

# Adult Regulations

## DAILY PLAY LIMITATIONS FOR ADULT TOURNAMENTS

### APRIL- OCTOBER

### NOVEMBER- MARCH

DIVISIONS	MAX # MATCHES	REST BETWEEN	MAX # MATCHES	REST BETWEEN
Open, 30's, 35's, 40's, or 45's	2 Singles & 1 Dbls or 1 Singles & 2 Dbls or 3 Dbls	1.5 hrs/Sgls & Sgls or 1 hr/Sgls & Dbls or 1 hr/Dbls & Dbls	2 Singles & 1 Dbls or 1 Singles & 2 Dbls or 3 Doubles	1 hr/Sgls & Sgls 1 hr/Sgls & Dbls or 1 hr/Dbls & Dbls
50's or 55's and all NTRP divisions	2 Singles or 1 Singles & 1 Dbls or 2 Dbls	2hrs/Sgls & Sgls or 1.5 hrs/Sgls & Dbls or 1 hr/Dbls & Dbls	2 Singles or 1 Sgls & 2 Dbls or 3 Doubles	1.5 hrs/Sgls & Sgls or 1 hr/Sgls & Dbls or 1 hr/Dbls & Dbls
60's or 65's	1 Singles & 1 Dbls	2 hrs	1 Singles & 1 Dbls or 2 Doubles	2 hrs/Sgls & Dbls or 1.5 hrs/Dbls & Dbls
70's or 75's	1 Singles & 1 Dbls	2 hrs	1 Singles & 1 Dbls or 2 Doubles	2 hrs/Sgls & Dbls or 1.5 hrs/Dbls & Dbls
80's, 85's, or 90's	1 Singles & 1 Dbls	2hrs	1 Singles & 1 Dbls	2 hrs

#### I. Tournament Entries

- A. **Deadline:** Tournament deadline should not be less than three days prior to the scheduled starting time of the tournament. Entries cannot be closed prior to the announced entry deadline. If the sanctioned limit for the division is exceeded, the turndowns must be decided by ability (as determined by a study of the available records), a drawing, or a combination of the two. Time of receipt of entry (if within the deadline), residence, membership in host club, friendships, etc. is not acceptable criteria. The draw size can be increased if the playing schedule allows it and the courts are available. Turndowns should be notified immediately so that players can make other plans.
- B. **Membership Requirements:** All players (except for foreign players holding a current membership in their own tennis association) must be current members of the USTA. On line registration ([www.usta.com](http://www.usta.com)) or toll free phone (800-990-USTA) are available for new members to sign up.
- C. **Conduct at Tournament Site:** No person shall abuse an official or player. The referee, tournament director or other official responsible for ensuring the tournament is played under conditions fair to all players and shall make certain no relative, coach, or person associated with a player abuses an official or player. Any player or persons associated with a player identified by any tournament official as using abusive conduct may be excluded from the tournament site.

#### II. Seeding

- A. **Number of Seeds:**  
The number of players seeded shall equal a power of two (for example, 2, 4, 8, 16, or 32). The maximum ratio of players seeded shall be one in three, *except* that any draw may have two seeds. The Seeding Committee should bear in mind seeding merely represents a subjective rating of the various players' chances of winning the tournament. These ratings cannot be based on whim, caprice, or "hunches," but instead must be justified by a reasonable amount of factual evidence. The Committee should consider all available evidence, including, but not limited to, year end and current year tentative rankings (including other divisions), current records and current points race standing (seeding list), types of surface, and particularly head-to-head encounters. The point's race should not be the sole determining factor in seeding, and tournament directors should consult with the ranking chair to review the seeding in advance of the draw.
- B. **USTA Florida Seeding List:** Approximately every 4 weeks, USTA Florida furnishes, a computer online seeding list based on results from Florida tournaments played during the previous twelve months. It is recommended tournaments should use "all factors method" for seeding which in addition to the seeding lists uses such things as head to head results and players with better

records yet participating in fewer tournaments (thus having lower rankings). Also attempt to obtain the results from recently played tournaments not included in the seeding list.

