



# USTA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS

2020 REGULATIONS

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This book is intended for USTA Junior Team Tennis coordinators, managers, players and parents.

# SUMMARY OF MAJOR CHANGES TO 2019 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS REGULATIONS

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The USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee made the following decisions for implementation beginning in the 2020 Championship Year:

2.03G(1), "More Than One Team," clarifies what was intended by the original one-line rule. In the past, players in some Sections have been allowed to represent two teams (one at 14U and one at 18U, for example) if the Championships were held on different dates. In other Sections both events are always held on the same dates. This change will level the playing field between the Sections by making it clear that at every championship event level, a player may only play on one team.

## **2.03G(1) MORE THAN ONE TEAM**

A player shall play for only one team at a District, Sectional or National Championship. In the case of a player qualifying for two (2) or more teams that advance to a District, Sectional, or National Championship, that player may only play on one of those teams, regardless of the event dates.



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## GENERAL

Any authority delegated by these Regulations to the Section, unless otherwise stated, may be delegated by the Sectional Association to a lower authority.

Section, District or Local/Area regulations must not be in conflict with USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis Regulations.

### 1.01 NAME

The USTA Board of Directors has approved the adoption of rules and regulations for USTA Junior Team Tennis. The regulations for the USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis track shall be known as the USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis Regulations. The regulations for the USTA Junior Team Tennis track shall be known as the USTA Junior Team Tennis Regulations.

### 1.02 SANCTION

All National Championship Junior Team Tennis local/area competition is sanctioned in accordance with USTA Regulation XVII.B and any Local/Area, District and Sectional Regulations cannot be in violation of the USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis Regulations.

### 1.03 GOVERNANCE

The USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis Regulations shall apply to USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis (THE FRIEND AT COURT-The USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations, including Wheelchair Rules of Tennis, shall apply to USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis (unless modified by these USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis Regulations). In all matches played without an official the USTA official publication, THE CODE shall be observed. The USTA Point Penalty System shall be used at all championship levels.

### 1.03A WAIVER OF RULES AND PROCEDURES PROHIBITED

Except where a waiver is specifically permitted by a USTA Regulation, USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis Regulation or by a USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis Procedure, no USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis Regulation or USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis Procedure shall be waived by any Sectional, District, Local/Area Association, or by any Sectional, District, or Local/ Area USTA Junior Team Tennis Coordinator. Any violation of this Regulation shall be subject to such penalties as may be imposed by the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee. Such penalties are not subject to appeal.

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## **1.03B AMENDMENTS**

These USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis Regulations may be amended by the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee with the approval of a committee comprised of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee and the USTA Junior Team Tennis National Manager. All proposed amendments shall be in writing and shall be forwarded to the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee at least 10 days before any meeting of the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee. Without the approval of the Chair and Vice Chair of USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee, and the USTA Junior Team Tennis National Manager, no amendments to these USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis Regulations shall become effective prior to the beginning of the next USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis Championship Year.

## **1.03C WRITTEN INTERPRETATION**

A committee comprised of the Chair, Vice-Chair of the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee and the USTA Junior Team Tennis National Manager has the authority and the responsibility to provide interpretations of USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis Regulations.

## **1.03D GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

For purposes of these Regulations, certain words and phrases are defined in the glossary included herein.

## **1.03E NON-DISCRIMINATION**

Discrimination in USTA Junior Team Tennis is prohibited as specified in the Constitution and Bylaws of the United States Tennis Association Incorporated.

## **1.04 USTA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS**

USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis consists of team competition for boys and girls of specific Junior NTRP levels of play and age categories and provides an opportunity for advancement from local competition to District, Sectional, and National Competition.

### **1.04A AGE CATEGORIES**

USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis is divided into two age categories: 18 & Under and 14 & Under.

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## **1.04B LEVELS OF PLAY**

Levels of play for each age category are: Advanced (Junior NTRP 3.5 & above) and Intermediate (Junior NTRP below 3.5).

## **1.04C DIVISIONS**

Age categories and levels of play are combined to form the following divisions of play: 14 & Under Intermediate, 14 & Under Advanced, 18 & Under Intermediate and 18 & Under Advanced.

## **1.04D CHAMPIONSHIPS ADVANCEMENT**

Only the 14 & Under and 18 & Under Intermediate and Advanced Divisions may progress to the National Championships.

## **1.04E RATING PROCESS**

The Junior National Tennis Rating Program (Junior NTRP) in TennisLink is the official system for determining play levels for USTA National Championships Junior Team Tennis. Additional information for the Junior NTRP can be found at: [www.usta.com/juniorratings](http://www.usta.com/juniorratings).

## **1.04F ADMINISTRATION**

### **1.04F(1) USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS COMMITTEE**

USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis shall be governed by the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee appointed by the President of the USTA and subject to the control and direction of the USTA Board of Directors.

### **1.04F(2) USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS NATIONAL MANAGER**

USTA Junior Team Tennis National Manager shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration of USTA Junior Team Tennis including National Championship Junior Team Tennis.

### **1.04F(3) SECTIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

The USTA has 17 Sectional Associations, the names and territories of which are defined in the USTA Bylaws. Each Sectional Association is responsible for the development and implementation of USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis within its geographic territory in accordance with the USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis Regulations.

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## **1.04F(3)a SECTIONAL USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS COORDINATORS**

Each Sectional Association shall appoint a USTA Junior Team Tennis Coordinator to implement and administer USTA Junior Team Tennis including the National Championship Junior Team Tennis track in its geographical area.

## **1.04F(3)b DISTRICT USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS COORDINATORS**

Each District, if applicable, shall have a District Coordinator to implement and administer USTA Junior Team Tennis including the National Championship Junior Team Tennis track. A District shall have such geographic boundaries as the Sectional Association may determine.

## **1.04F(3)c LOCAL/AREA USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS COORDINATORS**

Each Local/Area USTA Junior Team Tennis program shall have a Local/Area Coordinator to implement and administer USTA Junior Team Tennis including the National Championship Junior Team Tennis track. All Local/ Area Coordinators shall be in compliance with the USTA Youth Protection Policies and Procedures for USTA Junior Team Tennis.

## **1.04F(3)d TEAM COACHES/MANAGERS**

Each USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis team shall have a team coach/manager responsible for the team and its administrative affairs during the season. Each team coach/ manager shall be in compliance with the USTA Youth Protection Policies and Procedures for USTA Junior Team Tennis.

