

# MTA TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS/2017

## I. MTA STANDARD RULES OF MATCH PLAY

1. The rules of tennis as set forth by the United States Tennis Association and all other rules and regulations of the USTA, STA and MTA shall govern individual and organizational members during MTA sanctioned tournaments.

2. No player shall be permitted to play a first-round match unless he or she has a valid USTA membership. If the player cannot be located in the TDM membership, he/she must apply electronically or by calling the toll free USTA membership number (1-800-990-8782) before playing their first match. For seeding purposes a player should submit any pertinent information to the Tournament Committee.

3. Players are solely responsible for obtaining their own starting times. A player should check online draws or contact the tournament director or referee to obtain their playing times.

4. All matches will be the best of three sets except for Junior doubles matches, which may be an 8 game pro-set format, and one-day tournaments, which can be pro sets or short scoring. In lieu of a third set, a Match Tiebreak (first to 10 by a margin of 2) may be played to determine the winner of the match; however, if this option is selected, it must be published as such. This applies to all tournaments except the Mississippi Junior Qualifier Championship. In all circumstances, the Set Tiebreak (first to 7 by a margin of 2) will be used at 6-6 in a set. This includes sets where No-Ad scoring is in effect. No-Ad scoring may be used at the discretion of the referee at the start of any round if weather conditions make it necessary.

5. Warm-up time shall be limited strictly to a maximum of five minutes, unless otherwise decided by the event organizers. The spin of the racket must be taken before warm-up so that the players can warm-up on the same side from which they play their first game.

6. After the first game of each set and during a tie-break, play shall be continuous and the players shall change ends without a rest period. At the conclusion of each set, there shall be a set break of a maximum of 120 seconds (2 minutes). Between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> sets without match tie-break there will be a rest period of 10 minutes, for all Junior age groups, Men's Open, Men's 25's and 30's.

7. Appropriate tennis attire is requested for all match play.

8. Players should report to the tournament director or referee **30 minutes** prior to their scheduled starting time. **Table 11 (Minimum Rest between Matches)** Friend at Court

## II. MTA TOURNAMENT REGULATIONS FOR TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS

PLEASE NOTE: Failure to comply with any of these regulations could lead to loss of the tournament's sanction.

1. All individual and organizational members of the USTA, STA and MTA are subject, during the sanctioned event, to the Constitution, By-Laws and Rules of USTA Tournament Regulations.

2. In the event that any MTA tournament regulations conflict with the USTA regulations, then the MTA regulations will supersede and be applicable to all MTA sanctioned tournaments.

3. Each sanctioned tournament must commit as to the surface on which each event will be played.

4. Inclement weather gives the tournament referee or committee the prerogative to change surfaces to stay on schedule.

5. All junior state championships must use a Feed-in Consolation through Quarter Finals in singles and First Match Loser Consolation in doubles unless using an 8 game pro-set format. **Feed-in-Quarters consolations require play off for third and fourth positions and trophies for the top five finishers in each Division. Feed-in- Semis consolations should be played with entrants between 5-8 players. The Tournament Committee can decide to play Round Robins with 2-6 entrants' players.**

6. In all MS L4 & MS L5 tournaments where circumstances for a first loss match consolation (FMLC) is used, a second round loss preceded by a first round bye or default will move the player into the consolations. However, it is not mandatory that a player move to the consolations where a third round loss is preceded by a first and second round bye or default. In this situation the player may request that the referee include him in the consolation. The referee shall base his decision on available openings and the strength of the player.

7. See **Table 8** for **Junior** scheduling guidelines and **Table 9** for **Adult, Senior and Wheelchair** scheduling guidelines. These can be found in Friend at Court.

8. If a player enters more than one division, the above mentioned guidelines apply separately to each division. **Juniors may not play in more than one (1) division in singles or (1) division in doubles in the same tournament.**

9. Adult players participating in multiple singles or doubles events should be allowed to play his/her age division first, i.e., play the older division for seniors first.

