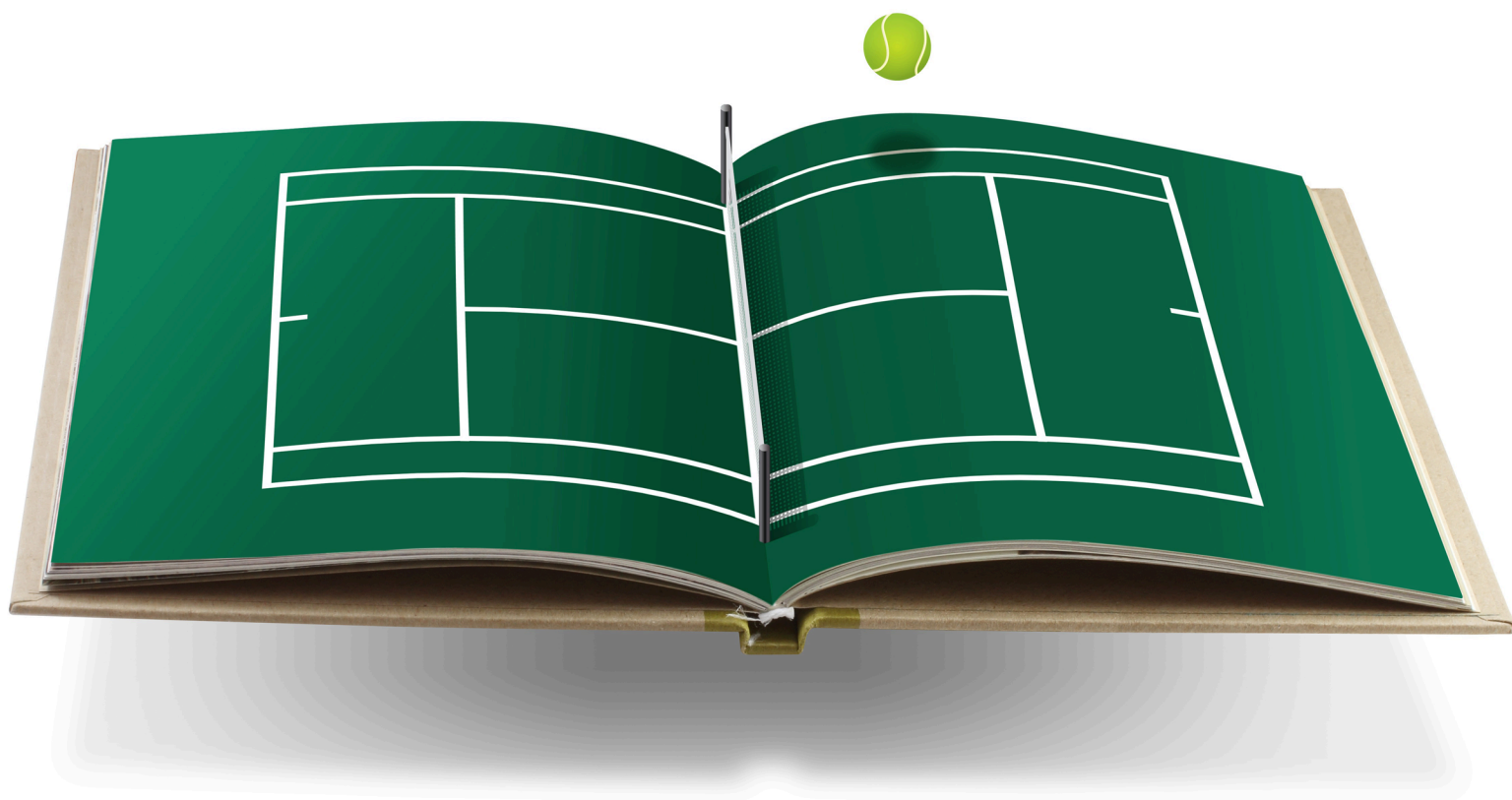


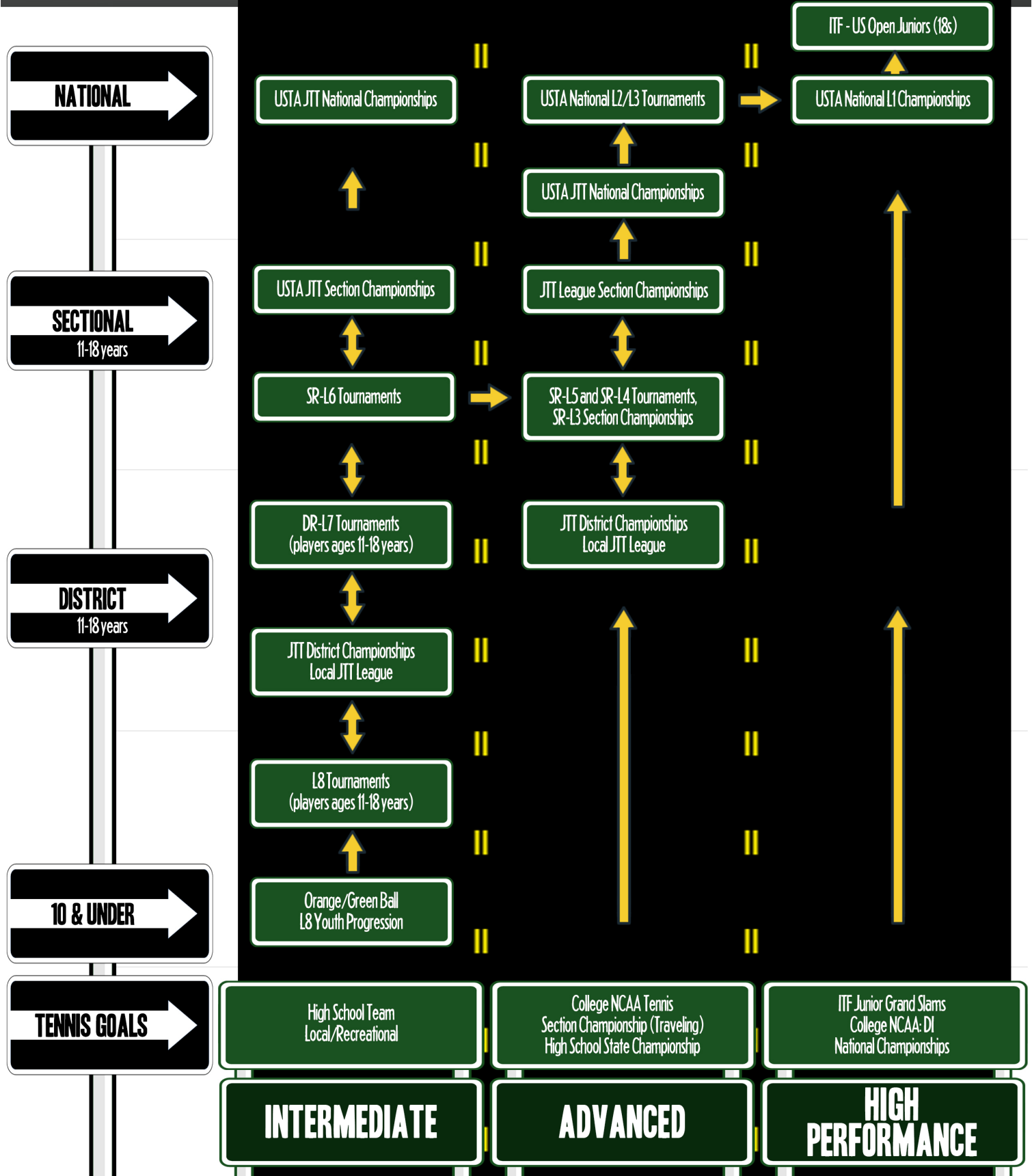


MIDDLE STATES

2017 JUNIOR COMPETITION GUIDEBOOK



usta middle states JUNIOR COMPETITION PATHWAYS



OVERVIEW

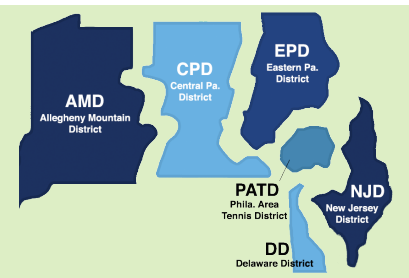
In an effort to improve the experience for thousands of young players throughout the USTA Middle States Section, the 2016 USTA Middle States Junior Competition Guidebook has been designed to maximize a player's competitive experiences, whether that be at Play Days, Junior Team Tennis events or tournaments.

