



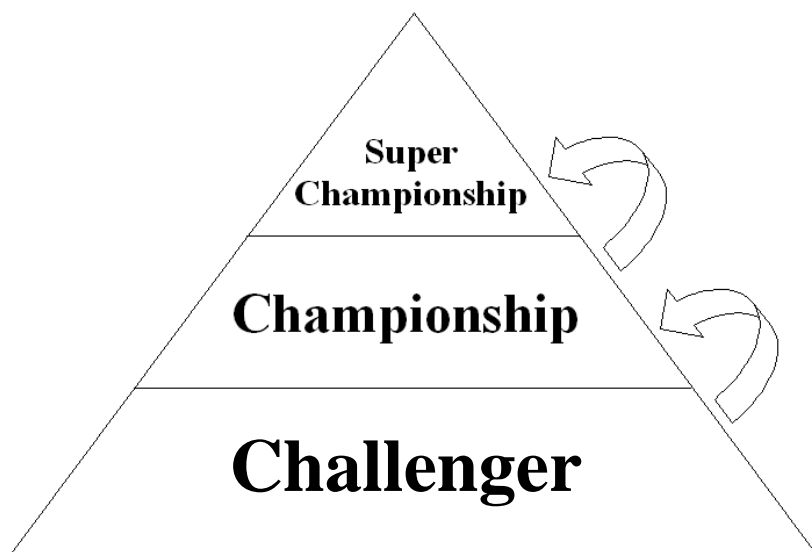
Junior Know the Rules

Recent changes are highlighted in red.

The purpose of this document is to:

- Foster the development of junior tennis players in the Texas Section;
- Meet the competitive needs of juniors at every skill level;
- Divide players into groups to make tournaments more manageable and matches more competitive;
- Encourage improvement by offering advancement opportunities to higher skill levels;
- Extend competitive play throughout the year;
- Provide recognition of more players; and
- Address as much as possible the concerns for school attendance and financial expenditure in pursuit of the sport.

*It is the player's and parent's responsibility to be familiar with USTA Texas junior player regulations.



- Beginner players qualify from the Challenger level to the Championship level by accumulating points in Challenger tournaments.
- Championship players qualify to the Super Championship level by accumulating points in Championship Major Zone tournaments.
- Please refer to each section for more details.

1. What age division can I compete in?

- a) Divisions available are:
 - i) 10s: Birthdates in 2008 until first day of the month of 11th birthday; all birthdates in 2008 and younger.
 - ii) 12s: Birthdates in 2006 until first day of the month of 13th birthday; all birthdates in 2006 and younger.
 - iii) 14s: Birthdates in 2004 until first day of the month of 15th birthday; all birthdates in 2004 and younger.
 - iv) 16s: Birthdates in 2002 until first day of the month of 17th birthday; all birthdates in 2002 and younger.
 - v) 18s: Birthdates in 2000 until first day of the month of 19th birthday; all birthdates in 2000 and younger.
- b) Boys are eligible only for Boys' divisions and girls are eligible only for Girls' divisions. (12-18s)
- c) Challenger players (12s-18s) may compete in any older Challenger age divisions. Points earned in multiple age divisions are not combined.
- d) Championship players may play up in Championship Major Zones and may choose to re-qualify through Challengers in the older division up to 2 months prior to their birthday month. See "How to re-qualify?"
- e) Super Champ players may compete in any older Super Champ divisions. Points earned will count down in all younger age divisions that they are still eligible for. Super Champ players may also choose to re-qualify through Championship level in the older age division up to 2 months prior to their birthday month. See "How to re-qualify?"

2. What types of tournaments are available?

- a) Challengers (10s-18s): Challenger qualifying points are awarded. See "Challenger 10s" section for more information.
- b) Championship Major Zones (CMZ) Singles and Doubles: Championship qualifying points and Championship ranking points are awarded.
- c) Super Championship Designated Events (SCMZ): Super Championship standing points are awarded. National standing points are awarded for selected "A" draws (see page 12, Super Champ Level section for details).
- d) Jr Open (10s-18s): Championship ranking points and Super Championship standing points may be awarded. It is mandatory for these tournaments to offer 10 & under divisions.
- e) Non-Sanctioned: These tournaments are not sanctioned by USTA Texas Section and are conducted by the regulation of each hosting organization. USTA points are not awarded.

3. How to find tournaments on the Internet?

- a) The tournament homepage contains important information posted by the Tournament Director. Contact information for the tournament, registering for the tournament online, match times, playing sites, maps and driving directions may all be found on the tournament homepage.
- b) Go to www.usta.com/youth-tennis-texas
- c) Click on the "Compete" tab underneath the header on the right side
- d) Choose the division under the "Youth Progression System"

4. How to register for a tournament?

- a) Click on "Click here to register online" in the middle of the tournament homepage.
- b) You will need to have your USTA membership number and credit card information to complete the registration.
- c) **No late entries for Challenger, CMZ, or SCMZ tournaments.**
- d) **Jr Opens, Future Stars, and Non-sanctioned tournaments can take late entries at the discretion of the tournament director.**
- e) To verify your registration was completed successfully:
 - i) Print the confirmation number issued at the end of a successful registration.
 - ii) Check the Applicant List on the left-hand side of the tournament homepage.
 - iii) Contact Tournament Director with your confirmation number if there is any problem with registration.
- f) Mail-in entries (where accepted) must be in the hands of the Tournament Director by the entry deadline.
- g) Phone and email entries are generally not accepted. Please check the tournament homepage for details.

