

### Submission Instructions

Applications for the 2021 NJTL Essay Contest presented by Deloitte must be submitted by a currently registered NJTL chapter to the USTA Foundation. Entries from individuals will not be accepted. Submissions must be provided by a currently registered NJTL chapter via the USTA Foundation Funding Portal (<https://usta.fluxx.io/>) prior to 12:00 pm Noon Eastern Time on Wednesday, July 21, 2021. See the Terms and Conditions of the 2021 Essay Contest for all details.

Chapters will submit all of their applications at one time. No supplemental applications will be accepted. These will be uploaded into the USTA Foundation Funding Portal. A summary spreadsheet of all applicants is also required. A template for this spreadsheet can be downloaded by [clicking here](#). Please note that the contest materials/submissions will not be returned once submitted.

A single PDF file for **each of the age categories** should be created with the grant application form as the cover sheet followed by the essay. The file name should follow the naming convention of GenderAge\_Chapter\_Name. For example, M10U\_Aces\_in\_Motion.pdf or F17-18\_EPATT.pdf. Do not create a PDF with all applications combined. If you have an exceptionally large number of applicants for an age category, you can create multiple PDFs for ease in scanning/upload, BUT these must be clearly labeled/names.

Incomplete Application Forms and Essay Sheets will automatically be voided and not considered. The signature on the Application Form must be that of the parent/guardian; NJTL chapters cannot sign on behalf of the parent/guardian. Please ensure all blanks are completed on the Application Forms.

### How to Submit Applications via the **USTA Foundation Funding Portal**

(<https://usta.fluxx.io/>)

All NJTL chapters **already registered** with the USTA Foundation Funding Portal do **NOT** have to register again and such chapters will have access to the NJTL Essay Contest Application Form by navigating to the "Essay Contest Information" tab on the left side of the screen and clicking the green "Start Application Now" button.

An account for the USTA Foundation Funding Portal must be created and approved prior to the submission of the applications. This registration process averages 1-2 days. Therefore, we recommend that a NJTL chapter should register with the portal no later than July 14, 2021, in order to assist in a smooth submission process.

Creating a USTA Foundation Funding and Program Portal Account

1. Go to <https://usta.fluxx.io/>.
2. From the right side of the screen, follow the link to apply for a scholarship or grant. You will be redirected to the Welcome to the USTA Foundation Funding and Program Portal Registration landing page.
3. From this page, navigate to the field Are you applying as an individual or organization?, and click Organization from the drop-down menu.
4. Please complete as many fields as possible, and note that the fields in bold are required. Then, click the Submit Request button at the end of the page.

### Deadline

NJTL Chapters may choose any local deadline for their essay authors to submit their applications, as long as all submissions for consideration for the USTA Section and National Recognized Essays are submitted to the USTA Foundation as described above on or before 12:00 pm Noon Eastern Time on Wednesday, July 21, 2021. See the Terms and Conditions of the 2021 NJTL Essay Contest for all details.

If you have questions, please email us at [njtl@usta.com](mailto:njtl@usta.com).

## Additional Resources

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### Essay question

Robert Ryland was an accomplished tennis player and coach. He was known for seeing the possibilities in those he coached and within himself. Mr. Ryland was the first African-American professional tennis player and the first African-American to play in the NCAA National Championships. What facts about his story inspire you to break boundaries and excel in school, sports, and to follow your dreams? What are your possibilities?

**To write a successful essay, your participants will need more information about Mr. Ryland. Here are some resources for you to review and also consider sharing with your participants to learn more about his story.**

[LINK TO VIDEO](#)

#### Remembering Bob Ryland - USTA

<https://www.usta.com/en/home/stay-current/eastern/bob-ryland-passes-away-at-100.html>

#### Robert Ryland, Who Broke a Tennis Barrier, Passes at 100

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/12/sports/tennis/robert-ryland-dead.html>

#### Bob Ryland, first Black tennis player to go pro, passes at 100

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/bob-ryland-first-black-tennis-player-to-go-pro-dies-at-100/2020/08/13/8b538c78-dd70-11ea-809e-b8be57ba616e\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/obituaries/bob-ryland-first-black-tennis-player-to-go-pro-dies-at-100/2020/08/13/8b538c78-dd70-11ea-809e-b8be57ba616e_story.html)

**After your participants review the resources, you may engage them with the following questions. These points are meant to help with the structure and composition of your participant essays.**

Who was Robert Ryland and what did he do?

After reading, I found out that Mr. Ryland... (include details like where and when)

Two interesting facts about Mr. Ryland are...

Barriers that Mr. Ryland faced are... (barriers are things that make it difficult to succeed)

How is Mr. Ryland's life or experiences similar to yours? Can you name two similarities?

What else do you want to know? Where can you go to find out about that?

### SUGGESTED: Discussion points on the NCAA

The essay question references the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association), please consider using the resources and questions below to help facilitate a discussion with your participants.

<https://www.usta.com/en/home/play/college-tennis/programs/national/college-tennis>

<https://www.ncaa.org/about/resources/media-center/ncaa-101/what-ncaa>

Want to play college sports? <https://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/future>

### After your participants review the resources, you may prompt them with the following questions.

What is the NCAA and what do they do?

Can you see yourself playing college tennis? What is one step you can make today to move toward that idea?

If you hope to play in college, a coach may come to visit you one day. "A majority of coaches prefer to see someone play more than anything and will make an effort to do so for all the players they are considering seriously." (USTA Basic Recruiting Information)

Why would a coach want to see someone play? If you were that coach, what would you look for? As an athlete what would you hope the coach notices about you?

College coaches look for talent level and much more. How would you describe your ability to improve for a coach? What examples can you give them?

If you were to compose an email to a college coach, how would you introduce yourself? In addition to your graduation year, what other goals would you mention?

### Other Q&A

- ▶ What are two important functions of the NCAA?
  - Makes the rules for college sports
  - Supports the well-being and lifelong success of college athletes
- ▶ How old is the NCAA?
  - The NCAA was founded in 1906.
- ▶ Where is the NCAA Headquarters located?
  - Indianapolis, Indiana
- ▶ When was the first NCAA Tennis Tournament?
  - 1883
- ▶ Who are the most recent NCAA tennis team champions?
  - Stanford (W) Texas (M)
- ▶ How many athletic conferences are in the NCAA structure?
  - 102 athletic conferences are member organizations of the NCAA
- ▶ Where do you register to determine your eligibility to play intercollegiate athletics?
  - The NCAA Eligibility Center

### Academic Requirements

- ▶ What are the Academic Standards for College-bound student-athletes who want to practice, compete and receive athletically related financial aid during their first year at a Division I or II school?
  - Graduate from high school.
  - Complete a minimum of 16 core courses for Division I or II.
  - Earn a minimum required grade-point average in core courses.
  - Earn a qualifying test score on either the ACT or SAT.
  - Request final amateurism certification from the NCAA Eligibility Center.
- ▶ For Division I student-athletes, the following must be completed in addition to the above standards:
  - Earn at least a 2.3 grade-point average in core courses.
  - Meet an increased sliding-scale standard (for example, an SAT score of 820 requires a 2.5 high school core course GPA)
  - Successfully complete 10 of the 16 total required core courses before the start of their seventh semester in high school. Seven of the 10 courses must be successfully completed in English, math and science.