## **1.04F(4) CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEES**

A championship committee of at least three members, one of whom is a USTA Certified Referee or Umpire, shall govern each championship event. At least one member of the Championship Committee shall be in attendance at all times during play. The Championships Committees, except for the National Championships, shall be appointed by the Local/Area, District and/or Sectional Associations. The Chair of the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee shall appoint the Championship Committee for the National Championships.

## **1.04G OFFICIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM**

TennisLink is the official information system of USTA Junior Team Tennis, including National Championship Junior Team Tennis.

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## **1.04G(1) OFFICIAL REGISTRATION SYSTEM**

TennisLink Team Tennis is the official system for registering teams and players for participation in USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis. A player's name must be listed on the team roster, as shown in TennisLink, prior to participation in any match. This includes any player who is added to a team roster after the commencement of local league play. The Sectional Association shall establish deadlines and procedures for registering players and teams on TennisLink Team Tennis.

## **1.04G(2) OFFICIAL SCORE REPORTING AND STANDINGS SYSTEM**

TennisLink Team Tennis is the official system for reporting scores and providing standings for USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis.

**1.04G(2)a** Unless otherwise established by a Sectional Association, the entry of match scores into TennisLink Team Tennis must be entered within 48 hours of the completion of the match.

**1.04G(2)b** All local play history documentation must be entered within 48 hours of the last match of the season played and before entry into any post season championship event. Corrections to completed scorecards must be made within 1 week of the last match of the season played and before entry into any post season championships event.

**1.04G(2)c** All post season championship event match scores must be entered within 48 hours of the completion of the match.

## **1.04H CHAMPIONSHIP YEAR**

The USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis Program shall be September 1 to August 31. The National Championships will occur following the Championships Year prior to December 31.

## **1.04I LOCAL TENNIS SEASON**

Each Sectional Association shall determine the dates for the local tennis season(s) within its Section.



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## **1.04J PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS**

### **1.04J(1) DOMICILE AND RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS**

Any individual who competes in USTA Junior Team Tennis, including USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis, must be domiciled within the boundaries of a USTA Sectional Association or participate through a USTA Direct Member Organization. Residents of foreign countries who meet membership and age requirements may be invited by a USTA Sectional Association to participate in USTA Junior Team Tennis, including USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis, provided that all such matches are played within the Section. Sectional Associations may create residency requirement rules to encourage and foster local play.

### **1.04J(2) MEMBERSHIP**

All individuals who compete in USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis must be current USTA members in good standing through the local season. Any individual who progresses to a championship event in USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis must be a current USTA member through the end of each championship event.

### **1.04J(3) PLAYER AGREEMENT**

All players participating in USTA Junior Team Tennis, including USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis, as a condition of said participation, agree to abide and be bound by the USTA Constitution and Bylaws; the FRIEND AT COURT - The USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations including THE CODE and Wheelchair Rules of Tennis (unless modified by these USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS REGULATIONS) and the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship.

### **1.04J(4) AMATEUR STATUS**

USTA Junior Team Tennis, including USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis, participation is limited to amateurs.

### **1.04J(5) WAIVER OF CLAIMS**

Players participating in USTA Junior Team Tennis, including USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis, acknowledge the risks associated with playing tennis, accept those risks voluntarily, and in consideration of their acceptance in the program assume all risks of injury whether property or bodily, waive all claims for any and all injury or damages and agree to release and hold harmless the USTA,

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any host facility, all officials, employees, volunteers, and agents with respect to any injury or loss caused by negligence or otherwise to the fullest extent permitted, whether in law or equity.

## **1.04J(6) SUSPENDED PLAYERS**

Any Junior player who is suspended from USTA competition is ineligible to participate in USTA Junior Team Tennis for the duration of the suspension.

## **1.05 OFFICIAL BALL**

For Sectional and National Championships in USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis, PENN is the official ball.

## **1.06 USTA YOUTH PROTECTION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS**

The USTA Youth Protection Policies and Procedures apply to USTA Junior Team Tennis, including USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis, and can be found at [www.usta.com/safeplay](http://www.usta.com/safeplay).

## **2.00 LOCAL COMPETITION, PROGRESSION AND CHAMPIONSHIPS**

### **2.01 LOCAL COMPETITION**

#### **2.01A NUMBER OF TEAMS**

Locally, USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis is a team competition in a specified geographical area that applies specific local team regulations and consists of two or more teams per division (combination of age and play level – see 1.04C). For USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis, a team must advance from a division with a minimum of two teams at the same age and play level as the championship division to which the team is advancing.

A local coordinator may choose to divide any or all divisions into flights. A playoff structure may be established to determine a champion for each division.

#### **2.01B TEAM COMPOSITION**

To participate in USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis, a team must have a minimum of three eligible (3) boys and three eligible (3) girls. (See 2.03B for player substitution requirements when advancing to a championship).

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## **2.01C AGE REQUIREMENT**

Players must remain age eligible through August 31 of the Championship Year, for the age group in which they are participating, in order to register, participate and advance in National Championship Junior Team Tennis.

## **2.01D DETERMINING PLAYER PLAY LEVEL**

All players must be rated in accordance with the Junior National Tennis Rating Program (Junior NTRP) in TennisLink to determine play level. The Junior NTRP in TennisLink is used in conjunction with any supplemental Sectional Association regulations to determine the play levels of competition for USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis. (See appendix for Junior NTRP rating chart). Players with a rating of 3.5 and above must play in the Advanced Level.

### **2.01D(1) SECTIONAL SUPPLEMENTAL PLAY LEVEL REGULATIONS**

Each Sectional Association shall have the authority to establish supplemental play level regulations to best ensure the integrity of play levels within their Sections. Any proposed supplemental regulations must be approved by a committee comprised of the Junior Team Tennis National Manager, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Junior Team Tennis Committee, and on file at the USTA Junior Team Tennis office at least 30 days prior to the first beginning date for program registrations for the Championship Year. (Please contact your Sectional Coordinator for more information.) Players with a rating at 3.5 and above must play at the Advanced Level.

## **2.01E COMPETITION FORMAT**

The local coordinator may use the format which best meets the needs of the local program e.g., round robin. All teams in the USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis track are required to play a minimum of three (3) team matches. Each of the three (3) matches must be played on three (3) separate dates.

