

ATA Tennis Tournaments & Ranking Procedures Manual
2012-2013 (Version 2)



American Tennis Association
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American Tennis Association

FOUNDED 1916

ATA Mission Statement

To promote Black Tennis in America.

ATA Tennis Tournaments & Ranking Procedures Manual

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A brief milestone from "The History of the ATA", by Bertram L. Baker.



The **Hon. Bertram L. Baker** became the first black person ever elected to political office as assemblyman in Brooklyn, in 1948. He served for 22 years in the State Assembly and in the 1960s was Majority Whip of the Assembly. He also served as the **American Tennis Association (ATA)** Executive Secretary in 1950.

A Black Tennis Association: Active Since 1916:

The **American Tennis Association** was organized on November 30, 1916 at a meeting held in the **YMCA** in Washington, DC. Prior to the organization of the **ATA**, it had been the custom for players from Baltimore, Washington, New York, Pennsylvania and the New England States to participate in invitational and interstate tournaments. The first of these tournaments was held in 1898 in Philadelphia under the auspices of the Chautauqua Tennis Club. In 1916 the matches were played in New York City, with the Ideal Tennis Club and the Turf Tennis Club acting as host on courts located on West 138th Street. It was at a banquet given that year for the visiting players, at the old "Libya" dining room, that the idea of a National Tennis Association was conceived.

Organization Conceived:

A temporary organization was formed by the Association Tennis Club of Washington, DC and the Monumental Tennis Club of Baltimore, MD with **Mr. D.O.W. Holmes** as Chairman, and **Mr. Ralph V. Cook**, Secretary. On November 1, 1916 a letter was sent to all of the Negro Tennis Clubs known to be functioning throughout the United States, inviting them to send representatives to a meeting to be held in Washington, DC on November 30, 1916. It was at this meeting that the plan for a permanent organization was approved. Officers and an executive committee were elected and a committee appointed to draft a constitution. Thus, the **American Tennis Association** came into being.

Deny Blacks:

In August, 1917, the first National Championship Tournament was held at **Druid Hill Park in Baltimore, MD**, with Monumental Tennis Club acting as host. There were only three events: Men's Singles, won by **Tally Holmes**; Women's Singles, won by Miss **Lucy Slowe**; and Men's Doubles, won by **Tally Holmes** and **Sylvester Smith**. On August 21, 1926 a certificate of incorporation was executed by **Dr. D. Ivison Hoage**, **Gerald F. Norman**, **Eugene Kinckle Jones**, **Laurence C. Darcy**, Miss **Laura V. Junior**, **Lester B. Granger**, **Richard Hudlin** and **Dr. W.H.A. Barrett**. This certificate was filed in the Office of the Secretary of State of the State of New Jersey on September 1, 1926.

History/milestone continued onto next page



Prior to 1940, American blacks were denied the opportunity to participate in tournaments sanctioned by the United States Lawn Tennis Association and it was seldom that they were even afforded the opportunity to engage in friendly competition. On July 29, 1940, however, interracial matches were played on the courts of the Cosmopolitan Tennis Club, an affiliate of the ATA, in New York City. **Ed Hughes**, reporting this event in the "Brooklyn Daily Eagle" said " The color line was erased, at least temporarily, for the first time in the history of major American Tennis yesterday. **Don Budge**, greatest tennis player in the world, encountered **Jimmy McDaniel**, Negro National Champion, defeating him, 6-1 and 6-2."

As the Masters Play It:

Al Laney, reporting in the New York Herald Tribune, had this to say: "**Donald Budge**, the greatest tennis player of the day, performed an important service yesterday for the good of the game that has made him a celebrity and a moderately wealthy man, before one of the most interesting groups that he has encountered in his comparatively long tennis life. **Budge** played two matches against the Negro National Champions in singles and doubles at the Cosmopolitan Tennis Club on Convent Avenue and there were close to 2,000 there to see for the first time tennis as the masters play it."

"**Budge** played at something approaching his best game and they marveled that such things could be done with a tennis racket. **Jimmy McDaniel**, the Negro Champion, also marveled and was beaten quite easily, 6-1 and 6-2, because he was unable on such an occasion to play his best game. But, he was good enough to put an edge on **Budge's** game, so that those who saw could judge properly of its greatness. Afterward, Budge and **Dr. Reginald Weir**, former Negro National Champion, played a doubles match against **McDaniel** and **Richard Cohen**, the present Negro Doubles Champions."

