



2023 USTA NC Adult Tournament Regulations

*Text in purple are state decisions

* Text in green are Southern decisions

The North Carolina Adult Tournament staff, in conjunction with the USTA North Carolina Adult Tournament Committee Chair shall have the authority to interpret the USTA North Carolina Adult Tournament Regulations.

- I. General
 - USTA North Carolina offers adult tournament competition at the District 6 and 7 Levels. USTA NC also reviews District Level 5 tournaments and submits them to the Southern Section for approval.
- II. Eligibility
 - A. Membership. All players must have a valid USTA membership to participate in a USTA NC Adult Tournaments.
 - B. NTRP Rating. All players must have a NTRP Rating to participate in USTA NC NTRP tournaments.
 - C. Online entry is mandatory through Serve Tennis.
 - D. Closed Events:
 - a. “Closed”: Any person who is a resident of, and domiciled in, the State of North Carolina for at least thirty (30) days prior to the first day of the tournament and who during the current ranking year has not entered a closed tournament in any other USTA District (State) or any Section other than the Southern Section of USTA. The entrants for all Adult/Senior, NTRP, Wheelchair and Family State Closed tournaments must meet the following criteria:
 - 1. Must be a US Citizen or meet the resident alien requirements.
 - 2. Hold only one USTA membership card, residency for which must be NC.
 - 3. Players may not play in State Closed tournaments of other states (districts) or Sections of the USTA if they play in a NC State Closed.
 - 4. College students who live in another state or country must meet requirements #2 and #3.
 - E. Open Events:
 - a. “Open”: Any person without regard to residence or domicile.
- III. Tournament Descriptions
 - A. Level 7:
 - a. Duration: all events in a division must be completed in one day. In the event of inclement weather or other circumstances, the local tournament committee can extend the tournament.
 - b. Draw Size: No limit
 - c. Draw Formats Permitted: Round Robin, Multiple Round Robins with a Playoff, Compass Draw, First Match Consolation, Team Format,

- d. Match Format: No-ad scoring may be used. Match formats may be shortened when inclement weather or other circumstances prevent a tournament from finishing on time. The match shall be any of the following:
 - i. Best of 3 short sets with a 7 point match tiebreak played in lieu of a 3rd set (a 5 point short set tiebreak played at 3 games all)
 - ii. 8 game Pro Set with a 7 point tiebreak at 8 games all
 - iii. One 6 game set with a 7 point tiebreak at 6 games all
 - iv. One short set, with a 5 point tiebreak at 3 games all
 - v. Timed matches (game format) of 20 minutes or longer
 - e. Selection: When a draw size is limited, selection will be done as indicated in the sanctioning process.
 - f. Seeding
 - i. Singles: Seeding will be done using the most recently published singles National Standings list of the Division
 - ii. Doubles: Seeding will be done using the most recently published doubles National Standings list of the division. Teams will be seeded in order of their combined standings. If there is a tie, the team with the player that has the highest doubles standing on the list must be seeded in the higher position. If a player has no standing for the purpose of determining the combined standing, this player will be assigned a standing one lower than the last player on the doubles National Standing list.
 - iii. Family Divisions: the all factors method of seeding will be used to seed. **(USTA Regulation II. A.4.b)**
 - g. Referee.
 - i. **If the Tournament Director chooses not to have a referee, the Tournament Director can serve as the official for a Level 7 tournament by completing the Tournament Director/Referee Dual Role course. Reach out to the USTA NC office to enroll in this course.**
 - h. **Courts for tournament play.**
 - i. **The use of tennis-related blended lines are permitted on courts used for tournament matches. The use of other lines for another sport, such as Pickleball, are not permitted on courts used for local league matches.**
 - i.
- B. Level 6:
- a. Duration: All events in a division must be completed in 3 days. In the event of inclement weather or other circumstances, the local tournament committee can extend the tournament.
 - b. Draw Size: No limit
 - c. Draw Formats Permitted: Round Robin, Multiple Round Robins with a Playoff, Compass Draw, Feed In Championship, First Match Consolation, Team Format, Voluntary Consolation.
 - i. **Single elimination will be approved on a case by case basis**
 - ii. Block Seeding not permitted
 - iii. Separating Event into multiple draws: an event may be separated into more than one draw. Players may be waterfalled, or be flighted except that when the multiple round robin with playoff format is used, players must be waterfalled.