Players advance to higher levels as they earn their way through the pathway. This booklet gives an overview of the entire structure which includes District, Sectional and National competition.

USTA TERMINOLOGY

USTA	United States Tennis Association - The Governing Body of Tennis
USTA MS	USTA Middle States - One of the 17 USTA Sections

DISTRICTS	Subdivision within the Middle States boundaries (AMD) - Allegheny Mountain District (CPD) - Central Pennsylvania District (DD) - Delaware District (PATD) - Philadelphia Area Tennis District (EPD) - Eastern Pennsylvania District (NJD) - New Jersey District
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YOUTH PROGRESSION (YP)	A system that tracks the progress of brand-new USTA MS 10 and Under players
RED, ORANGE, GREEN, YELLOW	Tennis ball colors tailored to a player's skill level
36' 60' 78'	Describes sizes of age-appropriate tennis courts
Junior Team Tennis / JTT	Team-based junior program that combines singles, doubles and mixed doubles
JR. NTRP	Junior National Tennis Rating Program: an advanced tennis rating system that generates player ratings at regular intervals throughout the course of a season
DR - L7	District Ranking Tournament
SR - L6, L5, L4, L3	Section Ranking Tournament
Level 8	Entry Level Tournaments (Non-Ranking)
RANKINGS	Order of players in the 12-18 and under age divisions that earn points during competitions in a calendar year (January 1 to December 31) in regards to final year-end rankings.
STANDINGS	Order of players in the 12-18 and under age divisions that earn points during competitions in a rolling year (ie. March 1, 2016 to February 28, 2017) in regards to the current standings
PPR	Points Per Round
BG10-12-14-16-18	Individual age division for boys' and girls' 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18 and under
SE	Single Elimination Tournament
FIC - 16	Feed-in Championship Through Round-of-16 Tournaments
FMLC	First Match Losers Consolation Tournament
FMLCQ	First Match Losers Consolation to the Quarters Tournaments
NON-ELIMINATION	Another term for Round Robin or Compass Draw
COMP	Compass Draw
TENNISLINK	An online system that organizes USTA Tournaments, utilizing registration services, player information, tournament information and results (www.tennislink.usta.com)
EDC / STC	Early Development Camp / Section Training Centers
DBLS	Doubles
ITF	International Tennis Federation: The international governing body for tennis

ENTRY LEVEL

Unranked, Non-Elimination, Non-Ranking Tournaments



10 AND UNDER YOUTH PROGRESSION (Level 8) [View online at NetPLAYmag.com](#)

The Middle States Junior Pathway promotes play in Red, Orange, Green and Yellow ball events. This level of competition is structured in a way that allows young players to remain at the appropriate level until they are granted advancement by way of age or participation.

The Youth Progression System tracks the progress of all brand new USTA MS 10 and under members **new to competition** through participation in Tournaments and Junior Team Tennis.

How do players progress?

Players will transition by collecting participation stars and trophies based on their results. To clear a specific level, players must reach 1,000 points. The minimum age to begin playing orange and green ball events is 7 years old. On the first day of a player's 11th birthday month, he or she will automatically advance out of the 10 and Under progression tracking system.

Players ages 7-10, new to USTA MS Tournament play, must play in an **Orange Level 1** Tournament first.

Orange Level 1 Tournaments are non-elimination, one-day events.

Orange Level 1 - Each Tournament:

- Participants receive 4 stars (200 points)
- Finalist: additional 3 trophies (175 points)
- Champion: additional 4 trophies (200 points)

To advance to **Green Level 1**, players must accumulate a total of 1,000 points in Orange competition.

