



# USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS

2016 REGULATIONS

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This book is intended for USTA Junior Team Tennis managers, administrators, coordinators, staff, coaches, players and parents.

## SUMMARY OF MAJOR CHANGES TO 2015 USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS REGULATIONS

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### USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS REGULATIONS

#### 2.01B TEAM COMPOSITION

To participate in the USTA Championship Junior Team Tennis Program, a team must have a minimum of three eligible (3) boys and three eligible (3) girls. (See 2.03B for player substitution requirements when advancing to a championship). A Sectional Association may determine whether or not this regulation applies to the 10 & under or 12 & under age divisions.

#### 2.01E(1) TEAM MATCH

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 Championship Junior Team Tennis program, play shall be gender specific (In singles and doubles, girls play girls and boys play boys. In mixed doubles, a doubles team comprised of one girl and one boy plays against another doubles team comprised of one girl and one boy). 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.

#### 2.01F(1) MORE THAN ONE TEAM

A Sectional Association may allow players to play on more than one team in a local program during the same season; provided that in the USTA Championship Junior Team Tennis Program, players may not play on more than one team in the same division.

## SUMMARY OF MAJOR CHANGES TO 2015 USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS REGULATIONS

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#### 2.03E TEAM MATCH

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.

#### 2.03J PROCEDURES IN THE EVENT OF A TIE

In the event of a tie in championship competition the following procedures shall be used to break the tie.

##### 2.03J(1) ROUND ROBIN FORMAT

In the event of a tie in round robin competition, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:

- Head to head team match win/loss record between the tied teams. A win is determined by most games won
- The team with the most team matches won in the round robin flight
- The team with the most individual matches won in the round robin flight
- The team with the most sets won in the round robin flight

In the event none of these steps break the tie, a method determined and announced by the Championships Committee before the championship event shall be used to break the tie.

Tiebreak played in lieu of deciding final set counts as both one set and one game for the purpose of determining the order of finish. If the players inadvertently play out the third set or any portion thereof, it will still count as only one set and one game.

##### 2.03J(2) SINGLE ELIMINATION FORMAT



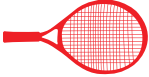


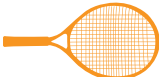
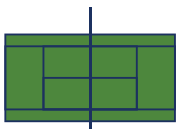

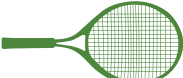
When two teams are tied in games during single elimination, the teams' coach/manager will designate a girl and boy to play a mixed doubles match tiebreak to determine the winner.

## FOR ALL LEVELS AND AGES YOUTH TENNIS AND BEYOND

Tennis sized right for age and level let's kids play on shorter courts, with smaller racquets, and slower, lower-bouncing balls. Kids play tennis made just for them, so that they have a great time with the game and want to keep playing and improving.

Youth Tennis lets kids with similar physical and social skills play together; they have more fun while learning the game and developing tennis skills. This progression within the chart below shows how players develop skills through match play with an emphasis on FUN!

### Get Out and Play!

AGE	COURT	BALL	RACQUET
5-8	 36' X 18'	 FELT OR FOAM REDUCED BOUNCE	 UP TO 23"
9-10	 60' X 21' (SINGLES) 60' X 27' (DOUBLES)	 REDUCED BOUNCE	 UP TO 25"
11+	 78' X 27' (SINGLES) 78' X 36' (DOUBLES)	 SLIGHTLY REDUCED BOUNCE FROM YELLOW TENNIS BALL	 UP TO 29"

## USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS REGULATIONS

Except where noted in red, the Regulations in **1.00 through 2.01 and 3.00** are applicable to divisions/teams/players in both Championship Junior Team tennis and Junior Team Tennis programs in TennisLink. Regulations specific to divisions/teams/players in age-validated advancing programs are noted in red. Sectional Associations may determine application of these Regulations for advancement in their geographic boundaries.

### GENERAL

Any authority delegated by these Regulations to the Section unless otherwise stated, may be delegated by the Sectional Association to a lower authority.

Section, District or Local/Area regulations must not be in conflict with USTA Championship Junior Team Tennis Regulations.

#### 1.1 NAME

The USTA Board of Directors has approved the adoption of rules and regulations for USTA Junior Team Tennis that shall be known as USTA Junior Team Tennis Regulations.

#### 1.2 SANCTION

All Local/Area competition is sanctioned in accordance with USTA Regulation XVII.B and any Local/Area, District and Sectional Regulations cannot be in violation of the USTA Championship Junior Team Tennis National Regulations.

#### 1.3 GOVERNANCE

The USTA Championship Junior Team Tennis Regulations shall apply to the USTA Championship Junior Team Tennis Program (USTA Championship Junior Team Tennis). THE FRIEND AT COURT-The USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations, including Wheelchair Rules of Tennis, shall apply to all matches played in USTA Junior Team Tennis (unless modified by these USTA Championship Junior Team Tennis Regulations). In all matches played without an official the USTA official publication, THE CODE shall be observed. The USTA Point Penalty System shall be used at all championship levels.



## 1.03A WAIVER OF RULES AND PROCEDURES PROHIBITED

Except where a waiver is specifically permitted by a USTA Regulation, USTA Championship Junior Team Tennis Regulation or by a USTA Championship Junior Team Tennis Procedure, no USTA Championship Junior Team Tennis Regulation or USTA Championship Junior Team Tennis Procedure shall be waived by any Sectional, District, Local/Area Association, or by any Sectional, District, or Local/Area USTA Junior Team Tennis Coordinator. Any violation of this Regulation shall be subject to such penalties as may be imposed by the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee. Such penalties are not subject to appeal.

## 1.03B AMENDMENTS

These USTA Junior Team Tennis Regulations may be amended by the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee with the approval of a committee comprised of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee and the USTA Junior Team Tennis National Manager. All proposed amendments shall be in writing and shall be forwarded to the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee at least 10 days before any meeting of the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee. Without the approval of the Chair and Vice Chair of USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee, and the USTA Junior Team Tennis National Manager, no amendments to these USTA Championship Junior Team Tennis Regulations shall become effective prior to the beginning of the next USTA Junior Team Tennis Championship Year.

## 1.03C WRITTEN INTERPRETATION

A committee comprised of the Chair, Vice Chair of the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee and the National Manager has the authority and the responsibility to provide interpretations of USTA Junior Team Tennis Regulations.

## 1.03D GLOSSARY OF TERMS

For purposes of these Regulations, certain words and phrases are defined in the glossary included herein.

## 1.03E NON-DISCRIMINATION

Discrimination in USTA Junior Team Tennis is prohibited as specified in the Constitution and Bylaws of the United States Tennis Association, Incorporated.

## 1.04 JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS PROGRAM AND USTA CHAMPIONSHIP JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS PROGRAM

The Junior Team Tennis program is a great way to introduce kids to team competition in a setting that focuses on play opportunities, developing skills, and FUN. The three priorities of Junior Team Tennis are to make it easy to form teams, increase play opportunities for every child, and promote level based play.

The USTA Championship Junior Team Tennis program consists of team competition for boys and girls of specific NTRP levels of play and age categories and may consist of the opportunity for advancement from local competition to District, Sectional, and National Competition.

## 1.04A AGE CATEGORIES

USTA Junior Team Tennis is divided into five age categories: 18 & under, 14 & under, 12 & under, 10 & under, 8 & under.

