

# Greater Knoxville Tennis Association

USTA Junior Team Tennis Local League Rules and Regulations

# 2018



SOUTHERN  
TENNESSEE



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## USTA Jr. Team Tennis 2018 GKTA Local League Rules/Guidelines

### USTA Junior Team Tennis and USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis

The USTA has created two tracks of the USTA Junior Team Tennis Program. The two tracks shall be called **USTA Junior Team Tennis** and **USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis**.

The **USTA Junior Team Tennis** Program is designed to introduce kids to team competition in a setting that focuses on play opportunities, developing skills, and FUN in a mixed gender setting. This is a **NON ADVANCING** program, however, there will be a season ending Local League Playoff.

The **USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis** Program consists of team competition for boys and girls of specific Junior NTRP levels of play and age categories playing by National rules and format. This is an **ADVANCING** program that has the opportunity to compete beyond the local league level, including State, Sectional and National levels (14U and 18U Intermediate and Advanced Divisions can advance all the way to Nationals).

Players may play in **both** tracks!

### League Fee

The participation fee will be \$18.00 total for **ONE TRACK (JTT OR National Championship JTT)** for 2018 -- \$3.00 for State Head Tax fee, \$4.00 for TennisLink (this includes the Background Check Head Tax), and \$11.00 towards the Local League. If playing in **TWO TRACKS (JTT AND Championship JTT)** the fee shall be \$36.00 -- \$4.00 TennisLink fee, \$3.00 Head Tax fee, and \$11.00 towards the local league. \$14.00 of the \$18.00 (if playing in ONE TRACK) or \$28.00 of the \$36.00 (if playing in TWO TRACKS) will be turned into the League Coordinator prior to the start of the season. All clubs are responsible for collecting from their players the \$4.00 / \$8.00 TennisLink fee that is paid online when the club registers their players. If a player chooses to play on two teams **in the same track**, clubs are responsible for collecting an additional \$7.00 (\$4.00 TennisLink fee and \$3.00 Head Tax fee). USTA Membership is required for all Divisions of Junior Team Tennis (Non Advancing) and Championship Junior Team Tennis (Advancing), and the cost is \$20.00 per year.

### Age Eligibility

All Players in all divisions must remain age eligible through August 31 of the Championship year (in the year in which they are competing) to be eligible for advancement opportunities to the State, Section, and National Championships. For the 2018 Summer Season, players who age up to 13 on or before August 31 must play in the 14 & Under Division, players who age up to 15 on or before August 31 must play in the 18 & Under Division and players who age up to 19 on or before August 31 are not eligible. Otherwise, players should be age eligible through the duration of the season in which they are playing. Exceptions, for non-advancing teams only, due to limited team options at a given site, must be approved by the League Coordinator or Division Commissioner. **Players may not play up more than one age division.**

### Ability Levels and Junior NTRP Ratings

The USTA Jr. Team Tennis Program uses the Junior NTRP system for rating players and determining the placement level. Players must be rated according to the Junior NTRP Guidelines. **All players must be rated by their coach.** It is the responsibility of the Team Manager/Team Coach/Site Coordinator to make sure all players are properly rated and placed based on skill level and age. Players that DO NOT have a Junior NTRP Rating may complete the Junior NTRP Self Rate Process. The Junior NTRP Self Rate Process is as follows:

- To get a rating, a player will need to have a USTA account. Contact your Club Coordinator or the Local League Coordinator if you need help creating an account. You must be logged into TennisLink to complete the Self Rate Process.
- Players that DO NOT have a Junior NTRP Rating can self-rate in three simple ways:
  - Self-select their own level by comparing themselves to players that they compete with regularly who HAVE a rating.
  - Select a rating on the self-rate form. On the self-rate form the player will be asked to select their rating based on rating descriptions. The player will have the opportunity to adjust the suggested rating level before SAVING IT. Ratings Characteristics will be given to all Club Coordinators.
  - Complete a quick and easy questionnaire. After filling out the simple questionnaire, the player will receive a suggested rating level. The player will have the opportunity to adjust the suggested rating level before SAVING IT.



- Junior NTRP Ratings are produced by a player's results over an 18 month period (this includes tournaments, previous JTT play, etc) and are updated every two weeks. **Whatever a player's Junior NTRP rating is at the time of league registration, will be what that player's level of play will be throughout the course of the season, regardless if a player's Junior NTRP Rating changes during the season.**

### **8 & Under**

Age 7 & 8

8 & Under Tennis Format (see QuickStart under Jr. Team Tennis menu option on [www.usta.com](http://www.usta.com))

### **10 & Under**

Age 9 & 10

10 & Under Tennis Format (see QuickStart under Jr. Team Tennis menu option on [www.usta.com](http://www.usta.com)) **Players with a 1-100 standing in the 10's who are playing in the 10's must play in the Advanced Division (Standings are referring to results through July 31, 2016.**

### **12 C**

Age 11 & 12 **Recommended 0.0 - 2.7 Junior NTRP levels**

For players just moving up from QuickStart Tennis or playing for the first time.

Must be able to serve from the baseline and keep score with limited assistance.

Must know how to play a tiebreaker with limited assistance.

Must be familiar with court positioning for singles and doubles with limited assistance.

### **12 B**

Age 11 & 12 **Recommended 2.8 – 3.4 Junior NTRP levels**

Must be able to serve from the baseline and keep score without help.

Must know how to play a tiebreaker.

Must be familiar with court positioning for singles and doubles.

### **12 A**

Age 11 & 12 **3.5 and Above Junior NTRP**

Player must have, or be equivalent to a fairly high USTA State Ranking

### **14 C**

Age 13 & 14 **Recommended 0.0 – 2.7 Junior NTRP levels**

For older players who are playing for the first time.

2.0 & Below NTRP

Must be able to serve from the baseline and keep score without help.

