Point Only Events.
- 15% of the ranking points from a player's best 6 doubles and/or mixed doubles tournaments played. (When a Team Tournament is played and a player earns ranking points in both doubles and mixed doubles, the total points earned in doubles and mixed doubles at the tournament are used to determine whether the tournament is among the player's best 6.)
- Ranking Points at the percentages listed above earned in an older age division tournament count towards a player's standing in one or more younger age divisions provided that a tournament has been played in the division and they are among the player's best 6 results.
- 20% of the Ranking Points earned in a younger age division tournament count towards a player's standing in the next-older age division if they are among the player's best 6 results, regardless of whether a tournament has been played in that division.

The order of the NSL is based on Ranking Points earned during the previous 12-month rolling period. When more than one player has the same number of total Ranking Points, tie-breaks on an NSL will be determined in the following order:

1. A player whose best event has the highest number of Ranking Points, second best, third best, etc. through sixth event;
2. Total Bonus Points earned in all events played during the computation period; then
3. Best random draw number.

When National Standings Lists are used to select players for Closed USTA NorCal tournaments, the lists will be filtered to only list players who meet the residency requirements of the USTA NorCal.

When National Standings Lists are used to select players for tournaments that require U.S. Citizenship or certain other Alien eligibility, the lists will be filtered to only list players who meet these requirements.

APPENDIX 5: Seeding Lists

The USTA publishes Singles Seeding Lists that are used to seed junior singles events and Individual Doubles Seeding Lists that are used to select teams, and to seed junior doubles and mixed doubles tournaments. These lists are created using the same criteria as the NSLs (see Appendix 4), *except that*:

- Only the 6 best singles results are used for the Singles Seeding Lists; and
- Only the best 6 doubles and/or mixed doubles results are used for the Individual Doubles Seeding Lists.

APPENDIX 6: Quota into Designated USTA National Championships (Level 1)

USTA NorCal (as are all other Sectional Associations) is entitled to a minimum number of players ("Quota") selected into USTA National Championships listed in the table from the list of timely applicants. This Quota is for 2024 and is re-calculated annually by the USTA based on the total junior registrations each year and strength of each Sectional Association based on the previous year-end Final Ranking List.

Tournament	18 Divisions	16 Divisions	14 Divisions	12 Divisions
USTA National Spring Championships (Easter Bowl)	-	-	-	-
USTA National Clay Court Championships	4	4	4	3
The USTA National Championships (Hard Courts)	4	4	4	3
USTA National Indoor Championships	1	1	1	1
USTA National Winter Championships	4	4	4	3
Additionally, USTA NorCal is entitled to the acceptance of 1 team into the USTA National Doubles Championships in the 18, 16, and 14 Divisions. This tournament is not held in the 12 Divisions.				

NorCal Quota players are selected from a NorCal Quota List that is created using the criteria described below.*

1. Players must meet the requirements of USTA Regulation IX.C.1. to appear on the Quota List (See also Appendix 1 above)
2. Only those players who are residents of USTA NorCal (see Appendix 2) may appear on NorCal's Quota List.
3. The following results will be used to calculate the NorCal Quota Lists:
In the Boys' and Girls' 12 Divisions, a player's best 6 singles results and best 6 doubles and/or mixed doubles results may include no more than 2 singles results and 2 doubles and/or mixed doubles results, respectively, that are from tournaments sanctioned by a body other than USTA NorCal, *except that* an Intersectional Level 2 Team Tournament (see **Regulation III.F.1.**), the USTA Boys' and Girls' 18 National Team Championships, the USTA Boys' and Girls' 16 and 14 Intersectional Team Championships, and the USTA Boys' and Girls' 16, 14, and 12 Zone Team Championships shall be considered as though sanctioned by USTA NorCal.

USTA NorCal Association may not impose a requirement that a player participate in a specific tournament in order to appear on the NorCal Quota List.

**All Sectional Associations' Quota Lists are created using the same criteria.*

USTA National Doubles Championship: The USTA National Doubles Championship accepts one quota team from each Sectional Association into each division (Boys' and Girls' 14, 16, and 18 divisions), provided a timely entry has been submitted.

- NorCal will place the doubles teams finishing 1st through 4th place at the June Sectional Championships in these divisions on its quota lists in place finish order.
- A team comprising at least one of the players in the top four finishing teams may submit a request to appear on the quota list with another player. These teams will be listed below any place finish teams in an order to be determined by the combined doubles rank of the players comprising the team.
- A team comprising any two players with NorCal residency may submit a request to appear on the quota list. These teams will be listed below all other teams in an order to be determined by the combined doubles rank of the players comprising the team.

The Individual Doubles Seeding List will be used to determine the doubles rankings of the players.

Glossary

8-Game Pro Set. An 8-game pro set is a scoring system used in junior ranking tournaments that consists of one set in which the first player to eight games wins the match. A 7-Point Tiebreak is played if the score reaches 8 games all.

7-Point Tiebreak. This Tiebreak game, the first player or team to win 7 points by a margin of at least 2 is the winner. This Tiebreak is played at the end of 6 and 8-game sets to determine the winner of the set. It is also played in lieu of the deciding final set when Short Sets are played.

10-Point Match Tiebreak. The 10-Point Match Tiebreak is played in some matches in lieu of the deciding final set. The first player or team to win 10 points by a margin of at least 2 wins the final set and the match.

Alternate. An alternate is a player who did not make it into the draw but requests that the tournament consider the player for entry into the draw if an opening in the draw develops.

Alternate List. The alternate list is a list of players not accepted into a tournament. After entries close, the Tournament Committee will typically publish an ordered alternate list showing the order in which the alternates will be accepted if there is a withdrawal. The alternate list is ordered using the same method used to select players. For example, if the National Standings Lists is used to select players, the National Standings List is used to order alternates.