5. How many tournaments can I play per month?

- a) Players can compete in as many sanctioned "Open" tournaments as schedule permits.
- b) All players may compete in as many Challenger 1-day or 2 day events as schedule permits (Only 12-18s). Players may only participate in one CMZ or one Super Champ Designated singles event per month.
- c) Players may not compete in a Challenger and a CMZ in the same month.
- d) Players may not compete in a CMZ and a Super Champ Designated singles event in the same month. They may compete in a CMZ and a Super Champ Designated doubles event in the same month.

6. How to withdraw from a tournament?

- a) To withdraw via the Internet BEFORE ENTRY DEADLINE, go to the tournament homepage, select "Edit Registration" then click on "Withdraw" on the left side menu, follow the instructions. Suspension Points WILL NOT be levied for withdrawal before entry deadline.
 - b) To withdraw AFTER ENTRY DEADLINE, please contact the tournament official listed on the tournament homepage by email and by phone.
 - c) No refunds are required to be given after the entry deadline of a tournament with the exception of **ineligible players**.
 - d) **In Champ Major Zones, Super Champ Major Zones, and Super Champ Level tournaments, players are penalized 2 suspension points for any withdrawal, walkover, or retirement made after the draws have been posted. Please see your tournament homepage for specific timing information to avoid this penalty. Once a player has reached sufficient suspension points to be suspended, they may appeal any penalties they have. Players will not be penalized for singles and doubles.**
7. **What are Suspension Points?** – Please refer to [Friend at Court](#).
8. **What is the lateness penalty clock?**
- a) 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.
 - b) The lateness penalty clock starts when the match is scheduled and called, a court is available and the player has not arrived. The Referee is not required to keep a court open while awaiting a player.
 - i) 5:00 minutes or less: Loss of toss plus 1 game.
 - ii) 5:01 – 10:00 minutes: Loss of toss plus 2 games.
 - iii) 10:01 – 15:00 minutes: Loss of toss plus 3 games.
 - iv) More than 15 minutes: Default. (While the penalty still stands, the match may be reinstated at the discretion of the tournament referee.)
9. **How to find my player record on the Internet?**
- a) Go to www.usta.com/youth-tennis-texas
 - b) Click on the "Compete" tab underneath the header on the right side
 - c) Choose the division under the "Youth Progression System"
 - d) Click on "Ranking List" at the bottom of the page under "Quick Links"
 - e) If the wrong month is displaced, click on "search again."
 - f) Select "Junior Divisions" under Divisions and select "Texas" under National/Section/District
 - g) Under List Type, select
 - i) "Standing List"- for Challenger (12-18) and Champ qualifying point total and Super Champ Standings
 - ii) "Qualifier List"- new qualifiers from each week will be listed here
 - iii) "Preliminary Ranking"- Championship players who are aging up
 - iv) "Bonus Points List"- for a list of Super Champ players in the top 300 for each month
 - v) "Endorsement List"- for National Championships and Closed Regional selection at Super Champ level
 - h) The list can be identified for each level by looking for the keyword in parenthesis that corresponds with each level of competition.
10. **What happens to the points when a tournament is rained out and/or cancelled?**
- a) Challengers/CMZs/SC Designated events are not rescheduled when they are cancelled due to inclement weather.
 - i) Challenger 2-day events will not be cancelled before Sunday.
 - ii) Challenger 1-day events may be played on either Saturday or Sunday – not on both days.
 - iii) CMZs will not be cancelled before Sunday.
 - iv) SC Designated events do not have specified cancellation guideline. Decision will be made by the Tournament Referee and the USTA Texas Competitive Tennis Staff.
 - v) In extreme weather conditions, the Tournament Committee in consultation with the Competitive Tennis Staff, may make decisions outside existing guidelines.
 - b) Tournament Directors will try their best to complete as many rounds of the tournaments as possible, depending on the weather forecast.
 - c) When a tournament is cancelled, players will receive points for matches completed and won before the cancellation.
 - d) No refunds are required to be given after the entry deadline of a tournament with the exception of **ineligible players**.
 - (a) All **ineligible players** (including those discovered after the entry deadline) are **required** to be refunded their entry fee by the Tournament Director.

(b) For a “complete” rainout (not a single ball was hit in any division), players will be provided with a Tennis Express \$20 gift card for Challenger, CMZ, and SCMZ tournaments.

e) The qualifying window for Challenger and Championship remains the same.

11. What is aging up?

- a) Qualified players (in Championship and Super Championship level) go through an aging up process on the first day of the month that they turn 13, 15 or 17.
 - i) Championship players who are either in the top **35%** or ranked 35 or better in either natural or older age division on the Championship Preliminary Ranking List published the month prior to aging up will retain their qualification. Players who did not fulfill the criteria will re-qualify from the Challenger level in the next older age division.
 - ii) Super Championship eligible players **Boys’ and Girls’ 12s and 14s** who are either in the top **35%** or ranked 35 or better in either the natural or older age division on the Super Champ Standing List published the month prior to aging up will retain their qualification. Super Championship eligible players **Boys’ and Girls’ 16s** who are in the top **35%** in either the natural or older age division of the Super Champ Standing List published the month prior to aging up will retain their qualification. Players who did not fulfill the criteria will re-qualify from Championship level in the next older age division.
- b) Aging up players **MUST** check the "Aging Up" lists posted each month on the Internet after weekly results have been processed and updated as tournaments are completed until the end of the month:
 - i) Go to www.usta.com/youth-tennis-texas
 - ii) Scroll down to “Most Visited Pages” and click the far left tile titled “Aging Up List”
- c) Players that chose to “Re-qualify” will not be listed on the Age up lists.
- d) Challenger players do not need to go through this aging up process. All non-qualified players may compete in any age division they are age eligible for (12s-18s).