- d. Match Format: no-ad scoring may be used. Match formats may be shortened when inclement weather or other circumstances prevent a tournament from finishing on time. The match shall be any of the following:
 - i. Best of 3 sets with a 10 point match tiebreak played in lieu of the 3rd set
 - ii. Best of 3 short sets with a 5 point short set tiebreak played at 3 games all.
 - iii. Best of 3 short sets with a 7 point match tiebreak played in lieu of a 3rd set (a 5 point short set tiebreak played at 3 games all)
 - iv. 8 game Pro Set with a 7 point tiebreak at 8 games all
 - v. One 6 game set with a 7 point tiebreak at 6 games all
 - vi. One short set, with a 5 point tiebreak at 3 games all
 - e. Selection: When a draw size is limited, selection will be done as indicated in the sanctioning process.
 - f. Seeding:
 - i. *Adult Open and Adult Age Group Divisions*
 - 1. The Sectional Association determines the method of seeding. The all factors method of seeding will be used to seed. **(USTA Regulation II. A.4.b)**
 - ii. *Adult NTRP Divisions.*
 - 1. Singles: Seeding will be done using the most recently published singles National Standings list of the Division
 - 2. Doubles: Seeding will be done using the most recently published doubles National Standings list of the division. Teams will be seeded in order of their combined standings. If there is a tie, the team with the player that has the highest doubles standing on the list must be seeded in the higher position. If a player has no standing for the purpose of determining the combined standing, this player will be assigned a standing one lower than the last player on the doubles National Standing list.
 - iii. Family Divisions: the all factors method of seeding will be used to seed. **(USTA Regulation II. A.4.b)**
 - g. Referee.
 - i. **A Level 6 Adult Tournament must have a Referee on site for their event.**
 - h. Courts for tournament play.
 - i. **The use of tennis-related blended lines are permitted on courts used for tournament matches. The use of other lines for another sport, such as Pickleball, are not permitted on courts used for local league matches.**
- C. Level 5: USTA NC has been granted up to 7 Level 5 tournaments, 2 of which can be "Closed". USTA Southern has final approval authority for these tournaments.
- a. Duration: all events in a division must be completed in five days, unless a longer period has been authorized in advance by the USTA Adult Tennis Department.
 - i. No less than 30 days before entries open, a Tournament Director

- may make a request to the USTA Adult Tennis Department for a longer duration for events in a division to be completed than is permitted in USTA National Adult Tournament Regulations **Regulation VII.B.1a**. The request must include the additional number of days needed to complete the events and the rationale for the request
- ii. Completion of tournament by end of sanction period: Play may not continue after the last sanctioned day of the tournament without prior written approval of the applicable USTA Adult Tennis Department
- b. Draw Size. The draw size of a Section Level 5 Adult and Family
 - i. **The tournament draw size will be determined by the Tournament Director**
 - c. Draw Formats Permitted: Round Robin, Multiple Round Robins with a Playoff, Compass Draw, Feed In Championship, First Match Consolation, Team Format, Voluntary Consolation
 - i. **Single elimination is permitted on a case-by-case basis**
 - ii. **Block seeding is permitted to the extent permitted in USTA National Adult Tournament Regulations Regulation VII.A.3.b, if such use is approved in advance by the District Association**
 - iii. Separating event into multiple draws. An event may be separated into multiple draws to the extent permitted in USTA National Adult Tournament Regulations **Regulation VII.A.3.c**
 - d. Match Format: no-ad scoring may be used. The match shall be any of the following:
 - i. Best of 3 tiebreak sets
 - ii. Best of 3 tiebreak sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of the 3rd set
 - iii. Best of 3 short sets (with a 5-Point Short Set Tiebreak played at 3-games all)
 - iv. 8-game pro fest with a 7-Point Tiebreak at 8 games all
 - e. Selection
 - i. Adult Divisions.
 - 1. *Open Adult tournaments*. When the singles draw size of an Open Adult tournament that is open to residents of any Sectional Association is limited, players will be selected (and alternates will be ordered) in the order their names appear on the most recently published National Standings List of the division. When a doubles draw size is limited, teams will be selected (and alternates will be ordered) using the procedure described in USTA National Adult Tournament Regulations **Regulation V.B**. Wildcards may not be awarded
 - 2. *Closed District Adult tournaments*. When the draw size of a Closed District Adult tournament is limited, the same procedures described in the USTA National Adult Tournament Regulations **Regulation VII.B.5.a.i** will be used except that the National Standings List will be filtered to include only players who are residents of the district association.
 - ii. Family Divisions

