

USTA Junior Team Tennis

Introduction:

The purpose for USTA Junior Team Tennis is to provide a friendly, yet competitive format for young tennis players (ages 6-18) where the main focus is teamwork and player development. We want every player to feel valuable to the team, show respect for all ability levels and develop friendships that will grow within the program. Remember you are giving these children an opportunity to play the sport for a lifetime!

Program Dates:

- Must run a 6 week program within the given program dates:
- Spring Season (March-July)

Program Fees:

- The cost of participating in Junior Team Tennis can vary between CTAs, but the following parts do not vary:
 - TennisLink fee: \$3.00
 - Uniform fee: \$11.50
 - ATA Program Fee \$20.00
 - USTA Membership fee: \$18.00 (one-year membership)
 - Required to participate.
 - CTAs can charge an additional program fee as they see fit.
 - State Championships fee: TBD

Divisions for ages 11-18:

- Divisions include advanced and intermediate levels within each age group:
 - 18 & under
 - 14 & under
 - 12 & under

These rules will apply at the St. Championships.

Your local league can create its own regulations if they so choose.

We recommend playing according to these regulations for consistency. If you have any questions during play, refer to the Rulebook (noting that Southern policy may be different).

JTT Team Format:

- Each team must have three (3) boys and three (3) girls and a maximum of ten (10) players.
- Leagues should have a minimum of two (2) or more teams per level. (There do not need to be teams at every level.)
- Teams should have a 45-90 minute practice and one match per week. Practice and matches may be played on the same day.
- We encourage your teams to play every team in your area at least once before the State Tournament. Schedule equal Away and Home matches:

1 Away/1 Home

- A player may participate on more than one team in a local league during the same season as long as it is not the same Division in the same league. A player may not participate on more than one Championship team.

JTT Match Format:

- **Before match play:**

- The captain is responsible for checking the team in at the site of the match. Lineups should be submitted 30 minutes prior to the scheduled match time.
- Once lineups are submitted, they may only be changed in the event of illness, injury, or disqualification. A fifteen-minute default time will be strictly enforced, as will the point penalty system.
- All teams are expected to play all scheduled matches!

- **During Match play:**

- All matches will observe a 5-minute warm-up, including serves. Play is continuous.
- 1 Boys Singles, 1 Girls Singles, 1 Boys Doubles, 1 Girls Doubles, 1 Mixed Doubles
- MXD will always be the 5th match.
- More than One Match:
 - Local League Play: A player may play in any number of individual matches in a team match as determined by the local league and State.
 - Championship Play: A player may play in either one singles or one doubles match within each team or one girls and one boy may play in two individual matches one of which must be MXD. All players who have played must "double up" before any player "doubles up" again. The "doubling up" rotation will start over in Playoffs. A team does not have to have fewer than 4 boys and/or fewer than 4 girls to play an individual twice.
- Match format is 2 out of 3 short sets with no-ad scoring (first to 4 games). 3rd set is a 10-pt tiebreak. 7 pt tie-breaker at 4 games all if necessary.

- MXD Match players must serve boy to boy/girl to girl on No-ad point.
- Players must announce game score before beginning service of each game, and point score before each subsequent serve. If scorekeeping file tiles are present players must flip tiles either after every game, or on every changeover. Players still need to announce score when serving even if flip tiles are present
- Players should resolve score disputes among themselves WITHOUT interference from coaches/teammates/spectators. Players will be encouraged to use the 3 step score dispute resolution procedure:

3-step score dispute resolution:

Coaches are required to allow the players to settle any score disputes amongst themselves in accordance with the USTA Score Dispute Resolution Procedure: When a score is disputed during a game, follow each step below as needed until an agreement is reached:

a. Each player/pair states what he or she believes to be the correct score. Players should try to discuss/work out the dispute, recalling points played, etc. If no solution is reached, go on to step b;

b. Revert back to last score that both players/teams agree to: for example, if Player A believes the score is 30-40 while B believes it to be 40-30 but they both agree that at one point the score was 30-30, then the score will revert to 30-30 and play continues from that point;

c. If no agreement can be reached using steps a. or b., then both players/teams restate what they believe the current score to be; a player will then spin a racquet, the winner of the spin is considered correct as to score, and play resumes from that score.

