

Chapter 12 – Major Tournaments

1. General. Major tournaments are those tournaments, 3 Star and above, that normally have a large number of the top players.

2. Tournament Calendar. The U.S. Open Championships and the U.S. National Championships (Closed) and other 5 star tournaments should be scheduled as far in advance as practical, preferably one year before the tournament. All other major tournaments should also be scheduled as far in advance as practical but no later than 4 months before the tournament. This scheduling will enable other tournament sponsors to schedule their tournaments efficiently without interfering with the major tournaments.

2.a. National Championships – Normally scheduled in early July in various venues.

2.b. U.S. Open – Normally scheduled in the 3rd week in December in various venues.

3. Referee Requirements by Tournament.

3.a. For the U.S. Open the referee will be a US International Referee appointed by the Umpires and Referees Committee (URC). A foreign IR will be invited as deputy referee. A USATT IR or NR will be appointed as a deputy referee.

3.b. For the U.S. National Championships (Closed) the referee will be a National (NR) or International Referee (IR) with an IR or NR deputy (appointed by the USATT URC). We will also invite a foreign IR (or NR if Canadian) as a deputy referee.

3.b. For other 5 Star tournaments the referee will be a National (NR) or International (IR) referee.

3.d. For other major tournaments, 3 and 4 star, the referee will be an International Referee, National Referee, or Regional Referee.

4. Time Scheduling. All events must be time scheduled by time and table.

5. Doubles Entries. All doubles entries must list their partners when entering 3, 4, or 5 Star tournaments. As an exception the sponsor, with the approval of the National Sanctioning Coordinator, may accept doubles entries without partners and may charge a fee for matching players with doubles partners.

6. Equipment Displays. All companies wishing to display equipment must be given equal opportunity to display equipment at reasonable rates unless the primary sponsor provides all of the prize money.

7. Facilities and Equipment.

7.a. Major tournaments normally use 24 or more competition tables. The facility should provide sufficient space for the tables and administrative areas such as:

7.a.1 Control desk.

7.a.2. Posting of draws.

7.a.3. Racket control area.

7.a.4. Spectator seating

7.b. The (USATT affiliate) sponsor is responsible for all facilities, equipment, and supplies required for running the tournament. This includes but is not limited to:

7.b.1. Scheduling, contracting for, and paying any fees for rental of the playing venue.

7.b.2. Shuttle service between the hotel and playing venue if it is not within reasonable walking distance.

7.b.3. All forms necessary to run the tournament. All draw sheets will conform substantially to the examples in this Tournament Guide. USATT will provide standard draw sheets on request. Downloadable files are also available in Chapter 10 – Computer Operations.

7.b.4. All equipment such as tables, balls, etc. as for any other tournament.

8. Draws. Draws will be done in accordance with the procedures in the applicable chapter of the *Guide*. The areas for geographical separation should be based on the experience of the referee or whoever makes the draw. The areas may be states or portions of states that provide the best objectives of geographical separation.

9. Racket Control. All major tournaments must use racket control measures to ensure that rackets comply with relevant regulations.

9.a The referee will select matches for racket control. Rackets will be tested for:

9.a.1. Legality of rubber.

9.a.2. Thickness of rubber.

9.a.3. Flatness of rubber.

9.a.4. Gloss of rubber.

9.a.5. Presence of volatile organic compounds (VOC) if testing equipment is available.

9.b MiniRAE device may be used to check for VOCs.

9.c. Voluntary racket testing will be made available for players and no penalty shall be imposed for a player whose racket fails a voluntary test.

10. U. S. Open Championships and National Championships (Closed) This information is for general guidance. Specific requirements will be confirmed by contract between USATT and NATT.

10.a. Sanction: The USATT Board of Directors will award the sanction for these tournaments based on the host city's ability to meet USATT goals for the competition. The executive director will negotiate with appropriate parties in cities interested in holding these championships. Other considerations include the desire to schedule major tournaments so that players in all parts of the country can reasonably participate.

10.b. The U.S. Open and Nationals shall be conducted under USATT supervision or

may be contracted to a professional tournament production company or tournament director, currently NATT.

10.c. Responsibility of USATT: All responsibilities will be provided by USATT or by NATT as agreed in the tournament contract.

10.c.1. Mail approved entry blanks at least 60 days before the event.

10.c.2. Secure a suitable playing site as defined in Chapter 4. Playing space for Men's and Women's Singles and Doubles and International Team events (U.S. Open), will be in accordance with ITTF regulations.

10.c.3. Provide seating for at least 1000 spectators.

10.c.4. Provide a public address system and suitable locker and dressing room space.

