

ARTICLE 25 TENNIS

25.1 GENERAL: Entrants must be amateurs under the rules of the United States Tennis Association. Entries must be accompanied by a certified birth certificate beginning at the local qualifying tournament. TAAF tennis tournaments will be played in strict accordance with the rules and regulations of the United States Tennis Association with the following TAAF points of emphasis:

- .01 A Region will not be limited in the number of entries in the Adult or Junior Divisions. Participants are not required to play in a regional tournament to be eligible for the State Tournament.
- .02 The State Commissioner has the discretion to place a player in the draw.
- .03 ENTRY FEE:
 - a) No entry will be accepted or be placed in the draw without attached fees or payment guarantee from the member city's TAAF representative. Failure to pay these fees may result in the T.A.A.F. participant being suspended until fees are paid.
 - b) These fees are to be used by the city conducting each tournament to help defray expenses of the tournament

25.2 THE STATE TOURNAMENT

- .01 EVENT ELIGIBILITY: Individuals may enter only two (2) separate events at the state level in one (1) age group. Players may choose to participant in a higher age classification or level. Players may NOT play in a lower age classification or level. (EXAMPLE: An individual may only participate in two (2) of the three (3) events that are offered in his/her age group. One (1) singles and one (1) doubles or one (1) singles and one (1) mixed doubles or one (1) doubles and one (1) mixed doubles).
- .02 STATE TOURNAMENT ENTRY RESPONSIBILITY: State tournament entry is the responsibility of the individual participant. Regional qualifiers will be given state entry forms to complete and send to the state tournament director.
- .03 REGIONAL TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR RESPONSIBILITY: Regional tournament directors will be responsible for submitting a list of qualifiers from the regional tournament to the State Commissioner.
- .04 STATE TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE: Shall be a first match loss consolation tournament. Junior divisions may begin on Thursday and conclude on Sunday. Adult divisions may begin on Friday and conclude on Sunday. This schedule is subject to change based on a variety of factors (draw size, weather, etc.) Awards will be given to First Place, Second Place and Consolation winners.
- .05 COMBINED OR DROPPED DIVISIONS: With the State Commissioner's approval, any division with three (3) entries or less may be combined with the next higher division. The State host should attempt to notify the participant before the draw is made if their divisions have been combined or dropped. Draws will be posted to the Internet on the Tuesday of tournament week.
- .06 OFFICIALS: State host must have a U.S.T.A. official available for each site to serve as a referee.

25.3 TOURNAMENT DRAW

- .01 The state commissioner shall approve the tournament draw before it is posted. General guidelines for setting up draws:
 - a) Last year's winners and runners-up shall be seeded at opposite ends of the draw.
 - b) Participants from the same Region will be seeded at opposite ends of the bracket, when possible.
 - c) Host must have an appropriate number of courts available in close proximity.

25.4 EVENTS

- .01 JUNIORS
 - Boy's and Girl's Singles and Doubles - 10 & U, 12 & U, 14 & U, 16 & U, 18 & U
- .02 ADULTS
 - Men's and Women's Singles and Doubles - 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, and Open

.03 SPECIALS

- Junior Mixed Doubles - 14 & U, 16 & U and 18 & U.
- Adult Combined Mixed Doubles - 6.0, 7.0, 8.0, 9.0 and 9.5+

25.5 SPECIAL RULES

- .01 Entries must be in the hands of the state tournament director one week prior to the state tournament. Host city is responsible for collecting entries, fees and making the draws.
- .02 Regional or State hosts will provide balls and awards.
- .03 All entries in the state tournament should be certified, beginning at the local level and continuing through the tournament.
- .04 AGE CLASSIFICATIONS: Players birth date may not exceed age division by date of state tournament. Juniors must play at the regional tournament in the age level they would play at the state tournament (if qualified). Example: If player turns 16 on or before start of the state tournament - you must play in the 18 year old division at the Regional Level. Junior players (18 & Under) may not play in adult levels.

NOTE: Age classification determination should be based on age as of Games of Texas Tournament dates.
- .05 Junior's may play in the Adult Division but must play in the Open Division. This move will prohibit the junior players from participating in the Junior Division.

25.6 ADULT SKILL LEVEL GUIDELINES

LEVELS	GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF VARIOUS PLAYING LEVELS
1.0 - 1.5	This player is either just starting to play tennis or has limited experience.
2.0	This player cannot hit directionally; avoids backhands; has difficulty serving and returning; double faults often; reluctant to play net; lacks proper footwork; is familiar with basic positions for singles and doubles play; is frequently out of position.
2.5	Prepared for moderately paced shots; Grip and preparation problems; often chooses to hit forehand instead of backhand; can get the ball in play at slow pace; inconsistent serve; can return a slow paced serve; uncomfortable at net; can lob intentionally; poor overheads; can maintain a short, slow pace rally; weak court coverage.
3.0	Player is fairly consistent when hitting medium paced shots; not comfortable with all strokes; lacks execution when attempting directional control, depth or power; most common doubles formation is one-up, one-back.
3.5	This player has achieved improved stroke dependability with directional control on moderate shots, but still lacks depth and variety; player exhibits more aggressive net play, has improved court coverage and is developing teamwork in doubles.
4.0	This player has dependable strokes, including directional control and depth on both forehand and backhand sides on moderate shots, plus the ability to use lobs, overheads, approach shots and volleys with some success. This player occasionally forces errors when serving. Rallies may be lost due to impatience. Teamwork in doubles is evident.
4.5	This player has begun to master the use of power and spins and is beginning to handle pace; has sound footwork; can control depth of shots and is beginning to vary game plan according to opponent; player can hit first serves with power and accuracy and place the second serve; player tends to over hit on difficult shots; aggressive net play is common in doubles.
5.0	This player has good shot anticipation and frequently has an outstanding shot or attribute around which a game may be structured; player can regularly hit winners or force errors off short balls and can put away volleys; can successfully execute lobs, drops shots, half volleys and overheads; has good depth and spin on most second serves.
5.5	This player has developed power and/ or consistency as a major weapon; can vary strategies and styles of play in a competitive situation and hits dependable shots in a stressful situation.
6.0 - 7.0	These players will not need ratings. The 6.0 player has had intensive training for national tournament competition of the junior and collegiate levels and has obtained a sectional and/or national ranking; the 6.5 player has a chance of succeeding at the 7.0 level; the 7.0 is a world class player.