

UNITED STATES TENNIS ASSOCIATION/SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SECTION

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

I. Grievance Committee

- A. It is the objective of the United States Tennis Association Southern California Section (“SCTA”) Grievance Committee to further the orderly and fair conduct of the game through the establishment of and adherence to the highest standards of conduct in all tournaments sanctioned by the SCTA, or where participated in by SCTA members, including out-of-section play. The Grievance Committee, which is currently comprised of volunteers, is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that this objective is achieved by seeing that a firm but reasonable code of conduct is applied in a fair and consistent manner.
- B. The Grievance Committee shall be composed of at least five (5) people appointed by the SCTA President. The Committee shall be responsible for addressing grievances involving the rules and regulations of the United States Tennis Association (“USTA”) and SCTA, and the standards of conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship. A quorum of the Committee shall consist of no fewer than three (3) Committee members.
- C. The Grievance Committee may address grievances concerning violations occurring at SCTA sanctioned tournaments. As representatives of the SCTA, each and every player who participates outside this section automatically becomes the USTA/SCTA’s ambassador of goodwill and sportsmanship. Grievances filed against a SCTA player that occur at a National USTA event shall be reviewed by a USTA National Committee. Grievances that arise from USTA/SCTA League play are handled by a SCTA League Grievance Committee in the manner spelled out in the League Regulations (see League Regulations, Section 2.00). In addition, the Grievance Committee will not address grievances at non-sanctioned events. The Grievance Committee may impose penalties different from and/or additional to any penalties imposed by USTA officials at any tournament under the Committee’s jurisdiction.

II. Filing Grievances

- A. Grievances may be filed against any member of the USTA; any parent, coach or other apparent representative of any such member; or any SCTA official or organizer of an SCTA sanctioned tournament.
- B. Any interested party, tournament official, player or spectator may file a grievance.
- C. All grievances must be in writing on the proper form, signed and submitted to Southern California Tennis Association, Grievance Committee, P.O. Box 240015, Los Angeles, CA 90024-9115, fax (310) 824-7691, or emailed to grievancecommittee@scta.usta.com. Grievances must be submitted using the on-line form available on the SCTA website (www.ustasocal.com).—The Committee, in its discretion, may decide not to disclose the name of the party filing the grievance.
- D. Any such written grievance should be submitted within fifteen (15) calendar days from the date on which the alleged violation occurred. The Committee may, in its discretion, consider grievances submitted more than fifteen (15) calendar days from the date of the alleged violation.
- E. It shall be the responsibility of the party filing the grievance to set forth the relevant facts establishing a violation. This information shall include the name of the party against whom the grievance is filed and a description of the alleged violation. The grievance should include the names and telephone numbers of any witnesses to the alleged violation and/or accompanying

declarations of those witnesses, the date(s) of the alleged violation and the name of the tournament in which the violation occurred.

III. Investigation and Disposition

- A. The Committee, in its discretion, shall investigate grievances as warranted. The Committee may hold hearings prior to making a decision or taking any action upon such decision. Before issuing any suspension, the Committee or a subcommittee thereof shall use best efforts to try to interview the party potentially receiving the suspension.
- B. The Committee shall have the absolute discretion to impose penalties for violations it deems in its judgment to be warranted, including suspension.
- C. Grievances
 - 1. The Committee shall endeavor to resolve grievances in a timely fashion.
 - 2. In the event that a decision of the Committee imposes warning or suspension, written notification shall be provided to the party receiving the warning or suspension within ten (10) days of the date of the decision. If the Committee imposes a suspension, such suspension shall commence on the date the Committee provides notice of the Committee's decision (including by email or telephone to the email address or telephone number on file with the SCTA) to the party receiving the suspension. As a general matter, if an appeal of a Committee decision is filed with the SCTA President, the suspension shall be stayed pending resolution of the appeal by the SCTA President. However, depending upon the nature of the underlying act that resulted in the suspension, the Committee may decide, in its absolute discretion and upon the unanimous vote of Committee members, that the suspension will remain in place regardless of whether an appeal of the Committee's decision is filed with the SCTA President.
 - 3. The Committee may, in its discretion, notify:
 - a. Tournament directors of all SCTA sanctioned tournaments in which the member would have been eligible to play, but for the suspension, during the period of suspension.
 - b. SCTA Director of Adult Competition and/or the SCTA Director of Junior Competition.
 - c. SCTA Executive Director and/or SCTA President
 - d. USTA Grievance Committee
 - e. USTA National office and/or other sections of the USTA
 - f. Any other appropriate parties, as determined by the Committee, including but not limited to the grievant and other interested parties.

