

USTA's Junior Team Tennis Fueled by GRETA Regulations

The Local Junior Team Tennis League is designed to introduce kids to team competition in a setting that focuses on play opportunities, developing skills, and FUN. The three priorities of local JTT are to (1) make it easy to form teams, (2) increase play opportunities for every child, and (3) promote level based play.

Junior Team Tennis (JTT) Player Participation:

- USTA Junior Team Tennis (JTT) allow players to play on more than one team in a local program during the same season; provided that players may not play on more than one team in the same division.

Junior Team Tennis (JTT) Team Managers/Coaches:

- Each 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.
- Team managers/coaches are allowed to coach only during the match change-overs from outside the court. Team managers/coaches will not be allowed on the court once play has begun. **In no event is coaching permitted during a tie-break.**

Junior Team Tennis (JTT) Registration:

- All participants wanting to play GRETA's Junior Team Tennis league must fill out GRETA's informational form. This allows the program coordinator to confirm the participant's age, USTA Membership status and any other team related information.
 - **USTA Membership:** All individuals who compete in USTA Junior Team Tennis must be current USTA members in good standing through the local season. Any individual who progresses to a championship event in USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis must be a current USTA member through the end of each championship event.
 - **Player Agreement:** All players participating in USTA Junior Team Tennis, including USTA National Championship 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. Part of the Player Agreement is the commitment to player participation each week.

- If there is not enough participants to field a team - program coordinator will attempt to find a team for the participant to play on and assign a team coach/manager. This team coach/manager needs to be in compliance with the USTA Youth Protection Policies and Procedures for USTA Junior Team Tennis.
- In order for Teams to receive and be assigned a team number there must be a minimum of **4 players** committed to play.
- TennisLink Team Tennis is the official system for registering teams and players for participation in USTA Junior Team Tennis. A player's name must be listed on the team roster, as shown in TennisLink, prior to participation in any match. This includes any player who is added to a team roster after the commencement of local league play. The Sectional Association shall establish deadlines and procedures for registering players and teams on TennisLink Team Tennis.
- Schedules will be distributed when each team has 4 participants registered in USTA's Tennis Link. If a team does not meet the requirement by the local league deadline the Team will be removed from TennisLink and not considered for season play.
- Players are eligible to receive a refund for league fee (less the \$4 tennis link fee) prior to your teams first match. Once your team has played a match for the season, refunds are no longer available.

Junior Team Tennis (JTT) Age Eligibility:

- Age Eligibility - Spring Season uses July 15 as the age cutoff. Example - If a player wishes to play 10U, he/she must be 10 years-old on July 15. If the player is 11, he/she must play 12U.

Junior Team Tennis (JTT) Format:

Junior Team Tennis (JTT) is a local program that is non – gender specific (teams are not required to have a certain # of boys or girls).

- 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. 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

- There are no restrictions on the max # of players, but a suggested team roster would be 6 players to ensure players get ample playtime. **Roster size should be based on player availability. No subs are allowed in JTT local play.**
- A player may play 1 singles line & 1 doubles line per match. A player may also play both rounds of doubles. However, a player **may not** play 2 singles lines in a match. A match may be played with as few as three players, or as many as six. For example, if only 3 players are available (Lindsey, Melissa & Zach), then in Round 1, Lindsey could play singles, while Melissa & Zach play doubles. In Round 2, either Melissa or Zach could play singles, and Lindsey would play doubles with the remaining player.
- There are no restrictions on the max # of players, but a suggested team roster would be 6 players to ensure players get ample playtime. **Roster size should be based on player availability.**
- Each player is required to play at least **2 different team matches** in order to advance to the State Tournament (Spring season only). **Retirements count toward the 2 matches, but defaults do not.**
- JTT uses the traditional tiebreak method (**not the Coman method used in adult play**). **See Tie Breaker Explanation - Attachment 1**
- When the match is complete, each player must come to the net and shake hands to congratulate the opponent. It is important that captains convey the message of good sportsmanship through their actions and the directions given to the players.
- For each Match the team is to vote for 2 players (non gender specific) from opposing team for Good Sportsmanship.

Junior Team Tennis (JTT) Official Score Reporting and Standings System:

- TennisLink Team Tennis is the official system for reporting scores and providing standing for USTA Junior Team Tennis.
- Scorecards will be provided to each team before the start of the match. 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.

- All scores must be entered within 48 hours of the match of the season played and before entry into any post-season championship event. Corrections to completed/signed scorecards must be made within 72 hours of the last match and with both team managers/coaches agreement.
- 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 defaulting team (fines will occur - see Attachment 2).
- Scoring Individual Defaults: Individual defaults 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 (fines will occur - see Attachment 2).
- Scoring of Retirements: 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, for the purpose of determining standings, the non-retiring player/doubles team shall be credited with such number of additional games as would have been won if the match was completed and the non-retiring player/ doubles team won every subsequent game. For Junior NTRP computer data entry in TennisLink, mark as retired and submit.