10. The Tournament Committee **may not let ANYONE** enter more events than what the sanction form states as the maximum number one may enter. It is

11. Players must be given a minimum rest period of 30 minutes between matches. In matches which are the best of three sets Juniors are entitled to 60 minutes between singles and 30 minutes between doubles. **The Referee can decide in the case of extreme heat to grant longer rest periods.** Adult age divisions 35, 40, and 45 entitled to 60 minutes, and adults 50 and over 90 minutes between matches. NTRP entitled to 60 minutes between singles and 30 minutes between doubles. In other formats, such as match tiebreak for third set, the minimum rest period for all divisions is 30 minutes. The referee may authorize additional rest when he concludes that the length of the match, heat, humidity, or other conditions justify an extension.

12. Juniors playing in the 10's thru 18's divisions must be allowed a minimum of twelve hours from the end of their last match on a given day until the beginning of their first match on the following day. **This is recommended however because of the length of some tournament the Tournament Director and Referee can decide to adjust the minimum based on the deadlines posted.**

13. Players should never be required to begin matches before 7 A.M. or later than 10 P.M. In the 10's, 12's and 14's divisions no match should start nor should a suspended match be resumed after **9 p.m.**

14. Inclement weather may force the to Referee take steps to keep the tournament on schedule including:

**a. Switch to Short-Sets**

- b. Switch to No-Ad scoring.
- c. Switch to Match Tiebreak.
- d. Strictly enforce pre-match warm-up time and breaks between sets.
- e. Tighten **court usage**. Use “to be followed by” scheduling and have players waiting at courtside as soon as matches finish.
- f. Cancel matches. If some matches must be canceled, start with consolation rounds. Cancel main draw singles last.
- g. All State MS L1-3 matches and STA Level 3-4 must contact the Mississippi Player Development Director before cancelling

If there is no practical way to finish an event, the Committee shall declare the tournament concluded. Matches not played should be entered in TDM as “unplayed”.

15. It is required that each sanctioned tournament have a **certified referee**, dressed in official apparel, at each site of the tournament. **It is recommended besides the referee that there is one roving umpire per 8 courts for all tournaments**. In addition, for the purpose of keeping score and mediating line calls at Junior and Adult tournaments, monitors **can be provided** at the ratio of 1 for every 4 courts.

16. Point penalties, as authorized by the USTA, will be in effect in all sanctioned tournaments. See POINT PENALTY SYSTEM.

17. Players must not be forced to play on courts that do not meet USTA Specifications.

18. If a tournament is not held, a portion of fees must be refunded based on expenses paid .

19. If at all possible, do not put on Senior singles matches, i.e., Women 40 and Men 45 and older, between the hours of 11:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M. during the months of June, July and August.

20. If two or more people enter a tournament, the division must be held. The tournament director must call the entrants, explaining that the division will be held for ranking purposes. If the tournament has consolation, players will play two out of three matches to determine the winner. If the tournament is single elimination, and only two enter a division, the two entrants will play only 1 match for the title. If one chooses not to play and the other agrees to play, the latter can be listed on the form: ENTRIES IN EVENTS WHICH DID NOT MAKE. Each entrant should be allowed to make an independent choice without prior knowledge of what the other has opted to do. Entrant must pay entry fee to be considered as counting toward the requirement for ranking.

21. **In cases where there are four or less entries in a division, a round robin must be played. A round robin may be played when there are up to 6 entrants.** The player who wins the most matches is the winner of the round robin. In the event 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 shall use the following steps in the order listed to break all ties. **The Referee shall break as many ties as possible using a given step before using the next step.** These steps are:

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

- the player with the highest percentage of sets won of sets completed among players in the group under consideration;
- the head-to-head win-loss record in matches involving the players who remain tied;
- the player with the highest percentage of games won of games completed among the players under consideration;
- the head-to-head win-loss record in matches involving the players who remain tied;

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

**NOTE:**

\* A tiebreak played in lieu of the third set counts as one set when counting sets and one game when counting games.

**22. No individual or organizational member can cancel a scheduled sanctioned tournament except for insufficient entries or catastrophic events that render the playing site(s) unplayable.** During such time, the tournament committee, with approval of the Sanction/Schedule Committee, shall reschedule the tournament at a suitable time within the remaining tournament calendar year. If necessary, the venue may be changed; however, the sanction fee is non-refundable. The MTA reserves the right to levy appropriate penalties including, but not limited to, the cost of notification of said cancellation, and the right to deny future sanction to any individual or organizational member violating this rule.

