



**SOUTHERN
TENNESSEE**

USTA Tennessee Junior Team Tennis Rules and Regulations 2019 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.

This document includes USTA Tennessee Rules & Regulations as well as highlighted [National Regulations](#) and [Southern Section Additions](#) that are most relevant to local play and the state championship event. Highlighted National and Section regulations will be indicated with “(USTA)” and “(Southern)” in this document. A State rule may not contradict any National or Sectional rule.

- A.** Discrimination in USTA Junior Team Tennis is prohibited. Participation in any and all JTT leagues may not discriminate a player or coach based on race, creed, gender, economic status, sexual orientation, or physical ability. (USTA 1.03E)

B. Participation in Junior Team Tennis

a. Coordinator

- i. Shall be in compliance with the USTA Youth Protection Policies & Procedures, including background screening and safety education. More information available at www.usta.com/safeplay (USTA 1.06)
- ii. Collect and store Concussion and Head Injury Forms from Coach/Captain and Player/Parent/Guardians.
- iii. Collect and store Sudden Cardiac Arrest Forms from Coach/Captain and Player/Parent/Guardians.

b. Coach/Captain (including co-coach, co-captain, team manager, etc.)

- i. Shall be in compliance with the USTA Youth Protection Policies and Procedures, including background screening and safety education. More information available at www.usta.com/safeplay (USTA 1.06)
- ii. Coach/Captain must sign the USTA Tennessee Concussion and Head Injury Coach Form annually per State Law and turn in to League Coordinator.
- iii. Coach/Captain must sign the USTA Tennessee Sudden Cardiac Arrest Coach Form annually per State Law and turn in to League Coordinator.

c. Player

- i. Age eligibility is determined based on the player age on August 31st of the current calendar year for all National Championship JTT programs and other non-advancing programs that require

age validation. (USTA 2.01C)

- ii. A player suspended from USTA tournament play will also be suspended from all levels of JTT for the duration of the suspension. (USTA 1.04J(6))
- iii. Player and parent/guardian must sign the USTA Tennessee Concussion and Head Injury Form annually per State Law and turn in to Coach or League Coordinator.
- iv. Player and parent/guardian must sign the USTA Tennessee Sudden Cardiac Arrest Form annually per State Law and turn in to Coach or League Coordinator.

C. Local Play Regulations

- a. Local regulations may not contradict any National, Sectional, or State regulation. (USTA 1.02)
- b. The Local League Coordinator must submit rules and regulations to USTA Tennessee for approval. The program will not be approved in TennisLink until the local regulations are received and approved.
- c. **Local League Regulations shall include the following:**
 - i. State that all players must be USTA Members in good standing through the local season unless league is pre-approved as a non-advancing, non-member league.
 - ii. Appoint at least 3 people to the Local League Grievance Committee and Local League Grievance Appeals Committee. No person can be a member of both committees. (USTA 3.01). The names of committee members appointed shall be included in local regulations submitted to USTA Tennessee.
 - iii. Date, time, and location of a captain/coach meeting/training prior to the start of the league season.
 - iv. Not create additional rules and procedures that are inconsistent with USTA, USTA Southern and USTA Tennessee.
 - v. Adopt a non-discrimination policy that ensures participation for all players regardless of race, creed, gender, economic status, sexual orientation, and physical ability. See A in this document or USTA 1.03 for an example.
 - vi. Determine if the league is National Championship JTT or local non-advancing JTT. Only teams from National Championship JTT programs may advance to the state championship.
 - vii. Determine player play level (USTA 1.04)
 - 1. Junior NTRP Ratings must be used for National Championship JTT (USTA 1.04)
 - 2. A player's JR NTRP Rating is locked in based on rating at time of registration (USTA 1.04E)
 - 3. A player rated 3.5 & above must play Advanced (USTA 1.04B)
 - 4. Any player playing Adult league and rated 3.5 or above must play in the advanced division in National Championship JTT leagues and championship events.
 - 5. A player without a Junior NTRP Rating on file shall self-