Racial Barrier Broken:

We broke the **United States Lawn Tennis Association's** racial barrier in the year 1950. Early that year, **Dr. Sylvester B. Smith**, President of the **ATA**, **Arthur E. Francis**, Assistant Executive Secretary, and **Bertram L. Baker**, Executive Secretary, held a series of conferences with **Dr. S. Ellsworth Davenport, Jr.** and **Mr. Alrick H. Man, Jr.** representing the **USLTA**. They had in mind the acceptance of qualified Negro players in the **USLTA** tournaments. These conferences were conducted without publicity or fanfare. We must also mention that Mr. **Edward Abbe Niles** of the **USLTA** was sympathetic to our cause and was extremely helpful. **Alice Marble** contributed her bit by writing a very challenging "Editorial" in the July 1, 1950 issue of "American Lawn Tennis" magazine.

The result of all this is now a matter of history. **Althea Gibson's** entry was accepted for the National Clay Court Championships, the Eastern Grass Court Championships and the National Championships at Forest Hills. And so, in 1950, for the first time, a Negro American tennis player participated in the National Championship tournament at Wimbledon, England. In 1957, she won the Wimbledon tournament and was proclaimed the world's greatest woman tennis player. That same year, she won the **USLTA** National Championship at Forest Hills.

History/milestone continued onto next page



Arthur Ashe:

Arthur Ashe, a product of the Junior Development Committee of the **ATA**, under the Chairmanship of **Dr. R. Walter Johnson**, has played in USLTA tournaments ever since he was in the boy's class. He has represented the United States in tournaments all over the world and in 1968 won the Men's Singles National Championship at Forest Hills.

The **ATA** has no permanent place for holding of its Championship Tournaments. With but few exceptions, these tournaments have been held on the campuses of various black colleges throughout the United States. This policy had the advantage of bringing the organization, its players and program, directly into various sections of the United States and particularly to the education institutions. Many youngsters made the first contact which gave him a different outlook on life and sent him on the way toward getting an education at an **ATA** tournament. Thus, many men and women who today are making it in the professions, in business and other walks of life can well look back to some helpful word or direct act as a result of contact made through their affiliation with **ATA**.

Accept the Challenge:

We are now in the second half century of the life of the **ATA**. America and the rest of the world are faced with new ideas and problems which challenge the best that is in all of us. **Alice Marble** in the "Editorial" already referred to, wrote: "If the field of sports has got to pave the way for all of civilization, let's do it."

With men and women of every race who believe in the motto inscribed on the emblems of the **ATA** - **SPORTSMANSHIP - UNITY - GOODWILL**, we accept the challenge

- The oldest **African American** Sports organization in the U.S.
- The Annual **ATA National Championship** tournament is perhaps the largest tournament in the U.S. 1,380 Tournament entries in 1998!
- More than 3,000 families made the **ATA National Championships** their vacation annually
- The **National ATA Championships** held in Fort Lauderdale Florida in August 1998 produced 1.8 million dollars for the economy of that city.
- Past **ATA** Champions include: **Althea Gibson, Arthur Ashe, Zina Garrison, Leslie Allen, Rodney Harmon, Katrina Adams, Lori McNeil, and Chanda Rubin** to name a few.
- The **National ATA Championships** have been held every year since 1916 with the exception of 1942.
- There are approximately 40 other **ATA Sectional Tournaments** held throughout the United States annually, in local clubs and Sections around the **USA**.

[More on the ATA history & black tennis Pioneers]

To see the powerful history of the "**Breaking the Barriers**" video please visit: <http://www.arthurashe.org/>. You will listen to a brief intro, then click on tab Sport & Tennis, then scroll down to Breaking the Barriers, then click on where it says **this video.**



Welcome to ATA Tournament Tennis!

