



MID-ATLANTIC

USTA/Mid-Atlantic Section Code of Conduct Applicable to Junior Tournament Play

1. Standard of Conduct.

All players competing in tournaments sanctioned by USTA, USTA/MAS or any of its Districts are subject to all USTA rules and regulations governing player conduct, including, without limitations: (i) USTA Tournament Regulation IV. (Player Responsibilities and Conduct); and (ii) Rule 30 of the Rules of Tennis (Coaching) as promulgated by the International Tennis Federation (ITF). The complete text of these rules, regulations, and orders are contained in the current edition of the USTA annual publication, "***Friend At Court.***"

2. Point Penalty System.

The USTA Point Penalty System, set forth in USTA Tournament Regulation IV.D shall be in force in all covered events except any reference to injury, illness or personal emergency shall not apply. The purposes of the Point Penalty System are to: (i) deter unsportsmanlike conduct; (ii) promote continuous play during matches; (iii) encourage punctuality among tournament players; and (iv) secure compliance with the rules, regulations, and orders discussed in Section 1 above. *When any points set by the USTA conflict with the Mid-Atlantic point system, then the Mid-Atlantic point system shall apply.*

3. Suspension Point System.

The Suspension Point System shall apply to all matches including, without limitation, main draw and consolation matches in all sanctioned events. The tournament referee at each covered event shall promptly file written evidence of all penalties imposed and Suspension Points at that tournament with the tournament director. Within ten (10) days after the completion of a tournament covered by this policy, the tournament referee shall be responsible for delivering written evidence of all penalties imposed and all Suspension Points assessed at such tournament to the USTA/MAS office.

*It is the responsibility of the player to keep track of points that he or she has accumulated. The Mid-Atlantic office will notify a player when he/she first accumulates six (6) points, however, failure to give notice by the MAS office will not excuse the player from suspension. Player will also receive a copy of these suspension rules with the notice. **A player may not receive further warnings from the Mid-Atlantic office until suspended.***

Suspension points shall apply to all singles and doubles matches, including main draw and consolation matches, accumulated from covered events, including all events in the National Junior Tournament Schedule. (Note: any points assessed at National Level will be assessed in identical number as a Category 1 violation in Mid-Atlantic, even though the same violation at a MAS event may have resulted in fewer points.)

A player may contest suspension points as they occur or upon receipt of actual suspension, but any contest of suspension points resulting in suspension must be received by the Mid-Atlantic office within ten (10) days of the original suspension notice.

There will be two separate categories of Suspension Points as identified below.

(a) Category 1: Code of Conduct Violations.

For each violation under the Point Penalty System (excluding unintentional time violations), Suspension Point(s) shall be assessed as follows:

- (i) Point – Two (2) Suspension Points;
- (ii) Game – Two (2) Suspension Points;

- (iii) Default Match – Two (2) Suspension Points;
 - (iv) Default for flagrantly unsportsmanlike conduct on court – Five Suspension Points *(Note: In this instance, the five (5) Suspension Points would be added to those that might have already been assessed. For example if a player has received a point penalty, a game penalty, and then was defaulted for a flagrantly unsportsmanlike act, that player would be assessed nine (9) Suspension Points for that match.)*
 - (v) Leaving the court during a match without the prior permission or subsequent consent of the tournament director, referee or umpire – Two (2) Suspension Points;
 - (vi) Clearly not using best efforts to win – Two (2) Suspension Points;
 - (vii) Unsportsmanlike conduct off-court at a tournament site – Two Suspension Points; *(Note: Serious off court offenses are punishable by immediate default from the tournament. If such offense appears to constitute a criminal act, tournament officials may notify the appropriate law enforcement officials.)*
 - (viii) Gross misconduct; Physical act of violence against another person on court or off the court by a player, parent, relative, coach, or other person associated with a player – Ten (10) Suspension Points;
 - (ix) Illegal use of drugs or possession of illegal drugs – Eight (8) Suspension Points
 - (x) Possession or consumption of alcohol beverages – Eight (8) Suspension Points;
 - (xi) Gambling activity (as defined in USTA Regulation IV.C.20.) – Eight (8) Suspension Points;
 - (xii) Destruction of Property not belonging to player– Eight (8) Suspension Points;
 - (xiii) Unsportsmanlike acts (racket or ball abuse, physical or audible obscenities) – Two (2) Suspension Points;
 - (xiv) Unsportsmanlike or inappropriate conduct/behavior by parent, relative, or coach – Two (2) Suspension Points;
 - (xv) Flagrant unsportsmanlike or inappropriate conduct/behavior by parent, relative, or coach – Five (5) Suspension Points;
 - (xvi) Competing in a USTA tournament while suspended – Eight (8) Suspension Points;
 - (xvii) Entering another tournament held during the same time, in whole or in part, unless the tournament directors of each tournament concur in writing prior to the start of the earliest tournament – Two (2) Suspension Points.
- Note: This subsection xviii does not apply to a situation where a player enters singles in different age divisions, in the same tournament.*
- (xviii) Failure to sign a Code of Conduct Report proffered by a tournament official – One (1) Suspension Point;
 - (xix) Failure to abide by any other published USTA or Mid-Atlantic order, rule, or regulation governing player conduct – One (1) Suspension Point;

