

# RULES & REGULATIONS FOR USTA JR. TEAM TENNIS

\*\*These supplement the 2012 USTA National Jr. Team Tennis regulations, which can be found at [www.ustajtt.com](http://www.ustajtt.com). Additional Area and Local League regulations may also apply. The RULES OF TENNIS and THE CODE shall apply to all matches played in USTA Jr. Team Tennis except as modified herein. *The Friend At Court*, which includes the Rules of Tennis and The Code, can be found at: <http://www.usta.com/GetInvolved/Officials.aspx>

## **LOCAL SEASON FORMAT OF PLAY:**

When the coach/team manager prints out the scorecard the format is on the card. Most local team matches will consist of:

One male singles match ▪ One female singles match ▪ One male doubles match  
One female doubles match ▪ Two mixed doubles matches

Most local leagues use an 8 game pro-set scoring format with a 7pt tiebreaker at 7 games all. The winning team will be determined by total games won. Standings can be viewed at: <http://teamentennis.usta.com>. The JTT Local League Coordinator has the flexibility to set up the playing and scoring format that best suits the needs of the local league.

Note: The Area and Section Championships use the same match format, except only one mixed doubles match is played. An 8 game pro-set, no-ad scoring format is used with a 7pt tiebreaker at 7 games all. Tournament director reserves the right to alter this scoring format, if needed.

QuickStart Tennis Division, 8 & under and 10 & under, features age appropriate equipment, smaller court sizes, and modified scoring. One volunteer per court is needed to assist this division. Scoring will vary depending on the skill level of the participants. Be as flexible as needed. Consult the QuickStart Tennis Practice and Play Plans for team game ideas. If players are ready for more structured competition, they should use the recommended age appropriate scoring formats.

## **LOCAL MATCH PROCEDURES:**

### **What if a team doesn't have the required number of players for a local match?**

Ideally if a team doesn't have enough players for the match, the captain of the team would contact the opposing captain to let them know. In the event that it does happen, play as many matches possible with the players available. The team that is unable to field enough players may substitute in a player(s) of the opposite gender and/or have two players of the same gender participate in two individual matches within a team match. In no event shall a player participate in three individual matches within a team match. These matches will count toward the local play requirements necessary to advance.

**Rain:** If you think there may be rain, please connect with the opposing coach. Decisions related to playable courts are the host facility's responsibility. Don't assume that it is raining everywhere!!!

**Check in:** Coach/Team Managers or another designated person should check in for the team match. Line-ups will be exchanged and court assignments will then be given out.

**Rescheduling:** It is recognized that emergencies do occur. If a coach/team manager is notified in a timely manner that there will not be enough players to field the team, then good faith effort must be made to reschedule the match. If teams cannot agree on a reschedule date, the matches must be recorded as defaults in TennisLink. If running late—call opposing team coach/team manager to allow flexibility with tardiness. Coach/Team Managers have the responsibility to enforce the strike penalty system.

**Line up:** Captains in all divisions are highly encouraged to communicate prior to the match, their team's "order of strength" to the opposing captain to allow for the best match ups between players. Players who are not on the scorecard and are not registered in TennisLink are NOT allowed to play.

**Order of matches:** Coaches should exchange line-ups and look to see if any players are playing twice. If so, those players should play their first match right away. If no players are doubling up, it is recommended that singles go out first, then doubles, and then mixed doubles and any exhibition matches. This will depend on court availability.

**Coaching:** Coaching is allowed only on changeovers and is limited to 90 seconds. Coaching is allowed after the first game, but it must be kept short and cannot be a disruption to the flow of the match. No coaching is allowed during a tie-break. The coach should encourage the player and offer constructive criticisms when sandwiched between positive comments. (Ex. Great cross-court returns in that last game; remember to keep your feet moving in between shots; let's keep it up, I like your focus out there.)

**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”, provided there is a margin of two points over the opponent(s). If necessary, the tie-break game shall continue until this margin is achieved.

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.

**Match:** 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.

**LOCAL LEAGUE EXPECTATIONS:**

Local league expectations are in place to ensure that a high quality program is administered by all involved, and that those who violate our expectations are held accountable. It is recognized that emergencies do occur. If a coach/team manager is notified in a timely manner by the opposing coach of a situation, they should be flexible and try to accommodate the other team.

1. Teams shall be knowledgeable of the league rules and regulations and adhere to them.
2. The coach/team manager is responsible for holding their players accountable to play and act in accordance to the Rules of Tennis and The Code as outlined in the *Friend At Court*.
3. Coaches, players and spectators are expected to display good sportsmanship and treat all players, coaches, and others in attendance with respect at every match.
4. USTA Northern expects the local league match environment to be free of drugs, tobacco and alcohol.
5. Teams must register all of the players participating in local league matches on TennisLink prior to their first match.
6. The home team is expected to record local match scores in TennisLink within 72 hours.
7. Once a team registers in TennisLink and commits to a local league schedule, they are expected to honor that commitment and bring at least 4 players to every scheduled match.
8. If a team is unable to field enough players for a team match, they shall notify the opposing coach at least 48 hours prior.
9. Teams shall make an attempt to reschedule all local league matches that were not able to be played on the original date.
10. Teams are expected to have at least 3 courts available for every home match.
11. Coaches, players, and parents are expected to express any concerns through the proper channels in a dignified manner.

If an opposing team does not meet one of the expectations, please describe the situation in writing and send to the Section League Coordinator. Those incidents will be documented and tracked, so struggling programs and repeat offenders can be identified. The Section JTT committee reserves the right to enforce sanctions on programs who violate the expectations, if deemed necessary.