

Why is a New Wheelchair Tournament Structure Needed?

For the last few years, USTA wheelchair tournaments have had a few challenges. As a result, it was important to develop a new structure aimed at helping to increase participation across all levels and divisions of play, while at the same time, making it easier for tournament directors to run events. The goals of the new structure are to create more play opportunities for wheelchair athletes with larger draw sizes, move to more play friendly formats, and allow tournament directors to run events easily, making them able to retain and attract new tournament providers.

What Will The New Wheelchair Alignment Accomplish?

- Create one national system for wheelchair tournament play
- Provide a variety of play opportunities in various formats
- Encourage cross-section/district play for player convenience
- Create improved national rankings
- Smooth the transition from junior to adult wheelchair tournament play
- Provide a nomenclature for players at all levels to understand
- Alleviate system complexities experienced by tournament directors & staff
- Vastly improve marketing opportunities as a result of the standardization and simplification of the new structure
- Introduce the ability to suggest system requirements for a new software solution to ensure ease and simplicity

2021 Tournament Alignment Structure

	Level 5	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
Event Duration	Up to 1 day	Up to 3 days	Up to 3 days	Up to 3 days	Up to 4 days
Geographic Level	Section/District	Section/District	National/Section closed	National	National
Draw Formats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round robin (with or without playoff) • Compass draw 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round robin (with or without playoff) • Compass draw • FICQ • FIC16 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round robin (with or without playoff) • Compass draw • FICQ • FIC16 • FMLC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round robin (with or without playoff) • Compass draw • FICQ • FIC16 • FMLC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round robin (with or without playoff) • Compass draw • FICQ • FIC16 • FMLC
Scoring Formats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best of three short sets (7pt tiebreak in lieu of the 3rd) • One short set (5pt tiebreak played at 3 games all) • Timed matches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 game pro-set • Best of three short sets (7pt tiebreak in lieu of 3rd) • Best of three short sets (5pt tiebreak played at 3-games all) • Best of three tie-break sets (10pt tiebreak in lieu of 3rd) • No ad can be used across all levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 game pro-set • Best of three short sets (5pt tiebreak played at 3-games all) • Best of three tiebreak sets • Best of three tie-break sets (10pt tiebreak in lieu of 3rd) • No ad can be used across all levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 game pro-set • Best of three short sets (5pt tiebreak played at 3-games all) • Best of three tiebreak sets • Best of three tie-break sets (10pt tiebreak in lieu of 3rd) • No ad can be used across all levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 game pro-set • Best of three short sets (5pt tiebreak played at 3-games all) • Best of three tiebreak sets • Best of three tie-break sets (10pt tiebreak in lieu of 3rd) • No ad can be used across all levels.

** Sections have the option to change the scoring and draw format based on their section parameters

How is the New Alignment Going to Work?

- The major change will be the movement to new gender neutral divisions. For USTA tournaments, players will only be able to compete in A, B, C and D divisions or in juniors, which will apply for both singles and doubles.
- An eligibility document will be released prior to the start of 2021 in which players will be informed of their division eligibility. There will also be a formal appeal process.
- We will only require a move-up obligation to be determined at the end of each year. If players want to move down, they can appeal. With the new points system, players should be placed appropriately moving forward.

Starting 2021, players will have the opportunity to:

- Earn points per win and points per round based on the tournament level played.
- Earn points while playing locally.
- Enter tournaments in any section and earn national points for the national standings list.

The following wheelchair divisions will be ranked:

TOURNAMENT RANKED DIVISIONS	
DIVISION	AGE GROUP
A,B,C,D	18 & OVER
Juniors	18 & UNDER
Men's, Women's, Quad Open (Professional Divisions)	18 & OVER