### **2.01E(1) TEAM MATCH**

Local coordinators may determine a match format that meets the needs of the local program. The method of determining the winning team of a local team match and also the winner of the local season is determined by the Local Coordinator. In USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis, play shall be gender specific (In singles

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and doubles, girls play girls and boys play boys. In mixed doubles, a doubles team comprised of one girl and one boy plays against another doubles team comprised of one girl and one boy). It is recommended that each team match consist of one boy's and one girl's singles, one boys' and one girls' doubles, and one mixed doubles.

## **2.01E(2) INDIVIDUAL MATCH**

An individual match is any singles match, doubles match, or mixed doubles match played as part of a team match.

## **2.01E(3) SCORING**

Local Coordinators may use a scoring format within TennisLink Team Tennis online system which best meets the needs of the local program. Scores must be recorded in TennisLink Team Tennis within 48 hours of completion of a match. All local play history documentation must be entered within 48 hours of the last match of the season played and before entry into any championships event. Corrections to completed scorecards must be made within 1 week of the last match of the season played, and before entry into any championships event.

## **2.01F INDIVIDUAL DEFAULTS**

An individual default occurs when a player fails to appear on time, or is defaulted by a tournament official for misconduct.

### **2.01F(1) PROCEDURES IN THE EVENT OF A DEFAULT**

When a team presents a scorecard reflecting a default, the opposing team will be notified and extended the opportunity of adjusting their line-up.

### **2.01F(2) SCORING OF INDIVIDUAL DEFAULTS**

The defaults described in 2.03F will be scored in accordance with the format in TennisLink Team Tennis. In the event of a default by both opposing players, neither team receives credit for that match win or the games.

## **2.01G RETIREMENT**

A retirement occurs when an individual match has started and a player or a doubles team is unable to continue due to injury, loss of condition or emergency.

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## **2.01G(1) SCORING OF RETIREMENTS**

In case of a retirement, for the purpose of determining standings, the non-retiring player/doubles team shall be credited with such number of additional games as would have been won if the match was completed and the non-retiring player/doubles team won every subsequent game. For Junior NTRP computer data entry in TennisLink, mark as retired and submit actual scores of match at the point of retirement.

## **2.01H TEAM LINEUPS**

In USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis, the coaches/managers for each team shall exchange their team lineup cards simultaneously prior to the beginning of the team match. No substitutions may be made in an individual match after the lineup has been presented, except for injury to, or illness of a player prior to the start of such match and except under such further circumstances as a local/area competition may authorize. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute is entitled to a five minute warm-up.

## **2.01I PLAYER PARTICIPATION**

### **2.01I(1) MORE THAN ONE TEAM**

In USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis, A Sectional Association may allow players to play on more than one team in a local program during the same season; provided that players may not play on more than one team in the same division.

### **2.01I(2) MORE THAN ONE INDIVIDUAL MATCH**

A player may play in any number of individual matches within a team match as determined by the Sectional Association. Coordinators should refer to playing limitations described in USTA Regulations II.D. in accordance with scheduling guidelines for junior divisions.

## **2.01J COACHING**

The local program shall determine whether and at what times to allow coaching. In no event is coaching permitted during a tiebreak.

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## **2.01K LOCAL CHAMPIONS**

The local competition must be concluded prior to the deadline set by the Sectional Association. At the conclusion of the local competition, the Local Coordinator shall certify to the District or Sectional Coordinator the results of the competition and provide contact information for the qualifying teams' coaches/managers.

## **2.02 PROGRESSION**

Each Sectional Association shall determine and announce the method of progression suitable for its geographical boundaries for advancement of its USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis teams to the next level of Championships. Progression must originate from the local/area competition.

### **2.02A LOCAL/AREA PLAY-OFFS, DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Each eligible team that wins a specific level of team tennis competition may be eligible to progress to the next championship which may include one or more championships below the Sectional Championships, including local/area playoffs or championships and District Championships.

### **2.02B SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Each Sectional Association shall hold USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis Sectional Championships for the 18 & under and 14 & under Intermediate and Advanced Divisions to determine its Sectional National Championship Junior Team Tennis champions. The winning teams in these divisions shall be allowed to compete in the USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis, National Championships, if otherwise eligible. If the winning team at any level of competition is unable to compete further towards the National Championships, then the Sectional USTA Junior Team Tennis Coordinator may select the next eligible team prior to the registration deadline.

### **2.02C NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The teams winning the National Championships in each division shall be that year's USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis National Champions.

## **2.03 CHAMPIONSHIPS**

In USTA National Championships Junior Team Tennis, the following shall apply to all championships after local/area competition:

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## **2.03A ELIGIBILITY**

A player is eligible to progress to championship level competition, including National Championships, if that player has met all the following conditions:

2.03A(1) Participated on a team from a USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis eligible program within TennisLink Team Tennis.

2.03A(2) Played on the advancing team in at least two (2) team matches during that team's local USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis season.

2.03A(3) The results of the two (2) matches must be recorded in TennisLink Team Tennis. Neither of the two (2) matches may be the product of a default received. A retired match shall count toward the two (2) match requirement for eligibility for the players involved.

2.03A(4) All local play history documentation must be entered within 48 hours of the last match of the season played before entry into any post season championships event. Corrections to completed scorecards must be made within 1 week of the last match of the season played, and before entry into any post season championships event.

## **2.03B SUBSTITUTIONS**

### **2.03B(1) TEAM SUBSTITUTIONS**

If a team advancing to a championship competition cannot field the required minimum number of qualified players, another team may be selected by the Local/ Area, District and/or Sectional Association to advance.

### **2.03B(2) PLAYER SUBSTITUTIONS**

If an eligible player on a team advancing to a championship competition is unable to participate, resulting in a failure of the team to meet the minimum team size requirement, an eligible substitute player may be added. (See 2.01B).

**2.03B(2)a** Substitute players are only allowed for teams which originally had the required minimum number of players who are eligible to advance (See 2.01B)

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**2.03B(2)b** In no event can more than one substitute, one (1) boy or one (1) girl, be added to meet the minimum team size requirement for championship competition. Any substitutions must be approved by the championship coordinator in which the substitution is occurring and shall remain in effect for that entire championship event.

**2.03B(2)c** Substitution players are only allowed for those teams who originally had at least the team minimum of three (3) girls and three (3) boys who are eligible to advance. (See 2.01B). In the event of the return of the original player in a subsequent championship, the coach/manager must decide whether the substitute player or the original player will participate.