12. How to re-qualify?

- a) Qualified players who are aging up may choose to re-qualify in the lower level, in the older age division no more than two (2) months before aging up. By doing so, the player would immediately forfeit their status in the higher level.
 - i) Championship players may attempt to re-qualify through the Challenger level in the older age division, in the two months immediately prior to aging up.
 - ii) Super Championship players may attempt to re-qualify through the Championship level in the older age division, in the two months immediately prior to aging up.

Challenger (10s) Level

Please refer to the full 10s regulation located at www.usta.com/challenger-10s, then scroll down to “Quick Links” and click on “10U Know the Rules.”

Challenger (12s-18s) Level

1. Who can play in the Challenger level?

- a) All non-qualified junior players with permanent residency in Texas.
- b) Challenger players may compete in any older Challenger age divisions. Points earned in multiple age divisions are not combined.
- c) Championship players who are re-qualifying. See, “How to re-qualify?”
- d) Super Championship players and out-of-section players (including foreign exchange students) **CANNOT** compete in Challenger (12-18s).

2. What events are offered?

- a) Challenger 2-day events: Boys’ and Girls’ 12s, 14s, 16s and 18s singles are qualifying events held on Saturday and Sunday with:
 - i) 2 out of 3 sets, 10-point Match Tiebreak in lieu of third set
 - ii) No-ad scoring
 - iii) Draws of 32. Any event that has more than 32 players will be split in random, into equal draws of 32 players or less.
 - iv) “First Off” Consolation Format

- b) Challenger 1-day events: Boys' and Girls' 12s, 14s, 16s and 18s singles are qualifying events held on Saturday or Sunday (not both) with:
 - i) 2 out of 3 shorts sets (start at 0-0 and play to 4 games), tiebreaker at 4-all
 - ii) 10 point tiebreakers in lieu of 3rd set
 - iii) No-ad scoring
 - iv) Draws of 16. Any event that has more than 16 players will be split in random, into equal draws of 16 players or less.
 - v) "First Off" Consolation Format
 - c) Doubles are not offered at Challenger level.
- 3. How are the events split and seeded?**
- a) Split Draws
 - i) Maximum draw size of 32
 - ii) If the event exceeds 32 players, randomly divide players into equal or nearly equal draw
 - b) Seeding
 - i) Seeds are determined by the number of players within the draw
 - (1) Draw of 3-11 players = 2 Seeds
 - (2) Draw of 12-23 players = 4 Seeds
 - (3) Draw of 24-32 players = 8 Seeds
 - ii) Use the Challenge 2-Day Standing List for seeding
 - iii) Players are also eligible to be seeded if they meet the following criteria:
 - (1) Players who have aged up within the last two months and are within the top 60% of eligible players
 - (2) Re-Qualifying Champ players who are in the final two months of their age eligibility and are within the top 60% of eligible players
 - iv) Seeds are distributed evenly through the draws using the wave method
- 4. How many officials can I expect at my tournament?**
- a) Officials – required at every site, ratios below:
 - i) 10s Orange in Challengers and Jr Opens – at least 1 court monitor per 4 courts in addition to one official per site
 - ii) Challengers (including 10s Green) & Jr Opens – at least 1 official per 10 courts
- 5. How are points awarded?**
- a) Qualifying points are awarded at Challengers for players to qualify to the Championship level. See Table: Challenger Level Point Chart for 1 and 2-day events for details.
 - b) Total Standings points are calculated based on the best four (4) tournaments in a rolling twelve-month period.
 - c) "Open" sanctioned tournaments do not award Challenger qualifying points.
 - d) Players must win an actual match against an opponent to receive any points. Defaults, retirements, walkovers and withdrawals qualify as wins for the advancing player only when an actual match was played and won.
 - e) Retirements count as a win for the advancing player.
 - f) Players will earn points through matches completed.
 - g) Players will not earn points in both the Main Draw and Consolation.
 - h) Challenger points carry over from one calendar year to the next as long as they remain in the window under calculation.
 - i) Challenger points **do not** carry over from one age division to another and Challenger points **do not** carry over to the Championship level.
- 6. How to find my player record on the Internet?**
- a) Go to www.usta.com/
 - b) Under "Compete", scroll tab and highlight "Challenger"
 - c) Select "Rankings" on bottom right of webpage.
 - d) Select "Junior Divisions" under Divisions and select "Texas" under National/Section/District
 - e) Under List Type, select
 - i) "Standing List"- for qualifying point total (calculated based on best four (4) tournaments in rolling 12-month period)
 - ii) "Qualifier List"- new qualifiers from each month will be listed here
- 7. How to qualify to the Championship level?**
- a) Players must accumulate a minimum of 65 Challenger qualifying points.
 - b) Qualifying points are calculated based on the best four (4) tournaments in a rolling twelve-month period.
 - c) When Challenger players qualify to Championship Level:
 - i) They will be listed on the Qualifier List (Challengers) for that month

- ii) A qualifier certificate from the Texas Section office will be mailed by the end of the month in which they qualify. This certificate is for memorabilia. You do not need the certificate to register for your first CMZ event.
- iii) The first Championship Major Zone (CMZ) a player may enter is the one held in the calendar month **AFTER** qualification. Players are eligible to register for their first CMZ if listed on the Qualifier list on-line.
- iv) If they wish to play "Open" tournaments in the month they qualify, they may do so as long as they meet the entry deadline for the tournament. Players will be placed into the correct draw depending on their level at the time of the deadline.