Junior Team Tennis (JTT) Individual/Team Defaults:

- GRETA encourages all participants to over-communicate with team managers/coaches on their availability and team managers/coaches to communicate with the team on weekly availability. Your registration committed you to your team and GRETA's Junior Tennis to a participation agreement. When a team has individual defaults/team defaults this effects the entire program and other participants the opportunity to play. Teams will be fined for all individual and team defaults **(see Attachment 2)**.
- An individual default occurs when a player fails to appear on time, or is defaulted by a tournament official for misconduct.
- When a team presents a scorecard reflecting a default, the opposing team will be notified and extended the opportunity of adjusting their line-up **(fines will occur - see Attachment 2)**.

Junior Team Tennis (JTT) Grievances:

- 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 flight, whether or not the involved player participates or (b) within 24 hours after the end of the local season except for Eligibility Grievances.
- 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.

Inclement Weather Procedures:

- Inclement weather conditions: Safety of players is the number one priority. Since courts can quickly become unsafe in certain situations, do not allow play to continue under the following weather conditions:
 - Rainfall
 - Sustained drizzle
 - Sleet and/or snow
 - Lightning is present
- If the weather is questionable prior to the start of the match, do not assume that the match is cancelled. Program Coordinator will make a decision no later than **Two** hours prior to match time. Teams must show up ready to play unless both managers have spoken with Program Coordinator to confirm the decision to reschedule the match.
- Cancelling a Match AFTER Play Begins:
Once a match is underway, the following rules apply if play must be stopped due to inclement weather:
 - Any completed lines (e.g. Court #1 singles) stand as played.
 - Any incomplete lines must be resumed by the SAME players in the SAME positions, SAME side of net, SAME set, game and point score.
 - Incomplete lines must be resumed at the SAME location, unless players have mutually agreed to an alternate court.
 - Program Coordinator will communicate a plan for all Incomplete lines. This may include individual make ups at different sites scheduled on a non JTT match day.

- When a match is rescheduled following the exchange of the line-up, the line-up stands ONLY for those lines that had already started. The roster for any unplayed lines may be changed (this includes forfeits from the original line-up).

USTA Junior Team Tennis Spectator Guidelines:

- There is to be absolutely NO coaching between a player and a spectator. Team coaches/representatives, teammates, or spectators may not volunteer advice on line calls or scoring.
- The following specific rules have been created to help spectators know what is allowed:
 - Allow players to coach themselves
 - Allow players to make ALL Line Calls - please refrain from any expressions or outbursts from the spectator sections
 - All Players to keep their own score
 - Allow players to handle their own disputes
 - Watch from a comfortable distance from the players. NO ONE IS ALLOWED ON THE COURTS
 - If a player is using profanity or throwing his/her equipment, contact the Program Coordinator.

Parent Support and Involvement:

- Parent support and involvement is a key component to a successful USTA Junior Team Tennis Program at all levels of play. Parents are needed to assist as "Team Managers", and in some situations parents may serve as coaches. The role of the parent volunteer will be more clearly defined by each participating site.
- Parents assisting with coaching duties must have on file a USTA number and approved background check from NetGeneration. Coaching duties include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Coaching during match change-overs
 - Assigning players to courts during match play or creating lineups for matches
 - 10U Court Monitors
 - Any duty that puts coaches in direct contact with the kids
 - Parents on or off court may not give instructions to players during matches.
 - Parents should applaud good shots made by both teams. Please do not applaud an unforced error by either team.

JTT State Tournament Info:

Teams who win their divisions have the opportunity to advance to the State tournament. This 3 – day tournament is held July 12 – 14 in Wilmington.

Attachment 1: Tie Breaks:

- JTT uses the traditional tiebreak method (not the Coman method used in adult play). Explanation of a Tie-break Game:
 - During a tie-break game, points are scored "Zero", "1", "2", "3", etc. The first player/team to win seven points wins the "Game" and "Set." If the tiebreak score is 6-6 the next point wins. **JTT tiebreak scoring is win by 1 point -not a 2 point margin.**
 - The player whose turn it is to serve shall serve the first point of the tie-break game. The following two points shall be served by the opponent(s) (in doubles, the player of the opposing team due to serve next). After this, each player/team shall serve alternately for two consecutive points until the end of the tie-break game (in doubles, the rotation of service within each team shall continue in the same order as during that set).

When do the players change ends?

- Players change ends after every six points. They must change sides during the Tiebreak without any break or delay.

Attachment 2: Individual Court / Team Defaults

- During Local League play it is very important for each team to have enough players to play each week. When you do not show up for your match you are prohibiting another JTT player the opportunity to play. For every individual default or Team default there will be specific fines:
 - **Individual Defaults - \$15 fine per court.** If a team is forfeiting a court - Team Manager will need to inform the Program Coordinator 24 hrs in advance so the opposing team can be notified to adjust their lineup. If the Team Manager does not notify Program Coordinator - the fine will increase \$30. Forfeit Fines will be due before the next match is played.
 - **Team Defaults - there will be a \$25 fine each time there is a full team default.** If the team manager does not report the full team default to program coordinator 24 hours before the match time the fine will increase \$50. Team default Fine will be due before the next match is played.
 - 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 defaulting team.