USA Padel
Rules and Regulations
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FOREWORD

USA Padel (formerly United States Padel Association) invites all readers of the *Padelistas Handbook,* USA Padel Rules and Regulations to submit feedback concerning the guidance contained in this document. Suggestions, comments, and the identification of any errors can be directed to USA Padel at info@usapadel.org

In the absence of guidance provided within this document, all situations will be governed by the rules of padel issued by the International Padel Federation (FIP). The FIP Rules of Padel are available here.

We look forward to adding more information in future editions of the handbook to foster consistency and transparency around USA Padel and its competition structure.

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RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR USA PADEL-SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS

1. SANCTIONING

1.1. Sanctioning seeks to provide consistency and transparency for all USA Padel tournaments in the following areas:

- **1.1.1.** Marketing and branding
- **1.1.2.** Pre-tournament organization
- **1.1.3.** Tournament Director's responsibilities
- **1.1.4.** Scheduling parameters
- **1.1.5.** Optionality in draw formatting
- **1.1.6.** How to make a draw
- **1.1.7.** How to make changes to a draw
- **1.1.8.** Competition schedule
- **1.1.9.** Rankings

1.2. The USA Padel considers the needs of players, clubs, and sponsors in the sanctioning process when determining the rules and regulations that govern its tournaments.

1.3. Clubs that agree to host a USA Padel-sanctioned tournament are expected to operate their tournament in accordance with the guidelines outlined in this document and other documentation provided on the USA Padel website. Clubs are required for all courts to be manufactured and installed to the FIP-approved standards, including safety padding around the net posts and all entrance doorways

1.4. Players who participate in a USA Padel-sanctioned tournament are expected to follow all player guidelines listed in this document and the USA Padel Code of Conduct. Available here.

1.5. Players participating in a USA Padel-sanctioned tournament are expected to adhere to all regulations regarding match filming, as outlined in the USA Padel Match Filming Policy. Available here.

1.6. Players participating in a USA Padel-sanctioned tournament are expected to adhere to all FIP Anti-Doping Rules. Available here.

2. BRANDING

2.1. Promotional documents and flyers issued by the club must include the following information:

- **2.1.1.** Name of the tournament and the associated level of the tournament.
  - **2.1.1.1.** Tournament date/s, location, start time, and end time. Earliest possible start time by division.
- **2.1.2.** Registration information (registration links, club address, entry fees, payment options and registration closing date).
- **2.1.3.** Categories and divisions of competition (*see Section 3.1*).
- **2.1.4.** Maximum size of each draw, if necessary.
- **2.1.5.** Tournament director's contact information.
- **2.1.6.** Awards and prize information.
- **2.1.7.** USA Padel logo, USA Padel national sponsors, and any local sponsors.

2.2. Promotional documents and flyers must be approved in advance by USA Padel. The host club must submit all such documents to info@usapadel.org and receive written e-mail approval before publishing.

2.2.1. Each club may seek additional local sponsors in addition to the USA Padel national sponsors.

USA Padel Flier Template and Guidelines are available here

3. PRE-TOURNAMENT

3.1. Competition Formats

3.1.1. USA Padel Tournaments will have the following mandatory competition formats:

- **3.1.1.1.** Men's First Division
- **3.1.1.2.** Women's First Division
- **3.1.1.3.** Men's Second Division
- **3.1.1.4.** Women's Second Division
- **3.1.1.5.** Other divisions as the club sizes allow, typically including Third Division, Fourth Division.

3.1.2. Additionally, each tournament may offer the following optional formats, which are not sanctioned for ranking purposes.

- **3.1.2.1.** Mixed Open
- **3.1.2.2.** Coed Open
- **3.1.2.3.** Mixed First Division
- **3.1.2.4.** Coed First Division
- **3.1.2.5.** Mixed Second Division
- **3.1.2.6.** Coed Second Division

3.2. Seniors Competition Formats

- **3.2.1.1.** Men's 35+, 45+, 55+
- **3.2.1.2.** Women's 35+, 45+, 55+
- **3.2.1.3.** A player may play down in an age group but not up. For example, a 57-year-old can play in 35+ or 45+. or 55+. However, a 37-year-old can only play in the 35+ category. Ranking points earned in a specific category are not carried over to another category. For example, if a 57-year-old player competes in the 45+ category, the ranking points achieved are added to the player's rankings in the 45+ category, not the 55+ category.

3.2.2. In addition, Seniors' tournaments may use the following optional formats that are not sanctioned for ranking purposes.

- **3.2.2.1.** Men's 40+, 50+, 60+
- **3.2.2.2.** Women's 40+, 50+, 60+
- **3.2.2.3.** Co-Ed 35+, 40+, 45+, 50+, 55+, 60+
- **3.2.2.4.** Mixed 35+, 40+, 45+, 50+, 55+, 60+

3.3. Junior Competition Formats

- **3.3.1.1.** Boys: 12, 14, 16, 18
- **3.3.1.2.** Girls: 12, 14, 16, 18
- **3.3.1.3.** Coed Juniors 12, 14, 16, 18, (not sanctioned for ranking purposes)

3.3.2. A club may choose to offer a mix of sanctioned and non-sanctioned formats.

3.4. Multiple Divisions

A player may only compete in one division within the same category at a tournament. For example a player may not enter both men's Division 1 and men's Division 2 or women's Division 2 and women's Division 3 in the same tournament.

3.4.1. At USA Padel 100, with the permission of the Tournament Director, a player may enter two divisions, with a different partner. In choosing to do so, a player waives the minimum rest requirements and may play up to six matches in one day.

3.5. Draw Formats

3.5.1. Available draw formats are as follows:

3.5.1.1. Round Robin

3.5.1.2. First Match Loser Consolation Draw

3.5.1.3. Feed-In Championship Draw (FIC)

3.5.1.4. First Round Loser Consolation. Only approved for use in Division 1, of USA Padel 2000, 1000 tournaments.

3.5.2. More information is provided in *Section 6 Draw Formatting.*

3.6. Scoring Formats

3.6.1. Star Point is used in all USA Padel-sanctioned tournaments and matches.

3.6.1.1. The Star Point system starts at the first deuce and consists of the following stages. First Deuce. Players play one point to determine who has the advantage.

3.6.1.2. First advantage. If the team with the advantage wins the point, they win the game. If they lose, the score returns to 40-40. Players then play one point to determine who has the advantage.

3.6.1.3. Second advantage. If the team with the advantage wins the point, the game is won. If they lose, play moves to the Star Point.

3.6.1.4. Star Point. A single decisive point: the winner of this point takes the game. On the Star Point, the receiving team chooses the side on which the serve is served.
3.6.1.4.1.1.