Green Level 1 Tournaments are non-elimination events that last no more than 6 hours.

Green Level 1 Point Structure

- Tournament participants receive 4 stars (200 points)
- Finalist: additional 3 trophies (175 points)
- Champion: additional 4 trophies (200 points)

To advance to **Yellow**, players must accumulate a total of 1,000 points in Green competition.

**Completion of a Junior Team Tennis Season or an Early Development Camp (EDC): 5 stars (250 points)*

11 AND OVER (LEVEL 8)

Level 8 Tournaments are one-day tournaments available for junior players who want to play close to home. These non-ranking events are open to players ages 11-18. USTA Membership or a free USTA account number is required to enter these tournaments. Registration is available at tennislink.usta.com.

*12 and Under Divisions are listed as Green Dot Level 8

*14-18 events are listed as High School Level 8



[Apply for a Level 8 Tournament at NetPLAYmag.com](#)

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

Developing players pursuing high school tennis/district ranking

DISTRICT RANKING (DR) TOURNAMENTS

DR L7 Junior Tournaments | District Level 7 - Intermediate

Designed for the developing player pursuing a district and/or sectional ranking

- One or two days in duration
- Players earn district points (points per round) and sectional points (based on the last round that player won)
- Format: 2 out of 3 short sets with no-ad scoring. Starting at 2-games-all, with a 10-point match tiebreak in lieu of a third set.
- All players guaranteed three matches at the tournament. All 12s Divisions will be played with Green Dot balls, excluding "Designated" tournaments.
- Singles events will be a compass draw or round robin format.
- Players in age division with a sectional ranking of 1-20 may not participate in that particular age division.

**Ranking points tables are located at the back of this guidebook.*

Order of Selection into a DR L7 Tournament

- (1) Sectionally ranked District residents listed on the most recently published section standings list in the age division
- (2) Unranked district residents of the district where tournament is being held
- (3) Out-of-District Sectionally-ranked players listed on the most recent published section standings list in the age division
- (4) All other USTA Middle States players
- (5) All other eligible USTA members

No junior player may enter more than one (1) USTA sanctioned tournament when the scheduled dates overlap, unless the player or parent has received written permission to do so from both tournament directors or from the Director of Junior Competition. However, under no circumstance can a player play in more than one (1) USTA sanctioned tournament when the scheduled dates are the same or overlap.

Apply for a DR - Level 7 Tournament at [NetPLAYmag.com](https://www.netplaymag.com)

JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS (JTT) - INTERMEDIATE

Designed for the developing players, Intermediate Junior Team Tennis brings individuals together as teammates to play other teams and gain valuable experience in singles, doubles and mixed doubles matches.

INTERMEDIATE LOCAL JTT	INTERMEDIATE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP JTT
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-advancing (10U, 12U, 14U, 18U)• Free USTA account number or USTA membership required• May advance to a district championship• May be single gender• May be a ranking event• May be doubles or singles only• NTRP not required	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advancing* (14U & 18U)• USTA Membership required• Eligible with NTRP Junior Rating of 3.4 or below• All six USTA MS Districts hold a championship in July• Winning team from each league is guaranteed to advance to respective District Championship.• 14 and Under and 18 and Under Sectional Champions are eligible to advance to USTA National Championships.• Age cutoff is August 31 of the championship year (<i>ie. Player may participate in 14U division if he/she remains 14 through August 31 of the year the championship is played</i>)

***Eligibility Requirements to Advance to District/Section/National Championships: A player is eligible if:**

- (1) meets all Middle States section benchmark requirements for intermediate levels of play
- (2) participated on a team that is from an age-validated advancing program within TennisLink Team Tennis
- (3) played on an advancing team in at least two team matches over two days during the local season
- (4) The results of the two minimum matches must be recorded in TennisLink Team Tennis. A retired match can count toward the two-match requirement, but defaults can not.

