

# **JUNIOR SQUASH INFORMATION SESSION 2023**

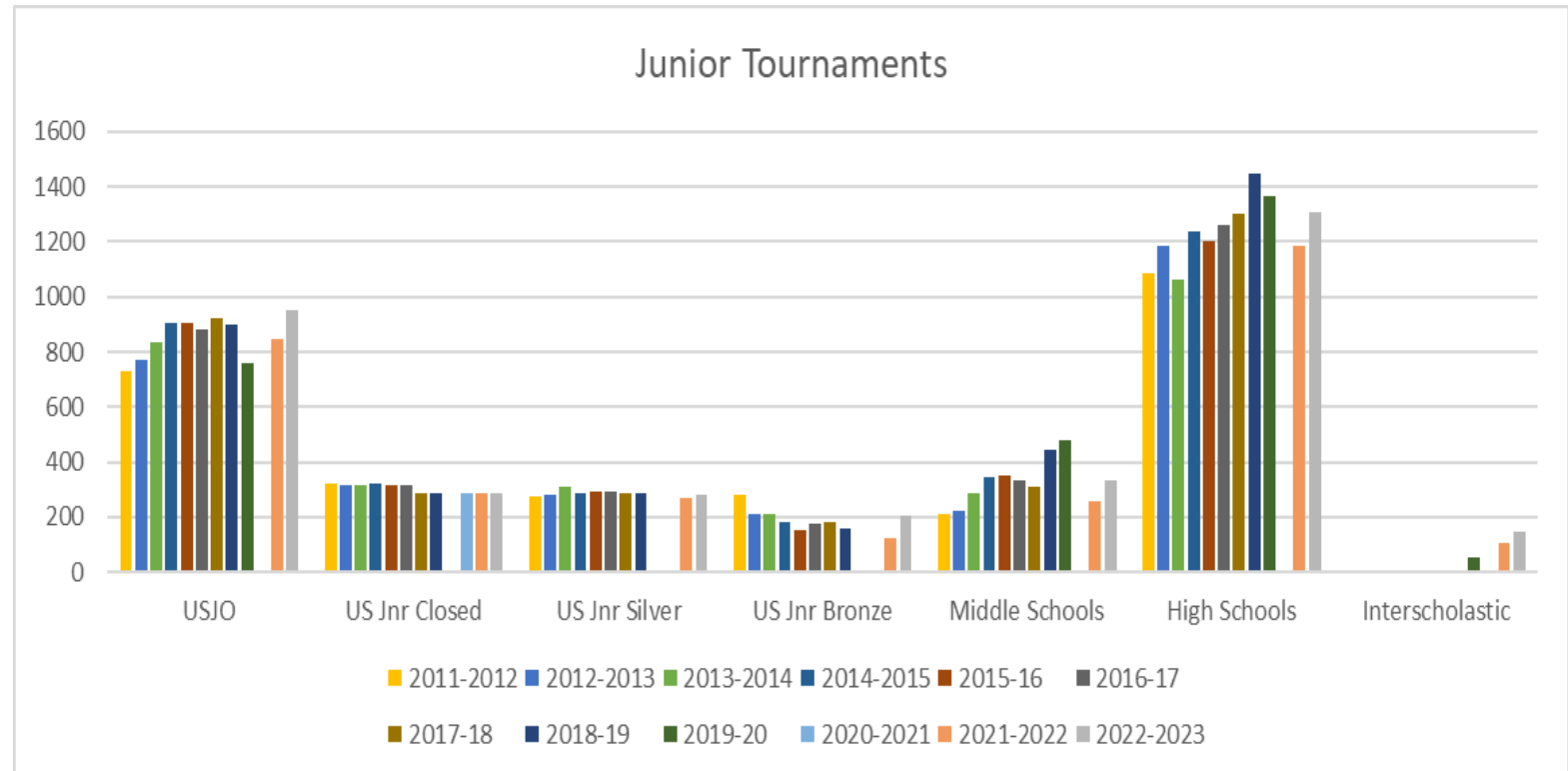


# AGENDA

- Recap of 2022-2023 Season
- Junior Ranking System
- Policy Adjustments
- Accreditation
- Focus for 2023-2024 Season