## 1.04B LEVELS OF PLAY

Levels of play for each age category are: Advanced (NTRP 3.5 & above), Intermediate (NTRP 3.0 & below), and Beginner (NTRP 2.0 & below; generally, new players of all ages).

## 1.04C DIVISIONS

Age categories and levels of play are combined to form the following divisions of play: 8 & under Beginner, 8 & under Intermediate, 8 & under Advanced; 10 & under Beginner, 10 & under Intermediate, 10 & under Advanced; 12 & under Beginner, 12 & under Intermediate, 12 & under Advanced; 14 & under Beginner, 14 & under Intermediate, 14 & under Advanced; 18 & under Beginner, 18 & under Intermediate, 18 & under Advanced.

## 1.04D CHAMPIONSHIPS ADVANCEMENT

Only the 18 & under and the 14 & under age categories at Intermediate and Advanced play levels may advance to the District, Sectional and National Championships. The Sectional Association may determine whether the 18 & under Beginner, 14 & under Beginner, 12 & under, 10 & under, and 8 & under divisions may advance to District and Sectional Championships.

## 1.04E ADMINISTRATION

### 1.04E (1) USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS COMMITTEE

USTA Championship Junior Team Tennis and USTA Junior Team Tennis shall be governed by the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee appointed by the President of the USTA and subject to the control and direction of the USTA Board of Directors.

### 1.04E (2) USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS NATIONAL MANAGER

USTA Junior Team Tennis National Manager shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration of USTA Junior Team Tennis.

### 1.04E (3) SECTIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

The USTA has 17 Sectional Associations, the names and territories of which are defined in the USTA Bylaws. Each Sectional Association is responsible for the development and implementation of USTA Championship Junior Team Tennis and USTA Junior Team Tennis within its geographic territory in accordance with the USTA Junior Team Tennis Regulations.

#### 1.04 E (3) a SECTIONAL USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS COORDINATORS

Each Sectional Association shall appoint a USTA Junior Team Tennis Coordinator to implement and administer USTA Junior Team Tennis in its geographical area.

#### 1.04E (3) b DISTRICT USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS COORDINATORS

Each District, if applicable, shall have a District Coordinator to implement and administer USTA Junior Team Tennis. A District shall have such geographic boundaries as the Sectional Association may determine.

#### 1.04E (3) c LOCAL/AREA USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS COORDINATORS

Each Local/Area USTA Junior Team Tennis program shall have a Local/Area Coordinator to implement and administer USTA Junior Team Tennis. All Local/ Area Coordinators shall be in compliance with the USTA Youth Protection Policies and Procedures for USTA Junior Team Tennis.

## 1.04 E (4) TEAM COACHES/MANAGERS

Each USTA Junior Team Tennis team shall have a team coach/manager responsible for the team and its administrative affairs during the season. Each team coach/manager shall be in compliance with the USTA Youth Protection Policies and Procedures for USTA Junior Team Tennis.

## 1.04E (5) CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEES

A championship committee of at least three members, one of whom is a USTA Certified Referee or Umpire, shall govern each championship event. At least one member of the championship committee shall be in attendance at all times during play. The Championships Committees, except for the National Championships, shall be appointed by the Local/Area, District and/or Sectional Associations. The Chair of the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee shall appoint the Championships Committee for the National Championships.

## 1.04F OFFICIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

TennisLink is the official information system of USTA Junior Team Tennis.

### 1.04 F (1) OFFICIAL REGISTRATION SYSTEM

TennisLink Team Tennis is the official system for registering teams and players for participation in Championship Junior Team Tennis and Junior Team Tennis. The Sectional Association shall establish deadlines and procedures for registering players and teams on TennisLink Team Tennis.

### 1.0 4 F (2) OFFICIAL SCORE REPORTING AND STANDINGS SYSTEM

TennisLink Team Tennis is the official system for reporting scores and providing standings for USTA Junior Team Tennis. Each Sectional Association shall establish deadlines and procedures for reporting scores on TennisLink Team Tennis for USTA Junior Team Tennis.

**1.04F(2)a** Unless otherwise established by a Sectional Association, the entry of match scores into TennisLink Team Tennis must be entered within 48 hours of the completion of the match.

**1.04F(2)b** All local play history documentation must be entered within 48 hours of the last match of the season played and before entry into any championships event. Corrections to completed scorecards must be made within 1 week of the last match of the season played and before entry into any championships event.

**1.04F(2)c** All championship match scores must be entered within 48 hours of the completion of the match.

### 1.04 G CHAMPIONSHIP YEAR

The USTA Championship Junior Team Tennis Program shall be September 1 to August 31. The National Championships will occur following the Championships Year prior to December 31.

### 1.04H LOCAL TENNIS SEASON

Each Section shall determine the dates for the local tennis season(s) within its Section.

### 1.04I PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

#### 1.04I(1) DOMICILE AND RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

Any individual who competes in USTA Junior Team Tennis must be domiciled within the boundaries of a USTA Sectional Association or participate through a USTA Direct Member Organization. Residents of foreign countries who meet membership and age requirements may be invited by a USTA Sectional Association to participate in USTA Junior Team Tennis provided that all such matches are played within the Section. Sectional Associations may create residency requirement rules to encourage and foster local play.

#### 1.04I(2) MEMBERSHIP

Any individual competing in USTA Junior Team Tennis shall be 18 years of age or under. All individuals who compete in USTA Championship Junior Team Tennis must be current USTA members in good standing through the local season. Any individual who progresses to a championship level in USTA Championship Junior Team Tennis must be a current USTA member through the end of each championship event.

#### 1.04I (3) PLAYER AGREEMENT

All players participating in USTA Junior Team Tennis, as a condition of said participation, agree to abide and be bound by the USTA Constitution and Bylaws; the FRIEND AT COURT - The USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations

including THE CODE and Wheelchair Rules of Tennis (unless modified by these USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS REGULATIONS) and the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship.

### 1.04I (4) AMATEUR STATUS

USTA Junior Team Tennis participation is limited to amateurs.

### 1.04I (5) WAIVER OF CLAIMS

Players participating in USTA Junior Team Tennis acknowledge the risks associated with playing tennis, accept those risks voluntarily, and in consideration of their acceptance in the program assume all risks of injury whether property or bodily, waive all claims for any and all injury or damages and agree to release and hold harmless the USTA, any host facility, all officials, employees, volunteers, and agents with respect to any injury or loss caused by negligence or otherwise to the fullest extent permitted, whether in law or equity.

### 1.04J RATING PROCESS

The National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) is the official system for determining play levels for USTA Junior Team Tennis. A player's level of play (rating) shall be determined by NTRP, National rankings and additional guidelines set forth by the Sectional Association, including Sectional benchmarks.

### 1.05 OFFICIAL BALL

Any USTA approved ball may be used for USTA Junior Team Tennis matches. The 8 & under age category ball is required to be the Stage 3 (red) while the 10 & under age category ball is required to be the Stage 2 (orange) or Stage 1 (green). For championships at the Sectional level and above, PENN is the official ball.

### 1.06 USTA YOUTH PROTECTION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS

The USTA Youth Protection Policies and Procedures for USTA Junior Team Tennis and Championship Junior Team Tennis which can be found on [www.usta.com/safeplay](http://www.usta.com/safeplay) are adopted and made a part of these regulations and apply to the USTA Junior Team Tennis program.

