

GLTA

Tournament Divisions

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Any questions or comments about the content of the manual may be directed to the GLTA Commissioner
(commissioner@glta.net).

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TOURNAMENT DIVISIONS

The GLTA has developed division standards for the following purposes:

- To assist players in deciding which division to play
- To assist Tournament Committees in assigning players to more uniform ability Classifications
- To make more uniform use of the tournament results in the GLTA Player Points System.

The GLTA has adopted basic tournament division standards for all sanctioned tournaments. The GLTA recognizes that larger and smaller tournaments may choose alternative formats to meet their situations and the needs and desires of local club players. Tournament directors must promote and label each event within a tournament according to the division standards outlined in this rulebook.

A. GLTA Division Standards Guideline

The GLTA Division Standards are shown below, along with the equivalent ratings. To assist in keeping a more uniform understanding of the definitions of each ability category, it is suggested that the rating be used along with the division (i.e. "B/3.5-4.0", "C/3.0") on entry forms and tournament information.

GLTA Division Standards								
GLTA Basic Divisions	USTA & Tennis Canada NTRP Rating	UK	Netherlands	Belgium	Germany	Italy	France	Switzerland
OPEN	6.5+	No. 1-20	1	A, B-15.4	Bundesliga Regionalliga		15/1 +	N1, N2, N3, N4, (1 – 150)
OPEN	6.0	-30, -4/6	2	B-15.2	Oberliga	B3, B4	15/1 +	R1
OPEN	5.5	-4/6 -2/6 0 +2/6 +4/6	3	B-15 B-4.6 B-2.6 B0	1e Verbandsliga	C1	15/1 +	R2
OPEN	5.0+	+15	4	B+2.6 B+4.6 C+15.4	2e Verbandsliga	C2	15/1 +	R3
A	4.5	+15/1 +15/2	5	C+15.2 C+15.4	1e Bezirksklasse 2e Bezirksklasse	C3	15/2, 15/3	R4, R5
B	3.5 - 4.0	+15/3 +15/4	6	C+30	1e Kreisklasse 2e Kreisklasse	C4	30, 15/4, 15/5	R6 ,R7
C	3.0	+15/5 +30	7	C+30.2 C+30.4	3e Kreisklasse		30/1, 30/2, 30/3	R8
D	<3.0	+30/3	8 (9)		4e Kreisklasse		30/4, 30/5, 40, NC	R9
Optional Divisions								
40+								
50+								
60+								
40+A	4.5	+15/1 +15/2	5	C+15.2 C+15.4	1e Bezirksklasse 2e Bezirksklasse	C3		R4, R5
40+B	3.5 - 4.0	+15/3 +15/4	6	C+30	1e Kreisklasse 2e Kreisklasse	C4		R6 ,R7
40+C	3.0	+15/5 +30	7	C+30.2 C+30.4	3e Kreisklasse			R8
40+D	<3.0	+30/3	8 (9)		4e Kreisklasse			R9

Division Definitions (to be used on entry forms):

Division	Description
Open	Highly advanced players
A & 40+A	Advanced players
B & 40+B	High intermediate players
C & 40+C	Low intermediate players
D & 40+D	Beginning players

The basic divisions apply for both men and women, and the GLTA highly recommends that a tournament offer all basic men's events if any men's events are offered and all women's events if any women's events are offered on the entry form. Divisions may be combined if the minimum number of entries is not received as defined by the entry form policy. If over 50% of the participants are from the higher division, the event must be coded as the higher level event. If there are fewer than 50% from the higher division, it should be coded as the appropriate age category. For example, an event with 1 Open player and 6 A players should be coded as a 40+ event. An event with 1 A player and 6 B players should be coded as a 50+ event.

Women who enter men's ability or ability/age events are eligible for the division one level below their normal division.

The division standards should appear on all GLTA entry forms. If abbreviated in any way, you must ensure that division guidelines are understood by all players. It is still the responsibility of the players to enter the appropriate division, but tournament directors should undertake their best efforts to ensure that all players entering comply with these standards by reviewing requested divisions against the GLTA Player Seeding databases. The latest GLTA Seeding databases will list each player's "Minimum Play Level" in singles, doubles and mixed doubles, and the GLTA Rankings Chair will send the ranking file information to the email address listed in your sanctioning application. The file will be sent 10 days prior to the start of your tournament.

