



USTA Tennessee Junior Team Tennis Rules and Regulations 2017 Championship Year

USTA Junior Team Tennis is a team 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 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 Tennis Link. Local rules must have an educational section in reference to heat and hydration.
- All Coordinators, Coach/Captains, and Co-Captains registered in Tennis Link must adhere to the USTA Tennessee Youth Safety Policy, which includes completing & passing 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
- All local league Coordinators, Captains and Players must complete the USTA TN Youth Sports Concussion Policy annually.
- League programs must hold a captain/coach meeting/training prior to the start of the league season.
- Local leagues must appoint a Grievance Committee and Appeals Committee as outlined in the National Regulations (3.01 Committees) and submit names of those individuals to USTA Tennessee prior to 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 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.

Competition Format

- Local Coordinators may use the format which best meets the needs of the local program
 - All teams in a USTA 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 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 one girl's singles, one boys' and one girls' doubles and one mixed doubles.
- 8U local/state divisions must play with the red ball and use proper Junior Team Tennis parameters.
- All local/state 10U intermediate 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 Tennis Link, 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 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 with a rating of 3.5 and above must play at the Advanced Level.
 - Players with a 1-100 standing in the 10's who are playing in the 10's must play Advanced. Standings are referring to results through July 31 date previous to the Championship year.
 - If a 10U or 12U player has a junior NTRP rating of 3.5 or above the player must play Advanced
 - Local leagues shall determine the rating band for Beginner divisions
 - 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 [here](#).

Requirements to Advance to Tennessee State Championships:

- **Advancement:**
 - Any Junior Team Tennis team may advance to the Tennessee State Championship 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.
 - Any age eligible team that is entered into tennis link, and meets the following requirements can advance to the USTA TN State Championships:
 - In all championships after local competition, the following shall apply: A player is eligible to progress to championship level competition, including National Championships, if that player has met all the following conditions:
 - Participated on a team that is from an age validated program within [Tennis Link](#) Team Tennis.
 - 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.
 - Played on the advancing team in at least two (2) team matches during its local USTA Jr. Team Tennis season.
 - A Default match does **NOT** count toward a player's 2 matches.
 - The results of the two matches must be recorded in Tennis Link Team Tennis. 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 Tennis Link Team Tennis) 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 boy OR one girl as long as they played in the local league on another team at the same level, and meet the eligibility requirements.
 - Substitutes may not advance beyond the State Championships with the team if the team has 3 or more players of each gender from the 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 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 National Championship Junior Team Tennis a team must have advanced from a division with a minimum of two teams and 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 tennis link before July 15th, 2016 for it to count towards qualification for state championships.
 - All scores must be entered into Tennis Link: Friday, July 15th at 11:59pm eastern
 - Registration closes for 2016 Championships: Friday, July 15th at 11:59pm eastern

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 due by Friday, July 15th @ 11:59pm eastern
 - Signed medical consent forms are due for all members of the team before the team's first championship match.
 - If 3 boys and 3 girls from an advancing team cannot compete, one additional player from other teams in the local league can be added. 1 boy or 1 girl may be added to complete on the team. Substitution players must meet requirements to advance.
 - Substitutions must be decided when team registers online.
- **Pool Play**
 - Teams will be separated into multiple flights when applicable. The following factors will be considered when separating teams during the draw process: 1) 1st and 2nd place finishers from the same local league, 2) teams from the same local league/area, 3) Remaining teams at random.
 - Teams will be guaranteed three team matches
- **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 lineup 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 match.
 - 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 individual matches per team match.
 - Captains must submit a Playing Twice Form 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 team's 3rd match in round robin play & 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 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 will 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:**
 - 10, 12, 14 & 18 & Under:
 - 1 Boys Singles, 1 Girls Singles, 1 Boys Doubles, 1 Girls Doubles, 1 Mixed Doubles
- **Scoring:**
 - **10 & Under Intermediate: Orange Ball**
 - 2 out of 3 short sets; first to 4 games; No-Ad Scoring
 - Service game played at 3-3
 - 7 point tiebreak played for 3rd set (win by 1 point)
 - **10 & Under Advanced: Green Dot Ball**
 - 2 out of 3 short sets; first to 4 games; No-Ad Scoring
 - Service game played at 3-3.
 - 7 point tiebreak played for 3rd set (win by 1 point)
 - Winner determined by total games won
 - **12 & Under Intermediate: Green Dot Ball**
 - 2 out of 3 short sets; first to 4 games; No-Ad Scoring
 - Tiebreak to 7 played at 3-3.
 - 10 point tiebreak played for 3rd set (win by 2)
 - Winner determined by total games won
 - **12U Advanced, 14 (Intermediate & Advanced) and 18 (Intermediate & Advanced): Regular Yellow Ball**
 - 2 out of 3 short sets; first to 4 games; No-Ad Scoring
 - Tiebreak to 7 played at 3-3 (win by 2)
 - 10 point tiebreak played for 3rd 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 scoring format based on inclement weather in effort to complete the event during the championship weekend.

Intermediate teams winning at Sectional Championships:

- Intermediate teams winning their division at the Southern Section 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 State Championships 10U, 12U, 14U, and 18U will advance to the USTA Southern Section JTT Championship.
- 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 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:

10 & Under Intermediate, 10 & Under Advanced
12 & Under Intermediate, 12 & Under Advanced
14 & Under Intermediate, 14 & Under Advanced
18 & Under Intermediate, 18 & Under Advanced

Sectional Championships are held for the following divisions:

10 & Under Intermediate, 10 & Under Advanced
12 & Under Intermediate, 12 & Under Advanced
14 & Under Intermediate, 14 & Under Advanced
18 & Under Intermediate, 18 & Under Advanced

National Championships are held for the following divisions:

14 & Under Intermediate, 14 & Under Advanced
18 & Under Intermediate, 18 & Under Advanced

For more information about Local League play or USTA TN Championships please contact:

Your USTA TN Junior Team Tennis Coordinator or the USTA Tennessee office

615-953-1694 • 1029 17th Ave. S., Nashville, TN 37212