Learn more information about Junior Team Tennis at [NetPLAYmag.com](https://www.netplaymag.com)

ADVANCED LEVEL

Developing players pursuing a sectional ranking



USTA SECTIONAL RANKING (SR) TOURNAMENTS

Sectional Level 6 and Level 5

These events count toward section rankings, and their primary purpose is to provide competition among the transitioning USTA MS juniors who are pursuing a high sectional ranking.

Sectional Level 3 and Level 4

These events count toward section rankings and national rankings, and their primary purpose is to provide competition among the USTA MS juniors who are pursuing USTA National Tournament eligibility and ranking.

Order of Selection into Singles Divisions for Sectional Tournaments

- (1) Players with rankings of 100 or better on the most recently-published National Standings List in the age division
- (2) With a maximum of only three, consideration will be given to players with rankings of 50 or better on the most recent National Standings List in the division one level beneath the division in question and, secondly, to players ranked in the top 10 on the most recent published Sectional Standings List in the age division one level beneath the division in question
- (3) Players on the most recently published Sectional Standings List in the age division
- (4) All other USTA Middle States members, by lottery
- (5) **For SR Level 6 Tournaments only**, all other eligible USTA members, by lottery

No junior player may enter more than one (1) USTA sanctioned tournament when the scheduled dates overlap, unless the player or parent has received written permission to do so from both tournament directors or it is a specified concurrent tournament weekend with a Level 3 or 4 (Jan/Feb/Aug/Nov). However, under no circumstance can a player play in more than one (1) USTA sanctioned tournament when the scheduled dates are the same or overlap.

Apply for a SR Level Tournament at [NetPLAYmag.com](https://www.netplaymag.com)

JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS (JTT): ADVANCED

Designed for experienced players, Advanced Junior Team Tennis brings individuals together as teammates to play other teams and gain valuable experience in singles, doubles and mixed doubles matches.

ADVANCED LOCAL JTT	ADVANCED NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP JTT
<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Non-advancing (12U, 14U, 18U)· Free USTA account number or USTA membership required· May advance to a district championship· May be single gender· may be a ranking event· may be a singles or doubles event· NTRP not required	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Advancing* (12U*, 14U, 18U)· USTA Membership required· All six USTA MS Districts hold a championship in July· Winning team from each league is guaranteed to advance to respective District Championship.· Winnig teams from 14U and 18U Sectional Championships are eligible to advance to USTA National Championships.· Singles win at National Championships=10 points. Same-gender doubles win at National Championships=1.5 points.· Age cutoff is August 31 of the championship year (see page 5) <p><i>*12U advances to Section Championships only</i></p>

***Eligibility Requirements to Advance to District/Section/National Championships: A player is eligible if:**

- (1) Participated on a team from an age-validated advancing program (Championship Track) within TennisLink Team Tennis
- (2) Played on the advancing team (Championship Track) in at least two team matches over two separate days during the local USTA Junior Team Tennis Season
- (3) Results of the two minimum matches must be recorded in TennisLink Team Tennis. A retired match can count toward the two-match requirement, but not defaults.

Learn more information about Junior Team Tennis at [NetPLAYmag.com](https://www.netplaymag.com)

HIGH PERFORMANCE

Experienced players pursuing a top-150 national ranking



USTA NATIONAL JUNIOR EVENTS

Access to USTA National events is primarily through the [Section Endorsement Process](#). The Section Endorsement Process guarantees a minimum number of junior players accepted from each section. All high-performance players are encouraged to apply, as additional slots are often made available for additional players from the national standings list. USTA Middle States endorses to the following National Championships and Team Championships, listed below.

USTA NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS - Entry based primarily on Endorsement Lists

NUMBER OF PLAYERS ENDORSED FROM MIDDLE STATES FOR NATIONAL LEVEL 1 CHAMPIONSHIPS

CHAMPIONSHIP	BG12s	BG14s	BG16s	BG18s	ENDORSEMENT DATES	TOURNAMENT DATES
Clay Courts <i>Size of Draw</i>	4 128	4 192	5 224	5 224	June 22, 2017	July 16-23, 2017
Hard Courts <i>Size of Draw</i>	4 128	4 192	5 224	5 224	July 6, 2017	Aug. 4-13, 2017
Indoor <i>Size of Draw</i>	1 64	1 64	1 64	1 64	Oct. 30, 2017	Nov. 24-27, 2017
Winter <i>Size of Draw</i>	4 128	3 128	3 128	3 128	Nov. 30, 2017	Dec. 27, 2017-Jan 2, 2018

USTA NATIONAL TEAM TOURNAMENTS - Entry based on Endorsement Lists

These are national level team tournaments in which players compete alongside fellow Middle States players against players from other USTA sections.

