



## Appendix A: Sportsmanship Expectations and Media & Data Rights

The Appendix is part of the 2022 USTA/MAS Event Regulations; effective January 1, 2022 (rev 3/1/22)

### Sportsmanship Expectations

By registering for a USTA Mid-Atlantic Junior Tournament, players and guardians agree to understand and abide by all USTA Mid-Atlantic rules and regulations. The utmost levels of courtesy and sportsmanship are required of all participants and spectators at all times. Players and parents shall be familiar with and abide by the [USTA Mid-Atlantic ACES Pledge](#) as well as the [Code of Conduct](#), which sets expectations for proper behavior during a tennis competition. Failure to comply with these expectations may result in Suspension Points under the Point Penalty System, and/or further action as outlined in the USTA Mid-Atlantic Disciplinary Action Plan (coming soon).

#### [USTA Mid-Atlantic ACES Pledge](#)

ALL players, parents and spectators participating in USTA Mid-Atlantic competitive events, whether Adult, Family, Wheelchair, or Junior Tour events (including non-ranked Junior events), must accept and sign the USTA Mid-Atlantic ACES Pledge:

***As a participant in USTA Mid-Atlantic programs, whether as a player, parent, coach, spectator, or provider, I commit to a fun, fair, safe, and inclusive environment for ALL.  
[I pledge to Always Champion Exceptional Sportsmanship on and off the court.](#)***

#### Looking for more resources on proper conduct?

[Click here for useful Do's and Don'ts for Players & Spectators](#)

(added 3/1/22)

#### [USTA Mid-Atlantic Disciplinary Action Plan](#) (added 3/1/22)

It is the responsibility of the USTA Tournament Director and/or the USTA Official to enforce the Point Penalty System as defined in [Friend at Court](#). Any point penalty issued results in Suspension Points on a player's record as noted below in Code Violations. It is expected that the majority of issues will be resolved on site and that all suspension points will be entered into a player's record. In the event that an issue is not addressed on site and either a complaint or grievance is filed with the USTA Mid-Atlantic the [USTA Mid-Atlantic Disciplinary Action Plan](#) (added 3/1/22) will be implemented.

#### Suspensions & Appeals

A player receiving 10 penalty points within a 12 month period for any reason shall be suspended.

- A Player has the right to appeal only once 10 points have accrued.

A Spectator who is subject to action under the [USTA Mid-Atlantic Disciplinary Action Plan](#) (added 3/1/22) may not appeal until a 3 month ban has been imposed or a decision has been rendered by the USTA MAS Discipline & Grievance Committee.



## Code Violations

Code violations may be issued for unsportsmanlike behavior occurring on or off the court during a tournament and will be assessed Penalty Points per [Friend at Court](#). Egregious unsportsmanlike acts that occur off site or outside of tournament dates, to include but not limited to online activity, but found to be in connection with a USTA program or event, may also be subject to code violations. Parents and guardians are responsible for being aware of a player's current points. Failure by the player or guardian to acknowledge a code violation shall not invalidate any penalty points or suspensions.

## Spectator Conduct

Guardians, coaches and spectators shall remain a minimum of 10 feet away from the playing area. All spectators are asked to refrain from any verbal interference in the match outside of a polite clap. Any engagement in the match or negative communication with players, other spectators, or tournament officials (arguing, complaining about behavior on court, etc) may result in a Code Violation assessed against the player as well as the person creating the disturbance being asked to leave the site. Failure to leave at the request of event personnel results in the automatic default of the player.

## Excessive Overrule

Once a player has been overruled for a second time in a match, they will be cautioned that after another overrule, they may be penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct under the point penalty system.

## Concurrent Tournaments

Registering for and/or playing in Concurrent Tournaments is not allowed, and subject to Suspension Points under The Point Penalty System. Players may not register for or play in overlapping tournaments; Limited exceptions apply as noted in Friend at Court and within Mid-Atlantic regulations specific to concurrent Mid-Atlantic Closed Junior Level 4 & Level 3 events.

Taking a draw spot from another potential player and then failing to participate is considered Unsportsmanlike Conduct. Players who are selected to an event may NOT withdraw after the deadline to compete in another tournament. If a player is discovered in another draw, to include ITF events, and other non-usta events, they are subject to penalty points under the point penalty system.

## Play to Completion

All players are expected to play all scheduled matches to completion. It is considered unsportsmanlike to not play all scheduled matches. However, if a player has a documented injury, illness or personal circumstance and therefore does not intend or is unable to play a scheduled match, the player **MUST** notify the tournament director within one (1) hour of the end of the previous match of his/her intention not to play. Failure to do so will result in a Default/no show code for the match; and penalty points on a player's record.



Additionally, Junior players demonstrating a pattern of unsportsmanlike withdrawals and walkovers may be assessed Penalty Points if there is a demonstrated pattern of failure to play to completion. In the event a pattern of withdrawals and walkovers becomes apparent within a 3 month period the player will be asked to provide documentation associated with each withdrawal and walkover within 5 business days of the request. Failure to provide satisfactory documentation may result in penalty points assessed per incident; may be subject to additional unsportsmanlike penalty points; and may lead to suspension.

### **Failure to pay tournament entry fee**

A Tournament Director may require payment prior to allowing participation in the draw. If a payment transaction fails, the Tournament Director shall be paid the Entry fee and any processing fees. A player whose payment is incomplete and then withdraws after the entry deadline, to include those players requesting late entry; is obligated to pay the entry fee. Failure to pay the Entry Fee results in two (2) Penalty Points assessed against the player.

### **Media & Data Rights**

The USTA Regulations that govern sanctioning states that the television, cable, satellite, internet, radio, film, and video rights for all tournaments sanctioned by the Junior Competition Committee and the USTA Board are reserved by the USTA. This includes event(s) contracting with a match video service, whether or not the video is made available for sale to the public. It also includes live streaming of matches. Any relinquishment by the USTA shall be agreed to in writing and signed by all parties. Videotaping and photography for personal, non-commercial purposes of any portion of a sanctioned USTA Mid-Atlantic event is permissible under the law. If a player, parent or other person affiliated with a player objects to that player being videotaped or photographed, that player, parent or person may ask, or request that a Tournament Director or Certified Official intercede on their behalf to ask that any videotaping and photography stop, or that the camera be repositioned to exclude that player. Notwithstanding this position, facilities used for sanctioned events may have videotaping and/or photography policies of their own pertaining to events within the boundaries of their property.

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