Welcome to **ATA** Tournament Tennis play. The **ATA** offers many ATA sanctioned tournament events and levels every year, for players of all ability levels, around our ten Sections in the USA. This document will serve as a reference throughout the **American Tennis Association (ATA)** on a local, sectional, and national basis, as will the website www.americantennisassociation.org. Updated standings are available on the **ATA** website every quarter. At the end of the calendar year, final rankings will be updated on the ATA website.

Keys to ATA Tournament Abbreviations & Titles

Singles & Doubles events

<u>Key Abbreviations:</u>	<u>Juniors & Adults Events:</u>
I - Indoor	ATA National Championships (City TBA)
O - Outdoor	Boys & Girls 8- 18 singles
H - Hard Surface	Boys & Girls 12 -18 doubles
C - Clay Surface	Men & Women Open Singles
B - Boys	Men & Women Open Doubles
G - Girls	Men & Women's Singles 35-80
M - Men	Men & Women's Doubles 35-80
W - Women	Men & Women's Open Mixed
D - Doubles	Men & Women's Mixed Doubles 35-80
X - Mixed Doubles	Men & Women NTRP 3.0 -3.5/Singles
F.I.C - Feed-In Consolation Event	Men & Women NTRP 3.0 -3.5/Doubles
Cons. - Consolation Event	NTRP Mixed doubles
NTRP - National Tennis Rating Program NTRP 4.0 and up are offer by local sections, & clubs	See list below for all other ATA sanctioned tournaments including new events for local clubs and Sections.
SRP - Self Rated Player	NTRP 4.0 and up are offer by local Sections, Association & Member Clubs only.

There are various types of tournaments that the ATA, Sections, & Local Club offer to members. Juniors and adults can play in Single/Doubles/Mixed on a Local, Sectional and National level during a calendar year of the ATA tournament schedule. Be sure to reference the category, not the tournament name, to determine which one you wish to play when registering.

- **ATA National Championships- (Level 1)** most competitive event (offered to juniors and adults in the ATA.)
- **Sectional Championships- (Level 2)** for all levels of players and age divisions 8s-80s (offered to juniors and adults).
- **Association Championships - (NEW) (Level 3)** for competitive players of local clubs & Sections.
- **State Championships - (NEW) (Level 4)** for all levels of players, local clubs & Sections.
- **Local Tournaments-(Level 5)** competitive but consist of smaller draws and earn points.
- **Club Tournaments- (Level 6)** to increase competitive tennis for members of local clubs in a Section & earn points.
- **Club League Season- (NEW) (Level 7)** competitive team tennis between local clubs and Members.
- **Sectional Jr. Challengers- (NEW) (Level 6)** for juniors on intermediate levels & earn points (from ages 8-11).
- **Round Robin- (NEW) (10 and under)**-Encourage local clubs & Sections to host junior 10 & under tournaments.



ATA Sections/Associations Geographic Map

Where ATA Sanctioned Tournaments are available



Sections and Associations of the American Tennis Association

Southern -----STA	New England -----NETA
Mid-Western -----MID-TAC	New York -----NYTA
Western -----WTA	New Jersey -----NJTA
South Western -----SWTA	Tri State -----TSTA
Caribbean-----CTA	Mid-Eastern -----META

The following States that make up each Section/Association are as follows:

- New York ± **NYTA y** by itself
- New Jersey ± **NJTA y** by itself
- Tri State ± **TSTA y** States: PA, DE.
- Mid-Eastern ± **META y** States: DC, MD, VA, and WV.
- South Western ± **SWTA y** States: NB, NM, OK, and TX.
- New England ± **NETA y** States: VT, CT, RI, MA, NH, and ME.
- Southern ± **STA y** States: AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, and TN.
- Mid-Western ± **MIDTAC y** States: IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, MI, MN, MO, OH, and WI.
- Western ± **WTA y** States: AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, ND, NV, OR, SD, UT, WA, and WY.
- Caribbean ± **CTA y** Islands: St. Croix, St. John, St. Thomas, and the entire Caribbean.

For all information on upcoming tournaments and events in any local Section/Association, please visit the ATA website for the Section/Association contact information. If you would like to join the *American Tennis Association (ATA)*, please visit the ATA website at www.americantennisassociation.org in order to obtain a membership, or you can inquire with your local Section/Association about a membership. To be a part of a local club in your area, contact your local Section/Association President or a Board Member representative.

