



Summer 2016 USTA Junior Team Tennis Rules & Procedures

1. TENNISLINK

Captains must submit the background screening and receive approval BEFORE creating a team in TennisLink. This is a requirement through USTA National and the system will NOT allow you to create a team if you have not been approved through the background screening. Screenings are good for two years so if you are a returning captain and need to check your expiration date, click here: http://www.usta.com/About-USTA/background_screening_program_results/. You will be completely locked out of TennisLink if you don't renew before your expiration date. Visit www.usta.com/safeplay to complete the background screening. You will NOT be able to create a team until this is completed.

You must be approved before you can create a team in TennisLink and the screening approval can take up to 10 business days. If you are hoping to have a team play this winter and have not submitted your screening you should complete the screening ASAP. We cannot guarantee team entry if the screening is not submitted with enough time for clearance and team submission (by April 1st).

Registration for teams and players (with current USTA memberships) must be submitted online using the TennisLink program - <http://teamtennis.usta.com>.

Teams will be responsible for the accuracy of their information. **Once a player is added on TennisLink, there are no refunds, under any circumstances.** Please check all player eligibility requirements PRIOR to registering the player. Any questions or concerns should be addressed prior to registering on TennisLink.

2. BACKGROUND SCREENING

The USTA seeks to ensure the safety of all participants, and as such, the USTA has expanded and incorporated its criminal background screening policy into Safe Play as a legitimate business necessity to further its mission.

Criminal background screenings have been implemented by the USTA in order to:

- i. Ensure a safe, secure and fun environment for participants to compete and continue to develop and enhance their skills.
- ii. Provide parents and legal guardians with a sense of security for their children.
- iii. Prevent individuals with ill intentions from becoming involved with its programming.

Background screening is designed as a preventative measure. It is not a guarantee against incidents of inappropriate behavior or criminal activity. The USTA encourages parents and legal guardians to play an active role in their child's development, both on and off the court, to ensure their well-being.

You CAN NOT register a team in TennisLink until you have cleared this new screen. If you are a returning captain just remember the background screen will expire exactly two years from the date the screen was initiated so you may be clear to go on and register. You can complete the background screening here: www.usta.com/safeplay. Remember that the mandatory background screening must be submitted by April 1st in order to allow enough time for approval before the registration deadline. You must be approved before you can create a team in TennisLink. If you are hoping to have a team play this summer and have not submitted your screening you should complete the screening ASAP. We cannot guarantee team entry if the screening is submitted after April 1st.

3. AGE ELIGIBILITY

All players participating in the summer season must remain age eligible through August 31st of the Championship Year. *

*8U – REMAIN 8 OR YOUNGER THROUGH JULY 16 (end of summer season)

10U – BORN SEPTEMBER 2005 & YOUNGER

12U – BORN SEPTEMBER 2003 & YOUNGER

14U – BORN SEPTEMBER 2001 & YOUNGER

18U – BORN SEPTEMBER 1997 & YOUNGER

4. ABILITY LEVEL

Important to read before forming your team.

The USTA Jr. Team Tennis play levels are defined as Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced. Players cannot have a rating higher than the team tennis level at which they are playing. When leveling teams and creating divisions, we work with who has registered for the season. Teams may be placed in a higher level at the coordinators discretion, if this needs to occur to create a complete division, the team captain will be notified by a coordinator.

RULES REGARDING TOURNAMENT PLAYERS

Players with the following standings in any age group as of January 31, 2016 MUST enter at the Advanced Level (NTRP 3.5 & above):

USTA Southern Standings 10's (1-100) and 12's-18's (1-300)

*Players with a 10U standing in these ranges have the option to play 12U Intermediate as long as they do not have a 12U standing that meets the Advanced requirements.

Players with more than 150 points in any age group on the posted Georgia standing list as of the end of January 2016 may not play Beginner level (NTRP 2.0 and below). Point totals shall include both singles and doubles divisions from which points were acquired. Points earned due to defaults will not be considered and may be deducted if noted in writing to the State League Coordinator at time of Championship registration.