B. Optional Divisions

All GLTA sanctioned events must follow the ability division's format shown above, but there are options that are left to the Tournament Committee with regard to age divisions, mixed doubles and consolation draws. For instance, an organization with no women members may have a difficult time promoting and/or filling a separate women's division. Another organization with a very large "senior" membership may choose to add one or more age divisions (40+, 50+, 60+) at their event. Tournaments that want to expand but cannot increase the size of their basic division draws may elect to add 40+A, 40+B, 40+C, and 40+D divisions. Most clubs with limited court space/time have had to weigh the tradeoff between holding consolation draws and the optional divisions, or total draw size. These types of decisions are again left to the tournament committee.

C. Requirements For Entry in Divisions

1. Ability Divisions

Both Singles and Doubles have a separate GLTA Seeding Points database that operates independently from the other events. Players may be eligible for one ability level for singles while being eligible for a different ability level in doubles. Players are allowed to play in different divisions as long as split divisions are permitted by the tournament.

Tournaments with one site should permit split divisions. **A player may play down up to two levels from their highest division entered if there is an established ranking for both events. For example, when an eligible player enters the "Open" doubles division they can play the "B" singles division if there are established rankings for both. If there is no established ranking for one event entered then only one level down is permitted. No player shall be allowed to play a lower division than that which theirs is listed under in the latest GLTA Seeding Point database. This includes a right-handed player, who enters a tournament "left-handed."**

A player with a current valid ranking by an ITF-Affiliated National or Regional tennis association may not play in a division lower than that ranking unless they have a valid and current GLTA ranking.

For our purposes, a rating for a year ending within two years of the current year shall be considered valid if it is the most recent one available.

Players do NOT forfeit their tournament results by playing with another hand, and shall NOT be treated as a "different player" by this declaration. It is the responsibility and authority of the Tournament Director to see that player placement in divisions complies with the above rules, and is fair to all entrants.

2. Age Divisions

A player may enter any senior division (40+, 50+, 60+, etc.), if the player will have reached the minimum age for that division by December 31st of the calendar year in which the tournament starts. Starting in 2005, the change was made from 35/45/55 to 40/50/60 because the 35+ category was usually redundant with the Open category and very few tournaments were electing to offer age categories under the earlier framework.

3. Ability/Age Divisions

These optional divisions (40+A, 40+B, 40+C, 40+D) were created to allow larger tournaments to expand their participation without creating oversized draws which could not be played within the time constraints. It also reduces the number of rounds that more senior players are required to play.

Players who qualify for these divisions may elect to play in their regular ability division or in the ability/age division. For the purposes of calculating player points the 40's is the equivalent of the twice A division points; the 50's is the equivalent of the twice B division points; and the 60's is the equivalent of the twice C division points.

Tournament committees may offer any combination of singles, doubles, or mixed doubles for these divisions and may set rules on split divisions as they see fit.

4. Graduation to Higher Divisions & Division Points

Graduation to a higher division occurs when a player's points exceed a pre-determined threshold.

Division	Maximum Rating
Open	N/A
A	42,500
B	4,250
C	425
D	35
40+A	42,500
40+B	4,250
40+C	425
40+D	35
40+	N/A
50+	N/A
60+	N/A

The above rules have no effect on any player's ability to play in an appropriate age division if offered.

5. Applicable Period for GLTA Seeding Point Database

The GLTA Seeding Point Database provided by the Seeding Chair to each tournament contains results from the players previous 4 GLTA events played (over the course of unlimited amount of years) of sanctioned tournament play ending 14 days prior to the scheduled start of the event. Player divisions are frozen at this point regardless of tournament results which may occur during the intervening 14 days

For events in excess of 500 players which require more time for development of draws and schedules, the tournament committee may request and utilize a Seeding Point Database from 45 days prior to the event instead of 14, but they should communicate their policy to players no later than 6 months prior to the start of the event.

6. Penalties for Playing in Wrong Division

If a player violates these provisions by playing in an inappropriate division, then that player should be immediately defaulted out of the tournament and will not be awarded GLTA points in any entered singles or doubles division for the tournament(s) at which the violation(s) occurred. Tournament Directors should use their best judgment to default any player after play has begun if that player was entered into the wrong division.

This guideline applies to all players including those who are self rated, those who have a valid GLTA ranking, and those who have a current ranking from an ITF affiliated tennis organization. If only one round of play has occurred, the defeated player is to be re-instated as the winner. If more than one round has occurred, the player is to be disqualified and the last opponent reinstated into the draw as the winner of that round. Players who are disqualified earn no GLTA points for matches won and will not receive a refund of their entry fee.

THANK YOU:

The GLTA Executive Board of Directors thanks you for your dedication and hard work, and we appreciate all that you do for your local clubs. We are here to help, and we encourage each of you to discuss any issue/concerns with us. We wish you well and GOOD LUCK with your tournament!

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