

COMPETITION STRUCTURE GUIDE. Applies to tournaments offering USA Padel Ranking Points. June 30, 2026.

Following record growth in 2025, the USA Padel Circuit continues to expand, with more than 200 tournaments scheduled nationwide in 2026. This unprecedented growth reflects the rapid development of padel across the United States and has prompted several important updates to the USA Padel Circuit structure. The 2026 changes are designed to improve competitive balance, clarify player pathways, support Tournament Directors, and ensure the circuit scales in a consistent and sustainable way as participation continues to rise. The information below is intended as a quick reference guide for players, officials, and tournament directors. It should be used in conjunction with the [USA Padel Rules and Regulations](#) and the [FIP Rules of Padel](#).

Star Point (New FIP regulations 2026)

Star Point will be used in all USA Padel-sanctioned tournaments and matches, replacing the Golden Point scoring system. The Star Point System starts at the first deuce. Players play one point to determine which team has the first advantage. At the first advantage, if the team with the advantage wins the point, the game is won; if the point is lost, the score returns to deuce. Players play one point to determine which team has the advantage. At the second advantage, if the team with the advantage wins the point, the game is won; if the point is lost, the score returns to deuce. The Star Point is a single decisive point that determines the game, with the receiving team choosing the service side.

The Serve (New FIP regulations 2026)

When serving, the player must keep one foot behind the service line within the service-box area and remain there until striking the ball. The server must bounce the ball inside the correct service box, and the ball cannot cross the service line or its imaginary extension before being struck.

USA Padel 1000 and 2000, Division 1 Draw Changes

Division 1 at USA Padel 1000 & 2000 will have a maximum draw size of 24 teams to improve competitive balance and planning for players and TDs. Division 1 will use a first-match-loser consolation draw.

USA Padel Rankings Updates

Beginning in 2026, the USA Padel has updated its ranking framework to better reflect participation and competitive results. Player rankings will now be calculated using a best-of-ten tournament results formula, replacing the previous best-of-seven approach. The USA Padel has also introduced the USA Padel Race, which runs on a calendar-year basis (January 1–December 31) and serves as the qualification standard for the USA Padel Circuit Championships. The traditional USA Padel Rankings continue to operate on a 52-week rolling cycle and will be used for draw selection and seeding in USA Padel-sanctioned tournaments. [The complete points table is available here.](#)

USA Padel Seniors Circuit Update

Beginning in 2026, the USA Padel Age Group Circuit has been renamed the USA Padel Seniors Circuit to align with FIP terminology. The Seniors National Championships have been moved earlier in the summer to avoid conflicts with the FIP Seniors World Cup in September. Additionally, local age group tournaments have been removed from the calendar, as player participation has increasingly shifted toward the USA Padel 100 format for local competition.

Tournament Withdrawal Rules

Beginning in 2026, the USA Padel has updated its tournament withdrawal rules to promote fairness and improve tournament operations. All withdrawals must be submitted directly by a team member via email to the Tournament Director, and for Division 1 events at USA Padel 500 and above levels, USA Padel must also be notified. Withdrawals require supporting documentation within seven days; failure to provide documentation will result in a \$200 fine and ineligibility to compete until the fine is paid, with escalating suspensions for repeated undocumented withdrawals within the same calendar year. Players may withdraw from consolation draw matches without penalty if they provide timely notice; however, failure to notify the Tournament Director will result in the same fine and progressive suspension structure as outlined in the Tournament Rules. Complete withdrawal procedures, timelines, and penalties are outlined in the USA Padel Rules & Regulations.

Tournament Officials Requirements

Effective April 1, 2026, all USA Padel Circuit tournaments will be required to have at least one USA Padel Certified Level 1 Official or FIP International Padel Referee Level 1 present, who may also serve as the Tournament Director. This requirement has been introduced to improve match consistency, rules application, and tournament decision-making, ensuring a more professional and predictable tournament experience for players.

FIP Tournaments

One of the USA Padel's strategic priorities is to expand the number of international FIP-sanctioned tournaments held in the United States, including the CUPRA FIP Tour, FIP Promises, and Beyond FIP tournaments. Increasing the number of these tournaments creates meaningful competitive pathways for U.S.-based players, expands the development opportunities for U.S.-based Players, Officials, and Promoters. It also raises the national profile of padel and provides clubs and venues with greater visibility and commercial opportunity. Together, these outcomes support the long-term growth of both player participation and spectator interest nationwide.

