



2010 USTA Junior Team Tennis Guidelines

USTA Texas Section

USTA Junior Team Tennis is a national program intended to provide youngsters with “fun, fitness, and friendship” through learning and playing the lifelong game of tennis.

TEXAS OBJECTIVES

- ... To provide leveled competition in a team atmosphere for boys & girls of beginner to advanced ability levels.
- ... To serve as a “bridge the gap” program to the USTA Schools Program, NJTL, beginner programs.
- ... To provide a “bridge the gap” program, bringing youngsters from entry level tennis to competitive play in USTA sanctioned tournaments.
- ... To provide a “safe” team environment where beginner players can develop a full knowledge of the rules of tennis and develop habits of good sportsmanship.
- ... To provide a “competitive” team environment where experienced players can seek advancement through competition at the local level and section level.
- ... To encourage volunteer participation from parents as team coaches, team managers and possibly have them assist in program administration.

LOCAL LEAGUE OBJECTIVES

- ... _____
- ... _____
- ... _____
- ... _____
- ... _____

THE BIG 12

Statewide Rules & Regulations for Advancing Leagues

1. All leagues will have a coaches' meeting and/or training before the season
2. There must be a minimum of 3 boys & 3 girls per team to be eligible for competition at the sectional and national championships.
3. There must be two teams per division in order to advance.
4. Each player must play 3 team matches, and match scores recorded on tennis link.
5. Format must consist of 1 boy's single, 1 girl's single, 1 boys' doubles, 1 girls' doubles and 1 mixed doubles – there can be more play but these are the official lines
6. Coaching is allowed during 90 second change over between games.
7. All players must be registered before the 1st match
8. Age Eligibility – August 31st for spring season in which teams can advance to the Jr. Team Tennis national championship. The championship dates will be used to determined age eligibility for the summer and fall seasons.
9. Score entry – scores must be in TennisLink within 48 hours of match completion.
10. Players must be USTA members
11. If an intermediate player champs up during the season, or is registered for an intermediate team before champing up; the player can play the rest of the season through the National championship
12. Every league must have a grievance committee

AGE GROUPS and LEVELS

The following are descriptions that should be used by the **league commissioner** or **coach**, to determine the ability level of their teams:

10 & Under LEVEL

- ... Designed for children 5- 10 years old
- ... Players should be beginners with limited tennis experience
- ... Appropriate 10 under components should be used based on age of players.
- ... Focus should be playing first, fun, friendship, & teamwork.
- ... Parent team managers highly encouraged to help facilitate
- ... Can be played on virtually any available activity space

12 & Under Level *Advances to Section Championships*

- ... Designed for children ages 10 -12 years old
- ... Players should fall within the range of 1.0 – 2.5 of the General Characteristics of NTRP Playing Levels (located on pg 4 of the 2011 Rules and Regulations for Jr. Team Tennis)
- ...
- ...
- ...
- ... Focus should be on playing, fun, friendship & teamwork.
- ... Spring and Summer season Players must remain age eligible through August 31st. (Turns 13 before Aug 31 they must play in the 14 & Under division) Fall season player must remain eligible through fall section championship date (Nov. 19th -20th)

14 & Under BEGINNER LEVEL *Advances to Section Championships*

- ... Designed for players ages 12 – 14 years old
- ... Players should fall within the range of 1.0 -2.5 of the General Characteristics of NTRP Playing Levels (located on pg 4 of the 2011 Rules and Regulations for Jr. Team Tennis)
- ...
- ...
- ...
- ... Focus should be on playing, fun, friendship & teamwork.
- ... Spring and summer season, players must remain age eligible through August 31st. (Turns 15 before Aug 31 they must play in the 18 & under division) Fall season player must remain eligible through the fall section championship date (Nov. 19th -20th)

14 & Under INTERMEDIATE LEVEL *Advances to Section Championships*

- ... Designed for children from 12 -14 years old.
- ... Players should fall within the ranges of 2.5 – 4.0 of the General Characteristics of NTRP Playing levels (located on pg 4 of the 2011 Rules and Regulations fro Jr. Team Tennis)
- ... Players are usually playing and accruing points towards earning a championship level standing within the Texas junior advancement system.
- ... Spring and summer season, players must remain age eligible through August 31st. (Turns 15 before August 31 they must play in the 18 & Under age division during their local season) Fall season player must remain eligible through the fall section championship date (Nov. 19th – 20th)

18 & Under INTERMEDIATE LEVEL *Advances to Section Championships*

- ... Designed for players from 14-18 years old.
- ... Players should be rated between 1.0-4.0 JNTRP. They can be playing ZATs and local tournaments or perhaps playing for their high school team.
- ... Spring and summer season, players must remain age eligible through August 31st. (Turns 19 before August 31 they are ineligible to participate in the spring season) Fall season player must remain eligible through the fall section championship date (Nov. 19th – 20th)

