

I. 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**
 - 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.**
 1. **Direct Acceptance**
 2. **Southern adopted a “Direct Acceptance” for Southern Closed tournaments beginning in 2017 to increase the draw to 192.**
 3. **Top Southern 16 age-eligible players for each of the BG12-18’s division**
 4. **This exempts players from playing in their State Qualifier.**
 5. **Southern will post the Direct Acceptance List on May 14, 2018.**
 6. **Players must register for their respective Southern Closed Championship by the deadline date in TennisLink.**
 - b. 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.
 - 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:

- 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.

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.