Must know how to play a tiebreaker.

Must be familiar with court positioning for singles and doubles.

### **14 B**

Age 13 & 14 **Recommended 2.8 – 3.4 Junior NTRP levels**

Must be able to serve from the baseline and keep score without help.

Must know how to play a tiebreaker.

Must be familiar with court positioning for singles and doubles.

### **14 A**

Age 13 & 14 **3.5 and Above Junior NTRP levels**

USTA ranking

### **18 B**

Age 15 to 18 **Recommended 2.8 – 3.4 Junior NTRP levels**

Older Beginner to Intermediate Players

### **18 A**

Age 15 to 18 **3.5 and Above Junior NTRP**

3.5 and Above NTRP

This division is reserved for Advanced Tournament/High School team players.

**All questions regarding placement, especially exceptions to the stated criteria, should be directed to the League Coordinator.**

## Rules Regarding Ranked Players

10 and Under players with a Southern standing of 1-100 in 10s as of July 31 preceding the Championship year (July 31, 2017 for 2018), must play in the advanced division, even if playing in a different age division. A player falling below this benchmark should refer to the Junior NTRP criteria to determine if their skills require them to play in the advanced division. **ANY PLAYER WITH A JUNIOR NTRP RATING OF 3.5 AND ABOVE MUST PLAY ADVANCED!**

## Team Composition

### Junior Team Tennis (Non Advancing):

- 8U Beginner, 8U Intermediate, 10U Beginner, 10U Intermediate: These divisions of play require 4 to 6 Boys **and/or** Girls (Can be all boys, all girls, or mixed gender)
- 10U Beginner, 10U Intermediate, 12U Beginner, 12U Intermediate, 14U Beginner, 14U Intermediate, 18U Intermediate: These divisions of play require 6 to 8 Boys **and/or** Girls (Can be all boys, all girls, or Mixed Gender)

### National Championship Junior Team Tennis (Advancing):

- 10U Intermediate, 10U Advanced, 12U Intermediate, 12U Advanced, 14U Intermediate, 14U Advanced, 18U Intermediate, 18U Advanced: These divisions **MUST** have a minimum of **3 Boys AND 3 Girls**. It is highly encouraged that teams have at least 4 Boys and 4 Girls. Please be advised that there are strict limitations regarding the number of players that can be added as subs for advancing teams. **Subs MUST come from the National Championship Junior Team Tennis Track.**

## Entry Deadline

The team and player entry deadline will be strictly enforced. All Teams must be registered on TennisLink by May 15<sup>th</sup>. Teams must have the required minimum number of players at the player entry deadline, which is May 19<sup>th</sup>. Any teams that do not have the minimum number of players by May 20<sup>th</sup> will be deleted. Team entries after the deadline and prior to the start of the season may be considered for a flight/division where there is a Bye, and only with the required minimum number of players.

## Adding Players

Players may be added to a registered team after the initial team registration deadline. **Players must be officially registered on TennisLink prior to participating in a match.**

## Ineligible Player

Any player not listed on the TennisLink roster in accordance with these rules shall be considered an ineligible player. If both captains agree, a 24 hour "gentleman's agreement" may be made to add the ineligible player to the roster.

## Playoff Eligibility

All players must have credit for participating in **two team matches** during the regular season to be eligible for the USTA/Tennessee Junior Team Tennis State Championships. If a player is scheduled to play and his/her opponent forfeits the match, that match will count as a match played. **However, NO DEFAULTS will count toward the required number of matches.**

## Confirming Matches *COMMUNICATE, COMMUNICATE, COMMUNICATE!*

Home Team Managers must contact visiting Team Managers no later than the day prior to the scheduled match to confirm location, time, etc. Everyone is encouraged to work out any time or line-up conflicts that may arise during the season. With the agreement of both captains, scheduled matches can be played earlier than the scheduled date. However, if a match is scheduled early, the League Coordinator must be notified in order to make the match official. Team Managers must keep one another informed regarding the status of their line up.

## Home Courts

If for some unforeseen circumstance the Home Team is unable to provide its courts for any match at the scheduled time, the visiting team has first option of providing their home courts. If the visiting team does not elect to provide its home courts, the responsibility reverts to the home team to provide an alternate site, or teams may agree to adjust the start time or stagger matches.

## Team Line-Ups

Team Managers or representatives **must bring their line-up on the score sheet to the match**, and must exchange line-ups ten minutes prior to starting play. Any team forfeiting a court or courts for whatever reason, prior to the start of the match, must take the forfeit at the bottom of the line-up and must move the players up in the line-up according to strength. Last minute substitutions may be made only in the event of illness, injury or absence of a player. Substitutions may not be made after a point has been played in that position.

## Score Entry

Scores of each match must be recorded and confirmed by representatives for both Teams. It is the responsibility of the **Home Team** to enter the scores online, no later than two days following the matches. Scores that are not entered online within two days following the last scheduled match of the season may be recorded as zero. Exception would be for matches not played due to weather. Please contact the League Coordinator by phone, text, or e-mail should the match have to be rescheduled due to rain.

## Match Times

The match times are as follows:

Tuesday 12:30pm	Tuesday 2:00pm
Championship 10U Intermediate	Championship 14U Intermediate
Championship 10U Advanced	Championship 14U Advanced
Championship 12U Intermediate	Championship 18U Intermediate
Championship 12U Advanced	Championship 18U Advanced
Wednesday 12:30pm	Wednesday 2:00pm
10C (Orange)	14C
10B1 (Green Dot)	18B
10B2 (Orange)	
12B	
Thursday 12:30pm	Thursday 2:00pm
8C	14B
8B	
12C	

Matches need to start at their designated times. If weather is a factor, matches may begin early as long as both coaches agree.