- C. Other Seeding Considerations: The tournament director should consider the rankings and computer listings for all divisions in which the player may have played. These constitute "factual evidence" for seeding. A complete list of all players, ranked and unranked, in all divisions is available on the USTA Florida website at [www.ustaflorida.com](http://www.ustaflorida.com). The tournament director should contact the Adult Ranking Chair for assistance or the USTA Florida Office at 386-671-8931. They can assist in the evaluation of players with insufficient data.
- D. Consolation: It is mandatory a minimum 1st match consolation is offered at all adult tournaments with optional sign-up for the players. It is suggested that players have to physically sign up for consolation rather than automatically putting them in the consolation.

### III. Draws

- A. Singles: The tournament draw for the singles must be completed at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled starting time. As a courtesy to players, tournaments involving significant out of area travel, such as the state or designated tournaments, should strive to complete the draw 48 hours in advance. If a seeded player withdraws before the start of the tournament, all efforts should be made to replace the withdrawn seed with a lower seed to the appropriate position and then replace the lower seed with a new seed.
- B. Draw Regulations:
  - 1. The draw is to be made strictly according to USTA Tournament Regulations
  - 2. A copy of the draws should be posted (with the player's first and last names, and the city, state, or country noted next to their names) so that the public can look at it during the hours of tournament play. Scores should be entered in a reasonably prompt fashion, **INCLUDING THE POSTING OF THE RESULTS ON THE USTA FLORIDA WEBSITE AS THE TOURNAMENT OCCURS AND AT ITS COMPLETION.**
- C. Late Entries: The referee or tournament director may accept a late entry or substitute a new player or team into the draw, if the referee or tournament director (preferably assisted by a tournament committee member) determines that the ability of a new player or team does not invalidate the seeding

### IV. Changes in Sanctioned Divisions

There shall be no changes in the sanctioned divisions unless the USTA Florida Adult Tournament and Sanctions Committee have approved these in advance. Divisions are not to be dropped or combined because of a small entry or excessive rain. In the latter case, all sanctioned divisions including doubles and consolations should be moved forward until the end of the last sanctioned day of the tournament. An effort should be made to validate (play at least one match) each singles player and doubles team entered in the tournament. Full entry fees must be refunded to any players not validated and who were not defaulted. After the last sanctioned day, and not over one week later, matches may be scheduled and played. A player (or team) cannot be defaulted during this period except if he/she (or they) agree to play a match at a specific time and place, he/she (or they) can be defaulted for failing to show up unless there is a compelling reason.

### V. Time and Schedule Notification

- A. Starting Time Notification: Starting times must be posted on line 24 hours prior to the start of the tournament.
- B. Next Match Time Notification: The tournament director should post times (usually written on the posted draws) for the next matches, so that a player can find out his/her next match time when his/her current match is completed. To the extent possible, the times for the entire day should be posted at the beginning of each day. Most players appreciate comfortable rest periods that exceed the minimum standards set forth in the rules, assuming the schedule and weather will permit it.

### VI. Participants

- A. Competing in Different Divisions: No player shall compete in more than one division in singles and one division in doubles in a tournament containing singles and doubles and no player shall compete in more than two divisions of doubles in a tournament containing doubles only unless the tournament director decides that court facilities, length of tournament time and number of entries in

the division affected will permit play in additional divisions. The tournament director's decision shall be final.