3.6.2. For USA Padel 2000, 1000, 750, and 500 tournaments.

3.6.2.1. The scoring format to be used for the main draw matches of Division 1 is a best-of-three tiebreak sets. (First to 7-point tiebreakers, win by two points, played at six games all, in each set.)

3.6.2.2. The scoring format to be used for the main draw matches of Divisions, 2,3,4, and the consolation draw matches of all divisions, two tiebreak sets (First to 7-point tiebreakers, win by two points, played at six games all, in each set), with a super tiebreaker (first to 10-point tiebreaker, win by two points) in lieu of a third set.

3.6.2.3. All tiebreakers are to be won by two points (no sudden death point)
3.6.2.3.1.1.

3.6.3. For USA Padel 250 and 100 tournaments.

3.6.3.1. The scoring format to be used for the main draw and consolation draw matches is two tiebreak sets (First to 7-point tiebreakers, win by two points, played at six games all, in each set), with a super tiebreaker (first to 10-point tiebreaker, win by two points) in lieu of a third set.

3.6.3.2. All tiebreakers are to be won by two points (no sudden death point)

3.6.3.3. Special consideration and requests for alternative formats for USA Padel 100's can be submitted to USA Padel for approval prior to a tournament being sanctioned.
3.6.3.3.1.1.

3.6.4. Tournaments that experience adverse weather conditions and are at risk of not completing the tournament may switch to a different scoring format if necessary, provided the following criteria and formats are met, and with USA Padel approval.

3.6.4.1. Attempt to complete all main draws prior to consolation draws.

3.6.4.2. Attempt to play finals matches as per the standard scoring format, even if earlier rounds' formats are shortened.

3.6.4.3. Attempt to play all matches in the round using the same format.

3.6.4.4. If applicable, shorten the format from 3 full sets to playing a third-set tiebreaker in lieu of a third set.

3.6.4.5. Shorten the format from 2 sets with a 3rd set tiebreaker to first to 10 pro-sets, with the first team winning ten games by a margin of two. If the match reaches 9-9, a 7-point tiebreaker is played to decide the pro-set.

3.6.4.6. Shorten the format from 10-game pro-set to 8-game pro-set. If the match reaches 8-8, a 7-point tiebreaker is played to decide the pro-set.

3.6.4.7. Contact USA Padel for guidance during the tournament if you are unsure.

3.7. Registration

3.7.1. The USA Padel Tournament Management System (TMS) administers all registration and collection of entry fees.

3.7.2. Only players maintaining a current USA Padel membership or USA Padel Registered Player Accounts shall be admitted into the draw of a USA Padel-sanctioned tournament.

3.7.3. Tournament registration deadline:

3.7.3.1. The entry deadline for all USA Padel 2000, 1000, 750, 500, 250, and Seniors tournaments is 11:00 PM local time on Thursday, the week before the tournament, for example. Tournament is on Sat & Sun, Jan 17/18. Entries close Thursday, January 8th, at 11:00 PM local time.

3.7.3.2. The entry deadline for all USA Padel 100 tournaments is 11:00 PM local time 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.

3.7.3.3. After the entry deadline has passed, Tournament Directors are not required to allow any further entries. Tournament Directors may choose to allow late entries, provided the division is not full, and the draw has not been published. Unless there is an administrative error or a withdrawal, players cannot be entered into a draw after the draw has been published.

3.8. Acceptance of Entries

3.8.1. Entries into all tournaments are open to USA Padel members and USA Padel-registered players.

3.8.2. There is to be no discrimination in acceptance of entries based on race, sexual orientation, religion, or color.

3.8.3. Females may enter a male division if they are of the appropriate verified WPR and there is insufficient competition in the female division. Ranking points earned in a specific category are not carried over to another category. For example, if a female plays in the men’s division 2, the ranking points achieved are not added to the player's rankings in the female rankings.

3.8.4. A player may be refused the right to participate in a tournament for the following reasons:

3.8.4.1. The player has an unpaid USA Padel membership.

3.8.4.2. The player has been disqualified or received a sanction from the USA Padel, host club, or any other international federation.

3.8.4.3. The player's age or nationality does not correspond to the tournament category.

3.8.4.4. The host club receives the player's registration after the deadline.

3.8.4.5. The host club is involved in litigation with the player who is entering and chooses not to allow that player on their private club property.

3.8.4.6. The host club has previously barred the individual from entering its private property and has notified them accordingly.

3.9. Managing Entries

3.9.1. Players may change partners up until the registration deadline, which is managed by the players through the USA Padel TMS or by emailing the Tournament Director. Once the registration deadline has passed, substitutions will be allowed only at the Tournament Director's discretion and in accordance with the rules below.

3.9.2. Withdrawal of Entries

3.9.2.1. A formal withdrawal must be communicated to the Tournament Director by an individual on the team withdrawing. No third party can officially withdraw a team or player from the competition. In Division 1 of USA Padel 2500, 2000, 1000, 750, 500, and 250, the team withdrawing must also notify USA Padel via email info@usapadel.org.

3.9.2.2. In Division 1 of USA Padel 2500, 2000, 1000, 750, 500, and 250, the player withdrawing must provide sufficient medical documentation within 7 days of the withdrawal to support the withdrawal to the tournament director and the USA Padel via email, info@usapadel.org.

3.9.2.3. In Division 1 of USA Padel 2500, 2000, 1000, 750, 500, and 250, if a player does not provide a medical certificate, they will be fined $200 and will be ineligible to participate in a USA Padel tournament until the fine is paid. If that player withdraws from a USA Padel Circuit tournament for a second time in a calendar year without a medical certificate, they will be fined $200 and suspended for 90 days from playing on the USA Padel Circuit. If that player withdraws from a USA Padel Circuit tournament for a third time in a calendar year without a medical certificate, they will be fined $200 and suspended for 180 days from playing on the USA Padel Circuit.

3.9.2.4. A player can withdraw from a consolation draw match for any reason with no penalty, as long as they notify the tournament director at least 2 hours prior to their match time, or, in the case of the first match of the day, notify the tournament director the night before.

3.9.2.5. If a player withdraws from the consolation draw and does not notify the tournament director at least two hours prior to or the previous night in the instance of a first scheduled match of the day, they will be fined $200 and unable to play a USA Padel Circuit until the fine is paid. If this happens a second time in a calendar year, the player will receive a $200 fine and be suspended for 90 days. If this happens a third time in a calendar year, the player will receive a $200 fine and be suspended for 180 days.

3.9.3. Management of Withdrawals

3.9.3.1. If a team withdraws after the registration deadline, registration fees shall not be returned.

3.9.3.2. After the registration deadline but before the draw is created, if a team withdraws, the entire team is removed, and the next team on the wait list is substituted into the draw. If there is no waitlist, the player whose partner withdrew may enter with a new partner, but they are subject to the same selection and seeding criteria as all other teams, using the rankings and ratings of the new player and pairing.