## 2.00 USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS REGULATIONS

### 2.01 LOCAL COMPETITION

#### 2.01A NUMBER OF TEAMS

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 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 and from a division at the same age and play level as the championship division to which the team is advancing.

A local coordinator may choose to divide any or all divisions into flights. A playoff structure may be established to determine a champion for each division.

#### 2.01B TEAM COMPOSITION

To participate in the USTA Championship Junior Team Tennis Program, a team must have a minimum of three eligible (3) boys and three eligible (3) girls. (See 2.03B for player substitution requirements when advancing to a championship). A Sectional Association may determine whether or not this regulation applies to the 10 & under or 12 & under age divisions.

#### 2.01C AGE REQUIREMENT

As validated in TennisLink, players must remain age eligible through August 31 of the Championship Year to be eligible to advance to championships.

#### 2.01D DETERMINING PLAYER PLAY LEVEL

All players must be rated to determine appropriate team placement. Coaches/Managers shall use the following tools to determine the appropriate play level for players.

##### 2.01D (1) NTRP PLAYER RATING

National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) is a system which defines the characteristics of a player's level and is used in combination with other tools to determine the play levels of competition for USTA Junior Team Tennis. (See appendix for NTRP rating chart). These rating levels are used to distinguish

between Beginner (2.0 and below), Intermediate (3.0 and below), and Advanced (3.5 and above). Factors such as a player's on-court performance, tennis background, and any additional information should be considered in the rating decision. If players anticipate their play level will be higher by the time of a championship event, they should enter at a higher play level at the beginning of the local season to ensure eligibility. If players question at which level they should play, they should place themselves in the higher NTRP level of play.

##### 2.01D (2) SECTIONAL BENCHMARK FOR ADVANCED PLAY LEVEL

Each Sectional Association shall determine the appropriate use of its USTA sanctioned junior tournament standings and/or rankings lists to distinguish tournament players who must participate in the advanced play level. The benchmarks set must be approved and on file with the USTA Junior Team Tennis National Manager before the date of any program registrations for the new Championship Year. (Please contact your Sectional Coordinator for more information.)

##### 2.01D (3) NATIONAL RANKING

Players with a National Ranking in any age division must participate in the advanced play level, regardless of age category. The applicable final National Ranking list is the most current year-end list prior to the program start date as indicated in TennisLink.

##### 2.01D (4) SUPPLEMENTAL PLAY LEVEL REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES

Sectional Associations have the authority to determine additional play level regulations and guidelines to best ensure the integrity of play levels within their geographic boundaries. These regulations and guidelines must be approved and on file with the USTA Junior Team Tennis National Manager before the date of any program registrations for the new Championship Year. (Please contact your Sectional Coordinator for more information.)

#### 2.01E COMPETITION FORMAT

The local coordinator may use the format which best meets the needs of the local program e.g., round robin. 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).



## 2.01E (1) TEAM MATCH

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 Championship Junior Team Tennis program, play shall be gender specific (In singles and doubles, girls play girls and boys play boys. In mixed doubles, a doubles team comprised of one girl and one boy plays against another doubles team comprised of one girl and one boy). 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.**

## 2.01E (2) INDIVIDUAL MATCH

An individual match is any singles match, doubles match, or mixed doubles match played as part of a team match.

## 2.01E (3) SCORING

Local Coordinators may use a scoring format within TennisLink Team Tennis online system which best meets the needs of the local program. **Scores must be recorded in TennisLink Team Tennis within 48 hours of completion of match. All local play history documentation must be entered within 48 hours of the last match of the season played and before entry into any championships event. Corrections to completed scorecards must be made within 1 week of the last match of the season played, and before entry into any championships event.**

## 2.01E (4) DEFAULT

The scoring in the event of a default shall be according to the format selected in TennisLink Team Tennis.

## 2.01E (5) TEAM LINEUPS

**In USTA Championship Junior Team Tennis, the coaches/managers for each team shall exchange their team lineup cards simultaneously prior to the beginning of the team match. No substitutions may be made in an individual match after the lineup has been presented, except for injury to, or illness of a player prior to the start of such match and except under such further circumstances as a local/area competition may authorize. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute is entitled to a five minute warm-up. In USTA Junior Team Tennis it is recommended that coaches attempt to put kids in order of strength/skill level and work together on match-ups (co-operative line ups).**

## 2.01F PLAYER PARTICIPATION

### 2.01F (1) MORE THAN ONE TEAM

A Sectional Association may allow players to play on more than one team in a local program during the same season; **provided that in the USTA Championship Junior Team Tennis Program, players may not play on more than one team in the same division.**

### 2.01F (2) MORE THAN ONE INDIVIDUAL MATCH

A player may play in any number of individual matches within a team match as determined by the Sectional Association. Coordinators should refer to playing limitations described in USTA Regulations II.D. in accordance with scheduling guidelines for junior divisions.

## 2.01G COACHING

The local program shall determine whether and at what times to allow coaching. In no event is coaching permitted during a tiebreak.

## 2.01H LOCAL CHAMPIONS

**The local competition must be concluded prior to the deadline set by the Sectional Association. At the conclusion of the local competition, the Local Coordinator shall certify to the District or Sectional Coordinator the results of the competition and contact information for the qualifying teams' coaches/managers.**

## 2.02 PROGRESSION

**Each Sectional Association shall determine and announce the national championship method of progression (in accordance with all USTA Junior Team Tennis Regulations), suitable for its geographical boundaries for advancement of its USTA Championship Junior Team Tennis teams to Sectional USTA Junior Team Tennis Championships. Progression must originate from the local/area competition.**

### 2.02A LOCAL/AREA PLAY-OFFS, DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Each eligible team that wins a specific level of team tennis competition may be eligible to progress to the next championship.**

## 2.02B CHAMPIONSHIPS

### 2.02B (1) DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS

Each Sectional Association shall determine and announce a method of progression suitable for its geographic boundaries for advancement of its USTA Championship Junior Team Tennis teams to Sectional USTA Junior Team Tennis Championships. Such progression may include one or more championships below the Sectional Championships.

### 2.02B (2) SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Each Sectional Association shall hold a Sectional USTA Junior Team Tennis Championship for at least the 18 & under and 14 & under Intermediate and Advanced to determine its sectional champions. The winning teams in these divisions shall be allowed to compete in the USTA Junior Team Tennis National Championships if otherwise eligible. If the winning team at any level of competition is unable to compete further towards the National Championships, then the Sectional USTA Junior Team Tennis Coordinator may select the next eligible team prior to the registration deadline.

### 2.02B (3) NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The teams winning the National Championships in each division shall be that Year's USTA Championship Junior Team Tennis National Champions.

## 2.03 DISTRICT, SECTIONAL, AND NATIONAL USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

In all championships after local competition, the following shall apply:

### 2.03A ELIGIBILITY

A player is eligible to progress to championship level competition, including National Championships, if that player has met all the following conditions:

**2.03A (1)** Participated on a team from a USTA Championship Junior Team Tennis eligible program within TennisLink Team Tennis.

**2.03A(2)** Played on the advancing team in at least two (2) team matches during that team's local USTA Junior Team Tennis season.

