



USTA Atlanta Junior Team Tennis Registration Information Winter 2016 Season (January 2016 – March 2016)

Winter 2016 League Information

- Age Groups/Levels: 8U (36ft court), 10U (60ft court), 12U, 14U and 18U with Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced play levels available. 8U- Only beginner and intermediate levels offered. 12U- Beginner and Intermediate levels will be playing with the green dot ball.
- Team Match Format: 10U/12U/14U/18U- Teams are co-ed with a minimum of 4 boys and 4 girls per team. Each team match consists of 1 line of boys singles, 1 line of girls singles, 1 line of boys doubles, 1 line of girls doubles, and 1 line of mixed doubles in a round robin format. 8U- 6 player minimum (any combination of boys or girls). Each team match consists of 4 lines of singles (boy v. boy, girl v. girl, or boy v. girl). **Scoring formats: 8U plays best two-out-of-three games; each game is a 7 point tiebreak. The first to win two games wins the match. 10U play the best-of-three short sets; the first to win four games wins a set. If the players split the first two sets, the third set is a 7 point tiebreak. No-ad scoring for 10U. 12U – 14U play best 2 out of 3 short sets with a match tiebreaker for the third set, and 18U play best 2 out of 3 sets.**
- Registration Dates: Registration is open September 28th, with the deadline for team registration on **October 26th. TennisLink will not allow for late team registrations.** We will reopen for add-ons and post schedules on May 8th. Players can then be added to teams through midnight the night before the last match of the local round robin season.
- League Registration Fee (per player): The league fee is \$24 per player. All registration is done online. To create a team, visit www.ustaatlanta.com and under “Juniors” on the left hand side of the screen, click “TennisLink”. (Step by step TennisLink instructions are included in this packet.) TennisLink will show the \$20.00 local league fee and a \$4.00 TennisLink fee. **USTA Atlanta only receives the local fee portion. USTA Atlanta does not issue refunds.**
- Incentive Program: Are you starting a new team or being a captain for the first time? Visit www.ustaatlanta.com/incentiveprogram to find out more about our new player/team incentive program.
- Background Check: Captains **MUST** complete the mandatory background screening **PRIOR** to registering their team in TennisLink. This is a requirement through USTA National and the system will **NOT** allow you to create a team if you have not been approved through the background screening. Screenings are good for two years so if you are a returning captain and need to check your expiration date, click here: http://www.usta.com/About-USTA/background_screening_program_results/. You will be completely locked out of TennisLink if you don't renew before your expiration date. Complete the screening here: <http://www.usta.com/safeplay>. **You must be approved before you can create a team in TennisLink and the screening approval can take up to 10 business days. If you are hoping to have a team play this winter and have not submitted your screening you should complete the screening ASAP. We cannot guarantee team entry if the screening is not submitted with enough time for clearance and team submission (by October 19th).**
- Schedule Availability: Schedules will be available on TennisLink by December 11th. After schedules are posted, captains will receive an introductory letter from his or her coordinator.
- League Start Date: Play begins Saturday, January 9th at 1:00 pm. For most divisions, teams will be scheduled to have 6 or 7 team matches during the local round robin season.
- Playoffs and Local City Finals: Top teams in each flight will qualify for the playoff bracket in their respective division level. The first round of playoffs will be held February 27 with finals day on March 5. *Divisions with one flight will not advance to playoffs/finals.
- Georgia State Jr. Team Tennis Tournament: City Champions (and some select City Finalists) will be invited to attend the 2015 State Jr. Team Tennis Tournament (Date TBD).
- Contacts: Amanda Hunt: Director of Junior Leagues: Amanda@ustaatlanta.com; 770.416.4333.



Team Requirements

- **Forming a Team:** For 10U, 12U, 14U, and 18U, teams need at least 4 boys and 4 girls registered by the deadline. For 8U, teams need at least 6 eligible players (boys and/or girls). Teams need to register at the level of their highest-rated player. *For example, if your highest-rated player is Intermediate, then your team needs to register for the Intermediate division level.*
- **Home Facility Requirements:** Teams are required to provide two courts of the same surface at their location. All facilities must be located in Cobb, Dekalb, Fulton, Gwinnett, or Forsyth County. Captains at a new facility should contact USTA Atlanta (770-416-4333) to verify your facility is eligible for the USTA Jr. Team Tennis program. The following information is required: facility name, address, number of courts and directions from I-285. The team cannot register until the facility is processed. Lights are **required** if a make-up match takes place during the evening. Home teams hosting 10U play must have courts prepared for 60ft play (tape, chalk, painter's tape and permanent lines are permissible). *If you would like to update your JTT court availability, please email Amanda (Amanda@ustaatlanta.com) with the facility and number of courts available for Junior Team Tennis by October 26th. This will help when scheduling numerous teams at a facility.*
- **Captain Information:** Captains must have a current email address in order to receive league information throughout the season. As captain, you are responsible to get all USTA Atlanta information to players. Please ENSURE that your e-mail and phone number are correct on TennisLink.

