



NEBRASKA USTA JUNIOR TENNIS CIRCUIT

Below is a general outline of how the Nebraska USTA junior tennis circuit works. It usually takes a segment or two for the parents and players to get accustomed to the system, plus the system does change. If you have any questions, or need further explanations, please feel free to contact Larry Newton: larrynewton@cox.net

Nebraska USTA (United States Tennis Association) Tennis is basically a three-part program:

- 1) Local tournaments
- 2) USTA Endorsement Tournaments
- 3) Team Events.

LOCAL TOURNAMENTS

Local tournaments are under the Nebraska Tennis Association, which is under the USTA Missouri Valley Section umbrella (the Missouri Valley Section consists of seven districts: St Louis, Kansas City, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska). Play in local tournaments not only give you points towards a Nebraska State Ranking, but also give you points for a Missouri Valley ranking. Points are awarded to those who compete in sanctioned tournaments. Winning a tournament gives a player the maximum points awarded for a particular tournament. Those players with the most points are ranked the highest. In order to receive a Nebraska ranking, each player is required to play at least 3 sanctioned tournaments within a calendar year in an age division in Nebraska. Of the 3 required tournaments, one tournament must be played in Area 1 and one tournament must be played in Area 2 of the state of Nebraska. Area 1 consists of the state of Nebraska except for the Metropolitan areas of Lincoln and Omaha, to include Council Bluffs. Area 2 consists of the Metropolitan areas of Lincoln and Omaha, to include Council Bluffs. Local tournaments have a high value for Nebraska State Rankings, but have the lowest point value for a Missouri Valley tournament.

USTA ENDORSEMENT AND FUTURES TOURNAMENTS

What are USTA Endorsement tournaments and Futures tournaments?

The second part of the Nebraska USTA program consists of Nebraska Endorsement tournaments.

The Missouri Valley is given 2 spots by the USTA for players to compete in the National Championships in each of the 3 segments of the year (3 national championship tournaments: 1 in the winter, 1 in the spring and 1 in the summer). The Missouri Valley gives the 2 spots to the players with the highest points for a period of time. That is 2 players in an age group for a 5 state area. Players receive points and rankings by playing in Missouri Valley tournaments. Those players who accumulate enough points will earn 1 of the 2 spots.

The highest point tournament is the **Sweet 16** (level 1 tournament), the second highest point tournament is the **Super** (level 2 tournament). **Futures** and District tournaments follow at lower levels. Right now anyone ranked in the top 32 of an age division, may play in a Futures in Segments 1 & 3. In Segment 2, anyone may play in a Futures tournament. In the Supers, which has a 32 draw, only the top 13 players ranked in the Missouri Valley standings list are invited, plus 2 endorsed players from each of 7 districts, (Nebraska is a district) which is 14 spots. The final 5 spots are wildcard spots given to 5 players who are ranked in the top ten of the age group below. Only players aging up to the next age division during a segment or the segment immediately after they age up, may apply for a wild card spot. (*Example: if a player is ranked in the top ten of the 10 & under the Valley standings, he or she may apply for a wildcard spot into the 12 & under and the Valley selects the top 5 who have requested a wildcard*). The Sweet 16 Tournament invites the top 13 players from the standings and 3 wildcard spots for either younger players or highly ranked players within the same age division.

There are 3 Endorsement Tournaments in Nebraska, one for each segment. The 2 top finishers in our Endorsement Tournaments get spots into the Super. The Sweet 16 is only for the top players in the Missouri Valley, based on ranking after a period of time.



HIGH PERFORMANCE TEAM COMPETITION

The final part of the program is the High Performance team competition. In Nebraska, teams are fielded for 10 & under, 12 & under and 14 & under. Tryouts for the 10's & 12's Teams are held in January, followed by tournaments in February to determine the traveling teams to represent Nebraska in the Missouri Valley 10's Team Event in April, and the Missouri Valley 12's Team Event in early May. Both Missouri Valley tournaments are held at locations posted on the web. These tournaments carry high-level point values for the Missouri Valley. The 14 & under team from Nebraska is determined by the top finishers in the Nebraska Endorsement tournament for Segment 2. The Missouri Valley 14's Team Event is held in mid-July. There are currently no Nebraska team events for 16 & under and 18 & under age groups. The Missouri Valley does send teams to National team events in the summer in all age groups. Invitations to these events are determined by players with the highest point standings in the Missouri Valley.

TOURNAMENT WEB INFORMATION

All tournament information and online entry to all national events, Missouri Valley events and Nebraska events may be found on the [TennisLink](#) web site.

[Nebraska District Junior Tournaments](#)

[Missouri Valley Junior Tennis Information](#)

Local links with additional information: [Omahatennis.org](#)