Challenger 2-Day (12s-18s) Level	Player Result		Main Draw Qualifying Pts	Cons Draw Qualifying Pts	Round Robin
	Champion	1	65	16	1 st : 65
	Finalist	2	32	12	2 nd : 32
	Semi-finals	3-4	16	8	3 rd : 16
	Quarter-finals	5-8	8	4	4 th : 8
	R16	9-16	4	N/A	

Challenger 1-Day (12s-18s) Level	Player Result		Main Draw Qualifying Pts	Cons Draw Qualifying Pts	Round Robin
	Champion	1	16	2 points per round won	1 st : 16
	Finalist	2	12		2 nd : 8
	Semi-finals	3-4	8		3 rd : 4
	Quarter-finals	5-8	4		4 th : 2
	R16	9-16	N/A	N/A	

Championship Level

1. **Who can play in the Championship level?**

- a) Texas Section resident junior players who have qualified through the Challenger level.
- b) New resident players who have been approved by the Texas Section office.
- c) Champ qualified players may play in any age eligible age division in Champ Major Zones. Players will only earn points in the age division played. Champ points earned in older age divisions do not count in natural (younger) age division. Champ players must still meet age up requirements in either natural or older age division.
- d) In a sanctioned "Open" tournament, Championship players may compete in older age divisions in singles and/or doubles. Players may also compete in different age divisions for singles and doubles in the same tournament. Championship players **MUST** compete in the Championship or Qualified division if offered. If the Championship or Qualified level is not offered, Championship players may play in "Open" or "Regular" events. Championship players will earn ranking points if playing in their age division.
- e) Super Champ players who are re-qualifying. See "How to re-qualify?"
- f) Out-of-section players (including foreign exchange students) **CANNOT** compete in CMZs.

2. What events are offered at Champ Major Zones?

- a) Boys' and Girls' 12s, 14s, 16s and 18s singles are held on Saturday and Sunday with:
 - i) Main draw matches: 2 out of 3 sets with a 10-point match tiebreaker in lieu of the 3rd set through the quarterfinal round. Semifinals and finals will play a full two out of three set match.
 - ii) Consolation draw matches: 2 out of 3 sets with a 10 point tiebreaker in lieu of the 3rd set
 - iii) With ad scoring
 - iv) Draws of 32. Any event with more than 32 players will be split in random, into equal draws of 32 players or less.
 - v) "First Off" Loser Consolation.
- b) There will be a Spring and Fall Segment of Doubles Only CMZ.
 - i) Qualifying points will be given for this CMZ.

3. How are the events split and seeded?

- a) Split Draws
 - i) Maximum draw size of 32
 - ii) If the event exceeds 32 players, randomly divide players into equal or nearly equal draw sizes
- b) Seeding
 - i) Seeds are determined by the number of players within the draw
 - (1) Draw of 3-11 players = 2 Seeds
 - (2) Draw of 12-23 players = 4 Seeds
 - (3) Draw of 24-32 players = 8 Seeds
 - ii) Use the CMZ Standing List for seeding
 - iii) Players are also eligible to be seeded if they meet the following criteria:
 - (1) Players who have aged up within the last two months and are within the top 60% of eligible players
 - (2) Re-Qualifying Super Champ players who are in the final two months of their age eligibility and are within the top 60% of eligible players
 - iv) Seeds are distributed evenly through the draws using the wave method

4. How many officials can I expect at my tournament?

- a) Officials – required at every site, ratios below:
 - i) CMZ – at least 1 official per 8 courts

5. How are points awarded?

- a) CMZs award CMZ Qualifying points for players to qualify to the Super Championship level. See Table: "Championship Level Point Chart", column CMZs Qualifying Points.
- b) CMZs also award preliminary ranking points for Aging Up. See Table: "Championship Level Point Chart", column CMZs.
- c) Sanctioned Jr "Open" tournaments award preliminary ranking points for Aging Up. See Table: "Championship Level Point Chart", column Jr "Open".
- d) Players must win an actual match against an opponent to receive any points.
- d) Players will not earn points in both the main and consolation draw.
- e) Points do not carry over from one age division to another and CMZ qualifying points do not carry over to any other level.
- f) Players will earn points through matches completed.
- g) The Doubles-Only CMZ will award CMZ Qualifying points for players to qualify to the Super Championship level and will award preliminary ranking points for Aging Up.

6. How to qualify to the Super Championship level?

- a) Boys' and Girls' 12s - Players must accumulate a minimum of **65** CMZ qualifying points.
- b) Boys' and Girls' 12s - Qualifying points are calculated based on the best **four** (4) tournaments in a rolling twelve-month period.
- c) Boys' and Girls' 14-18s - Players must accumulate a minimum of **80** CMZ qualifying points.
- d) Boys' and Girls' 14-18s - Qualifying points are calculated based on the best **three** (3) tournaments in a rolling twelve-month period.
- e) When Championship players qualify to Super Championship Level:
 - i) The results will be published on the Qualifier List.
 - ii) A qualifier packet and certificate from the Texas Section office will be mailed by the end of the month in which they qualify.
 - iii) The first Super Championship Major Zone that they may enter is the one held in the month **AFTER** qualification. If they wish to compete in "Open" tournaments in the month they qualify, they may do so

as long as they meet the entry deadline for the tournament. Players will be placed into the correct draw depending on their level at the time of the deadline.