**2.03B(2)d** The substitute player must come from a team competing in a National Championship track USTA Junior Team Tennis league in the same local program and season in which the advancing team participated to meet the minimum team size requirement. (See 2.01B).

## **2.03C OFFICIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS ENTRY**

All teams must register in TennisLink Team Tennis for all championships.

## **2.03D COMPETITION FORMAT**

The competition format may be round robin, single elimination or a combination of the two at the discretion of the championships committee.

### **2.03D(1) ROUND ROBIN**

If round robin competition is used, each team shall play every other team in its flight and the team with the highest number of total games shall be the champion in its flight. The use of flights requires a playoff to establish a champion.

### **2.03D(2) SINGLE ELIMINATION**

Single elimination format may also be used. The team with the highest number of games shall advance to the next play level.

## **2.03E TEAM MATCH**

A team match will consist of one girl's and one boy's singles, one girls' and one boys' doubles, and one mixed doubles match. The team winning the most games will be determined the winner.



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## **2.03F SCORING**

The scoring format will be at the discretion of the championship committee.

## **2.03G PARTICIPATION**

### **2.03G(1) MORE THAN ONE TEAM**

A player shall play for only one team at a District, Sectional or National Championship. In the case of a player qualifying for two (2) or more teams that advance to a District, Sectional, or National Championship, that player may only play on one of those teams, regardless of the event dates.

### **2.03G(2) MORE THAN ONE INDIVIDUAL MATCH**

Only one girl and/or only one boy may participate in up to two individual matches per team match. In no event may one player play in three individual matches. Coordinators should refer to playing limitations as described in USTA regulation II.D. in accordance with scheduling guidelines for junior divisions.

## **2.03H MATCH SUBSTITUTIONS**

No substitutions may be made in an individual match after the lineup has been presented, except for injury to, or illness of, a player prior to the start of the match, and except under such further circumstances as the championships committee may authorize. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute player is entitled to a five minute warm-up. The substitution shall affect only the one position for which the substitution is made. The remaining lineup positions shall remain the same.

## **2.03I COACHING**

The championship level coordinator shall determine whether and at what times to allow coaching at a specific championship. In no event is coaching allowed during a tiebreak.

## **2.03J PROCEDURES IN THE EVENT OF A TIE**

In the event of a tie in championship competition the following procedures shall be used to break the tie.

### **2.03J(1) ROUND ROBIN FORMAT**

In the event of a tie in round robin competition, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:

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- Head to head team match win/loss record between the tied teams.
  - A win is determined by most games won
- The team with the most team matches won in the round robin flight
- The team with the most individual matches won in the round robin flight
- The team with the most sets won in the round robin flight

In the event none of these steps break the tie, a method determined and announced by the Championships Committee before the championship event shall be used to break the tie.

Tiebreak played in lieu of deciding final set counts as both one set and one game for the purpose of determining the order of finish. If the players inadvertently play out the third set or any portion thereof, it will still count as only one set and one game.

## **2.03J(2) SINGLE ELIMINATION FORMAT**

When two teams are tied in games during single elimination, the teams' coach/manager will designate a girl and boy to play a mixed doubles match tiebreak to determine the winner.

## **2.03K INDIVIDUAL DEFAULTS**

An individual default occurs when a player fails to appear on time, or is defaulted by a tournament official for misconduct.

### **2.03K(1) PROCEDURES IN THE EVENT OF A DEFAULT**

When a team presents a scorecard reflecting a default, the opposing team will be notified and extended the opportunity of adjusting their line-up.

### **2.03K(2) SCORING OF INDIVIDUAL DEFAULTS**

The defaults described in 2.03K will be scored in accordance with the format in TennisLink Team Tennis. In the event of a default by both opposing players, neither team receives credit for that match win or the games.

## **2.03L TEAM DEFAULTS**

### **2.03L(1) PRIOR TO THE START OF A CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT**

A team must have a minimum of six (6) eligible players, three (3) boys and three (3) girls, available at the start of the championship event to be eligible to receive credit for game wins. (See 2.01B). Should the team not have the required eligible players at the start of the event, the team may participate in the championship event but any and all team matches will be defaulted to the opposing team. (See 2.03L(3)).

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## **2.03L(2) DURING A CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT**

A team may default a maximum of two positions in a team match without defaulting the entire match. In such cases, the default(s) is/(are) dependent on the number and the gender of the defaulting players. Example: If a team is short a boy, the boy's singles must be defaulted. If a team is short a girl, then the girl's singles must be defaulted. A mixed doubles match may not be defaulted.

## **2.03L(3) SCORING OF TEAM DEFAULTS**

If a team defaults an entire team match for any reason during round robin play, then all matches of that team played or to be played shall be null and void. If all teams in contention for the championships have already played the defaulting team in good faith, the matches stand as played. Sanctions or Penalties may be imposed on defaulting team.

## **2.03L(4) PENALTIES FOR TEAM DEFAULTS**

The Tournament Director/Committee reserves the right to place penalties on the team coach/manager for team or individual defaults.

## **2.03M RETIREMENT**

A retirement occurs when an individual match has started and a player or a doubles team is unable to continue due to injury, loss of condition, or emergency.

## **2.03M(1) SCORING OF RETIREMENTS**

In case of a retirement, for the purpose of determining standings, the non-retiring player/doubles team shall be credited with such number of additional games as would have been won if the match was completed and the non-retiring player/doubles team won every subsequent game. For Junior NTRP computer data entry in TennisLink, mark as retired and submit

## **3.00 GRIEVANCES**

All USTA Junior Team Tennis, including USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis, grievances and grievance appeals shall be administered in accordance with the provisions of 3.00 through 3.05B.

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## **3.01 COMMITTEES**

Unless otherwise stated, the grievance committees and appeals committees referred to herein (including those referred to as Junior Team Tennis committees) shall adjudicate grievances arising out of the Junior Team Tennis and National Championships Junior Team Tennis tracks of the Junior Team Tennis Program.”

### **3.01A GRIEVANCE COMMITTEES**

All grievance committees shall consist of no less than three persons, including a chair, to adjudicate grievances. The members of the committee may be the same as, or different in whole or part, from the committee first appointed at the beginning of the season.

#### **3.01A(1) LOCAL/AREA**

Each Local/Area USTA Junior Team Tennis program, including USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis, shall appoint a USTA Junior Team Tennis Grievance Committee.