## Regular Season Format

The Junior Team Tennis Track (Non Advancing) will typically play a standard eight-week season, regardless of the number of teams in the flight. The Championship Junior Team Tennis Track (Advancing) will play a 4-6 week season based on the number of teams in a division.

### Junior Team Tennis Track (Non Advancing):

**8 & Under Divisions:** will play 2 singles and 2 doubles playing the best 2 of 3 games to 7 points using the 36 foot court with RED low compression balls. Serves must go in the correct box. Racquet length must be no greater than 23 inches. Scores will be entered into TennisLink as sets won (i.e. 1-0, 1-0, 1-0, 0-1, 1-0). **(NOTE: Teams can advance to the USTA/Tennessee Junior Team Tennis State Championships)**

**10 & Under Divisions:** will play 2 singles and 2 doubles playing a 6 game set with a 7 point tie breaker at 5 all (win by 2 point) using the 60 x 21 foot court with Orange low compression balls (B2) and Green Dot low compression balls (B1). No add scoring will be used. Racquet length must be no greater than 25 inches **(NOTE: Teams can advance to the USTA/Tennessee Junior Team Tennis State Championships and MUST play with a 25 inch racquet).**



**12 C:** will play 4 singles and 2 doubles playing an 8 game pro set with a 7 point tie breaker at 7 all. No add scoring will be used. The Penn GREEN DOT ball will be used.

**12 B:** will play 4 singles and 2 doubles playing an 8 game pro set with a 7 point tie breaker at 7 all. No add scoring will be used. The Penn GREEN DOT ball will be used.

**14 C:** will play 4 singles and 2 doubles playing an 8 game pro set with a 7 point tie breaker at 7 all. No add scoring will be used.

**14 B:** will play 4 singles and 2 doubles playing an 8 game pro set with a 7 point tie breaker at 7 all. No add scoring will be used.

**18 B:** will play 4 singles and 2 doubles playing an 8 game pro set with a 7 point tie breaker at 7 all. No add scoring will be used.

### Championship Junior Team Tennis Track (Advancing):

**Championship 10U Intermediate:** will play 1 boys singles, 1 girls singles, 1 boys doubles, 1 girls doubles, and 1 mixed doubles, playing a 6 game set with 7 point tiebreaker at 5 all. The Orange ball and no add scoring will be used.

**Championship 10U Advanced:** will play 1 boys singles, 1 girls singles, 1 boys doubles, 1 girls doubles, and 1 mixed doubles, playing a 6 game set with 7 point tiebreaker at 5 all. The Green Dot ball and no add scoring will be used.

**Championship 12U Intermediate:** will play 1 boys singles, 1 girls singles, 1 boys doubles, 1 girls doubles, and 1 mixed doubles, playing the best of 3 sets - 4 game short sets, 1<sup>st</sup> to 4 games, 7 point tiebreaker at 3 all with a 10 point match tiebreaker in lieu of a third set, using the Green Dot ball. **\*A match tiebreaker is the first to 10 points by a margin of 2**

**Championship 12U Advanced:** will play 1 boys singles, 1 girls singles, 1 boys doubles, 1 girls doubles, and 1 mixed doubles, playing the best of 3 sets - 4 game short sets, 1<sup>st</sup> to 4 games, 7 point tiebreaker at 3 all with a 10 point match tiebreaker in lieu of a third set, using the yellow ball. **\*A match tiebreaker is the first to 10 points by a margin of 2**

**Championship 14U Intermediate:** will play 1 boys singles, 1 girls singles, 1 boys doubles, 1 girls doubles, and 1 mixed doubles, playing the best of 3 sets - 4 game short sets, 1<sup>st</sup> to 4 games, 7 point tiebreaker at 3 all with a 10 point match tiebreaker in lieu of a third set. **\*A match tiebreaker is the first to 10 points by a margin of 2**

**Championship 14U Advanced:** will play 1 boys singles, 1 girls singles, 1 boys doubles, 1 girls doubles, and 1 mixed doubles, playing the best of 3 sets - 4 game short sets, 1<sup>st</sup> to 4 games, 7 point tiebreaker at 3 all with a 10 point match tiebreaker in lieu of a third set. **\*A match tiebreaker is the first to 10 points by a margin of 2**

**Championship 18U Intermediate:** will play 1 boys singles, 1 girls singles, 1 boys doubles, 1 girls doubles, and 1 mixed doubles, playing the best of 3 sets - 4 game short sets, 1<sup>st</sup> to 4 games, 7 point tiebreaker at 3 all with a 10 point match tiebreaker in lieu of a third set. **\*A match tiebreaker is the first to 10 points by a margin of 2**

**Championship 18U Advanced:** will play 1 boys singles, 1 girls singles, 1 boys doubles, 1 girls doubles, and 1 mixed doubles, playing the best of 3 sets - 4 game short sets, 1<sup>st</sup> to 4 games, 7 point tiebreaker at 3 all with a 10 point match tiebreaker in lieu of a third set. **\*A match tiebreaker is the first to 10 points by a margin of 2**

### Substitute Players

Match results for players listed on the team's roster will count towards standings. Technically, the match is forfeited when registered players are not available. **However,** Coaches are encouraged to promote play by finding a substitute to play the match against the opponent, when registered players are not available. Only subs that meet the criteria for age and skill level for a division/flight should be used. Players may not sub down.

### Monitoring Forfeits

Each week the League Commissioner will be reviewing the standings page and team match results to be sure that scores have been entered, and to monitor forfeits. Forfeits, especially those that have not been communicated in advance, are the greatest source of frustration among league players, parents and coaches. Please be sure to communicate with the League Coordinator regarding forfeits – yours and your opponents. Excessive forfeits (above an average of 2 per team) may result in site probation/suspension for the next season.

