



# USTA Wheelchair Tournament, Ranking & Sanctioning Regulations As of December 5, 2023

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## I. GENERAL

These Regulations apply to USTA Wheelchair National Tournaments and Section and District Wheelchair Ranking tournaments all of which count for wheelchair ranking. Any authority delegated by these Regulations to the USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee, the USTA Adult Tennis Department, or any other person or entity stated herein, unless otherwise stated, may not be delegated to a different authority.

- A. Name.** The USTA Board of Directors has approved the adoption of these rules and regulations that will be known as the USTA WHEELCHAIR TOURNAMENT, RANKING, AND SANCTIONING REGULATIONS.
- B. Governance.** The USTA WHEELCHAIR TOURNAMENT, RANKING, AND SANCTIONING REGULATIONS apply to all USTA Wheelchair Tournaments, the process by which certain national USTA Wheelchair Ranking Tournaments are sanctioned, and Wheelchair rankings. USTA Constitution and Bylaws, FRIEND AT COURT - *The USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations*, apply to all matches played in USTA Wheelchair Ranking Tournaments (unless modified by these USTA WHEELCHAIR TOURNAMENT, RANKING, AND SANCTIONING REGULATIONS). In any match played without officials, the USTA official publication, THE CODE, will be observed. The USTA Point Penalty System and the USTA Suspension Point System will be used.
- C. Waiver of Regulations.** Except where a waiver is specifically permitted herein or by **USTA Regulation XX**, no USTA WHEELCHAIR TOURNAMENT, RANKING, AND SANCTIONING REGULATION may be waived.
- D. Amendments.** These USTA WHEELCHAIR TOURNAMENT, RANKING, AND SANCTIONING REGULATIONS may be amended by the USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee upon the recommendation of a Wheelchair Regulations Subcommittee. The Wheelchair Regulations Subcommittee is comprised of members appointed by the Chair of the USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee. Proposed amendments are subject to review and comment by the Office of General Counsel and Chair of the Constitution and Rules Committee prior to adoption. Each amendment must be in writing and forwarded to the USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee and the Executive Directors of each Sectional Association at least 21 days before any meeting of the USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee at which the amendment will be considered. Unless otherwise specified, amendments will become effective on January 1 following the year of adoption.
- E. Conforming Change.** If the Chair and the Staff Member of the USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee jointly request that a change be made to the USTA WHEELCHAIR TOURNAMENT, RANKING, AND SANCTIONING REGULATIONS, the Office of General Counsel may authorize the change if it:
  - Conforms with the USTA Constitution, USTA Bylaws, **ITF Rules of Tennis**, and **USTA Regulations**;
  - Makes language and stylistic changes;
  - Promotes clarity;
  - Eliminates ambiguity;
  - Corrects a mistake; or

- Provides additional guidance.

- F. Glossary of Terms.** For purposes of these Regulations, certain words and phrases are defined in a glossary included herein. This glossary has been prepared as a reference to many terms included in these Regulations. The definitions provided have been drawn from these Regulations and, in some cases, other documents published by the USTA.
- G. Non-Discrimination.** Discrimination in USTA Wheelchair Ranking Tournaments is prohibited as specified in the USTA Constitution, USTA Bylaws and **USTA Regulations**.

## II. USTA WHEELCHAIR DIVISIONS

- A. Ranking Divisions.** Annually the USTA will sanction tournaments in the following Wheelchair Divisions and results from these divisions will count for Wheelchair ranking:
1. *Adult Men's, Women's and Quad Open Divisions.*
  2. *Adult Letter Divisions.*
    - Coed A;
    - Coed B;
    - Coed C; and
    - Coed D.As a group, the Coed A, Coed B, Coed C, Coed D Divisions are also known as the Adult Letter Divisions. If two or more Adult Letter Divisions are combined into one event in a tournament, the event will be designated as the higher Adult Letter Division.
  3. *Junior Letter Divisions.*
    - Junior 18 Coed A;
    - Junior 18 Coed B;As a group, the Junior 18 Coed A and Junior 18 Coed B Divisions are also known as the Junior Letter Divisions. If the two Junior Letter Divisions are combined into one event in a tournament, the event will be designated as the higher Junior Letter Division.
- As a group, the Adult Letter Divisions and the Junior Letter Divisions are also known as the Letter Divisions.
- B. Non-Ranking Divisions.** Non-ranking Wheelchair tournaments may be held. When non-ranking Junior Wheelchair tournaments are held, they will be run pursuant to the USTA Net Generation Pathway Regulations, *except that* the requirements of the Net Generation PlayTracker do not apply. When Junior Wheelchair non-ranking tournaments with age restrictions are held, players must meet the minimum age restriction by December 31 of the year during which the division is scheduled to start.

## III. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

- A. Membership.** All players, including non-U.S. citizens, are required to be members of the USTA in order to play in the USTA Wheelchair tournaments listed in **Regulation VI.** and the Section and District Wheelchair Ranking Tournaments listed in **Regulation VII.**
- B. Junior Letter Divisions.**
1. *Age.* The USTA month-of-birth age eligibility requirements set forth in **USTA Regulation I.G.3.a.** apply to Junior Wheelchair tournaments in the Junior Letter Divisions and any non-ranking division.
  2. *Net Generation PlayTracker Does Not Apply.* The Net Generation PlayTracker sets the requirements to be met by a player under the age of 11 to compete in Junior Circuit Events and junior ranking tournaments that use a yellow ball. These requirements do not apply to participation in the Junior Letter Divisions. However, if a junior wheelchair tennis player competes in a non-wheelchair tennis division, the requirements of the Net Generation PlayTracker apply.
- C. Citizenship Not Required.** All Wheelchair tournaments are open to citizens and non-citizens.
- D. Power Wheelchairs.** A player who uses a power wheelchair for the majority of his or her day-to-day mobility may use a power wheelchair to play tennis.
- E. Criteria for Entering Certain Wheelchair Divisions.** The USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee, in consultation with the USTA Adult Tennis Department, determines the restrictions on players with ITF rankings from entering Letter Divisions and the requirements for players to move up to a higher Letter Division.
1. *Restrictions on players with ITF rankings from entering Letter Divisions.* The restrictions on players with ITF rankings from entering Letter Divisions will be published in **Table 1.** These restrictions are based on the most recently published ITF rankings as of the tournament entry deadline.

<b>TABLE 1</b>	
<b>Restrictions on Players with ITF Rankings from Entering Letter Divisions</b>	
<i>ITF singles rankings determine eligibility for Letter Division singles events; ITF doubles rankings determine eligibility for Letter division doubles events.</i>	
<b>A. Men's Open Division</b>	
Players with Men's ITF rankings as of the tournament entry deadline are restricted from entering certain Letter Divisions as follows:	
<b><u>ITF Ranking</u></b>	<b><u>Division</u></b>
1-100	Ineligible for Letter Division
101- or Lower	Eligible for Coed A
<b>B. Women's Open Division</b>	
Players with Women's ITF rankings as of the tournament entry deadline are restricted from entering certain Letter Divisions as follows:	
<b><u>ITF Ranking</u></b>	<b><u>Division</u></b>
1-10	Ineligible for Letter Division
11-75	Eligible for Coed A Division
76- or Lower	Eligible for Coed A and Coed B Divisions
<b>C. Quad Open Division</b>	
Players with Quad ITF rankings as of the tournament entry deadline are restricted from entering certain Letter Divisions as follows:	
<b><u>ITF Ranking</u></b>	<b><u>Division</u></b>
1-5	Ineligible for Letter Division
6-50	Eligible for Coed A Division
51- or Lower	Eligible for Coed A and Coed B Divisions
<b>D. Junior 18 Coed B Division</b>	
Players with a Junior ITF Wheelchair rankings, a Men's ITF Wheelchair ranking, a Women's ITF Wheelchair ranking, and/or a Quad ITF ranking as of the tournament entry deadline are restricted from entering the Junior 18 Coed B Division.	