10.c.5. Provide suitable awards in keeping with the importance of the event. The following awards are required:

10.c.5.a. Winner and runner-up in all events.

10.c.6.b. Semi-finalists and quarter-finalists in men's and women's singles.

10.c.6.c. Additional prizes and awards may be presented if the sponsor so desires.

10.c.6.d. Men's and Women's Singles and Doubles and Mixed Doubles should be considered more important than rating, or age limited and other events. These events should be played on matted floors and have priority in scheduling.

10.c.6.e. The awards for all events will be engraved before the tournament with the tournament and event name, final position and date.

10.c.7. Provide full transportation costs for the US referees and chief umpires and their deputies according to USATT financial policies in place. Umpires will be

reimbursed for transportation costs in accordance with schedules developed by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in coordination with the ORAC chairperson. Match officials from foreign associations will not normally receive any transportation reimbursement.

10.c.8. Provide, as a tournament expense, hotel hospitality for the other match officials for the duration of the tournament, with no more than two persons per room.

10.c.9. Provide a copy of the program to each player and match official.

10.c.10. Provide a site, including chairs and desks/tables, for the USATT National Umpire Examination and other exams if requested.

10.d. Every player will be legibly identified on the back of the playing shirt by name or by numbers provided by the tournament.

10.e. Tournament Conduct.

10.e.1. The Referee is responsible for the conduct of the draws for all events.

10.e.2. NATT will normally make the initial draws using tournament software. A copy of the draw for each event will be provided to the Referee not later than two weeks before the tournament. The Referee will review all draws and make any corrections necessary.

10.e.3. Matches in Men's & Women's Singles will be best of 7 games from the round of 64 for US Open and round of 32 for Nationals. Preliminary singles matches and singles matches in other events may be either best of 5 or best of 7, at the discretion of the tournament committee. All doubles matches will be best of 5.

10.e.4 NATT will provide the master time schedule in spreadsheet form, by timeslots, to the Chief Umpire no later than 10 days prior to the start of the event.

10.e.5. The tournament will normally last four days, Wednesday-Saturday.

10.e.6. The Board is the final appeal authority on all issues decided on by the tournament management committee.

11. U. S. Open Championships

11.a If the tournament is designated an ITTF World Tour event,

11.a.1. Separate referees and umpires will be used for the US Open and the World Tour events.

11.a.2. The World Tour events will be conducted as a separate competition and will be conducted in accordance with ITTF World Tour directives and instructions of the ITTF Competition Manager.

11.b. Publish a program including the playing schedule, winners of previous U.S. Open Championship events and, listed in order of player number and/or alphabetical order players' names and cities.

11.c. Tournament events. The following will normally be included:

- Men's & Women's Singles
- Men's & Women's Doubles
- Mixed Doubles
- Boy's & Girl's Under 18 Singles
- Boy's & Girl's Under 16 Singles
- Boy's & Girl's Under 14 Singles
- Juniors Under 12 singles
- Junior Boy's & Girl's Teams
- Under 22 Singles
- Men's & Women's 40 and over Singles
- Men's & Women's 50 and over Singles
- Men's 40 and over Doubles
- Hardbat Singles & Doubles
- Boy's & Girl's Under 18 Doubles
- Boy's & Girl's Under 16 Doubles
- Rating events to provide challenging competition for various skill levels.

11.d. Additional events may be held with the permission of USATT Headquarters.

12. U. S. National Championships (Closed)

12.a. Publish a program including the playing schedule, winners of previous U.S. National Championship events and, listed in

order of player number and/or alphabetical order players' names and cities.

12.b. Tournament events. The following will normally be included:

- Men's & Women's Singles
- Men's & Women's Doubles
- Mixed Doubles
- Boy's & Girl's Under 18 Singles
- Boy's & Girl's Under 16 Singles
- Boy's & Girl's Under 14 Singles
- Juniors Under 12 singles
- Juniors Under 14 doubles
- Under 22 Singles
- Men's & Women's 40 and over Singles
- Men's & Women's 50 and over Singles
- Men's 40 and over Doubles
- Hardbat Singles & Doubles
- Boy's & Girl's Under 18 Doubles
- Boy's & Girl's Under 16 Doubles
- Rating events to provide challenging competition for various skill levels.

12.c. Events for players under 12, 14, 16, and 18 are not required if there are separate U.S. Junior Championships in the same season.

12.d. Additional events may be held with the permission of USATT Headquarters.

12.e. Qualifications. Eligibility to participate in the U. S. National Championships (Closed) or to qualify for the U.S. team squad is based on criteria established by the USATT. Because these criteria change from time to time, anyone not a U.S. citizen should check with USATT Headquarters to determine eligibility.