



## KENTUCKY

# 2026 Junior Tournament Rules and Regulations

## I. Basic Information

### a. Residency Requirements

- i. To be eligible to compete in the Joe Creason Kentucky State Championship, 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 Junior 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. Junior Sanctioned Events

- i. All 2027 National Level 5 sanction bids must be submitted to the state coordinator by July 31, 2026.
  1. Any tournament directors wanting to host a 2027 Level 5 tournament, must also host a Junior Circuit where at least orange and green ball divisions are offered at some point in the 2027 calendar year.
  2. All Level 5 tournaments have a sanction fee of \$104.16.
- ii. All National Level 6, 7, and Junior Circuits 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. 2026 Level 6, 7, and Junior Circuit sanctions submitted by July 31, 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 Junior Circuits DO NOT have a sanction fee.



- iii. Divisions Offered (not all divisions must be offered at each tournament)
  - Boys and Girls 18U Singles, Doubles, Mixed Doubles
  - Boys and Girls 16U Singles, Doubles, Mixed Doubles
  - Boys and Girls 14U Singles, Doubles, Mixed Doubles
  - Boys and Girls 12U Singles, Doubles, Mixed Doubles
  - Boys and Girls 10U Singles, Doubles, Mixed Doubles

## II. Event Guidelines

### a. Tournament Director Guidelines

- i. USTA Kentucky shall hold the sanction over National Level 6 and 7 events and tournament directors should follow all state regulations for these events.
- 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. 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

### 2. 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 division to determine seeding using the chart in 2-iv. Directors must use the singles or doubles seeding list based on which division seeding.



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### v. Draw Format and Size

#### 1. 10U Grand Prix

- a. All 10U events shall use Round Robin or Compass Draw formats for green and orange ball events.
- b. Draw limits at these events shall be 16.

#### 2. 12U-18U Divisions Level 6

- a. Draws of 3-5 players are recommended to use a round robin format.
- 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 of 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 finals can be unfinished.
  - a. Any other unfinished consolation bracket matches must be approved by the state tournament coordinator.
- f. All 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> place playoff matches should be completed except in extreme circumstances.

#### 3. 12U-18U Divisions 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 3<sup>rd</sup> set.
- c. Players shall play no more than 3 singles matches of 8-game pro sets in a singular day.



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- 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 3<sup>rd</sup> set.
- e. If match limitations exist, the consolation finals and 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> 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 Junior Circuit 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.

### 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 12-18U singles events:
    - 1. Best 2 of 3 Tiebreak Sets with a 10-point tiebreaker for the 3<sup>rd</sup> set
    - 2. Best 2 of 3 Short Sets to 4 with a 10-point tiebreaker for the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 12-18U doubles events:
    - 1. Doubles Only Events:
      - a. Best 2 of 3 Tiebreak Sets with a 10-point tiebreaker for the 3<sup>rd</sup> set
      - b. Best 2 of 3 Short Sets to 4 with a 10-point tiebreaker for the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. Dominant Duo Events



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- a. 8-game pro set (no-ad scoring) with a 7-point tiebreaker at 8-8.
  - b. 6-game pro set (no-ad scoring) with a 7-point tiebreaker at 6-6.
4. No-ad scoring can be used for doubles events without approval from the state coordinator.

### **IV. Ball and Equipment Regulations**

#### **a. 12U-18U Divisions**

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

#### **b. 10U Divisions**

- i. Ball Color
  1. Grand Prix events shall use regulation green or yellow balls for all play. This distinction will be labeled on the sanction form upon submission.
  2. Orange ball events can be hosted in connection with Grand Prix events but those events shall not be given ranking credit.
- ii. Court
  1. Orange Ball divisions: The court shall be a 60-foot court
  2. Green Ball divisions: The court shall be a 78-foot court

### **V. Rest Periods and Match Limitations**

#### **a. Rest Period Between Matches (Level 6 and 7)**

- 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 scoring, and tiebreak in place of the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



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- 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”).
- vi. If a tournament is being run as a dominant duo event, a maximum rest period of 10 minutes will be offered between the doubles 8-game or 6-game pro set, and the start of the singles matches.

### **b. Night Play Limitations**

- i. Children aged 8-14 cannot begin or resume any match later than 8 P.M. without approval from the state tournament coordinator in extreme circumstances.
- ii. Children aged 15-18 cannot begin or resume any match later than 10 P.M. without approval from the state tournament coordinator in extreme circumstances.

### **c. 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.
  - 1. Players can play in two different event types in different age divisions. For instance, a player can sign up for Boys 12s singles and Boys 14s doubles.

## **VI. Special Selections and Endorsements**

### **a. Southern Junior Cup**

- i. 3 boys and 3 girls from the 12s, 14s, 16s, and 18s division will be invited to play for Team Kentucky.
- ii. Selection of the team will be made by the USTA Kentucky Southern Junior Cup sub-committee. Players must be age eligible in their respective division as of September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025.



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- iii. Players will be selected based on their current National standing in that age division at the time of selection. Secondary selection criteria will be used including, but not limited to: WTN rating, UTR rating, head-to-head results against other players under consideration, as well as behavior incidents and suspension points.
- iv. The sub-committee and coaches will make all determinations on which division kids are invited to play for based on team needs.
- v. Parents of players under consideration on the USTA Kentucky Junior Competition Committee will not be on the player selection sub-committee.
- vi. Parents of players under consideration who are selected to coach Team Kentucky will be asked to leave the selection meeting when their child is being discussed.