**2.03A(3)** The results of the two (2) matches must be recorded in TennisLink Team Tennis. Neither of the two (2) matches may be the product of a default received. A retired match shall count toward the two (2) match requirement for eligibility for the players involved.

**2.03A(4)** All local play history documentation must be entered within 48 hours of the last match of the season played before entry into any championships event. Corrections to completed scorecards must be made within 1 week of the last match of the season played, and before entry into any championships event.

## 2.03B SUBSTITUTIONS

### 2.03B(1) TEAM SUBSTITUTIONS

If a team advancing to a championship competition cannot field the required minimum number of qualified players, another team may be selected by the Local/ Area, District and/or Sectional Association to advance.

### 2.03B(2) PLAYER SUBSTITUTIONS

If an eligible player on a team advancing to a championship competition is unable to participate, resulting in a failure of the team to meet the minimum team size requirement, an eligible substitute player may be added. (See 2.01B).

**2.03B(2)a** Substitute players are only allowed for teams which originally had the required minimum number of players who are eligible to advance (See 2.01B)

**2.03B(2)b** In no event can more than one substitute, one (1) boy or one (1) girl, be added to meet the minimum team size requirement for championship competition. Any substitutions must be approved by the championship coordinator in which the substitution is occurring and shall remain in effect for that entire championship event.

**2.03B(2)c** Substitution players are only allowed for those teams who originally had at least the team minimum of three (3) girls and three (3) boys who are eligible to advance. (See 2.01B) In the event of the return of the original player in a subsequent championship, the coach/manager must decide whether the substitute player or the original player will participate.

**2.03B(2)d** 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. (See 2.01B).

**2.03C OFFICIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS ENTRY**

All teams must register in TennisLink Team Tennis for all championships.

**2.03D COMPETITION FORMAT**

The competition format may be round robin, single elimination or a combination of the two at the discretion of the championships committee.

**2.03D(1) ROUND ROBIN**

If round robin competition is used, each team shall play every other team in its flight and the team with the highest number of total games shall be the champion in its flight. The use of flights requires a playoff to establish a champion.

**2.03D(2) SINGLE ELIMINATION**

Single elimination format may also be used. The team with the highest number of games shall advance to the next play level.

**2.03E TEAM MATCH**

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.

**2.03F SCORING**

The scoring format will be at the discretion of the championship committee.

**2.03G PARTICIPATION****2.03G(1) MORE THAN ONE TEAM**

A player shall play for only one team at a District, Sectional or National Championship.

**2.03G (2) MORE THAN ONE INDIVIDUAL MATCH**

Only one girl and/or only one boy may participate in up to two individual matches per team match. In no event may one player play in three individual matches. Coordinators should refer to playing limitations as described in USTA Regulations II.D. in accordance with scheduling guidelines for junior divisions.

**2.03H MATCH SUBSTITUTIONS**

No substitutions may be made in an individual match after the lineup has been presented, except for injury to, or illness of, a player prior to the start of the match, and except under such further circumstances as the championships 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 positions shall remain the same.

**2.03I COACHING**

The championship level coordinator shall determine whether and at what times to allow coaching at a specific championship. In no event is coaching allowed during a tiebreak.

**2.03J PROCEDURES IN THE EVENT OF A TIE**

In the event of a tie in championship competition the following procedures shall be used to break the tie.

**2.03J(1) ROUND ROBIN FORMAT**

In the event of a tie in round robin competition, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:

- Head to head team match win/loss record between the tied teams. A win is determined by most games won
- The team with the most team matches won in the round robin flight
- The team with the most individual matches won in the round robin flight
- The team with the most sets won in the round robin flight

In the event none of these steps break the tie, a method determined and announced by the Championships Committee before the championship event shall be used to break the tie.

Tiebreak played in lieu of deciding final set counts as both one set and one game for the purpose of determining the order of finish. If the players inadvertently play out the third set or any portion thereof, it will still count as only one set and one game.

**2.03J (2) SINGLE ELIMINATION FORMAT**

When two teams are tied in games during single elimination, the teams' coach/manager will designate a girl and boy to play a mixed doubles match tiebreak to determine the winner.

**2.03K INDIVIDUAL DEFAULTS**

An individual default occurs when a player fails to appear on time, or is defaulted by a tournament official for misconduct.

**2.03L PROCEDURES IN THE EVENT OF A DEFAULT**

When a team presents a scorecard reflecting a default, the opposing team will be notified and extended the opportunity of adjusting their line-up.

**2.03M SCORING OF INDIVIDUAL DEFAULTS**

The defaults described in 2.03K will be scored in accordance with the format in TennisLink Team Tennis. In the event of a default by both opposing players, neither team receives credit for that match win or the games.

**2.03N TEAM DEFAULTS****2.03N (1) PRIOR TO THE START OF A CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT**

A team must have a minimum of six (6) eligible players, three (3) boys and three (3) girls, available at the start of the championship event to be eligible to receive credit for game wins. (See 2.01B). Should the team not have the required eligible players at the start of the event, the team may participate in the championship event but any and all team matches will be defaulted to the opposing team. (See 2.03O).

**2.03N (2)** The Tournament Director/Committee reserves the right to place penalties on the team coach(es)/manager(s).

**2.03N (3) DURING A CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT**

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. 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.

**2.03O SCORING OF TEAM DEFAULTS**

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 for the championships have already played the defaulting team in good faith, the matches stand as played. Sanctions or Penalties may be imposed on said team.

**2.03P RETIREMENT**

A retirement occurs when an individual match has started and a player or a doubles team is unable to continue due to injury, loss of condition, or emergency. In case of a retirement, the non-retiring player or 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 or doubles team won every subsequent game.

**3.00 GRIEVANCES**

All USTA Junior Team Tennis grievances and grievance appeals shall be administered in accordance with the provisions of **3.00 through 3.05B**.

**3.01 COMMITTEES****3.01A GRIEVANCE COMMITTEES**

All grievance committees shall consist of no less than three persons, including a chair, to adjudicate grievances. The members of the committee may be the same as, or different in whole or part, from the committee first appointed at the beginning of the season.

### **3.01A(1) LOCAL/AREA**

Each Local/Area USTA Junior Team Tennis program shall appoint a USTA Junior Team Tennis Grievance Committee.

### **3.01A(2) SECTION, DISTRICT**

Each Sectional Association shall appoint a USTA Junior Team Tennis Grievance Committee and each District, if applicable shall appoint a USTA Junior Team Tennis District Grievance Committee.

### **3.01A(3) CHAMPIONSHIPS GRIEVANCE COMMITTEES**

#### **3.01A(3)a AREA, DISTRICT, AND SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Each Area, District, and/or Sectional Association shall appoint a USTA Junior Team Tennis Championship Grievance Committee.

#### **3.01A(3)b NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The Chair of the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee shall appoint a National USTA Junior Team Tennis Championships Grievance Committee. The members may be the same as, or different in whole or in part, from the members of the National USTA Junior Team Tennis Championships Committee.

### **3.01B GRIEVANCE APPEAL COMMITTEES**

All Grievance Appeal Committees shall consist of no less than three persons, including a chair, to consider appeals of decisions rendered by the respective grievance committees. The members of the Grievance Appeal Committee may be the same as, or different in whole or part from, the committee appointed at the beginning of the season. No member of a Grievance Appeal Committee may be a member of a Grievance Committee that reviewed or decided the original grievance.