- B. Semifinals and Finals: Semifinals and finals should not be played on the same day unless this is necessary to finish the tournament within its sanctioned dates. If for whatever reason the players and the tournament director cannot agree on a time to accomplish the above the tournament director shall make the final determination.
  - C. Effect of Time Limitations: No player who has entered one singles and/or one doubles division in a tournament may be required to violate the limitations specified in the table listed at the beginning of this section.
  - D. Mandatory Rest Periods: For all adult divisions, except the Men's Open, a ten-minute rest break must be taken after the second set if either player or team requires it.
  - E. Balls: At least one can of new USTA approved tennis balls should be furnished for each match (singles, doubles, and consolation). The same brand and color of tennis balls must be used for all matches throughout the tournament.
- VII. USTA Florida Adult Tournaments
- A. All players must be current members of the USTA. In order to participate in state championships, a player must be enrolled in the Florida Section.
  - B. Length of Tournament: State Closed and Designated tournaments should be sanctioned for four days, usually starting on Thursday and ending on Sunday or Friday through Monday. Tournaments hosting 60 & over age divisions must schedule only one match per day and no semis and finals on the same day.
  - C. Doubles Play: Doubles should start no later than the day after the start of the singles in that division and no later than Saturday.
  - D. Third-place Playoffs: Third-place playoffs between semifinal losers must be offered in all State Championships and Designated tournaments. It is optional for players to play.
  - E. Alternative Formats
    - 1. If there are three entries in a division, the round-robin format should be used.
    - 2. A tiebreak in lieu of the third set can be used. This information must be advertised on the tournament website.
    - 3. No ad scoring may also be used if advertised on the tournament website.
- VIII. Cancellation of Divisions: If there is only one entry in a division, a major effort should be made to line up an eligible opponent prior to canceling the division.
- IX. Playing in Two Divisions: If a player plays in two divisions, the player is bound by the playing limitations of the younger division.
- X. Prize Money: Prize money is encouraged. If a tournament is listed as a "Prize Money" event the distribute is a minimum of 25% of the entry fees (gross) for cash prizes to be qualified as a "Prize Money" tournament in the USTA Florida schedule.
- XI. Cancellation of Tournament; USTA Florida sanctioned tournaments may be canceled by a representative of the host facility, tournament director, Adult/Junior Sanction and Schedule Chairman with consultation from the USTA Florida Director Competitive Tennis or USTA Florida staff personnel for any reason deemed necessary to maintain the integrity and standard expectations associated with USTA Florida tournaments. Tournament cancellations should be displayed publicly by stating cancelled in the title of the tournament on the web site. Cancellations may be made anytime up until the start of the tournament. USTA Florida is not responsible for any player expenses incurred due to the cancellation of a tournament such as travel costs, hotel fees, etc.
- XII. Officials; A certified referee must be used for all state championship events.

- XIII. The Point Penalty System (PPS) applies to violations occurred during the warm-up and match in all USTA Florida and USTA sanctioned events.
- XIV. After Tournaments
- A. Publishing Official Draw Sheets
1. It is required that all tournaments use TDM (Tournament Data Manager) to run their event. The tournament director must have Internet access, and must publish the results onto the Internet with the TDM software within 2 days of the completion of the tournament.
  2. Player information must be current and updated in the TDM system before uploading tournament, i.e. USTA # and address must be current.
  3. All scores, defaults, retirements (stopped after the match started), withdrawals and walkovers, must be entered on the draws before uploading tournament. The tournament director must obtain any missing scores, which may require long distance calls. This is required for all draws before uploading to the Internet. If players on the draw appear in colors other than red or black, contact the USTA Florida office prior to the deadline of your event to avoid fines.
  4. \$25 fine for incomplete results (missing scores, USTA #, cities, etc.).
- B. Sanctioned Tournaments
- Sanctioned tournaments must be held at a member facility. (The Sanction Committee may make exceptions on a case-by-case basis.)
- C. Violations of Tournament Regulations
- The Chair of the Adult Tournament and Sanction Committee may place adult tournaments violating any one or a combination of the above regulations on probation. The committee will review complaints submitted by committee members, staff, and/or the Grievance Committee to determine further action.