IV. Sample Violations

Violations by a member or his/her representative include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1. Use of profanity or obscene gestures
- 2. Ball or equipment abuse

3. Continuous or disruptive screaming or shouting
4. Extended or impolite arguing with tournament officials, umpires and/or directors
5. Spectator interference by relatives, coaches or friends of a player
6. Unauthorized coaching
7. Intimidation
8. Intentional failure to complete to player's best ability (e.g., tanking)
9. Retaliation by intentionally making a bad call because a player thought his or her opponent made a bad call
10. Stalling or gamesmanship of any form
11. Any conduct employed to gain an unfair advantage, including cheating or any other unsportsmanlike conduct
12. Defaulting a match in any sanctioned tournament without notification and/or substantial justification
13. Entering two or more tournaments, matches or exhibitions scheduled to take place at the same time, in whole or in part, unless each tournament director involved consents in writing. Failure to comply will result in loss of ranking points from all tournaments involved and the player will be assessed suspension points.
14. Striking, threatening or abusing in a way any tournament official, player, spectator or director
15. Knowingly falsifying or forging information on any official USTA or SCTA document, or on any written document submitted to the USTA or SCTA
16. Committing multiple or repeated minor offenses after receiving warnings for such conduct, or after imposition of or in violation of prior disciplinary action
17. Any conduct deemed detrimental to the SCTA and/or USTA

V. Appeals of Suspension Points

- A. The USTA Suspension Point System is described commencing on Page 114 in the Friend at Court 2024, which can be accessed at <https://www.usta.com/content/dam/usta/coach-organize/content-fragments/resource-library/assets/pdfs/friend-at-court.pdf>. Page 117 states that “[a] Sectional Association, at its discretion, may adopt a procedure for permitting a player to appeal suspension points assessed at tournaments sanctioned by the Sectional Association or one of its District Association, *provided that* no person who participated in the assessment of the suspension points may participate in ruling on the appeal.
- B. The SCTA Grievance Committee will hear appeals of suspension points, but only if a player has assessed sufficient points to trigger a suspension. If a player is suspended because of suspension points, the player may appeal each and every suspension point leading to the suspension. If a player only has five suspension points, for example, no appeal is allowed because ten suspension points are currently required before a player is suspended.

VI. Appeals

- A. An individual suspended may appeal the Committee's decision to the SCTA President for resolution. An appeal to the SCTA President may be made by sending a written appeal to the SCTA President (whose contact information can be found on the SCTA website) within seven (7) days of notice of the Committee's decision. Upon receipt of the written appeal, the SCTA President shall in his/her discretion decide the procedure for the appeal, including whether there is a need for a hearing. The SCTA President shall have the authority to affirm, modify, or reverse the Committee's decision, and to impose penalties as may be deemed appropriate. The SCTA President shall use best efforts to resolve the appeal in a prompt fashion.
- B. With regard to non-league matters, upon exhaustion of the SCTA grievance procedures, a complainant may appeal to the USTA Grievance Committee if his/her suspension is for a period of six (6) months or more. (See USTA Bylaw 43, section C). This appeal is subject to the procedures of the USTA Grievance Committee with regards to timeliness and procedure.

VII. Reciprocity

- A. It is the policy of this section to grant reciprocity for a suspension from play imposed as a result of the grievance procedures of other sections.