The USA Padel actively seeks qualified “promoters”, clubs, individuals, or companies to produce FIP-sanctioned tournaments. Promoters must be USA Padel Premier Members and are responsible for financially underwriting and delivering the event, including operations, sponsorship, and logistics. Tournaments must be hosted at a USA Padel Premier Club or an approved purpose-built venue. FIP Tournaments are conducted exclusively under FIP rules and regulations, not the USA Padel Circuit regulations.

The USA Padel approves promoters, coordinates directly with FIP, and collaborates on scheduling to align international tournaments within the broader U.S. competition calendar. Each event may include main draws, qualifying draws, and wild cards, creating strong opportunities for U.S. players, particularly those with USA Padel rankings, to access qualifying draws and earn FIP points. Tournament-level requirements and sample promoter budgets are available to support event planning. [View more information here](#) or contact USA Padel directly. info@usapadel.org

USA Padel Circuit Tournaments

USA Padel 2000, 1000 - These tournaments are the highest levels of domestic competition on the USA Padel Circuit and require a professional tournament standard. Host clubs must be USA Padel Premier Clubs with demonstrated experience running large, successful USA Padel tournaments and strong familiarity with USA Padel regulations and the TMS. Clubs are fully responsible for all tournament operations, including prize money, revenues, and expenses. The USA Padel may set minimum prize money requirements at these levels. These tournaments are typically three-day tournaments. USA Padel Membership is required to play in USA Padel 2000 and 1000 tournaments.

USA Padel 750, 500, 250 - These tournaments provide competitive play for a broad range of players and are an essential part of the USA Padel Circuit. Host clubs must be USA Padel Premier Club members and be familiar with USA Padel regulations and the TMS. Host clubs are responsible for all tournament finances. Prize money is encouraged but not required. These tournaments typically last two days, with a third day required if the division draw exceeds 16 teams. USA Padel Membership is required to play in USA Padel 750, 500, and 250.

USA Padel 100 - These tournaments are designed to promote local participation and player development. They typically run 1–2 days, with a goal of completing play in 1.5 days or less. No USA Padel membership is required for players to participate. USA Padel 100s are a key growth tool for clubs new to tournaments, clubs building a local competitive base, or larger clubs adding additional tournaments to their calendar. Clubs are encouraged to start at this level before applying for higher-tier tournaments. A USA Padel Official Club membership is required to host USA Padel 100 tournaments. Clubs may offer mixed and co-ed categories during a USA Padel 100. Results will count for WPR, but since there are no Co-Ed or Mixed USA Padel rankings, they do not affect the rankings.

Players may not compete in more than one division within the same category at a single USA Padel tournament. For clarity, a player may not enter both Men's Division 1 and Men's Division 2 (or any two divisions within the same category) in the same event.

Players may, however, compete in multiple categories if they are offered, such as Men's Doubles and Mixed Doubles or Women's Doubles and Co-Ed, provided they compete in only one division within each category.