- rate in accordance with the process available when registering for their team in TennisLink.
6. A player in the 10U division ranked 1-100 in the Southern Standings as of July 31 of the previous championship year must play 10U Advanced. This does not apply if the player plays in an older age division (USTA 2.01D(2) & Southern)
 7. If offering a beginner league, determine the rating maximum for players in the league. No rating maximum is allowable.
 8. For additional information, visit www.usta.com/juniorratings
- viii. Determine if there is any geographic boundary for the league.
1. In nearly all cases, a JTT league will allow any player to participate in the league. Exceptions may be a local non-advancing JTT league that is a school-based league or club-based league.
- ix. Determine league divisions to be offered and ball requirements:
1. Age divisions – 8u, 10u, 12u, 14u, 18u (USTA 1.04A & Southern)
 2. Skill Level – Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced (USTA 1.04C & Southern)
 - a. See “E” regarding Advanced Division play.
 3. Required play formats:
 - a. 8U division must play with the red ball
 - b. 10U Intermediate divisions must play with the orange ball.
 - c. 10U Beginner divisions may use the red ball or orange ball as determined by the Local League.
 - d. 12U Beginner and Intermediate divisions must play with the green dot ball.
- x. Team and Player Registration
1. The team must be registered in TennisLink by the date set by the Local Coordinator to be included in the schedule. Local Coordinators may require a minimum number of players to be registered to include the team in the schedule.
 2. A player must be registered in TennisLink before playing in a team match. If a player competes in a league match, the court shall be forfeited and listed as a default.
- xi. Determine how league will be played in regards to schedule
1. For National Championship JTT, all teams are required to play a minimum of 3 team matches over a period of at least 3 days (USTA 2.01E)
 2. Options include round robin and round robin with playoffs.
 3. If using playoff format, include details of plans in regulations (USTA 2.01A)

4. Local competition must be concluded prior to the deadline for the State Championship (USTA 2.01K)
 5. Set regulation(s) regarding rescheduling matches, such as who can reschedule a match, for what reasons, who needs to be informed, etc.
- xii. State that all teams in National Championship JTT program must have a minimum of 3 eligible boys and 3 eligible girls per team registered (USTA 2.01B)
 - xiii. Determine a match format for team matches (USTA 2.01E(1))
 1. In National Championship JTT, play shall be gender specific.
 2. Recommended format is one boy's and one girl's singles, one boys' and one girls' doubles, and one mixed doubles
 - xiv. Determine scoring format (USTA 2.01E(3))
 1. Select which scoring format available in TennisLink Team Tennis best meets the needs of the program. Recommended scoring format for National Championship JTT leagues is the format used for the state championship (see page F.e.i.)
 - xv. List score reporting requirements (USTA 2.01E(3))
 1. Scores must be reported within 48 hours of completion of a team match
 2. All local play history documentation must be entered within 48 hours of the last match of the season played and before entry into any championship event. Corrections to completed scorecards must be made within 1 week of the last match of the season played, and before entry into any championship event.
 - xvi. Procedures for Defaults & Retirements
 1. An individual default occurs when a player fails to appear on time or is defaulted for misconduct. (USTA 2.01F)
 2. If team presents their lineup with a default, the opposing team may adjust their lineup (USTA 2.01F(1)) with knowledge of which line is default, but not who is playing each line for the team defaulting a court.
 3. A match won by default where no point was played does not count toward a player's requirement to advance
 4. A retirement occurs when an individual match has started and a player or doubles team is unable to continue. A retirement is entered into TennisLink with the score of the match at the point of retirement then selected "retired". The non-retiring player/doubles team is credited with such number of additional games as would have been won if the match was completed and the non-retiring player/team won every

subsequent game. (USTA 2.01G)

xvii. Procedure for exchanging team lineups

1. The coach/captain for each team shall exchange their team lineup cards simultaneously prior to the beginning of the team match.
2. No substitutions may be made in an individual match after the lineup has been presented, except for injury or illness prior to the start of an individual match except under such further circumstances as local league regulations may authorize.
3. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute is entitled to a five-minute warm-up. (USTA 2.01H)

xviii. Player participation on more than one team

1. Players may play on more than one team in a local program during the same season providing that the player shall not play on more than one team in the same division. (USTA 2.01I(1))
 - a. A player may only play on one team at any championship event (USTA 2.03G(1))
2. A player may play in up to 2 individual matches within a team match. (USTA 2.01I(2)) It is recommended that the 2nd match be mixed doubles.

