



USAB New Junior Tournament Structure Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What are the differences between Open Regional Championship (ORC) and Closed Regional Championship (CRC)?**

Both ORC and CRC carry the same weight of 40% of the Junior National Championship. One key difference is that CRC is for athletes within that region while ORC allows all athletes from any region, including the mixed region pairs. The goal of CRC is to encourage the regional development with more participation from beginner players/high school players.

Also, CRC has no cap while ORC will have cap. This is to allow more beginner players to experience high level of competition within the region, while gaining points to future tournaments.

Each region has the choice of hosting 1 Open Regional Championships (ORC), 1 Closed Regional Championships (CRC) or 2 ORCs

A maximum of only 2 ORCs (Open Regional Championships) /CRCs (Closed Regional Championships) will be allowed for any given long weekend.

Each region has a choice to not host a CRC and apply to the USAB office to convert a CRC to ORC on or before the May 31 each year.

2. **What is the guarantee regional representation in the Junior National Championship? And how does it work?**

Under the new ranking structure, the highest-ranked player/pair of each event from each region is/are guaranteed a spot in the Junior National Championships. A doubles pair consisting of players from different regions shall be considered as representation for both regions. This guarantees regional representation and participation from all the regions at the Junior National Championship.

3. **I believe playing many tournaments is the surest way for my child to improve. Will there be enough tournaments to play under the new structure?**

The question can be answered in two parts.

The number of required ranking tournaments will decrease from 6 (best 3 out of JN and SR plus one 20% and two 10%) to 4. While playing tournaments adds to a player's competitiveness and experience, it does take precious time away from training and camps, beyond a point where it becomes counter-productive and expensive.

Under the new tournament structure, there will be the following tournaments to choose from: JIT (1, non-ranking), Junior Nationals (1, 100 % for ranking), ORC (between 6 and 12, 40 % for ranking), CRC (between 0 and 1, 40 % for ranking), OLC (up to 12, 10 % for ranking), junior development series (unlimited number, non-ranking).

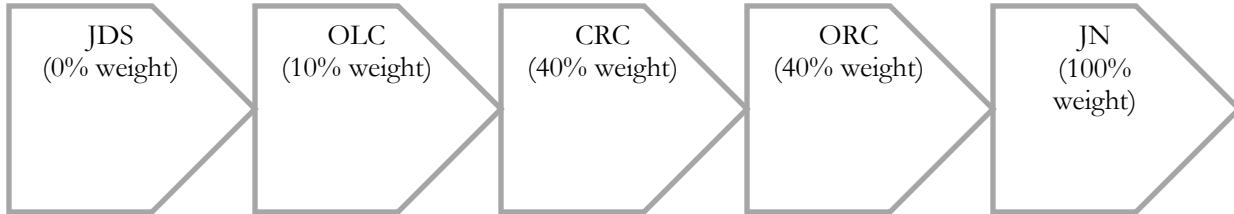
For ranking points, only the top 4 highest ranking points per event will be used. Players can select any combination of participation to suit his/her need.

The ranking system, however, does not constrain a player who feels more tournaments are better. Such players will be able to take full advantage of the full set of ranking tournaments -- there are 20+ of them in every season: 1 JN, 1 CRC, 6 ORCs and 12 OLCs to 1 JN, 12 ORCs and 12 OLCs (if all regions choose to apply for ORC instead of CRC) -- as well as the Junior Development Series (JDS) tournaments in various regions.

4. As a newcomer, how do I get the necessary tournament experience/points and improve myself?

The progression of new players with regard to tournament participation is represented in the following categories:

1. JDS (Junior Development Series)- play various JDS to gain experience without concern of ranking points
2. OLC (Open Local Championships) - start to participate at OLCs to gain experience and ranking points
3. CRC (Closed Regional Championships) - since there is no cap, a player will be able to sign up and gain first round points, taking into account the potential no consolation matches.
4. ORCs (Open Regional Championships) - after developing and gaining experience/points from (1), (2) and (3) above, a player is ready to break into ORC.
5. JN (Junior Nationals) – It is the largest and most important tournament of the year and is set up with mandatory full feed-in consolation with full match format (best of 3 games) and points are awarded accordingly



5. Can a player playing up so s/he can find challenging opponents?

Yes, playing up is allowed. However, the ranking points earned while playing up will stay up. USAB believes that an accurate ranking system is essential to fair competition among athletes.

6. I am a promising late-comer to badminton but I don't have any ranking points as I have been capped out from all/most tournaments. Without playing in the USAB tournaments, how do I improve?

As capped-out ranking tournaments increasingly pose challenges for newcomers, please consider the following:

- JDS tournaments will serve the needs of players that desire more tournament play than what has been provided by USAB's ranking tournaments. The number of JDS tournaments is constrained only by supply and demand. These tournaments should be an ideal environment for a newcomer to hone his/her skills.
- USAB has explicitly required that CRCs cannot have caps. Therefore, a newcomer is guaranteed access to the CRC tournament in his or her region if the region chooses to host CRC. If the region decides to apply for ORC instead of CRC, then the converted ORC will be under the similar rules of regular ORC.
- USAB is restricting players from registering for two age tiers in a single event (e.g. participating simultaneously in BS U13 and BS U15 is prohibited).
- There are six ORCs in each year. USAB believes there is more than enough capacity (e.g. 6 ORCs and 12 OLCs) in the six regions to accommodate all the athletes in the country regardless of ranking. No doubt, travel cost and time will need to be considered.
- USAB has made consolation draws optional for CRCs/ORCs/OLCs. This should ease the capacity constraints at these tournaments significantly.
- The new ranking system considers only the top four results which makes the OLCs less attractive to higher-ranked players and therefore more available space can be allocated to newcomers.

