



## Recreational Junior Team Tennis Regulations – GRETA 2022

The GRETA Recreational 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. JTT is open to all players regardless of club or school affiliation. 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 Recreational 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.

**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. A copy of the Friend at Court may be found on the USTA website.

**USTA Membership:** All individuals who compete in JTT must have a USTA account number. Setting up a USTA account is free. A paid USTA membership is not required for juniors during the 2022 season. The parent or guardian must first set up a USTA account for themselves in order to create an account for a minor.

**State Tournament:** Any team participating in the JTT Spring 2022 season who wins their age division has the opportunity to advance to the state tournament. The 2022 State tournament will be held in Greenville, NC on July 14-17.

**Player Age Eligibility:** For the purposes of the State Tournament, players in the Spring 2022 season must remain age eligible through August 31, 2022. Exceptions may be made by the local coordinator for players not attending the State Tournament.

**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. A ball that is 99% out is still 100% in.
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
  
2. **Coaching.** Spectators are prohibited from coaching players. Only one designated Team Manager/Coach can provide coaching from outside the court, and only during changeovers. Coaching should be used for positive reinforcement and must not exceed the 90-second rule for changeovers.
  
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 Captain or the JTT coordinator. The Team Captain or JTT coordinator should be the one to discuss player behavior with the opponent's Team Captain.

**A player may stop match play at any time and inform the site coordinator if they believe they are being harassed by a spectator or their opponent is showing poor sportsmanship.** One of the goals of JTT is to

provide junior players the opportunity to play competitive tennis in a fun and friendly environment.

Ultimately, spectators are asked to use kindness and common sense. Think how your child would feel in a situation before subjecting another child to unfairness.

### **Team Divisions and Composition:**

1. The following age divisions will be offered in 2022, provided there is a minimum of 2 teams registered in that division:
  - 10U Intermediate (Orange Ball)
  - 12U Intermediate (Green Ball)
  - 12U Advanced (Yellow Ball)
  - 14U Intermediate (Yellow Ball)
  - 18U Intermediate (Yellow Ball)
2. Teams are non-gender specific and must include a minimum of 6 players. There are no restrictions on the maximum number of players, but a suggested team roster would be 8 players to ensure players get ample playtime and to lessen the chance of defaults caused by lack of player availability. Roster size should be based on player availability. In order to receive an official team # and match schedule, a team must have at least 6 players registered in TennisLink by the last day of team registration (March 1, 2022).
3. Players may be added to a registered team after the initial team registration deadline, however, players must be officially registered in TennisLink prior to participating in a match. Any player not listed on the roster in accordance with these rules shall be considered an ineligible player, and match results of ineligible players will be considered a default.
4. 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.

**Team Captains/Assistant Captains:** Each team shall have a team captain responsible for the team and its administrative affairs during the season. The team captain is responsible for communicating with their players regarding match information, communicating with the JTT Coordinator regarding matches and player issues, providing a written line-up for each match, and reporting match scores to the site coordinator upon match completion. Each team captain shall be in compliance with the USTA Youth Protection Policies and Procedures for USTA Junior Team Tennis. A team captain or assistant captain must be USTA Safe Play approved in order to receive an official team # and match schedule. More information about Safe Play can be found here: <https://www.usta.com/en/home/safe-play.html>. If the Team Captain or assistant captain are unable to attend a match, a substitute captain may be appointed. The substitute will be responsible for communicating with the JTT Coordinator, providing a written line-up for each match, and reporting match scores to the site coordinator upon match completion.

- **Coaching.** Team Captains are allowed to coach only during match changeovers and only from outside the court. Only one Team Captain, Assistant Captain, or appointed substitute captain can provide coaching during a match. Coaching should be used for positive reinforcement and must not exceed the 90-second rule for changeovers. Captains may not comment on the score or line calls during match play, nor correct any confusion over when it is time to changeover. Captains and spectators are not allowed on the court once play has begun. Coaching is not permitted during a tie-break (with the exception of the 10U division and with the permission of the JTT Coordinator). If help is needed during a tiebreak, the JTT Coordinator (or other site coordinator) should be notified.
  - ❖ Spectators are prohibited from coaching players or making any comments/gestures pertaining to scoring or line calls within earshot of the players. This is considered harassment. If you believe a spectator is coaching a player or harassing a player, please inform the site coordinator. A player may stop match play at any time and inform the site coordinator if they believe they are being harassed by a spectator or their opponent is showing poor sportsmanship.

**Match Format and Scoring** Each match will consist of two rounds – Each round will include one court (or “line”) of singles and one court (or “line”) of doubles. The total number of games won determines the match winner. A match may be played with as few as three players, or as many as six. For example, if only three players are available (A, B, & C) then in Round 1, Player A can play singles while Players B & C play doubles. In Round 2, either Player B or C can play singles and Player A would play doubles with the remaining player. A player may play 1 singles court and 1 doubles court per match, or a player may play both courts of doubles per match. However, a player *may not* play both courts of singles.

Division	Ball	Match Format	# of Players	Scoring
10U Intermediate	Orange	<u>Round 1:</u> 1 court of singles & 1 court of doubles <u>Round 2:</u> 1 court of singles & 1 court of doubles	3-6	Short set to 6 games; no ad. At 5-all a 7-point tiebreaker, win by 1.  Total # of games won determines match winner.
12U Intermediate	Green	<u>Round 1:</u> 1 court of singles & 1 court of doubles <u>Round 2:</u> 1 court of singles & 1 court of doubles	3-6	Short set to 6 games; no ad. At 5-all a 7-point tiebreaker, win by 1.  Total # of games won determines match winner.
12U Advanced	Yellow	<u>Round 1:</u> 1 court of singles & 1 court of doubles <u>Round 2:</u> 1 court of singles & 1 court of doubles	3-6	Short set to 6 games; no ad. At 5-all a 7-point tiebreaker, win by 1.  Total # of games won determines match winner.
14U Intermediate	Yellow	<u>Round 1:</u> 1 court of singles & 1 court of doubles <u>Round 2:</u> 1 court of singles & 1 court of doubles	3-6	Short set to 6 games; no ad. At 5-all a 7-point tiebreaker, win by 1.  Total # of games won determines match winner.
18U Intermediate	Yellow	<u>Round 1:</u> 1 court of singles & 1 court of doubles <u>Round 2:</u> 1 court of singles & 1 court of doubles	3-6	Short set to 6 games; no ad. At 5-all a 7-point tiebreaker, win by 1.  Total # of games won determines match winner.

JTT uses the traditional tiebreak method with a winning margin of 1 point (not the Coman used in adult play). Tiebreaker points are scored numerically, “0”, “1”, “2”, “3” and so on, instead of “love”, “15”, “30” and “40”. The player or team that just served to even the set at 5-5 will **receive** the first serve in the tiebreaker. To counter the advantage of serving, the player who serves first in the tiebreaker will serve only one point from the right (deuce) side of the court. One player of the opposing team will serve the next two points starting on the left side (ad) of the court. Players will then take turns serving two points (starting on the left (ad) side of the court) until the end of the tiebreaker. At 6 points total, or any multiple of 6 points total (e.g. 0-6, 1-5, 2-4, 3-3), teams will switch sides of the court. The first team to win 7 points (by a margin of 1 point) wins the tiebreaker and the set. A tiebreaker is treated like a game, meaning the final set score would be reported as 6-5 (6 games to 5 games won).