



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ("FAQ")

Updated September 20, 2018

Check the FAQ section of the website frequently as we will be updating this document as relevant questions come in!

Where will the event be held?

The Orange County Convention Center (International Drive, Orlando, Florida)

Will all of the courts be matted?

Yes! Rubberized flooring will be used on all courts.

Why did USATT change the format?

Over the course of the last three years, we studied our event structure and how it affected players interaction with – and enjoyment of – the US Open. We found the following:

- There were too many events, and as a result far too many conflicts resulting in delayed/missed matches, frustrated competitors, and confusion;
- To minimize conflicts, events were scattered around the week making it difficult for players to manage their event schedule and find the "right mix" of events that provided a competitive but enjoyable experience;
- As most events were small round robins or single elimination, players were forced to enter events they didn't want to play to maximize the expense of attending the Open by "getting more matches," the direct result of which there were too many lopsided matches which were not enjoyable for either player;
- Similarly, most competitors only played a handful of "matches of consequence" – meaning matches against players of their skill and development level;
- Many competitors in adult age events, which have mostly been played as single elimination, felt they had little chance to advance beyond the first round and opted not to play;
- A general frustration in finding doubles partners before the event, leading to lower turnout for doubles events.
- Too many non-elite players were playing in events intended for elite players, diminishing the quality of the event many inconsequential matches being played; and
- The sheer complexity of the event became unmanageable.

The new event format is intended to address many of these issues. By separating "Elite" and "Performance" players into their own tracks and simplifying the event structure, we believe the US Open will be a more competitive, enjoyable experience for all players.



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What is the difference between the “Elite” and “Performance” Tracks

The “Elite” track is targeted for the highest level players to compete, and thus minimum qualification standards have been set. All Elite Track singles events are ITTF sanctioned, meaning World Ranking and USATT Ratings points can be earned.

The “Performance” track is intended for players of all levels to compete in more matches against people at or around their skill and development level. Between the Tiered Ratings and age events, “Performance” track players will get a minimum of 12-15 *competitive* singles matches over the course of the week. Providing players with the flexibility to enter doubles events on-site will also provide better opportunities to find partners and increased participation in those events.

How do I know if I am an “Elite” player?

Elite qualification requirements can be found on [Page 6](#) of the Prospectus/Entry Form. To qualify, players must: (a) meet a minimum USATT rating standard; (b) have a current world ranking; or (c) be nominated/entered by their National Association.

Is there a deadline to be rating qualified for the Elite events?

A player can be rating qualified for the “Elite” track if they have met the minimum rating requirement *at any time* between October 1 and November 15, 2018. For example, a player that was 2440 on October 15th but 2395 on December 2nd would qualify to compete in all of the elite events.

What if I drop off the World Ranking List before November 15?

We recommend you contact your National Association and have them nominate you to compete in the Elite events.

Can I compete in some Elite Track events, and some Performance Track events?

No. You may only compete in one “track” with one notable exception – all players may play in the Open Hardbat (Men’s and Women’s) events (part of the Classic Table Tennis events in the Performance Track) provided it does not conflict with any event you are currently competing in your respective track.

Can anyone play in the Rating Estimation event on Sunday?

While the event is intended to give USATT an approximate rating for unrated players in the Performance Track, all players may play in the Rating Estimation event. Estimated ratings will only be used for seeding purposes in the Performance Track events.



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Do the results from the Rating Estimate event count for anything?

No. Results from the event will not affect the rating or seeding for a player with a current USATT rating.

How does the Performance Track Work?

The Performance Track has been broken down into three blocks – “Tiered”, “Age”, and “Classic Table Tennis”. Unless a player otherwise opts out, all Performance Track players are automatically entered into the Tiered Singles event, which starts on Monday at 9am. A Tiered Doubles event is also included and starts on Thursday at 3pm. Players do not have to enter (or declare their doubles partner) until Noon on Wednesday for the Tiered Doubles event.