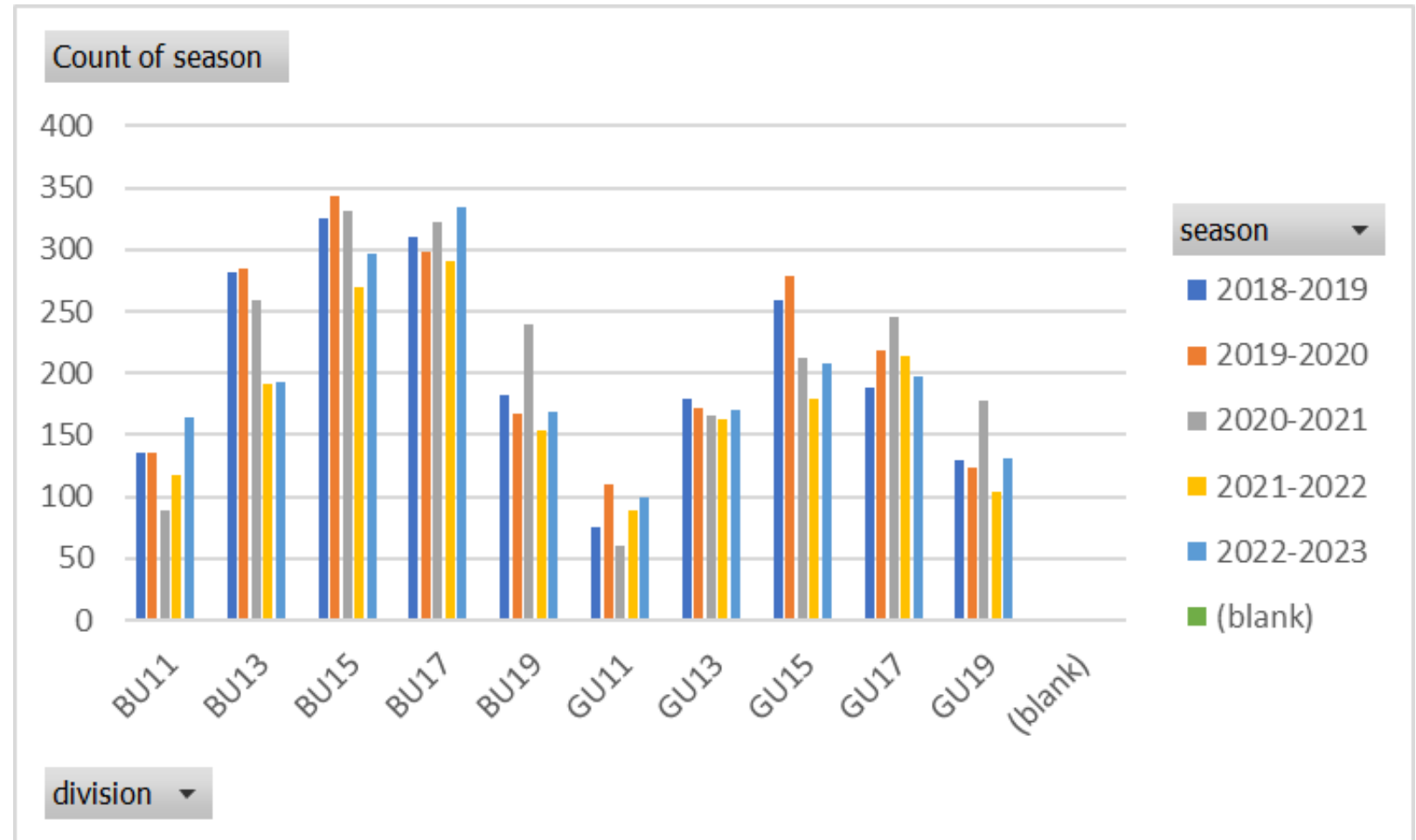
# PARTICIPATION TRENDS

- Recovered from COVID for individual competition
- Middle Schools have been more cautious to return to squash



