

## 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 and are granted special priority in scheduling.

**2. Tournament Calendar.** The U.S. Open Championships, the U.S. National Championships (Closed), the U.S. Open Team Championships (USOTC), and the North American Team Championships (NATTC) 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. U.S. Open Championships Normally scheduled in early July in various venues.
- 2.b. National Championships Normally scheduled in mid December in Las Vegas.
- 2.c. USOTC Normally scheduled in the first half of the year.
- 2.d. NATTC Thanksgiving Weekend in Baltimore.

**3. Time Scheduling.** All events must be time scheduled. 3 Star tournaments may be scheduled by time only and assign matches to tables from the control desk. All other major tournaments must schedule matches by time and table.

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

**5. 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.

**6. Facilities and Equipment.** The sponsor is responsible for all facilities, equipment, and supplies required for running the tournament. This includes but is not limited to:

- 6.a. Scheduling, contracting for, and paying any fees for rental of the playing venue.
- 6.b. Shuttle service between the hotel and playing venue if it is not within reasonable walking distance.
- 6.c. All forms necessary to running 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.
- 6.d. All equipment such as tables, balls, etc. as for any other tournament.

**7. U. S. OPEN TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS (USOTC) and North American Team Championships (NATTC)**

- 7.a. The USOTC shall be conducted by the USATT or may be contracted to a professional tournament production company.

- 7.b. The NATTC is conducted by NATT in accordance with normal sanctioning procedures.
- 7.c. Rating: The USOTC will have a 5 star rating and NATTC will have a four star rating.
- 7.d. Additional Duties of the Sponsor:
  - 7.d.1. To establish the entry fee by agreement with the USATT National Sanctioning Coordinator prior to sanctioning.
  - 7.d.2. Site: To secure a playing site with room for at least 70 tables. This will provide a minimum of 3 tables for each two team matches for up to 90 teams. If more than 90 team entries are accepted, the sponsor will provide 3 additional tables for each 4 additional teams. All first division matches will be played on floor mats.
  - 7.d.3. To provide lighting and USATT approved equipment in good condition.
  - 7.d.4. To prepare all necessary forms including team match sheets, individual match cards, etc.
  - 7.d.5. To submit a list of teams and results of team matches including individual results in addition to all reports defined in the tournament guide.
  - 7.d.6. To provide the following awards:
    - 7.d.6.a. A suitable money prize for the winning team. Minimum total prize money according to USATT tournament star rating.
    - 7.d.6.b. Suitable awards to winners and finalists in all events.
- 7.e. Entries.
  - 7.e.1. The tournament sponsor will mail an entry blank to each USATT affiliate and to captains of teams entered the previous year. This will provide space for full names and addresses of all players and the captain.
  - 7.e.2. Full USATT Adult, Junior or Family membership or membership in an ITTF affiliate, is required. A Tournament Pass is not acceptable.
  - 7.e.3. Foreign teams other than Canadian must submit their entries through their national governing body (NGB).
- 7.f. Conduct of Tournament:
  - 7.f.1. The tournament will last 2 1/2 to 3 days.
  - 7.f.2. Team captains will have full responsibility for their teams.
  - 7.f.3. The format of play will ensure that no team plays more than 5 team matches per day. Additional team matches may be required in the preliminary rounds on the 1<sup>st</sup> day.
  - 7.f.5. If possible, the highest category matches will be played in an arena which is separate and preferably in a different room from the other matches.

- 7.f.6. A team will consist of not fewer than three nor more than five players. A non-playing captain may be designated.
  - 7.f.6.a. No team may enter the tournament with fewer than 3 players. A team cannot start a team match with fewer than 3 players without the consent of the Referee.
- 7.f.7. Conduct of team matches. Each team match will be played as defined for 3 player teams in Chapter 9. The format will be specified in the entry blank.