14 & Under ADVANCED LEVEL *Advances to Section Championships*

- ... Designed for children from 10-14 years old.
- ... Players should be rated between 4.0-5.0 JNTRP.
- ... Players should be ranked in the Champ or Super Champ level. They may hold a National ranking.
- ... Spring and summer season, players must remain age eligible through August 31st. (Turns 15 before August 31 they must play in the 18 & Under age division during their local season) Fall season player must remain eligible through the fall section championship date (Nov. 19th – 20th)

18 & Under ADVANCED LEVEL *Advances to Section Championships*

- ... Designed for children from 14-18 years old.
- ... Players should be rated between 4.0-5.0 JNTRP.
- ... Players should be ranked in the Champ or Super Champ level. They may hold a National ranking.
- ... Spring and summer season, players must remain age eligible through August 31st. (Turns 19 before August 31 they are ineligible to participate in the spring season) Fall season player must remain eligible through the fall section championship date (Nov. 19th – 20th)

Notes:

- 1) Advanced players (champs and superchamps) are not allowed to register on TennisLink in the intermediate division under any circumstances (For example: 14 advanced champ playing on a 18 intermediate team)
- 2) If a player champs up during the Jr. Team Tennis season they may remain on the intermediate team so long as the player was a ZAT player when they were registered on TennisLink for the team.
- 3) In the spring season TennisLink will not allow a player to register if they are age ineligible.

LOCAL LEAGUE INFORMATION

LEAGUES

A local league is a team competition in a specified geographical area that applies specific local team regulations and consists of NTRP level(s) with a minimum of two or more teams per level. A local league may choose to divide any or all NTRP levels into flights. A playoff structure may be established to determine a champion for each NTRP level.

TEAMS

A team shall consist of a minimum of three boys and three girls eligible to compete at a specific level of competition. Team members may not have a higher NTRP rating than the level at which they are competing.

LEAGUE COMMISSIONER (Area League Coordinator)

A commissioner should be named for each local league & approved by Junior Team Tennis Section Coordinator. He/she will be primarily responsible for organizing the league, doing the general administrative work, scheduling play, and recruiting local volunteers to help facilitate league growth by increasing the number of facilities, teams, and players participating. It is recommended that this person be a parent or other interested volunteer. The Pros taking this on may wish to enlist the help of a parent or other interested volunteer. *The commissioner and their ability to be inclusive is the foundation to the success of the league.*

COACHES

Coaches will be responsible for his/her team(s), and can be a parent, tennis pro, coach, or any other volunteer. Free coaches' training will be provided by the USTA if requested. Recreational Coaches Workshops and/or a Quick Start Tennis Training can be requested by going to www.usta.com.

****New for this year****

The Texas section will now begin the process of background checking the registered TennisLink coaches participating in Jr. Team Tennis. The link below will take a coach directly to the background check screening application.

- ... The cost for the screening will be \$10 (paid by the coach or by the local league provider) and will be considered current for 2 years (industry standard).
- ... The information returned on the coaches will be handled privately and directly by the USA Texas HR director. If an "alert" is retrieved USTA Texas will notify the local league coordinator and the coach they are not eligible to be the coach of team.
- ... By law we will be unable to discuss any specifics regarding the coach in question. The coach in question will have the ability to challenge the findings, perhaps correct a mistake/misunderstanding and then submit to being re-screened.
- ... USTA Texas will be able to monitor when a coach comes up to be rescreened and will communicate the coaches in your area that will need to be rescreened prior to the season beginning. As of right now, everyone will need to be screened. We will not be able to accept a completed background check from someone's company or from another agency.
- ... Each league coordinator will need to provide USTA Texas a spreadsheet that consists of the captains of each team prior to season beginning.

FORMAT

The USTA Texas Section requires the use of a co-ed modified play format similar to the World Team Tennis format. This consists of boys' and girls' singles and doubles, and one mixed doubles for a total of five lines. This is the format that will be played at the Sectional Playoffs. The USTA TX Section also recommends playing pro sets (first one to six games, no-ad). All rules and regulations of the USTA should apply during local play. Good sportsmanship is highly encouraged!

LOCAL PROTESTS/GRIEVANCES

A grievance committee **must** be named by the local commissioner that will hear all protests/grievances within 48 hours of when they arise in local league play. This committee should be 2 or more persons.

ROSTERS / TEAM & PLAYER REGISTRATION

The USTA has developed a TennisLink program specifically for Junior Team Tennis. Each league and/or Commissioner is responsible for making sure that programs and players are entered onto TennisLink. Commissioners are also responsible for making sure that team scores are entered onto TennisLink so that each registered player shows a local history of play. There is a fee to enter a player's name and information. It is collected on-line by credit card at the time of registration. Players eligible to advance to Section Championships must be registered on TennisLink, and show local play history on TennisLink. Coordinators hold the final responsibility for making sure all players are registered on tennis link and all scores are recorded on tennis link prior to section championships. Failing to do so will result in players not registered or incomplete match history being declared ineligible for section championship participation.

USTA MEMBERSHIP

A junior USTA membership is \$19.00. A membership can be purchased by going to www.usta.com or by calling 1-800-990-USTA (8782).

