USTA Southern Rules and Regulations

Applicable to National Level 5 Open Sanctioned Tournaments

1. **Administration of the Tournaments**
    a. Tournament Applications
        i. Tournament applications must be submitted online with Serve Tennis, using the rules set forth by USTA Southern.
            1. Applicants submitting sanctions for Level 5 Open and Level 5 Closed tournaments are committing to a 1-year contract to host the tournament at their facility.
        ii. All tournaments must pay the tournament application fee by credit card in Serve Tennis.
            1. If a card is declined, applicants have **48 hours** after tournament has been approved by USTA Southern staff to update card information and pay fee.
        iii. Any tournament and/or Tournament Director found in violation of application requirements - including but not limited to publishing deadlines, outstanding fees on their account - for the current year will not be considered for a tournament application the following year.
    b. Tournament Director
        i. Tournament Director must be a current member of the USTA through the last day of the approved sanction dates for their tournament.
        ii. Tournament Director must have passed the Safe Play Certification and background check and must be current through the approved sanction dates for their tournament.
    c. Referee
        i. National Level 5 Open tournaments MUST have Certified Referees who must have passed the Safe Play Certification and background check.
        ii. Certified Referees must be named and their contact information available prior to sending in the tournament application.
        iii. Referees must accept an invite to Serve Tennis and login using their credentials when accessing a tournament.
            1. Referees must not use the Tournament Director's login credentials for accessing tournaments in Serve Tennis.
    d. Membership
        i. Host organization, agency or facility must have a current USTA Organization membership valid through the last day of the tournament's approved sanction dates.
        ii. All players must have a current USTA membership to register for tournaments.
            1. Players can go to www.usta.com to join online or call 800-990-USTA (8782)
            2. Players must register for the tournament online using through the use of the tournament homepage.

e. Medical Release Form and Photo Release
  i. The Medical Release Form and Photo Release must be completed by each participant and turned in prior to the start of the tournament.

f. Additional Tournament Administration Procedures
  i. Tournament Directors must use Serve Tennis to manage the tournament, create draws, and publishes information on the USTA website.
    1. Splitting age divisions and weekends is allowed.
  ii. The rules set forth in this document are particular to the USTA Southern section. As such, play in all matches is governed by Friend at Court; the USTA Code; the USTA Southern Rules & Regulations; the USTA Southern Tournament Rules & Regulations, with the current USTA Point Penalty System in effect for all matches.
  iii. Tournament Committee and Tournament Appeals Committee
    1. The Tournament must have a Tournament Committee and a Tournament Appeals Committee.
      a. The Tournament Committee consists of the Tournament Chairperson, Tournament Director and Referee.
        i. If the Tournament Director is serving as the Tournament Chairperson, a third person must be appointed to the Tournament Committee.
      b. The Tournament Appeals Committee is composed of at least two members.
        i. Tournament Referee MUST NOT serve as a member of the Tournament Appeals Committee.
      c. Please refer to Friend at Court for more information on the responsibilities of the Tournament Committee and Tournament Appeals Committee

2. **Minimum Site Requirements for Tournaments**

a. Officials
  i. All tournaments must have a minimum of 1 Certified Official for every 6 courts

b. Athletic Trainer
  i. An Athletic Trainer is **highly recommended** especially during the SUMMER months.

c. Facility Requirements
  i. Ice and water must be readily available for players at all sites where matches are played.
  ii. Bathroom facilities must be at all sites where matches are played.
  iii. Seating must be provided on-court for players.
  iv. Score tenders or alternative scoring keeping devices on all courts (such as pen and paper must be provided)
  v. **SINGLES STICKS ARE REQUIRED** for all sites where matches are played.
  vi. All tournament sites and literature must display USTA Southern identification – i.e., the USTA Southern banner.