3.9.3.3. After the draw has been created, in Division 1 of USA Padel 2500, 2000, 1000, 750, and 500, if a player withdraws, their team will be replaced by a team from the waitlist. If no wait list exists, then no teams will be added to the draw, and the match is recorded as a walkover. **The player whose partner withdrew cannot enter the division with a new partner.**

3.9.3.4. After the draw has been created, in Divisions 2 - 6 at USA Padel 2500, 2000, 1000, 750, 500 Divisions, and all divisions in USA Padel 250 and 100, if a player withdraws from a tournament, their team will be replaced by a team from the waitlist. If no wait list exists, **the player whose partner withdrew can enter the division with a new partner,** who has not previously entered the tournament, provided their ability level, as determined by their USA Padel Ranking, WPR Rating, and the tournament director, is suitable for the tournament's level and division.

3.9.3.5. If the withdrawal impacts seeded players or involves draw changes, see the criteria in section 8 for guidance. If the team was not seeded, then that team remains in the same place in the draw.

3.9.3.6. In a draw format, when a team withdraws, prior to the start of the match, the result is recorded as a walkover, and the opposing team is moved to the next round. If the opposing team loses the next match, they can enter the back draw. The Tournament Director should seek approval from that team and, if approved, enter them into the back draw.

4. TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1. The Tournament Director shall use discretion in all circumstances not explicitly discussed by the USA Padel Regulations or FIP Regulations.

4.2. Effective April 1, 2026, all USA Padel Circuit tournaments will be required to have at least one USA Padel Certified Level 1 Official or higher qualified official on-site at all times during the tournament. The official and the tournament director may be the same person, provided the tournament director meets the required minimum qualifications and is not playing in the tournament.

4.3. If a tournament director is playing in the tournament, they must appoint someone else to be the official who will manage all aspects of the draw and match schedule.

Pre-Tournament
Apply to the USA Padel for a tournament sanction
Arrange courts so the tournament can be completed on time
Creates tournament flier using USA Padel template
Create club profile with World Padel Rating and link to Stripe Account
Enter the tournament in the USA Padel TMS 90 days prior to the entry deadline
Refund entry fees when necessary
The Draw

For USA Padel 2000, 1000, 750, 500, 250. Draws should be published no later than 3:00 PM on the Monday before the tournament (Ideally earlier). For USA Padel 100, Draws should be published no later than 3:00 PM on the Tuesday before the tournament.
Works with the USA Padel to follow the seeding list and tournament selection process.
Creates the draw using the USA Padel TMS.
Creates and manages the tournament schedule.
Conducting the Tournament
Provides new padel balls for main draw matches
Maintains the schedule during the tournament in USA Padel TMS
Notifies teams affected by schedule changes via USA Padel TMS
Assures minimum rest periods between matches
Assesses time penalties and possible defaults for players arriving late for scheduled matches
Supervises all aspects of play, including the conduct and actions of players, coaches, and spectators
Acts as the referee or appoints a referee to settle scoring disputes if necessary
Defaults players for cause
Provides guidance and follows established procedures when inclement weather or safety concerns cause the tournament to be shortened. Suspends and postpones play as required due to weather.
Appoints a referee to handle player requests for a medical timeout
Provides supplies - first aid, water, etc.
Post-Tournament
Submits all results in the USA Padel TMS immediately after each match

5. SCHEDULING AND DEFAULTS

5.1. Players should plan and prepare for matches to begin as listed on the tournament flyer.

5.2. Players should plan and prepare for the tournament finals to begin Sunday afternoon, if necessary.

5.3. The Tournament Director shall aim to schedule matches so that teams in the same section of the draw will start all matches in each round at similar times.

5.4. The Tournament Director shall aim to schedule no more than two main draw matches per team, per day in USA Padel 2500, 2000, 1000, 750, and 500. In USA Padel 250 and 100, or where main draw matches utilize a 3rd set tiebreaker, three matches may be scheduled in one day.

5.4.1. Due to time and court constraints, this may not always be possible.

5.4.2. If two or more matches occur in the consolation or feed-in championship (FIC) bracket, a team may be scheduled for more than two matches in a day.

5.5. Rest

5.5.1. The following match formats require a minimum 90-minute rest between matches unless all players agree to waive this requirement:

5.5.1.1. Best of three tiebreak sets

5.5.2. The following match formats require a minimum 60-minute rest between matches unless all players agree to waive this requirement:

5.5.2.1. Two tiebreak sets with third set super-tiebreaker.

5.5.2.2. Pro-sets or any other shortened scoring format.

5.6. The Tournament Director should schedule matches in increments of 75 or 90-minute intervals. The following increments are recommended for each format:

5.6.1. Best of three tiebreak sets: 90 minutes

5.6.2. Two tiebreak sets with third set super-tiebreaker: 75 minutes

5.6.3. Pro sets or any other shortened scoring format: 60 minutes

5.7. The tournament director sets the match schedule. Players are expected to adhere to it. Players may request changes to the schedule, but should be prepared to honor the existing schedule if the requested changes cannot be made. In the event that a player's request for a schedule change cannot be accommodated, the player and their partner must still show up for the initially scheduled match time; otherwise, they will be defaulted.

5.8. Lateness or No Show. Both players must be on the court for the start of the warm-up, within 15 minutes of the time that the match is called by the tournament director. If both players are not, the team is defaulted from that draw by the tournament director. If a team advises the tournament director prior to the match that they will be unable to play or arrive on time, this is still treated as a No-Show default, and the same rules apply. A team defaulted in the main draw for lateness or a no-show may compete in the consolation draw. A team defaulted in a round-robin for lateness or a no-show may compete in the other round-robin matches. In the event of a default for lateness or a no-show in a round-robin, the score is recorded as 6-0, 6-0.

5.9. Warm Up. There will be an obligatory 3-minute courtesy rally between players prior to the start of the match.

5.10. Injury or Illness. If a player is unable to play a match or complete a match due to injury or illness, that pair is withdrawn from that match. The pair may continue to play in the consolation draw or round-robin matches if the player recovers. In the case of a round robin, the winning team is awarded the win, 2 sets, the number of games already won, and the number of games required to win the match. For example, the team score was 6-2, 2-1; they would receive the win, 2 sets, and 12 games. For example, the score was 3-6, 0-4, they would receive the win, 2 sets, and 15 games. For example, the score was 4-6, 6-4, 1-5, they would receive the win, 2 sets, and 17 games.

5.11. The injured team shall incur a loss, and the number of games and sets won at the time of the default shall be counted.

5.12. Code of Conduct and Unsportsmanlike Conduct. The tournament director, at their discretion and in conjunction with the USA Padel Code of Conduct, found on the USA Padel website, may default a player and team from a match. Refer to section 11 for more information.

