

## What is a Tennis Draw?

A *draw* is the process used to determine who plays whom in a tournament. Think of it as a bracket that shows the path players must take to reach the final.

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## How the Draw is Created

### 1. Player Selection

- Players register for the tournament.
- Entry is based on their USTA ranking (not UTR in Georgia).
- Some tournaments accept all entrants; others limit by ranking.

### 2. Seeding

- Seeds are top-ranked players who are *spread out* in the draw to prevent them from facing each other early.
- The number of seeds depends on draw size (e.g., 2 seeds in a 16-player draw, 8 in a 64-player draw).
- Seeds are placed in predetermined positions.

### 3. Placement of Other Players

- The remaining players are placed randomly in the draw using tournament software.
- This includes both unseeded players and any alternates.
- The process is *automated* and not manually adjusted to create “easier” or “harder” matches.

### 4. Byes

- If the draw is not full, top seeds may get a “bye” (automatic advancement to the next round).
  - Importantly: **a bye does not earn ranking points**, but playing a match—even a loss—can.
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## Once the Draw is Published

- It is **final and cannot be changed**.
- This preserves fairness and ensures that no one manipulates the bracket.
- Even if matchups appear uneven, changes aren’t allowed once it’s public.

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### **Why It Might Seem Unfair**

- Players may face tough opponents early due to random placement.
- A lower-ranked or younger player might draw a top seed or older opponent—just like in pro tennis.
- This randomness is part of competitive sports and helps players build resilience and experience.