## **8. U. S. Open Championships and National Championships (Closed)**

- 8.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.
- 8.b. The U.S. Open and Nationals shall be conducted by the USATT or may be contracted to a professional tournament production company or tournament director.
- 8.c. Responsibility of USATT: All responsibilities will be provided by USATT or by NATT as agreed in the tournament contract.
  - 8.c.1. The entry blank must be approved by the National Tournament Sanctions Coordinator at least 120 days prior to the tournament before being mailed or otherwise published.
    - 8.c.1.a. Mail approved entry blanks at least 60 days before the event.
    - 8.c.1.b. The entry form will be printed in the National Publication.
  - 8.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.
  - 8.c.3. Provide seating for at least 1000 spectators.
  - 8.c.4. Provide a public address system, 4 practice tables, and suitable locker and dressing room space.
  - 8.c.5. Provide suitable awards in keeping with the importance of the event. The following awards are required:
    - 8.c.5.a. Winner and runner-up in all events.
    - 8.c.5.b. Semi-finalists and quarter-finalists in men's and women's singles.
    - 8.c.5.c. Additional prizes and awards may be presented if the sponsor so desires.

- 8.c.5.d. Men's and Women's Singles and Doubles and Mixed Doubles should be considered more important than rating, age limited other events.
- 8.c.5.e. The awards for all events will be engraved before the tournament with the tournament and event name and date.
- 8.c.6. 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.
- 8.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 executive director in coordination with the Rules/Officials Committee chairperson. Match officials from foreign associations will not normally receive any transportation reimbursement.
- 8.c.8. Provide a copy of the program to each player and match official.
- 8.c.9. Provide a site, including chairs and desks/tables, for the USATT National Umpire Examination and other exams if requested.
- 8.d. Requirements:
  - 8.d.1. Every player will be legibly identified on the back of the playing shirt by name and city or by numbers provided by the tournament.
  - 8.d.2. All entry fees will be approved by the National Tournament Sanctioning Coordinator.
- 8.e. Tournament Conduct.
  - 8.e.1. The Referee is responsible for the conduct of the draws for all events.
  - 8.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.
  - 8.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.
  - 8.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.
  - 8.e.5. The tournament will normally last four days, Wednesday-Saturday.
  - 8.e.6. The Board is the final appeal authority on all issues decided on by the tournament management committee.

## **9. U. S. Open Championships**

- 9.a If the tournament is designated an ITTF Pro Tour event, it will be conducted in accordance with ITTF Pro Tour directives and instructions of the ITTF Competition Manager.
- 9.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.
- 9.c Tournament Conduct.

9.c.1. The following events will normally be included:

Men's Singles	Women's Singles
Boy's Under 18 Singles	Girl's Under 18 Singles
Boy's Under 16 Singles	Girl's Under 16 Singles
Boy's Under 14 Singles	Girl's Under 14 Singles
Juniors Under 12 singles	Juniors Under 14 doubles
Men's 40 and over Singles	Women's 40 and over Singles
Men's 50 and over Singles	Under 22 Singles
Men's Doubles	Women's Doubles
Mixed Doubles	Men's 40 and over Doubles
Hardbat Singles	Hardbat Doubles
Boy's Under 18 Doubles	Girl's Under 18 Doubles
Boy's Under 16 Doubles	Girl's Under 16 Doubles

9.c.2. Additional events may be held with the permission of the National Tournament Sanctioning Coordinator.

## **10. U. S. National Championships (Closed)**

10.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.

10.b. The following events will normally be included:

Men's Singles	Women's Singles
Junior Boy's Under 18 Singles	Junior Girl's Under 18 Singles
Junior Boy's Under 16 Singles	Junior Girl's Under 16 Singles
Cadet Boy's Under 14 Singles	Cadet Girl's Under 14 Singles
Cadets Under 10 singles	Cadets Under 10 doubles
Men's 40 and over Singles	Women's 40 and over Singles
Men's 50 and over Singles	Under 22 Singles
Men's Doubles	Women's Doubles
Mixed Doubles	Men's 40 and over Doubles
Hardbat Singles	Hardbat Doubles
Boy's Under 18 Doubles	Girl's Under 18 Doubles
Boy's Under 16 Doubles	Girl's Under 16 Doubles

10.b.1. Events for players under 12, 14, 16, and 18 are not required if there are separate U.S. Junior Championships in the same season.

10.b.2. Additional events may be held with the permission of the National Tournament Sanctioning Coordinator.

- 10.c. 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.