****A beginner is a child that has never played, up to a tournament player with 150 GA points****

If a player with a standing is not identified as such, the team may lose any points won by that player.

To search for tournament standings/points by player name you will need to go to: <https://tennislink.usta.com/tournaments/rankings/rankinghome.aspx>. Select Southern, 2016, select appropriate division, select All List Types, click "Find It" and go to the last standing list in January.

****Please Note:** If an age group does not have an advanced level, a ranked player/team may be placed in another age group. Teams with tournament players will be placed at a level deemed appropriate by the overall coordinators.

5. COURTS

Each team must guarantee use of at least two (2) courts at the same address and of the same surface. As a courtesy to your opponents, you should advise them in advance if using clay courts. Scheduling cannot accommodate any more than 2 teams per multiple of 2 courts. Example: 2 courts available, 2 teams permitted; 4 courts available, 4 teams permitted; 6 courts, 6 teams permitted, etc.

If you would like to update your JTT court availability, please email Amanda (Amanda@ustaatlanta.com) with the facility and number of courts available for Jr. Team Tennis by April 11th. This will help when scheduling numerous teams at a facility.

6. TEAMS/ PLAYING TWICE

Each roster must be submitted with a minimum of 8 players, 4 boys and 4 girls. *8U- 6 player minimum. One boy and one girl may play two positions per match (referred to as "playing twice"). **The same players may not play twice in more than two matches per season.** Abuse of this rule will result in a loss of points. Playing twice will not be permitted in the playoffs or City Finals. In order to avoid forfeits, at least five boys and five girls are recommended.

****PLAYING ON MULTIPLE TEAMS**** - Players may play on two junior USTA Atlanta rosters per season. Players that are on two rosters in the same season must play in two different age groups. In addition, both teams must be at or above the player's skill level. Players on multiple teams may only be on one team roster for playoffs.

7. ADD-ONS

A team can add any number of players throughout the season as long as it does not change the level of the team. A player may not be added to a team if that player's rating (skill level) is higher than the level of the team. Abuse of this rule may result in disqualification and loss of all points won by that player. Captains are responsible for the accuracy of the skill level of their added players.

Add-ons will be accepted up until the last regular season match. However, a player must have credit for two regular season matches to be eligible for playoffs.

Captains may contact their coordinator if they have any questions prior to adding a player.

8. INELIGIBLE PLAYER

Players MUST be registered on the team roster in TennisLink prior to match play. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in loss of points.

9. PLAY-OFF ELIGIBILITY

All players must have credit for two team matches (must be separate dates) during the season to be eligible for USTA Atlanta league Play-offs & City Finals. **A win by forfeit DOES NOT count towards a player's eligibility.** Playing twice is not permitted in the playoffs or City Finals.

10. TEAM CAPTAINS

Parent captains are required for all teams. Pros are permitted to be co-captains. In the presence of special circumstances, we will consider pros as captains and review each such situation on a case by case basis. Exceptions will be granted sparingly and only upon a showing of need. Please contact Amanda Hunt, the Director of JTT, at the USTA Atlanta office if you are a pro seeking to be sole captain of a team.

Team captains should work together to ensure a smooth, positive experience for all. Team captains listed on TennisLink must be accessible to all teams in the division and to the coordinator. Information on TennisLink must be accurate. Corrections to a captain's information can be made by sending an email that includes the captain's USTA # to memberservices@USTA.com or by calling 1-800-990-8782. Your job goes beyond your team. Team captains may be captain of one team only. **Background checks are mandatory for all team captains and co-captains.**

11. COORDINATORS

Each age group has an Overall Coordinator. Questions regarding leveling, add-ons, and scorecard corrections should be directed to Overall Coordinators. Only captains should contact the coordinator. Parents should direct their inquiries to the captain to be forwarded to the Overall Coordinator. If a conflict arises that cannot be resolved by the Team Captains within the rules, the Overall Coordinator should be contacted, but only after all efforts by Team Captains have failed. All official protests must be submitted by the Team Captain via email to the Overall Coordinator in writing with a copy to the USTA Atlanta Director of Junior Leagues within 5 days of the scheduled match being protested.