- **Breaks during play:**

- Medical Conditions: Medical conditions include but are not limited to an injury, illness, and heat-related condition or cramping.
- Medical Time-Out: A medical time-out consists of evaluation time as determined by the referee plus a maximum of three minutes treatment time.
- Toilet visit. A player may request one or more suspensions of play for a toilet visit. No coaching shall be permitted during the suspension of play for either a medical time-out or a toilet visit.

- **After Match Play**

- Winners will be determined by total # of games won. If 2 teams are tied, head to head results. If 3 or more teams are tied, least number of sets lost, then least number of games lost, then a head-to-head match winner.
 - At conclusions of play, players should line up facing opposing team to walk by and shake hands.

JTT League Rules:

- Players must remain age eligible thru Aug. 31st of the Championship year to be eligible for advancement opportunities to Sectional & National Championships. (Example: If a player is turning 15 on Aug. 29th, they cannot play 14's.)
- **Advanced (Open) players-if a player at the end of the preceding year had a Southern standing from 1-300 (10s from 1-100), they are ineligible to play intermediate in any age division in the current year. Player MUST play Advanced.** Players with a Sectional/National ranking must play at the Advanced level. (10's are excluded from this rule.)
- Must play and record in Tennis Link three (3) local league matches to qualify for the State Championships. Match scores must come from 3 different matches. Only 1 can be a default match (default only counts if the default is in your favor). Local play history can't come from a 1 day event.
- Intermediate & Advanced teams may play each other to get three (3) match scores for Tennis Link.
- Season play must fall under CTA match regulations to count. Otherwise the match is default. If a team does not have enough of one gender to fully field a team, the matches played outside the regulations will be defaulted.
- 3 out of 5 courts constitutes a match. Only two matches can be defaulted without defaulting the entire team match.
- Default counts as a match won for the non-defaulting team. The non-defaulting team is awarded 8 games. The defaulting team is awarded 0 games.
- Must send 10 % of players to the spring State Tournament (ex. If you have 100 players in your league then 10 must come).
- Teams must declare intent to play with the Local Coordinator in the CTA area.
- Each team shall appoint a team captain to handle administrative affairs and to represent the team in League matters

Sectional Rules:

- Players can "double up" in a match. No player can "double up" in another match until all the boys or all the girls on the roster depending on the gender, have "doubled up". Boy A plays twice in the first match. Boy A cannot play twice in another match until all boys have played twice in a match. 2nd match must be Mixed Doubles.
- In order to compete, the team must have 2 boys/2girls of the original team and they can sub only 1 girl/1boy. Must be gender specific.
- Players may play on only 1 team at Sectionals
- If a player has a standing from 1-300 in Sectional Standings as of July 31, 2008 they must play in the Advanced division.

JTT Divisions for players 6-10 (using the QuickStart Format):

8 & under:

- Each Team must have a minimum of 4 players.
- A level must have a minimum of two teams.
- Played on the 36' court.
- 3 singles matches
- Match play: 7 point games, 2 out of 3

10 & under:

Beginner:

- Each Team must have a minimum of 4 players.
- A level must have a minimum of two teams.
- Played on the 60' court.
- 2 singles matches, 1 doubles match
- Match play: 2 out of 3 short sets (set = 4 games) 3rd set tiebreak; game to 7 points

Advanced:

- Played on the full court.

All QuickStart JTT

- Captain must submit line-up 30 minutes prior to match time.
- Once lineups are submitted, they may only be changed in the event of illness, injury or disqualification. A fifteen-minute default time will be strictly enforced, as will the point penalty system.
- Must play and record in Tennis Link three (3) local league matches to be eligible to come to State Tournament. Match scores must come from 3 different matches. Only 1 can be a default match. This is in regards for the team as a whole.
- Winners will be determined by total # of games won. If 2 teams are tied, head to head results. If 3 or more teams are tied, least number of sets lost, then least number of games lost, the spin of racquet.
- A volunteer must be available at two (2) courts to help with scoring and any possible disputes.
- At conclusions of play, players should line up facing opposing team to walk by and shake hands.