- **Level 2 - USTA Zone Team Championships:** Held in July for the BG12, BG14 and the BG16 divisions
- **Level 1 - USTA Intersectional Team Championships:** Held in July for the BG14 divisions and BG16 divisions
- **Level 1 - USTA National Team Championship:** Consists of 17 teams (one per section) for BG18, held in July.

Below are the dates and number of players endorsed from Middle States for each Boys and Girls division into National Team Championship Events. These are non-elimination, round robin National team championships.

NUMBER OF PLAYERS ENDORSED FROM MIDDLE STATES

NATIONAL TEAM EVENTS	Start Date	BG12s	BG14s	BG16s	BG18s
Zone Team	7/27	12	12	18	n/a
Intersectional Team	7/1	n/a	3*	3*	n/a
National Team	7/29 (b)/7/30 (g)	n/a	n/a	n/a	6*

*The Junior Competition Committee reserves the right, if it is deemed in the best interest of the Section, to select one (1) additional player.

NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS - Entry based solely National Standings List

- USTA Level 2 and Level 3 National Tournaments
- USTA National Spring Championships
- USTA National Spring Team Championships
- USTA National Doubles Championship

View 2017 Junior National Tournaments Calendar, and register at NetPLAYmag.com

RANKINGS POINTS TABLES

USTA Middle States Junior Competition Guidebook



DISTRICT (DR) RANKINGS AND STANDINGS

Players shall earn district points for winning rounds at a district tournament that are set forth on the rankings points table below. Check your district website for year-end ranking requirements.

District Points Per Win Table

District (DR L7) Ranking Points Per Round	DR L7	DR L7*
Main Draw Points Per Round Won	20	40
Consolation Draw Points Per Round Won	10	20

*For District "Designated" tournaments, the points per round value will be double.
The champion receives 30 bonus points and the finalist receives 20 bonus points.

SECTIONAL (SR) COMBINED RANKINGS AND STANDINGS

The last round the player won in the tournament produces the only points the player receives. Byes do not count as a win. Combined rankings are calculated using the best four Sectional (SR), District (DR L7) and/or one national tournament on the USTA National Calendar in a 12-month period. Combined rankings are calculated using 100 percent of the singles points awarded and 15 percent of the doubles points awarded.

Middle States Ranking Points Tables - Effective 1/1/2017

Feed-in Championship Through Round of 16 (FIC-16)

Description	Finish	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Champion	1	660	300	220	165
2nd Place	2	540	250	180	135
3rd Place	3	480	220	160	120
4th Place/SF	4	420	220	160	105
5th Place/QF Playoff Winner	5	390	175	130	98
6th Place/QF Playoff Runner-up	6	360	160	120	90
7th & 8th Place/Playoff Cons Losers	7/8	330	140	110	83
FIC Winner	9	330	140	110	83
FIC Runner-up	10	310	130	105	80
FIC Semi-Finalist	11-12	300	125	100	75
FIC Quarterfinalist	13-16	270	115	90	68
Reach FIC R16	17-24	240	95	80	60
Reached FIC R16 Qualifier	25-32	210	80	70	53
Reached FIC R32	33-48	180	65	60	45
Reached FIC R32 Qualifier	49-64	150	0	50	38
Reached FIC R64	65-96	120	0	40	30
Reached FIC R64 Qualifier	97-128	90	0	30	23
Reached FIC 128	129-192	60	0	20	15