USTA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

... All the JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS BENEFITS

PLUS

- ... USTA Membership Card
- ... Subscription to Smash or Bounce Magazine
- ... USTA TX Tournament Schedule
- ... USTA TX Publications
- ... Discount offers

Nike Dri -Fit Uniforms from Nationals & Premium Item from Texas Section

Each player registered on tennis link participating in the Junior Team Tennis program will be required to purchase a Nike Dri Fit uniform for THEIR 1st season of play. The cost of the uniform will be \$13.00. This cost includes the uniform, tax and shipping. The uniform will have both the JTT logo and the Nike swoosh symbol. Delivery of uniforms CAN be coordinated so that coach/captains WILL/CAN receive team uniforms prior to first match. The Texas section will continue to provide a premium item as a gift to the players and/or help local area leagues with some cost associated with running leagues participating in the Junior Team Tennis program.

- Refunds for Nike Dri fit (available if): A player registers for a team and for what ever reason is deleted from the team before the Dri Fit is sent from Tennis Warehouse. If the player gets sent a Dri Fit there is very little recourse.

SPONSORSHIPS

Leagues are encouraged to seek sponsor support from local businesses, or to hold fund-raisers. Nike Uniforms can be coordinated to arrive early in order to customize the uniform to the specifications of local sponsors. Donations or extra funds can be used for parties, travel expenses, prizes, etc.

SIGN-UP CARNIVAL

A “sign-up carnival” is a great way to generate excitement for your league. Be sure to take pictures and submit to the USTA Texas Section for state and national exposure. The Texas section has ability to help with sign-up carnivals through our Grow the Game Grant, so we encourage local leagues to take advantage. We still have a few open spots for Jr. Team Tennis Sign Up Days

SECTION CHAMPIONSHIPS

There will be 3 Junior Team Tennis Sectional Playoffs offered this year: Spring, Summer & Fall.

SECTION CHAMPIONSHIPS DATES

Spring	May 14 th - 15 th (Adv. Div)	TBD
Spring	May 21 st - 22 nd (Beg./Int.)	John Newcombes, New Braunfels
Summer	July 30 th - 31 st (All Divisions)	Whitaker Tennis Courts (Austin TX)
Fall	Nov. 12 th - 13 th (Adv. Div)	TBD
Fall	Nov. 19 th - 20 th (Beg./Int.)	John Newcombes, New Braunfels

PARTICIPANTS

The local league will determine which team will advance to the section championship. To participate in the section championships players/teams must meet the following requirements:

- ... Must have a minimum of 3 boys and 3 girls.
- ... The players must have participated in at least 3 local TEAM matches. Scores of these and all matches must be recorded on TennisLink. Local Commissioner may set a higher minimum of matches.
- ... If a player from the winning team is unable to participate at the Sectional Playoffs and that causes the team to have less than 3 boys or 3 girls, then the winning team can add a player from another team in their local league to meet the minimum for the Sectional playoffs. For example, if the Tigers have 4 boys and 3 girls on their winning team and one of the girls got sick, injured, or can't make the playoffs, the Tigers can select another girl that participated in the local league and meets the requirements of Junior Team Tennis. If one of the boys from the Tigers cannot attend the playoffs the Tigers cannot add another player because they would still have 3 boys, which are enough to participate at the Sectional Playoffs. This rule is to protect the fairness of local leagues and playoffs. It is the responsibility of the commissioner to monitor this rule. The Texas Section will monitor this rule based on the team rosters/registration.
- ... In addition, teams must adhere to the 2/3 rule which limits the amount of players being subbed onto the playoff team. The team participating in the championship must contain 2/3 of the original roster. For example: If the Tigers have 6 players, 3 boys and 3 girls, they may only sub for two player's total. If they are missing two girls and one boy; the tigers may only sub for two of these players.

DIVISIONS

Area leagues must create, but are not limited to Intermediate and Advanced divisions. Additional divisions include, Quick Start and Beginner level play. Divisions offered at each Section Championships are 12 & Under Beginner, 14 & Under Beginner, 14 & Under Intermediate, 18 & Under Intermediate, 14 & Under Advanced, and 18 & Under Advanced.

Advanced divisions can be made up of Championship or Super Championship players. Local leagues are required to implement Intermediate divisions during their local play, and they will be required to enter their teams into the appropriate division at the Sectional playoffs according to the guidelines provided.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

14 & Under NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

This year the USTA Texas Section will send the top teams in the 14 & Under Intermediate and Advanced divisions from the Spring Section Championships to the USTA Annual 14 & Under National Championships. More information will be given to the winning teams from the Spring Section Championships soon as it is available.

Date: October 20 - 23, 2011

Location: Surprise, AZ

18 & Under NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

This year the USTA Texas Section will send the top teams in the 18 & Under Intermediate and Advanced divisions from the Spring Section Championships to the USTA Annual 18 & Under National Championships. More information will be given to the winning teams from the Spring Section Championships soon as it is available.

Date: October 27 - 30, 2011

Location: Surprise, AZ