## Defaults

Please be as lenient as possible, within reason, about defaults, such as for tardiness. All players must be present at the start of the match (Singles AND Doubles). If there is a logistical problem to cause tardiness, you must call the opposing coach/captain. **DEFAULTS DO NOT COUNT TOWARD QUALIFYING MATCHES IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS TRACK.**

## Balls

It is the responsibility of BOTH TEAMS to provide two new cans of balls for each Team match in all divisions of 14s, and 18s. All match balls should be returned to the Team Manager, or representative responsible for providing balls for a particular court (i.e. Home team provides for courts #1 & #2 singles and #1doubles, visiting team provides for #3 & #4 singles and #2 doubles.) **Low Compression balls are required for the 10 & Under Format (red for 8 & under; orange for 10 & under). The Green Dot ball will be used in 12C and 12B as well as Championship Junior Team Tennis 12U Intermediate. It is the home team's responsibility to provide balls for the team match. Each team will receive a distribution of red, orange, and green dot balls based on the number of teams entered in the league.**

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## Warm Up

Warm up is limited to 10 minutes, including practice serves.

## Coaching

**Coaching is not permitted for any division or flight, except "assistance" is required in the 8 and 10 & Under Divisions and allowed in the 12 C Division.** Managers, teammates, spectators or Coaches may not volunteer advice on line calls or scoring. **No parents or coaches are allowed on the court in either track for the 12s, 14s, and 18s.** Cheering and clapping is acceptable. Please use proper etiquette. It is the responsibility of either team's Coach/Captain, or representatives, to work together to control the conduct of the spectators during the match.

## Team Practices

The weekly practice component is very important in the USTA Junior Team Tennis program. Learning opportunities will surely be identified, by coaches / parents, during team match play. Organized practices are a fun time for players to get together with their teammates for instruction and play.

## Refreshments

The Home Team is responsible for providing water. It is optional for the Home Team to furnish additional refreshments. This is a common practice for other team sports and a great idea for parents to coordinate, especially in the younger age divisions.

## Rain Out Rules

The decision to cancel or play matches due to inclement weather must be announced by 11:00 AM. It is up to each individual site to communicate with the opposing team contact and to have a system to inform their players. In the event of rain, incomplete individual matches will stand as played. The same players at the exact game and point must resume incomplete matches as they stood when play was halted. **Should rain occur during a match, player safety should be the upmost importance. Please make sure all players are in a safe location and remain on site until released by the team coach/captain. Both coach/captains should be in agreement when to release their players.** It is encouraged that teams with rain outs use Friday as a make up day throughout the regular season. (Incomplete matches (not retired matches) not made up by the end of the season will be counted as a forfeit for both teams and players will not receive credit for a match played.) The first point in a match signifies the start of that match and sets the match. The existing line-up and forfeits stand. In the event a match is cancelled due to rain, teams must follow the same procedure. However, in this situation, individual matches that had been forfeited in advance may be reinstated. Also, there is a built in rain date at the end of the regular season for the first rained out match. However, teams are encouraged not to wait until the end of the season to make up rained out matches and to make up the rained out match as soon as possible.

## Standings

The number of games shall determine the flight winner of a division in the regular season. However, any team with an undefeated record shall be considered the flight winner, regardless of the number of games won. Should this occur, the team having the highest number of games will be the second place team in the flight.



## Non-Discrimination Policy

USTA / GKTA Summer Jr. Team Tennis ensures participation for all players, regardless of race, creed, gender, economic status, sexual orientation and physical ability.

## Coach / Captain Code of Ethics

- Familiarize yourself with all rating tools for players to ensure that each player is at the correct level of play. Rate each player honestly and fairly.
- I will exemplify good sportsmanship when participating in all USTA Junior Team Tennis programs and GKTA Junior Team Tennis leagues.
- Winning is a consideration, but not the only one, nor the most important one. Care more about the player than winning the game.
- Publicly support Junior Team Tennis and GKTA policies and regulations.
- Work to provide a league that promotes fair play and sportsmanship.
- Be a positive role model to demonstrate qualities conducive to being role models to the team players. Display emotional maturity.
- Set a good example in every area of the game at all times.
- Keep your emotions under control.
- Follow the rules and regulations of your association to ensure that the USTA / GKTA Junior Team Tennis philosophies and objectives are enhanced.
- Attend all captain meetings, conduct the background screening and online training courses offered by USTA.
- Read and become familiar with the contents of the coaches handbook, rulebook and playing rules. Know the playing rules, their interpretations and proper application.
- Any recommended program changes should be submitted through proper channels for consideration.
- In compliance with this, support the administration or league official on and off the courts. This approach will help in the development and support of the game and league. Trust their judgment and integrity.
- Never openly criticize league administrators, officials, coaches or players. Criticism only hurt the game.

## Background Checks and Safe Play Course

Background Checks and the completion of the USTA Safe Play Program Safety Course are now required for Local Club Coordinators (LCCs) and Team Coach/Captains as part of the Tennessee Junior Team Tennis program. LCCs and Team Coach/Captains are required to go through a confidential USTA Background Check process every two years. This is mandatory, even if you have been checked by other institutions. Information on how to complete the process will be e-mailed to each LCC prior to the start of the registration process. It is the responsibility of each LCC to distribute the information to each of their Coach/Captains involved for the 2016 season. USTA has placed a \$1.00 head tax per player to cover the costs of the background checks. This fee will be collected online as part of the TennisLink fees. **LCCs and Coach/Captains who have not completed the process will NOT have access to TennisLink until BOTH the Background Check and the Safe Play Course has been completed!**

## Heat Policy

USTA / GKTA Summer Junior Team Tennis matches typically occur during the heat of the day due to court availability. It is the Coach/Captains responsibility to be aware of heat illnesses. Heat illness is an acute medical condition that arises from a combination of dehydration and overheating within the body.