12. FORMAT/ORDER OF PLAY

One boy's singles, one girl's singles, one boy's doubles, one girls' doubles, and one mixed doubles. The season shall be a round robin or double round robin with each team playing every other team in its division. When players are playing twice, the order of play should be adjusted, in advance of match day, so that the affected positions are played first and last, whenever possible.

8U-4 lines of singles; these lines can be a combination of boy v. boy, girl v. girl, and girl v. boy. Be sure that your lineup is in order of playing strength.

13. SETTING UP A MATCH

As a courtesy, home Team Captains should contact visiting Team Captains at least 4 days prior to dual meet in order to discuss directions, order of play, etc. The home Team Captain should inform the visiting Team Captain of the type of court surface that will be used for the matches and number of courts available. Everyone is encouraged to work out any time or line-up conflicts that may arise during the season.

Teams are expected to play on the scheduled match days as "Team" tennis, but with the agreement of both captains, scheduled matches can always be played earlier than the scheduled date. However, if a match is scheduled to be played earlier, the Overall Coordinator must be notified. **You may only ask the opposing Team Captain once to play early. If their answer is no, the match must be played on the default day.**

Playing matches early should be the exception and not the rule. Matches may not be scheduled to play after the TennisLink scheduled date and time – NO EXCEPTIONS! If a captain is not available for a particular match or cannot stay for the duration of a match, a designated replacement, who has been informed of the rules and regulations, must be named. Replacements must have rules on hand. Extra copies are available on the USTA Atlanta website. If line-ups cannot be agreed upon, teams must play the positions in order as described in Item #12 Format/Order of Play.

14. TEAM FORFEITS

Teams are encouraged to work together to avoid position defaults for a dual match. If a team defaults an entire match during the season, it will have all matches to date nullified and will be treated as a bye for the remainder of the season. A team that forfeits an entire match or a team that has excessive defaults (an average of more than one default per match) will be withdrawn from the current season. Players may not register to another team in the same age group. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in disqualification.

15. SCHEDULE CONFLICTS

We are aware of the overlap of USTA Jr. Team Tennis and USTA Business Women's leagues in the winter as well as ALTA Mixed Doubles on the default day in the winter or school conflicts in the summer. In the event of a scheduling conflict during the overlap with either league, the options are as follows:

1. The visiting team has the option of offering courts at their facility
2. The match may be played earlier in the week.
3. If no time can be agreed upon, the match must be played on the home team's courts on the first available court at the completion of the other leagues' matches.
4. With a VERIFIABLE school conflict during the summer season, teams are allowed two weeks after the scheduled match date to complete all lines of play for the SUMMER SEASON ONLY.

5. If the conflict is not due to school conflict in the summer season, the match **MUST** be played early. You may not play after the scheduled match date.

DEFAULT INFO: IF YOU HAVE TO PLAY A MATCH AFTER THE COMPLETION OF ANOTHER LEAGUE MATCH, THE DEFAULT RULE ONLY APPLIES 15 MINUTES AFTER THE COURT BECOMES AVAILABLE, NOT NECESSARILY FROM THE MATCH START TIME. WE URGE EVERYONE TO BE FLEXIBLE. IF CONFLICTS CANNOT BE WORKED OUT ACCORDING TO THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATIONS, CALL YOUR OVERALL COORDINATOR.

16. TEAM LINE-UPS

Team Captains must exchange scorecards with complete line-ups simultaneously prior to starting play (See Rule 19). Once the scorecards have been exchanged, changes to the lineups cannot be made except as follows: (1) if a player becomes ill or injured before his/her individual match is played, another player may be substituted; (2) if a player does not arrive in time to play their individual match, another player may be substituted; or (3) the match is postponed due to inclement weather (see Rule 36). Players removed from the lineup due to (1) or (2) above cannot be reinserted in the match. A substitution is defined as a player not scheduled in the lineup or a player in the lineup that is eligible to play two positions (See Rule 6 regarding playing twice).