2. *Letter Division Eligibility Lists.* The Letter Division Eligibility Lists will be used to determine the eligibility of players to enter and play in the Letter Divisions.
- a. *Publication dates.*
- i. *Preliminary Letter Division Eligibility Lists.* The USTA Adult Tennis Department will publish a preliminary Letter Division Eligibility Lists for each of the Letter Divisions no later than a date that will be determined by the Department. Players will appear on only one List at the lowest Letter Division they are eligible to play.

**Regulation III.E.2.a.i. Comment:** The Preliminary Letter Division Eligibility Lists will be published no later than January 17.

- ii. *Final Letter Division Eligibility Lists.* As soon as possible after all appeals made in accordance with **Regulation III.E.2.e.** have been decided, the USTA Adult Tennis Department will publish the final Letter Division Eligibility Lists for all divisions that have been updated to reflect the successful appeals.
- b. *Criteria for Adult Letter Division Eligibility Lists.* The final published National Standings List of the year that includes results from all tournaments played between January 1 and December 31 of that year will be used to create the Adult Letter Division Eligibility Lists *except* as set forth below:
- i. *Players with ITF Rankings.* Players with ITF rankings that are eligible to play in an Adult Letter Division will be removed from the Adult Letter Division Eligibility Lists because Adult Letter Division eligibility can change based on the publication of new ITF ranking lists during the year.
- ii. *Top players required to play higher Adult Letter Division.* Subject to the appeals process set forth in **Regulation III.E.2.e.**, players who meet the criteria set forth in **Table 2** will be listed on a higher Adult Letter Division Eligibility List.

**TABLE 2**  
**Criteria for Playing a Higher Adult Letter Division**

The National Standings List used for the calculations described below will be those Lists set forth in **Regulation III.E.2.b.**, *except that* any player that appears on the list with only Participation Points and Points Per Round earned because of a withdrawal, walkover, default, or disqualification will be removed from the list before the percentages are calculated.

- All players who are listed within the top 5% of the National Standings List of the Adult Coed D Division (rounded to the nearest number) will appear on the Adult Coed C Eligibility List and removed from the Adult Coed D Eligibility List.
- All players who are listed within the top 5% of the National Standings List of the Adult Coed C Division (rounded to the nearest number) will appear on the Adult Coed B Eligibility List and removed from the Adult Coed C Eligibility List.
- All players who are listed within top 5% of the National Standings List of the Adult Coed B Division (rounded to the nearest number) will appear on the Adult Coed A Eligibility List and be removed from the Adult Coed B Eligibility List.

If a player appears in the top 5% of more than one division's National Standings List, the player will appear on the highest Adult Letter Division Eligibility List.

- c. *Criteria for Junior Letter Division Eligibility Lists.* The final published National Standings List of the year that includes results from all tournaments played between January 1 and December 31 of that year will be used to create a Junior Letter Division Eligibility Lists for each Junior Letter Division, *except that*, subject to the appeals process set forth in **Regulation III.E.2.e.**, players who meet the criteria set forth in **Table 3** will be listed on a higher Junior Letter Division Eligibility List.

**TABLE 3**  
**Criteria for Playing a Higher Junior Letter Division**

The National Standings List used for the calculations described below will be those Lists set forth in **Regulation III.E.2.c.**, *except that* any player that appears on the list with only Participation Points and Points Per Round earned because of a withdrawal, walkover, default, or disqualification will be removed from the list before the percentages are calculated.

Annually the USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee will determine the number or percentage of top players on the National Standings List of the Junior 18 Coed B Division (rounded to the nearest number) who will appear on the Junior 18 Coed A Eligibility List and be removed from the Junior 18 Coed B Eligibility List.

- d. *Eligibility effective date.* Players are required to play in the Letter Division to which they have been assigned on the preliminary Letter Division Eligibility Lists or in a higher Letter Division for all tournaments with entry deadlines on or after the date the preliminary Letter Division Eligibility Lists are published. Players that appeal their placement on a Letter Division Eligibility List must continue to play in the Letter Division assigned by the Letter Division Eligibility List or higher until the appeal is ruled upon.
- e. *Appeal.* Any appeal of a player's placement on a Letter Division Eligibility List must be made in writing and in the form designated by the USTA Adult Tennis Department. Appeals must be sent by first class certified mail (return receipt requested) to the Wheelchair Letter Division Appeals Subcommittee c/o USTA Adult Tennis Department, USTA National Campus, 10000 USTA Boulevard, Orlando, FL 32827. The deadline for submitting appeals will be set by the USTA Adult Tennis Department and published to the USTA website. The appeal must include a statement as to why the player is appealing. Absent good cause shown, any appeal is barred unless it is mailed by the published appeal deadline. The Wheelchair Letter Division Appeals Subcommittee will be comprised of the Chair, Vice Chair, and Staff Member of the USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee. The Wheelchair Letter Division Appeals Subcommittee will rule on the appeal within 21 days of the receipt of the appeal. The player must continue to play in the Letter Division required by the preliminary Letter Division Eligibility List until the appeal is ruled upon. Appeal decisions are final.

**Regulation III.E.2.e. Comment:** The deadline for submitting appeals is January 27.

- f. *Inaugural Junior Letter Division Eligibility Lists.* On January 17, 2024, the Inaugural Junior Letter Division Eligibility Lists will be created as described in **Table 4**.

**TABLE 4**  
**Inaugural Junior Letter Division Eligibility Lists**

Beginning in 2024, the Junior 18 Coed A and Coed B Divisions will replace the Junior 18 Coed Divisions. All players that appear on National Standings List as of December 6, 2023 in the Junior 18 Coed Division will be placed on a Junior 18 Coed A or a Junior 18 Coed B list to be known as the Preliminary Inaugural Junior Letter Division Eligibility Lists ("Preliminary Lists").

Placement on the Preliminary Lists will be done by a subcommittee comprised of the Chair, Vice Chair and Staff Member of the USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee, at least one additional member of the USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee appointed by the Chair, and at least one additional USTA staff member. The total number of members of this subcommittee will be an odd number. The Preliminary Lists will be published in December 2023 on a date determined by this subcommittee.

Players who object to their placement on a Preliminary List may submit a request to the committee for reconsideration. Requests must be submitted by email to [wheelchairappeal@usta.com](mailto:wheelchairappeal@usta.com) no later than a deadline published at the time the Preliminary Lists are published, which deadline will give players no less than 5 days from the date of publication to submit the request for reconsideration.

The subcommittee will consider all requests before publishing the Inaugural Junior Letter Division Eligibility List on January 17, 2024.

Players may appeal their placement on the Inaugural Junior Letter Division Eligibility Lists as set forth in **Regulation III.E.2.d.**

- F. Residency.** Closed Section Level 3 Wheelchair Tournaments require players to be residents within the geographic boundaries of the Sectional Association that has been authorized to sanction the tournament. Residency is determined as set forth in **Regulation IV.** Tournaments between teams representing Sectional or District Associations require players to be residents within the geographic boundaries of the respective Sectional or District Association to play on a team.

#### **IV. RESIDENCY**

Residency shall determine the Wheelchair players who may play in Closed Section Level 3 Wheelchair Tournaments and the Wheelchair players who may be selected to represent a Sectional Association or District Association in a team competition.