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3. **Entry Fees**
    a. Tournaments having a combined entry fee for singles and doubles must also have a separate fee half the price of singles for a double's only player.
    b. All tournament entry fees are at the discretion of the USTA Southern Junior Competition Committee and must be specified on the tournament homepage.
4. **Entries and Deadlines**
    a. Deadlines
        i. Entries cannot be closed prior to the published deadline.
        ii. Every entry submitted prior to the deadline must be considered for acceptance.
        iii. The entry deadline must also be specified on the application.
        iv. Entry deadlines cannot be changed without the consent of USTA Southern.
            1. See entry deadline on tournament homepage.
    b. Late Entries
        i. If draws are not full, Tournament Directors can take late entries as long as draws are not POSTED.
        ii. If the draw is full, Tournament Directors may take late entries onto the alternate list, only if the player is not ranked higher than the last seed.
    c. Signing-up for Two Age Divisions
        i. Players may not register for two age divisions in Level 5 tournaments
        iv. Once a player is selected for any one division, **NO CHANGES CAN BE MADE**.
    d. Doubles Only Tournaments
        i. In Doubles ONLY tournaments where mixed and gender divisions are being offered, players MUST enter into the same age group in both events if they choose to play.
        ii.For example, if a player signs up for Boys 18s Doubles, he MUST sign up Mixed 18s DoublesIf he decides he wants to play two events.
5. **Changes in Applications**
    a. There must be no changes to tournament applications unless approved in advance by USTA Southern staff.
    b. Divisions with a minimum of 3 players must be played which will be in the form of a Round Robin.
        i. It is recommended that the players be contacted under these situations.
6. **Match Format**
    a. Format of Play, Draw Formats, Maximum Matches per Day, and Rest Period for each age division can be found on the tournament homepage.
    b. Play in all matches is governed by Friend at Court, the USTA Code; USTA Southern Rules; USTA Southern Tournament Regulations, with the current USTA Point Penalty System in effect for all matches.
    c. Doubles players may only sign up for the same age division as playing singles in Level 5 Open tournaments.
    d. Southern no longer requires a 3rd and 4th playoff for Doubles draws in Level 5 Open events
7. **Schedule**
    a. No player will play more than 2 Singles matches with a Match tie-break in one day of tournament play or one match per day when 2 of 3 tiebreak sets are played, unless approved by the USTA Southern Junior Competition Committee.
    b. Tournaments Directors will follow Friend at Court's 12-hour guideline when scheduling matches
    c.Players get **2 hours MANDATORY REST** in between singles matches in the tournament for Summer months(May-October)
        - Players get **1 hour Maximum REST** when going from a Singles match to a Doubles match

- Players get **30 min Maximum REST** in between doubles matches

d. Players get **1.5 hours MANDATORY REST** in between singles matches in the tournament for Winter months(October-May)

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8. **Seeding and Selection**
   a. Selections will utilize the National Combined Standing List of the week prior to the tournament start date
   b. Seeding
      i. Singles will use the Singles Seeding List of the week prior to seed players in the draw
      ii. Doubles will use the Doubles Seeding List of the week prior to seed doubles teams in the draw
9. **Draws and Suspension Points**
   a. Draws
      i. In Level 3 Closed, Level 4, and Level 5 tournaments, the draws must be completed and published at least 2 days prior to the scheduled starting time of the tournament.
      ii. The Tournament Director and Certified Referee **MUST** be present when the draw is done. It is the responsibility of the Referee to make sure draws are correct.
      iii. The draws must be made per USTA regulations.
      iv. A copy of the draws must be posted online with the player's first and last name, along with the city, state noted under the names.
      v. All draws must be updated throughout the tournament and scores must be entered into Serve Tennis no more than 10 minutes after a match completes.
   b. Suspension Points
      i. The Referee must log all suspension points in Serve Tennis no more than one hour after the final match has completed.
         1. The Referee must log all suspension points under their credentials and cannot be logged in as the Tournament Director.
10. **First Match Time**
    a. It is the player's responsibility to check the tournament homepage for their first match time.
    b. First match times must be available at least 2 days prior to the start of the tournament
11. **Tournament Homepage**
    a. It is mandatory for Tournament Directors to update and post the below items to their tournament homepage for players at least 3 months in advance of their tournament:
       i. Scoring formats and draw types
       ii. Double's information
       iii. Official tournament ball
       iv. Medical Release Form information
       v. Selections and Seeding information- Including the date of the list
       vi. Check-in procedures, sites being used and practice court information
       vii. Late entrant procedure – if accepting
       viii. Concurrent tournament policy
       ix. Referee contact information
       x. Additional information to include: lodging, trainer, stringer and your Tournament Committee

