

Junior Ranking and Standings Requirements

RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

Only players who (1) have established a legal residency in Mississippi, (2) hold a current USTA membership assigned to Mississippi, (3) meet the U. S. citizenship or Domicile residency requirements and (4) age eligibility requirements are eligible to participate in Mississippi Closed tournaments and/or receive a standings or ranking in Mississippi. Players who meet any one of the following criteria can register their intent to participate in closed tournaments and/or receive a ranking in Mississippi.

- Juniors going to school/college outside Mississippi
- Juniors who spend time with joint custody parents
- Players who live in more than one location during the year
- Family members of the military.

The intent must be registered in writing to USTA Mississippi before the first closed tournament is held. In the event no request is made, it is assumed that the player will compete and/or be eligible for a ranking in the district that best describes their legal residence. The intent is that no player should be allowed to participate in closed tournaments or be ranked in more than one state during any single ranking year.

AGE ELIGIBILITY

The "month of birth age eligibility rule" applies to all junior players who participate in sanctioned tournaments. Junior players may continue to play in the 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18 age divisions until the month in which they turn 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, or 19, respectively. The starting date of a tournament should be used to determine eligibility when a tournament begins in one month and ends in the next.

RANKING REQUIREMENTS

1. Rankings are published one time a year and in the upcoming Yearbook
2. Play a minimum of three (3) Mississippi Sanctioned tournaments and maximum of (6) singles and doubles tournaments.
3. Ranking must be in the age division played in which wanting a year end ranking
4. Please note that a player can be ranked in two age groups if minimums are met
5. Mandatory (3) State tournaments which include only Mississippi based MS L1-4, including Mississippi Qualifier STA (2), the Aquafina, River Hills, Chic-Fil-A (STA L3's), and all the (8) (STA L4) State Tournaments.
6. Tentative Ranking will be published on or before the December 15th each year.
7. Appeals can be made in the week after the Tentative Rankings are published and before December 22nd.
8. Final Rankings are published in Tennis Link after December 22nd
9. The top 50 players who have met minimums will be published on the rankings list.

SINGLES STANDINGS AND RANKING REGULATIONS

(For 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18's. 8 year-olds will not receive a ranking, but will be listed alphabetically.)

The published Standing and Ranking Lists will be "combined". This means that the singles play and doubles play will be combined using 100% of the singles points and 25% of the doubles points. Currently, 6 of the best singles tournaments and 6 of the best doubles tournaments count toward a Standings and Ranking. A player must accrue a minimum of 10 points in an age division in order to be included in the MTA standing list for that age group. Results for an older age division count towards the lower division in Singles and Doubles, if age eligible. However, a player may not play in more than 1 age division in the same tournament.

- A player's final ranking will be based on the point values earned in his/her best 6 singles Mississippi tournaments and best 6 doubles tournaments during the year. A player must have earned a minimum of 10 points in an age division in order to earn a MTA final ranking. (3)
- Only results from the age division being ranked will be included; not the points earned from playing up in a higher division.
- Bonus points only apply to singles. Bonus points are based on the opponent's standing in the previous month and are attached to the tournament in which they are earned.
- To be included, the tournament must be among the player's best six (6) during the computation period. Byes do not count as wins until he/she wins a subsequent round. Withdrawals, defaults and walkovers will count as wins for the advancing player and earn round points, but no bonus points.

EVENT LEVELS

The Mississippi Tennis Association Junior Tennis Council and the Ranking Committee will determine the appropriate levels of the events considered for MTA junior standings and rankings each year. Following are the event levels for 2018:

MS Level 1: MS JR Qualifying Closed State Championship, Southern Jr Cup

MS Level 2: Southern Closed Championships, Designated tournaments, USTA Level 1 STA tournaments,

MS Level 3: All MS State Junior Championships, all STA Level 2-4 tournaments.

MS Level 4: All other MTA junior tournaments STA 5 junior tournaments

MS Level 5: All Mississippi Junior Future/Novice tournaments

MS Level 6: Grand Prix sanctioned tournaments

FUTURE RANKING REGULATIONS

- Future rankings will be computed on the Points Per Round System.
- All future and Grand Prix tournaments will be Level 5 events. (See Point Charts .pdf)
- To play in a 12-18 division future tournament a Player must not have received a 1-40 Junior Competition Standing list rank in the month prior to entering the tournament.
In the 12-18 age division,
- 1-40 State standings list players may not play outside their age division in Futures.
- To play in a 10's age division future tournament a player must not have received a 1-20 Junior Competition Standing list rank in the month prior to entering the tournament. In the 10's age division, 1-20 standings list players may not play outside their age division. (No playing up a division)
- Green Dot non-compression tennis balls will be used in all 12U future tournaments. (Tournament Directors can have the option of 12U Green Dot division and/or a 12U yellow ball division or both)
- Bonus points will not be awarded.
- There are no tie-break procedures for a year-end ranking.
- These regulations apply to both doubles and singles.
- Futures tournaments do not count toward a junior competition standings list or ranking list.
- Year-end rankings will be calculated on a player's best two (2) tournament results.
- Players must earn a minimum of two (2) ranking points during the calendar year for a final ranking.
- The MTA Points Per Round information is at wwwmstennis.com.
- MTA Futures Tournaments are designated in the Title of the Tournament

SPECIAL INTEREST TO JUNIORS

Junior Scheduling Guidelines are published in 2018 Friend at Court (.pdf) and can be purchased for \$10 at the MTA office.

Juniors playing in the 10's, 12's, and 14's divisions should be allowed "if possible a minimum of twelve (12) 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 for all ages and divisions but is not mandatory for referees and tournament committee and directors.

Players should never be required to begin matches before 7 a.m. or later than 10 pm. In the 10's, 12's, and 14's divisions no match should start nor should a suspended match be resumed after 8 pm (whenever possible). Please note since most of the tournaments are weekend tournaments the Tournament Committee can do everything the they can to complete the tournament in a timely fashion by playing more matches and switching formats.

RANKINGS AND STANDINGS

- Junior Standings Lists will be updated weekly.
- These lists will be based on the past twelve (12) months tournament play, and will consist of the players' best 6 singles and doubles results.
- The standing lists should be checked against the player's personal record and the MTA notified in writing of any errors or omissions.
- Corrections may not be reflected until the next update of standings.
- The year-end Final Rankings will be published when all results are available for the tournament year, and based on the results from January 1 through December 15. The lists will include only results in the age group in which the points were earned.
- The Final Rankings will be based on the six (6) best results of which a mandatory (3) must be Mississippi based MS L1-MS L3-STA 2-5 tournament results during the year and will include anyone who was age eligible at any time during the year and who met the required ranking requirements.
- There will be no appeal to standings except in the event of an error on the player record.
- No appeal will be accepted after December 21st .