- A. Declaration of Residency by Wheelchair Players Living Within the Geographic Boundaries of the USTA.** A player residing within the geographic boundaries of the USTA must declare residency for the purposes of playing in Wheelchair tournaments. A player may be the resident of one Sectional Association and, if applicable, one District Association within the geographic boundaries only of the declared Sectional Association at any given time.
- Unless otherwise declared, a player's Section residency shall be the Sectional Association assigned through USTA membership and which is based on the geographic boundaries set forth in the USTA Bylaws.
  - USTA members who reside in British Columbia and who meet the eligibility criteria of **USTA Regulation XIII.C.2.** shall be deemed to be residents of the USTA Pacific Northwest Section.
  - If applicable, and unless otherwise declared, a player's District residency shall be the District Association assigned through USTA membership and which is based on the geographic boundaries assigned to the District Association in the Sectional Association's Bylaws.
  - In the case of a junior Wheelchair player, the physical address of a player's legal guardian may be the basis for a player's declaration of residency if the player is residing with that legal guardian.
  - In the case of a junior Wheelchair player, the physical address of a boarding school, including a tennis academy, may be the basis for a player's declaration of residency if the player is enrolled and residing at the school or academy.
  - Players may declare a different Section and District residency no more than once each calendar year.

**Regulation IV.A. Comment:** If a player desires to change residency more than once per calendar year, the player must request a waiver from the USTA Regulations. See **USTA Regulation XX.**

- B. Declaration of Residency by US Citizens Living Abroad.** A Wheelchair player who is a US citizen living abroad may declare residency by submission of a request for an assignment to a specific Sectional Association and, if applicable, a specific District Association, within the boundaries of that Sectional Association.

**C. Form of Declaration.** A Wheelchair player electing to declare residency in a Sectional Association or District Association other than the Sectional Association or District Association assigned through USTA membership must complete the official USTA Declaration Form.

**V. NATIONAL STANDINGS LIST**

- A. Criteria and Publication of National Standings Lists.** The USTA will publish National Standings Lists in each ranking division listed in **Regulation II.A.** The USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee determines the criteria for the National Standings Lists and the frequency of publication. The criteria will be published in **Table 5.**
- B. Procedure for Selecting Teams Using National Standings Lists.** When a doubles draw size is limited, teams will be selected using the most recently published individual doubles National Standing List of the Division. Teams will be selected in the order of their combined individual standings (For example, Player A holds the #1 standing and Player B holds the #10 standing. The Team of A&B would have the combined standing of #11). If there is a tie, the team with the player that has the highest individual doubles standing on the list must be selected 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 individual doubles National Standing List.

**TABLE 5  
National Standings List (NSL) Criteria**

**Eligibility Criteria to Appear on a National Standings List**

- Players must have a current USTA membership.
- Players must reside within the geographic boundaries of the USTA or be Canadian citizens and landed Canadian immigrants who reside in British Columbia, *provided that* they were USTA members for at least one month during 2010 and so long as they do not allow their USTA memberships to lapse for a period of more than six months.
- Players must have accumulated at least 1 ranking point during the previous 52-week period (the "NSL Rolling Period").
- Players are not required to meet the citizenship/certain alien eligibility requirements to appear on an NSL.

**NSL Calculation**

National Standings Lists will be calculated using the same method used to calculate ranking lists as described in **Regulation IX.E.7.**, *except that* the NSL Rolling Period is used.

**Breaking Ties**

The order of the NSL is based on ranking points earned during the previous NSL Rolling Period. When more than one player has the same number of total ranking points, tie-breaks on an NSL will be determined in the following order:

1. Most total points earned in tournaments assigned as a Level 1 Ranking Tournament
2. Most total points earned in tournaments assigned as a Level 2 Ranking Tournament
3. Most total points earned in tournaments assigned as a Level 3 Ranking Tournament
4. Most total points earned in tournaments assigned as a Level 4 Ranking Tournament
5. Most total points earned in tournaments assigned as a Level 5 Ranking Tournament

See **Regulation IX.E.2.** for tournaments assigned to each Level.

**NSLs for Closed Section Level 3 Wheelchair Tournaments**

When National Standings Lists are used to select players for Closed Section Level 3 Wheelchair Tournaments, the lists will be filtered to only list players who are residents of the Sectional Association.

**Publication of National Standings Lists**

The USTA will publish National Standings Lists at least monthly in each ranking division listed in **Regulation II.A.**

**VI. USTA NATIONAL WHEELCHAIR RANKING TOURNAMENTS**

- A. Overview of Wheelchair National Tournament Schedule.** Annually the USTA will publish the National Wheelchair Tournament Schedule, which will include the following USTA Wheelchair National Tournaments:
1. *USTA Level 1 Wheelchair National Championships.* The USTA will sanction up to four USTA Level 1 Wheelchair National Championship in each of the ranking divisions set forth in **USTA Regulation II.A.** These tournaments may be held on any surface.

**Regulation IV.A.1. Comment:** Only one USTA Level 1 Wheelchair National Championship in each ranking division will award the USTA's gold, silver, and bronze balls each year. See **Regulation VI.B.** below.

2. *USTA Level 2 Wheelchair National Tournaments.* Annually the USTA is authorized to sanction USTA Level 2 Wheelchair National Tournaments in each of the ranking divisions set forth in **Regulation II.A.** The number of tournaments sanctioned will be determined by the USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee in consultation with the USTA Adult Tennis Department.
  3. *USTA Level 3 Wheelchair National Tournaments.* Annually the USTA is authorized to sanction USTA Level 3 Wheelchair National Tournaments in each of the ranking divisions set forth in **Regulation II.A.** The number of tournaments sanctioned will be determined by the USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee in consultation with the USTA Adult Tennis Department.
  4. *ITF Wheelchair Tournaments.* The USTA Adult Tennis Department determines criteria for selecting ITF wheelchair tournaments to be placed on the National Wheelchair Tournament Schedule.
- B. Gold, Silver, and Bronze Balls.** Annually, gold balls will be awarded to the winners, silver balls to the runners-up, and bronze balls to the third place finishers of one USTA Level 1 Wheelchair National Championship in each ranking division designated by the USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee.
- C. Seeding.** The USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee determines the seeding criteria and procedure for USTA Wheelchair National Tournaments (*except* tournaments, which are governed by ITF tournament regulations). The seeding criteria and procedure is published in **Table 6.** The National Manager of Wheelchair Tennis or the National Manager's designee shall seed each tournament.

**TABLE 6**  
**Seeding Criteria for USTA Wheelchair National Tournaments**

**A. USTA Level 1 National Wheelchair Championships - Adult Divisions**

The Computerized List Method of seeding as described in **USTA Regulation II.A.4.a.** will be used to seed USTA Level 1 National Wheelchair Championships in the Letter Divisions as follows:

- **Singles:** Seeding will be done using the most recently published singles National Standings List of the Division.
- **Doubles:** Seeding will be done by using the most recently published doubles National Standings List of the Division. Teams will be seeded in the order of their combined standings (For example, Player A holds the #1 standing and Player B holds the #10 standing. The Team of A&B would have the combined standing of 11). 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.

**B. USTA Level 1 National Wheelchair Championships - Junior Divisions**

The most recently published National Standing List of the division will be used as a starting point for determining seeding. Players with ITF Junior Wheelchair Rankings must also be considered for seeding.

**C. USTA Level 2 and Level 3 National Wheelchair Tournaments**

The Tournament Committee determines whether the Computerized List Method of seeding as described in **USTA Regulation II.A.4.a.** or the All Factors Method of seeding as described in **USTA Regulation II.A.4.b.** will be used. When the Computerized List Method of seeding is used, the procedure described in Section A. of **Table 6** will be followed.

