

Rankings Regulations – updated 04/26/18

I. Ranking Regulations

1. Only USTA members in good standing at the close of the ranking year shall be considered for ranking
2. In order to participate in tournaments closed to Louisiana players, the player must, at the time of entry into the tournament and throughout the dates of the tournament:
 - a. Hold a current USTA membership card assigned in Louisiana;
 - b. Be a citizen of the United States or meet the resident alien requirements for a USTA national ranking. Resident Alien requirements include resident aliens who have resided in the United States continuously for more than one year and are members of families of persons or a diplomat or consular core; and
 - c. Be domiciled in Louisiana, which means living in a Louisiana residence with the intent to remain there permanently. Although a player may have another residence in a different state, for purposes of this domiciliary rule, the Louisiana residence must be the players principal residence. In the case of a junior player, domicile means that the player is living in a Louisiana residence with at least one of his/her parents, or court-appointed guardian who has the intent to remain there permanently in that principal residence. Junior players do not lose their Louisiana domicile simply because
 - i. they attend school or college outside of Louisiana, provided that at least one of the player's parents or guardian maintain domicile in Louisiana: or
 - ii. They spend time with one of his or her parents outside of Louisiana pursuant to a joint custody arrangement, provided that the player spends the remaining time with the other parent in his or her Louisiana domicile; or
 - iii. They move temporarily due to a parent's or guardian's military assignment outside of Louisiana.
3. The age eligibility and Ranking Year for all divisions correspond the dates adopted by the USTA, All rankings will cover matches played from January 1 through December 31
4. Consistent with USTA and the Southern Section, the LTA has adopted a Points per Round Ranking System with Bonus Points earned at Louisiana sanctioned junior tournaments for wins over top 100 players. Please visit the junior page on the LTA website (louisianatennis.com) for specifics. Points obtained from play across the Southern Section will be calculated into Louisiana rankings. Additionally, points a player accrues in on higher age division will also be reflected in the player's lower age division ranking. The points earned in the higher age division will not be taken into account in the tournament selection process for lower age division tournaments.
 - a. Per rule #9, participation in the Supernationals, USTA Zone Team Championships or National Opens can be used to meet the tournament requirements. Points earned in those Tournaments (Supernationals, USTA Zone Team Championships or National Opens) will be considered for Louisiana ranking. Head to head play between two Louisiana players in any out-of-state event or any National/Sectional event held in Louisiana will only be considered for endorsement into Southern and/or selection for Southern Junior Cup. Participation in Supernationals, Zonals, National Opens and STA

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Bullfrog Designated tournaments held in and outside of Louisiana will generate points for a Louisiana ranking.

5. Standings – are posted on the LTA website (louisianatennis.com) throughout the year. These are standings, not rankings. Any corrections to player records must be submitted to the LTA by fax, email, or written letter. No phone call will be accepted.
6. Combined rankings – National, Sectional, and State regulations will be based on single and doubles rankings points. The Louisiana Tennis Association will follow the National and Southern guidelines for combined rankings. Rankings will be calculated by taking 100% of the singles points of a player's best six tournaments plus 20% of the player's doubles points of the player's best six doubles events. These do not have to be the same six tournaments.

II. Points per Round/tournament formats

1. Rankings shall be based on the Points per Round System. Final rankings will be based on each player's best six tournament results.
2. Only the following scoring systems will be considered for ranking:
 - a. Best two out of three sets
 - b. Match tiebreak in lieu of third set
 - c. No ad scoring, best two out of three sets or No Ad Scoring with a 10 point Match Tiebreak in lieu of the third set
3. For all USTA Louisiana 10 and Under, Level 1-3 tournament play (not including Jr. Team Tennis), the required scoring format, for singles matches, shall be the best of two short sets (first to four and win by two, with a set tiebreak (first to seven and win by two) at 4-4 in each set, and a set tiebreak (first to seven and win by two) for the third set.
 - a. Doubles matches for 10 & under tournament play shall consist of a regular six game set with a set tiebreak (first to seven and win by two) at 6-6, or short sets, as detailed above in singles play.
4. Only play in sanctioned tournaments, including sanctioned consolation rounds, will be considered for ranking. In any default situation, the player advancing will receive the points per round but NOT the bonus points.