The symptoms and signs of heat illness include:

- Unusual or excessive tiredness
- Nausea (with or without vomiting)
- Cramps
- Dizziness
- Passing out
- High body temperature

Coach Captains should advise their players to drink plenty of fluids before, during, and after a match. On days when the heat index is above 100 degrees players may take a 30 second water break on NON CHANGE OVER GAMES.

## Tennessee Sports Concussion Law and Policy

In April 2013, Tennessee became the 44<sup>th</sup> state to pass a sports concussion law designed to reduce youth sports concussions and increase awareness of traumatic brain injury. The legislation, Public Chapter 148, has three key components:

1. To inform and educate coaches, youth athletes and their parents and require them to sign a concussion information form before competing.
2. To require removal of a youth athlete who appears to have suffered a concussion from play or practice at the time of the suspected concussion.
3. To require a youth athlete to be cleared by a licensed health care professional before returning to play or practice.

Both public and private school sports and recreational leagues for children under age 18 that require a fee are affected by the new law. The law covers all sports. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury that changes the way the brain normally works. Most concussions occur without loss of consciousness. Athletes who have, at any point in their lives, had a concussion have an increased risk for another concussion. Young children and teens are more likely to get a concussion and take longer to recover than adults. The new concussion law is an opportunity to make playing sports safer for Tennessee's young athletes.

The Concussion Policy for the USTA / GKTA Summer Junior Team Tennis is as follows:

1. Parents and Players must read the Concussion information sheet that can be found under the Junior Tennis link at [www.gkta.usta.com](http://www.gkta.usta.com) or by clicking on the Parent Athlete Signature Form located at <http://health.tn.gov/TBI/concussion.htm>. Parents and Players must then sign the Student Athlete & Parent/Legal Guardian Concussion Statement located on the back of the GKTA Player Information and Parent Release Form.
2. All Coach/Captains must read the Coaches Concussion Information sheet that can be found under the Junior Tennis link at [www.gkta.usta.com](http://www.gkta.usta.com) or by clicking on the Coaches Signature Form tab <http://health.tn.gov/TBI/concussion.htm>. Coaches must also view an online training video located at [www.cdc.gov/concussion/Headsup/training/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/Headsup/training/index.html). This is to be completed on a yearly basis.
3. Any youth athlete who shows signs, symptoms and behavior consistent with a concussion shall immediately be removed from the practice or match for evaluation by a licensed medical doctor, osteopathic physician or a clinical neuropsychologist with concussion training. The youth athlete shall remain out of practice and Team Matches until cleared by a medical professional and present a "Concussion Return to Play" to the team coach/captain. The Concussion Return to Play form can be found under the Junior Tennis link at [www.gkta.usta.com](http://www.gkta.usta.com). The form is to be completed and signed by a licensed medical doctor, osteopathic physician or a clinical neuropsychologist with concussion training before an athlete that has been removed from practice or a match may return to participate.
4. All documentation of the completion of a concussion recognition and head injury safety education course program and signed concussion and head injury information sheets by Coach/Captain and players shall be turned into the Local League Coordinator and shall be kept on file for a period of three years.

## USTA Tennessee Junior Team Tennis Rules and Regulations 2018 Championship Year

*USTA Junior Team Tennis is a competition for girls and boys of specific NTRP levels of play and age categories. The purpose of the program is to provide organized recreational play, emphasizing local competition, with the possibility of advancement for winning teams in age-validated programs from local competition to area, district, sectional, and/or national championships. The team concept emphasizes fun, fitness, and friends.*

**USTA Tennessee adopts the following rules in addition to the National and Southern Regulations.**

### Local Play:

- All Local leagues must submit local rules or guidelines to USTA Tennessee prior to any program approved in TennisLink. Local rules must have an educational section in reference to heat and hydration.
- All Coordinators, Coach/Captains, and Co-Captains registered in TennisLink must adhere to the USTA Tennessee Youth Safety Policy, which includes completing and passing each every two years:
  - Successful completion of the USTA National Online Youth Protection Course.
  - Successful completion and “clearing” a background check via the JTT Safety portal.
- League programs must hold a captain/coach meeting/training prior to the start of the league season.
- Local leagues will put into place a Grievance Committee and Appeals Committee as outlined in the National Regulations 3.01, and submit names of those individuals to USTA Tennessee prior to the season beginning and program approval.
- Local league coordinators may develop additional rules and procedures, which must not become inconsistent with USTA, USTA Southern, and USTA Tennessee.
- Local League Coordinators must adopt a non-discrimination policy that ensures participation for all players, regardless of race, creed, gender, economic status, sexual orientation, and physical ability.
- Junior Team Tennis now offers 2 tracks for the program Junior Team Tennis and National Championship Junior Team Tennis. To play in both tracks of Junior Team Tennis players must be USTA members to play at the Local, State, Sectional, and National level(s), unless a non-membership league is approved by your state coordinator, Tara Williams.

### Competition Format

- Local Coordinators may use the format which best meets the needs of the local program.
  - **All teams in a USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis program are required to play a minimum of three (3) team matches. A local season must, at a minimum, consist of a team competition over a period of at least three days (a one or two day event is not sufficient)**
  - **Local Coordinators may determine a match format that meets the needs of the local program. The method of determining the winning team of a local team match and also the winner of the local season is determined by the Local Coordinator. In the USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis Program, it is recommended that each team match consist of one boy's and girl's singles, one boys' and girls' doubles and one mixed doubles**
- 8U local/state Divisions must play with the red ball and use proper Junior Team Tennis parameters.
- All 10U local/state divisions must play with the orange ball and use proper Junior Team Tennis parameters. 10U beginner divisions may use either red or orange ball.
- All 12U local/state Beginner and Intermediate divisions must play with the green dot ball and use proper Junior Team Tennis parameters.
- Local Coordinators are responsible for monitoring score entries. Local programs must set a rule for failure to comply with score entry deadline regulation / scores must be entered within 48 hours of the completion of the team match.
- A player may participate on more than one team in a local league during the same season as long as it is not the same division in the same league.