**D. Scheduling.**

1. *Limit on number of matches per day.* The scheduling guidelines in **USTA Regulation II.D.9.** and **Table 9** of the **USTA Regulations** are mandatory for all USTA Wheelchair National Tournaments, except that they do not apply to tournaments that are required to use the ITF regulations.
2. *Order of play.* Rounds in the main draw should take precedence over consolation rounds, except that a player may be required to play one consolation singles match before the main draw doubles match. For example, the second consolation singles of the day for any player should be scheduled after the main draw doubles each day.

**E. Shortening Tournaments.** In the event of inclement weather, health concerns, or safety concerns, the Referee may use a match format not previously authorized for use at a USTA Wheelchair National Tournament. All matches in each round must be played with the same match format. Note, however, the shortening of tournaments sanctioned by the ITF are controlled by the ITF regulations.

**F. USTA Level 1 Wheelchair National Championships.**

1. *Duration.* The tournament may not exceed four days. Players may not make up matches after the last sanctioned day of the tournament without prior written approval of the USTA Adult Tennis

Department.

2. *Draw size.* The draw size will not be limited, *unless* the USTA Wheelchair Committee specifies a draw limit when the tournament is sanctioned.
3. *Draw format.*
  - a. *Formats permitted when gold, silver, and bronze balls awarded.* The draw will be one of the following formats:
    - One round robin of no more than five players;
    - Multiple round robins of no more than four players per round robin with a playoff that includes a method to determine the 3rd place finisher, the format of the playoff which will be determined by the Tournament Committee, *except that* each playoff bracket may have no more than four players;
    - Compass draw with a playoff for 3rd place;
    - Feed-In Championship through the quarterfinals, which may include a playoff for 3rd place;
    - Feed-In Championship through the round of 16, which may include a quarterfinal playoff for 5th place and/or a playoff for 3rd place; or
    - First Match Consolation, which may include a playoff for 3rd place.When a 3rd place and/or 5th place playoff is optional, the Tournament Committee will determine whether the playoff will be held. Additionally, the single elimination draw format may be used for doubles events when singles events are offered as part of the same tournament.
  - b. *Formats permitted when gold, silver, and bronze balls not awarded.* The draw will be one of the following formats:
    - One round robin;
    - Multiple round robins with a playoff, the format of the playoff which will be determined by the Tournament Committee;
    - Compass draw, which may include a playoff for 3rd place;
    - Feed-In Championship through the quarterfinals, which may include a playoff for 3rd place;
    - Feed-In Championship through the round of 16, which may include a quarterfinal playoff for 5th place and/or a playoff for 3rd place; or
    - First Match Consolation, which may include a playoff for 3rd place.When a 3rd place and/or 5th place playoff is optional, the Tournament Committee will determine whether the playoff is held. Additionally, the single elimination draw format may be used for doubles events when singles events are offered as part of the same tournament.
  - c. *Separating event into multiple draws.* An event may not be separated into more than one draw, *unless* the round robin with a playoff format is used. When such format is used, players will be waterfalled.
4. *Match format.* No-Ad scoring may be used. The match format must be any of the following:
  - Best of 3 Tiebreak sets;
  - Best of 3 Tiebreak sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of the 3rd set;
  - Best of 3 short sets (with a 5-Point Short Set Tiebreak played at 3-games all); or
  - 8-game pro set with a 7-Point Tiebreak at 8 games all.

**Regulation VI.F.4. Comment:** The 5-Point Short Set Tiebreak procedure is described in **Appendix V.2.** of the **ITF Rules of Tennis**. The first player/team to win five points wins the set, with a deciding point if the score reaches four points all.

5. *Selection.*
  - a. *Singles draws.* When singles draws are 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, *except that*, if authorized by the USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee, wild cards may be awarded.

**Regulation VI.F.5. Comment:** The USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee has authorize awarding up to two wild cards for USTA Level 1 Wheelchair National Championship in the Junior 18 Coed A Division that awards USTA gold, silver, and bronze balls.

The Wild Card Committee shall be comprised of the Chair, Vice Chair and Staff Member of the USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee, one additional member of the USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee, and a USTA national wheelchair coach.

- b. *Doubles draws.* When doubles draws are limited, teams will be selected (and alternates will be ordered) using the procedure described in **Regulation V.B.**

#### **G. USTA Level 2 Wheelchair National Tournaments.**



1. *Duration.* The tournament may not exceed four days. Players may not make up matches after the last sanctioned day of the tournament without prior written approval of the USTA Adult Tennis Department.
2. *Draw size.* The draw size will not be limited, *unless* the USTA Wheelchair Committee specifies a draw limit when the tournament is sanctioned.
3. *Draw format.*
  - a. *Formats permitted.* The draw will be one of the following formats:
    - One round robin of no more than five players;
    - Multiple round robins of no more than four players per round robin with a playoff, the format of the playoff which will be determined by the Tournament Committee, *except that* each playoff bracket may have no more than four players;
    - Feed-In Championship through the quarterfinals, which may include a playoff for 3rd place;
    - Feed-In Championship through the round of 16, which may include a quarterfinal playoff for 5th place and/or a playoff for 3rd place; or
    - First Match Consolation, which may include a playoff for 3rd place.

When a 3rd place and/or 5th place playoff is optional, the Tournament Committee will determine whether the playoff will be held. Additionally, the single elimination draw format may be used for doubles events when singles events are offered as part of the same tournament.
  - b. *Separating event into multiple draws.* An event may not be separated into more than one draw, *unless* the round robin with a playoff format is used. When such format is used, players will be waterfalled.
4. *Match format.* The match format must be one of the formats set forth in **Regulation VI.F.4.**
5. *Selection.*
  - a. *Singles draws.* When singles draws are 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; and
  - b. *Doubles draws.* When doubles draws are limited, teams will be selected (and alternates will be ordered) using the procedure described in **Regulation V.B.**

#### **H. USTA Level 3 Wheelchair National Tournaments.**

1. *Duration.* The tournament may not exceed three days. Players may not make up matches after the last sanctioned day of the tournament without prior written approval of the USTA Adult Tennis Department.
2. *Draw size.* The draw size will not be limited, *unless* the USTA Wheelchair Committee specifies a draw limit when the tournament is sanctioned.
3. *Draw format.* The draw format will be one of the formats set forth in **Regulation VI.G.3.**
4. *Match format.* The match format will be one of the formats set forth in **Regulation VI.F.4.**
5. *Selection.*
  - a. *Singles draws.* When singles draws are 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; and
  - b. *Doubles draws.* When doubles draws are limited, teams will be selected (and alternates will be ordered) using the procedure described in **Regulation V.B.**

#### **VII. SECTION AND DISTRICT WHEELCHAIR RANKING TOURNAMENTS**

Annually each Sectional Association is authorized to sanction or cause to be sanctioned by its District Associations the tournaments described below in each of the ranking divisions listed in **Regulation II.A.**

**A. Closed Section Level 3 Wheelchair Tournaments.** Annually, each Sectional Association is authorized to sanction up to one Closed Section Level 3 Wheelchair Tournament in each division. Closed Section Level 3 Wheelchair Tournaments are limited to residents of the Sectional Association. Responsibility for sanctioning Closed Section Level 3 Wheelchair Tournaments may not be delegated to District Associations. These Closed Section Level 3 Wheelchair Tournaments must conform to the following parameters:

1. *Duration.* The tournament may not exceed more than three days. Players may not make up matches after the last sanctioned day of the tournament without prior written approval of the Sectional Association.
2. *Draw size.* The draw size will not be limited, *unless* the Sectional Association specifies a draw limit when the tournament is sanctioned.
3. *Draw format.* The draw format will be one of the formats set forth in **Regulation VI.G.3.**
4. *Match format.* The match format will be one of the formats set forth in **Regulation VI.F.4.**
5. *Selection.*

- a. *Singles draws.* When singles draws are 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 that has been filtered to include only those players who are residents of the Sectional Association; and
  - b. *Doubles draws.* When doubles draws are limited, teams will be selected (and alternates will be ordered) using the procedure described in **Regulation V.B.**, *except that* the National Standings List will be filtered to include only players who are residents of the Sectional Association.
6. *Seeding.* The Sectional Association determines whether the Computerized List Method of seeding as described in **USTA Regulation II.A.4.a.** or the All Factors Method of seeding as described in **USTA Regulation II.A.4.b.** will be used, or whether the Tournament Committee will choose from among the two methods. When the Computerized List Method of seeding is used, the procedure set forth in Section A. of **Table 6** will be followed.