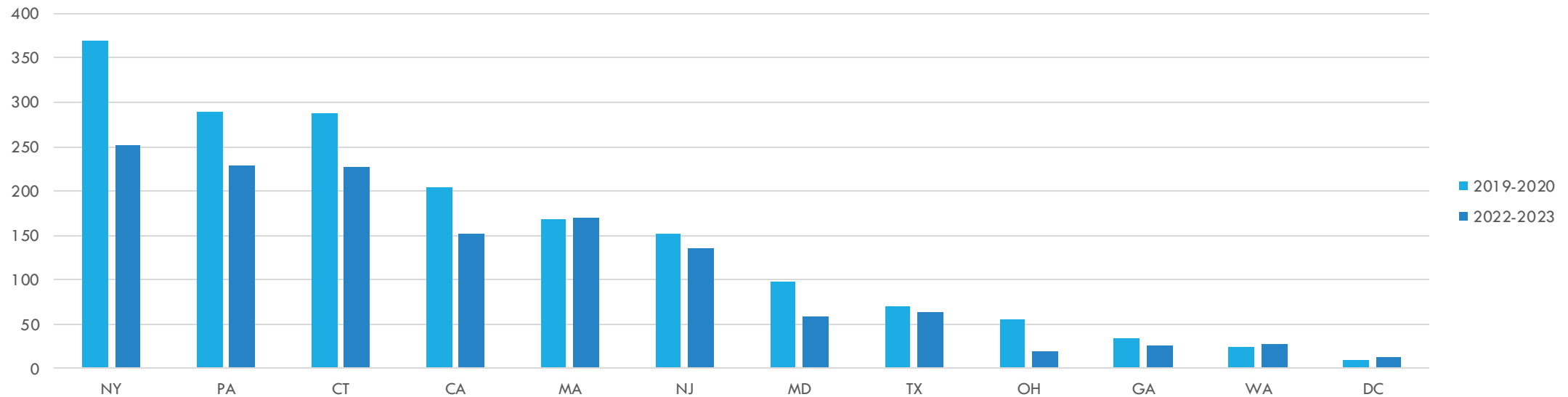
# JUNIOR RANKED PLAYERS BY AGE DIVISION

- Younger age group participation is robust which bodes well for the future
- U17 participation remains good due to College admissions
- Rankings were frozen in 2020 - 2021 season



# JUNIOR RANKED PLAYERS BY STATE

- Most states still in recovery mode
- Overall, there are only approximately 150 players fewer who participated this season compared to 2019-2020 Season