Please see the quick reference guides below

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

USA PADEL LEVEL	2500 / 2000 / 1000	750 / 500	250	100
Maximum D1 draw size	32 / 24 / 24	32	32	32
Maximum D2 - D6 draw size	32 (A 32 draw must take place over 3 days, due to the maximum matches per day rules)			
Minimum draw size	3	3	3	3
Draw Format	3-5 pairs = Round Robin, 6-7 pair = 2 Group Round Robin with 1v1 Final. 8+ Pairs = Main Draw & Consolation. D1 Consolation will be a FML Consolation.	3-5 pairs = Round Robin, 6-7 pair = 2 Group Round Robin with 1v1 Final. 8+ Pairs = Main Draw & FML Consolation	3-5 pairs = Round Robin, 6-7 pair = 2 Group Round Robin with 1v1 Final. 8+ Pairs = Main Draw & FML Consolation	3-5 pairs = Round Robin, 6-7 pair = 2 Group Round Robin with 1v1 Final. 8+ Pairs = Main Draw & FML Consolation
Preferred Tournament Length	3 days	2 days	2 days	1 - 2 days
Number of seeded pairs	6-11 pairs = 2, 12-23 pairs = 4, 24-32 pairs = 8			
Seeding Criteria	USA Padel Rankings, verified WPR	USA Padel Rankings, verified WPR	USA Padel Rankings, verified WPR	USA Padel Rankings, verified WPR
Draw Selection Criteria	USA Padel Rankings, verified WPR	USA Padel Rankings, verified WPR	USA Padel Rankings, WPR	USA Padel Rankings, WPR
Wild Cards	2 per division	2 per division	2 per division	2 per division
D1. Scoring Format	Best of 3 Sets. Star Point	Best of 3 Sets. Star Point	Best of 3 Sets. 10 Point Tiebreak for 3rd set. Star Point	Best of 3 Sets. 10 Point Tiebreak for 3rd set. Star Point
D2-D5. Scoring Format	Best of 3 Sets. 10 Point Tiebreak for 3rd set. Star Point			
Consolation Scoring Format	Best of 3 Sets. 10 Point Tiebreak for 3rd set. Star Point			
Maximum matches per day*	2 if the main draw. 3 if includes any back draw matches	2 if the main draw. 3 if includes any back draw matches	3	3, unless approved prior
Fee Structure	USA Padel retains \$10 pp	USA Padel retains \$10 pp	USA Padel retains \$10 pp	USA Padel retains \$0
Player Entry Criteria	Paid Membership Required	Paid Membership Required	Paid Membership Required	Free Membership Required
Official Requirements* For tournaments after 4/1/2026	Minimum of USA Padel Certified Level 1 Official or FIP International Padel Referee Level 1. This person can also be the tournament director			
Adhere to the USA Padel Flier, Video, & Photo Banner Branding Guides	See the Tournament Planning, Requirements, and Guidance Sheet here			

TOURNAMENT ORGANIZATION TABLE

Registration Opens	90 days prior to the tournament. Tournament directors must have set up the tournament in their account on the USA Padel Tournament Management System (TMS).
Registration Closes	The entry deadline for all USA Padel 2000, 1000, 750, 500, 250, and Senior tournaments is 11:00 PM local time on the Thursday of the week preceding the tournament. For example, the Tournament is on Sat & Sun, Jan 17/18. Entries close Thursday, January 8th, at 11:00 PM local time. The entry deadline for all USA Padel 100 tournaments is 11:00 PM local time on Monday, the week of the tournament, for example. Tournament is on Sat & Sun, Jan 17/18. Entries close Monday, January 12th at 11:00 PM local time.
Draws and Schedules Published	For USA Padel 2000, 1000, 750, 500, 250. Draws and schedules must be published no later than 3:00 PM on the Monday before the tournament (Preferably earlier). For USA Padel 100, Draws and schedules must be published no later than 3:00 PM on the Tuesday before the tournament.
Registration and collection of entry fees from players	One player from each pair must enter and pay for the team online in the USA Padel TMS. Accessed from the USA Padel Calendar . Players pay a \$1.50 platform fee, in addition to their entry fee. For example, if the entry fee is \$80 pp, then one player pays \$163 to enter the team.
Allocation of Entry Fees, Distribution to the Club, and Refunds.	USA Padel 100 clubs receive 100% of the set entry fee, less Stripes transaction and platform fees. USA Padel 250, 500, 1000, 2000, the USA Padel retains \$10 per player from the entry fees. The club receives the remainder, less the Stripe transaction and platform fees. Each club enters its banking information into the USA Padel TMS via Stripe and is paid the entry fees as players register for the tournament. Clubs are responsible for managing all player refunds through the Club's Stripe account.
Players joining the USA Padel	Managed by the players on the USA Padel website
Seeding	USA Padel 500 and higher levels, seeding is managed by USA Padel; for USA Padel 250 and 100, conducted by the tournament director.
Draws, Schedule, results, updates	Managed by the tournament director using the USA Padel TMS.
Management of players and draw changes.	Managed by tournament directors using the USA Padel TMS. Draw changes involving USA Padel 500 and higher levels and seeded players must be approved by USA Padel.
Supervises all aspects of play	The Tournament Director and the Tournament Referee are responsible for running all sanctioned tournaments in accordance with the USA Padel Rules and Regulations and this Competition Guide. The USA Padel is always available in a supporting role.
Prizes, gifts, entertainment, supplies, first aid, etc.	Tournament director and club.

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