**B. Section and District Level 4 Wheelchair Tournaments.** Annually, each Sectional Association is authorized to sanction one or more Section Level 4 Wheelchair Tournaments. The total number of Section Level 4 Wheelchair Tournaments sanctioned in each ranking division should be less than the number of Section and District Level 5 Wheelchair Tournaments sanctioned in each ranking division. Section Level 4 Tournaments are open to residents of any Sectional Association. Sectional Associations with Districts may delegate the responsibility for holding some or all of these Section Level 4 Tournaments to the District Associations. When District Associations sanction Level 4 Tournaments, they are called District Level 4 Tournaments. Section and District Level 4 Tournaments must conform to the following parameters:

1. *Duration.* The tournament may not exceed three days. Players may not make up matches after the last sanctioned day of the tournament without prior written approval of the Sectional Association.
2. *Draw size.* The draw size will not be limited, *unless* the Sectional Association specifies a draw limit when the tournament is sanctioned.
3. *Draw format.*
  - a. *Formats permitted.* The draw will be one of the following formats:
    - One or more round robins of no more than five players;
    - Multiple round robins of no more than four players with a playoff, the format of which will be determined by the Sectional Association, *except that* each playoff bracket may have no more than four players;
    - Compass, which may include a playoff for 3rd place;
    - Feed-In Championship through the quarterfinals; a playoff for 3rd place may be held at the discretion of the Sectional Association or, in the case of a District Level 4 Wheelchair Tournament, this discretion may be delegated to a District Association;
    - Feed-In Championship through the round of 16; a quarterfinal playoff for 5th place and/or a playoff for 3rd place may be held at the discretion of the Sectional Association or, in the case of a District Level 4 Wheelchair Tournament, this discretion may be delegated to a District Association; or
    - First Match Consolation; a playoff for 3rd place may be held at the discretion of the Sectional Association or, in the case of a District Level 4 Wheelchair Tournament, this discretion may be delegated to a District Association.

Additionally, the single elimination draw format may be used for doubles events when singles events are offered as part of the same tournament.
  - b. *Separating event into multiple draws.* An event may be separated into more than one draw. When the round robin with a playoff format is used, players must be waterfalled. When any other draw format is used, players must be flighted.
4. *Match format.* No-Ad scoring may be used. The match format must be any of the following:
  - Best of 3 Tiebreak sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of the 3rd set;
  - Best of 3 short sets (with a 5-Point Short Set Tiebreak played at 3-games all);
  - Best of 3 short sets with a 7-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of the 3rd set (with a 5-Point Short Set Tiebreak played at 3-games all); or
  - 8-game pro set with a 7-Point Tiebreak at 8 games all.

**Regulation VII.B.4. Comment:** The 5-Point Short Set Tiebreak procedure is described in **Appendix V.2.** of the **ITF Rules of Tennis**. The first player/team to win five points wins the set, with a deciding point if the score reaches four points all.

5. *Selection.*
  - a. *Singles draws.* When singles draws are 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; and
- b. *Doubles draws*. When doubles draws are limited, teams will be selected (and alternates will be ordered) using the procedure described in **Regulation V.B.**
6. *Seeding*. Seeding will be as set forth in **Regulation VII.A.6.**

**C. Section and District Level 5 Wheelchair Tournaments.** Annually, each Sectional Association is authorized to sanction one or more Section Level 5 Wheelchair Tournaments. Section Level 5 Wheelchair Tournaments are open to residents of any Sectional Association. Sectional Associations with Districts may delegate the responsibility for holding some or all of these Section Level 5 Tournaments to the District Associations. When District Associations sanction Level 5 Wheelchair Tournaments, they are called District Level 5 Wheelchair Tournaments. Section and District Level 5 Wheelchair Tournaments must conform to the following parameters:

1. *Duration*. Players may not compete in the tournament for a period longer than one day. Players may not make up matches after the last sanctioned day of the tournament without prior written approval of the Sectional Association.
2. *Draw size*. The draw size will not be limited, *unless* the Sectional Association specifies a draw limit when the tournament is sanctioned.
3. *Draw format*.
  - a. *Formats permitted*. The draw will be one of the following formats:
    - One or more round robins of no more than five players;
    - Multiple round robins of no more than four players with a playoff, the format of which will be determined by the Sectional Association, *except that* each playoff bracket may have no more than four players; or
    - Compass draw, which may include a playoff for 3rd place.

Additionally, the single elimination draw format may be used for doubles events when singles events are offered as part of the same tournament.
  - b. *Separating event into multiple draws*. An event may be separated into more than one draw. When the round robin with a playoff format is used, players must be waterfalled. When any other draw format is used, players must be flighted.
4. *Match format*. No-Ad scoring may be used. The match format must be any of the following:
  - Best of 3 short sets with a 7-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of the 3rd set (with a 5-Point Short Set Tiebreak played at 3-games all); or
  - One short set with a 5-Point Set Tiebreak at 3 games all; or
  - Timed matches (game format) of 20 minutes or longer. This format consists of an ongoing set during which the players continue playing games until the end of the specified period of time. The player who has won the most completed games wins the match. If the game score is tied, the player ahead in the game in progress is the winner. If a game is not in progress or the score in the game in progress is tied, one final point is played to determine the winner. The player due to serve the next point serves the final point.

**Regulation VII.C.4. Comment:** The 5-Point Short Set Tiebreak procedure is described in **Appendix V.2.** of the **ITF Rules of Tennis**. The first player/team to win five points wins the set, with a deciding point if the score reaches four points all.

5. *Tournament Director Dual Role Permitted*. A Tournament Director of a Level 5 Tournament may also serve as Referee provided the Tournament Director has fulfilled the required training set forth by the USTA Officiating Department.

**Regulation VII.C.5. Comment #1:** When the Point Penalty System is in effect, the Tournament Director shall be responsible for reporting Code of Conduct violations and Suspension Reports.

**Regulation VII.C.5. Comment #2:** When a person serves as both Tournament Director and Referee, that person shall not be a member of the Tournament Appeals Committee. See **USTA Regulation I.D.**

6. *Selection*. Selection will be as set forth in **Regulation VII.B.5.**
7. *Seeding*. Seeding will be as set forth in **Regulation VII.A.6.**

## VIII. SPECIAL DRAW AND MATCH FORMAT PROVISIONS

**A. Determining Order of Finish When Round Robin Draw Format Played.** The player who wins the most matches is the winner. If 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 uses the steps set forth below that corresponds with

the match format played. The Referee uses the steps in the order listed and will break as many ties as possible using a given step before using the next step. Defaults, withdrawals, walkovers and retirements will be treated as set forth in **USTA Regulation II.B.6.d.**

1. *One short set and timed matches (game format).*
  - The head-to-head win-loss record in matches involving just the tied players;
  - 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;If all the steps have been applied and a tie still cannot be broken, a random drawing among the remaining tied players is done to determine their order of finish.
2. *All other match formats.* The Referee uses the steps set forth in **USTA Regulation II.B.6.c. and d.**