RANKINGS POINTS TABLES

USTA Middle States Junior Competition Guidebook



Middle States Ranking Points Tables - Effective 1/1/2017

FICQ and FIC-16 Draws

Description	Finish	Level 1	Level 3	Level 5
Champion	1	660	220	88
2nd Place	2	540	180	72
3rd Place	3	480	160	64
4th Place/SF	4	420	140	56
FIC Winner	5	300	130	52
FIC Runner-up	6	300	120	48
FIC SF PL Winner	7	300	110	44
FIC SF	7-8	300	110	44
FIC Qtrfinalist	9-12	240	100	40
FIC Qtrfinalist Qual.	13-16	240	90	36
Reached FIC R16	17-24	180	80	32
Reached FIC R16 Qual.	25-32	180	70	28
Reached FIC 32	33-48	120	60	24
Reached FIC R32 Qual.	49-64	120	50	20
Points Per Consolation	-	30	25	20

FMLC and Compass Draws

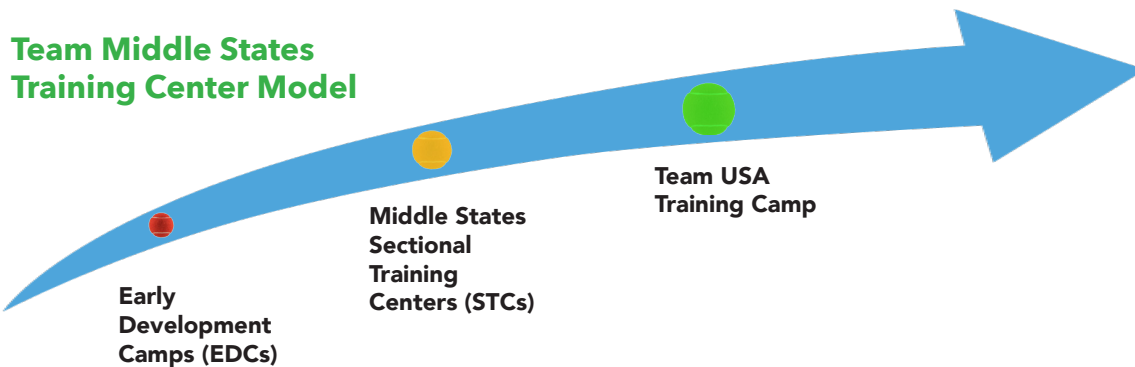
Description	Level 6	Level 7
Champion	56	33
2nd Place	46	29
3rd Place	41	21
4th Place/SF	36	16
Quarterfinalist	26	12
Reached R16	20	8
Reached R32	15	4
Reached R64	10	0
Reached R128	5	0
Reached R256	0	0
Consolation	10	5

Team Events Points Per Win

Description	Level 1 Nationals/Intersectionals	Level 2: Zone Team	Level 7: Advanced JTT
Position 1 Points/Win	100	50	10
Position 2 Points/Win	90	45	10
Position 3 Points/Win	80	40	10
Position 4 Points/Win	70	35	10
Position 5 Points/Win	60	30	10
Position 6 Points/Win	50	25	10

A look at the Middle States Player Development Pathway

Competitive players in Middle States ages 7-14 may choose to participate in Team Middle States Camps and Training Centers. These are broken down into two categories: Early Development Camps (EDCs) and Sectional Training Centers (STCs.)



USTA Middle States Early Development Camps

Early Development Camps (EDC) is a new initiative developed by USTA National Coaches that focus on local players 7 to 10. The goal is to bring together players currently competing in a local area for intensive ½ day Orange Ball and/or Green Ball training sessions.

EDCs located throughout the Section will develop the talent pool of Middle States junior players.

USTA Middle States Sectional Training Centers (STCs)

Sectional Training Centers (STCs) fit the specific needs of our local players between the ages of 10-14. These centers leverage a network of USTA National Faculty coaches, Section high performance coaches, and top players to facilitate a STC program.

During STCs, young players are invited to train and compete at the STC designated for their specific Region. The STC East Initiative will combine players from Delaware, New Jersey, Philadelphia and Central/Eastern Pa. districts. The STC West will focus solely on the Allegheny Mountain District.