In summary, USAB does not foresee tournament caps being a hindrance to newcomers.

7. Why is consolation being eliminated?

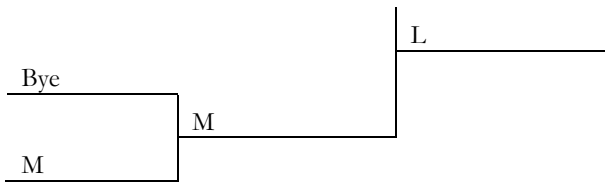
Consolation draws are not being eliminated. Junior Nationals continues to have mandatory full feed-in consolation with full matches format (best of three games) and points are awarded accordingly like the previous years. Consolation draws are made optional on ORC/CRC/OLC to provide the flexibility for the tournament to admit more players (i.e. increase the cap size). Tournament hosts are encouraged to have consolation draws based on the demands of the tournament and facility including total hours per play day. Since consolation draws are made optional no ranking points will be awarded.

USAB is neutral regarding tournament hosts having tournaments for different age group, multiple days, sites and weekends. However, the challenges faced by parents and coaches to be at different sites or multiple weekends need to be taken into account. In addition, the need for court referee/umpires will increase which run into resources constraint and will need the agreement from Tournament Advisory Group (TAG).

8. How are ranking points awarded especially when first-round losses, byes and walk-overs are involved?

**BS U15
ORC**





Play-Off 3/4



	Round 1	Quarter Finals	Semi Finals	Play-Off	Finals	Finish	Points
A	Bye	Win	Win	n/a	Loss	2	1983
B	No Show	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
C	Walkover	Loss	n/a	n/a	n/a	5 to 8	1283
D	Bye	Walkover	Loss	Win	n/a	3	1750
E	Win	No Show	n/a	n/a	n/a	5 to 8	1283
F	Loss	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	9 to 16	933
G	Retired	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	9 to 16	933
H	Win	Win	Loss	Loss	n/a	4	1633
I	Win	Disqualified	n/a	n/a	n/a	5 to 8	1283
J	Loss	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	9 to 16	933
K	Loss	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	9 to 16	933
L	Win	Win	Win	n/a	Win	1	2333
M	Bye	Loss	n/a	n/a	n/a	9 to 16	933

Grade	Junior Nationals (JN)		Regional (CRC/ORC)		Open Local (OLC)	
Age	Place	Singles & Doubles Pairs Points	Place	Singles & Doubles Pairs Points	Place	Singles & Doubles Pairs Points
U15	1	5,832	1	2,333	1	583
U15	2	5,249	2	1,983	2	496
U15	3	4,957	3	1,750	3	437
U15	4	4,666	4	1,633	4	408
U15	5	4,374	5 to 8	1,283	5 to 8	321
U15	6	3,791	9 to 16	933	9 to 16	233
U15	7 or 8	3,208	17 to 32	583	17 to 32	146
U15	9 to 12	2,624	33 to 64	233	33 to 64	58
U15	13 to 16	2,041	65 to 128	117	65 to 128	29

U15	17 to 24	1,750	129 to 256	47	129 to 256	17
U15	25 to 32	1,166				
U15	33 to 64	583				
U15	65 to 128	292				

9. If I want to play multiple age groups, can you please provide an example of how the new ranking system will work for me?

Consider a player who is U13 and plays the following tournament events in a season:

Tournament	Event	Result	Points awarded
ORC-NE	U15 BS	10th	933
CRC-MW	U13 BS	3rd	945
ORC-NW	U13 BS	1st	1260
ORC-MW	U13 BS	5th	693
OLC1-MW	U13 BS	1st	315
OLC2-MW	U17 BS	12th	432
JN	U13 BS	9th	1417

At the end of the season, his ranking points in various age groups are as follow:

Age group	Points	Comment
U13 BS	4315	Of the 5 scores in the U13 BS category, the best 4 are: 945, 1260, 693 and 1417. The 315 points from OLC1-MW are ignored.
U15 BS	4555	The best 4 scores in U15 and lower age groups are: 1417, 1260, 945 and 933.
U17 BS	4555	The best 4 scores in U17 and lower age groups are same as in U15 and lower.
U19 BS	4555	The best 4 scores in U19 and lower age groups are same as in U17 and lower.

Note: When the player registers for a U15 BS event, his qualification/seeding will be based on his best 4 unexpired points from U15 and all the lower age groups. In other words, his ranking points applicable to a BS U15 event are 4555. (Take the best 4 scores from U13 BS and U15 BS events: 1417 + 1260 + 945 + 933).

10. My friend and I like to challenge ourselves against foreign players because they are good athletes. Which tournament should I enter?

Under the new structure, only the non-ranking category JDS tournaments allow foreign players to enter and compete.

All players who currently qualify (through the entry eligibility published in all USAB sanctioned junior ranking tournaments prospectuses) to play in the current 10 %, 20 %, and Super Regionals will be qualified to play in ORCs, CRCs, and OLCs.