17. REGULAR SEASON SCORING

8U- 2 out of 3 games, games are played the first to 7 points. At 6-6, one more point is played to end the game with a score of 7-6. Game scoring is as follows: Player one will serve one point from the deuce side of the court and then one point from the ad side of the court. Player two will then serve one point from the deuce side of the court and then one point from the ad side of the court. This will continue until one team reaches seven (7) points. Teams switch ends after each game and next team starts serve. **To enter the scores for an 8U match in TennisLink, please be sure to enter the 3rd set score as 1-0 Result: Timed Match.** 8U Division Winners are determined by the most individual match points won during the regular season.

10U- 2 out of 3 sets; the first to win four games wins a set. If one player wins the first two sets, he or she wins the match. If the players split the first two sets, the third set is a 7 point tiebreak (first to 7 and do not have to win by 2).

12U & 14U- 2 out of 3 sets; each set is to 4 games. Set tiebreakers (first to 7, win by 2) to be played at 3-3. If the players split the first two sets, the third set is a match tiebreak (first to 10, win by 2).

18U- 2 out of 3 sets with the 3rd set being a super tiebreaker (first team to score 10 points by a 2 point margin.). The maximum number of points for the overall match is 5.

10U, 12U and 14U Division Winners are determined by most games won during the regular season. 18U and 8U Division Winners are determined by the most individual match points won during the regular season.

18. AD AND NO AD SCORING

AD (REGULAR) SCORING TO BE USED BY 12&U, 14&U AND 18 & UNDER AGE GROUPS

If a player wins the first point, the score is called 15 for that player; on winning the second point, the score is called 30 for that player; on winning the third point, the score is called 40 for that player, and the fourth point won by a player is scored game for that player except as below:

If both players have won three points, the score is called deuce; and the next point won by a player is called advantage for that player. If the same player wins the next point, he wins the game; if the other player wins the next point the score is again called deuce; and so on, until a player wins the two points immediately following the score at deuce, when the game is scored for that player.

*NO-AD SCORING TO BE USED BY 10 & UNDER AGE GROUP ONLY ** *(*and to be used by **all** age groups at Playoffs and City Finals)*

The first team or player to win 4 points wins the game. If the score reaches 3 POINTS ALL, the 7th (or next) point becomes the GAME POINT. In singles, the receiver may choose to receive either in the ad or deuce court*. In doubles the receiving team may choose to receive in either the ad or deuce court.* In mixed doubles, the boy must receive serve from the boy and the girl must receive serve from the girl.* In calling the score of a no-ad game, players may either use 1, 2, 3, and game or 15, 30, 40 and game. They may call a score of 3-all deuce. *Both players on the receiving team must remain on the same receiving side they played during the match.

19. SCORECARDS

Prior to the match, print the scorecard from TennisLink to exchange the lineup before matches begin. Captains should keep possession of their scorecard during the match. After the match, compare cards with the other team captain. Both captains should record names of players from both teams and all scores and sign both scorecards. A captain's signature on a scorecard represents the captain's agreement that the information contained therein is true and accurate. For 10U, 12U and 14U total number of games won will be counted for both teams. For 8U and 18U total individual matches won will be counted for both teams. Scores must be entered within 24 hours of the conclusion of the match by the team that wins the dual match. Scores must be confirmed within 5 days of the match by the team that does not win the dual match. If scores are not entered within 24 hours by the winning team then either team may enter the scores. If scores are not entered within 48 hours, match may be posted as a double default. Captains shall keep their scorecards in their possession for the duration of the match, and then retain copies of completed scorecards for the entire JTT season.

20. TIE-BREAK

In 12U and 14U, if a set reaches 3-3, players must play a set tie-break. The order of serving continues in the same rotation. The first team to reach 7 points wins the set, provided there is a margin of two points over the opponent(s). If necessary, the tiebreak game shall continue until this margin is achieved.