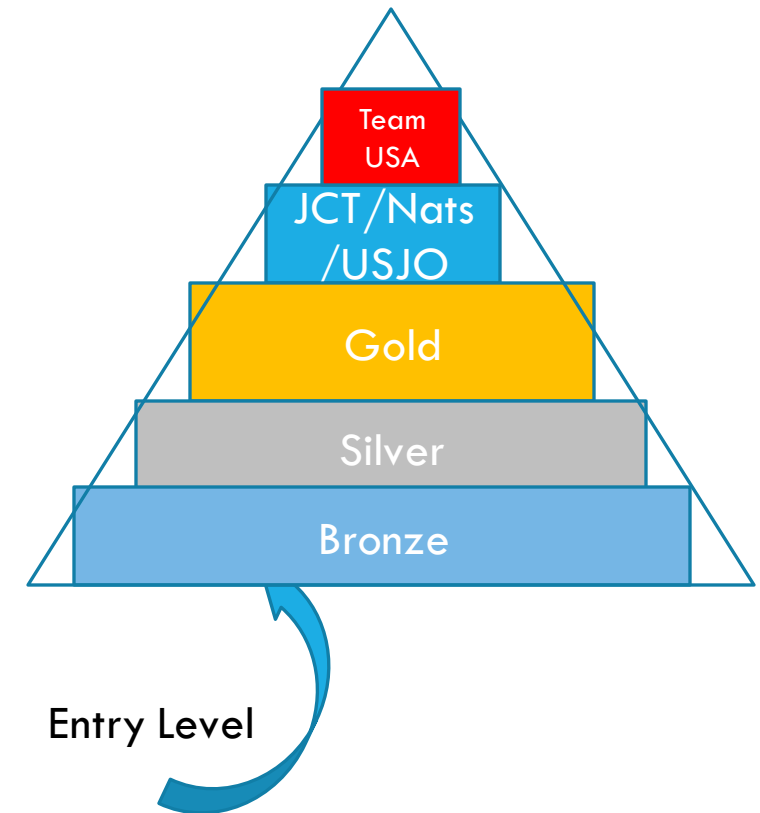


# PLAYER PARTICIPATION: WHAT DO WE WANT?

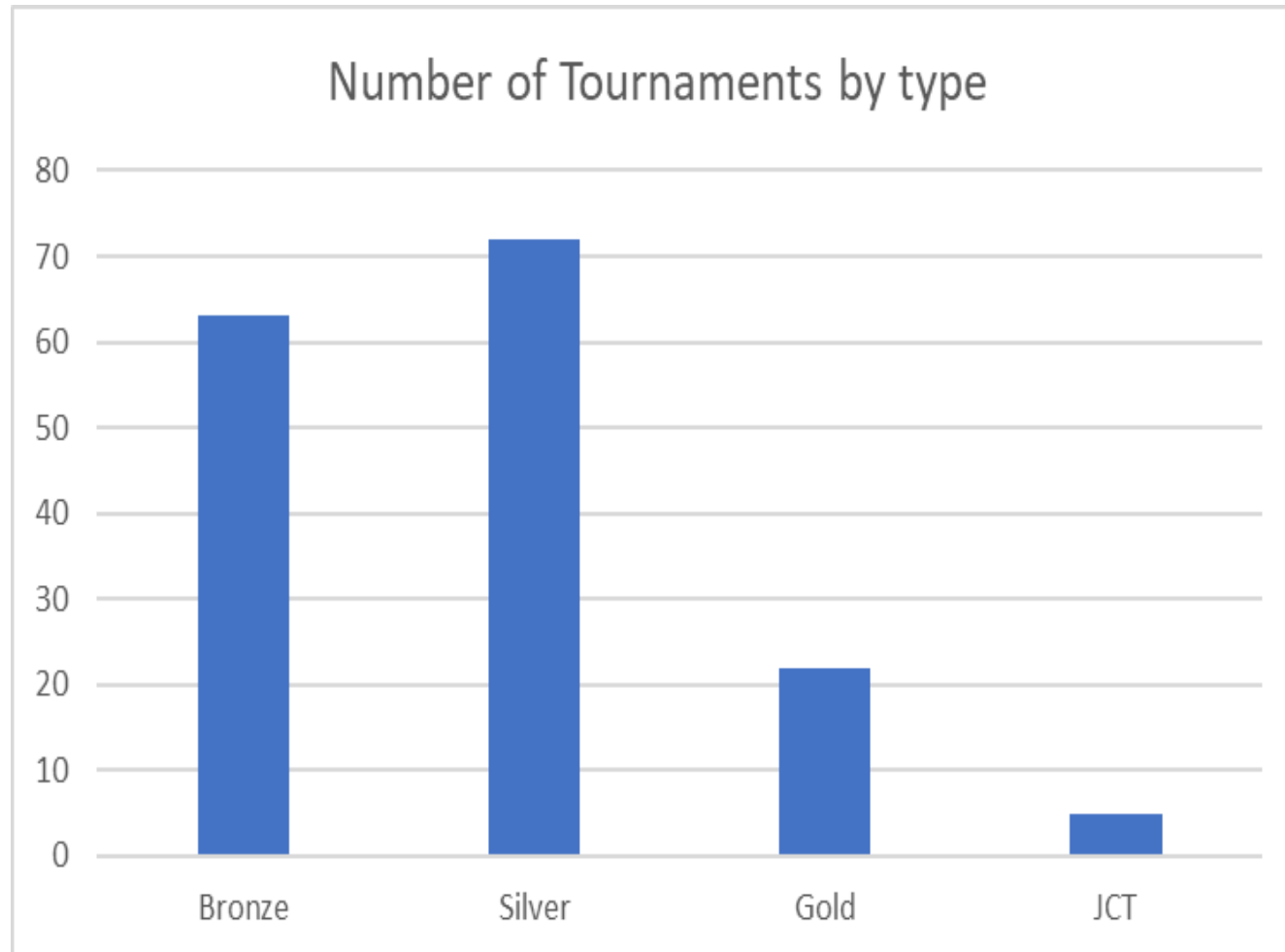
- Engagement at JCT, Gold, Silver and Bronze Level
- Entry level is Bronze, Bronze Level is meaningful
- Player mobility through the levels
- Keep travel requirements as low as possible for as long as possible, everywhere in the country, minimizing missed school days