xix. Coaching during matches

1. Coaching is allowed on any changeover during the time allotted. In no event is coaching permitted during a tiebreak. (USTA 2.01J)

D. Advancement to Championship

i. Advancement to State Championship (USTA 2.03)

1. Any team from a National Championship JTT program is eligible to advance to the USTA Tennessee JTT State Championship. (USTA 2.03A)
2. At least 3 boys and 3 girls must have participated in at least 2 team matches during that team's local league. (USTA 2.03A(2))

ii. Player Eligibility to Advance (USTA 2.03A)

1. Participation on a team in a National Championship JTT program (USTA 2.03A(1))
2. The results of the 2 matches must be recorded in TennisLink. Neither of the 2 matches may be the product of a default received. A retired match shall count toward the 2 match requirement for the player involved. (USTA 2.03A(3))
3. All local play history documentation entered in TennisLink within 48 hours of the last match of the season played before entry into post season

championship event. Corrections to completed scorecards must be made within 1 week of the last match of the season played, and before entry into any post season championship event (USTA 2.03A(4))

4. 2 matches per player must be played locally and entered into tennis link by July 14th, 2019 for it to count towards qualification for state championships.
5. All scores must be entered into Tennis Link: Sunday, July 14th at 11:59pm Central Daylight Time
6. Registration closes for 2019 Championships: Sunday, July 7th at 11:59pm Central Daylight Time

iii. Player Substitutions

1. Substitute players are only allowed for teams which originally had the required minimum number of player eligible to advance (USTA 2.03B(2)a)
2. One boy or one girl may be used as a substitute to meet the minimum team size requirement for a championship. Any substitution must be approved by the championship coordinator. (USTA 2.03B(2)b)
3. In the event the original player returns in a subsequent championship, the coach/captain must decide whether the substitute player or the original player will participate. (USTA 2.03B(2)c)
4. The substitute player must come from a team in the same local program and season in which the advancing team participated to meet the minimum team size requirement (USTA 2.03B(2)d)

E. Advanced Divisions

- a. Advanced at State
 - i. In an effort to increase play in Advanced divisions, all teams may advance to the State Championship without playing locally, also known as “Local at State”.
 - ii. Teams must register locally in a National Championship JTT program
 - iii. Local leagues with more than one advanced team may play locally, however the “Local at State” option requires all players must play in at least 2 team matches at the state championship to be eligible to advance to the section championship.
 - iv. Advanced divisions at the State Championship must be scheduled over 3 days for a team to advance to the section championship (see C.c.xi.1 or (USTA 2.01E))
- b. For advancement to sectionals, a substitution must come from another team at the state championship, not the local league.
- c. An intermediate team that won the sectional championships the previous year must either play advanced in the state championship if 50% or more of the section championship team is on the same team in the same age division.