In 18U, playing the best of three sets, a set tie-break is played at 6-all in the first two sets. If teams split sets, a match tiebreaker is played in lieu of a third set. The first team to reach 10 points wins the set and match, provided there is a margin of two points over the opponent(s). If necessary, the tiebreak game shall continue until this margin is achieved.

In doubles, the first server shall serve one point from the right (deuce) side. The second server shall serve two points, starting from the left (ad) side and ending on the right side. The third server shall serve two points, starting on the left and ending on the right side. The fourth server shall serve one point from the left side and then players change ends of the courts. The fourth server shall then serve one point from the right side. Play continues in such a manner until one team wins at least seven points with a two point margin. Teams change ends of the court every six (6) points.

In singles, the first server shall serve one point from the right side. The second server shall serve two points, starting on the left side and ending on the right side. The players continue to alternate serving two points each, until one wins a minimum of seven points with a two point margin. Players change ends of the court every six (6) points

21. USTA RULES GOVERN PLAY

"The Code", as a handbook of ethics and fair play, should be understood and followed by every Captain and Player. "The Code" should be available for consultation along with league rules at all dual meets. The code can be found at <https://assets-ssl.usta.com/assets/1/15/2015fac-links.5.pdf>.

22. MATCH TIMES - DEFAULTS

Summer: Matches are played Saturdays at 1:00 PM.

The 15-minute default rule is in effect for all scheduled matches.

Match Time Default Time

1st time slot 1:00pm 1:15pm

2nd time slot 2:00pm 2:15pm

3rd time slot 2:30pm 2:45pm

Please be as lenient as possible, within reason, about defaults. DEFAULTS MAY ONLY BE CALLED IF A COURT IS AVAILABLE AND READY FOR PLAY.

23. BALLS & RACQUETS

A. Balls

The HOME TEAM will provide the balls for the match.

12U ADV, 14U and 18U-YELLOW BALL- You will need a total of 1 can per court. Balls are re-used for subsequent matches on the same court. Home team will also keep the balls at the conclusion of the match.

12U BEG and INT-GREEN DOT BALL- There should be 3 green dot balls per court and home team keeps the balls at the conclusion of the match. These are low compression balls and may be REUSED for multiple matches. We understand there are several manufacturers that sell the green dot ball.

10U-ORANGE BALL- There should be 3 orange balls per court, and home team keeps the balls at the conclusion of the match. These are low compression balls and may be REUSED for multiple matches.

8U-RED FELT BALL-There should be 3 red balls per court, and home team keeps the balls at the conclusion of the match. These are low compression balls and may be REUSED for multiple matches. FOAM BALLS MAY NOT BE USED FOR MATCH PLAY.

B. Racquet Requirements-

8U- Players must use a 21" or 23" racquet

10U-Players must use a 23" or 25" racquet.

*If a player does not have a proper size racquet, a racquet may be borrowed for the match.

24. WARM-UP

Warm up is limited to 10 minutes including practice serves.

25. COACHING

Coaching during a match is illegal! Captains, teammates, spectators, or coaches may not volunteer advice on line calls or scoring. Excessive cheering or clapping is not permitted. It is the responsibility of both Team Captains to work together as a team to control the spectators' conduct during match play. Parents and or Monitors may not be on the court. (See the Monitoring Guidelines). For 8U and 10U BEGINNER matches ONLY-if a player or both players request assistance with scoring, tie break etc. the captain, or their designee, from both teams may approach the court and assist with a specific question. Captains may not assist with their own child's match.

26. COURT MONITORING GUIDELINES for 8U and 10U BEGINNER MATCHES

Monitoring 8U and 10U beginner matches is in an effort to insure that our new players starting their tennis experience learn the game and the sport of tennis correctly. Monitors may be used if requested by one or both of the players and only at the beginner level. If the players are having a problem with scoring, tie break or any element of the sport of tennis, captains, or their designee, from both teams may approach the court and assist in resolving a specific problem the player or players are having. A captain may not assist with their own child's match. Captains may not sit on the court and may not give strategy advice to the players. Monitors may not be used at the INT and ADV levels.