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12. **Canceled Tournaments**
    a. USTA Southern sanctioned tournaments may be canceled by a representative of the host facility, Tournament Director and USTA Southern Junior Sanction and Schedule Sub-Committee Chair with consultation from the **USTA Southern Director of Junior Tennis or USTA Southern staff** personnel for any reason deemed necessary to maintain the integrity and standard expectations associated with USTA Southern Junior tournaments.
    b. Tournament cancellations must be displayed publicly by stating canceled in the title of the tournament on the website.
    c. Tournament cancellations can be made at any time until the start of the tournament.
    d. USTA Southern is not responsible for any player expenses incurred due to the cancellation of a tournament such as travel costs, hotel fees, etc.
13. **Shortening Matches**
    a. Tournament Directors must obtain approval from the USTA Southern office to shorten matches on Level 5 Open tournaments. Inclement weather, health concerns, or safety concerns may force the Certified Referee to take steps to shorten the tournament to keep the tournament on schedule, including, but not limited to:
        i. Switching to no-ad scoring. The Referee may switch to no-ad scoring for any complete round.
        ii. Switching to 10-Point Match Tiebreak in lieu of 3rd set or switch to short sets. The Referee may switch to the 10-Point Match Tiebreak in lieu of deciding final set or to short sets for any complete round.
        iii. Switching to 2 of 3 short sets, or 2 of 3 short sets with a 7-point tie break in lieu of the 3rd set. iv. Strictly enforce pre-match warm-up time and breaks between sets.
        v. Tighten court usage. Use “to be followed by” scheduling and have players waiting at courtside as soon as matches finish.
        vi. Canceling matches in the following order: (USTA Southern has the authority to change the order of cancellation)
            1. Consolation Doubles
            2. Main Draw Doubles
            3. Consolation Singles
            4. Main Draw Singles

14. **Balls**
    a. A minimum of three (3), new USTA Southern approved tennis balls must be provided for each main draw match, each consolation match, and each doubles match.
        i. There is no official ball for the Level 5 tournaments, so any USTA approved tennis ball is acceptable for use.
    b. If a full third set is needed, the tournament will provide a new can of balls to complete the match.

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15. **Refunding of Entry Fee**
    a. There are no refunds required after the entry deadline.
    b. There is no refund of entry fees as stated above regardless of whether the Tournament Committee subsequently adds a replacement player.
    c. If a division is canceled and a player has not played his or her first match, the entire entry fee must be refunded minus the Serve Tennis fee and any fixed costs the Tournament Director has incurred.
        i. This would include, but not limited to, items such as: t-shirts, cost of printing draws, personnel, officials, etc.,
16. **Player Amenities**
    a. All Southern Level 5 tournaments must provide a tournament gift.
        i. The player gift could be a towel, t-shirt, hat etc.
    b. All Southern Level 5 Open tournaments must have water and ice for the duration of the tournament.
17. **Grievance Procedures**
    a. Any Grievance shall be filed in writing within thirty (30) days following the date on which the alleged violation occurred, except that if the alleged violation is based on falsification of any information, such written grievance shall be filed within thirty (30) days after discovery.
    b. If a grievance is mailed, it must be mailed first class, certified or registered mail to the Chairman of the Grievance Committee of USTA SOUTHERN:
        C/O USTA SOUTHERN PLAYER DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
        5685 SPALDING DRIVE
        PEACHTREE CORNERS, GA 30092
    c. If a grievance is emailed, it must be sent to cercone@sta.usta.com
    d. For more info on grievances, please see USTA Southern website - Grievance Procedures

18. **Dominant Duo Rule:**
    a.Starting in January of 2024,The Southern Junior Competition Committee has approved that ALL Southern Dominant Duo events will be a 6-game pro-set for doubles with no-ad scoring.
    b.Players will have up to a 10-min rest period after finishing doubles and going to singles in the same team match.
    c.Singles will still be best two out of three sets with a 10-point tiebreaker if you split. Rest time will still follow the Southern Rule in between Singles matches or going from a Singles match to a Doubles match.
19. **Flighted Draws:**

    a. Players will be flighted/seeded by ranking 1-16 into the first flight, and flighted/seeded 17-32 by ranking into the second flight. If it's not a full draw, we will split the draws evenly. Also, we will not split draws with less than 16 players. There will simply be one 16-draw for those divisions. For example: There are 17 players in a division. Draw A will have 9 players and Draw B will have 8 players.
    b. Flighted events must be sanctioned for 2 days(Saturday & Sunday) OR 2.5 days(Friday night not before 5pm (unless approved by the office to start earlier), Saturday, and Sunday)

USTA Southern Trophy Recommendations

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32 Player Feed-In-Consolation (FIC) Draw

32 Player Feed-In-Consolation (FIC) Draw
Main Draw
Champion and Finalist
3rd and 4th Place
5th and 6th Place
Consolation Winner & Finalist(optional)

32 Player Flighted (FIC) Draw

2 16- Player Feed-In-Consolation (FIC) Draws
Main Draw
Champion and Finalist
3rd and 4th Place
Consolation Finalist Place(2 per draw OR optional)

* Please note for all Flighted Draws, you will have to get places 1-4 for each flight. & (2) Consolation finalist trophies for each flight will be optional to get
* Please note for Regular 32-draw Tournaments, consolation awards are also optional

- For Level 5 Flighted Tournaments, please make sure to get 2 SETS of each place trophy
- Please note in Flighted Draws, you won't finish the consolation finals but awards for consolation can still be given out.