F. State Championship

- a. Entry into State Championship
 - i. All teams must register for the State Championship in TennisLink Team Tennis (USTA 2.03C) by Sunday, July 7th.
- b. Division Offered at Championships
 - i. State Championship – 10U, 12U, 14U, 18U – Advanced & Intermediate
 - ii. Section Championship – 10U, 12U, 14U, 18U – Advanced & Intermediate (USTA 2.02B & Southern)
 - iii. National Championship – 14U & 18U – Advanced & Intermediate (USTA 2.02B)
- c. Competition Format
 - i. The USTA TN JTT State Championship will use a non-elimination round robin format. For divisions with 7 or more teams, teams will be divided into 2 or more flights followed by a single elimination format. (USTA 2.03D)
 - ii. The winner of the flight is determined by total games won. Teams that win their flight will advance to single elimination playoffs.
 - iii. Playoff seeding is based on highest percentage of games won.
 - iv. Depending on the number of flights, additional spot(s) may be available. These spots will be filled based on highest percentage of games won to create a playoff bracket of 4, 6, or 8 total teams as determined by the Championship Committee. The wildcard team(s) will be seeded below all the flight winners in the playoff bracket.
 - v. The playoff bracket will be the standard 1 vs. 4 and 2 vs. 3 matchup based on seeding unless the matchup in the first round of the playoff places two teams from the same flight against one another. If this occurs, the seeding can be altered to allow teams to play against a new opponent.
- d. Team Match Format
 - i. A team match will consist of one girl's and one boy's singles, one girls' and one boys' doubles, and one mixed doubles match. The team winning the most games will be determined the winner of the team match (USTA 2.03E)

e. Scoring

i. Scoring format for State Championship (USTA 1.05 & Southern):

DIVISIONS, BALL TYPE, AND SCORING FORMATS (CHAMPIONSHIP)				
Division/Level	Court	Ball	Racquet	Scoring
10U 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).
10U 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).
12U Int	78"	GREEN		Best 2 out of 3 sets, short sets to 4 with no ad scoring. A 7-point set tiebreak is played at 3-all. A 10-point match tiebreak is played at one set all.
12U Adv 14U Int & Adv 18U Int & Adv	78"	YELLOW		Best 2 out of 3 sets, short sets to 4 with no ad scoring. A 7-point set tiebreak is played at 3-all. A 10-point match tiebreak is played at one set all.

ii. If inclement weather occurs, the Championship Committee may alter the scoring format.

1. During playoff rounds, the mixed doubles match may be eliminated if the winner has been mathematically determined in the singles and doubles matches.

f. Player Participation on 1 Team at Championship

i. A player shall play for only one team at any championship event (USTA 2.03G(1))

g. Team Lineups / Double Up Rule

- i. The team lineup card is due at the tournament desk by the scheduled match time.
- ii. A team may use different individual players for every line in the team match 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 in round robin play. The "playing twice" rotation begins anew in the 4th round of round robin plays and in each round in single elimination rounds, such as playoffs and finals. (USTA 2.03G(2) & Southern)
- iii. Team Captains must submit a Playing Twice Form to the tournament desk for each match to keep record of players who have doubled up during the championship.
- iv. Once courts are assigned, the singles and doubles courts shall begin first, with any player playing twice beginning before those not playing twice.
- v. Both captains must sign the scorecard once the match is completed to verify scores.

h. Substitutions

- i. No substitutions may be made in an individual match after the lineup has been exchanged, except for injury to, or illness of, a player prior to the start of a match, and except under such further circumstances as the championship committee may authorize. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute player is entitled to a five-minute warm-up. The substitution shall affect only the one position for which the substitution is made. The remaining lineup shall remain the same. (USTA 2.03H)

i. Coaching

- i. Coaching is allowed during the allotted time of a changeover. In no event is coaching allowed during a tiebreak. (USTA 2.03I & Southern).
- ii. Only the designated team coach is permitted to coach.

j. Procedures in the Event of a Tie

- i. In the event of a tie, the following procedures shall be used to break the tie
 1. Round Robin Format – The tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:
 - a. Head to head team match win/loss record between the teams tied (by most games won)
 - b. The team with the most team matches won in the round robin flight
 - c. The team with the most individual matches won in the round robin flight
 - d. The team with the most sets won in the round robin flight
 - e. In the event none of these steps break the tie USTA Tennessee will use the following in order until the tie is broken:
 - i. Highest percentage of games won during match(es) of tied teams
 - ii. Highest percentage of games won in round robin matches
 - iii. Coin flip/random draw
 - f. A 3rd set tiebreak counts as both one set and one game for the purpose of determine in the order of finish. (USTA 2.03J(1))
 2. Single Elimination Format – When two teams are tied in games, the teams' coach/captain will designate a girl and boy to play a mixed doubles 10-point match tiebreak to determine the winner of the team match. (USTA 2.03J(2)). For 10U, a 7-point match tiebreak will be played.