Captains' Information and Site Responsibilities:

- Recruit players and alternates to complete the season.
- Ensure that all players meet eligibility requirements.
- Collect all fees associated with participation for the program.
- Make sure team members understand the rules and format.
- Confirm match schedule with opposing captain to double check date, time and location.

- The captain is responsible for checking the team in at the site of the match.
- Captains will record scores on the score cards once the match is complete. Winning captain will record scores in Tennis Link.

Rain:

- In the event of rain, captains will stop play to discuss next step. Players will not be allowed to leave the site until released by their captain. If needed, play will continue under lights if necessary.

Coaching Policies:

- Coaching is considered to be communication, advice or instruction of any kind, audible or visible, to a player.
- **Coaching will be allowed from outside the fenced area, but only during the 90 second odd-game changeover. Absolutely no coaching during the tiebreak.**
- Teams with more than one coach/captain must designate a "head" coach/captain for the duration of the individual match. Only the **designated coach/captain** will be permitted to coach during the coaching period
- Coaching should be a positive reinforcement to your player and not against the opponent
- Spectators must remain outside the fence
- Spectators may NOT coach or make line calls
- A player is never allowed to be coached, using signals of any kind.
- Any violation of these Coaching Policies may result in the suspension of the coaching privileges and point penalties.

Marketing \$:

- Remember your CTA has marketing \$ available for your program, check with your Program Coordinator or the Executive Director of your CTA for details.

State Championships:

- July 11 – 12, 2009
- Burns Park Tennis Center - North Little Rock, AR
- Championships fee: TBA
- All players and spectators must sign the attached waivers and turn them in to the ATA before they are eligible for play in the St. Championships.

If you have any questions, contact Sam Jackson @ 227-7611 or 681-1122 or e-mail sam@arktennis.com

General Characteristics of Various NTRP Playing Levels

(Wheelchair players please see note below)

- 1.5** You have limited experience and are working primarily on getting the ball in play.
- 2.0** You lack court experience and your strokes need developing. You are familiar with the basic positions for singles and doubles play.
- 2.5** You are learning to judge where the ball is going, although your court coverage is limited. You can sustain a short rally of slow pace with other players of the same ability.
- 3.0** You are fairly consistent when hitting medium-paced shorts, but are not comfortable with all strokes and lack execution when trying for directional control, depth, or power. Your most common doubles formation is one-up, one-back.
- 3.5** You have achieved improved stroke dependability with directional control on moderate shots, but need to develop depth and variety. You exhibit more aggressive net play, have improved court coverage and are developing teamwork in doubles.
- 4.0** You have dependable strokes, including directional control and depth on both forehand and backhand sides on moderate-paced shots. You can use lobs, overheads, approach shots and volleys with some success and occasionally force errors when serving. Rallies may be lost due to impatience. Teamwork in doubles is evident.
- 4.5** You have developed your use of power and spin and can handle pace. You have sound footwork, can control depth of shots, and attempt to vary game plan according to your opponents. You can hit first serves with power and accuracy and place the second serve. You tend to over hit on difficult shots. Aggressive net play is common in doubles.
- 5.0** You have good shot anticipation and frequently have an outstanding shot or attribute around which a game may be structured. You can regularly hit winners or force errors off of short balls and can put away volleys. You can successfully execute lobs, drop shots, half volleys, overhead smashes, and have good depth and spin on most second serves.
- 5.5** You have mastered power and/or consistency as a major weapon. You can vary strategies and styles of play in a competitive situation and hit dependable shots in a stress situation.
- 6.0 to 7.0** You have had intensive training for national tournament competition at the junior and collegiate levels and have obtained a sectional and/or national ranking.
- 7.0** You are a world-class player.

