

Junior Team Tennis Player & Spectator Conduct Guide

Welcome to the Junior Team Tennis Community! Beyond being fun and a great form of exercise, USTA Junior Team Tennis is a competitive, level-based match play league that promotes individual growth, social development and life skills.

JTT Goal: To put junior players in a competitive setting without the pressure some feel at tournament play. With Team Managers allowed on court to assist players as needed, players learn to play and manage tennis matches in a friendly, encouraging environment. By playing together as a team, players learn about unity, sportsmanship and how to work together to achieve success.

League Rules/Code of Conduct: To make JTT matches fair for all, USTA asks all players, spectators, and Team Managers to follow the USTA JTT rules, including the JTT Code of Conduct. The complete code of conduct for players and spectators is available here and should be read and followed by all.

All JTT matches are un-officiated. Just like at a tournament, players are expected to manage their matches themselves, make their own calls, and enforce the rules and etiquette of play. Questions and mistakes come up during matches, especially as the players are learning. Below are the the most common issues and how to address them:

Serving/Ball Management:

- Servers should always stand completely behind the service line while serving the ball.
- In doubles, receivers must receive from the same position (deuce side or ad side) for the entire set.
- Players should wear clothes with pockets or skorts where extra balls can be stored securely during play.
- When serving, a player should have 2 balls - one to serve and another in their pocket; the returner should keep the third ball in their pocket.
- Players should help each other quickly reset the balls after each point to reduce time spent trying to find a ball to serve; if a ball rolls far away from the court play may continue with 2 balls until the game has ended.

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Calling the Score:

- All matches (except 8U red ball) use the Love-15-30-40-Game scoring format.
- The score should be called loudly by the server before each point.
- The server will call his/her side's score first.
- If there is a disagreement or question about the score, that should be addressed immediately before the serve starts by the opposing players or the Team Manager.
- Spectators should never intervene on the score nor should players ask a spectator what the score is; if the server is unsure they may ask their partner, the opponent, or the Team Manager what the score is.
- Every player on the court should know what the score is and has a right to question the server's score call. If there is a disagreement among the players, players should work together to recall the previous points played to arrive at the correct score; Team Managers may help players arrive at the correct score.

Line Calls:

- The only person who may call a ball "in" or "out" is the player(s) on the side of the court where the ball bounces.
- No one else, including spectators and Team Managers, may call a ball in or out.
- Players may not ask for help to determine whether a ball is in or out. If they are unsure, then the ball is in. You must give your opponent(s) the benefit of the doubt.
- If a Team Manager observes a mistaken call, they can remind the player what the rules are and give them the opportunity to correct their mistake.
- Balls must bounce on the ground before being called out.
- Balls are in if they touch any part of the in-bounds line.
- Out balls must be called immediately, otherwise play continues.
- If a ball touches a racquet while the racquet is out of bounds, the ball is in and play must continue.

Spectator Conduct:

- Respectful cheering of good play from all players is encouraged!
- Please do not applaud for a player's mistake - that is considered poor etiquette.
- Cheering/clapping should wait until the point has ended.
- No spectator (not even a player's parent or instructor) may coach during the match.
- As hard as it can be, spectators under no circumstances may provide help to any player regarding tennis rules, score, line calls, double bounces, etc.
- Spectators can discuss any issues they observe during the match with a player after the match has finished and are encouraged to review the rules before play begins.

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Enforcing the Guidelines:

- Team Managers are encouraged to remind all spectators about the player/spectator guidelines before the match begins and enforce them during the match.
- Spectators may talk to their Team Manager at a changeover if they have concerns about another player's conduct during the match.
- Team Managers and/or parents may contact the Local League Coordinator with any issues or concerns that arise during a match.

Thank you for being part of the Junior Team Tennis community! Players, parents and team managers should contact their JTT Local League Coordinator with any questions, concerns or feedback about their JTT League.