III. Junior Ranking Requirements

1. Boys & Girls – 10 & under Play
 - a. Singles – Players must play in three Louisiana sanctioned tournaments, two of which must be designated and/or Level 3 Louisiana tournaments and one other sanctioned tournament. All players meeting these requirements will be ranked alphabetically.
 - b. Doubles – will be ranked on the basis of records available from sanctioned tournaments. All players will be ranked alphabetically.
2. Boys & Girls – 12 & under through 18 & Under.
 - a. Singles – must play in at least three Louisiana sanctioned tournaments, two of which must be from the following “designated tournaments: and/or Level 3 Louisiana tournament list:

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- b. 2018 Stone Creek Domino’s Pizza Jr State Closed Challenge (Mandeville), City Club State Closed Junior Championships (Lafayette), LA State Junior Open Championships (Shreveport), Louisiana State Closed Junior Qualifying (Lafayette), Pelican State Open Junior Championships (Alexandria), Bocage Junior State Open Championships (Baton Rouge), Louisiana Claycourt State Junior Open Championships (New Orleans), LA Spring Championships, Louisiana Fall Junior Championships, Red River Shoot Out Junior Championships, and one other sanctioned tournament. Playing in three of the designated tournaments may also satisfy the requirement. Players participating in Super Nationals, National Opens or Zonals must play in two designated tournaments, but may substitute one National Championship, National Open or Zonal in his or her age division for the other Louisiana tournament required for ranking. This substitution is a one-for-one substitution of the national tournament for the state tournament. Players are urged to timely check the tentative rankings published in December each year to ascertain their ranking status.
- c. Doubles – must play two sanctioned tournaments, at least one of which are those listed in the designated event.
- d. Waivers – All waiver requests are to be submitted in writing to the LTA to the attention of the Chairman of the Junior Tennis Council (JTC). No waivers will be given for junior designated tournaments with the exception of the following:
 - i. A tournament eligible for an individual already attending college given a written verification from his/her college coach.
 - ii. Any player suffering a death in his/her immediate family at any point during the duration of the event

IV. Louisiana State Junior Qualifying

- 1. A junior player must play in the Louisiana State Closed Junior Qualifying Tournament in order to qualify for the Southern Closed. The exceptions are waivers, direct acceptance and players in the top 75 National standing list as of May 15.
 - a. **WAIVERS**
 - i. A player may be exempt only when his/her spring semester of school has not concluded at the time of Qualifying commences. This does not mean a waiver would be granted for summer school, or any make-up course work that was required due to a player’s failure to complete the course work during the regularly scheduled spring semester. The request to the JTC for a waiver must be supported by documentary proof from the player’s school that he/she will still be in session past the date of Qualifying commences. Waivers must be received prior to the start of Qualifying.
 - ii. A player may be exempt with a documented injury. A player must have a documented medical diagnosis of the injury by two physicians, at least one of whom is a specialist, and neither can be a family member by blood or marriage. The player must submit three completed forms: Request for Medical Waiver for

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Junior Qualifying, Physician's Statement of Injury, and Authorization for Release of Confidential Information. These forms are located on the LTA website on the junior page at louisianatennis.com. The completed forms must be received by the JTC Chairman before the draws are made, and in sufficient time for communication between the designated LTA representative and the player's physician.

- iii. A player may be exempt according to any applicable exemptions set forth by the Southern Tennis Association (STA). In the event of such waiver, which can only be granted by a vote of the Junior Tennis Council, the player would not be endorsed in the Louisiana state's quota; rather, the player would be placed at the bottom of the state's alternate list. The player could be picked up in the STA quota if the section selects him/her.

b. Direct Acceptance

- i. **Southern adopted a "Direct Acceptance" for Southern Closed tournaments beginning in 2017 and increased the draw to 192.**
- ii. **Top Southern 16 age-eligible players for each of the BG12-18's division**
- iii. **This exempts players from playing in their State Qualifier.**
- iv. **Southern will post the Direct Acceptance List on May 14, 2018.**
 1. **Players must register for their respective Southern Closed Championship by the deadline date in TennisLink.**

c. Direct Acceptance Players for Louisiana Junior Qualifying

- i. **Direct acceptance recipients can ONLY enter in **doubles** in the same age division as their acceptance division.**
 - ii. **If a direct acceptance player wants to qualify for a higher age division than their direct acceptance division, the player must provide this request in writing to the Louisiana Tennis Association with their commitment to play in the higher age division rather than their "direct acceptance" age division.**
2. Any Louisiana player that by May 15th of the current year is in the top 75 on the USTA National Standings List will automatically be endorsed into Southern's in his/her age division; allowing such player the flexibility to participate in any upper age division at the Louisiana Qualifier, and if qualifying, (to qualify, this player will have to develop a good enough win-loss record at qualifying), this player may be endorsed into Southern's in that age division giving him/her the choice of which Southern event to participate. **This automatic endorsement will count towards Louisiana's quota.**