27. SPECTATOR RULES AND GUIDELINES

One of the goals of USTA Jr. Team Tennis is to allow the players a competitive setting without the pressures of spectator interference. Thousands of children participate in our league, and the purpose of the USTA JTT local league is to encourage teamwork and sportsmanship on and off the court. Clapping for good shots is allowed provided spectators clap for both teams' good shots. Cheering can get out of control, often intimidating children on the court. Cheering can also disrupt other matches in progress. Cheering can also cause conflict between opposing teams. For these reasons, cheering of any type will not be allowed throughout the league.

Remember, our concern is the wellbeing of every junior participating in this league. We want all teams that play to have a good experience each week.

Examples:

1. Player hits a double fault - no clapping.
2. Player hits a ball 2 feet out on a deuce point - no clapping.
3. Player whiffs a serve - no clapping.
4. Player hits ball into the net – no clapping.
5. Player hits an overhead for a winner - clapping by both teams.
6. Players have a long rally - clapping by both teams.
7. Match has finished play - clapping by both teams.
8. Spectators should use common sense. Think how your child would feel in a situation before subjecting another child to unfairness.

Remember, these teams are all champions already. Even though the score may not reflect it, every child is a winner. Let them play the matches on the courts. Let's all help the players have a wonderful experience so they continue to play tennis in the future.

28. SPORTSMANSHIP

All players and parents should conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner both on and off the court.

Please see USTA Atlanta Jr. Team Tennis Parent Code of Conduct -

<http://assets.usta.com/assets/534/15/Consent-Waiver-Parent%20Conduct.pdf>. Any complaints with regard to inappropriate behavior at a match should be filed by the captain. A formal Grievance form can be found at ustaatlanta.com>Juniors>Captain's Corner>Grievance Form and emailed to chris@ustaatlanta.com within five (5) days of the incident. Both team captains involved will be contacted upon receipt of the form, and letter will be submitted to the local grievance committee. The incident will be reviewed and will result in formal action taken by the Grievance Committee. Repeated grievances filed against a specific team, captain or player may result in suspension from the league.

29. HOME COURTS

If for any unforeseen circumstance, including frozen clay courts during the winter season, the home team is unable to provide its home courts for any scheduled dual meet during the regular season, the visiting team may provide its home courts. The host team is considered the home team. If the visiting team does not elect to provide its home courts, the responsibility reverts to the home team which must provide courts within the approved league area at the scheduled time.

30. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Alcoholic beverages are not to be consumed at a junior match.

31. REFRESHMENTS

The home team is responsible for furnishing water. It is optional for the home team to furnish additional refreshments. Please do not expect refreshments at away matches.

32. AWARDS

At the conclusion of the season, the team winning the most games (10U, 12U and 14U) or individual matches won (8U and 18U) will be declared the Division winner. Division winners will receive bag tags and will be eligible to participate in the playoffs.

33. PLAYOFFS

Playoffs are held at the end of each season with the top teams competing against each other. The number of teams that go to the playoffs will depend on the number of divisions in that level. All playoff rounds are single elimination. Playing twice is not allowed in the playoffs.

A. Levels with one division will not participate in playoffs/City Finals.

B. Divisions of two will take the first and second place teams to one round of playoffs followed by City Finals.

C. Divisions of three will take all first and the top second place team with the highest winning percentage for one round of playoffs followed by City Finals.

D. In divisions of four, all first and second place teams will play two rounds of playoffs, followed by City Finals.

E. Divisions of five will take five first place teams and the top three second place teams for two rounds of playoffs followed by City Finals.

F. Divisions of six will take six first place teams and the top two second place teams for two rounds of playoffs followed by City Finals.

G. Divisions of seven will take seven first place teams and the highest scoring second place team for two rounds of playoffs followed by City Finals.