5.13. Any player who is defaulted from a match is defaulted from the tournament and may face further disciplinary action from the USA Padel. In the case of a round-robin, the defaulted match and any unplayed matches are recorded as 6-0, 6-0, to the opponents. The defaulted team is immediately removed from the round-robin placings and ineligible to advance.

5.14. Matches may be delayed or ahead of the projected schedule. It is the player's responsibility to know their match time and any revised times due to various changing circumstances. Tournaments running ahead of schedule can revise match schedules and bring matches forward, provided players are notified and have had adequate rest time.

6. INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY AND TOURNAMENT COMPLETION

6.1. General Principle - Tournament Completion Requirement

6.1.1. All USA Padel-sanctioned tournaments must be completed within the sanctioned dates listed on the official tournament flyer and approved by USA Padel at the time of sanctioning. Tournament Directors are responsible for managing schedules and court resources to ensure full completion of all draws within those dates.

6.2. Exception - Division 1 of the USA Padel 1000 and above level tournaments

6.2.1. Division 1 of the 1000 and above levels is exempt from the standard tournament completion requirement. Due to the prestige and scale of these events, they may be completed in as many days as necessary to conclude all matches, regardless of weather-related delays.

6.2.2. The Tournament Director must notify the USA Padel promptly of any schedule extensions and keep the USA Padel Tournament Management System (TMS) updated. Players must be prepared to play, or they will be defaulted.

6.3. Player Availability Requirement

6.3.1. Players registered in any multi-day USA Padel-sanctioned tournament must plan and prepare to be available to begin matches as late as **4:00 PM local time on the final scheduled day** of the tournament. This applies to all rounds, including finals. If the tournament is a one-day event, players should be prepared to play until **11:00 PM local time on the scheduled day.**

6.3.1.1. Players who make travel arrangements that preclude their availability up to 6:00 PM on the final scheduled tournament day do so at their own risk. If a player is unable to take the court for a scheduled match due to travel arrangements, the team will be subject to a No-Show default under Section 5.8 of these Rules and Regulations.

6.3.1.2. The USA Padel, Tournaments, and Tournament Director bear no responsibility for travel costs, losses, or penalties incurred by players who depart early and are subsequently defaulted.

6.4. Inclement Weather - Suspension and Resumption of Play

6.4.1. The Tournament Director has sole authority to suspend play due to inclement weather or safety concerns. Play shall be suspended immediately if weather conditions pose a risk to player safety, as determined by the Tournament Director. Players who are mid-match should not leave the tournament facility during a weather delay.

6.4.2. Once weather conditions permit, the Tournament Director shall resume play as soon as safely practicable and adjust the match schedule accordingly. Updates are to be made in the USA Padel TMS. However, players are solely responsible for ensuring they are aware of new match times. Any player who leaves the tournament during a rain delay risks losing communication with the tournament. Players should be aware that Tournament Directors are often managing hundreds of players and cannot respond to or accommodate individual requests.

6.4.3. In the instance of lengthy delays of more than 30 minutes, tournament directors should make every effort to give players a “not-before” time. For example, if, based on your local knowledge of the weather, court conditions, and tournament planning, you believe the facility will not be ready to play for another two hours, you should update the schedule on the TMS accordingly and advise all players that play will not begin before this set time. This will allow players to plan appropriately for eating, resting, and warm-up time. If you're unsure of the “not before” time and how to set this, use the following process. Once play has stopped, and the courts are wet. Calculate how long it will take for the courts to dry and be ready for play. Use this as the not-before-time length and keep updating this by communicating to players as long as the weather is inclement.

6.4.4. At the sole decision and responsibility of the Tournament Director, they may choose to move some or all matches to another suitable venue that is within a reasonable driving distance that will allow completion of matches. Players must be available to play if the match is scheduled during the tournament days, regardless of the location determined by the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director must allow enough time for players to transport themselves to another venue. Players are responsible for the travel costs. Tournaments are responsible for any court fees incurred by moving locations. Tournament Directors must communicate and confirm any venue changes to the players affected by phone, text, or email.

6.4.5. Minimum rest period requirements as outlined in Section 5.6 remain in effect following any weather-related suspension, unless all players agree to waive them and play a match earlier than the minimum rest time.

6.5. Advance Preparation

6.5.1. Indoor Courts (Recommended) - Where geographically and logistically feasible, Tournament Directors are strongly encouraged to identify and arrange access to indoor courts prior to the start of the tournament as a contingency for inclement weather. Securing indoor court availability in advance supports the tournament completion requirement set forth in Section 6A.1 and protects the experience of all participants. The USA Padel may assist Tournament Directors in identifying indoor facility options upon request.

6.5.2. Covering Courts (Recommended) - It's highly recommended that large tarpaulins are purchased by the club that can be laid over the top of the courts to protect the turf in the event of rain. This will significantly shorten the time to resume matches once the rain has stopped. In addition, backpack or wheeled blowers will help dry courts quickly.

6.6. Shortened Tournaments

6.6.1. If, despite reasonable efforts by the Tournament Director, a tournament is at risk of not completing, the tournament may switch to a different scoring format if necessary, provided the following criteria and formats are met, and with USA Padel approval.

- **6.6.1.1.** Attempt to complete all main draws prior to consolation draws.
- **6.6.1.2.** Attempt to play finals matches as per the standard scoring format, even if earlier rounds' formats are shortened.
- **6.6.1.3.** Attempt to play all matches in the round using the same format.
- **6.6.1.4.** Change from Star Point to Golden Point.
- **6.6.1.5.** If applicable, shorten the format from 3 full sets to playing a third-set tiebreaker in lieu of a third set.
- **6.6.1.6.** Shorten the format from 2 sets with a 3rd set tiebreaker to first to 10 pro-sets, with the first team winning ten games by a margin of two. If the match reaches 9-9, a 7-point tiebreaker is played to decide the pro-set.
- **6.6.1.7.** Shorten the format from 10-game pro-set to 8-game pro-set. If the match reaches 8-8, a 7-point tiebreaker is played to decide the pro-set.
- **6.6.1.8.** Contact USA Padel for guidance during the tournament if you are unsure.

6.6.2. In the event that a tournament is not completed, then players will be awarded USA Padel points as per the round they reached. For example, if the final cannot be played, both teams will receive finalist points. Tournaments should make every effort to split any prize (s) equally between the teams.

6.7. Canceled Tournaments

Under no circumstances may a club cancel a tournament without prior approval from USA Padel, and such cancellation is an absolute last resort and should be considered only in the event of potentially safety-threatening weather events, such as significant storms or hurricanes. If such a weather event is forecast, the club must communicate with the USA Padel before making any decisions.

