



26th Annual

“Road to the Little Mo Nationals”

Rules and Regulations

Welcome to the 26th Annual “Road to the Little Mo Nationals”! These tournaments are designed to provide outstanding competition at the regional and national level while also encouraging players to develop new friendships, learn good sportsmanship, and most of all, have fun. The Road is the only circuit of its kind for talented, high-performance boys and girls in the United States who compete against others born in the same year. [Please read through the following rules and regulations carefully:](#)

- **Eligibility:** The Road begins in the spring with the four “Little Mo” Regionals (North, South, East, West) held in different cities across the United States. The Regionals are open to any player who lives in the United States and its territories (ages 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12). There are no other special qualifications or ranking needed to register for the regional events - any USA player who registers will be accepted into the draw until the draw limit is reached. **Please note that players must have lived in the United States for at least six consecutive months prior to the tournament start date in order to be eligible for a regional event. If a player does not meet this requirement, they will be withdrawn from the tournament.*
- **Entry Limit:** Registration for all four regional tournaments will be on a first-come, first-served basis up to the entry limit - we will be accepting the first 32 players in each division. Be sure to register early as the draws typically fill before the registration deadline! **Please note that once you have received a confirmation email from UTR/Stripe, your player’s entry has been accepted into the tournament and you can make your travel arrangements.*
- **Multiple Events:** Players may play in any regional event regardless of where they are currently living in the United States or its territories. Players may also play in as many regional events as they would like, but they only need to compete in one regional event and finish in the top four (yellow ball division only) to qualify for the “Little Mo” Nationals.
- **Event Type / Guaranteed Matches:** The “Little Mo” Regionals and Nationals are Singles only tournaments (no Doubles or Mixed Doubles events). All players will be guaranteed at least two Singles matches during the tournament.
- **Age Eligibility / Registration by Birth Year:** Players must register in the proper age division according to their birth year. This ensures that our players are competing against others who are born in the same calendar year (i.e., a player born in 2013 must play in the 10’s division since they will be turning 10 this year).
 - Boys and Girls 12’s - born in 2011
 - Boys and Girls 11’s - born in 2012
 - Boys and Girls 10’s - born in 2013
 - Boys and Girls 9’s - born in 2014
 - Boys and Girls 8’s - born in 2015 (Only players who are born in 2015 will be allowed to play in the 8’s divisions. Players born in 2016 or 2017 will not be eligible).
- **Divisions:** Yellow (regular) ball divisions will be offered for boys and girls ages 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 in addition to a green dot option for ages 8, 9, and 10. Players must register for only one Singles division. This means that players competing in the 8’s, 9’s, and 10’s divisions must choose to play with either the yellow (regular) ball or the green dot ball for their age group. Players in the 11’s and 12’s must play with the yellow (regular) ball. All divisions will be played on a full 78’ tennis court with either the yellow (regular) ball or green dot ball.

- **Draw Size / Format:** The “Little Mo” Regionals will be using several different draw formats based on the division size:
 - For a 32-size draw, a **Modified Feed-in Consolation format through the Round of 16 with a 3rd/4th Place and 5th/6th Place playoff** will be used. This means that any player who loses before the Quarterfinal Round (Main Draw) will be fed back into the Consolation draw. The losers of the Quarterfinal Round will play into a 5th/6th Place playoff and the losers of the Semifinal Round will play a 3rd/4th Place playoff.
 - For a 16-size draw, a **Feed-in Consolation format through the Quarterfinals with a 3rd/4th Place playoff** will be used. This means that any player who loses before the Semifinal Round (Main Draw) will be fed back into the Consolation draw. The losers of the Semifinal Round will play a 3rd/4th Place playoff. The Consolation Winner and Consolation Runner-Up are the 5th/6th Place winners in this format.
 - For an 8-size draw, a **First Round Losers Consolation format with a 3rd/4th Place playoff** will be used. This means that any player who loses in the First Round (Main Draw) will move into the Consolation draw (a Feed-in format is not possible because the Second Round is the Semifinal Round). The losers of the Semifinal Round will play a 3rd/4th Place playoff. The Consolation Winner and Consolation Runner-Up are the 5th/6th Place winners in this format.
 - A **Round Robin** format will be used for all divisions with 5 or less players.
- **Scoring Format:** All age divisions (8, 9, 10, 11, and 12) will use the same scoring format regardless of draw format or ball type. All Singles matches (Main Draw and Consolation) will consist of two tiebreak sets (first to 6 games). At 6 games all, a 7-point set tiebreak (first to 7, win by 2) will be played. If players split sets, a 10-point match tiebreak (first to 10, win by 2) will be played in lieu of a third set. Regular scoring (**with ad**) will be used for all Main Draw matches and a 5-minute warm-up will be given before each match. ***NEW IN 2023:** No-ad scoring will be used for all Consolation matches. A 2-minute rest period will be given between the first and second sets, and between the second set and match tiebreak. **No coaching is allowed at any time.** **Shortened scoring may be used in the case of rain.*
- **Advancing to the “Little Mo” Nationals:** The top four yellow ball players (semifinalists) in each age division from each regional event will advance to the prestigious “Little Mo” Nationals in Austin, Texas. These players will form a 16-size draw in each age division at the Nationals. If you advance to the Semifinal Round (top 4) in your age division at the Regionals and you (and your parent/coach) have followed the Code of Conduct, you will receive your Nationals invitation with a special code needed for registration by email from the MCB office following the event. The top 160 players who reach the Nationals are the youngest and brightest future stars in American tennis!
- **Alternate Players for the “Little Mo” Nationals:** If one of the top four yellow ball players (semifinalists) from a regional event cannot attend the Nationals, we will contact the 5th and 6th Place winners (if applicable) to take their place as the first and second alternates. If neither player can attend, we will consider other players in the draw and other regional draws as replacements based on their results and UTR. If there is **not** a 5th/6th Place Playoff, we will contact the Consolation Winner as the first alternate instead. If the Consolation Winner cannot attend, we will consider other players in the draw and other regional draws as replacements based on their results and UTR. The MCB office will let you know as soon as possible via email if there is an opening to attend the Nationals. *While the green dot players will **not** be able to advance to the Nationals, they might be considered as replacement players if there is an opening in the yellow ball division.*
- **Universal Tennis Rating (UTR):** All yellow ball results from the “Road to the Little Mo Nationals” (Regionals, Nationals) will count towards your player’s Universal Tennis Rating (UTR). ***NEW IN 2023:** All green dot results will also count towards the new UTR colored ball rating.

Good luck to all players!

Play “Mo” Tennis!