#### **3.01B(1) LOCAL/AREA**

Each Local/Area USTA Junior Team Tennis program shall appoint a USTA Junior Team Tennis Grievance Appeal Committee.

### **3.01B(2) SECTION, DISTRICT**

Each Sectional Association shall appoint a USTA Junior Team Tennis Grievance Appeal Committee, and each District, if applicable, shall appoint a USTA Junior Team Tennis Grievance Appeal Committee.

### **3.01B(3) NATIONAL**

The Chair of the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee shall appoint a National USTA Junior Team Tennis Grievance Appeal Committee.

### **3.01B(4) CHAMPIONSHIP GRIEVANCE APPEAL COMMITTEES**

#### **3.01B(4)a AREA, DISTRICT, AND SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Each Area, District, and/or Section shall appoint a USTA Junior Team Tennis Championships Grievance Appeal Committee.

#### **3.01B(4)b NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The Chair of the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee shall appoint a National USTA Junior Team Tennis Championships Grievance Appeal Committee. The members may be the same as, or different in whole or in part from, the members of the National Championship Committees.

### **3.02 GRIEVANCE TYPES**

#### **3.02A GENERAL GRIEVANCE**

Any grievance, other than those defined in Regulation **3.02B** Administrative Grievance, **3.02C** National Grievance, **3.02D** Eligibility Grievance, **3.02E** Rating Grievance alleging a violation of the USTA Constitution and Bylaws; the USTA Regulations; the Rules of Tennis: the Friend at Court—The USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations including The Code and Wheelchair Rules of Tennis (unless modified by these USTA Junior Team Tennis Regulations); the USTA Junior Team Tennis Regulations or standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship, shall constitute a General Grievance.



## 3.02B ADMINISTRATIVE GRIEVANCE

Any grievance pertaining to administration of USTA Junior Team Tennis at any level below the National level shall constitute an Administrative Grievance.

## 3.02C NATIONAL GRIEVANCE

The only National Grievance that can be filed is a grievance against the USTA Junior Team Tennis National Manager.

## 3.02D ELIGIBILITY GRIEVANCE

Any grievance contending that a player and/or team failed to meet eligibility requirements to participate in USTA Junior Team Tennis shall constitute an Eligibility Grievance.

## 3.02E RATING GRIEVANCES

**3.02 E(1)** A coach/manager who rates a player and places that player on a USTA Junior Team Tennis team by intentionally misrepresenting that player's actual skill level is considered to have violated the standards of good conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship and may subject that coach/manager's player or team to a grievance and the ramification could result in disqualification.

## 3.02E(2) SELF-RATE GRIEVANCE COMPLAINT

Self-rated players who enter the USTA Junior Team Tennis by intentionally misrepresenting their actual skill level are considered to have violated the standards of good conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship and are subject to a grievance and the ramifications could result in disqualification.

## 3.03 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

### 3.03A GENERAL GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

#### 3.03A(1)

An Administrative Grievance below the section level shall be made at the next higher level. An Administrative Grievance at the section level shall be made with the Sectional Association Grievance Committee.

#### 3.03A(2)

Any grievance against a Sectional Junior Team Tennis Coordinator shall be made with the Sectional Junior Team Tennis Committee. The decision of the Sectional Junior Team Tennis Committee shall be final and binding.

#### 3.03A(3)

Any grievance against the USTA Junior Team Tennis National Manager shall be made with the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee. The decision of the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee shall be final and binding.

#### 3.03A(4)

All other grievances (General (3.02A), Eligibility (3.02D) and Rating (3.02E)) shall be made with the USTA Junior Team Tennis Grievance Committees at the appropriate level (i.e., Local/Area, District or Sectional Association).

#### 3.03A(5)

All grievances must be made in writing.

#### 3.03A(6)

Any grievance against an individual or team may only be made by (a) the team coach/manager of the team who has competed in the match where the alleged violation occurred, (b) a coordinator, or (c) a member of a Championships Committee except for Eligibility Grievances which may be made as stated in Reg. **3.03B** (3) and **3.03C** (3).

#### 3.03A(7)

Regardless of any other regulation, a coordinator or a member of a Championship Committee, may make a grievance at any time.

#### 3.03A(8)

Play during grievance procedures: An individual may continue to play during the investigation of a grievance and hearing but must understand that, if upheld, all matches played during that time may be defaulted.

**3.03B LOCAL PROCEDURES****3.03B(1)**

Any grievance alleging a violation by an individual or team during local competition shall be made in writing with the Local/Area, or District USTA Junior Team Tennis Coordinator or designee having jurisdiction. The grievance must be made prior to the commencement of whichever occurs first: (a) the involved team's next team match in that light, whether or not the involved player participates or (b) within 24 hours after the end of the local season except for Eligibility Grievances (See Reg. **3.03B(3)**).

**3.03B(2)**

Upon receipt of the grievance, the Local/Area, or District USTA Junior Team Tennis Coordinator or designee shall immediately send a copy to the Chair of the appropriate USTA Junior Team Tennis Grievance Committee, or other Committee as designated in these USTA Junior Team Tennis Regulations, and to the party(ies) against whom the grievance has been made.

**3.03B(3)**

Any grievance regarding failure to meet eligibility requirements may be made by a USTA Junior Team Tennis coach/manager or coordinator or member of a Championship Committee at any time. A Local/Area USTA Junior Team Tennis Coordinator may declare a player ineligible and disqualify that player without filing a grievance prior to the disqualification.

**3.03B(4) SCORING OF ELIGIBILITY DISQUALIFICATION IN LOCAL TEAM PLAY****3.03B(4)a**

In the event of an eligibility disqualification during the local team tennis season and up to 24 hours after the end of local team play, all matches played by the disqualified player shall be considered defaults and those matches shall be considered wins for the opposing players or doubles teams and scored according to the format described in TennisLink Team Tennis.

In case of an eligibility disqualification in single elimination, the last individual match played by the disqualified player shall be considered a win for the opposing player or doubles team and scored according to the format described in TennisLink Team

Tennis for determining standings. If a double disqualification results in a tie, the local tiebreak procedure shall be used to determine the winner of the team match.

**3.03B(4)b**

In the event of an eligibility disqualification after the conclusion of the local USTA Junior Team Tennis season by more than 24 hours, the team will remain eligible to participate and retain games received up to the disqualification, but the ineligible player will not be allowed to continue or advance.

**3.03C CHAMPIONSHIP PROCEDURES****3.03C(1)**

Any grievance alleging a violation during championships competition shall be in writing and delivered to the duly appointed site director or designee prior to whichever occurs first: (a) within 30 minutes of completion of the involved team's match or (b) the commencement of the involved team's next match, whether or not the involved player participates except for Eligibility Grievances (See Reg. 3.03B(3)).

**3.03C(2)**

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.

**3.03C(3)**

Any grievance regarding failure to meet eligibility requirements may be submitted by a team coach/manager, coordinator or member of a Championship Committee at any time.

**3.03C(4) SCORING OF ELIGIBILITY DISQUALIFICATION FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS****3.03C(4)a ELIGIBILITY DISQUALIFICATION THAT OCCURS PRIOR TO OR AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF A CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT**

In the event of an eligibility disqualification prior to or after the conclusion of a championship event, the team will remain eligible to participate and retain games received up to the disqualification, but the ineligible player will not be allowed to continue or advance.