## Adult Ranking Regulations

- I. Ranking Season
- The ranking season is from January 1, through December 15th.
- II. Requirements for Ranking
- A. Registration
- A player must hold a current USTA Membership card and must be enrolled from the USTA Florida Section.
- B. Age Regulations
- All senior divisions (30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, and 85) are open to players who have reached or will reach the minimum age limit of the division on or before December 31st.
- C. Singles Rankings
- Singles and doubles rankings are computer generated, using the USTA Florida Point Ranking System.
- D. To receive a Final ranking
- A player must play in and win a round in two sanctioned tournaments to earn a Final Ranking
- E. Exceptions
- Any player who does not want to be ranked must notify the Competitive Tennis Coordinator to the end of the ranking season (before December 15).
- III. USTA Florida Point Ranking System
- A. Category 1 event 1000 Points
  - B. Super Category 2 event 500 Points
  - C. Category 2 event 400 points
  - D. Florida State Closed 400 Points
  - E. Women's Florida State Closed 300 points
  - F. Designated Tournaments 200 Points

- G. Local Tournaments 100 Points
- H. Compressed events earn 10 points per match won.
- I. Point Table
  - a. Total points are accumulated by players advancement in each tournament played.
  - b. Players that enter a USTA Florida sanctioned tournament and play one match will receive 2 points for participation.
  - c. Players that retire during a match will receive participation points.
  - d. Seeding should be done by the Tournament Committee using all available data.
  - e. Point standings will be listed and updated once per month on the USTA Florida website.
  - f. Tournaments will be reviewed annually and evaluated for the coming year.
  - g. 75 points earned per singles match won in the "Florida Cup".
  - h. 10 points earned per match won in the "Compressed" events.
  - i. Appeal procedures will be in place solely to correct data input errors.

**Note:** The Adult Competitive Council has the right to modify the Point Ranking system during the year as it reviews the results obtained through the course of the year. Any such changes will be posted on the USTA Florida website as adopted.

#### IV. Ranking Consideration

- A. Basis for Ranking shall be based on the Point Ranking System (PRS). Comparative scores may be considered only when point totals are otherwise equal.
- B. USTA National Tournaments  
Men's 50 and over, 45 and over, 40 and over, 35 and over, 30 and over and Men's Open divisions are eligible to count 2 National Tournaments played anywhere in the U.S. All other men's divisions and all women's divisions are eligible to count 2 National Tournaments but they must be played in Florida.

- V. **Final Ranking Procedures** Rankings will be based on the best 5 (6) tournaments for the Men's 55 and over, 60 and over, 65 and over, 70 and over, 75 and over, 80 and over and 85 and over divisions. Men's 50 and over, 45 and over, 40 and over, 35 and over 30 and over, Men's Open and all women's categories will be based on the best 4 tournaments. (Highest point totals earned) for men and the best four (4) tournaments (highest point totals earned) for women. Doubles will not be capped. Doubles will be the best 3 tournaments.

#### A. Tentative Ranking

An online computer tentative ranking for Florida only residents will be generated throughout the year up until December 15th. On Jan 1st. barring appeals the tentative ranking will become the Final Ranking.

#### B. Appeals

- 1. Anyone wishing to appeal his or her ranking must do so in writing to the USTA Florida Adult Competitive Tennis Coordinator, giving specific information as to the error in point totals by December - 31st
- 2. No other reason for appeals is applicable.

- C. Ranking Chair: The Ranking Chair will investigate with staff any appeal, and the ranking chair decision is final.

#### VI. Ranking Certificates

- A. USTA Florida Ranking Certificates showing player's name, division in which ranked and numerical ranking are available at the USTA Florida office.
- B. Players who want one (or more) should write the USTA Florida Section and give name, address, division (state singles or doubles), year and enclose check for five dollars for each certificate.

### USTA National Senior and Women's Intersectional Team Championships

The Intersectionals are national team singles and doubles competitions played on an annual basis with participants from most sections across the US, featuring top national-quality play. The Florida Section is supported by an annual funding to the Adult Competitive Council designed to partially reimburse the selected players for the cost of traveling to and staying at the events. Historically, these events have been

played in the early 4th quarter of the year. Men's events and women's events are held separately, and move every year to locations near west coast of the US, followed then by the east, with varying surfaces and age divisions.

#### ***Selection Process***

The Chair or Co-Chairs of the Team Events / Intersectionals, in consultation with the Ranking Chair, has the task of fielding the teams for both the men's and the women's teams. The Chair may appoint each team a captain or captain(s) to help in the coordination of the travel, accommodations, and play schedule. Team line-ups will be determined or approved by the two Chairs using all available player information, and will ensure that all selected participants play an equitable amount of matches, weather permitting.