**23. A draw sheet fee shall be collected together with the tournament sanction fee when application for a sanctioned tournament is made. The draw sheet fee shall be refunded to individuals or organizations who ran scheduled tournaments if results are properly reported on the internet immediately following the completion of the tournament and head tax is received by the MTA within (5) days.**

**24. All Tournament Directors, Umpires and Referees must be certified at the MTA sponsored workshops in order to hold their tournament. An Officials' Association is available to host organizations that need officials as roving umpires or referees. This, of course, is at the expense of the tournament.**

**TABLE 8**  
**Scheduling Guidelines for Junior Divisions:**  
**Maximum Number of Matches per Day**

| <b>Match Format</b>   | <b>12s Divisions</b>  | <b>14s, 16s, &amp; 18s Divisions</b>                                |
|---|---|---|
| <b>All Matches:</b> Best of 3 tiebreak sets   | 2 singles   | 2 singles + 1 doubles   |
|   | 1 singles + 2 doubles   | 1 singles + 2 doubles   |
|   | 3 doubles   | 3 doubles   |
| <b>All Matches:</b> Tiebreak in lieu of 3rd set or short sets   | 3 singles   | 3 singles + 1 doubles   |
|   | 2 singles + 1 doubles   | 2 singles + 2 doubles   |
|   | 3 doubles   | 1 singles + 3 doubles   |
|   |   | 4 doubles   |
| <b>Main Draw Singles:</b><br>Best of 3 tiebreak sets<br><br><b>Doubles and/or Consolation Singles:</b><br>8-game pro sets                   | 2 main draw singles   | 2 main draw singles<br>+<br>2 doubles and/or<br>consolation singles |
|   | 1 main draw singles<br>+<br>3 doubles and/or<br>consolation singles | 1 main draw singles<br>+<br>3 doubles and/or<br>consolation singles |
|   | 4 doubles and/or<br>consolation singles                             | 4 doubles and/or<br>consolation singles                             |
| <b>Main Draw Singles:</b><br>Tiebreak in lieu of 3rd set or short sets<br><br><b>Doubles and/or Consolation Singles:</b><br>8-game pro sets | 3 main draw singles   | 3 main draw singles<br>+<br>2 doubles and/or<br>consolation singles |
|   | 2 main draw singles<br>+<br>2 doubles and/or<br>consolation singles | 2 main draw singles<br>+<br>3 doubles and/or<br>consolation singles |
|   | 1 main draw singles<br>+<br>3 doubles and/or<br>consolation singles | 1 main draw singles<br>+<br>4 doubles and/or<br>consolation singles |
|   | 4 doubles and/or<br>consolation singles                             | 5 doubles and/or<br>consolation singles                             |
| Combinations of singles, doubles, and consolation singles not shown above.*   | 117 games, no more than 88 of which should be singles               | 117 games, no more than 115 of which should be singles              |

If a player enters more than one division, these guidelines apply separately to each division.

*Completion of suspended matches.* When a match is carried over from a preceding day, it is counted as a match for these scheduling guidelines if the player so elects and if 16 or more games of singles or 20 or more games of doubles are required to finish the match.

\* Calculate the maximum number of games for specific combinations of formats not shown in the chart. The maximum number of games for a best of 3 sets match is 39; the maximum number for a match with a tiebreak in lieu of the 3rd set is 27; and the maximum number for an 8-game pro set is 17.