V. Southern Closed Endorsement Guidelines

1. To qualify To qualify for the Southern Closed; a junior player must play the Louisiana State Closed Junior Qualifying Tournament except for waivers(IV, A above) direct acceptance players and top 75 National Standing list players as of May 15.
 - a. **Direct Acceptance Players for Louisiana Junior Qualifying**
 - i. **Direct acceptance recipients can ONLY enter in **doubles** in the same age division as their acceptance division**
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- i. This does not apply to the 10’s division
- c. The four semi-finalists in the main draw and the winner (5th) and the runner-up (6th) of the consolation draw are automatically selected.
- i. Selection of the remaining eligible players for LA’s quota will be based primarily on the most recent Southern Standings available to the committee. The only other factors to be considered are:
 1. The player’s national standing (if in the top 200) in the most recent National Standings available to the committee;
 - a. This does not apply to the 10’s division
 2. The player’s ITF ranking (if in top 500) in the most recent ITF rankings available to the committee.
 - a. This This does not apply to the 10’s division
 - ii. Louisiana will allow age eligible 10 players who played in the 12’s age division at Junior Qualifying endorsement into Southern Closed as an ALTERNATE on the Louisiana 10’s endorsement list provided the player/parent notifies the Louisiana Tennis Association, in writing, with a request for endorsement in the 10’s Southern Closed tournament.
2. Entry to the Southern Closed is through TennisLink at southerntennis.com. It is the player’s responsibility to timely enter ONLINE for the Southern Closed. However, only those players who have timely entered the Southern Closed online and been endorsed by Louisiana as part of its quota or otherwise accepted into the draw as alternates, will be allowed to compete in the Southern Closed. Players are urged to register early so as to allow for LA’s quota to be filled and alternates moved up accordingly. It is the player’s responsibility to timely enter online as well as thereafter inquire as to whether he or she has been endorsed for the Southern Closed or is accepted into the draw as an alternate. Endorsement lists will be posted to the LTA website. No notification will be given to those players endorsed, as it is each player’s responsibility to ascertain their status.
- a. Guidelines for Endorsement Committee:

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- i. The Junior Tennis Council Chairman shall appoint a committee comprised of four individuals who shall determine those players to be endorsed plus any alternates. This committee shall, as practicable as possible, be comprised of individuals from various parts of Louisiana.
 - ii. The JTC chairman shall also appoint one alternate to serve on the committee. This alternate will serve as a voting member only in those instances in which one of the committee members develops a conflict in the endorsement decision concerning a specific player(s).
 - iii. If, at any time during the endorsement process, a player under considerations is related to or is a student of one of the committee members, then that member shall immediately so advise the committee. That committee shall be prohibited from any involvement in the deliberations/decision regarding the player. The alternate identified above shall then serve in place of the excused committee member for the decision concerning the player in question.
 - iv. A majority of the four members shall determine whether a player is to be endorsed. In the event the four committee members are evenly split as to a specific player, the District Selector shall then cast the deciding vote.
 - v. A record shall be kept of the committee's decision-making process. One member of the committee shall be designated by the JTC Chairman as the "contact person" responsible for responding to all inquiries concerning the endorsement process and the committee's decision. All inquiries shall be directed to the "contact person", and committee members shall not disclose or discuss the committee's decisions with any non-committee individual.
3. Louisiana Endorsement Criteria
- a) Only players who have participated in Junior Qualifying will be allowed to play Southern Closed per the LTA Ranking Regulations in the BG 12-18 divisions.
 - b) Louisiana will allow age eligible 10 players who played in the 12's age division at Junior Qualifying endorsement into Southern Closed as an ALTERNATE on the Louisiana 10's endorsement list provided the player/parent notifies the Louisiana Tennis Association, in writing, with a request for endorsement in the 10's Southern Closed tournament.
 - c) The requirement to play in the Louisiana Junior Qualifying tournament does not apply to those player(s) who received Direct Acceptance. It does apply for all other Louisiana player's to be endorsed into Southern Closed.

VI. Southern Junior Cup

1. Southern Junior Cup criteria will be as follows:
 - a. Louisiana's Junior Cup teams will be composed of 6 junior players, 3 boys and 3 girls, for each age division: 12s, 14s, 16s, and 18s. The teams will compete against each of the eight other states in the Southern Section at the Southern Junior Cup Tournament.

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- ‡ If any one of the top three players in boys or girls 18s cannot represent Louisiana, any one of the top three players in the 16s in order of their rank, will be considered for play in the 18s.
- b. The Junior Tennis Council will handle all aspects of the selection process of three coaches and a total of 24 players.
- c. Selection of players is based solely on LA player standing in the most current USTA Southern standing list at the time of selection.
- d. Selected players are to be notified by a letter, email and/ or phone call in late July/ early August.
- e. Sportsmanship may be considered as a ground for disqualification at the sole discretion of the Junior Tennis Council.

VII. Final Rankings

1. Tentative Rankings will be posted on the LTA website, Louisianatennis.com, in mid-December. Appeals of tentative rankings, accompanied by complete and accurate records, must be made in writing to the Louisiana Tennis Association Office, “Attention Ranking Chairman” by the deadline posted on the website. Misrepresentation or omission of material facts is sufficient cause to deny any protest. Final rankings will be published on the website in January and included in the LTA Yearbook.
 - a. **Please check the junior page at www.LouisianaTennis.com for updates/changes on a regular basis.**