## **3.03C(4)b ELIGIBILITY DISQUALIFICATION THAT OCCURS DURING A CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT WHEN USING A ROUND ROBIN FORMAT**

In the event of an eligibility disqualification in a round robin format during the championship event, the player will not be allowed to continue or advance on that team and all matches played by the player shall be considered losses and those matches shall be considered wins for the opposing players or doubles teams and scored according to the format described in TennisLink Team Tennis for determining standings.

## **3.03C(4)c ELIGIBILITY DISQUALIFICATION THAT OCCURS DURING A CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT WHEN USING A SINGLE ELIMINATION FORMAT.**

In the case of a disqualification in single elimination format during the championship event, the player will not be allowed to continue or advance on that team and the last individual match played by the player shall be considered a win for the opposing player or doubles team and scored according to the format described in TennisLink Team Tennis for determining standings.

## **3.03D GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE ACTION**

### **3.03D(1)**

Following the receipt of a grievance and as soon as reasonable, the USTA Junior Team Tennis Grievance Committee shall investigate the alleged violation as it deems appropriate. If the Grievance Committee deems necessary, it shall arrange for a hearing at which the parties involved shall have the opportunity to present evidence.

### **3.03D(2)**

The USTA Junior Team Tennis Grievance Committee shall have the power to dismiss, deny the grievance or to direct the correction of any violations by reasonable means, including the suspension or disqualification of an individual or Team. This is applicable to any party to the grievance as long as such party has been given the opportunity to review and present evidence.

### **3.03D(3)**

The USTA Junior Team Tennis Grievance Committee shall prepare a written decision setting forth the basis for its decision and the deadline for any written appeal and promptly deliver copies to the parties involved.

### **3.03D(4)**

The decision of the USTA Junior Team Tennis Grievance Committee shall be by majority vote.

## **3.04 GRIEVANCE APPEALS**

### **3.04A GENERAL GRIEVANCE APPEALS PROCEDURES**

#### **3.04A(1)**

Any party(ies) to the grievance may appeal the decision of the Grievance Committee within the time fixed by the Grievance Committee. Upon receipt of an appeal of the decision of the Grievance Committee, the Grievance Appeal Committee shall act promptly to resolve the appeal.

#### **3.04A(2)**

The party(ies) appealing shall submit written notice of appeal with the appropriate Grievance Appeal Committee, the Chair of the Grievance Committee whose decision is being appealed, Local/Area, District, or Sectional USTA Jr. Team Tennis Coordinator, and to the other part(ies) involved in the grievance.

#### **3.04A(3)**

The party(ies) to the appeal shall have an opportunity to submit in writing facts and arguments in support of their respective positions. All information submitted shall be provided to all parties.

#### **3.04A(4)**

The Decision of the Grievance Appeal Committee at the level at which the Grievance was heard shall be final and binding and not subject to appeal except with regard to suspensions of individuals or teams for a period of 12 months or more (See Reg. **3.04B(4)**).

#### **3.04A(5)**

Play During Grievance Appeal Procedures

**3.04A(5)a** If the grievance is upheld, the individual or team is subject to all penalties imposed by the Grievance Committee during the appeal process.

**3.04A(5)b** If the original grievance is denied and appealed, the individual or team grieved against may play during his/her/their appeal process but must understand that if the decision of the Grievance Committee is reversed; all matches played during that time may be defaulted or remanded for reconsideration.

### **3.04B GRIEVANCE APPEAL COMMITTEE'S ACTION**

#### **3.04B(1)**

The Grievance Appeal Committee shall not be required to hold any hearing except as provided in **3.03B(2)**. Its decision may be based entirely on the findings of fact by the Grievance Committee whose decision is being appealed and on the facts and arguments submitted in writing by the party(ies) to the appeal.

#### **3.04B(2)**

If the Grievance Committee did not hold a hearing, the Grievance Appeal Committee shall do so, provided any party involved in the grievance so requests in writing. The Grievance Appeal Committee may hear such further evidence as it, in its absolute discretion, deems appropriate.

#### **3.04B(3)**

The Grievance Appeal Committee shall have the power to affirm, modify, remand or reject the decision of the Grievance Committee. The Grievance Appeal Committee shall not impose a harsher penalty. For the purpose of clarification, should the Grievance Committee elect to not impose a penalty, the Grievance Appeal Committee may not impose a penalty; however, the Grievance Appeal Committee may, for cause, remand the matter to the original Grievance Committee or a new Grievance Committee for reconsideration.

#### **3.04B(4)**

A copy of the Grievance Appeal Committee's written decision setting forth the basis of its decision shall be promptly sent to all interested parties.

#### **3.03 B(5)**

The decision of the Grievance Appeal Committee shall be by majority vote.

### **3.04C NATIONAL USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS GRIEVANCE APPEAL COMMITTEE ACTION**

#### **3.04C(1)**

The National USTA Junior Team Tennis Grievance Appeal Committee shall hear appeals from individuals/teams suspended for a period of 12 months or more by a Local, Area, District, or Sectional Grievance Appeal Committee. Upon receipt of an appeal of the decision of the Grievance Appeal Committee, the National Grievance Appeal Committee shall act promptly to resolve the appeal.

#### **3.04C(2)**

The National USTA Junior Team Tennis Grievance Appeal Committee shall have the power to conduct such investigation as deemed necessary and to affirm, modify, remand or reject the decision of the Sectional Grievance Appeal Committee, but may not impose a harsher penalty (See Reg. **3.04B(3)**). However, the National Junior Team Tennis Grievance Appeal Committee may, for cause, remand the matter to the original Grievance Committee or a new Grievance Committee for reconsideration.

#### **3.04C(3)**

A copy of the National USTA Junior Team Tennis Grievance Appeal Committee's written decision setting shall be promptly sent to all interested parties. Such decision shall be final and binding and not subject to appeal.

### **3.05 GENERAL PROCEDURES FOR GRIEVANCE AND GRIEVANCE APPEAL COMMITTEES**

#### **3.05A TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALLS**

If one or more members of a Grievance Committee or Grievance Appeal Committee cannot be present at a hearing, such members may, at the discretion of the chair, participate by means of a telephone conference call, video teleconferencing, or other approved remote participation. If any witness cannot be present at a hearing to present evidence, such witness may, at the discretion of the chair, be permitted to do so by means of a telephone conference call, video teleconferencing or other approved remote participation.

#### **3.05B WRITTEN REQUIREMENT**

The requirement that a notice or other document be in writing is satisfied if it is sent by a telegram, fax, e-mail, or equivalent communication.

## GLOSSARY

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**ADVANCED:** The level of play for participants who have a NTRP 3.5 & above.

**AGE CRITERIA DATE:** Date in which a player must remain age eligible through to participate in advancing championships – August 31st

**AGE VALIDATED:** Programs will have ages valid through August 31 of the championship year and will be eligible to progress through championship.

**APPEAL:** Request for reconsideration of a previous decision, determination or finding.

**BEGINNER:** The level of play for participants who have a NTRP 2.0 & below.

**CHAMPIONSHIP:** Any USTA Junior Team Tennis program competition held beyond local competition or playoffs.

**CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM TENNIS YEAR:** The Championship Junior Team Tennis year shall be September 1 to August 31, with the National Championships following the championship year and before December 31.