Players in Wheelchairs:

Players in wheelchairs should use these 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 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 4.0 as service strength becomes key beyond this level. Many tournament players in wheelchairs have already received an NTRP rating. Wheelchair players should check with players whose skills match their own before determining their rating. The very best world-class players in wheelchairs have an NTRP rating in the low 4.5s.

Consent & Waiver Form

Consent to Communications: I understand that by providing my mailing address, email address, telephone number, and fax number, I consent to receive communications sent by or on behalf of the Arkansas Tennis Association (the "ATA"), its member organizations, and their representatives, via email or fax.

Signature of parent/guardian (must be over 18): _____ Date: _____

Consent to Publication. I hereby give the Arkansas Tennis Association, its member organizations, and their representatives the irrevocable right to use my name, picture, photograph, or other likeness in all forms and media, and in all manners. This includes but is not limited to print and the web. I waive the right to inspect or approve the finished version (s), including any written copy that may accompany it.

Signature of parent/guardian (must be over 18): _____ Date: _____

Medical Release: I hereby consent to emergency first aid and other medical procedures, or hospital service that may be rendered by or at accredited hospitals, by appointed physicians, which at the time of injury or illness seem reasonably advisable.

Signature of parent/guardian (must be over 18): _____ Date: _____

Waiver and Indemnity Agreement: Acceptance of my entry in these events is without responsibility of any kind by the USTA, the STA, State Association, the host clubs, committees, or the management of any event in which I may be entered or may participate. In consideration of the acceptance of my entry, I do hereby for and on behalf of myself and my heirs and legal representatives release and forever discharge the USTA, the STA, District Association, and the host clubs, their officers, committees, and representatives and their successors and assigns, of and from any and all claims, demands, and injuries, however arising, whether caused by the negligent or intentional acts of the USTA/STA and its representatives, representatives of other sponsoring entities, or by third parties, which injuries may be in any way related to my activities during the tournament and any period traveling to or from the events described, and all such claims are hereby waived and released, and I covenant not to sue therefore. The parent or guardian, by signing below, does hereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless the USTA/STA and its representatives and the sponsoring entity from any liability which they may incur to the entrant, howsoever arising and whether caused by the negligent or intentional acts of the USTA/STA, its representatives, or the sponsoring body. I understand that this tournament will be governed by applicable USTA rules and regulations, the rules and regulations of this tournament, the rules and procedures governing discipline of players in STA and District sanctioned tournaments, the STA and district code of ethics, tournament policy, and ranking regulations and agree to conduct myself accordingly.

Signature of parent/guardian (must be over 18): _____ Date: _____

I have read and understand the foregoing releases, waivers and indemnity agreement.

USTA Arkansas

Player Conduct Agreement

In recognition of the support by the USTA Arkansas to competitions such as the USTA Junior Team Tennis State Championships and during league matches, certain behavior is expected. Players at the State Championship level become role models for other players and athletes. We expect the highest level of sportsmanship and exemplary behavior both on and off the court. Each player shall abide by the following rules of conduct while at the USTA Junior Team Tennis State Championships and during league team matches:

1. If you have any doubt as to whether a ball is out or good, you must give your opponent the benefit of the doubt and play the ball as good.
2. It is your obligation to call all balls on your side, to help your opponent make calls when the opponent requests it, and to call against yourself (with the exception of a first service) any ball that you clearly see out on your opponent's side of the net.
3. Any "out" or "let" call must be made instantaneously; otherwise the ball continues in play.
4. **Do not** enlist the aid of spectators in making line calls.
5. If you call a ball out and then realize it was good, you should correct your call.
6. To avoid controversy over the score, the Server should announce the set score before starting a game and the game score prior to serving each point.
7. If players cannot agree on the score, they may go back to the last score on which there was agreement and resume play from that point, or they may spin a racket.
8. Do not stall, sulk, complain, or practice gamesmanship.
9. Wait until the players on another court have completed a point before retrieving or returning a ball.
10. 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 are clearly illegal.
11. Intentional distractions that interfere with your opponent's concentration or effort to play the ball are against the rules.
12. Players are expected to put forth a full and honest effort regardless of the score or expected outcome.
13. Players are expected to maintain full control over their emotions and the resulting behavior throughout the match. If you begin to lose your composure during play, try the following:
 1. Take several deep breaths, exhale as slowly as possible and feel your muscles relax
 2. Concentrate on your own game and behavior while ignoring distractions from your opponent or surroundings.
 3. Be your own best friend – enjoy your good shots and forget the poor ones.
14. The ZERO tolerance policy towards any physical, verbal, racquet or ball abuse will be strictly enforced.