7. DRAW FORMATTING

7.1. Round Robin

7.1.1. Mandated for divisions with 3-7 teams at USA Padel 2500, 2000, 1000, 750, 500, 250, 100. Each team must play every other team in its group.

7.1.2. One group is required for divisions consisting of three, four, or five teams. In a three, four, or five-team round robin, no final is played between the top two teams.

7.1.3. Two groups are required for divisions of 6 or 7 teams. Managed as two round-robin groups with a final played between the 1st place team in each round-robin. Tournaments can opt for 2v2 or 3v3 playoffs if they choose to.

7.1.4. There is a three-team minimum requirement for all round-robin formats. Fewer ranking points may be awarded if a draw involves only three teams.

7.1.5. The team that wins the most matches is the winner of that group. If two teams are tied for matches won, then the winner of the head-to-head match is the winner of the group. If three or more teams are tied, the following tiebreakers will be used, in order, to break all ties:

7.1.5.1. Head-to-head win/loss record in matches involving the tied teams only.

7.1.5.2. The team with the highest percentage of sets won of all sets each team has completed.

7.1.5.3. Head-to-head win/loss record in matches involving the tied teams who remain tied.

7.1.5.4. The team with the highest percentage of games won of all games completed.

7.1.5.5. Head-to-head win/loss record in matches involving the tied teams who remain tied.

7.1.5.6. The team with the highest percentage of sets won of all sets completed among teams who remain tied.

7.1.5.7. Head-to-head win/loss record in matches involving the tied teams who remain tied.

7.1.5.8. The team with the highest percentage of games won of all games completed involving the teams who remain tied.

7.1.5.9. Head-to-head win/loss record in matches involving the tied teams who remain tied.

7.1.6. If a team withdraws from a round robin, then all of their matches are considered a W/O to the opposing teams and none of the scores are counted in the calculation of sets or games won.

7.2. First Match Consolation Draw

7.2.1. There is an eight-team minimum requirement for all bracket formats.

7.2.2. A bracket format will be used, with the first-match losers moving to a consolation bracket. All teams are guaranteed a minimum of two matches.

7.2.3. A Bye is not counted as a match.

7.2.4. A Win by Default, Withdraw, or Walkover is counted as a match.

7.2.5. First-match losers from the main draw will move to the corresponding line in the consolation bracket.

7.2.5.1. Example: if line 6 loses to line 5, line 6 will move to line 5-6 of the consolation draw.

7.2.5.2. Example: if line 1 receives a bye and loses in the second round, line 1 will move to line 1-2 of the consolation draw.

7.2.5.3.

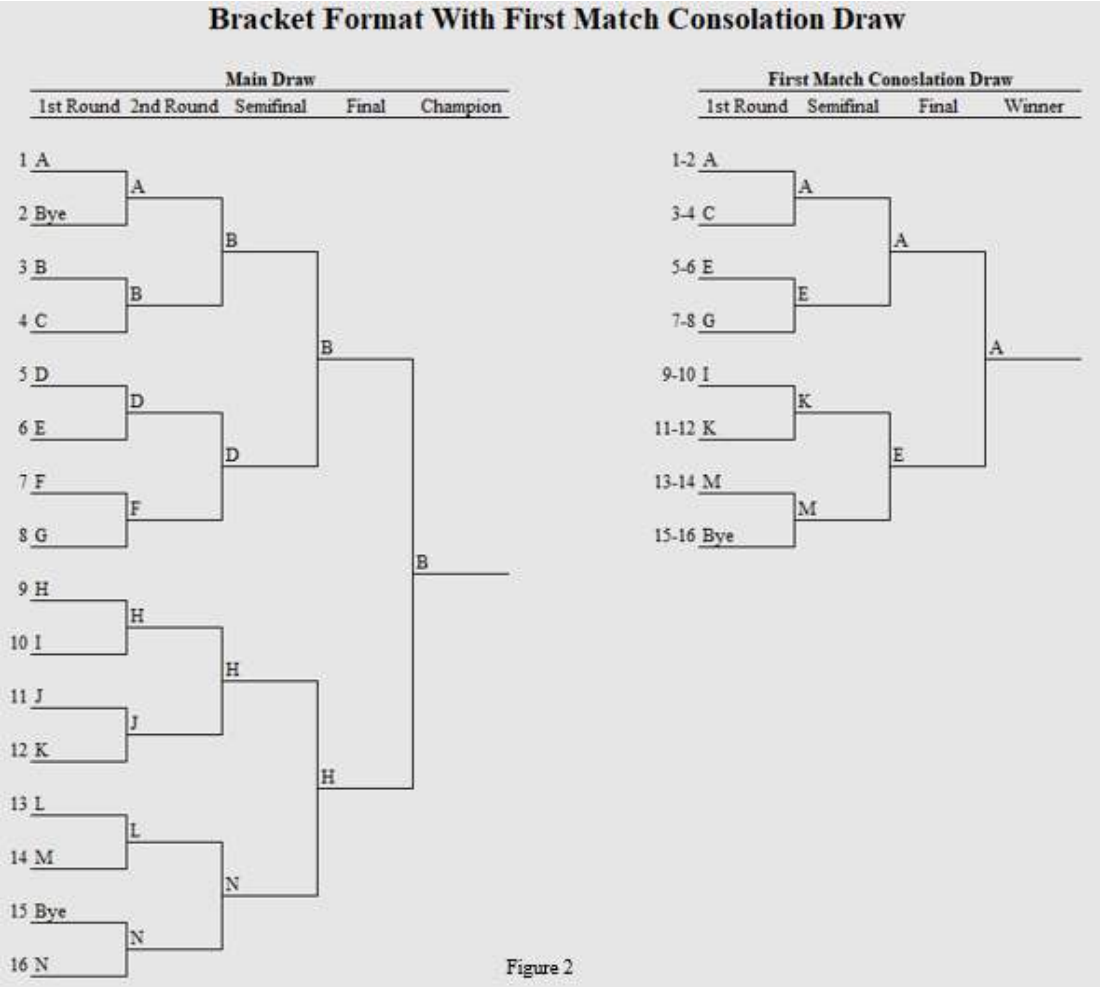


Figure 2

7.3. Feed-In Championship (FIC) Draw

7.3.1. Eight-team minimum requirement for all bracket formats with first round, second round and quarterfinal (semifinal optional) losers moving to a feed-in bracket. All teams guaranteed a minimum of two matches.

7.3.2. First round, second round and quarterfinal (semifinal optional) losers from the main draw will move to the corresponding line in the feed-in bracket.

7.3.2.1. Example: if line 5 loses to line 6, line 5 will move to line 5-6 of the feed-in bracket.

7.3.2.2. Example: if line 1 receives a bye and loses in the second round, line 1 will move to line 1-4 of the second round of the feed-in bracket.