Currently ranked Florida players may be considered by the Chair for the intersectional team if they are already eligible for a current Florida section year-end ranking before the team is selected. Nationally ranked or other such quality players that limit their play to national tournaments are eligible for international competition for the USTA national team. However, national quality players that do not participate in USTA Florida events remain ineligible consistent with the outline above; however, the national category one or two events held in Florida will count toward a player's Florida eligibility. All players must be Florida residents to be eligible for the team, and the Chair is not obligated to field all players in all divisions.

#### ***Per Player Support for Intersectionals***

Selected players will receive a per-player allowance to offset a portion of the costs of attending the event. Annual amounts will be set based on the funding amount granted to the ACC, divided by the anticipated numbers of players per team, inclusive of the traveling captain, or captains, as applicable.

**Super Senior Grand Prix Qualifications** - All Super Senior tennis players are invited to participate in the Super Senior Grand Prix ("SSGP"), a series of USTA Florida sanctioned tournaments held in the southwest and southeast coasts of Florida during the months of January, February and March. The USTA website and [www.flsupersenior.com](http://www.flsupersenior.com) has further information and links on the two tours.

- A. Winning matches in the sanctioned tournaments held during the Grand Prix Circuit year earn points. At the end of the circuit year, the final points standing will be totaled and published.
- B. Tournaments, which are part of the Super Senior Grand Prix Circuit, are identified by the SS shadow in the Adult Tournament Schedule in this book (see table of contents). The USTA Florida Tournament Regulations (see table of contents) will be in effect.

## **PILOT EVENTS**

The Adult Competitive Council has a program to support new and creative events that will further promote competitive tennis in Florida. It is the ACC's intent to reach a non-participating market of players whose needs are not being met by the current menu of tournaments. By testing the viability of these new formats, which we believe should be primarily one-day events; we hope to spur sanctioning of the most successful of these concepts in the future. These events can be sponsored by the Adult Competitive Council but are not sanctioned during their test periods. The tournament director has discretion on the method of running the tournament. Interested parties should inquire with the Chair of Pilot Events, linked on the USTA Florida website under Adult Competitive Council.

## NTRP Tournament Regulations

### I. Player Requirements

- A. Age 19 & over.
- B. Be a member of the USTA.
- C. Compete at their official NTRP rating or higher. An official NTRP rating is a Computer Rating. It is the player's responsibility to compete at his/her official NTRP rating.
- D. If a player does not have a Computer Rating, that player may compete at his/her own "self rating" level or higher. For assistance in determining your self rating, please refer to the general characteristics of the NTRP and the Elite Player Guidelines posted on our website at [www.ustaflorida.com](http://www.ustaflorida.com) and select the USTA League Tennis on the sidebar.

**NOTE:** The Tournament Director has the right to adjust a player's "self rating" level

### II. Standard Formats

- A. The standard 2 out of 3 sets format is accepted in NTRP tournaments. Please refer to Section VIII. USTA Florida Adult Tournaments, E. Alternative Formats for guidelines on acceptable alternative formats.
- B. For a maximum number of matches per day and rest period between matches, please see the "Adult Tournament Daily Playing Limitations" chart in the Adult Tournament regulations section.

### III. Ranking Requirements

- A. The ranking season is the calendar year.
- B. Rankings are computer generated from all match results of sanctioned NTRP Tournaments. This is the responsibility of USTA Florida.
- C. For additional ranking regulations, see the Adult Tournament Rules and Regulations.

### IV. Final Ranking Procedures

The final ranking procedures are the same as for the adult age division tournaments. Please refer to that section.

- V. DNTRP (Dynamic National Tennis Rating Program) ratings system is in place that will adjust a player's self-rating if the computer system deems it to be inaccurate. Any player disqualified from the adult or senior division of USTA Adult League Tennis, may not play at the disqualified NTRP level of play in NTRP Tournaments.