



2024 USTA NC Adult Tournament Regulations

*Text in purple are state decisions

* Text in green are Southern decisions

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

- I. General
USTA North Carolina offers adult tournament competition at the District 6 and 7 Levels. USTA NC also reviews District Level 5 tournaments and submits them to the Southern Section for approval.
- II. Eligibility
 - A. Membership. All players must have a valid USTA membership to participate in a USTA NC Adult Tournaments.
 - B. NTRP Rating. All players must have an NTRP Rating to participate in USTA NC NTRP tournaments.
 - C. Online entry is mandatory through Serve Tennis.
 - D. Closed Events:
 - a. "Closed": Any person who is a resident of, and domiciled in, the State of North Carolina for at least thirty (30) days prior to the first day of the tournament and who during the current ranking year has not entered a closed tournament in any other USTA District (State) or any Section other than the Southern Section of USTA. The entrants for all Adult/Senior, NTRP, Wheelchair and Family State Closed tournaments must meet the following criteria:
 - 1. Must be a US Citizen or meet the resident alien requirements.
 - 2. Hold only one USTA membership card, residency for which must be NC.
 - 3. Players may not play in State Closed tournaments of other states (districts) or Sections of the USTA if they play in a NC State Closed.
 - 4. College students who live in another state or country must meet requirements #2 and #3.
 - E. Open Events:
 - a. "Open": Any person without regard to residence or domicile.
- III. Tournament Descriptions
 - A. Level 5: USTA NC has been granted up to 5 NTRP Level 5 tournaments and 2 Age Division Level 5 Tournaments. USTA Southern has final approval authority for these tournaments.
 - B. *Duration.*
 - a. *Completion of all events in each division.* All events in a division (singles,

doubles and mixed doubles) must be completed in five days, unless a longer period has been authorized in advance by the Sectional Association.

Sectional Associations with Districts may delegate the responsibility for authorizing a longer period to the District Associations.

- b. *Completion of tournament by end of sanction period.* Play may not continue after the last sanctioned day of the tournament without prior written approval of the applicable USTA Adult Tennis Department.
- C. Draw Size. The draw size of a Section Level 5 Adult and Family
 - i. The tournament draw size will be determined by the Tournament Director in conjunction with NC Adult Tournament staff
 1. It is HIGHLY recommended that if a TD is offering 20+ events that they set the draw sizes to 8 so they can ensure they can fit the entire tournament. If some draws fill over 8 and other draws don't fill and the TD can take them, reach out to USTA NC Adult Tournament staff and we can increase that for you.
 - b. Draw Formats Permitted: Round Robin, Multiple Round Robins with a Playoff, Compass Draw, Feed In Championship, First Match Consolation, Team Format, Voluntary Consolation
 - i. Single elimination is permitted on a case-by-case basis
 - ii. Block seeding is permitted to the extent permitted in USTA National Adult Tournament Regulations Regulation VII.A.3.b, if such use is approved in advance by the District Association
 - iii. *Separating event into multiple draws.* An event may be separated into more than one draw. Players must be **flighted using their WTN rating**. If a rating is used, refer to Regulation VII.A.5.a.iv.A for doubles teams. The only draw formats that may be used are the following: Round Robin with a Playoff, First Match Consolation, Single Elimination, or Voluntary Sign-up Consolation.
 - c. Match Format: no-ad scoring may be used. The match shall be any of the following:
 - i. Best of 3 tiebreak sets
 - ii. Best of 2 tiebreak sets with a 10-Point Match Tiebreak played in lieu of the 3rd set
 - iii. Best of 3 short sets (with a 5-Point Short Set Tiebreak played at 3-games all)
 - iv. 8-game pro fest with a 7-Point Tiebreak at 8 games all
 - d. Selection
 - i. Adult Divisions.
 1. When a draw size is limited, selection may be done by: Top Down by Ranking or First Come First Served.
 - e. Seeding
 - i. *Adult Open and Adult Age Group Divisions*
 1. The all factors method of seeding will be used to seed. **(USTA Regulation II. A.4.b)**
 - ii. *Adult NTRP Divisions.*
 1. Singles: Seeding will be done using the most recently