1. *Open Family tournaments.* When a draw size of an Open Family Division, teams will be selected (and alternates will be ordered) in the order their names appear on the most recently published National Standings List of the division. Wild cards may not be awarded.
 2. *Closed District Family Tournaments.* When the draw size of a Closed district Family tournament is limited the same procedures described in USTA National Adult Tournament Regulations **Regulation VII.B.5.b.1** will be used, except that the team National Standings List will be filtered to include only teams who are residents of the District Association
- f. Seeding
- i. *Adult Open and Adult Age Group Divisions*
 1. The all factors method of seeding will be used to seed. **(USTA Regulation II. A.4.b)**
 - ii. *Adult NTRP Divisions.*
 1. Singles: Seeding will be done using the most recently published singles National Standings list of the Division
 2. Doubles: Seeding will be done using the most recently published doubles National Standings list of the division. Teams will be seeded in order of their combined standings. If there is a tie, the team with the player that has the highest doubles standing on the list must be seeded in the higher position. If a player has no standing for the purpose of determining the combined standing, this player will be assigned a standing one lower than the last player on the doubles National Standing list.
 - iii. Family Divisions: all factors method of seeding will be used to seed. **(USTA Regulation II. A.4.b)**
- g. Referee.
- i. **A Referee is required for Level 5 tournaments.**
- h. Courts for tournament play.
- i. **The use of tennis-related blended lines are permitted on courts used for tournament matches. The use of other lines for another sport, such as Pickleball, are not permitted on courts used for local league matches.**

IV. Sanctioning Process

- A. Priority Sanctioning. Sanctioning a tournament during this period gives the tournament priority on choice of dates for the following year.
 - a. For 2024, priority sanctioning will be November 1st - November 15th. Tournament Directors will submit the tournament for sanctioning between these dates and they will be reviewed and approved before January 1.
 - b. Level 5 tournaments need to be submitted prior to or during the priority sanctioning period to be considered for the following year.
- B. Rolling Sanctioning. Level 6 and Level 7 tournaments can be sanctioned at any time during the year, on a rolling basis. However, the tournament will not be given priority on dates unless it is submitted during the priority

sanctioning period. Outside of the priority sanctioning period, priority on dates is given on a first-come, first-served basis.

- a. Level 6 tournaments must be submitted 2 months prior to the tournament date for sanctioning.
 - b. Level 7 tournaments should be submitted 6 weeks prior to the tournament date for sanctioning.
- C. USTA NC requires a Waiver of Claims for adult tournaments. The USTA NC office will provide that template for the Tournament Director upon request.
- D. Distance Rules.
- a. Level 5 Tournaments cannot be held on the same weekend in North Carolina.
 - b. Level 6 Tournaments cannot be within 100 miles from each other on the same dates.
 - i. A review and final decision will be made on if any exceptions will be permitted by the Sanctioning and Scheduling subcommittee after consulting the other Tournament Director that could be impacted by this event.
 - ii. These same distance requirements will be in place when we are considering the distance between Level 5s and Level 6s.
 - c. Level 7 tournaments have no distance requirements.
- E. Unsanctioned Tournaments.
- a. Tournament submission is same as the rolling sanctioning process. No priority dates will be given to unsanctioned events. They will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis.
 - b. Unsanctioned tournaments cannot be held within 100 miles of another Level 5 or Level 6 tournament on the same dates.
 - i. If there is a Level 5 or Level 6 tournament that are within the 100 miles for the same weekend, it will be up to the discretion of the Tournament Director who submitted their event first if they would be okay with the other event also taking place that same weekend.

V. USTA NC Rain Policy:

Tournaments that are canceled due to weather are to follow this rain policy:

- A. Age divisions/levels where play has begun - no refund.
- B. Age divisions/levels where there was no play at all - partial refund after deduction for actual expenses.
 - a. In a tournament where proceeds are donated to a charitable organization the refund policy may be modified at the Tournament Director's discretion to reflect a "No Refund" policy. If the Tournament Director chooses a "No Refund Policy" this must be stated on the tournament website when registration opens for the event.
- C. No tournament may be rescheduled without the approval of the Sanction & Schedule Committee.

*It is at the Tournament Director's discretion if they would like to refund their players more money than what would be included above.

VI. Player Expectations

- A. **Adult players are required to tell the Tournament Director if they will continue to play in the consolation or not immediately following their main draw loss. For players who have stated they will play consolation but are then a default no show, all points received in that tournament will no longer be guaranteed.**
- B. Ranking System. The USTA National Tournament **Regulation IX** (Ranking System) is followed for all USTA NC Adult Tournaments.
- C. Point Suspension System. This is a system under which Adult and Family players are assessed points for unsportsmanlike behavior in USTA Sanctioned tournaments. See USTA's Friend at Court for specific violations.
- D. **Concurrent Tournament Rule: No player shall enter more than one USTA Sanctioned tournament where the scheduled dates overlap unless they have been eliminated from the earlier tournament**
 - a. **The player would need to sign up for the second tournament AFTER they have been eliminated from the first tournament.**
- E. No coaching is permitted during tournament matches.
- F. Sportsmanship. All players participating in USTA Sanctioned events are expected to know the rules of playing a tennis match including keeping score and how to play a tiebreak, be familiar with the general rules of fair play contained in the Code and agree to abide by USTA Rules and Regulations. Detailed rules and regulations can be found in the USTA's Friend at Court.