**TABLE 11**  
**Minimum Rest Between Matches**

**The Referee, Sectional Association, or District Association should permit additional rest when any of them concludes that the length of a match, heat, humidity, total time on the court during the day, or other condition justifies more rest. \*See also Recovery Rule**

| <b>Divisions</b>  | <b>All Best of 3 and 5 set matches</b>  | <b>Pro set formats</b>   |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Juniors</b>  | 60 minutes <i>except</i> 30 minutes in doubles only tournaments*  | 30 minutes   |
| <b>Senior 35-45 &amp; Parent-Child</b>  | 60 minutes*   | 30 minutes   |
| <b>Senior 50-90</b>   | 90 minutes*   | 45 minutes   |
| <b>Parent-Child with minimum parental age</b>   |   |  |
| <b>Grandparent-Grandchild</b>   |   |  |
| <b>Husband &amp; Wife (Combined Ages)</b>   |   |  |
| <b>Wheelchair</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Match of 60 minutes or less: 30 minutes*</li> <li>• Between 60 &amp; 90 minutes: 45 minutes*</li> <li>• 90 minutes or more: 60 minutes*</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Match of 60 minutes or less: 30 minutes</li> <li>• Between 60 &amp; 90 minutes: 45 minutes</li> <li>• 90 minutes or more: 60 minutes</li> </ul> |
| <b>NTRP without age restrictions</b>  | 60 minutes*   | 30 minutes   |
| <b>NTRP 35-45</b>   | 60 minutes*   | 30 minutes   |
| <b>NTRP 50-90</b>   | 90 minutes*   | 45 minutes   |
| <b>All other divisions</b>  | 30 minutes*   | 30 minutes   |
| <b>Red, Orange, or Green Ball Tennis formats:</b> The tournament shall offer the players reasonable rest, which in many cases will be no more than 15 minutes.  |   |  |
| For any other format, the rest is at least 30 minutes.  |   |  |
| A player is governed by the amount of rest allowed for the division in which the player plays.  |   |  |
| Players who participate in more than one division are entitled to at least 30 minutes rest between matches in different divisions, unless the Recovery Rule applies in which case the Referee shall offer the player a rest of two hours.   |   |  |
| When more than one match format is played, the match format of the preceding match shall govern the minimum rest.   |   |  |
| * <b>Recovery Rule:</b> After all singles matches in Junior, Adult, Senior, NTRP and Wheelchair Divisions in which the match format is two out of three standard tiebreak sets or more, the Referee shall offer a rest of two hours before the player's next singles match. This rule does not apply to short set matches, matches that play a tiebreak in lieu of a final third set, nor to any match played indoors where the duration of the match is less than 120 minutes. |   |  |

**TABLE 14**

**POINT PENALTY SYSTEM (PPS)  
Code Violations and Penalties**

| Code Violations   | Penalties   |
|---|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Delay</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not resuming play within <b>30</b> seconds after a medical timeout or bleeding timeout</li> <li>• Delay caused by obvious cramping (but only if the player has already received a medical timeout for cramping)</li> <li>• Receipt of evaluation or treatment for one condition on more than two changeovers or set breaks</li> <li>• Taking more than two medical timeouts during one stoppage of play</li> <li>• Not resuming play after a changeover or set break during which the player received treatment</li> <li>• Not playing within <b>20</b> seconds of having been directed to resume play</li> <li>• Passage of <b>20</b> seconds after any time violation</li> <li>• Delay caused by getting a replacement racket that is not on court</li> <li>• Leaving the playing area for an unauthorized reason</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Misconduct</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visible or audible profanity or obscenity</li> <li>• Abuse of racket, balls, or equipment</li> <li>• Verbal or physical abuse of a player or official</li> <li>• Audible or visible coaching</li> <li>• Abusive conduct by a player or a person associated with a player (<b>USTA Regulation IV.C.11.</b> refers to this situation)</li> <li>• Retaliatory calls (obviously bad calls made in retaliation for the opponent's calls)</li> <li>• Unsportsmanlike conduct (any other conduct that is abusive or detrimental to the sport)</li> <li>• Failure to follow the instructions of an official</li> <li>• Violation of any USTA Tournament Regulation (<b>USTA Regulation IV.C.20.</b>)</li> </ul> | <p>Violations shall be penalized as follows:</p> <p>First Offense .....Point<br/>           Second Offense .....Game<br/>           Third Offense .....Default</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>A single flagrant unsportsmanlike act may be penalized by defaulting the player. See <b>USTA Regulation IV.D.7.</b></p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>A game penalty assessed during a set tiebreak results in loss of the set. If assessed during a 10-Point Match Tiebreak, this results in the loss of the match.</p> </div> |