



28th Annual

“Road to the Little Mo Nationals”

Rules and Regulations

Welcome to the 28th 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 girls and boys 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 will begin in the spring and summer with the four “Little Mo” Regionals (North, South, East, West) held in different cities across the United States. The regional tournaments are open to any player who lives in the United States and its territories (ages 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12). There are no special qualifications or ranking needed to register for the regional tournaments - any USA player who registers will be accepted into the draw until the entry 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 the “Little Mo” Regionals. If a player does not meet this requirement, they will be withdrawn from the tournament.*
- **Entry Limit / Confirmation Email:** Registration for the “Little Mo” Regionals 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. If a division reaches the entry limit before the registration deadline, a WAITING LIST will be established at that time. 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 Tournaments:** Players may compete in any “Little Mo” Regionals regardless of where they are currently living in the United States or its territories. Players may also compete in as many regional tournaments as desired, but they only need to participate in one regional tournament and finish in the top four (yellow ball division only) to qualify for the “Little Mo” Nationals.
- **Events / Guaranteed Matches:** The “Little Mo” Regionals and the “Little Mo” Nationals will offer Singles events for all divisions (no Doubles or Mixed Doubles events). All players will be guaranteed at least two Singles matches during the regional and national tournaments.
- **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 2015 must play in the 10’s division since they will be turning 10 this year).
 - Girls and Boys 12’s - born in 2013
 - Girls and Boys 11’s - born in 2014
 - Girls and Boys 10’s - born in 2015
 - Girls and Boys 9’s - born in 2016
 - Girls and Boys 8’s - born in 2017 (Only players who are born in 2017 will be allowed to play in the 8’s divisions. Players born in 2018 or 2019 will not be eligible.)
- **Divisions:** Yellow (regular) ball divisions will be offered for girls and boys 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 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 divisions 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 the green dot ball.

- **Draw Formats:** All divisions will use the same draw formats regardless of age or ball type, but we will be using several different draw formats based on the draw size:
 - **32-size draw:** A **Modified Feed-in Consolation format through the Round of 16 with a 3rd/4th Place playoff and 5th/6th Place playoff** will be used. This means that any player who loses before the Quarterfinal Round (Main Draw) will feed back into the Consolation bracket. The losers of the Quarterfinal Round (Main Draw) will move into a 5th/6th Place playoff and the losers of the Semifinal Round (Main Draw) will move into a 3rd/4th Place playoff.
 - **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 feed back into the Consolation bracket. The losers of the Semifinal Round (Main Draw) will move into a 3rd/4th Place playoff. A 5th/6th Place playoff is not possible as the Consolation Winner and Consolation Runner-Up are the 5th/6th Place winners in this format.
 - **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 bracket. A Feed-in format is not possible as the Second Round (Main Draw) is the Semifinal Round, and the losers of the Semifinal Round (Main Draw) will move into a 3rd/4th Place playoff. A 5th/6th Place playoff is also not possible as the Consolation Winner and Consolation Runner-Up are the 5th/6th Place winners in this format.
 - **5 or less players:** A **Round Robin format** will be used.
- **Scoring Format:** All divisions will use the same scoring format regardless of age, ball type or draw format. 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. No-ad scoring will be used for all Consolation matches in addition to the 3rd/4th Place playoff and the 5th/6th Place playoff. A 2-minute rest period will be given between the first and second sets, and a 3-minute rest period will be given between the second set and match tiebreak. **No coaching is allowed at any time.** **Shortened scoring may be used in the case of rain.*
- **Bathroom Break Courtesy Point:** If a player needs to go to the bathroom, they need to get permission from an official. *To minimize loss of momentum during the set caused by a bathroom break, the player taking the break will give a courtesy point to their opponent. This is not a penalty point. A courtesy point will not be given for a bathroom break taken at the end of a set. This rule is unique to the “Little Mo” tournaments.*
- **Advancing to “Little Mo” Nationals:** The top four yellow ball players (semifinalists) in each age division from each “Little Mo” Regionals will advance to the prestigious “Little Mo” Nationals in Austin, Texas from September 26-29, 2025. These players will form a 16-size draw in each age division at the Nationals. If you advance to the Semifinal Round (Main Draw) 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 regional tournament. The top 160 players who reach the Nationals are the youngest and brightest future stars in American tennis!
- **Alternate Players for “Little Mo” Nationals:** If one of the top four yellow ball players (semifinalists) from a “Little Mo” Regionals cannot attend the “Little Mo” 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 players from other regional tournaments 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 players from other regional tournaments 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 all of the qualified yellow ball players have been contacted.*
- **Universal Tennis Rating (UTR) / Color Ball Rating (CBR):** All yellow ball results from the “Road to the Little Mo Nationals” (Regionals, Nationals) will count towards your player’s Universal Tennis Rating (UTR). All green dot results will count towards your player’s Universal Tennis Color Ball Rating (CBR).



Good luck to all players!