#### **3.01A(2) SECTION, DISTRICT**

Each Sectional Association shall appoint a USTA Junior Team Tennis Grievance Committee and each District, if applicable shall appoint a USTA Junior Team Tennis District Grievance Committee.

#### **3.01A(3) CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT GRIEVANCE COMMITTEES**

##### **3.01A(3)a AREA, DISTRICT, AND SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Each Area, District, and/or Sectional Association shall appoint a USTA Junior Team Tennis Championship Event Grievance Committee.

##### **3.01A(3)b NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The Chair of the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee shall appoint a National USTA Junior Team Tennis Championships Grievance Committee. The members may be the same as, or different in whole or in part, from the members of the National USTA Junior Team Tennis Championships Committee.

### **3.01B GRIEVANCE APPEAL COMMITTEES**

All Grievance Appeal Committees shall consist of no less than three persons, including a chair, to consider appeals of decisions rendered by the respective

# USTA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS REGULATIONS

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grievance committees. The members of the Grievance Appeal Committee may be the same as, or different in whole or part from, the committee appointed at the beginning of the season. No member of a Grievance Appeal Committee may be a member of a Grievance Committee that reviewed or decided the original grievance.

## **3.01B(1) LOCAL/AREA**

Each Local/Area USTA Junior Team Tennis program, including USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis, shall appoint a USTA Junior Team Tennis Grievance Appeal Committee.

## **3.01B(2) SECTION, DISTRICT**

Each Sectional Association shall appoint a USTA Junior Team Tennis Grievance Appeal Committee, and each District, if applicable, shall appoint a USTA Junior Team Tennis Grievance Appeal Committee.

## **3.01B(3) NATIONAL**

The Chair of the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee shall appoint a National USTA Junior Team Tennis Grievance Appeal Committee.

## **3.01B(4) CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT APPEAL COMMITTEES**

### **3.01B(4)a AREA, DISTRICT, AND SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Each Area, District, and/or Section shall appoint a USTA Junior Team Tennis Championship Event Grievance Appeal Committee.

### **3.01B(4)b NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The Chair of the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee shall appoint a National USTA Junior Team Tennis Championships Grievance Appeal Committee.

The members may be the same as, or different in whole or in part from, the members of the National Championship Committees.

## **3.02 GRIEVANCE TYPES**

### **3.02A GENERAL GRIEVANCE**

Any grievance, other than those defined in Regulation 3.02B Administrative Grievance, 3.02C National Grievance, 3.02D Eligibility Grievance, 3.02E Rating Grievance alleging a violation of the USTA Constitution and Bylaws; the USTA

# USTA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS REGULATIONS

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Regulations; the Rules of Tennis: the Friend at Court—The USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations including The Code and Wheelchair Rules of Tennis (unless modified by these USTA Junior Team Tennis Regulations); the USTA Junior Team Tennis Regulations or standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship, shall constitute a General Grievance.

## **3.02B ADMINISTRATIVE GRIEVANCE**

Any grievance pertaining to administration of USTA Junior Team Tennis, including USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis, at any level below the National level shall constitute an Administrative Grievance.

## **3.02C NATIONAL GRIEVANCE**

The only National Grievance that can be filed is a grievance against the USTA Junior Team Tennis National Manager.

## **3.02D ELIGIBILITY GRIEVANCE**

Any grievance contending that a player and/or team failed to meet eligibility requirements to participate in USTA Junior Team Tennis, including USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis, shall constitute an Eligibility Grievance.

## **3.02E RATING GRIEVANCES**

**3.02E(1)** A coach/manager who rates a player and places that player on a USTA Junior Team Tennis team by intentionally misrepresenting that player's actual skill level is considered to have violated the standards of good conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship and may subject that coach/manager's player or team to a grievance and the ramification could result in disqualification.

## **3.02E(2) SELF-RATE GRIEVANCE COMPLAINT**

Self-rated players who enter the USTA Junior Team Tennis by intentionally misrepresenting their actual skill level are considered to have violated the standards of good conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship and are subject to a grievance and the ramifications could result in disqualification.

# USTA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS REGULATIONS

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## **3.03 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

### **3.03A GENERAL GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

**3.03A(1)** An Administrative Grievance below the section level shall be made at the next higher level. An Administrative Grievance at the section level shall be made with the Sectional Association Grievance Committee.

**3.03A(2)** Any grievance against a Sectional Junior Team Tennis Coordinator shall be made with the Sectional Junior Team Tennis Committee. The decision of the Sectional Junior Team Tennis Committee shall be final and binding.

**3.03A(3)** Any grievance against the USTA Junior Team Tennis National Manager shall be made with the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee. The decision of the USTA Junior Team Tennis Committee shall be final and binding.

**3.03A(4)** All other grievances (General (3.02A), Eligibility (3.02D) and Rating (3.02E)) shall be made with the USTA Junior Team Tennis Grievance Committees at the appropriate level (i.e. Local/Area, District or Sectional Association).

**3.03A(5)** All grievances must be made in writing.

**3.03A(6)** Any grievance against an individual or team may only be made by (a) the team coach/manager of the team who has competed in the match where the alleged violation occurred, (b) a coordinator, or (c) a member of a Championships Committee except for Eligibility Grievances which may be made as stated in Reg. 3.03B (3) and 3.03C (3).

**3.03A(7)** Regardless of any other regulation, a coordinator or a member of a Championship Committee, may make a grievance at any time.

**3.03A(8)** Play during grievance procedures: An individual may continue to play during the investigation of a grievance and hearing but must understand that, if upheld, all matches played during that time may be defaulted.

### **3.03B LOCAL PROCEDURES**

**3.03B(1)** Any grievance alleging a violation by an individual or team during local competition shall be made in writing with the Local/Area, or District USTA Junior Team Tennis Coordinator or designee having jurisdiction. The grievance must be made prior to the commencement of whichever occurs first: (a) the involved team's

## USTA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS REGULATIONS

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next team match in that flight, whether or not the involved player participates or (b) within 24 hours after the end of the local season except for Eligibility Grievances (See Reg. 3.03B(3)).

**3.03B(2)** Upon receipt of the grievance, the Local/Area, or District USTA Junior Team Tennis Coordinator or designee shall immediately send a copy to the Chair of the appropriate USTA Junior Team Tennis Grievance Committee, or other Committee as designated in these USTA Junior Team Tennis Regulations, and to the party(ies) against whom the grievance has been made.