- **Age eligibility for advancing leagues:**
  - As validated in TennisLink, players must remain age eligible through August 31 of the Championship Year to be eligible to advance to Championships.
- **Age eligibility for non-advancing leagues:**
  - Local Leagues may set their own age eligibility requirements for non-advancing leagues.
- **NTRP Rating information:**
  - The Junior National Tennis Rating Program (Junior NTRP) in TennisLink is the official system for determining play levels for USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis.
  - Players who do not have a Junior NTRP rating on file in TennisLink shall self-rate in accordance with the process available when registering for their team in TennisLink.
  - Players rated 3.5 and above must play in advanced divisions.
  - Players with a Southern Standing of 1-100 in the 10U Division, as of July 31, 2017, must play in the 10U Advanced Division
    - If a 10U or 12U player has a Junior NTRP rating of 3.5 or above, the player must play in the Advanced Division.
  - A list of players who must play in the Advanced Divisions will be provided to the Local League Coordinators.
  - If a player is found to be out of level, he/she will not be allowed to play in the remaining matches.
  - Any player playing Adult League and rated 3.5 or above must play in the advanced division at the Championships.
  - Additional information for the Junior NTRP can be found at: [https://www.usta.com/Youth-Tennis/Junior-Competition/whats\\_my\\_junior\\_rating/](https://www.usta.com/Youth-Tennis/Junior-Competition/whats_my_junior_rating/)

## Requirements to Advance to Tennessee State Championships

- **Advancement:**
  - Any age eligible Junior Team Tennis team that is entered into TennisLink may advance to the Tennessee State Championships as long as they meet the following requirements:
    - To advance beyond local competition to championship play, a team shall consist of a minimum of three (3) boys and three (3) girls eligible to compete in 10U, 12U, 14U, and 18U.
    - A minimum of 3 non-gender specific players are required for 8U advancement for state competition.
    - Participated on a team that is from an age validated program within TennisLink
    - A player must have played on the advancing team in at least two (2) team matches during its local USTA Junior Team Tennis season.
      - The results of the two matches must be recorded in TennisLink.
      - A **Default** match does **NOT** count toward a player's 2 match requirement.
      - A retired match shall count toward advancing for all players involved.
    - All local play history documentation must be entered within 48 hours of the last match of the season played (as scheduled in TennisLink) and before entry into any championships event.
    - All Championship team substitutions must be approved by the State Coordinator and all player and team eligibility requirements must be met.
      - If needed, each team can substitute **one (1) boy or one (1) girl** as long as they played in the **same** local league on another team at the same level, and have met the eligibility requirements.
      - A player who meets all of the local requirements to advance, but **cannot attend state championships**, can still play at the sectional/national level with their team.

- **Substitutes may NOT advance beyond the State Championships with the team if the team has 3 or more players of each gender from their original roster.**

- Locally, USTA Junior Team Tennis is a team competition in a specified geographical area that applies specific local team regulations and consists of divisions (combination of age and play level) with a minimum of two (2) or more teams per division. (See 1.04c in National rules and regulations which refers to the combination of an age category and play level.)
- For USTA Championship Junior Team Tennis, a team must have advanced from a division with a minimum of two teams from a division at the same age and play level as the championship division to which the team is advancing.
- 2 matches per player must be played locally and entered into TennisLink before July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 for it to count towards qualification for the state championships.
- All scores must be entered into TennisLink: Sunday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm EST.
- Registration closes for the 2018 Championships: Sunday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm EST.

### Ranking and Standing Points

- Tennessee Junior Team Tennis Championships will include points toward Tennessee and Southern rankings/standings.
  - Advanced players will receive Tennessee level 2 points and Southern level 4 points.
  - Intermediate players will receive Tennessee level 3 points and Southern level 5 points.
  - Mixed doubles results will not be entered.

### Tennessee Junior Team Tennis State Championships:

- **Registration:**
  - Team registration form and registration fees are due by July 15<sup>th</sup> @ 11:59pm EST.
  - Signed medical consent forms are due for all members of the team before the team's first championship match.
  - If 3 boys and girls from an advancing team cannot compete, **one (1) additional player** from other teams in the local league can be added. One (1) boy **or** one (1) girl may be added to compete on the team. Substitution players must meet requirements to advance.
    - Substitutions must be decided when team registers online.
- **Captain conference calls:**
  - There will be two mandatory conference calls prior to the State Championships:
    - Date and Time: TBD
- **Match Information:**
  - **Captains must turn in line-up card by match time.**
    - If line-up card is turned in after scheduled match time, the team will be penalized based on USTA rules.
    - Each team match will be assigned 2-4 courts.
    - When possible, courts will be together.
    - 3-4 cans of balls will be given for each team.
    - Order of play for all team matches is singles, doubles, mixed doubles unless agreed upon by both captains based on players doubling up.
    - Following a team match, both captains must sign the match card.