**B. Penalties for Lateness When Timed Matches (Game Format) of 20 Minutes or Longer Used.**

1. *Timed matches (game format) of 20 to 30 minutes.*
  - If one player or team is late 5 minutes or less: loss of toss plus 1 game;
  - If one player or team is late 5:01 - 10 minutes: loss of toss plus 1 game and 2 points;
  - If one player or team is late 10:01 - 15 minutes: Loss of toss plus 2 games;
  - If one player or team is late more than 15 minutes: default;
  - If both players or teams are equally late up to 15 minutes: no penalty;
  - If both players or teams are more than 15 minutes late: The Referee may default both players, or the Referee may reinstate the match using the principle in effect when both players are late but arrive at different times;
  - If both players or teams are late but arrive at different times: In singles, the penalty accrues when the first player arrives. In doubles, the penalty accrues when the first team arrives. Penalize the opponent(s) based on the difference in their arrival times.
2. *Timed matches (game format) of more than 30 minutes.* See **USTA Regulation IV.D.20.** and the corresponding **Table 16** of the **USTA Regulations.**

The same penalties are assessed when the lateness is for resumption of a suspended match, *except that* there is no loss of toss. Penalties for lateness for all other match formats are set forth in **Table 16** of the **USTA Regulations.**

## **IX. WHEELCHAIR RANKING REGULATIONS**

**A. Divisions Ranked.** The USTA issues singles and doubles rankings in the divisions listed in **Regulation II.A.**

**B. Eligibility for Ranking.** Eligibility for ranking is governed by **USTA Regulation VIII.D.**

**C. Wheelchair Ranking Period.** The Wheelchair ranking period for all players and teams is January 1 through December 31.

**D. Wheelchair Ranking Tournaments.**

The following tournaments are the Wheelchair Ranking Tournaments and only results from these tournaments are considered for ranking:

- The USTA National Wheelchair Ranking Tournaments set forth in **Regulation VI**;
- The Section and District Wheelchair Ranking Tournaments set forth in **Regulation VII**; and
- ITF tournaments listed on the National Wheelchair Tournament Schedule.

**E. Points Per Round Ranking System.**

1. *Ranking points.* Players earn ranking points at Wheelchair Ranking Tournaments based on a Points Per Round Ranking System. Annually the USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee determines the ranking points earned as follows:

- a. *Points Per Round.* The Points Per Round are those points assigned to each round in each level of Wheelchair Ranking Tournament.
- b. *Participation Points.* Participation Points are those points earned for earned for participating in a Wheelchair Ranking Tournament. A player is considered a participant in a tournament when at least one point has been played or the player wins all matches by reason of withdrawal, walkover, disqualification, or default.

The ranking points will be published annually on the USTA website.

2. *Assignment of ranking levels.* The Wheelchair ranking system will have 5 Levels of Wheelchair Ranking Tournaments. The following tournaments will be assigned to each Level:

- a. *Level 1.* The tournaments assigned Level 1 are the USTA Level 1 Wheelchair National Championships;
- b. *Level 2.* The tournaments assigned Level 2 are the USTA Level 2 Wheelchair National Tournaments;
- c. *Level 3.* The tournaments assigned Level 3 are:
  - USTA Level 3 Wheelchair National Tournaments; and
  - Closed Section Level 3 Wheelchair Tournaments.

- d. *Level 4.* The tournaments assigned Level 4 are the Section and District Level 4 Wheelchair Tournaments.
- e. *Level 5.* The tournaments assigned Level 5 are the Section and District Level 5 Wheelchair Tournaments.

Annually the USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee and the USTA Adult Tennis Department assign Ranking Levels to the ITF Open division tournaments listed on the National Wheelchair Tournament Schedule and publish the Levels in **Table 7**.

<b>TABLE 7</b>	
<b>Ranking Levels of ITF Tournaments on the National Wheelchair Tournament Schedule</b>	
<b>Level 1</b>	ITF Super Series Tournaments ITF Level 1 Tournaments ITF Grade A Junior Wheelchair Tournaments ITF Junior Series Wheelchair Tournaments designated as Level 1 by the USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee
<b>Level 2</b>	ITF Level 2 Tournaments ITF Level 3 Tournaments ITF Junior Series Wheelchair Tournaments designated as Level 2 by the USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee
<b>Level 3</b>	ITF Futures Series ITF Junior Series Wheelchair Tournaments designated as Level 3 by the USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee

- 3. *Treatment of byes.* A player who advances because of a bye does not receive ranking points.
- 4. *Treatment of withdrawals, walkovers, disqualifications, defaults, and retirements.* A player who advances because of a withdrawal, walkover, disqualification, default, or retirement will receive Points Per round for advancing.
- 5. *Treatment of abandoned and cancelled matches.* If a match is abandoned or cancelled by tournament decision, players will be awarded ranking points based on the last round in which they won a match.
- 6. *Treatment of results in ITF tournaments by player under suspension by the USTA.* A player will not earn ranking points for results in ITF tournaments that count for Wheelchair ranking that are played while the player is under suspension.
- 7. *Ranking calculation.* Wheelchair rankings are based on:
  - 100% of the total ranking points received during the ranking period from the four Wheelchair Ranking Tournaments in which a player received the most ranking points; and
  - For the Adult Letter Divisions only, 100% of the ranking points earned in a higher Adult Letter Division tournament count towards a player's ranking in one or more lower Adult Letter Divisions provided that a National Ranking Tournament has been played in the division and they are among the player's best 4 results.
  - For the Junior Letter Divisions only, 100% of the ranking points earned in the Junior 18 Coed A Division tournament count towards a player's ranking in the Junior 18 Coed B Division provided that a National Ranking Tournament has been played in the Junior 18 Coed B Division and they are among the player's best 4 results.
 Points earned in singles count for singles ranking; points earned for doubles count for doubles ranking.

**F. Wheelchair National Ranking Committee.** [unchanged]

**G. Publication of Rankings.**

- 1. *Tentative rankings.* This is the first ranking published for both singles and doubles. The tentative rankings and the individual player records will be published no later than a date that will be determined by the USTA Adult Tennis Department and published to the USTA website.
- 2. *Wheelchair Players Responsible for Submitting Corrections.* Any corrections to a player's record must be received by the USTA Adult Tennis Department by a deadline that will be determined by the USTA Adult Tennis Department and published to the USTA website.
- 3. *Publication of final rankings.* Final rankings are published after corrected data have been received and acted upon by the USTA and no later than a date that will be determined by the USTA Adult Tennis Department. Final rankings are not subject to appeal.

**Regulation IX.G. Comment:**

- The tentative rankings and individual player records will be published no later than January 17.
- The deadline for submitting corrections to the USTA Adult Tennis Department is January 27. Corrections are

- to be submitted to wheelchairournaments@usta.com
- Final rankings will be published no later than February 5.

## **X. WHEELCHAIR NATIONAL SANCTIONING REGULATIONS**

The provisions of **USTA Regulation XVII.A.** apply to the sanctioning of Wheelchair national tournaments unless modified by this **Regulation X.**

- A. Primary Host Site Must be Organization Member.** The primary host site of each tournament listed in **Regulation III.** must be an Organization Member.
- B. Sanctioning Process.** This process applies to all tournaments listed in **Regulation VI.,** *except* those tournaments that the USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee has determined will not be put out for bid and will instead be assigned to a sanction holder by the Committee.
1. *Submission of application.* The applicant submits the application on the USTA-approved form to the Wheelchair Tennis Committee.

**Regulation X.B.1. Comment:** The online sanction application form may not gather all of the information needed by the Committee to evaluate the bid. If additional information is needed, it will be submitted in writing to the Committee by the deadline.

2. *Application deadlines.* The USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee sets the application deadlines and notifies the Sectional Associations and current sanction holders of these deadlines.