Back Draw. This term is commonly used to describe the consolation part of a draw.

Bonus Points. Bonus points are additional ranking points that are awarded for wins over highly ranked players.

"Closed" Tournaments. Tournaments designated as "closed" are open to players who meet the residency requirements in a specific geographic boundary.

Combined Ranking or Standing. A combined ranking or standing is a ranking that is based on both singles and doubles Ranking Points.

Compass Draw. This is a non-elimination format that is so named because players advance in four to eight different directions depending upon when they lose their first match and when they lose their subsequent matches.

Consolation Draw. A consolation draw describes a group of different types of draws in which losers in the main draw play an additional match or matches against other players who have lost a match in the main draw.

Division. Division refers to one or two events in a tournament in which the eligibility criteria are identical. For example, the Girls' 16 Singles and Girls' 16 Doubles are two events but only one division because their eligibility criteria are identical.

Draw Format. The draw format refers to the format of the draw that will be played. Examples of this are: Round Robin, Feed-In Championship, Compass Draw, Single Elimination.

Feed-In Championship (FIC). This term refers to a type of consolation draw in which the losers of multiple rounds from the main draw are fed back into a consolation draw. There are two types of Feed-In Championships played in NorCal junior tournaments:

- An FIC that feeds players in through the Round of 16 and includes a quarterfinal playoff for 5th place and a playoff for 3rd place; and
- A Modified FIC that feeds the first two rounds of losers into the consolation.

Flighting. This is a method of distributing players entered in an event into separate draws so that players of the same level are in the same draw and compete against each other. For example, assuming there are four draws (A-D) and 16 players entered, the distribution would be:

Draw A (strongest flight)	Draw B	Draw C	Draw D (weakest flight)
------------------------------	--------	--------	----------------------------

1	5	9	13
2	6	10	14
3	7	11	15
4	8	12	16

Group Seeding. In some cases, the seeding groups will be assigned the same seed number (for example, in the group 5-8, each player in the group would be seeded #5). The NorCal Junior Regulations require seeds in Level 3 Sectional Championships an Open and Closed Level 4 Excellence Tournaments to use alphabetical seeding of the #5-8 seeds and the #9-16 seeds.

Late Entry. A late entry is one that is received after the entry deadline. The Tournament Committee determines whether late entries will be accepted. In tournaments with limited draw sizes, late entries are placed on the alternate list after timely entries in the order received. Late entries received at the same time are ordered by lot.

Main Draw. The main draw is that part of a draw in which the remaining players have not yet lost a match. In a compass draw, the East Draw is the main draw.

Match Format. The match format refers to the scoring format used by a tournament.

Modified Feed-In Championship (MFIC). This term refers to a special form of consolation draw in which the losers from at two or more rounds of the main draw are fed into the consolation draw. In Junior Ranking Tournaments, the only form of Modified Feed-In that is used is one that feeds in the losers from the first two rounds.

National Standings List. This is a monthly standings list of junior players in each age division used for selection and seeding to the extent described in the regulations.

“Open” Tournaments. Tournaments designated as “open” are open to all players, regardless of their residence. All tournaments are “open” unless the word “closed” is part of the title or the tournament is a team competition between teams of players representing Sections or Districts.

Quota. Each Sectional Association is guaranteed a minimum number of junior players who will be accepted into the USTA National Championships. This number is the Sectional Association’s quota. It is based on the number and strength of junior members residing in the Sectional Association.

Quota List. These are lists of players from each Sectional Association used for selection into the USTA National Championships that have Section Quota. See also “Quota.”

Points Per Round. Points Per Round are the ranking points that are awarded in a Points Per Round Ranking System.

Points Per Round Ranking System. This is a method of ranking players or teams that is based on earning ranking points for the round reached, and in some cases, for wins over highly ranked players or teams.

Ratings. Ratings are a system of categorizing or grouping players by their ability. Ratings are based on a player's match results.

Seeding Groups. Seeding groups refer to seeds 3 and 4, seeds 5 through 8, seeds 9 through 16, and seeds 17 through 32.

Short Set. A Short Set tournaments is a set played to 4 games with a 7-point Set Tiebreak played at 4 games all.

Single Elimination Format. In this tournament format, once you lose you are out and do not get to play any additional matches.

Timed Matches (Game Format). A Timed Match (Game Format) format consists of an ongoing set during which the players continue playing games until the end of the specified period of time. The player who has won the most completed games wins the match. If the game score is tied, the player ahead in the game in progress is the winner. If a game is not in progress or the score in the game in progress is tied, one final point is played to determine the winner. The player due to serve the next point shall serve the final point.

Waterfall. This is a method of distributing players into separate draws or teams so that each draw or team is of similar overall strength. For example, assuming there are four draws (A-D) with 16 players entered, the distribution would be:

Draw A	Draw B	Draw C	Draw D
1	2	3	4
8	7	6	5
9	10	11	12
16	15	14	13

The same principle can be used to waterfall players on to teams.

Wild Card. A wild card entry may be awarded by the Wild Card Committee to a junior player to the extent permitted in the regulations. The Wild Card committee is comprised of two members of the NorCal Junior Staff and Chair of Junior Council.

WTN/ITF World Tennis Number. The ITF World Tennis Number (or “WTN”) is a rating system developed by the ITF, the world governing body of tennis, in collaboration with the USTA. Players are rated on a 40-1 scale; beginners start at 40 and the best players in the world are at or near 1. Players have both a singles and a doubles WTN that is calculated and updated weekly using millions of matches played worldwide.