k. Individual Defaults

- i. An individual default occurs when a player fails to appear on time, or is defaulted by a tournament official for misconduct.
- ii. When a team presents a scorecard reflecting a default, the opposing

team will be notified and extended the opportunity to adjust their lineup. (USTA 2.03K(1)) The scorecard should not be shown to either team until the lineups or finalized.

- iii. A default described above will be scored in accordance with the scoring format. In the event of a default by both opposing players, neither team receives credit for that match win or the games. (USTA 2.03K(2))

I. Team Defaults

- i. A team must have a minimum of three boys and three girls available at the start of the championship event to be eligible to receive credit for game wins. Should the team not have the required eligible players at the start of the event, the team may participate but any and all team matches will be defaulted to the opposing teams. (USTA 2.03L(1))
- ii. A team may default a maximum of two positions in a team match without defaulting the entire match. In such cases, the default(s) is/(are) dependent on the number and the gender of the defaulting players. If a team is short a boy, the boy's singles court must be defaulted, for example. A mixed doubles match may not be defaulted. (USTA 2.03L(2))
- iii. If a team defaults an entire team match for any reason during round robin play, then all matches of that team played or to be played shall be null and void. If all teams in contention in the event have already played the defaulting team in good faith, the matches stand as played. Sanctions or Penalties may be imposed on the defaulting team. (USTA 2.03L(3))

m. Retirements

- i. 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.

n. Championship Event Committees

- i. A Championship Committee shall be appointed by USTA Tennessee. This committee will consist of a minimum of three people, one of which is the tournament referee. (USTA 1.04F(4))
- ii. A Championship Event Grievance Committee shall be appointed by USTA Tennessee. This committee will consist of a minimum of three people. No member of this committee may be a member of the original committee that reviewed the original grievance. (USTA 3.01A & 3.01A(3)a)
- iii. A Championship Event Grievance Appeals Committee shall be appointed by USTA Tennessee. This committee will consist of a minimum of three people. No member of this committee may be a member of the original committee that reviewed the original grievance. (USTA 3.01B & 3.01B(4)a)

o. Grievances

- i. Any grievance alleging a violation during championship competition

shall be in writing and delivered to the site director prior to whichever comes first:

1. Within 30 minutes of completion of the involved team's match
 2. The commencement of the involved team's next match, whether or not the involved player participants except for Eligibility Grievances. (USTA 3.03C(1))
- ii. At the time a grievance is made, a copy of the grievance shall be delivered by the Championship Committee or site director to the party(ies) against whom the grievance has been made. (USTA 3.03C(2))
 - iii. Any grievance regarding failure to meet eligibility requirements may be submitted by a team coach/captain, coordinator, or member of a Championship Committee at any time. (USTA 3.03C(3))
 - iv. A grievance shall be addressed according to the procedures listed in the National Regulations in 3.03C Championship Procedures.
- p. Advancement to Sectional Championship
- i. Winners of the 10U, 12U, 14U, and 18U intermediate and advanced divisions will advance to the USTA Southern JTT Section Championship.
 - ii. In the event the winning team is not able to compete at the section championship, the runner-up will be contacted.
 - iii. Any wildcards will be offered to the next highest finishing team based on final standings.
 - iv. The highest finishing team in the 18U Advanced division that has no players above 3.9 will be offered the opportunity to advance to the section championship's 18U Advanced Low division. If no team qualifies or elects to go, a team in the 18U Intermediate may be offered the opportunity to compete. Selection will be based on final standings at the state championship. (USTA 2.02B & Southern)
 - v. All information regarding the section championship will be available on the section championship webpage.

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 • 220 Athens Way, Suite 110, Nashville, TN 37228