7.3.2.3. Example: if line 16 loses in the semifinal, line 16 will move to line 9-16 of the feed-in bracket.

7.3.2.4.

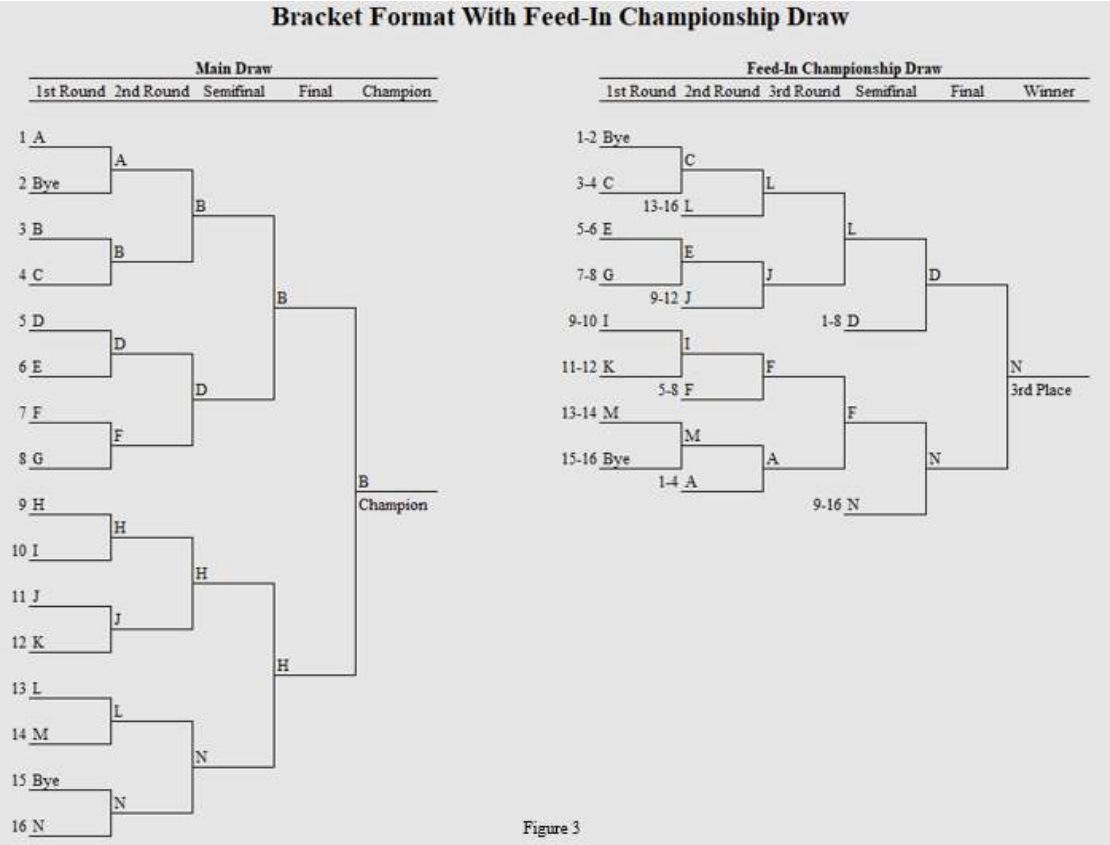


Figure 3

7.3.3. An FIC draw retains the option to play off for more places after losing in the feed-in bracket.

7.3.3.1. Example: if line 11-12 loses to line 9-10, line 11-12 feeds to line 9-12 FIC to play off for 13th place against other first round losers of the feed-in bracket.

7.3.3.2. Example: if line 13-14 receives a bye and subsequently loses to line 1-4, line 13-14 feeds to line R2Q4 (round 2 quarterfinal #4) to play off for 9th against other second round losers of the feed-in bracket.

7.3.3.3. Example: if line 1-4 loses third round in the feed-in bracket, line 1-4 moves to R3S2 (round 3 semifinal #2) to play off for 7th place.

7.3.3.4. Example: if line 5-8 loses fourth round in the feed-in bracket, line 5-8 moves to R4S2 (round 4 semifinal #2) to play off for 5th place.

7.3.3.5.

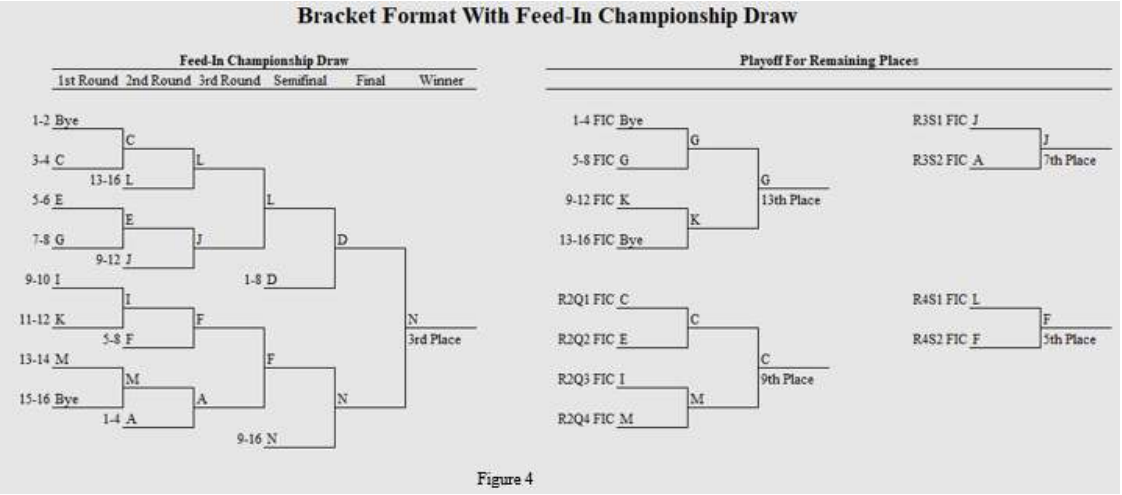


Figure 4

7.4. First Round Loser Consolation Draw. (Only approved for D1 of USA Padel 2000, 1000).

7.4.1. There is a eight-team minimum requirement for all bracket formats.

7.4.2. A bracket format will be used, with the first round losers moving to a consolation bracket. 6.4.3 First round losers from the main draw will move to the corresponding line in the consolation bracket.

8. MAKING THE DRAW

Steps should be taken when making draws for USA Padel tournaments in this order. Pairs enter the division they wish to play in. The USA Padel selects the pairs for Division 1 and then conducts seedings for Division 1. Selections for Division 2, Seedings for Division 2, and so forth. It is important to follow this order, especially if there are more pairs entered into a division than spaces are available, as this impacts the seedings and selections for every draw.