**Regulation X.B.2. Comment #1:** The application deadline for USTA Level 1 Wheelchair National Championships, USTA Level 2 Wheelchair National Tournaments, and USTA Level 3 Wheelchair National Tournaments is August 1.

**Regulation X.B.2. Comment #2:** The USTA staff is responsible for publicizing the process for submitting applications for national tournaments and the deadline by which applications are due. Generally, this information is published on the USTA website, is sent to existing sanction holders, and is sent to Sectional Associations, which are asked to forward the information to potential applicants.

3. *Approval by Sectional Associations.* Each Sectional Association approves or disapproves the applicants from its Sectional Association, *except* as set forth in **Regulation X.B.4.** below. If a Sectional Association disapproves an applicant, the USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee will not consider that particular application.
  4. *Sectional Association approval not required when it submits competing application.* When a Sectional Association has submitted a competing application for a tournament, the USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee approves or disapproves all applicants from that Sectional Association for that tournament.
  5. *Notice to competing applicants of USTA Level 1 Wheelchair National Championships of their right to appear before appropriate competition committee.* The chair or the chair's designee will inform all applicants of competing applications for the USTA Level 1 Wheelchair National Championships and may require them to submit additional information in order to consider the competing applications. Representatives of all applicants will be permitted to appear in person, by proxy, or by electronic means to make presentations to the USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee in support of their applications at all meetings in which applications are considered.
  6. *Approval of sanctions.* The USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee will review only the applications from:
    - Applicants approved by Sectional Associations;
    - Sectional Associations; and
    - Applicants that are not subject to approval or disapproval by a Sectional Association because the Sectional Association submitted a competing application.The committee approves or disapproves applications as soon as possible after the application deadline. Upon approval of a sanction, the chairperson or the chairperson's designee will notify the successful applicant. If the committee does not approve any application, or any approved applicant declines or is unable to host the tournament, then the committee may select a sanction holder to host the tournament.
  7. *Tournament contract.* No sanction approval is considered final until the applicant completes and returns a tournament contract in the form approved by the USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee and payment of the sanction fee (see **Regulation X.C.**) has been received.
- C. Sanction Fees.** The USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee will determine the sanction fee for all tournaments it sanctions, *except that* the fee will not exceed \$100 per tournament.

**Regulation X.C. Comment:** The USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee has determined that the sanction fee for all tournaments it sanctions will be \$100 per tournament.

- D. Tournament Titles.** The USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee establishes the titles for tournaments under its jurisdiction. The title will include, where applicable, the age, sex, surface, and any other divisions of the tournament. The initials "USTA" must also be used.
- E. Television, Cable, Satellite, Internet, Radio, Film and Video Rights.** The USTA reserves all television, cable, satellite, internet, radio, film, and video rights for all tournaments sanctioned by the USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee as set forth in **USTA Regulation XVII.G.**

## GLOSSARY

**5-Point Short Set Tiebreak.** The 5-Point Short Set Tiebreak procedure is described in **Appendix V.2.** of the **ITF Rules of Tennis.** The first player/team to win five points wins the set, with a deciding point if the score reaches four points all. The points won in the Tiebreak by the losing player is put in parentheses following the set score. For example, 4-3(2).

**7-Point Set Tiebreak.** The 7-Point Set Tiebreak is played when the players reach 6-all in a Tiebreak set or 4-all in a short set. The first player or team to win 7 points by a margin of at least 2 wins the set. The points won in the Tiebreak by the losing player is put in parentheses following the set score. For example, 7-6(2) or 5-4(2).

**7-Point Tiebreak.** The 7-Point Tiebreak is played when the players reach 8 games all in an 8-game pro set or 4 games all in a short set. The points won in the Tiebreak by the losing player is put in parentheses following the set score. For example, 9-8(5) and 5-4(3).

**7-Point Match Tiebreak.** The 7-Point Match Tiebreak is played in some matches in lieu of the deciding final set. The first player or team to win 7 points by a margin of at least 2 wins the final set 1-0 and the match. The points won in the Tiebreak by the losing player is put in parentheses following the final set score. For example, a match score when short sets are played can be 4-2, 1-4 1-0(2).

**10-Point Match Tiebreak.** The 10-Point Match Tiebreak is played in some matches in lieu of the deciding final set. The first player or team to win 10 points by a margin of at least 2 wins the final set 1-0 and the match. The points won in the Tiebreak by the losing player is put in parentheses following the final set score. For example, a match score when Tiebreak Sets are played can be 6-4, 2-6 1-0(4).

**All-Factors Method of Seeding.** This seeding method is based on the players' chances of winning the tournament as determined by the Tournament Committee.

**Bonus Points.** Bonus points are additional ranking points that may be awarded for wins over highly ranked players.

**"Closed" Tournaments.** Tournaments designated as "closed" are open to players who meet the residency requirements in a specific geographic boundary. Closed Section Level 3 Wheelchair Tournaments are open only to residents of the Sectional Association.

**Closed Section Level 3 Wheelchair Tournaments.** These are Wheelchair Ranking Tournaments sanctioned by the Sectional Associations that have been assigned a Ranking Level 3. Up to 1 may be held annually in each Sectional Association.

**The Code.** *The Code* is a summary of the procedures and unwritten rules that custom dictates that players follow. **USTA Regulation IV.B.** requires players to follow *The Code* in all matches without officials.

**Compass Draw.** This is a non-elimination format that is so named because players advance in four to eight different directions depending upon when they lose their first match and when they lose their subsequent matches.

**Computerized List Method of Seeding.** This seeding method is based on a computerized system of rankings or standings.

**Consolation Draw.** A consolation draw describes a group of different types of draws in which losers in the main draw play an additional match or matches against other players who have lost a match in the main draw.

**Date Block.** A date block is a date or group of dates over which a tournament has been sanctioned to take place.

**Default.** A default occurs when a player is eliminated from an event under the Point Penalty System (which includes penalties for lateness) or refuses to play for reasons other than injury, illness, or personal circumstance. It is also considered a default when a junior does not start a match because of an adult deciding to discipline the junior. (Note that failure to finish a match because of an adult discipline is considered a retirement.)



**Disqualification.** A disqualification occurs when a player is removed from an event because the player was ineligible for the event.

**District Associations.** The term "District Associations" applies equally to any subdivisions of Sectional Associations.

**Division.** Division refers to one or two events in a tournament in which the eligibility criteria are identical. For example, the Coed A Singles and Coed A Doubles are two events but only one division because their eligibility criteria are identical.

**Event.** In the narrow sense, this term refers to one draw in a tournament. For example, the Quad Open Singles and Quad Open Doubles are two separate events within the same division—the Quad Open division. The main draw, any associated consolation, and place-playoffs are considered one event. Sometimes this term is also used to refer to an entire tournament.

**Feed-In Championship (FIC).** This term refers to a type of consolation draw in which the losers of multiple rounds from the main draw are fed back into a consolation draw. There are three types of Feed-In Championships played at Junior Ranking Tournaments:

- An FIC that feeds players in through the Quarterfinals and includes a playoff for 3rd place; and
- An FIC that feeds players in through the Round of 16 and includes a quarterfinal playoff for 3rd place and for 5th place.

**First Match Consolation.** This is a consolation draw in which the losers in the first round and those second round losers who advanced to that round by virtue of a bye or a default are entered into the consolation draw.

**Flighting.** This is a method of distributing players entered in an event into separate draws so that players of the same level are in the same draw and compete against each other. For example, assuming there are four draws (A-D) and 16 players entered, the distribution would be:

Draw A (strongest flight)	Draw B	Draw C	Draw D (weakest flight)
1	5	9	13
2	6	10	14
3	7	11	15
4	8	12	16

**Gold Ball Event.** This refers to the highest level of national competition at which USTA Gold, Silver, and Bronze Balls are awarded.

