



SCTA Junior Rules

These are rules that all junior players should know before walking onto the court! This is not a complete listing of all rules, but rather a few rules that are important for players to know. All players should know the "The Code." You can find a number of rules on www.usta.com, or you can call the SCTA at 310-208-3838 and have the complete book of rules mailed to you (\$5.50).

What is the Point Penalty System (PPS)?

The point penalty system is a series of penalties given to a player for violations of rules during the warm-up and the match in any sanctioned tournament.

There is a three-step system under the PPS. Violations shall be penalized as follows:

1. First Offense = Point
2. Second Offense = Game
3. Third Offense = Default

A player that commits a flagrantly unsportsmanlike act can be penalized under the PPS.

An umpire should code a player if he sees his/her parent coaching.

Juniors are entitled to minimum of 1 hour between matches! However if a junior competes in two different age divisions (i.e. 14 singles and 16 doubles) then he/she is only entitled to 30 minutes!

A player must take all warm-up serves prior to the start of the match.

If you come back one minute to five minutes late from the 10-minute intermission between split sets that you lose 1 game. If you come back later than 5 minutes, you will be defaulted!

Players shall not enter an event knowing he/she will be unable to finish!

Players shall not transfer his entry in a tournament to another player!

Players shall not enter more than one tournament, including mandatory consolation, scheduled for any part of the same period unless both tournament directors approve in writing!

A player shall not pass the net to inspect a ball mark!

If it rains and there is a delay a player is entitled to a re-warm up if the delay was longer than 10 minutes.

A player shall not request that an official be removed from a match!
The primary reason tournaments are seeded is to ensure players of outstanding ability will not meet in the early rounds.

If an unseeded player withdraws before a match begins, the referee may fill the vacancy with an unseeded player from a waiting list or an on-site alternate. It is not up to the player to decide if he/she will play a player on a waiting list.

If a ball disrupts play between the first and second serve and the player has not begun his/her motion, then the player does not receive two serves. If the player is "in motion" (i.e. tossing the ball) then the player would play a let and receive two serves.

You must play 5 tournaments plus the sectionals (played to completion) to get a ranking or 8 tournament. Designated tournaments are required for endorsement!
Not ranking!

The age division you play in your first designated is the age division you must play in all designated events, unless your birth date forces you into a higher age division.

Disputes over the score shall be resolved in the following order by one of the following methods:

1. Replay only the disputed points
2. Play from a mutually agreeable score
3. If no agreement could be reached, spin racquet or toss a coin

An umpire can walk onto the court at anytime, even if the players haven't requested their assistance.

Is the #3 seed suppose to play the #2 seed in the Semi's? No, it is luck of the draw! The #3 could play the #1 or #2 in the semis.

If a player has a problem on the court, the player must get an official or a tournament official. It is the player's responsibility to ask for an official. Not a parent.

A player shall not talk while the ball is moving toward his opponent' side of the court!

Once a match has begun, a player may leave the playing area only for a restroom break or to locate an official. The player must notify his or her opponent if leaving for a bathroom break!

A tournament director may rearrange the seeds prior to the first ball being hit, but may not after the event has started!

A 10 minute break after splitting sets is required for players in the 10's, 12's, 14's, & 16's. During this break a non-competing player, parent or coach may talk to the participant. No rest period is permitted for the Boys and Girls 18 divisions.

Under USTA rules you can be penalized. If you show up more than 15 minutes late, you may be defaulted out of the tournament. A default means that because you were absent at the beginning of the match the victory will be awarded to your opponent. The length of time you are allowed to be late before being defaulted is at the discretion of the tournament referee, unless the tournament has indicated that the USTA Point Penalty System will be used (Below).

5:00 Minutes or less = loss of toss* Plus 1 game

5:01 – 10:00 Minutes = loss of toss* Plus 2 games

10:01 – 15:00 Minutes = loss of toss* Plus 3 games

More than 15:00 Minutes = Default

*Serve, return or side