8.1. Seeding

8.1.1. The number of seeds varies by division, tournament level, and number of entries.

8.1.2. Players are selected for the division and given preferential positions in the draw, known as seeds, based on the current rankings lists at the entry deadline, using the format below.

8.1.2.1. Players with any USA Padel Ranking points.

8.1.2.2. Players verified WPR Rating.

Pairs with the most USA Padel rankings points receive the highest seeds, once no pairs have USA Padel ranking points, the teams with the highest average verified WPR rating will be seeded, until all seeds have been decided. If not enough pairs have ranking points or a verified WPR rating, then no more pairs will be seeded.

8.1.3. If two teams have the same total number of points, a random drawing will decide the higher seed.

8.1.4. The same number of seeds shall fall in each half of the draw, each quarter of the draw, etc.

8.1.5. The number of teams seeded shall equal a power of two (2, 4 or 8 seeds).

8.1.6. See below for the number of seeds in each tournament level and division.

8.1.7. 6-11 pairs = two seeds, 12-23 pairs = four seeds, 24-64 pairs = eight seeds.

8.1.8. Placement of seeds shall be as follows:

8.1.8.1. Seed 1 on line 1 of the draw.

8.1.8.2. Seed 2 on the last line of the draw.

8.1.8.3. Seeds 3 and 4 are to be drawn and placed in quadrants 2 and 3.

8.1.8.4. Seeds 5, 6, 7, and 8 are to be drawn and placed in quadrants 1, 2, 3, and 4 at the opposite end of the quadrant from seeds 1 thru 4.

8.2. Pairs Selection for Each Division

8.2.1. Players with any USA Padel Ranking

8.2.2. Players verified WPR Rating

8.2.3. Wild Cards - Each tournament may award up to two wild cards per division. The wild cards must be approved by the USA Padel.

8.2.4. Pairs with the most USA Padel points receive the highest selection. Once no pairs have USA Padel ranking points, the teams with the highest average verified WPR will be used for selection.

8.2.5. Any pairs entered into a division that are not selected due to more teams entering than there are places available are automatically entered into the division below and subject to that division's selection criteria.

8.2.6. To qualify for Division 1 of any USA Padel tournament, a player's WPR must be "verified".

8.2.6.1. For example, if 24 pairs enter a division, and the division is a 16-team division. The 14 pairs with the highest combined total of USA Padel ranking points are selected. 2 teams can be selected as wild-card pairs. The remaining 8 teams are entered into the division below and are subject to the same selection criteria.

8.2.6.2. If a team enters a division that is significantly above or below their level of play, and the division is not full, the USA Padel reserves the right to place the team into a more appropriate division.

8.3. Byes

8.3.1. Priority shall be given to the highest seeds in descending order. In the event that more byes exist than seeds, the remaining byes will be awarded by random draw.

8.3.2. Since priority is given to the highest seeds to receive a bye, any preliminary or first-round matches must occur in the same quadrant of the bracket as the highest seeds in descending order.

8.3.3. The same number of byes shall fall in each half of the draw, each quarter of the draw, etc., if possible.

8.4. Unseeded Teams

8.4.1. Once the seeded teams and byes have been entered into the draw, the rest of the teams shall be drawn. The selections should begin from the top of the draw and move downward.

8.4.2. Placing non-seeded teams in the draw is prohibited. All non-seeded teams shall be drawn to their location in the bracket.

8.4.3. The Tournament Director has discretion to separate first-round opponents from the same club. If this scenario occurs in the process of drawing teams, a new selection will be made.

8.5. Drawing Process

8.5.1. The Tournament Director is responsible for overseeing the drawing process.

8.5.2. It is prohibited for a player to take part in creating his/her own draw.

8.5.3. The draw must be created using the USA Padel TMS.

9. CHANGES TO THE DRAW

9.1. Except in extremely unusual circumstances, the draw should not be altered after publication. Any draw changes after publication must be approved by USA Padel.

9.2. Replacing a seeded team that withdraws before play starts, whether the draw has been posted or not:

9.2.1. If a waitlist exists, or a team will move up a division, to take the place of the withdrawing team (per section 3.9), and the withdrawing seeded team is not the lowest seed, bump all seeds forward and move the next eligible team to the last remaining seeded position. *Note: There is no redrawing of seeding positions. The 4 seed will move into the 3 seed's draw position, 3 seed to 2 seed's draw position, etc.*

9.2.1.1. If the withdrawing team is the lowest seed, simply move the next eligible team into the last remaining seeded position.

9.2.1.2. Place the replacement team into the spot of the draw just vacated by the newly seeded team.

9.2.2. If a waitlist does not exist and no teams will be added from the division below, no changes should be made to the draw and the opponent of the withdrawing team will receive a walkover.

9.2.3. In Divisions 2 - 6, at USA Padel 2500, 2000, 1000, 750, 500, and all divisions of a USA Padel 250, and 100, if a player on a seeded team withdraws, and there is no wait list, and no team is added, and their partner remains in the draw with a new partner, per the regulations in 3.9, and the team was seeded prior to the withdrawal. Use the combined total of the new pairs' USA Padel ranking points to determine if they should be seeded or not. Once you have determined what their new seeding will be, take the following actions.

9.2.3.1. Was seeded - is no longer seeded. Move all seeds below them, up one place in the seeding list, and move the highest-ranked unseeded team into the seedings. Adjust positions in the draw. The new team takes the position in the draw of the team that was just added to the seeding list.

9.2.3.2. Was seeded - is now seeded higher. Move the team up the seeding list and adjust the seeding list and position in the draw of the seeds impacted

9.2.3.3. Was seeded - is now seeded lower. Move the team down the seeding list and adjust the seeding list and position in the draw of the seeds impacted.

9.2.3.4. If the team was seeded and remains seeded, but the change only affects either 3 and 4, or 5 and 6, or 7 and 8. Then, no change in the draw is required as those positions are “drawn” and not assigned. For example, if they were 3 seed and are now 4 seed, or they were 8 seed and are now 7 seed.

9.3. Replacing a non-seeded team that withdraws before play starts and after the draw is posted:

9.3.1. If a waitlist exists, or players will be added from the division below, place the next-in-line team into the vacated spot of the draw.

9.3.2. If a waitlist does not exist, or no players will be added, the draw should not be changed, and the opponent of the withdrawing team will receive a walkover.

9.4. Replacing a non-seeded team that withdraws before play starts and before the draw is posted:

9.4.1. If a waitlist exists or a team will join from the division below, place the next-in-line team from the waitlist into the vacated spot.

9.4.2. If a waitlist does not exist, or no players will be added, the opponent of the withdrawing team will receive a bye unless the bye creates a “double-bye” scenario, a team from an adjacent draw should be chosen at random to replace the withdrawn team.