**Inclement Weather.** Inclement weather may cause a Referee to suspend or postpone matches, lengthen rest between matches, or shorten a tournament to keep it on schedule.

**ITF Rules of Tennis.** The ITF Rules of Tennis are the rules for the sport of tennis, including the rules of Wheelchair Tennis. They are made by the International Tennis Federation (ITF). The USTA, as a member of the ITF, has agreed that the ITF Rules of Tennis apply to all USTA sanctioned tournaments.

**ITF Tournaments on the National Wheelchair Tournament Schedule.** The ITF Tournaments on the National Wheelchair Tournament Schedule are tournaments jointly sanctioned by the ITF and USTA that are placed on the National Wheelchair Tournament Schedule. These tournaments are played under ITF tournament regulations and count for Wheelchair ranking.

**Letter Divisions.** There are two groups of Letter Divisions: Adult Letter Divisions and Junior Letter Divisions. The Adult Letter Divisions are known as Coed A, Coed B, Coed C, and Coed D. The Junior Letter Divisions are known as Junior 18 Coed A and Junior 18 Coed B

**Letter Division Appeals Committee.** The Letter Division Appeals Committee rules on appeals of a player's assignment to a Letter Division after publication of the preliminary Letter Division Eligibility Lists. The Letter Division Appeals Committee is comprised of the Chair, Vice Chair, and Staff Member of the USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee.

**Letter Division Eligibility Lists.** These are lists published annually at the beginning of the year that determine the lowest Letter Division a player may enter and play in for the calendar year.

**National Standings List.** This is a monthly standings list of Wheelchair players in each division used, when authorized, for selection and seeding. When it is used for a Closed Section Level 3 Tournament, it can be filtered to only include residents of a Sectional Association.

**National Wheelchair Tournament Schedule.** This schedule is published yearly by the USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee and the Adult Tennis Department and lists all tournaments sanctioned by the USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee and ITF Tournaments that count for ranking.

**No-Ad Scoring.** This is a scoring system that is the same as the traditional system except that when the score reaches 40-40, only one additional point is played to determine the winner of that game. In Mixed Doubles, a male server serves this point to the male receiver, and the female player serves this point to the female receiver. In all other events, the receiver chooses the side from which the server must serve.

**NSL Rolling Period.** The tournament results that take place during a specified period of time are used to calculate the standing and ranking lists. The NSL Rolling Period is the 52-weeks prior to the publication of National Standings Lists that is the specified period for these lists.

**“Open” Tournaments.** Tournaments designated as “open” are open to all players, regardless of their residence. All tournaments are “open” unless the word “closed” is part of the title.

**Place Playoff.** A place playoff is a match that is played to determine a player’s final place in the tournament such as a third place playoff or a seventh place playoff in a Feed-In Championships.

**Participation Points.** Participation Points are ranking points that are earned in by participation in a tournament. Participation points are earned when a player plays at least one point in a tournament or wins all matches by reason of withdrawal, walkover, disqualification, and default.

**Points Per Round.** Points Per Round are the ranking points that are awarded for reaching specified rounds in a tournament.

**Points Per Round Ranking System.** This is a method of ranking players or teams that is based on earning ranking points for the round reached, and in some cases, for wins over highly ranked players or teams.

**Ratings.** Ratings are a system of categorizing or grouping players by their ability. Ratings are based on a player's match results. JNTRP is a USTA junior rating system that helps match opponents of similar skill levels. The USTA may require a specific rating system be utilized for determining eligibility in a level-based Division.

**Reasonable Time.** Reasonable time is a concept that applies to:

- Toilet/change of attire breaks;
- Time for a Quad wheelchair player to re-strap the racquet to their hand;
- Time needed to repair or replace clothing or equipment other than a racket or a wheelchair;
- Time needed to replace a racket with another racket on court;
- Time needed to replace a contact lens with a spare that is on court; and
- Time needed to retrieve balls between points in matches without ball persons.

The Referee generally establishes a reasonable time for toilet/change of attire breaks based on the proximity of the toilets to the court. The time needed to repair or replace clothing or equipment other than a racket or wheelchair generally may not exceed 15 minutes.

**Run/Roll.** A doubles event in which one member of each team is able-bodied and one person is Wheelchair Division eligible. The Wheelchair player plays according to the **ITF Rules of Wheelchair Tennis** and is allowed two bounces of the ball; the able-bodied player is allowed only one bounce of the ball.

**Section Level 3 Tournaments.** See Closed Section Level 3 Tournaments.

**Section and District Level 4 Wheelchair Tournaments.** These are Wheelchair Ranking Tournaments sanctioned by the Sectional Associations that have been assigned a Ranking Level 4. Responsibility for sanctioning these tournaments may be delegated to a District Association.

**Section and District Level 5 Wheelchair Tournaments.** These are Wheelchair Ranking Tournaments sanctioned by the Sectional Associations that have been assigned a Ranking Level 5 . Responsibility for sanctioning these tournaments may be delegated to a District Association.

**Short Sets.** This is a scoring system in which the first player to win four games wins the set. If the score reaches 3-3, a 5-Point Short Set Tiebreak is played.

**Single Elimination Format.** In this tournament format, once you lose you are out and do not get to play any additional matches.

**Suspension Point System.** This is a system under which wheelchair players are assessed points for unsportsmanlike behavior in USTA sanctioned tournaments and ITF tournaments played in the U.S. A player who accumulates too many points is suspended.

**Timed Matches (Game Format).** A Timed Match (Game Format) format consists of an ongoing set during which the players continue playing games until the end of the specified period of time. The player who has won the most completed games wins the match. If the game score is tied, the player ahead in the game in progress is the winner. If a game is not in progress or the score in the game in progress is tied, one final point is played to determine the winner. The player due to serve the next point shall serve the final point.

**USTA International Tournaments.** USTA International Tournaments are USTA sanctioned tournaments played under ITF tournament regulations, but not sanctioned by the ITF.

**USTA Level 1 Wheelchair National Championship.** These are the highest level of national Wheelchair Ranking Tournaments sanctioned by the USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee that have been assigned a Ranking Level 1. Up to 4 may be sanctioned annually in each division on any surface.

**USTA National Level 2 Wheelchair Tournaments.** These are the second highest level of national Wheelchair Ranking Tournaments sanctioned by the USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee that have been assigned a Ranking Level 2.

**USTA National Level 3 Wheelchair Tournaments.** These are the third highest level of national Wheelchair Ranking Tournaments sanctioned by the USTA Wheelchair Tennis Committee that have been assigned a Ranking Level 3.

**Walkover.** A walkover occurs when there has been an administrative error or when a player decides not to play a match in an event because of injury, illness, or personal circumstance.

**Waterfall.** This is a method of distributing players into separate draws or teams so that each draw or team is of similar overall strength. For example, assuming there are four draws (A-D) with 16 players entered, the distribution would be:

Draw A	Draw B	Draw C	Draw D
1	2	3	4
8	7	6	5
9	10	11	12
16	15	14	13

The same principle can be used to waterfall players on to teams.

**Wheelchair Ranking Tournaments.** These are the tournaments that are used for national rankings.

**Wheelchair Repair Timeout.** A wheelchair repair timeout is a cumulative timeout of up to 20 minutes that is permitted for wheelchair repairs during a match, including the warm-up. A repair exceeding 15 minutes will result in the loss of a point. A repair exceeding 20 minutes will result in a default.

**Withdrawal.** A withdrawal occurs when a player decides not to play all matches in the event because of injury, illness, or personal circumstance. A withdrawal also may occur because of tournament administrative error.