**3.03B(3)** Any grievance regarding failure to meet eligibility requirements may be made by a USTA Junior Team Tennis coach/manager or coordinator or member of a Championship Committee at any time.

A Local/Area USTA Junior Team Tennis Coordinator may declare a player ineligible and disqualify that player without filing a grievance prior to the disqualification.

### **3.03B(4) SCORING OF ELIGIBILITY DISQUALIFICATION IN LOCAL TEAM PLAY**

**3.03B(4)a** In the event of an eligibility disqualification during the local team tennis season and up to 24 hours after the end of local team play, all matches played by the disqualified player shall be considered defaults and those matches shall be considered wins for the opposing players or doubles teams and scored according to the format described in TennisLink Team Tennis.

In case of an eligibility disqualification in single elimination, the last individual match played by the disqualified player shall be considered a win for the opposing player or doubles team and scored according to the format described in TennisLink Team Tennis for determining standings. If a double disqualification results in a tie, the local tiebreak procedure shall be used to determine the winner of the team match.

**3.03B(4)b** In the event of an eligibility disqualification after the conclusion of the local USTA Junior Team Tennis season, including USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis, by more than 24 hours, the team will remain eligible to participate and retain games received up to the disqualification, but the ineligible player will not be allowed to continue or advance.



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## **3.03C CHAMPIONSHIP PROCEDURES**

**3.03C(1)** Any grievance alleging a violation during championships competition shall be in writing and delivered to the duly appointed site director or designee prior to whichever occurs first: (a) within 30 minutes of completion of the involved team's match or (b) the commencement of the involved team's next match, whether or not the involved player participates except for Eligibility Grievances (See Reg. 3.03B(3)).

**3.03C(2)** At the time a grievance is made, a copy of the grievance shall be delivered by the Championship Committee or site director to the party(ies) against whom the grievance has been made.

**3.03C(3)** Any grievance regarding failure to meet eligibility requirements may be submitted by a team coach/manager, coordinator or member of a Championship Committee at any time.

## **3.03C(4) SCORING OF ELIGIBILITY DISQUALIFICATION FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS**

### **3.03C(4)a ELIGIBILITY DISQUALIFICATION THAT OCCURS PRIOR TO OR AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF A CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT**

In the event of an eligibility disqualification prior to or after the conclusion of a championship event, the team will remain eligible to participate and retain games received up to the disqualification, but the ineligible player will not be allowed to continue or advance.

### **3.03C(4)b ELIGIBILITY DISQUALIFICATION THAT OCCURS DURING A CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT WHEN USING A ROUND ROBIN FORMAT**

In the event of an eligibility disqualification in a round robin format during the championship event, the player will not be allowed to continue or advance on that team and all matches played by the player shall be considered losses and those matches shall be considered wins for the opposing players or doubles teams and scored according to the format described in TennisLink Team Tennis for determining standings.

### **3.03C(4)c ELIGIBILITY DISQUALIFICATION THAT OCCURS DURING A CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT WHEN USING A SINGLE ELIMINATION FORMAT.**

In the case of a disqualification in single elimination format during the championship event, the player will not be allowed to continue or advance on

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that team and the last individual match played by the player shall be considered a win for the opposing player or doubles team and scored according to the format described in TennisLink Team Tennis for determining standings.

## **3.03D - GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE ACTION**

**3.03D(1)** Following the receipt of a grievance and as soon as reasonable, the Grievance Committee shall investigate the alleged violation as it deems appropriate. If the Grievance Committee deems necessary, it shall arrange for a hearing at which the parties involved shall have the opportunity to present evidence.

**3.03D(2)** The Grievance Committee shall have the power to dismiss, deny the grievance or to direct the correction of any violations by reasonable means, including the suspension or disqualification of an individual or team. This is applicable to any party to the grievance as long as such party has been given the opportunity to review and present evidence.

**3.03D(3)** The Grievance Committee shall prepare a written decision setting forth the basis for its decision and the deadline for any written appeal and promptly deliver copies to the parties involved.

**3.03D(4)** The decision of the Grievance Committee shall be by majority vote.

## **3.04 GRIEVANCE APPEALS**

### **3.04A GENERAL GRIEVANCE APPEALS PROCEDURES**

**3.04A(1)** Any party(ies) to the grievance may appeal the decision of the Grievance Committee within the time fixed by the Grievance Committee. Upon receipt of an appeal of the decision of the Grievance Committee, the Grievance Appeal Committee shall act promptly to resolve the appeal.

**3.04A(2)** The party(ies) appealing shall submit written notice of appeal with the appropriate Grievance Appeal Committee, the Chair of the Grievance Committee whose decision is being appealed, Local/Area, District, or Sectional USTA Jr. Team Tennis Coordinator, and to the other part(ies) involved in the grievance.

**3.04A(3)** The party(ies) to the appeal shall have an opportunity to submit in writing facts and arguments in support of their respective positions. All information submitted shall be provided to all parties.

# USTA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS REGULATIONS

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**3.04A(4)** The Decision of the Grievance Appeal Committee at the level at which the Grievance was heard shall be final and binding and not subject to appeal except with regard to suspensions of individuals or teams for a period of 12 months or more.

## **3.04A(5) PLAY DURING GRIEVANCE APPEAL PROCEDURES**

**3.04A(5)a** If the grievance is upheld, the individual or team is subject to all penalties imposed by the Grievance Committee during the appeal process.

**3.04A(5)b** If the original grievance is denied and appealed, the individual or team grieved against may play during his/her/their appeal process but must understand that if the decision of the Grievance Committee is reversed; all matches played during that time may be defaulted or remanded for reconsideration.

## **3.04B GRIEVANCE APPEAL COMMITTEE'S ACTION**

**3.04B(1)** The Grievance Appeal Committee shall not be required to hold any hearing except as provided in 3.04B(2). Its decision may be based entirely on the findings of fact by the Grievance Committee whose decision is being appealed and on the facts and arguments submitted in writing by the party(ies) to the appeal.

**3.04B(2)** If the Grievance Committee did not hold a hearing, the Grievance Appeal Committee shall do so, provided any party involved in the grievance so requests in writing. The Grievance Appeal Committee may hear such further evidence as it, in its absolute discretion, deems appropriate.