- Appeals – Captains have up to 30 minutes following a team match to file an appeal. If no appeal is filed within 30 minutes, the match is final.
- **Playing twice rule for Championships**
  - Only one girl and/or only one boy may participate in up to two (2) individual matches per team match.
  - Captains must submit a Playing Twice Form (Pink Slip) to the tournament desk to record players who are doubling up in a team match.
  - In Championship play, a team may use different individual players for every line in the team match (singles, doubles, and mixed doubles) OR may choose to play one boy and/or one girl twice, one of which must be in the mixed doubles position. A team may choose to play players twice regardless of the number of players on the roster; this option is not limited to teams with only 3 boys and/or 3 girls. Players who have played twice in a team competition may not play twice again until after three rounds of competition have been completed by their team. **The “playing twice” rotation resets after the team’s 3<sup>rd</sup> match in round robin play and resets for all playoff rounds (after each round).**
  - In no event may one player play in three individual matches.
- **Forfeited courts during championship play.**
  - Teams must forfeit singles position first
    - Example: If a team is short a boy, the boy’s singles must be defaulted. If a team is short a girl, then the girl’s singles must be defaulted. **A mixed doubles match MAY NOT be defaulted.**
  - When a team presents a scorecard reflecting a default, the opposing team will be notified and extended the opportunity of adjusting their line-up.
- **Scoring of retirements**
  - In case of a retirement, for the purpose of determining standings, the non-retiring player / doubles team shall be credited with such number of additional games as would have been won if the match was completed and the non-retiring player / doubles team won every subsequent game.
  - For Junior NTRP computer data entry in TennisLink, mark as retired and submit actual scores of match at the point of retirement.
- **Playing on more than one team**
  - A player can play on more than one team at the State Championships as long as they are in different team divisions (Age/Level)
  - There will be NO scheduling accommodations for players playing on more than one team.
  - If BOTH teams advance to sectionals, that player will then have to determine which team to advance with. You cannot play on more than one team at the Sectional or National level.
- **Match Format**
  - 8U:
    - 3 singles (mixed gender)
  - 10U, 12U, 14U, and 18U:
    - 1 Boys Singles, 1 Girls Singles, 1 Boys Doubles, 1 Girls Doubles, 1 Mixed Doubles.
- **Scoring:**
  - **8U Intermediate: Red Tennis Ball**
    - Best 2 out of 3 games to 7 points (win by 1 point)
    - First to 7 points wins the individual match
    - Team winner determined by total games (sets) won
    - Scores will be recorded as sets won 1-0, 1-0 **OR** 1-0, 0-1, 1-0



- **10U Intermediate: Orange Tennis Ball**
  - 2 out of 3 short sets; first to four (4) games; No-Ad Scoring
  - Service game played at 3-3.
  - 7 point tiebreak played for the 3<sup>rd</sup> set (Win by 1)
  - Winner determined by total games won
- **10U Advanced: Green Dot Tennis Ball**
  - 2 out of 3 short sets; first to four (4) games; No-Ad Scoring
  - Service game played at 3-3.
  - 7 point tiebreak played for the 3<sup>rd</sup> set (Win by 1)
  - Winner determined by total games won
- **12U Intermediate: Green Dot Ball**
  - 2 out of 3 short sets; first to 4 games; No-Ad Scoring
  - 7 point tiebreaker played at 3-3
  - 10 point tiebreaker played for the 3<sup>rd</sup> set (win by 2)
  - Winner determined by total games won.
- **12U Advanced, 14U (Intermediate & Advanced) and 18U (Intermediate & Advanced): Yellow Ball**
  - 2 out of 3 short sets; first to 4 games; No-Ad Scoring
  - 7 point tiebreaker played at 3-3.
  - 10 point tiebreaker played for the 3<sup>rd</sup> set (win by 2)
  - Winner determined by total games won
- **Coaching:**
  - Coaching is only permitted by the designated team coach from outside the fence and only on changeovers and set breaks.
  - Parents or other observers may not coach players.
- **Inclement Weather**
  - In play-off rounds, matches may be called due to inclement weather after all single gender matches are played and one team has mathematically won the match. If the winner of the team match is determined mathematically, the tournament staff may decide whether or not the mixed doubles match will be played or completed.
    - The tournament committee has the right to make changes to the scoring format based on inclement weather in an effort to complete the event during the Championship weekend.

#### Intermediate teams winning at Sectional Championships:

- Intermediate teams winning their division at the Southern Sectional Championships will be required to play Advanced in the following State Championship if 50% or more of the team stays together.

#### Suspensions:

- Any USTA Southern player who has been suspended under the USTA Southern Suspension Points regulation will be suspended from Championship play and local league play during the suspension period.

### **Advancement to Sectional Championships:**

- Winners of the Intermediate and Advanced Divisions of the State Championships in 10U, 12U, 14U, and 18U will advance to the USTA Southern Section JTT Championships.
- State League Coordinator must receive a confirmation accepting or declining the invitation.
- In the event that the first place team declines the trip, the runner up will be extended the invitation.
- Any Wildcards to the Southern Sectional JTT Championships will be offered to the next highest finishing teams.

### **Tie-Breaker Procedure Clarification for Tennessee:**

- When 2 or more teams conclude round robin play with the same number of “games won”, the tie shall be broken using the following steps in the order listed.
  - Winner of head-to-head match (by games won)
  - **Team wins (note: this will differ from the standings on TennisLink as TennisLink won’t show a tie between the teams who tied)**
  - Individual Match Wins (in all round robin matches)
  - Sets Won (in all round robin matches)
  - Percentage of games won during match of tied teams
  - Percentage of games won in round robin matches
  - Coin Flip

### **USTA Tennessee State Championships are held for the following divisions:**

- 8U Intermediate (regionally if possible)
- 10U Intermediate, 10U Advanced
- 12U Intermediate, 12U Advanced
- 14U Intermediate, 14U Advanced
- 18U Intermediate, 18U Advanced

### **Sectional Championships are held for the following divisions:**

- 10U Intermediate, 10U Advanced
- 12U Intermediate, 12U Advanced
- 14U Intermediate, 14U Advanced
- 18U Intermediate, 18U Advanced

### **National Championships are held for the following divisions:**

- 14U Intermediate, 14U Advanced
- 18U Intermediate, 18U Advanced

**For more information about Local League play or USTA Tennessee Championships, please contact:**

**USTA Tennessee Junior Team Tennis Coordinator: Tyler Strong**

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## USTA Junior Team Tennis Southern Section Regulations, 2018 Championship Year

USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS REGULATIONS 2018 CHAMPIONSHIP YEAR USTA Southern adopts the following rules to be in addition to the National Regulations Each addition below refers to the corresponding National Regulation.