7. What is the Championship Masters?

- a) A one-day tournament immediately preceding the Super Championship Texas Slam. The top 16 Champ players (according to the most current Champ Standing List at the deadline) to register will be accepted into the tournament. If there is a ranking tie, then the section office (1) will use the Champ Preliminary Ranking List. (2) If there still is a tie, the section office will use a players Universal Tennis Rating (UTR). Seeding for the Champ Masters will also be determined by the same method.
- b) All draws are single elimination.
- c) The top 4 finishers in each draw automatically qualify for Super Championship and are eligible to play in the Super Championship Texas Slam.
- d) There will be no points given for winning any of the rounds/matches.
- e) Championship players may participate in both the Championship Masters and one Championship Major Zone within the same month.

8. What is the Championship Standing List?

- a) Only results from CMZs are listed.
- b) Players must complete at least one CMZ and earn one (1) point to be listed as an eligible player.
- c) Boys' and Girls' 12s - Total points are calculated based on the best **four** (4) CMZ tournaments in a rolling twelve-month period.
- d) Boys' and Girls' 14-18s - Total points are calculated based on the best **three** (3) CMZ tournaments in a rolling twelve-month period.

7. What is the Singles Preliminary Ranking List?

- a) It is used for aging up.
- b) Players must complete at least one CMZ tournament to be listed as an eligible player.
- c) Championship Preliminary Ranking points are determined by the best five (5) singles (in any combination of CMZs or sanctioned "Open" tournaments) in a rolling twelve-month period.
- d) Qualifying tournaments (from Challenger level) do not count. National tournaments (even if held in Texas) do not count.
- e) Players must win an actual match against an opponent to receive any points. Byes do not qualify as wins. Defaults, retirements, walkovers and withdrawals qualify as wins for the advancing player only when an actual match was played and won.
- f) A player who advances because of a default that takes place before the commencement of the first point in the match, or because the opponent is disqualified, shall receive points per round for advancing.
- g) A player, who is defaulted from a tournament for code violations under the Point Penalty System or misconduct, forfeits any points accumulated during the tournament. Players defaulted in singles only lose points accumulated for play in the singles main and consolation draws, and vice versa for doubles.
- h) The first Preliminary Ranking List of each month will be published after the results from the first weekend of the months' tournaments have been processed and will be updated with the addition of sanctioned tournaments.

Player Result		CMZs Main Draw Qualifying Points	CMZs Cons Draw Qualifying Points	Preliminary Ranking Points				
				CMZs Main Draw	CMZs Cons Draw	Jr "Open" Main Draw	Jr "Open" Cons Draw	Jr "Open" Round Robin
Champ (14-18s)	1	80	16	80	16	32	4 points per round earned for each round won	1 st : 32
Champ (12s)	1	65	16	65	16	32		1 st : 32
Finalist	2	32	12	32	12	24		2 nd : 24
Semi-finals	3-4	16	8	16	8	16		3 rd : 16
Quarter-	5-8	8	4	8	4	8		4 th : 0

finals							
R16	9-16	4	N/A	4	N/A	4	N/A
R32	17-32	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	N/A

Super Championship Level

1. Who can play in the Super Championship level?

- a) Texas Section players who have qualified through the Championship Level.
- b) Out-of-section players must be approved by the Texas Section office to play singles and/or doubles.
- c) In a sanctioned "Open" tournament, Super Championship players **MUST** compete in the Super Championship division when offered. If the Super Championship or Qualified level is not offered, Super Championship players may play in "Open" or "Regular" events.
- d) In Super Championship doubles events, only one doubles partner needs to be of the correct qualification.
- e) All Super Champ players must have a copy of their birth certificate on file at the Texas Section office to participate in Super Champ Designated Tournaments. Champ players who have qualified for Supers will have 2 months to send in required documents. They may play in the Super Champ Designated Tournaments during the 2 months but will not be allowed after that time.

2. How to register for doubles in Super Champ Designated Tournaments?

- a) Players must sign up for doubles in the same age division as singles.
- b) While it is still strongly encouraged to register together with a specific partner, players may now register for doubles individually. Any player who registers individually will be paired with another individual entrant in descending order from the Super Champ Standings List (or UTR Rating in UTR SCMZs). Players may not make changes to this pairing unless a substitution is required from an original partner's withdrawal. Those who register with a partner must indicate their partner through the online registration system before the entry deadline. Both players will need to correctly identify their doubles partner during their initial registration process or they may go back later, prior to the entry deadline, and "Edit Registration" to indicate their partner of choice. Correct doubles registration is the player's responsibility. Immediately after registering, players need to check the Applicant List to ensure they are registered with their partner of choice (and their partner is also registered with them).
- c) If both players do not register with each other online, then they will become an individually registered doubles player and be paired with another individually registered doubles player based on the order of the current Standings list (or UTR Rating in UTR SCMZs). All players registered individually without a partner will be paired with another individually registered doubles player based on the order of the current Standings List, if a partner is available.
- d) If you choose to register for doubles individually then the tournament director may share your email address with your assigned doubles partner. This allows for open communication between partners for warm-up, withdrawals, etc.
- e) **Doubles substitutions for withdrawals are now allowed until Wednesday at Noon, 3 days prior to the tournament. (The substitute player must still be entered in singles in that same age division). Any player who withdraws after the Wednesday at Noon deadline will be penalized 2 suspension points as detailed in 6e on pg. 3 of this document.**

3. How to apply for Out-of-Section status?

- a) The Out-of-Section application form can be downloaded from the Internet at www.usta.com/youth-tennis-texas, select "compete", and select a level. Look for the "Out-of-Section Application" quick link on the right of the page.
- b) The completed application form must be received by the Texas Section office at least two weeks before the entry deadline of the tournament you wish to enter.