- published singles National Standings list of the Division
 - 2. Doubles: Seeding will be done using the most recently published doubles National Standings list of the division. Teams will be seeded in order of their combined standings. If there is a tie, the team with the player that has the highest doubles standing on the list must be seeded in the higher position. If a player has no standing for the purpose of determining the combined standing, this player will be assigned a standing one lower than the last player on the doubles National Standing list.
 - iii. Family Divisions: all factors method of seeding will be used to seed. **(USTA Regulation II. A.4.b)**
- f. Referee.
 - i. A Referee is required for Level 5 tournaments.
 - ii. If you do not have a Referee who has accepted their invitation to be the Referee in Serve Tennis 8 weeks prior to the draw closing your tournament will be hidden. Your tournament will be unhidden once a Referee has been secured and accepted the invitation to be the Referee in Serve Tennis.
- g. Courts for tournament play.
 - i. **The use of tennis-related blended lines are permitted on courts used for tournament matches. The use of other lines for another sport, such as Pickleball, are not permitted on courts used for local league matches.**

D. Level 6:

- a. Duration: All events in a division must be completed in 3 days. In the event of inclement weather or other circumstances, the local tournament committee can extend the tournament.
- b. Draw Size: The tournament draw size will be determined by the Tournament Director in conjunction with NC Adult Tournament staff
 - i. It is HIGHLY recommended that if a TD is offering 20+ events that they set the draw sizes to 8 so they can ensure they can fit the entire tournament. If some draws fill over 8 and other draws don't fill and the TD can take them, reach out to USTA NC Adult Tournament staff and we can increase that for you.
- c. Draw Formats Permitted: Round Robin, Multiple Round Robins with a Playoff, Compass Draw, Feed In Championship, First Match Consolation, Team Format, Voluntary Consolation.
 - i. Single elimination will be approved on a case by case basis
 - ii. Block Seeding not permitted
 - iii. *Separating event into multiple draws.* An event may be separated into more than one draw. Players must be **flighted using their WTN rating**. If a rating is used, refer to Regulation VII.A.5.a.iv.A for doubles teams. The only draw formats that may be used are the following: Round Robin with a Playoff, First Match Consolation, Single Elimination, or Voluntary Sign-up Consolation.
- d. Match Format: no-ad scoring may be used. Match formats may be shortened when inclement weather or other circumstances prevent a

tournament from finishing on time. The match shall be any of the following:

- i. Best of 3 sets with a 10 point match tiebreak played in lieu of the 3rd set
 - ii. Best of 3 short sets with a 5 point short set tiebreak played at 3 games all.
 - iii. Best of 3 short sets with a 7 point match tiebreak played in lieu of a 3rd set (a 5 point short set tiebreak played at 3 games all)
 - iv. 8 game Pro Set with a 7 point tiebreak at 8 games all
 - v. One 6 game set with a 7 point tiebreak at 6 games all
 - vi. One short set, with a 5 point tiebreak at 3 games all
- e. Selection.
- i. When a draw size is limited, selection may be done by: Top Down by Ranking or First Come First Served.
- f. Seeding:
- i. *Adult Open and Adult Age Group Divisions*
 1. The Sectional Association determines the method of seeding. The all factors method of seeding will be used to seed. **(USTA Regulation II. A.4.b)**
 - ii. *Adult NTRP Divisions.*
 1. Singles: Seeding will be done using the most recently published singles National Standings list of the Division
 2. Doubles: Seeding will be done using the most recently published doubles National Standings list of the division. Teams will be seeded in order of their combined standings. If there is a tie, the team with the player that has the highest doubles standing on the list must be seeded in the higher position. If a player has no standing for the purpose of determining the combined standing, this player will be assigned a standing one lower than the last player on the doubles National Standing list.
 - iii. Family Divisions: the all factors method of seeding will be used to seed. **(USTA Regulation II. A.4.b)**
- g. Referee.
- i. A Level 6 Adult Tournament must have a Referee on site for their event until USTA National releases the training module that can be taken to fulfill this requirement.
 - ii. If you do not have a Referee who has accepted their invitation to be the Referee in Serve Tennis 8 weeks prior to the draw closing your tournament will be hidden. Your tournament will be unhidden once a Referee has been secured and accepted the invitation to be the Referee in Serve Tennis.
- h. Courts for tournament play.
- i. The use of tennis-related blended lines are permitted on courts used for tournament matches. The use of other lines for another sport, such as Pickleball, are not permitted on courts used for local league matches.