Players may then choose to compete in the Age or Classic Table Tennis events, but not both. For *age events*, players may play up to two singles events *which must be consecutive* and up to two age/gender doubles events, which do not have to be consecutive but cannot start at the same time. Players may also play in both mixed doubles events (Over 40 and Over 60). Like the Tiered Doubles event, players do not have to enter the gender/age doubles event or declare their partner until Noon the day prior to the scheduled start.

For example, a 50-year-old player may enter the Over 50 and Over 40 singles events – and may also play the Over 20 and Over 50 doubles events. He/she could also play in the Over 40 mixed doubles event.

For the Classic Table Tennis events, players may compete in as many events as they are eligible based on gender, age, and rating.

Anyone can play in the Hardbat Men’s and Women’s Open events provided that: (a) it does not conflict with another event they are competing in; and (b) they enter by Noon on Thursday, December 15.

How do the Tiered Ratings events work in the Performance Track?

Similar to the “Super Tier Round Robin” played at the Nationals, players will start in groups of six on Monday. Each group will have an “A”, “B”, “C”, “D”, “E”, and “F” player based on ratings (for example, a group might have players with ratings - 2300 (A), 2200 (B), 2100 (C), 2000 (D), 1900 (E), and 1700 (F).

The winner of each group will then move into “Division I”, the runner-up will move into “Division II”, etc. all the way down to Division 6. The first round of “Division” matches will take place on Tuesday morning.



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The second round of Divisional round robins will take place on Wednesday, where the groups will be determined by the results from Tuesday's division round robins. For example, the winner of a divisional (Tuesday) round robin group will be the "A" player, the 2nd place "B" player, etc. The winners of the "A" subdivision groups will play for that Division's championship in a single elimination format either Wednesday afternoon or Thursday, based on the schedule and number of entries.

By example, player "Wendy":

- Finishes in 2nd place in her Monday round robin, thus is in Division II for Tuesday's round robin.
- Finishes 1st place in her Tuesday round robin, thus is in Division IIA or Wednesday's round robin.
- Finishes 2nd place in her Wednesday round robin, thus does not advance to SE play.

Player "Mark":

- Finishes 4th in his Monday round robin, thus is in Division IV for Tuesday's Round Robin.
- Finishes in 1st place in his Tuesday round robin, thus is in Division IVA for Wednesday's round robin
- Finishes 1st in his Wednesday round robin, meaning he will move on to Division IV. Single elimination.

All players will play two round robin groups within their division (Tuesday and Wednesday). This means that players will get two groups of round robin matches within their relative playing level.

The Tiered Doubles event will be almost the same, except there will only be one round of Divisional round robins before single elimination.

How do the Age events work in the Performance Track?

All age events (singles and doubles) in the Performance track will be played in the same format – round robin into single elimination. The biggest difference in the US Open format is that all players in the round robin will advance to single elimination! The top two players in each group advance to the Championship bracket, and the bottom two advance to the Consolation bracket. The top-four finishers in the Championship bracket, by age, will receive medals/awards - and the top-four finishers in the Consolation bracket, by age, will receive certifications. The same format will be used for the Age doubles events.



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What about the Classic Table Tennis events?

More information will follow in early October with the playing format and time schedule for the Classic Table Tennis events.

Can I play in the "Age" and "Classic" event blocks?

No, with the one exception being the Hardbat Open (Men's and Women's) as described previously. You must choose between Age and Classic Table Tennis event blocks.

NEW How many matches will I play?

That will depend on "who" you are as a player. Here are a couple of examples:

- Age 35, rating 1750 (performance track) – *minimum of 33-37 matches*
 - Tiered Singles: *minimum 13-15 matches*
 - 1st round robin Monday morning – 5 matches
 - 2nd round robin Tuesday morning – 5 matches
 - 3rd RR Wednesday – 3-5 matches (depending on divisions)
 - Single Elimination (to be determined)
 - Tiered Doubles: *minimum 8-10 matches (depending on group size)*
 - 1st round robin (4-5 matches)
 - 2nd round robin (4-5 matches)
 - Single Elimination (to be determined)
 - Over 30 Singles: *minimum 4 matches*
 - Round robin singles (3 matches)
 - Single elimination – Championship or Consolation bracket
 - Over 30 Doubles: *minimum 4 matches*
 - Round robin doubles (3 matches)
 - Single elimination – Championship or Consolation bracket
 - Over 20 Singles: *minimum 4 matches*
 - Round robin singles (3 matches)
 - Single elimination – Championship or Consolation bracket
 - Over 20 Doubles: *minimum 4 matches*
 - Round robin doubles (3 matches)
 - Single elimination – Championship or Consolation bracket