**COMPETITIVE:** A match in which the outcome is unpredictable.

**DEFAULT:** When a player or team fails to appear on time or is removed by a tournament official for misconduct.

**INTERMEDIATE:** The level of play for participants who have a NTRP 3.0 & below.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Qualifications to play.

**FLIGHT:** A group of teams competing at a specified NTRP level within a local or championship competition where every team in that group plays every other team to declare a winner.

**GENDER NEUTRAL:** A match, team, or program comprised of any mix of girls and boys.

**GENDER SPECIFIC:** In singles and doubles, girls play girls and boys play boys. In mixed doubles, a doubles team comprised of one girl and one boy and plays against another doubles team comprised of one girl and one boy.

**GRIEVANCE:** Written formal complaint regarding an alleged violation of a regulation or procedure.

**INDIVIDUAL MATCH:** Any singles or doubles match played as part of a team match.

**LEVEL OF PLAY:** NTRP skill levels offered in the program.

**LOCAL TEAM TENNIS PROGRAM:** A team competition in a specified geographical area that applies specific local team tennis regulations and consists of NTRP level(s) with a minimum of two or more teams per NTRP level.

**MATCH TIEBREAK:** First to 10 by a margin of two. (See [www.usta.com](http://www.usta.com), Rules, #27.)

**MIXED DOUBLES:** A match between a doubles team comprised of one girl and one boy versus another doubles team comprised of one girl and one boy.

**NTRP:** National Tennis Rating Program.

**PLAYER:** The individual who registers on a team.

**PROGRAM:** A team competition in a specified geographical area that applies specific local program regulations and consists of divisions with a minimum of two or more teams per division. A local program may choose to divide any or all division flights. Where flights are used, a local playoff structure may be established to determine a champion.

**NON AGE-VALIDATED ADVANCING:** Programs other than 14 and under and 18 and under; Intermediate and Advanced may be eligible for advancement.

**NON ADVANCING PROGRAMS:** These programs are ineligible for advancement to Championships.

**RETIREMENT:** Occurs when an individual match has started and a player is unable to continue due to injury, loss of condition, or emergency.

**ROUND ROBIN:** Each team plays every other team in its flight.

**SECTION BENCHMARK:** The use of standings and points at a certain period of time as a tool which may determine appropriate play level.

**SET BREAK:** The two-minute period between the completion of the last game of a set and the beginning of a succeeding set.

**SET TIEBREAK:** First to 7 by a margin of two. (See [www.usta.com](http://www.usta.com), Rules, #27.)

**SINGLE ELIMINATION:** A type of format where the loser of each match or bracket is immediately eliminated.

**START OF A MATCH:** First service attempt on an individual court.

**TEAM:** Individuals on a roster together.

**TEAM TENNIS COORDINATOR:** Person appointed or hired to implement and administer Team Tennis.

**TEAM TENNIS PROGRESSION:** Local/Area team tennis team winners have the opportunity to advance through District, Sectional, and National championships competition.

**TEAM TENNIS YEAR:** January 1 through December 31.

**TEAM MATCH:** (Local team match): Any number of individual singles, doubles, and/ or mixed doubles matches as determined by the local program. (Championship team match): Girl's Singles, Boy's Singles, Girls' Doubles, Boys' Doubles, and Mixed Doubles.

**TIEBREAK PROCEDURES:** Process to determine the winner of a Round Robin or Single Elimination in the team competition if the teams are tied.

**TWO-MATCH RULE:** Each player advancing to championship competition must have reported scores in a minimum of two local team matches on the advancing team.

**SECTION ASSOCIATIONS:** One of seventeen defined associations that comprise the USTA.

**WAIVER OF CLAIMS:** As a condition of participation, each player gives up the right to any demand for injuries sustained in traveling to or from or participating in the program.

**WAIVER OF RULES:** Except where specifically permitted, no USTA Junior Team Tennis Guideline or Procedure may be disregarded.



## GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF NTRP PLAYING LEVELS

- 1.0** Player is just starting to play tennis.
- 1.5** Player has limited experience and is working primarily on getting the ball in play.
- Note to team coach/manager: Player needs to coordinate moving when hitting the ball. In fact, player is still concentrating on getting the ball over the net from a stationary position. Player is learning to serve and keep score.
- 2.0** Player lacks court experience and his/her strokes need developing. Player is familiar with the basic positions for singles and doubles play.
- Note to team coach/manager: Player is now beginning to coordinate footwork but is not consistent in hitting the ball over the net. Player can serve to some degree, understands scoring as well as correct positions for serving and receiving, and has limited success with volleys.
- 2.5** Player is learning to judge where the ball is going, although court coverage is limited. Player can sustain a short rally of slow pace with other players of the same ability.
- Note to team coach/manager: Player can keep score unassisted, can call own lines, can serve overhand from the baseline and has an understanding of the basic rules.
- 3.0** Player is fairly consistent when hitting medium-paced shots but is not comfortable with all strokes and lacks execution when trying for directional control, depth or power. The most common doubles formation is one-up, one-back.
- Note to team coach/manager: Player is improving court coverage and can sustain a rally and serve with consistency. On ground strokes, player needs to improve control of height, depth, direction and speed.
- 3.5** Player has achieved improved stroke dependability with directional control on moderate shots, but needs to develop depth and variety. Player exhibits more aggressive net play, improved court coverage and is developing teamwork in doubles.
- Note to team coach/manager: Player is starting to recognize opportunities to attack short balls by coming to net. Player is developing more spin and power on the serve and seldom double faults.
- 4.0** Player has dependable strokes, including directional control and depth on both forehand and backhand sides on moderate-paced shots. Player can use lobs, overheads, approach shots and volleys with some success and occasionally forces errors when serving. Rallies may be lost due to impatience. Teamwork in doubles is evident.
- Note to team coach/manager: Player has added variety in shot selection by using lobs, overheads, volleys and approach shots with some success. Player can develop a game plan.

## GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF NTRP PLAYING LEVELS

- 4.5** Player has developed use of power and spin and can handle pace. Player has sound footwork, can control depth of shots and attempts to vary his/her game plan according to the opponent. Player can hit first serves with power and accuracy and place the second serve. Player tends to over-hit on difficult shots. Aggressive net play is common in doubles.
- Note to team coach/manager: Player is developing an offensive weapon.
- 5.0** Player has good shot anticipation and frequently has an outstanding shot or attribute around which a game may be structured. Player can regularly hit winners or force errors off short balls and can put away volleys. Player can successfully execute lobs, drop shots, half volleys and overhead smashes, and has good depth and spin on most second serves.
- Note to team coach/manager: Player is match-wise and uses shots that have a high percentage of success in both singles and doubles.
- 5.5** Player has mastered power and/or consistency as a major weapon. Player can vary strategies and styles of play in a competitive situation and hit dependable shots in a stress situation. Player has had intensive training for national tournament competition at the junior and collegiate levels and has obtained a sectional and/or national ranking.
- 6.0 to 7.0** Player has had intensive training for national tournament competition at the junior and collegiate levels and has obtained a sectional and/or national ranking.
- 7.1** Player is a world-class player.