Failure to comply with any of the above regulations may result in notification of parents, coaches and USTA Arkansas. If conduct is deemed unacceptable by the Tournament Director or League Coordinator dismissal from the event or league may occur.

By signing below, I _____ agree to abide by the above rules.

Player Signature Date

USTA Arkansas

Spectator Conduct

One of the goals of the USTA Jr. Team Tennis is to allow the players a competitive setting without the pressures of a tournament. the purpose of this program is to allow the teams on the court to play and win, and most of all HAVE FUN!! Clapping for good shots will be allowed provided spectators clap for both teams' good shots. Cheering can get out of control, often intimidating children on the court, disrupt other matches in progress and cause conflict between opposing teams.

Remember, our concern is the well being of very junior player participating in this program. We want all teams that play to feel good after every match. If cheering gets out of hand, the spectators will be informed that any cheering or clapping will not be allowed the remainder of the match. If abuse continues the person(s) will be asked to leave the site. Team Captain/Coaches are responsible for their spectators and should make sure their parents and players understand.

Spectators should use common sense. Think how your child would feel in a situation before subjecting another child to unfairness.

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

Failure to comply with any of the above regulations may result in dismissal from the program.

Remember these children have been given
the opportunity to play the sport of a lifetime!!!

Please give a copy of this to all your parents. Make sure the players read, sign and turn in you to the Player conduct agreement.



Time Line Example for your CTA

6 Months Before Season Begins

- Contact your volunteer team to discuss starting a local league program
- Contact facilities and interested individuals to inform them that a league is starting in their community
- Promote your league throughout your community
- Contact your league coordinators / club pros to schedule NTRP rating evaluations

4 to 5 Months Before the Season Begins

- Create a tentative league season schedule
- Recruit volunteers
- Determine league format based upon player participation

3 Months Before Season Begins

- Print or Order materials to distribute at all captains' meetings
- Set date for team captains' meeting and notify all potential participants, (tennis facilities and individual captains) of the date, time and location of this meeting

2 Months or Less Before Season Begins

- Hold captains' meetings
- Collect Entry Applications with all fees necessary for participation. Remember to check eligibility requirements for each player
- Create match schedule and distribute to all team captains and facilities participating in the program
- Order local league awards through local vendors

During Local League Season

- Review all league Entry Applications.
- Collect, copy and send all local league scorecards to appropriate computer input personnel or confirm all have been entered on Tennis Link.
- Send weekly results and team stands to local media.
- Confirm final standings
- Forward information on championships to winning teams

Post Season

- Assist in organizing and running play-offs or championships
- Meet with volunteers to evaluate local league season.
- Forward final budget report to League Committee and any captain that may request a copy of this report.
- Summarize local league season and begin planning next season.

USTA Junior Team Tennis

Spring Program Timeline- 2009

January	Contact Captain's and promote the program
February	Send out USTA Team Tennis Captain's Packet to CTA's Registration from February 16 through March 16.
March	March 16-June 29 JTT Matches Played
June 29	Season Ends
June 30	All teams/players MUST be entered on TennisLink
July 2	Entry Deadline for State Tournament- Price- TBA (1 check), roster & entry form due to ATA
July 3	Draw-No refunds given after draw is made
July 7	Posted to web
July 11	USTA Jr. Team Tennis State Tournament-Burns Park Tennis Center- NLR --8's, 10's, and 12's
July 12	USTA Jr. Team Tennis State Championships – Burns Park Tennis Center – NLR --14's and 18s
TBA	Sectionals-Mobile, AL