E. Level 7:

- a. Duration: all events in a division must be completed in one day. In the

event of inclement weather or other circumstances, the local tournament committee can extend the tournament.

- b. Draw Size: No limit
 - i. It is **HIGHLY** recommended that if a TD is offering 20+ events that they set the draw sizes to 8 so they can ensure they can fit the entire tournament. If some draws fill over 8 and other draws don't fill and the TD can take them, reach out to USTA NC Adult Tournament staff and we can increase that for you.
- c. Draw Formats Permitted: Round Robin, Multiple Round Robins with a Playoff, Compass Draw, First Match Consolation, Team Format
- d. Match Format: No-ad scoring may be used. Match formats may be shortened when inclement weather or other circumstances prevent a tournament from finishing on time. The match shall be any of the following:
 - i. Best of 3 short sets with a 7 point match tiebreak played in lieu of a 3rd set (a 5 point short set tiebreak played at 3 games all)
 - ii. 8 game Pro Set with a 7 point tiebreak at 8 games all
 - iii. One 6 game set with a 7 point tiebreak at 6 games all
 - iv. One short set, with a 5 point tiebreak at 3 games all
 - v. Timed matches (game format) of 20 minutes or longer
- e. Selection: **When a draw size is limited, selection may be done by: Top Down by Ranking or First Come First Served.**
- f. Seeding
 - i. Singles: Seeding will be done using the most recently published singles National Standings list of the Division
 - ii. Doubles: Seeding will be done using the most recently published doubles National Standings list of the division. Teams will be seeded in order of their combined standings. If there is a tie, the team with the player that has the highest doubles standing on the list must be seeded in the higher position. If a player has no standing for the purpose of determining the combined standing, this player will be assigned a standing one lower than the last player on the doubles National Standing list.
 - iii. Family Divisions: the all factors method of seeding will be used to seed. **(USTA Regulation II. A.4.b)**
- g. Referee.
 - i. **If the Tournament Director chooses not to have a referee, the Tournament Director can serve as the official for a Level 7 tournament by completing the Tournament Director/Referee Dual Role course.**
- h. Courts for tournament play.
 - i. **The use of tennis-related blended lines are permitted on courts used for tournament matches. The use of other lines for another sport, such as Pickleball, are not permitted on courts used for local league matches.**

IV. Sanctioning Process

- A. Priority Sanctioning. Sanctioning a tournament during this period gives the

tournament priority on choice of dates for the following year.

