

# USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS EXPECTATIONS



USTA Junior Team Tennis is a national youth tennis league played in all 50 states. It is not about the individual. It is about kids getting together to play singles, doubles and mixed doubles against other teams. It promotes values you would expect from any sport by fostering a spirit of cooperation, unity and individual self-growth. It is a fun environment for kids where they learn that succeeding is really more about how you play the game - win or lose.

## Expectations of Players:

- Be at matches you commit to. Remember that there is another player from the other team waiting for you to show up. Try to attend matches even if you are not in the lineup - extra matches can often be arranged.
- Be prepared. Come with your racquet, tennis shoes and appropriate tennis attire, including your uniform shirt.
- Display sportsmanship, good manners and a gracious attitude, win or lose.
- Be fair and honest with your line calls. Remember that tennis is one of the only sports where you call your own lines. This is a great test of your integrity at an early age.
- Give your best effort, regardless of the score, or the level of your opponent or teammate.
- Be your own player. Look to parents, coaches or court monitors only when you must.
- Do not interrupt play on other courts. Wait for points to end before retrieving balls that may have gone into another court.
- When finished, immediately report your scores to your team parent. Before leaving the court, make sure you have picked up any items you brought with you including balls, water bottles, wrappers and clothing items.
- If you finish early, stay and watch your teammates. This is Junior Team Tennis. You would want your teammates to stay and support you.
- For home matches, help your team coach set up and break down nets, lines and equipment.

## Expectations of Parents:

- Get your children to the matches. The other team has committed to these matches and is turning up expecting to play. If something comes up and your child cannot play, please communicate this to the Team Manager/Coach as soon as you can so that they can find a substitute player. Do not wait until Sunday morning.
- Support your children, but do so from afar. Tennis is a great sport that can teach kids a lot about self-worth, confidence and integrity. Let them learn while on the court then discuss the matches with them after they have finished playing. It is exciting to see what they learn from match to match.
- Do not make line calls, correct scores or tell players where to serve or receive from. Again, this is part of the learning process that can be discussed after the match has completed. For younger divisions, court monitors will be on hand to assist players with any issues that arise. Players, not parents, may call court monitors if they feel it is absolutely necessary.
- Support all players on both teams, not just your own child. All players need to feel like they are important, and need to be having fun. Junior Team Tennis is about promoting collaboration as a team.
- Be prepared to commit to the entire match. Not all matches will finish at the same time, but your child is part of a team and should stay until all matches have been completed.

## Expectations of Volunteer Captains:

- Make sure to know the match schedule for your team for the upcoming season, and distribute the schedule to your team via email.
  - Communicate, communicate, and communicate! Use email or phone calls to communicate information about practices, schedules, match line ups, who is to bring snacks (if any) and any other important information.
  - Confirm who will be at the upcoming match, and who will not be playing (out of town, etc.)
  - The days preceding the match, please confirm with the opposing team coach via email or phone that you will be bringing a full line-up.
  - It is **Home Team's responsibility** to make the call in regard to inclement weather. If a match is suspended by weather, please make sure all players remain in a safe location on site until released by their coach. Please email your local league coordinator if matches have been delayed or cancelled due to increment weather.
  - Arrive for practices and matches at least **15 minutes before** the scheduled start time in order to welcome players and parents. Starting on time is crucial.
  - Have the kids assist you in setting up the courts. You do not need to do this all by yourself. Assign tasks to the players and they will have fun getting things ready. (This is great if you are having to set up 8U or 10U courts)
  - Organize and run team practices.
  - Organize healthy drinks and/or snacks for matches. Again, you do not necessarily have to do this, but if you feel snacks are appropriate, designate someone to do this each week.
  - Set team line-ups for weekly matches and communicate these to your players and parents, ideally at team practice each week.
  - Exchange printed team line-ups with the other team parent/captain before every match.
  - Gather all of your players before each match and impress upon them the importance of the team. Win or lose, the goal is to go out and have fun. Make sure they understand that they are encouraged to root for their teammates until the last match is finished. Instruct them on how to do so properly.
  - When all matches have completed, gather your team and reinforce the idea of the Team. Congratulate them, win or lose, and get them excited for next week's practice and match.
  - Enter all scores within 48 hours of the completion of the match. The **Home Team** is responsible for entering all scores of the match. If you need help with this process, you can always call or email your local league coordinator.
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