### PLAYERS IN WHEELCHAIRS

Players in wheelchairs should use these same general characteristics to determine their NTRP skill level. The only differences are as follows:

- **Mobility:** While players in wheelchairs may have skills that would normally provide them with a certain rating, the mobility factor suggests that when competing against able-bodied players, they should participate at an NTRP skill level that provides for competitive rather than compatible play.
- **Serving ability:** Due to the nature of the player's injury or disability, a powerful serve may not be possible. In this case, it may be more realistic to self-rate below 3.5, as serve strength becomes key above this level.
- **Two-Bounce Rule:** Players in wheelchairs will receive two bounces while standing players will receive one bounce in integrated play.

## NATIONAL TENNIS RATING PROGRAM (NTRP)

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The National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP), which defines the characteristics of a player's levels, is the official system for determining the levels of competition for USTA Junior Team Tennis. Each Sectional Association will determine the appropriate use of their ranking system to distinguish between Intermediate and Advanced level for any players, across all age categories, who participate in sanctioned tournaments.

Players in USTA Junior Team Tennis rate in accordance with the NTRP guidelines. Factors such as a player's on-court performance, tennis background, and any additional information should be considered in the self-rating decision. When players are rating themselves and question at which level they should play, they should place themselves in the higher NTRP level of play.

Players who are good athletes or intend to spend a great deal of time taking lessons and practicing should be aware that their improvement may be significant enough to surpass their original self-rating by the time they reach the end of the local season or championship level.

If players anticipate their play level will be higher by the time of a championship event, they should enter at a higher level of play at the beginning of the local team season to ensure eligibility.

To place yourself: Begin with 1.0. Read all categories carefully and then decide which one best describes your present ability level. Be certain that you qualify on all points of all preceding levels as well as those in the level you choose. When rating yourself, assume you are playing against a player of the same gender and the same ability.

## CODE OF CONDUCT

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1. The highest level of sportsmanship is expected from every player! An understanding of and a commitment to the points below are part of your responsibility as a player in a USTA tournament. Violators of this code or its spirit are subject to disciplinary action.
2. Once you have entered a tournament, honor your commitment to play. Exceptions should occur only in cases of serious illness, injury or personal emergency.
3. From the beginning of the match, play must be continuous. Attempts to stall or to extend rest periods for the purpose of recovering from a loss of physical condition (such as cramps or shortness of breath) are illegal.
4. Intentional distractions that interfere with your opponent's concentration or effort to play the ball are against the rules.
5. Spectators—including parents, friends and coaches—are welcome to watch and enjoy matches. Their role, however, is clearly restricted to that of passive observer with no involvement of any kind during the match.
6. Players are expected to put forth a full and honest effort regardless of the score or expected outcome.
7. Players are expected to maintain full control over their emotions and behavior throughout the match. If you begin to lose your composure during play, try the following: Take several deep breaths, exhale as slowly as possible, and feel your muscles relax. Concentrate on your own game and behavior while ignoring distractions from your opponent or surroundings. Be your own best friend—enjoy your good shots and forget the poor ones.

## USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS SECTIONAL COORDINATORS

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### USTA CARIBBEAN

Monica Carrasquillo Urb. Parque  
Central  
Calle German Moyer 406-A Esq. Juan J.  
Jimenez  
San Juan, PR 00918  
Phone: 787-982-7782 x223  
Fax: 787-982-7783  
E-mail: mcarrasquillo@cta.usta.com

### USTA EASTERN

Maria Lirio  
70 West Red Oak Lane,  
4th Floor White Plains, NY 10604  
Phone: 914-230-4189  
Fax: 866-351-2119  
Cell: 716-289-0051  
E-mail: lirio@eta.usta.com

### USTA FLORIDA

Liz Coates  
1 Deuce Court, Suite 100  
Daytona Beach, FL 32124  
Phone: 386-671-8943  
Fax: 386-671-5977  
E-mail: coates@Florida.usta.com

### USTA HAWAII PACIFIC

Mimi Kennell  
932 Ward Avenue, Suite 490  
Honolulu, HI 96814  
Phone: 808-585-9533  
Fax: 808-585-9512  
E-mail: kennell@hawaii.usta.com

### USTA INTERMOUNTAIN

Tiffany Milner  
9145 E. Kenyon Ave., #201  
Denver, CO 80237  
Phone: 303-695-4117 x224  
Fax: 303-695-6518  
E-mail: tmilner@ita.usta.com

### USTA MID-ATLANTIC

Barbara Linke  
11410 Isaac Newton Square North,  
Suite 270 Reston, VA 20190  
Phone: 703-556-6120  
Fax: 703-556-6175  
E-mail: blinke@mas.usta.com

### USTA MIDDLE STATES

Laurie Schwepfinger  
1288 Valley Forge Road, Suite 74  
Valley Forge, PA 19482  
Phone: 484-302-0755  
Fax: 610-935-5484  
E-mail: Schwepfinger@ms.usta.com

### USTA MIDWEST

Jenny Reifeis  
1310 East 96th Street, Suite 100  
Indianapolis, IN 46240  
Phone: 317-669-0447  
Fax: 317-577-5123  
E-mail: jenny@midwest.usta.com USTA

### USTA MISSOURI VALLEY

Amanda Pratzel  
6400 West 95th Street, Suite 102  
Overland Park, KS 66212  
Phone: 913-322-4854  
Fax: 913-322-4801  
E-mail: pratzel@movalley.usta.com

### USTA NEW ENGLAND

Sarah Rice  
110 Turnpike Road  
Westborough, MA 01581  
Phone: 508-366-3450 x27  
Fax: 508-366-5805  
E-mail: rice@newengland.usta.com

### NORTHERN

Brandon Jackson  
1001 West 98th Street, Suite 101  
Bloomington, MN 55431  
Phone: 952-358-3291  
Fax: 952-887-1319  
E-mail: jackson@northern.usta.com

### USTA NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Darren Wenger  
1920 North Loop Road Alameda, CA  
94502  
Phone: 510-263-0467  
Fax: 510-748-7377  
E-mail: wenger@norcal.usta.com

### USTA PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Valerie Weaks  
9746 SW Nimbus  
Beaverton, OR 97008  
Phone: 503.520.1877 ext. 3334  
Fax: 503.520.0133  
Email: weaks@pnw.usta.com USTA

### USTA SOUTHERN

Jessica Harrell  
5685 Spalding Drive  
Norcross, GA 30092  
Phone: 770-368-8200 x117  
Fax: 770-368-9091  
E-mail: harrell@sta.usta.com

### USTA SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Ken Grassel  
P.O. Box 240015  
Los Angeles, CA 90024  
Phone: 310-208-3838 x233  
Fax: 310-824-7691  
E-mail: grassel@scta.usta.com

### SOUTHWEST

Ashley Redman  
7010 East Acoma Drive, Suite 201  
Scottsdale, AZ 85254  
Phone: 480-289-2351 x104  
Fax: 480-289-2701  
E-mail: aredman@southwest.usta.co

### USTA TEXAS

Sylvia Krywacz  
8105 Exchange Parkway  
Austin, TX 78754  
Phone: 512-443-1334 x212  
Fax: 512-443-4748  
E-mail: skrywacz@texas.usta.com

For a complete list of USTA Junior Team Tennis  
Championship events, including dates and  
locations, visit [usta.com/jtt](http://usta.com/jtt)

## NOTES

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