- a. For 2024, priority sanctioning will be October 1st - October 15th.
Tournament Directors will submit the tournament for sanctioning between these dates and they will be reviewed and approved before January 1.
 - b. Level 5 tournaments need to be submitted prior to or during the priority sanctioning period to be considered for the following year.
 - c. Organizations will be able to submit for a maximum of the following levels of tournaments for FIRST REVIEW during the Priority Sanctioning window
 - i. Level 5- 1 a calendar year
 - ii. Level 6- 2 a quarter (up to 4 a year)
 - iii. Level 7/WTN- 2 a quarter (up to 4 a year)
 - d. Court agreements are due at the time of sanctioning. Your tournament will not be approved until the Court Agreement and Tournament Application have been completed
- B. Rolling Sanctioning. Level 6 and Level 7 tournaments can be sanctioned by the following times throughout the year:
- a. Tournament taking place January 1st- March 31st | **Deadline to submit is October 31st, 2023**
 - b. Tournament taking place April 1st- June 30th | **Deadline to submit is March 11th, 2024**
 - c. Tournament taking place July 1st- September 30th | **Deadline to submit is June 11th, 2024**
 - d. Tournament taking place October 1st- December 31st | **Deadline to submit is September 10th, 2024**
- C. USTA NC requires a Waiver of Claims for adult tournaments. The USTA NC office will provide that template for the Tournament Director upon request.
- D. Distance Rules.
- a. Level 5 Tournaments cannot be held on the same weekend in North Carolina or on the same dates as a 4 with competing events
 - i. Example: A level 5 NTRP tournament cannot be the same weekend as a NTRP level 4 tournament. But a level 5 NTRP tournament could be the same weekend as a Level 4 Age Group event.
 - b. Level 6 Tournaments cannot be within:
 - i. 150 miles from a Level 4 or 5 (with competing events, i.e. Rating vs Age Group)
 - ii. 100 miles from another Level 6 on the same dates (with competing events, i.e. Rating vs Age Group)
 - iii. 60 miles from another Level 7 on the same dates. (with competing events, i.e. Rating vs Age Group)
 - iv. A review and final decision will be made on if any exceptions will be permitted by the Sanctioning and Scheduling subcommittee after consulting the other Tournament Director that could be impacted by this event.
 - v. These same distance requirements will be in place when we are considering the distance between Level 5s and Level 6s.
 - c. Level 7 tournaments cannot be within:
 - i. 150 miles from a Level 4 or 5 (with competing events i.e. Rating

vs Age Group)

ii. 60 miles from a Level 6 or another Level 7.

E. Unsanctioned Tournaments.

- a. Tournament submission is same as the rolling sanctioning process. No priority dates will be given to unsanctioned events.
- b. Unsanctioned tournaments cannot be held the same weekend as a Level 4 or 5 (with competing events) and must be at least 100 miles away from another Level 6 tournament on the same dates.
 - i. WTN Tournaments will be viewed the same as a Level 6 when it comes to distance requirements and when they can be held
 1. Please note that there is a wide range of WTN tournaments and some exceptions can be made. This would just be in the event that the WTN tournament and the other tournament in question are not competing for the same player base.
 - ii. A review and final decision will be made on if any exceptions will be permitted by the Sanctioning and Scheduling subcommittee after consulting the other Tournament Director that could be impacted by this event.

V. Refunds

a. Policy

- i. One the online registration deadline has closed and selections have been made, a tournament director is not required to return entry fees.
- ii. IT is the responsibility of the player to withdraw online before the close of registration in order for the credit card on file to not be charged.
- iii. Fees may be returned at the TD's discretion
 1. TD's may not issue credits
 2. Only full refunds can be done in the Serve Tennis software. If you want to issue a custom refund it must be done outside of the software. (We are hoping for an update to Serve Tennis that will allow custom refunds in the future)
- iv. If a player is not selected during the selections process, the entry fee is not charged to the credit card on file
- v. IF a player is an alternate, the entry fee is not charged unless they are promoted to the main draw

VI. USTA NC Rain Policy:

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

- A. Players who have played at least one point – no refund required. (Fees may be returned at the TD's discretion)
 - B. Players who have not played a point – a custom refund after deduction for actual tournament expenses.
 - a. TD's are required to at minimum issue a custom refund.
 - C. No credits for future tournaments may be given in lieu of a custom refund.
 - D. No tournament may be rescheduled without the approval of the Sanction & Schedule Committee
- *In a tournament where proceeds are donated to a charitable organization the refund policy may be modified at the Tournament Director's discretion to reflect a "No Refund" policy. If the Tournament Director chooses a "No Refund Policy" this must be stated on the tournament website when registration opens for the event.

VII. Player Expectations

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