**3.04B(3)** The Grievance Appeal Committee shall have the power to affirm, modify, remand or reject the decision of the Grievance Committee. The Grievance Appeal Committee shall not impose a harsher penalty. For the purpose of clarification, should the Grievance Committee elect to not impose a penalty, the Grievance Appeal Committee may not impose a penalty; however, the Grievance Appeal Committee may, for cause, remand the matter to the original Grievance Committee or a new Grievance Committee for reconsideration.

**3.04B(4)** A copy of the Grievance Appeal Committee's written decision setting forth the basis of its decision shall be promptly sent to all interested parties.

**3.03B(5)** The decision of the Grievance Appeal Committee shall be by majority vote.

## **3.04C NATIONAL USTA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS GRIEVANCE APPEAL**

# USTA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS REGULATIONS

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## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

**3.04C(1)** The National USTA Junior Team Tennis Grievance Appeal Committee shall hear appeals from individuals/teams suspended for a period of 12 months or more by a Local, Area, District, or Sectional Grievance Appeal Committee. Upon receipt of an appeal of the decision of the Grievance Appeal Committee, the National Grievance Appeal Committee shall act promptly to resolve the appeal.

**3.04C(2)** The National USTA Junior Team Tennis Grievance Appeal Committee shall have the power to conduct such investigation as deemed necessary and to affirm, modify, remand or reject the decision of the Sectional Grievance Appeal Committee, but may not impose a harsher penalty (See Reg. 3.04B(3)). However, the National Junior Team Tennis Grievance Appeal Committee may, for cause, remand the matter to the original Grievance Committee or a new Grievance Committee for reconsideration.

**3.04C(3)** A copy of the National USTA Junior Team Tennis Grievance Appeal Committee's written decision setting shall be promptly sent to all interested parties. Such decision shall be final and binding and not subject to appeal.

## **3.05 GENERAL PROCEDURES FOR GRIEVANCE AND GRIEVANCE APPEAL COMMITTEES**

### **3.05A TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALLS**

If one or more members of a Grievance Committee or Grievance Appeal Committee cannot be present at a hearing, such members may, at the discretion of the chair, participate by means of a telephone conference call, video teleconferencing, or other approved remote participation. If any witness cannot be present at a hearing to present evidence, such witness may, at the discretion of the chair, be permitted to do so by means of a telephone conference call, video teleconferencing or other approved remote participation.

### **3.05B WRITTEN REQUIREMENT**

The requirement that a notice or other document be in writing is satisfied if it is sent by a telegram, fax, e-mail, or equivalent communication.

# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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**ADVANCED:** The level of play for participants who have a Junior NTRP 3.5 and above.

**AGE CRITERIA DATE:** Date in which a player must remain age eligible through to participate in advancing championships – August 31st

**APPEAL:** Request for reconsideration of a previous decision, determination or finding.

**CHAMPIONSHIP:** Any USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis program competition held beyond local competition or playoffs.

**CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM TENNIS YEAR:** The USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis year shall be September 1 to August 31, with the National Championships following the championship year and before December 31.

**COMPETITIVE:** A match in which the outcome is unpredictable.

**DEFAULT:** When a player or team fails to appear on time or is removed by a tournament official for misconduct.

**DOUBLE DEFAULT:** When players from both teams fail to appear or are removed by a tournament official for misconduct or other violation.

**INTERMEDIATE:** The level of play for participants who have a Junior NTRP below 3.5.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Qualifications to play.

**FLIGHT:** A group of teams competing at a specified Junior NTRP level within a local or championship competition where every team in that group plays every other team to declare a winner.

**GENDER SPECIFIC:** In singles and doubles, girls play girls and boys play boys. In mixed doubles, a doubles team comprised of one girl and one boy and plays against another doubles team comprised of one girl and one boy.

**GRIEVANCE:** Written formal complaint regarding an alleged violation of a regulation or procedure.

**INDIVIDUAL MATCH:** Any singles or doubles match played as part of a team match.

**LEVEL OF PLAY:** Junior NTRP skill levels offered in the program.

**LOCAL TEAM TENNIS PROGRAM:** A team competition in a specified geographical area that applies specific local team tennis regulations and consists of NTRP level(s) with a minimum of two or more teams per NTRP level.

**MATCH TIEBREAK:** First to 10 by a margin of two. (See [www.usta.com](http://www.usta.com), Rules, #27.)

**MIXED DOUBLES:** A match between a doubles team comprised of one girl and one boy versus another doubles team comprised of one girl and one boy.

# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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**JUNIOR NTRP:** The Junior National Tennis Rating Program is the official system for determining play levels.

**PLAYER:** The individual who registers on a team.

**PROGRAM:** A team competition in a specified geographical area that applies specific local program regulations and consists of divisions with a minimum of two or more teams per division. A local program may choose to divide any or all division flights. Where flights are used, a local playoff structure may be established to determine a champion.

**RETIREMENT:** Occurs when an individual match has started and a player is unable to continue due to injury, loss of condition, or emergency.

**ROUND ROBIN:** Each team plays every other team in its flight.

**SET BREAK:** The two-minute period between the completion of the last game of a set and the beginning of a succeeding set.

**SET TIEBREAK:** First to 7 by a margin of two. (See [www.usta.com](http://www.usta.com), Rules, #27.)

**SINGLE ELIMINATION:** A type of format where the loser of each match or bracket is immediately eliminated.

**START OF A MATCH:** First service attempt on an individual court.

**TEAM:** Individuals on a roster together.

**TEAM MATCH:** (Local team match): Any number of individual singles, doubles, and/ or mixed doubles matches as determined by the local program. (Championship team match): Girl's Singles, Boy's Singles, Girls' Doubles, Boys' Doubles, and Mixed Doubles.

**TEAM TENNIS COORDINATOR:** Person appointed or hired to implement and administer Team Tennis.

**TEAM TENNIS PROGRESSION:** Local/Area team tennis team winners have the opportunity to advance through District, Sectional, and National championships competition.

**TIEBREAK PROCEDURES:** Process to determine the winner of a Round Robin or Single Elimination in the team competition if the teams are tied.

**TWO-MATCH RULE:** Each player advancing to championship competition must have reported scores in a minimum of two local team matches on the advancing team.

**SECTION ASSOCIATIONS:** One of seventeen defined associations that comprise the USTA.

**WAIVER OF CLAIMS:** As a condition of participation, each player gives up the right to any demand for injuries sustained in traveling to or from or participating in the program.