4. What are the criteria for non-resident Juniors establishing Out-of-Section/Residency status?

- a) Out-of-Section application
 - i) Out-of-Section players who wish to compete at the Super Championship division must meet one of the following criteria for approval:
 - (1) Must be listed on the current USTA National Standing List at 500 or higher. This number is to be

determined annually by the Junior Tennis Council. The listing may be current or within the last twelve months, and may be in the current age division or the next younger age division.

- (2) Must be listed in the ITF rankings at 500 or higher, either currently or within the last twelve months.
 - (3) Must be listed within the top 25% of the national rankings of a foreign national federation.
 - ii) Any player approved under i) will be approved for a probationary period of three months, after which his or her record will be reviewed for final approval by the Competitive Tennis Staff.
 - iii) Players unable to meet any of the criteria outlined in i) or ii) may apply to the Competitive Tennis Staff for an individual evaluation.
 - iv) When the Competitive Tennis Staff is required to evaluate players, any information available may be used, including but not limited to information from coaches, tennis professionals, and personal observation.
 - v) Once approved, Out-of-Section players are approved for as long as they remain in the age division(s) for which they are approved.
- b) Residency application
- i) Juniors who establish permanent or fixed, as opposed to temporary but active, residency in the Texas Section, and who wish to be placed on the Super Championship Standing List, must provide documentation as follows:
 - (1) Top 25% ranking in foreign national federation, Top 500 USTA national ranking or ITF ranking in the current or next younger age division.
 - (2) If the player holds a national ranking which falls below the criteria indicated, the player may be placed on the Championship Players List. Once placed on the Championship Players List, the player may move up to the Super Championship division only through the qualification process established for Texas junior players.
 - (3) Juniors who establish residency and hold no national or sectional ranking shall qualify through the qualification process established for Texas junior players.
 - c) Out-of-Section players who hold a ranking in their home section may apply to compete in the Super Champ events in "Open" sanctioned tournaments.
 - d) Juniors who are U.S. citizens, of U.S. parents, who attend school full-time in the Texas Section, whose parents live outside of the United States, who have no residence or domicile in any other USTA Section, may qualify through the Challenger level.
 - e) Non-resident juniors who hold no national or sectional ranking may play in Open divisions, but may not play in Championship or Challenger divisions.

5. What events are Out-of-Section players allowed to enter?

- a) Approved Out-of-Section players are eligible for all junior Open tournaments.
- b) Approved Out-of-Section players may participate in the following Super Champ Designated Tournaments:
 - (1) April Super Champ Major Zone
 - (2) July Super Champ Major Zone
 - (3) August Super Champ Major Zone
 - (4) December Super Champ Major Zone

6. Please refer to the Super Champ Designated Tournament spreadsheet for complete information regarding tournament descriptions.

7. What formats are used in the Super Champ Designated Tournaments?

- a) Feed In Consolation through the Round of 16 (January, March, May, July, August, September and November)
 - i) Singles A and B Draw – Main Draw plays full two-out-of-three set matches except for 12 & under divisions which will play 10 point match tiebreak in lieu of third set. Consolation Draw plays 10 point match tiebreak in lieu of the third set. Feed In Consolation through the Round of 16. Players who lose in the Quarterfinal Round will be placed into their own consolation bracket of four players and the winner of this bracket receives fifth place points (same format as consolation draw). Play-off for 3rd and 4th place will use same format as main draw.
 - ii) Doubles A and B Draw – 8 game **no-ad** Pro-Sets with single elimination.
 - iii) SCMZs in July and August will allow entrants to sign up for 12-18s in either location.
- b) Singles Excellence (February and October)
 - i) A, B and C draws will be compass draws.
 - ii) There will be two B draws in any Excellence division with at least 80 players.
 - iii) The D draw will be a round robin or a compass draw depending on the number of players. All matches will be best of two-out-of-three sets. All draws may be adjusted up until the first match begins as long as a match needs to be created. No adjustments will be made after play begins.
- c) Doubles Excellence (**April**)

- i) A and B draws will be compass draws.
- ii) The C draw will be a round robin or a compass draw depending on the number of teams. All matches will play a full third set. All draws may be adjusted up until the first match begins as long as a match needs to be created. No adjustments will be made after play begins.
- d) Modified Feed-In through Round of 16 (April and December)
 - i) Singles A & B Draws – Main and Consolation Draw plays 10 point match tiebreak in lieu of the third set. There will be 2 A draws of 16 (one at each of the SCMZ's) and multiple B draws. FIC through the round of 16 (First round loser consolation with 5th place play off and 3rd place match play off matches).
 - ii) Doubles A and B Draw – 8 game **no-ad** Pro-Sets with single elimination.
 - iii) SCMZs in April and December will allow entrants to sign up for 12-18s in either location.
- e) Texas Slam Feed In Consolation through Quarterfinal Round (June)
 - i) Singles Draws – Main Draw plays full two-out-of-three set matches. Consolation Draw plays 10 point match tiebreak in lieu of the third set. Feed In Consolation through the Quarterfinal Round. Play-off for 3rd and 4th place.
 - ii) Doubles Draws – Single elimination. 8 game **no-ad** Pro-Sets through the Quarterfinal Round and full two-out-of-three set regular scoring matches for the Semifinal and Finals.