Team USA Training Camps

Team USA Sectional Training Camps (formerly Regional Training Centers) are intensive two-day, weekend camps run by a USTA National Coach. Players and coaches follow the Teaching and Coaching Philosophy set out by Jose Higuera, the USTA Director of Coaching. Players train using the same methods that are implemented at the USTA National Training Centers.

Frequently Asked Questions – USTA MS Junior Tournaments

The entry deadline for a tournament has passed. Can I still get in?

No, late entries are not accepted for any section SR level events. Be sure to plan your tournament schedule early. All tournaments are available on the searchable calendar. Check the Middle States Tournament Schedule for entry deadlines.

When registering for a tournament, why am I asked for a phone number and email?

Tournament directors do not have access to membership information. In order for the tournament director to contact you for any reason, they will need the correct contact information.

How do I register for doubles?

All players who want to participate in doubles MUST register online for a doubles event with a confirmed partner before midnight on the closing date. If you registered for doubles with a partner, but your partner did not register by the closing date, you cannot play doubles with that partner. For all tournaments, you must e-mail the tournament director BEFORE the close of the tournament if you do NOT want to play doubles if you don't get selected into the singles draw. If you don't e-mail the tournament director, you will get selected into the doubles draw if you qualify even if you didn't get selected for singles.

How do I withdraw from a tournament?

- To withdraw from a tournament before the entry deadline, return to the tournament homepage via TennisLink and click the "Withdraw" link under the Edit Registration title.
- To withdraw from a tournament after the entry deadline, send an email to the tournament director listed on the tournament homepage.

Will I receive a refund if I withdraw from a tournament?

If you withdraw online before the entry deadline, you will not be charged for the tournament so there is no need for a refund. If you withdraw after being selected for a tournament, the Tournament Director is not required to refund your entry fee.

How are the draws made?

For all USTA Middle States Tournaments, the draws are made by a computer using software that has been developed for USTA tournaments.

How are the seeds determined for a tournament?

- To determine the seeds in the singles draws, players are placed in order by their position on the most current USTA Middle States Standing List at the time of the entry deadline.
- To determine the seeds in the doubles draws, the singles ranking for each player is added together to get a combined ranking. The team with the lowest combined ranking will be the number 1 seed.

Does anybody read the comments from the tournament surveys?

Yes, all submitted responses are reviewed by the Competition Coordinator. A copy of the results and any specific feedback is sent to each tournament director.

Do byes count as a win?

No.

How often are the Standing Lists updated?

The Standings list is run every Wednesday. Any changes made to a tournament after the lists have been calculated and published will not be included until the following Wednesday. It is a player's responsibility to check his or her results and notify the tournament director in a timely manner for errors.

What does "doesn't count toward ranking" mean?

Since not all tournaments are included in the overall point total, when this note is next to a tournament it means that it is not one of the player's top four results.

Do tournaments played outside the Middle States Section count toward my Middle States ranking?

Only one National tournament will count if it is one of your best 4 events.

USTA MIDDLE STATES JUNIOR COMPETITION & PLAYER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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Unless specifically modified or superseded by USTA Middle States, USTA Tournament Regulations govern all USTA Middle States (MS) sanctioned matches and tournaments. Players and parents are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the "USTA Tournament Regulations" which can be found in the most recent edition of Friend at Court. Friend at Court can be purchased online at USTAShop.com or viewed in PDF form on the USTA Middle States website.

Interpretation of the USTA MS Rules and Regulations are made by the Junior Competition Committee subject to appeal to the Grievance Committee and final appeal to the Board of Directors if appropriate.

Player Promise

"I recognize that tennis is a sport that places the **responsibility** of fair play on **me**.

I promise to abide by the rules of the game, which require me to give the **benefit of the doubt** to my opponent.

At all times I shall strive to compete with the true **spirit of sportsmanship**, recognizing that my behavior on the court is a direct reflection of **my character**.

Whether this match ends with my **victory or defeat**, I promise to conduct myself in a way that **honors my opponents**, my team, those who support me, and the game of tennis.

submit your junior's photo or story idea

Middle States Communications and Marketing

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