H. Divisions of eight will take eight first place teams for two rounds of playoffs followed by City Finals.

Coordinators will assist with the scheduling of playoff matches. No-ad scoring will be used for the playoffs and city finals in all age divisions. There will be no "playing twice" in playoffs. The official order of play for the playoffs/City Finals will be Girls Doubles, Boys Doubles, Mixed Doubles, Girls Singles, and Boys Singles. In the event of a weekday evening playoff match, coordinators may adjust the start times if the situation warrants.

Teams must participate in playoffs (if applicable) to be eligible for the State Tournament.

*Captains should notify their coordinator if their team is unable to participate in playoffs. Teams that withdraw after playoff draws are complete will be ineligible to compete as a team for the next upcoming season i.e. winter or summer. (A team is defined as 4 or more returning players).

34. CITY FINALS

After completing playoffs, the top two teams in each level will play in the City Finals. Playing twice is not allowed in the City Finals. NO AD SCORING WILL BE USED FOR ALL AGE GROUPS AT CITY FINALS. The official order of play for the playoffs/City Finals will be Girls Doubles, Boys Doubles, Mixed Doubles, Girls Singles, and Boys Singles. Winners and Finalists will receive bag tags. **City Finals matches may not be played early.**

35. PENALTIES, FORFEITURES & DEFAULTS

A. In all dual meets in which an ineligible player participates, the team will be penalized by forfeiting the points earned by an ineligible player. The opposing player will be awarded the win.

B. Penalties and violations in those situations where no penalty is provided by the general rules: THE RESPECTIVE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE SHALL HAVE THE AUTHORITY AND DISCRETION TO IMPOSE APPROPRIATE PENALTIES.

C. Teams are encouraged to work together to avoid position defaults for a dual match. If a team defaults an entire match during the season, it may have all matches to date nullified and may be treated as a bye for the remainder of the season. A team that forfeits an entire match or a team that has excessive defaults (an average of more than one default per match) may be withdrawn from the current season and suspended the following season.

D. If a team withdraws after schedules have been completed a grievance will automatically be filed with the grievance committee and may be suspended the following season.

E. Players not registered online before playing a match are subject to the default of all points earned for that individual match.

36. INCLEMENT WEATHER/ RAIN-OUT RULES

A. RAIN

In the event of rain during a match, completed individual matches will stand as played. Incomplete matches must be resumed by the same players at the exact game and point as they stood when play was halted. Lineups for matches not started (including any position previously to be defaulted) may be changed provided it does not conflict with the eligible player rules. Forfeits stand if the rain begins after the scheduled time of the forfeited match. Matches must be completed in accordance with the Rain-Out Rules. Teams must wait at least 30 minutes before calling the match. If, at the end of 30 minutes, the courts are still not playable, the match is officially null and void. Captains may mutually decide to continue waiting; however, the rainout rules are officially in effect and defaults will not be called on matches started after the 30 minute waiting period has ended.

In the event a Saturday match is cancelled due to rain, teams have 7 days to make up the regularly scheduled match. If no day can be agreed upon, the match must be played on the 8th day. The 8th day is Sunday at 5:00pm. If it rains on the 8th day, the match must be made up the next day there is no rain.

In the event that the second to last or last regular season match is cancelled due to rain, the default day/time is Sunday at 1:00 PM. If it rains on this day, the match must be made up the next day there is no rain.

B. TEMPERATURE

Teams are not obligated to play a match when the temperature is BELOW 32 degrees or ABOVE 95 degrees based on www.weather.com. If teams decide to play at that time, it must be the decision of both captains. Use Rain-Out Rules to reschedule the match. There are no provisions for extreme wind. Wind chill may not be a factor in rescheduling a match. Captains cannot agree to reschedule if the temperature is at or above 32 degrees. Once the match has begun, it cannot be called because of extreme cold. If any player decides that he or she cannot continue, the match will be retired.

Additional hints for handling beginner teams:

De-emphasize winning. The children are learning the game and should not feel pressure to win.

Consider the first season strictly a learning experience.

Praise and encourage, even for minor accomplishments.

Teach children how to warm up.

Most importantly, encourage good sportsmanship.