

# USTA Florida Junior Regulations



## I. Player Eligibility

### A. USTA Membership (Enrollments)

All players (except for foreign players presenting a current membership card in their own country's tennis association) must be current members of the USTA. Online registration ([www.usta.com](http://www.usta.com)) or toll free phone (800-990-USTA) are available for new members to apply.

### B. Age Divisions

#### 1. Age Eligibility Definition

Under the USTA rule as established in 1999, juniors may play an age division until the month in which they age out of the division. This means players who are 10, 12, 14, 16, or 18 years old may continue, if they choose, to play in their respective age division until the month in which they turn 11, 13, 15, 17 or 19 respectively. The birth date of each entry will now be very important. If a tournament carries over into the next month, the starting date of that event will determine the player's eligibility.

#### 2. Limitations

- a. The age divisions for boys and girls offered for ranking are 18s, 16s, 14s, and 12s.
- b. A player may not play in more than one age division in the same tournament.

### C. Residency

1. Florida residency is recommended for Level 8 & 9 Tournaments (entry level tournaments).
2. Florida residency is not required for Level 7 and Level 6 tournaments.
3. Florida residency is required for all Junior Level 5, Level 4, and Level 3 tournaments.
4. The USTA Florida has mandated a strict enforcement of the Florida Residency Requirement for Florida Level 5, Level 4, and Level 3 tournaments, endorsement to USTA National events, and Intersectional and Zonal teams. For all these events, USTA Florida follows the USTA Florida's residency eligibility rule for endorsement to USTA National tournaments.
5. All Junior players who wish to obtain Florida Residency status and appear on the Tentative Ranking List and appear on the National Endorsement List; MUST take the following steps to satisfy the above requirements:
  - a. Native Born players must mail a copy of their birth certificate to the USTA Florida office.
  - b. Foreign born players must mail a copy of a valid alien registration receipt card and a certified birth certificate to the USTA Florida office.
  - c. Transfer the player's valid USTA membership card to the USTA Florida.
  - d. The **parents** of the player must obtain a Declaration of Domicile from the Florida county where they reside. The domicile may be obtained from the county courthouse. The player's eligibility depends

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- upon the Florida domicile of the parents.
- e. There will be a \$25.00 per player filing fee for administration of this procedure. This check must be in the office before the player will be placed in the ranking system.

6. **All players born in foreign countries:** If the player's birth certificate is from a foreign country, the player must ALSO Submit any one of the following to establish residency status in the U.S. or also known as permanent residents:
  - a. An Alien registration card, also known as a permanent resident card or "green card";
  - b. An I-551 stamp – temporary evidence of permanent residence in the U.S.;
  - c. An Immigrant Visa Stamp in the foreign passport;
  - d. A United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) I-797 Approval Notice showing approval of a green card application or petition; OR
  - e. USCIS I-797 receipt for the green card application or petition.

Visa Stamps alone do not satisfy as evidence of U.S. permanent resident status. Only the above documents can satisfy this requirement of U.S. legal permanent resident status.

7. These documents need to be on file in the USTA Florida office by the Tuesday before the deadline of Level 5, Level 4, and Level 3 tournaments in which a player intends to participate including the \$25.00 per player filing fee. To be selected to Intersectional and Zonal teams, or if you ever intend to enter a USTA National event, these documents must be on file in the USTA Florida office.
8. Questions or clarification on USTA Florida Residency requirements contact the USTA Florida Section office.

**NOTE:** *Falsification of birth date information will result in a minimum one-year revocation of junior tennis privileges in Florida.*

## D. Domicile

**The player's residency shall be the domicile of that player's parents, or in the absence of a parent, the player's legal guardian. Domicile is hereby defined as the bona fide, true and permanent home of the player's parents.**

1. In the event of a dispute as to the eligibility of a player under this section, based upon the domicile of the player's parent, the following factors shall be used to determine the true domicile:
  - a. Where the head of household (primary wage earner) resides, and is employed.
  - b. Address on the parents' federal income tax return.
  - c. Affidavit of domicile executed by the head of the household.
  - d. Intent to permanently reside in Florida notwithstanding the eligibility of the

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- player to qualify for closed tournaments.
- e. Siblings declared residence for higher education tuition aid.
  - f. Residence of dependent children of player's parents.
2. The above list is not intended to be definitive or all-inclusive and other factors may be considered by USTA Florida, or submitted by the player's parent, in determining the issue of domicile. USTA Florida may request any documents reasonably believed to be necessary in the determination of a player's eligibility.
  3. In the event of a claim that the player's parents are divorced or legally separated, the legal custodian and parent who in fact reside with the player, shall be presumed to be the player's parent for domicile purposes.
  4. Upon the determination of ineligibility based upon this section, the parent or guardian of the player may request reconsideration by USTA Florida.
  5. All reconsideration requests shall be in writing and filed with USTA Florida within 10 days after the receipt of notice of ineligibility. Any additional documents requested by USTA Florida shall be submitted within 30 days after their request.
  6. The player and/or parent may submit any additional documents at any time prior to the reconsideration review by the USTA Florida. The reconsideration shall be considered based upon all documents submitted to USTA Florida.
  7. A request to appear in person before USTA Florida shall be in writing within 30 days from the notice of ineligibility, along with the name, address, and phone number of any additional persons who desire to appear and be heard on the issue.
  8. Players who have made a declaration of citizenship to a foreign country or who have accepted endorsement from another federation to an ITF Junior or Open tournament shall not be eligible to participate in USTA Florida's Level 4, Level 3 or Level 5 events and shall not be endorsed by the USTA Florida Section to any national or team event. Players may ask for reinstatement in writing to USTA Florida and USTA Florida shall vote on the outcome.