*Tournament numbers must be regulated, based on the size of the system.*

*Tournaments are assigned using anticipated participation as a guide*

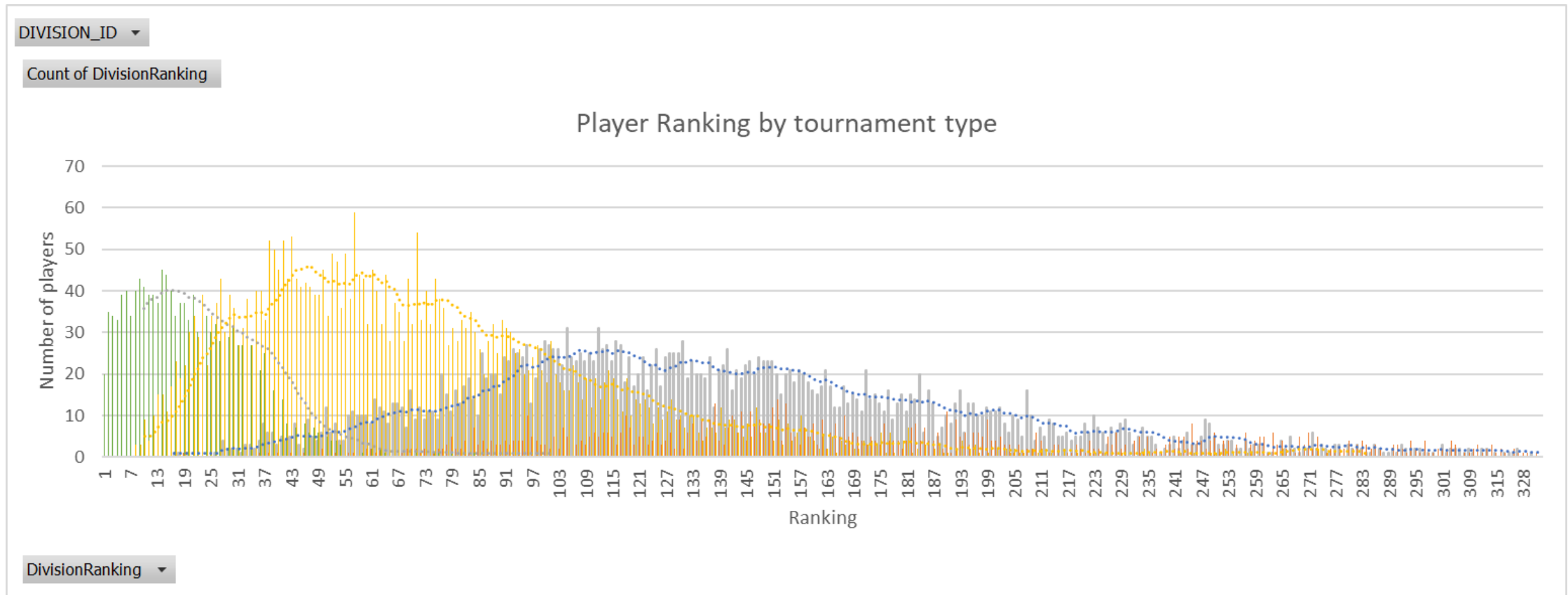


# 2022-2023 SEASON BY THE NUMBERS



- As the level of competition increases, fewer competitions are offered to allow the points structure to function as designed
- The expectation is that there would be more Bronze than Silver tournaments.
- Silver tournaments, while regulated, also need to be allocated broadly by geography
- Fewer Bronze tournaments have been needed to support the current player base.

# 2022-2023 SEASON BY THE NUMBERS



- Each tournament level should have a distribution with a clear beginning and a clear end
- A trailing end means that any ranking can potentially qualify to play in that level of tournament



# TOURNAMENTS

- Summer 2023 schedule – complete
  
- Fall 2023 schedule
  - Gold Tournaments on calendar by end of June
  - Silver and Bronze tournaments listed during June / July
  
- 2023-2024 season schedule complete by Labor Day
  
- Summer 2024 calendar – announce in January 2024

# POLICY UPDATES

- JCTs
  - Use holiday weekends where possible to alleviate missed school days
  - Labor Day - CT JCT
  - Columbus Day – PA JCT
  - Veterans Day – West Coast JCT
  - MLK Day – Mid Atlantic JCT
  - Presidents Day – Houston JCT
- USJO
  - No change - remains as a 4-day tournament December 16-19
- Bronze tournaments
  - Flexibility with draw size up to 16 (subject to court availability)
  - Flexibility selecting which divisions are played out
- Maximum matches per day limited to 3 (except 16 player Bronze tournaments)

# POLICY UPDATES — FOR DISCUSSION

- Adjusting division sizes to minimize school absences
- Wildcard positions
  - To accommodate a player injury or a gap in play, should we consider wildcards to help them back into the system more quickly?
- Ranking calculation
  - Poor results are often not penalized, and so this limits mobility in the system.