8. How are the events split and seeded?

- a) The most current Super Champ Standing List available is used for all Super Champ Designated Tournaments (SCMZ) splitting and seeding except for the Tier 4 SCMZs in April, July, Aug, and Dec. Those 4 SCMZ tournaments are split and seeded off of UTR.
- b) Singles in all Super Champ Designated Tournaments except for SCMZs (April, July, Aug and Dec), Excellence and Texas Slam:
 - i) The A draw will be based upon rank. The B draws will wave seeds and split the remaining unseeded players among the draws. The B draw must have a minimum of 16 players.
- c) For Texas Tier 4 SCMZs in April, July, August and December – all seeding and selection will be based on Universal Tennis Rating (UTR) for the April, July, August and December Texas Tier 4 Super Champ Major Zones (SCMZ). Doubles seeding and selection will be generated based on the pairings combined UTR. Ties are broken with the highest rated individual's team will be placed higher. See each tournament's homepage for additional details.
- d) Singles in Excellence:
 - i) All Super Champ players are eligible. In each age group there will be an A draw, B draw and multiple C draws as needed. There will also be a D draw. The A draw will be the top 16 players, and the B draw will be the next 16 players. The C draw will consist of all other players, equally split into draws of 16 (maximum). The D draw will consist of the overflow players from the C draws and will have a minimum of 4 players.
- e) Doubles in all Super Champ Designated Tournaments except for Excellence and Texas Slam:
 - i) The A draw will be based upon rank. The B draws will be waved (even) draws of 16. The last draw should have a minimum of 8 teams.
 - ii) Teams will be placed in draws based on the combined Super Champ Standings of each team. For example, if a player has a Texas standing of 11 and the partner has a standing of 17, the team's combined standing is 28. If there is a tie, the highest ranked individual's team will be placed higher. If a player does not have a standing in that division, the system will assign them a value of 500.
- f) Doubles in Excellence:
 - i) In each age group there will be an A draw and multiple B draws as needed. There will also be a C draw. The A draw will be the top 16 teams. The B draws will consist of all other teams, equally split into draws of 16 (maximum). The C draw will consist of the overflow teams from the B draws and will have a minimum of 4 teams.
 - ii) Teams will be placed in draws based on the combined Super Champ Standings of each team. For example, if a player has a Texas standing of 11 and the partner has a standing of 17, the team's combined standing is 28. If there is a tie, the highest ranked individual's team will be placed higher. If a player does not have a standing in that division, the system will assign them a value of 500.

9. How many officials can I expect at my tournament?

- a) Officials – required at every site, ratios below:
 - i) SCMZ – at least 1 official per 6 courts

10. How are points awarded?

- a) Supers Championship Standings will be calculated based on a combined singles and doubles ranking.

- b) Total points are determined by the best five singles results and best five doubles results (in any combination of SCMZs or sanctioned "Open" tournaments) in a rolling twelve-month period plus applicable singles bonus points.
- c) Doubles points are awarded based on the point charts in this document.
- d) There are five tiers of tournaments. Please refer to each point chart for details.
 - i) Tier 1: Texas Slam and Doubles Excellence
 - ii) Tier 2: Singles Excellence and Level 3
 - iii) Tier 3: Level 4
 - iv) Tier 4: SCMZs (UTR Tournaments)
 - v) Tier 5: Open Junior Tournaments
- e) **Level 1 and Level 2 National Tournaments (not including team events) now earn Texas Standing points. This will include the National Spring Championships and be effective on the April 2nd, Texas Standings List. Level 1 National Tournaments will use the Texas Slam – Tier 1 point chart and Level 2 National Tournaments will use the Tier 2 – Super Champ Feed In point chart. (Same chart as January Super Champ A draws)**
- f) Points earned in an older age division will be included in all younger age division(s) for which the player is eligible.
- g) **Points earned in a division will be included in 1 (one) older age division at a rate of 20% count up.**
- h) Players must complete at least one SC Designated tournament and win a round in any junior sanctioned tournament in their natural age division to be listed as eligible on the Super Champ Standing List.
- i) Players must win a round to receive any points. Byes do not qualify as wins. Defaults and withdrawals qualify as wins for the advancing player, but do not earn Bonus Points. Retirements and walkovers do qualify as wins for the advancing player and will earn Bonus Points.
- j) A player who is defaulted from a tournament for code violations under the Point Penalty System or misconduct forfeits any points accumulated during the tournament, including both points per round and Bonus Points. Players defaulted in singles only lose points accumulated for play in the singles draws, and vice versa for doubles.
- k) Players are required to inform the tournament desk or tournament director no later than 6pm Sunday (or Monday for events that go through Tuesday) evening or within 15 minutes of completing their final match of the day (whichever is later) of their intent to withdraw from their Monday match. The tournament director will inform the opponent immediately of any withdrawals. Players who pull out after Sunday at 6pm will have their match coded as a withdrawal and will receive no points for their wins in that tournament. If a player gets injured or ill after that 6pm deadline and they think it's important to "keep their points" they (the player) need only show up on Monday morning and pull out in person in order to have that match coded a walkover and retain their points.

