



## Local Junior Team Tennis Regulations – GRETA 2020

The GRETA Local Junior Team Tennis (JTT) league is a fun, competitive tennis league for youth tennis players (6-18 years old) from beginner through advanced levels of play. Teams are comprised of co-ed players of similar age and ability. Teams will compete against other local teams for the opportunity to advance to a state tournament. The objective of the GRETA JTT league is to introduce kids to team competition in a positive setting that promotes sportsmanship, skill development, and personal growth.

The GRETA local JTT league is sanctioned and supported by the United States Tennis Association (USTA), the USTA Southern Section, and the North Carolina Tennis Association. In addition to the local JTT regulations outlined in this document, all players, coaches, and parents must abide by the national regulations set forth by the USTA as well as additions set forth by USTA Southern.

[Click here to read the USTA Friend at Court 2020](#)

[Click here to read the USTA Junior Team Tennis Regulations 2020](#)

[Click here to read the USTA Southern Junior Team Tennis Regulations 2020](#)

**Player Agreement:** All players participating in JTT agree to abide and be bound by the Friend at Court and the established standards of good conduct, fair play and sportsmanship. Friend at Court is the book of rules and regulations under which tennis is played in the United States. It includes the ITF Rules of Tennis, The Code, and USTA Regulations.

**Player Registration:** All participants wanting to play in the GRETA local JTT league must fill out GRETA's informational form.

**USTA Membership:** All individuals who compete in JTT must be current USTA members in good standing through the local season, which includes the state tournament to be held in Wilmington, NC on July 10-12, 2020. The USTA offers a free one-time membership to new members aged 10 and under.

**State Tournament:** Any team participating in the GRETA local JTT Spring 2020 season who wins their age division has the opportunity to advance to the state tournament. The tournament will be held in Wilmington, NC from July 10-12.

**Player Age Eligibility:** The JTT 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.

**Player Rules of Conduct:** All players participating in JTT are expected to exhibit the highest level of sportsmanship and exemplary behavior both on and off the court. All players agree to abide by the following rules of conduct during match play:

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, the point is over and your opponent wins the point.
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 the ball are against the rules.
11. Players are expected to put forth a full and honest effort regardless of the score or expected outcome.
12. 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:
  - 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.

**Spectator Rules of Conduct:** In an effort to promote fairness and to assure a physically and mentally healthy experience for all players, tennis has expectations around spectator behavior. All JTT spectators are asked to follow these rules of conduct:

1. **Cheering.** Clapping for good shots is encouraged and will be allowed provided spectators show respect for all players.
  - Please wait until a point has finished before clapping. Clapping during play is a distraction for all players.
  - Please do not cheer when a player makes a mistake. This is considered poor etiquette.
  - Please keep cheering respectful in tone and volume. Cheering that gets out of control can intimidate children on the court, disrupt other matches in progress and cause conflict between opposing teams.
  - If cheering gets out of hand, 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. Any violation of rules may be enforced by the point penalty system.
  - Team Captain/Coaches are responsible for their spectators and should make sure their parents and players understand.
  
2. **Coaching.** Spectators are prohibited from coaching players. Only one designated Team Manager/Coach can provide on-court coaching, and only during changeovers.
  - Spectator coaching can intimidate and disrupt play on the court. Spectators who attempt to coach players will be asked to stop.
  - If spectator coaching continues, the person(s) will be asked to leave the site. Any violation of rules may be enforced by the point penalty system.
  
3. **Spectator Help.** Spectators are prohibited from making line calls, calling double bounces or providing scores to players. Only the players on the court, or designated court monitors (for 10 and under divisions), can make line calls, double-bounce calls or assist with scoring. Spectators are prohibited from being on the court while a match is in play.
  - Spectators should refrain from making any noises, negative facial expressions, or verbal outbursts related to scoring, line calls, and double-bounce calls.
  - Encourage good sportsmanship. When in doubt, the ball is IN. Encourage your player to be fair with her/his own calls. Players may speak to the Team Manager/Coach on a changeover to discuss concerns about calls.
  - If a player is consistently displaying poor sportsmanship, such as using profanity or throwing her/his equipment, please contact the JTT coordinator, Stacey Adams at [stacey@gretanc.com](mailto:stacey@gretanc.com).
  - Please control any urge to address a perceived injustice. Remember that these are children that are still learning the mechanics and rules of the game. In addition, they are also learning how to manage their own behavior and make good decisions on the court.
  - Address any concerns you have with your Team Manager/Coach or the JTT coordinator. The Team Manager/Coach or JTT coordinator should be the one to discuss player behavior with the opponent's Team Manager/Coach.

**Inclement Weather Procedures:** The safety of our players is GRETA's number one priority. Since courts can quickly become unsafe in certain situations, GRETA will not allow play to continue under the following weather conditions:

- Rainfall
- Sustained drizzle
- Sleet and/or snow
- Lightning is present

1. In the case of inclement weather, matches may be moved indoors.
2. If the weather is questionable prior to the start of the match, do not assume that the match is cancelled. The program coordinator will make a decision no later than **ONE HOUR** prior to match time. Teams must show up ready to play unless both Team Managers/Coaches have spoken with the program coordinator to confirm the decision to reschedule the match.
3. If a match is cancelled due to inclement weather after play begins, the following rules apply:
  - 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.
  - The 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).