Player Requirements

- **New USTA Players and Ability Level:** New players that do not know where they should be placed should view the rules for Jr. Team Tennis at www.ustaatlanta.com. (USTA Jr. team Tennis > Rules > 3). The USTA Jr. Team Tennis play levels are defined as Beginner (NTRP 2.0 & below), Intermediate (NTRP 2.5 & 3.0) and Advanced (NTRP 3.5 & above). Players cannot have a rating higher than the team tennis level at which they are playing. The USTA Jr. Team Tennis Program uses the JNTRP Guidelines as a tool for assessing player skills in order to level teams. Please see the rules to view the JNTRP Guidelines.
- **1.05 Official Rating Program:** Players with more than 150 points in any age group on the posted Georgia standing list as of the end of July 2015 may not play Beginner level (NTRP 2.0 and below). Point totals shall include both singles and doubles divisions from which points were acquired. Points earned due to defaults will not be considered and may be deducted if noted in writing to the State League Coordinator at time of Championship registration.
- **Age Eligibility:** USTA Junior Team Tennis is designed for kids ages 5-18. All players participating in the Winter 2016 season must remain age eligible through August 31st of the 2016 Championship Year (September 1, 2015 – August 31, 2016). *8U-eligibility rules are not the same because 8U teams do not advance past the local level. Players on 8U teams must remain 8 or younger through the winter season (through March 5).
- **USTA Membership:** All players must have a USTA membership that is current through the entire season of play. To join or renew a membership, go to www.usta.com or call 1-800-990-USTA. Current members can change contact information by calling Membership Services (number above) or emailing at memberservices@usta.com. Junior membership for one year is \$20. *New 10 and under players can receive a free 1-year junior membership by using promo code FYF15CNS.



- Captains should check with all players before registering them for the team. **Once payment has been made no refunds will be issued.** We recommend that each parent be responsible for registering their child on a team.
- If you need additional players for your team, email Amanda (Amanda@ustaatlanta.com). We maintain a database of players looking for teams to join.

Other Important Information

- Teams that are formed outside of the USTA Atlanta boundaries (outside of Dekalb, Fulton, Gwinnett, Cobb, and Forsyth) are welcome to participate in USTA Atlanta Jr. Team Tennis (if approved). However, teams outside USTA Atlanta boundaries will be required to travel to more (if not all) matches, and will be grouped with the teams in closest proximities as possible.
- USTA Atlanta will make every effort to group teams within the closest proximities possible. Just because your team is closer to one facility does not necessarily mean you will be grouped in that sub-flight.
- TennisLink allows captains to view the “work in progress” that USTA Atlanta has done when putting together schedules. In most cases, teams are shifted around in order to finalize other divisions. **PLEASE NO PHONE CALLS prior to schedules being posted.**



NEW Instructions for Registering a Team

All team requirements must be met prior to starting registration.

“CREATING A TEAM”

- **NEW:** As a captain, you **MUST** complete the background screening before you will have access to create a team in TennisLink. If you are a returning captain, your screening is good for 2 years. Please check your expiration date as you will be **LOCKED OUT** of TennisLink if you don't renew before the expiration date. Visit <http://www.usta.com/safeplay>.
- In order to “Create a Team”, you will need to become a coach/manager in TennisLink.
- Go to www.ustaatlanta.com and on the left hand side under “Juniors” click on “TennisLink”. Then scroll to the bottom of the page and click on “Become a Coach/Manager”, if you are not already set up as one.
- If you have a USTA membership number, enter and click “Get”. If you do not have a USTA membership, enter your contact information.
- Create a password, and insert a password hint to remember if you ever forget your password.
- Complete all requested information. **This is how other captains will contact you.**
- Click “Submit”. You will be assigned a Team Tennis # if you do not have a USTA membership number. **Make a note of this # and password.** This is what you will use to log in to the system (Unless you have a USTA Membership #).
- **All Captains must create a new team number each season.** This step creates a team number *and* registers the team.
 - Log in to TennisLink as captain
(<http://tennislink.usta.com/TEAMTENNIS/Secure/logon.aspx?Caller=Login>)
 - Click on “Register for a Team”, and then click “Click here to create a new team”
 - Select Type of Program (**Jr**)
 - Select Section (**Southern**)
 - Select District (**Georgia**)
 - Select Area (**Atlanta - Juniors**)
 - Click “Go”
 - Select appropriate program based on age group. *Please note that the age groups are divided into 3 different programs (8U, 10U, and then 12U/14U/18U) for the winter season.
 - **Make a note of your new team number.**
 - Create team name (Facility name – Captain's last name)
 - Select your Home Court Facility.
 - Select Division and check affiliations
 - Enter Co-captain Information, if applicable.
 - **Click on “Save”! The system will not create the team unless you hit save.**



“REGISTERING A PLAYER”

- Go to Jr. Team Tennis TennisLink home page - <http://tennislink.usta.com/TeamTennis/Main/Home.aspx>
- Click on “Have a Team ID?”.
- Enter the Team # of the team you are registering your child for.
- Enter in your child’s USTA membership #.
- Complete payment information.
- Check the information carefully. If you register your child incorrectly you will forfeit the TennisLink fee.
- Click “Submit”.

“CHECKING YOUR TEAM ROSTER”

- Go to www.ustaatlanta.com and click on the “TennisLink” under “Juniors” on the left hand side of the page.
- Sign in as a Coach/Coordinator with your USTA # or Team Tennis #.
- Under “My Options”, click on “Teams”.
- Click on the notebook icon to the right of your team.
- Select “Player Roster.”
- This is also where you will view match schedule, get scorecards, etc.