



KENTUCKY

2026 Adult Tournament Rules and Regulations

I. Basic Information

a. Residency Requirements

- i. To be eligible to compete in any closed Kentucky state championships, a player must have a permanent address in the Kentucky district. Residents of Boone, Campbell, and Kenton counties are not deemed to be residents of the Kentucky district. All entrants must be U.S. citizens, resident aliens in possession of a valid alien registration receipt card, or aliens who have resided in the United States continuously for more than one year.
- ii. To be eligible to be selected to represent Team Kentucky in the Southern Callen Cup, a player must have a permanent residence in Kentucky (excluding Boone, Campbell, and Kenton counties) for three (3) months.
- iii. USTA Kentucky shall have full authority to make conclusive interpretations and decisions regarding residency.

b. Adult Sanctioned Events

- i. All 2027 National Level 5 sanction bids must be submitted to the state coordinator by September 30, 2026.
 1. All Level 5 tournaments have a sanction fee of \$104.16.
- ii. All National Level 6, 7, and World Tennis Number (WTN) Tournaments are on a rolling sanctioning process.
 1. Sanctions should be submitted a minimum of 4-6 weeks ahead of scheduled tournament date for approval.
 2. 2027 Level 6, 7, and WTN sanctions submitted by September 30, 2026 will be given priority and the best chance to get the dates requested.
 3. All Level 6 tournaments have a sanction fee of \$52.34.
 4. All Level 7 tournaments have a sanction fee of \$26.43.
 5. All WTN Events DO NOT have a sanction fee.



II. Event Guidelines

a. Tournament Director Guidelines

- i. USTA Kentucky shall hold the sanction over National Level 6, 7, and WTN events and tournament directors should follow all state regulations for these events. Any requests to change the formats outlined in this document must be approved by the State Coordinator and USTA KY Adult Competition Sanctioning sub-committee prior to the tournament starting.
- ii. USTA Southern will hold the sanction over National Level 3, 4, and 5 events held within the Southern section and tournament directors should follow USTA Southern rules and regulations.
- iii. USTA National will hold the sanction over National Level 1 and 2 events and tournament directors should follow USTA National rules and regulations.

iv. Seeding Procedures

1. Seeding is not required.
2. Seeds shall be awarded on a 1:3 ratio using the “Power of Two”. Please use the following chart to determine the number of seeds to place in your draw:

Total Players in Division	# of Seeds
2-11	1 or 2
12-23	4 or 2
24-47	8, 4, or 2
48-95	16, 8, 4, or 2
96+	32, 16, 8, 4, or 2

3. Seeding for Singles and Doubles Divisions (Level 6 and 7)

- a. Level 6 and 7 tournaments shall use the most recent National Seeding List to in a respective age/NTRP division to determine seeding using the chart in 2-iv. Directors must use the singles or doubles seeding list based on which division seeding.

v. Draw Format and Size

1. WTN Tournaments
 - a. Must follow one of the draw formats outlined under Level 6 or Level 7 tournaments.
2. Level 6
 - a. Draws of 3-5 players are recommended to use a round robin format.



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- b. Draws of 6-16 players can use the following draw formats:
 - a. Modified Feed-In Consolation
 - b. Feed-In Consolation Through Quarterfinals
 - c. Feed-In Consolation Through Round of 16
 - d. Round Robin (Minimum of 3 in each group)
- c. Players shall play no more than 2 singles matches in a singular day if matches are full format. In cases on short scoring, players can play up to 3 singles matches in a day. If a tournament is also hosting doubles events, players are not allowed to play more than 2 doubles matches on the same day as their 2 full format singles matches or 3 short format singles matches.
- d. Draw limits at these events shall not exceed 16.
- e. If match limitations exist, the consolation final can be unfinished.
- f. All 3rd-4th place playoff matches should be completed except in extreme circumstances.