(b) Category 2: Withdrawal/Default Violations

- (i) Default by player from any round in a singles or doubles tournament, for any reason, including withdrawal, walkover, default, injury, illness, personal emergency or any other reason – Two (2) Suspension points;
 - (ii) Withdrawal from a singles or doubles tournament after draw has been made, including withdrawal, walkover, retirement, default, injury, illness, personal emergency or any other reason – Two (2) Suspension Points.
- (Note that tournament draws may be made on different dates. It is the player's responsibility to determine when the draw for each tournament will be made.)*

(c) Points not Additive Across Categories

Suspension Points assessed for Category 1 violations cannot be combined with Suspension Points assessed for Category 2 violations.

4. Suspensions from Tournament Play:

- (a) For Category 1 violations—

(1) A *first suspension* occurs after the accumulation of ten (10) points within a 12 month period and lasts for three (3) months. It also includes suspension from one National Championship even if a National does not fall within the three (3) month suspension period.

(2) A *second suspension* occurs after the accumulation of eight (8) points within the twelve (12) months immediately following the first suspension and lasts for six months.

(3) *Additional suspensions* will occur after the accumulation of six (6) points within the twelve (12) months immediately following the previous suspension and will last for a period of no less than one (1) year and up to the remainder of the player's junior career (upon review of the Junior Competition Committee).

(b) For Category 2 violations, a player is suspended upon accumulation of ten (10) points within a twelve month period and each such Suspension lasts for three (3) months. Suspension due solely to Category 2 violations does not bar a player from participating in any National event.

(c) Subject to any challenge or appeal as authorized below, a suspension begins twenty-one (21) days after the date of issuance of the formal notice of suspension. Players may waive the 21-day grace period by filing a letter of request to that effect with the MAS office. Such requests must be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, and shall become effective on the date the certified letter is mailed.

5. Loss of Eligibility Endorsement

Upon receipt of a written notice of ineligibility from the USTA/Mid-Atlantic Section office, the player shall become ineligible for endorsement by the USTA/Mid-Atlantic Section to any other USTA National events, including individual and team competitions, which are scheduled prior to the National Championship date.

6. Appeal of Suspension to JCC

A player may appeal his or her suspension in writing to the Junior Competition Committee ("JCC") of the USTA/Mid-Atlantic Section. All such appeals must be received at the MAS office no later than ten (10) days after the date of the original suspension notice. In the event of an appeal, a suspension shall not go into effect until a final and binding decision is reached pursuant to USTA/MAS Grievance Procedures.

7. JCC Decisions Subject to USTA/MAS Grievance Procedures

Decisions of the JCC are subject to grievance pursuant to established USTA/MAS Grievance Procedures. In the event of such a challenge, imposition of the suspension period shall be delayed until a final and binding decision is reached.

8. Effective Date

These rules are in effect from the date they are published on the MAS web site or appear in the tournament player's handbook whichever occurs first and shall remain in effect until new rules are published on the internet or in a new handbook.