11. How to earn Bonus Points?

- a) Bonus points are awarded for wins in singles events, over players who are listed on the Bonus Points List published the month **PRIOR** to the start of the tournament.
- b) A Bonus Points List is published at the end of each month and it includes the top 300 players from the Standing List in each age division.
- c) Byes, defaults and withdrawals do not earn Bonus Points for the advancing player.
- d) Retirements and walkovers do earn Bonus Points for the advancing player.

Bonus Points Chart	Standings of Opponent	Bonus Points Earned For Significant Singles Wins
	Top 5	175
	#6 Through #10	150
	#11 Through #20	125
	#21 Through #50	100
	#51 Through #75	75

	#76 Through #125	50
	#126 Through #1000	25

12. How to become Endorsed?

- a) Players must complete at least one of the 13 Super Champ Designated Tournaments in order to be endorsed.
- b) Endorsement Lists are generated based on the Super Champs Standing List and will include the following players:
 - i) U.S. citizens and certain aliens (see Friend at Court)
 - ii) Players who are within the quota of the older age division will be added to the top of the younger endorsement list for which they are age eligible.
- c) The number of players listed in ii) above may fluctuate annually, depending on Texas' allocated endorsement quota.
- d) Any "elite player", as defined by the following criteria: 1) WTA ranking of 1000 or better or minimum of 2 ATP points 2) player has a top 250 ITF ranking and/or 3) player has a top 25 USTA National Ranking; who cannot meet their endorsement requirements, may apply for a waiver to the Director of Competitive Tennis and the Chairman of the Junior Tennis Council. Please contact the Section office for this Elite Player Waiver Application. If the waiver is granted, the player will be added to the top of the endorsement list.

13. How are players selected for the USTA Team Championships?

- a) Players are selected to represent Texas Section in the National (B&G18s) Team Championships in the following order:
 - i) Winner of the Texas Slam B&G 18s draw
 - ii) Texas player with the highest Sectional Ranking. If he/she declines the invitation, the next highest Sectional ranked player is offered the spot, and then repeats as needed.
 - iii) Texas player with the highest National Ranking. If already selected or declines the invitation, the next highest Nationally ranked player is offered the spot, and then repeat as needed.
 - iv) Texas players with the three (3) highest UTR. If already selected or declines the invitation, the next highest UTR rated player is offered the spot, and then repeat as needed.
 - v) One Wild Card selected by the appointed subcommittee
- b) **Players are selected to represent Texas Section in the Intersectional (B&G 14s&16s) Team Championships based on a combination of their Sectional Rank, National Rank, and Universal Tennis Ratings. Staff will take the top 4 age eligible players from the Section, National, and UTR lists, to select the pool of players. (Could be anywhere from 4-12 players in the selection pool) Of that pool, staff will rank each player on each list (Sectional, National, UTR). The sum of each player's rank on each list will give each player a Rank Total. The 4 lowest Rank Totals for boys and girls will be invited to participate in 14s and 16s Intersectionals. If additional alternates are needed beyond the initial selection pool, we will select the next age eligible player based on current UTR Standings. Any total rank ties will be broken by taking the player with the higher UTR. Playing positions on the team will determined with the same process. However, in the event a selected player (who is positioned lower in the initial line-up projection) has a higher National Ranking and UTR than other selected players in a higher projected line-up position, the player with the higher National Ranking and UTR will assume the higher line up position. Please be advised, the assumption of a higher line-up position can only take place if the selected player (initially projected in a lower position) has a higher National Ranking and UTR than the selected player positioned directly above them in the initially projected line-up. Therefore, players may not move from Position 4 to Position 2 without first qualifying to move to Position 3. Selections will be made after the last National tournament in May of each year.**
- c) Players are selected to represent Texas Section in the Zone (B&G 12-16s) Team Championships in the following order:
 - i) Texas Section Standings List. Alternates are placed in order as of deadline. Any late entrants will be put on the bottom of the alternate list.
 - ii) For player order will take into account both Texas Section Standing and National Standing Lists.
- d) The Subcommittee is composed of the Director of Competitive Tennis, the Chairman of the Texas Section Coaches Commission, and the coach of the respective team. The Wild Card player may be any player from the Texas Section who is age eligible for the event. The team will be placed in their playing position by the subcommittee.

14. Financial Assistance

- a) Financial assistance is awarded to the top “quota” number of players for each division who competed in the National Clay Courts, Hard Courts and Winter Championships. For example, if the quota number for a division of National Championships is 10 players and 16 Texas players get into the National Championships, financial assistance will only be provided to the top 10 players listed on the Endorsement List for that division who played in the National Championships. Players can get into the National Championships off of the Direct Acceptance List, the Texas Endorsement List, or the National Standing List.

15. Which Super Champ Designated Tournaments award National Standing Points?

- a) National Level 3January..... Super Champ Level 3
- b) National Level 3June Texas Slam Level 3
- c) National Level 4 March..... Super Champ Level 4
May Super Champ Level 4
September. Super Champ Level 4
November .. Super Champ Level 4

- d) National Junior Point Charts can be found in the National Junior Schedule on the Internet at:
 - i) www.usta.com/youth-tennis-texas
 - ii) Click on the "Compete" tab underneath the header
 - iii) Select "National" under the “Youth Progression System”
 - iv) Click on “Formats and Point Tables - National” quick link on the bottom of the page

Questions about junior regulations should be sent to:

USTA Texas Section - Competitive Department
8105 Exchange Drive, Austin, TX 78754

Or via email to:

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