3. Level 7

- a. The following draws are approved for Level 7 events:
 - a. Round Robin
 - b. Round Robin with Playoffs
 - c. Compass Draw
- b. Players shall play no more than 2 singles matches of 3 tiebreaker sets in a singular day, including 10-point tiebreaker in lieu of a 3rd set.
- c. Players shall play no more than 3 singles matches of 8-game pro sets in a singular day.
- d. Players shall play no more than 3 singles matches of 3 tiebreaker short-sets in a singular day, including 10-point tiebreaker in lieu of a 3rd set.
- e. If match limitations exist, the consolation finals and 3rd-4th place playoff can be unfinished.

vi. Head Tax:

- 1. All Level 5-7 tournaments hosted in the state of Kentucky are subject to a \$2 per unique player fee, which will be collected through Stripe on the Serve Tennis Platform.
- 2. All WTN tournaments hosted in the state of Kentucky do not have a head tax.



III. Scoring Formats

- a. USTA Southern shall dictate all scoring formats for National Level 3-5 events.
- b. USTA National shall dictate all scoring formats for National Level 1-2 events.
- c. USTA Kentucky shall dictate all scoring formats for National Level 6-7 events.
 - i. The following score formats are allowed for Level 6 events:
 - 1. Best 2 of 3 Tiebreak Sets with a 10-point tiebreaker for the 3rd set
 - 2. Best 2 of 3 Short Sets to 4 with a 10-point tiebreaker for the 3rd set
 - 3. 8-game pro set with 7-point tiebreaker at 8-8
 - 4. No-ad scoring for singles divisions should be approved by the state coordinator.
 - 5. Any other scoring formats must be approved by the state coordinator and only implemented in special circumstances.
 - ii. The following score formats are allowed for Level 6 doubles events:
 - 1. Doubles Only Events:
 - a. Best 2 of 3 Tiebreak Sets with a 10-point tiebreaker for the 3rd set
 - b. Best 2 of 3 Short Sets to 4 with a 10-point tiebreaker for the 3rd set
 - c. 8-game pro set with 7-point tiebreaker at 8-8
 - 2. Events with Singles Divisions Also Offered:
 - a. 8-game pro set with 7-point tiebreaker at 8-8
 - b. 6-game pro set with 7-point tiebreaker at 6-6
 - 3. No-ad scoring can used for doubles events without approval from the state coordinator.

IV. Ball and Equipment Regulations

- a. **Ball Color**
 - i. All Level 6, 7 and WTN events should use regulation yellow balls for singles and doubles events.
- b. **Court:**
 - i. The court shall be a full 78-foot court.

V. Rest Periods and Match Limitations

- a. **Rest Period Between Matches (Level 6, 7 and WTN Events)**
 - i. A minimum rest period of 60 minutes must be offered between singles matches consisting of at least 2 sets, including regular scoring, no-ad scoring, and tiebreak in place of the 3rd set.
 - ii. A minimum rest period of 60 minutes must be offered between all singles matches consisting of at least 2 sets, including regular scoring, no-ad



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scoring, and tiebreak in place of the 3rd set followed by doubles matches using an 8-game pro set or 6-game pro set.

- iii. A minimum rest period of 30 minutes must be offered between all doubles matches consisting of an 8-game pro set or 6-game pro set.
- iv. A minimum rest period of 30 minutes must be offered between all doubles matches consisting of an 8-game pro set or 6-game pro set followed by a singles match.
- v. Players should be offered a minimum of 12 hours from the conclusion of their final match and the start of their next match the following day (“12-hour rule”).

b. Multiple Entry Violations

- i. Players may not enter two tournaments that occur at the same time. This is a violation of USTA Friend at Court Rules.
 - 1. A player can get permission from the tournament directors of both tournaments should one tournament ending and one tournament beginning overlap. It is the player’s responsibility to obtain written permission to register for these concurrent events.
- ii. Players cannot play in the same event (singles or doubles) in two different age divisions without approval from the tournament director.