9.5. If there are six teams in a draw, and a team withdraws after the draw has been published, and no team is available to replace them from the waitlist, the draw format shall not be changed from a draw to a round-robin.

9.6.



Figure 7

If the bye creates a bye for a non-seeded team and other seeded teams in the draw are scheduled for first round matches, the bye will be given to the highest remaining seed with a first round match and their opponent will be moved to the vacated spot in the draw.

9.7.

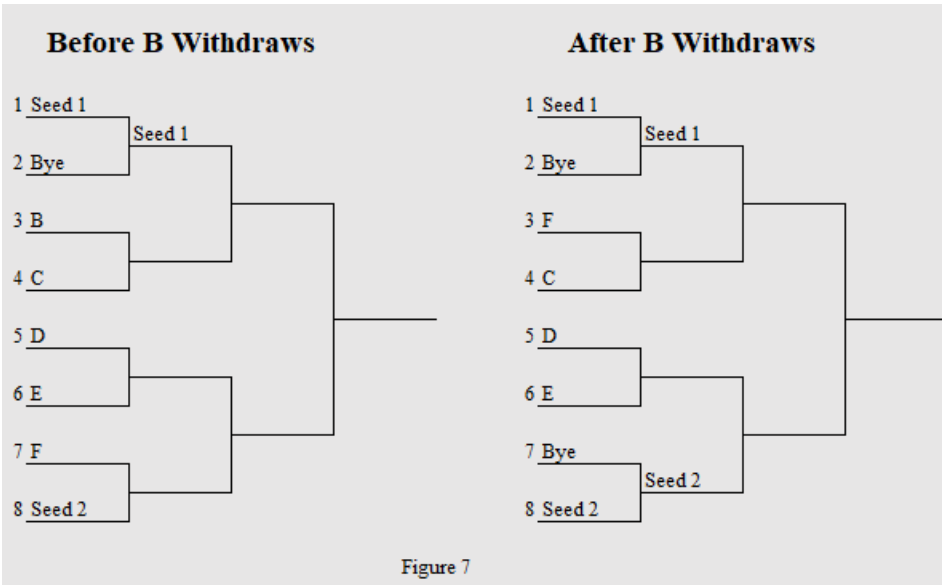


Figure 7

If the bye creates an inordinate number of byes in one section of the draw, the location of the newly created bye must be redrawn to a different part of the bracket. *See Section 8.2.3.*

9.8. Entering a team into the draw that was mistakenly omitted because of an administrative error:

9.8.1. A team whose entry is received on time will not be denied a place in the draw due to administrative error. The entire draw does not have to be remade.

9.8.1.1. If play has not begun and the omitted team would be unseeded, then the team's place in the draw should be determined by random drawing.

9.8.1.2. Allocation of byes by quadrant must remain intact, if possible. *See Section 7.2.3.*

9.8.1.3. If there are no byes, the same random drawing procedure should be used to decide who will play a preliminary match and the drawing includes the omitted team.

9.8.1.4. If play has not begun and the omitted team would be seeded, then the seeding should be changed. *The 4 seed will move into the 3 seed's draw position, 3 seed to 2 seed's draw position, etc.*

10. USA PADEL RANKINGS AND RACE

10.1. The USA Padel maintains two primary ranking systems: USA Padel Rankings and the USA Padel Race, calculated separately for men and women.

10.2. USA Padel Rankings operate on a 52-week rolling cycle and reflect a player's current competitive form. It is used for tournament selection and seedings at USA Padel 2000,1000, 750, 500, 250, and 100 tournaments.

10.3. The USA Padel Race follows a calendar-year format (January 1–December 31) and serves as the qualification standard for the USA Padel Circuit Championships. In both systems, a player's best ten tournament results are used for ranking purposes. Players earn points for the main draw or the consolation draw, whichever is higher, not both.

10.4. The level of a USA Padel tournament (for example, USA Padel 2000, 1500, or 2500) represents the number of ranking points awarded to the winners of Division 1. Each player on the winning pair earns those points individually toward their personal ranking. Points awarded are progressively reduced based on both a team's final placement in the tournament and the division in which they compete, ensuring that higher divisions and stronger finishes carry greater ranking value.

10.5. These ranking systems are designed to encourage participation, reward competitive performance through an objective, results-based methodology, support tournament seeding, and assist in selections for U.S. National teams. Rankings are calculated and maintained in the USA Padel TMS and are updated weekly.

10.6. If players suspect an error in the rankings, they are encouraged to review and verify their results. Most discrepancies occur when a tournament has not yet been marked as completed by the Tournament Director. Players should first contact the Tournament Director to resolve these issues. If a discrepancy remains, players may contact info@usapadel.org with a screenshot or description of the problem.

10.7. Seniors and Junior tournaments use separate ranking systems and do not contribute to the general USA Padel Rankings or USA Padel Race.

10.8. If a pair withdraws before a tournament starts, the match is recorded as a walkover, and neither player receives any ranking points from that tournament. If the pair withdraws from the main draw and plays the consolation draw, they only earn consolation draw points.

10.9. If a pair starts a match and then has to default the match for any reason, they earn the points of that round.

10.10. The complete rankings table is available for viewing here.

11. COACHING RULES & CONDUCT

11.1. Coaching is permitted only during changeovers and breaks in play when the players are permitted to leave the court, Coaches may not coach during points or between points.

11.1.1.1. One coach per team only

11.1.1.2. Coaches must remain seated in the designated bench area near the doors

11.1.1.3. Coaches may not stand, lean against glass, sit behind courts, move between courts, or come and go frequently

11.1.1.4. Coaches may not communicate with opponents

11.1.1.5. Coaches may not call scores, lines, or act as a referee

11.1.1.6. Failure to follow coaching rules may result in warnings, penalties against the players, and the removal of the coach

12. CODE OF CONDUCT AND UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT

12.1. All Players, volunteers, staff, and spectators are required to follow the USA Padel Code of Conduct located here

12.2. All Players, volunteers, staff, and spectators are required to follow the FIP Code of Ethics located here

12.3. Tournament directors are required to file a report via email to info@usapadel.org after a tournament regarding any incidents of code of conduct violations or unsportsmanlike conduct. The report will be referred to the USA Padel Competition Committee and where relevant the USA Padel Governance Committee.

12.4. Players may also submit a report regarding any incidents involving Code of Conduct violations or unsportsmanlike conduct by emailing info@usapadel.org. Any such report will be referred to the USA Padel Competition Committee and, where relevant, the USA Padel Governance Committee for review.

12.5. Tournament directors are required to submit to the USA Padel via email to info@usapadel.org after a tournament the names of any players who no-showed for any match without notifying the tournament director ahead of time. This includes consolation matches where a minimum of two hours' notification is required or the evening prior for matches that are scheduled in the first round of the following day.

USA Padel
Rules and Regulations
2026 Edition

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