

## Who plays who when (and on which court) at the US Open Tennis Tournament?

### How "Seeding" affects the Draw, and how the Draw affects the Schedule of Play

From [Roadto45Tennis.com](http://Roadto45Tennis.com): "A Serious Tennis Fan's Top 10 Tips for the US Open (Tickets & More)"

- The **#1 seed and #2 seed always play on different days** (and are placed in opposite halves of the draw, a.k.a. "bottom" or "top" half). (Note: seedings are based on ATP and WTA rankings).
- **Either the #1 or the #2 seed may end up playing on day 1 or 2** (then will have a day off before being scheduled again 2 days later) For example, if the men's #1 seed plays Monday, he will be scheduled again for Wed.
- **Similarly, the #3 and #4 seeds always must play on different days** and are also placed in opposite halves of the draw, and in different quarters from the #1 and #2 seeds. They too may play on either day 1 or day 2, depending on their draw.
- Players in the top half of the draw will be scheduled for one day (through quarterfinals), and those in bottom half will be scheduled for the next day. **However, there's no firm rule about which half of the draw will be scheduled for Day 1.** For instance, In 2016, the men's top half of the draw and women's bottom half were scheduled for Day 1. In 2013, the men's bottom half of the draw and women's top half played on Day 1.
- **As such, there is no way to predict in advance who will play on Day 1 until the US Open publishes the Day 1 (Monday) "Schedule of Play" on the Sat or Sun prior.**
- **Once Day 1 schedule is published, you can then predict which DAY your favorite player will be scheduled through quarterfinals** (e.g., if Federer's is scheduled on Day 1, he'll play again on Day 3, 5, 7, and 9 if he continues to advance; if Federer is not scheduled on Day 1, he will play first on Day 2, then again on Day 4, 6, 8, and 10).
- **However, there's no way to predict whether they will be scheduled for a Day or Night session.** However, officials tend to alternate scheduling superstars between Day and Night sessions on Ashe; for instance, if your favorite player is playing a night session on Day 1, there's a good chance they will be scheduled for the day session on Day 3, then a night session Day 5, and so on (never 100% certainty, but this is common).

### Illustrative list of which top seeds played when/where on Days 1&2 of US Open 2013-16

2016			2014		
	Day 1 (Mon)	Day 2 (Tue)		Day 1 (Mon)	Day 2 (Tue)
Ashe Day	Nadal #4 Kerber #2	Wawrinka #3 Halep #5 (Top ½ draw) Venus #6	Ashe Day	Wawrinka #3 Halep #2 Venus #19	Isner #13 Kvitova #3 Ivanovic #8
Ashe Eve	Djokovic #1 Keys #8	Murray #2 Serena W #1	Ashe Eve	Djokovic #1 Sharapova #5	Federer #2 Serena W #1
Armstrong	Cilic #7 Sock #26	Delpo (N/A) Querrey (N/A)	Armstrong	Murray #8 Raonic #5	Ferrer #4 Querrey -
Grandstand	Isner #20 Tsonga #9	Nishikori #6 Steve Johnson #19	Grandstand	Tsonga #9 Donald Young	Jack Sock – Monfils #20 v Donaldson FYI Court 17: Nishikori #10 Gasquet #12
2015			2013		
	Day 1 (Mon)	Day 2 (Tue)		Day 1 (Mon)	Day 2 (Tue)
Ashe Day	Djokovic #1 Ivanovic #7 Venus W #23	Federer #2 Halep #2 Wozniack #4	Ashe Day	Radwanska #3 Venus W (N/A) Nadal #2	Federer #7 (rain delay)
Ashe Eve	Nadal #8 Serena W #1	Murray #3 Kvitova #5	Ashe Eve	Serena W #1 Federer #7 (rain cancel)	Djokovic #1 (Top ½ draw)
Armstrong	Nishikori #4 Cilic #9	Isner #13 Wawrinka #5	Armstrong	Gasquet #8 Ferrer #4	Raonic #10 Querrey #26
Grandstand	Ferrer #7 Mardy Fish (N/A)	Berdych #6 Sock #28	Grandstand	Tomic (N/A) Dodig (N/A)	Isner #13 Berdych #5