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- Age 52, rating 2100 (performance track) – *minimum of 33-37 matches*
 - Tiered Singles: *minimum 13-15 matches*
 - 1st round robin Monday morning – 5 matches
 - 2nd round robin Tuesday morning – 5 matches
 - 3rd RR Wednesday – 3-5 matches (depending on divisions)
 - Single Elimination (to be determined)
 - Tiered Doubles: *minimum 8-10 matches (depending on group size)*
 - 1st round robin (4-5 matches)
 - 2nd round robin (4-5 matches)
 - Single Elimination (to be determined)
 - Over 50 Singles: *minimum 4 matches*
 - Round robin singles (3 matches)
 - Single elimination – Championship or Consolation bracket
 - Over 50 Doubles: *minimum 4 matches*
 - Round robin doubles (3 matches)
 - Single elimination – Championship or Consolation bracket
 - Over 40 Singles: *minimum 4 matches*
 - Round robin singles (3 matches)
 - Single elimination – Championship or Consolation bracket
 - Over 40 Doubles: *minimum 4 matches*
 - Round robin doubles (3 matches)
 - Single elimination – Championship or Consolation bracket
- Age 17, rating 2450 (Elite track) – *seven (7) events*
 - Elite Singles
 - Men's or Women's Doubles
 - Mixed Doubles
 - Under 21 Men's or Women's Singles
 - Junior Boys or Girls Singles
 - Junior Boys or Girls Doubles
 - Junior Mixed Doubles



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When will the hall be open for registration and training?

Registration will be open on Saturday (December 15) from 3pm – 6pm. Registration and the practice hall will open on Sunday (registration and 7:30am, playing hall at 9:00am). See [Page 7](#) of the Prospectus/Entry Form for hours of operation.

What is the closest airport?

Orlando McCarren International Airport is about 20-30 minutes from the venue.
Sanford airport (Allegiant Airlines only) is approximately 45 minutes from the venue.

Is there a host hotel?

Yes, there are actually two! We are pleased to be working with the Rosen Hotel Group to provide upscale and accessible hotel packages to our players and guests. Both hotels are connected to the Orange County Convention Center by a covered walkway. The Rosen Centre (\$109.00/night + tax) is the closest to the playing halls (WA 1-4). The Rosen Plaza (\$105.00/night + tax) is a bit farther to the playing halls but is adjacent to more restaurants and entertainment options. Participants will receive one (1) complimentary airport shuttle voucher for each hotel booked at either Rosen property in the USATT room block (one voucher per room).

Please support our host hotels – without them the event would not be possible! More information about our host hotel program, including phone number, website and booking codes, can be found on [Page 7](#) of the Prospectus/Entry Form.

Is parking free at the venue or the hotel?

No. The OCCC and the Rosen hotels both charge a parking fee. Keep in mind both Rosen hotels are connected to the playing venue so if you are staying at the Rosen Centre or Rosen Plaza, you will not need to pay for parking at the OCCC.

Are there discounts on other Orlando attractions available?

Yes! The Central Florida Sports Commission and USA Table Tennis have secured special discounted pricing to Orlando's internationally known theme parks for all participants of the 2018 U.S. Open Championships. The U.S. Open venues (playing hall, host hotels) are conveniently located just 4 miles from Universal Orlando and less than 7 miles from Walt Disney World. Don't miss this opportunity to explore all that Orlando has to offer!

Visit <http://centralfloridasports.org/tabletennis> for information and discounted tickets!