1.04 B & 1.04D - USTA Southern Section Championships will also hold 10 & under and 12 & under age categories at Intermediate and Advanced play levels. An Advanced Low division for players impacted by the JNTRP implementation will be offered for the 12, 14, and 18s age divisions with the following division requirements. • Rating Range: 0-3.9. All players must fall in this range at the time of local registration. • Each State may determine the progression from local to championships • Each State will have at least one berth in Advanced Low • Teams may participate in only one division at any Championships • Teams will not advance beyond Section Championships • If a State does not have Advanced High in their Championships, one Advanced Low team may elect to play Advanced Low or High at the section championships

1.04F (3)c - Local Coordinators are responsible for monitoring score entries. Local programs must set a rule for failure to comply with score entry deadline regulations.

1.04H - USTA Southern Section Seasons will run between September 1 and August 31.

1.04I - Deadlines are determined and announced by the local program. However, all teams must be registered in TennisLink Team Tennis prior to the start of the teams' local play, and all players must be registered prior to playing a match.

1.05 - The Yellow Ball is used for the 12U Advanced, 14 U & 18U Intermediate and Advanced. The Stage (2) Orange ball is required for 10 and under Beginner and Intermediate play. The Stage (1) Green Ball will be used at the Section Championships for the 10U Advanced and 12U Intermediate divisions. Refer to the table below for ball & court size requirements.

**DIVISIONS, BALL TYPE, AND SCORING FORMATS (CHAMPIONSHIP)** Division Level Court Ball Racquet Scoring 10 & U Int 60" ORANGE Must be 25" or smaller Best 2 out of 3 short sets - no ad, first to 4 games. 3rd set is a 7-point tiebreak. (only have to win by 1 in set & tiebreak). 10 & U Adv 78" GREEN Best 2 out of 3 short sets - no ad, first to 4 games. 3rd set is a 7-point tiebreak. (only have to win by 1 in set & tiebreak). 12 & U Int 78" GREEN Best 2 out of 3 sets, short sets to 4 no ad scoring. A set tiebreaker is played at 3 all. A 10-point match tiebreak is played at one set all. 12 & U Adv 78" YELLOW Best 2 out of 3 sets, short sets to 4 no ad scoring. A set tiebreaker is played at 3 all. A 10-point match tiebreak is played at one set all. 14 & U Int 78" YELLOW Best 2 out of 3 sets, short sets to 6 no ad scoring. A set tiebreaker is played at 5 all. A 10-point match tiebreak is played at one set all. 14 & U Adv 78" YELLOW Best 2 out of 3 sets, short sets to 6 no ad scoring. A set tiebreaker is played at 5 all. A 10-point match tiebreak is played at one set all. 18 & U Int 78" YELLOW Best 2 out of 3 sets, short sets to 6 no ad scoring. A set tiebreaker is played at 5 all. A 10-point match tiebreak is played at one set all.

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18 & U Adv 78" YELLOW Best 2 out of 3 sets, short sets to 6 no ad scoring. A set tiebreaker is played at 5 all. A 10-point match tiebreak is played at one set all.

2.01A - Each State will establish the geographical area for each Local program. Any playoff structure should be announced prior to the beginning of a season by the Local program.

2.01B - This regulation does apply in USTA Southern for the 18U, 14U, 12U, and 10U Intermediate and Advanced. States will determine for all beginner age divisions and 8 & under age divisions.

2.01D (2) - Players with a 1-100 standing in the 10's who are playing in the 10's must play Advanced. If a 10U or 12U player has a junior NTRP rating of 3.5 or above the player must play Advanced. Standings are referring to results through July 31 date previous to the Championship year. Each State shall determine benchmarks for Beginners. Benchmark from other sections will apply to any players new to USTA Southern from another section.

2.02B (1) - Each State association shall hold a State USTA Junior Team Tennis League Championship for the 18 & under, 14 & under, 12 & under and 10 & under age categories to determine the State Champions. The winning teams in the 18 & under, 14 & under, 12 & under and 10 & under at the Intermediate and Advanced level shall be eligible to compete in the USTA Junior Team Tennis Section Championships. An Advanced Low division for players impacted by the JNTRP implementation will be offered for the 12, 14, and 18s age divisions with the following division requirements. • Rating Range: 0-3.9. All players must fall in this range at the time of local registration. • Each State may determine the progression from local to championships • Each State will have at least one berth in Advanced Low • Teams may participate in only one division at any Championships • Teams will not advance beyond Section Championships • If a State does not have Advanced High in their Championships, one Advanced Low team may elect to play Advanced Low or High at the section championships

The winning teams 18 & under and 14 & under at the Intermediate and Advanced High levels shall be eligible to compete in the USTA Junior Team Tennis National Championships. Wildcards may be drawn to fill a draw for the Section.

2.03G(2) - In Championship play, a team may use different individual players for every line in the team match (singles, doubles and mixed doubles) OR may choose to play one boy and/or one girl twice, in the mixed doubles position only. A team may choose to play players twice regardless of the number of players on the roster; this option is not limited to teams with only 3 boys and/or 3 girls. Players who have played twice in a team competition may not play twice again until after three rounds of competition have been completed by their team. The "playing twice" rotation begins anew in the fourth round of round robin play, and in the Playoff and Final flights.

**Ranking and Standings Points:** National and Southern Championships will include points toward Southern Rankings and Standings. National Championships Advanced will be Southern Level 2 and Intermediate will be Southern Level 3. Southern Championships Advanced will be Southern Level 2 and Intermediate will be Southern Level 3. If States choose to use the necessary programs to award points for State Championship the Advanced will be Southern Level 4 and Intermediate will be Southern Level 5. Scoring must meet the Southern requirements for Rankings and Standings. There are no standings for MXD.



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