**WAIVER OF RULES:** Except where specifically permitted, no USTA Junior Team Tennis Guideline or Procedure may be disregarded.

# JUNIOR NATIONAL TENNIS RATING PROGRAM (JUNIOR NTRP)

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The Junior National Tennis Rating Program (Junior NTRP), which defines the characteristics of a player's levels, is the official system for determining the levels of competition for USTA Junior Team Tennis. Each Sectional Association will determine the appropriate use of their ranking system to distinguish between Intermediate and Advanced level for any players, across all age categories, who participate in sanctioned tournaments.

Players in USTA Junior Team Tennis rate in accordance with the Junior NTRP guidelines. Factors such as a player's on-court performance, tennis background, and any additional information should be considered in the self-rating decision. When players are rating themselves and question at which level they should play, they should place themselves in the higher NTRP level of play.

Players who are good athletes or intend to spend a great deal of time taking lessons and practicing should be aware that their improvement may be significant enough to surpass their original self-rating by the time they reach the end of the local season or championship level.

To place yourself: Read all categories carefully and then decide which one best describes your present ability level. Be certain that you qualify on all points of all preceding levels as well as those in the level you choose. When rating yourself, assume you are playing against a player of the same gender and the same ability.

## GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF JUNIOR NTRP LEVELS

- 1.0 Player is just starting to play tennis.
- 1.5 Player has limited experience and is working primarily on getting the ball in play. Note to team coach/manager: Player needs to coordinate moving when hitting the ball. In fact, player is still concentrating on getting the ball over the net from a stationary position. Player is learning to serve and keep score.
- 2.0 This player has little experience playing tennis, needs stroke development, is still working on getting the ball into play and is learning basic scoring and rules.
- 2.5 Can sustain a short rally at a slow pace with other players of similar ability. Strokes are developing, but player is often blocking or pushing the ball. Player knows the basic rules of tennis, can play a singles or doubles match and is ready to play social matches, beginner USTA Junior Team Tennis and/or entry-level tournaments.
- 3.0 Improved consistency on medium-paced shots. Forehand is more reliable than backhand. Player is developing the ability to control the direction of the ball but majority of shots are directed toward the middle of the court. Developing the ability to add spin on serves, though second serve is often considerably slower than the first serve. Increasing teamwork in doubles; common doubles formation is one up and one back. This player may play in lower-level tournaments and/or an intermediate USTA Junior Team Tennis team.

## JUNIOR NATIONAL TENNIS RATING PROGRAM (JUNIOR NTRP)

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- 3.5** Consistent on ground strokes with depth and directional control. Developing placement on second serves. The effective use of lobs, overheads, approach shots and volleys is limited. This player may play on an advanced USTA Junior Team Tennis team.
- 4.0** This player has dependable strokes with directional control and the ability to alter depth of shots on both the forehand and backhand sides during moderately paced play. This player also has the ability to use lobs, overheads, approach shots and volleys with success. Player is developing good consistency with increased power on ground strokes and serves. Aggressive net play is common in doubles. Unable to sustain a long rally at a fast pace. This player regularly competes in sectional tournaments, on a high school tennis team and/or on an advanced USTA Junior Team Tennis team.
- 4.5** This player is very consistent at good pace or power hitter, can vary the use of pace and spins, has effective court coverage, can control depth of shots and is able to develop game plans according to strengths and weaknesses. Second serve can be hit with offense. This player tends to over-hit on difficult shots. Aggressive net play in doubles is common. Player has high-level sectional tournament experience and/or plays on an advanced USTA Junior Team Tennis.
- 5.0** This player has good shot anticipation and frequently has an outstanding shot around which his/her game is built. Player can hit dependable shots in defensive situations and can regularly hit winners or force errors off short balls and puts away volleys. He or she can successfully execute lobs, drop shots, half volleys, overheads and has good depth and spin on most second serves. Player has high level sectional and national tournament experience.
- 5.5** This player can hit offensively at any time and has developed pace and/or consistency as a major weapon. This player can vary strategies and styles of play in competitive situations and hit dependable shots in stress situations. This player has obtained a top sectional and/or national ranking and/or play Division I college tennis.
- 6.0** This player has had extensive tournament training for national tournaments and/or top-level Division I collegiate competition.
- 6.5** This player is a world-class player and has a history of national and international rankings and success in top Division I collegiate play, International Tennis Federation (ITF) and/or professional circuit events.
- 7.0** This player is a world-class player and will have ATP/WTA points and a world ranking in the Top 50.



# JUNIOR NATIONAL TENNIS RATING PROGRAM (JUNIOR NTRP)

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## PLAYERS IN WHEELCHAIRS

Players in wheelchairs should use these same general characteristics to determine their NTRP skill level. The only differences are as follows:

- **Mobility:** While players in wheelchairs may have skills that would normally provide them with a certain rating, the mobility factor suggests that when competing against able-bodied players, they should participate at an NTRP skill level that provides for competitive rather than compatible play.
- **Serving ability:** Due to the nature of the player's injury or disability, a powerful serve may not be possible. In this case, it may be more realistic to self-rate below 3.5, as serve strength becomes key above this level.
- **Two-Bounce Rule:** Players in wheelchairs will receive two bounces while standing players will receive one bounce in integrated play.

## CODE OF CONDUCT

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1. The highest level of sportsmanship is expected from every player! An understanding of and a commitment to the points below are part of your responsibility as a player in a USTA tournament. Violators of this code or its spirit are subject to disciplinary action.
2. Once you have entered a tournament, honor your commitment to play. Exceptions should occur only in cases of serious illness, injury or personal emergency.
3. From the beginning of the match, play must be continuous. Attempts to stall or to extend rest periods for the purpose of recovering from a loss of physical condition (such as cramps or shortness of breath) are illegal.
4. Intentional distractions that interfere with your opponent's concentration or effort to play the ball are against the rules.
5. Spectators—including parents, friends and coaches—are welcome to watch and enjoy matches. Their role, however, is clearly restricted to that of passive observer with no involvement of any kind during the match.
6. Players are expected to put forth a full and honest effort regardless of the score or expected outcome.
7. Players are expected to maintain full control over their emotions and 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.



United States Tennis Association Incorporated,  
70 West Red Oak Lane, White Plains, NY 10604  
[usta.com](http://usta.com)

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