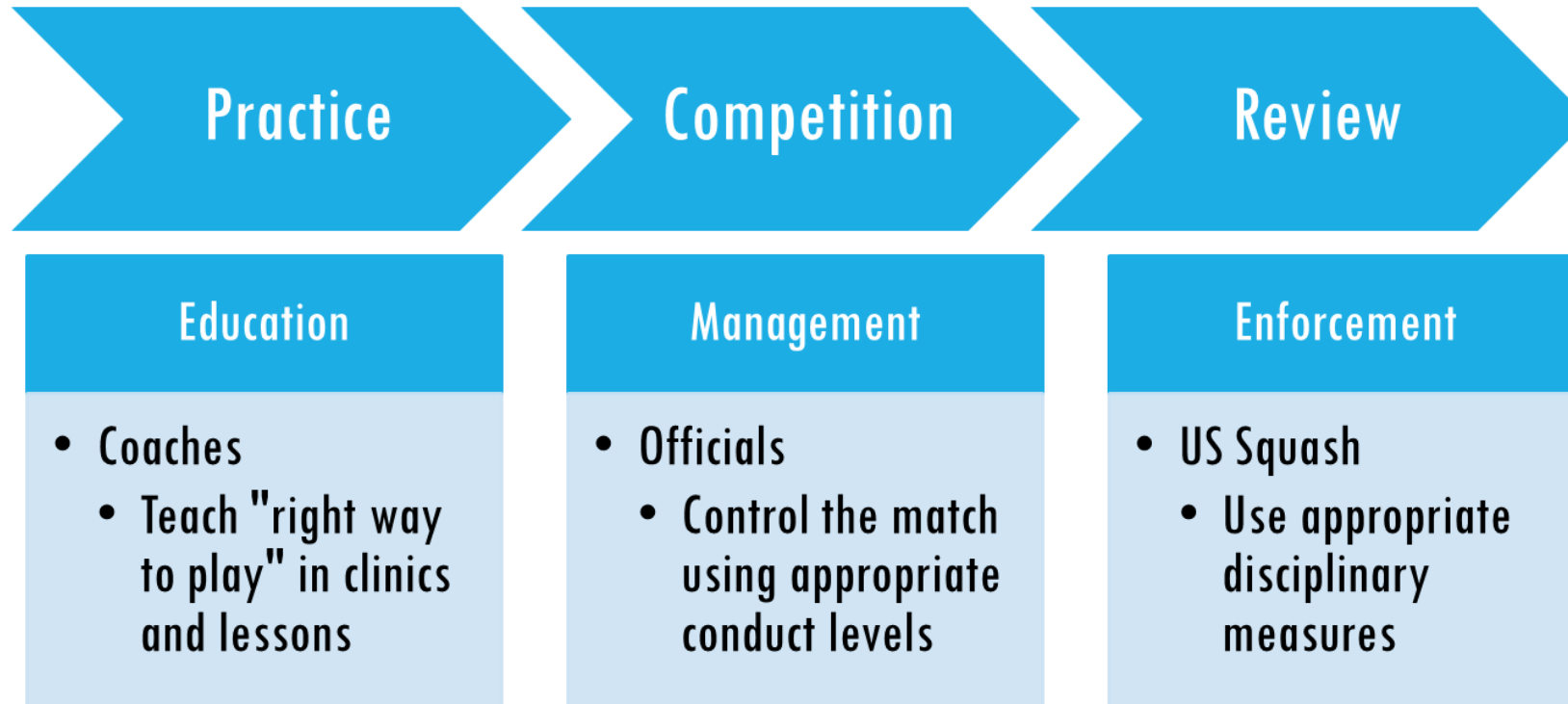
# FOCUS FOR 2023-2024 SEASON

## Continuing to Improve the Tournament Experience

- Referee Education
- Rules Enforcement
- Conduct and Sportsmanship
- Improving the first event experience and providing alternative engagement options

# RULES, CONDUCT & ENFORCEMENT: '23-'24

Parents play a central role in supporting sportsmanlike behavior to improve the experience before, during and after a tournament



# RULES, CONDUCT & ENFORCEMENT: '23-'24

- Stricter enforcement of the rules, specifically player behavior
  - **Rule 15.5:** *“Players must not behave in a manner that is unfair, dangerous, abusive, offensive, or in any way detrimental to the sport.”*
- Communicate clear expectations (posters at clubs, etc.)
- Including endorsement of automatic escalation of Conduct Stroke, Game, Match for the following:
  - If a player’s racquet leaves their hand (except during point)
  - If a player speaks to the official other than asking for score or call clarification
  - If a player demonstrates excessive celebration or shouting directly in the face of one’s opponent
- Post online the quarterly statistics of Disciplinary Subcommittee actions taken
- Provide a junior officiating clinic for all pros to conduct them at their clubs