



2023 USTA MIDDLE STATES
JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS
CHAMPIONSHIP REGULATIONS

USTA MS JUNIOR COMPETITION

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Any authority delegated by these Regulations to the Section, unless otherwise stated, may be delegated by the Sectional Association to a lower authority. District or Local/Area regulations must not conflict with USTA MS Sectional Championship Junior Team Tennis Regulations.

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

USTA MS Section has a USTA Junior Team Tennis Manager to implement and administer USTA Junior Team Tennis in the USTA MS geographical area.

USTA MS JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS COORDINATORS

Each District, if applicable, may have a Local/Area Coordinator to implement and administer USTA MS Junior Team Tennis in its District as the Sectional Association may determine.

All Local/ Area Coordinators shall follow and be in compliance with the USTA Youth Protection Policies and Procedures for USTA Junior Team Tennis.

CHAMPIONSHIP YEAR & IMPORTANT DATES

The USTA MS Junior Team Tennis Championship Program shall be July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023. All leagues qualifying for District Championships must be completed by June 4th, 2023.

Intermediate District Championships – 14s and 18s ONLY: June 9th/10th/11th or June 16th/17th/18th, 2023

Advanced District Team Tournament – 14s and 18s ONLY: June 9th/10th/11th or June 16th/17th/18th, 2023

Intermediate Sectional Championship – 12U Green, 14s and 18s: June 23rd, 24th and 25th, 2023

Advanced Sectional Team Tournament Championship – 14s and 18s ONLY: June 23rd, 24th and 25th, 2023

TEAM COACHES/MANAGERS

Each USTA MS Championship Junior Team Tennis team may 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.

OFFICIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

TennisLink or Serve Tennis is the official information system of USTA MS Junior Team Tennis, including the Junior Team Tennis Sectional Championship.

OFFICIAL REGISTRATION SYSTEM

TennisLink Team Tennis and Serve Tennis is the official system for registering teams and players for participation in USTA MS Junior Team Tennis. A player's name must be listed on the team roster, as shown in TennisLink or Serve Tennis 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 and Serve Tennis.

OFFICIAL SCORE REPORTING AND STANDINGS SYSTEM

TennisLink Team Tennis and Serve Tennis is the official system for reporting scores and providing standings for USTA MS Championship Junior Team Tennis. Unless otherwise established by a Sectional Association, the entry of match scores into TennisLink Team Tennis or Serve Tennis must be entered within 48 hours of the completion of the 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 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.

All post season championship event match scores must be entered within 48 hours of the completion of the match.

LOCAL TENNIS SEASON

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

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS-DOMICILE AND RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

Any individual who competes in USTA MS Junior Team Tennis, including USTA MS Sectional Championship Junior Team Tennis, must be domiciled within the boundaries of a USTA Sectional Association. Residents of foreign countries who meet membership and age requirements may be invited by a USTA Sectional Association to participate in USTA MS Junior Team Tennis, including USTA MS 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.

MEMBERSHIP

All individuals who compete in USTA MS 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 MS Championship Junior Team Tennis must be a current USTA member through the end of each championship event.

PLAYER AGREEMENT

All players participating in USTA Junior Team Tennis, including USTA MS 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 MS JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS REGULATIONS) and the standards of good conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship.

AMATEUR STATUS

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

WAIVER OF CLAIMS

Players participating in USTA Junior Team Tennis, including USTA MS 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.

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.

LEAGUE COMPETITION

NUMBER OF TEAMS

Locally, USTA MS 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. For USTA MS 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.

TEAM COMPOSITION

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

JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS REGULATIONS-AGE REQUIREMENT

Players must remain age eligible and cannot turn 13, 15 or 19 on or before June 25th, 2023 (which is the last date of Sectional Championships) for the age group in which they are participating in order to register, participate, and advance in Championship Junior Team Tennis.

DETERMINING PLAYER PLAY LEVEL

All players must be rated in accordance with the Junior National Tennis Rating Program (WTN) in TennisLink or Serve Tennis to determine play level. The Junior WTN in TennisLink is used in conjunction with any supplemental Sectional Association regulations to determine the play levels of competition for USTA MS Championship Junior Team Tennis. (See last page of this document for Junior WTN rating chart). Intermediate 18 and Under division players must have a WTN rating between 40 and 20. Intermediate 14 and Under division players must have a WTN rating between 40 and 25. All advanced division players may participate with any WTN rating (recommended between 25 and 1).

USTA Middle States shall have the authority to establish supplemental play level regulations to best ensure the integrity of play levels within our Section. Prior to the start of a league, any WTN rating appeal must be filed in writing to the USTA MS JTT Manager.

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 MS Championship Junior Team Tennis 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. 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 MS Championship Junior Team Tennis, play shall be 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 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 boy's and one girls' doubles, and one mixed doubles.

INDIVIDUAL MATCH

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

INDIVIDUAL DEFAULTS

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

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.

SCORING OF INDIVIDUAL DEFAULTS

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

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.

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 WTN computer data entry in TennisLink or Serve Tennis, mark as retired and submit actual scores of matches at the point of retirement.

TEAM LINEUPS

In USTA MS 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.

PLAYER PARTICIPATION ON MORE THAN ONE TEAM

In USTA MS Championship Junior Team Tennis, a players may 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.

PLAYER PARTICIPATION IN MORE THAN ONE INDIVIDUAL MATCH

A player may play in no more than two individual matches within a team match as determined by the USTA MS Section. Coordinators should refer to playing limitations described in USTA Regulations II.D. (Table 8 in Friend at Court) in accordance with scheduling guidelines for junior divisions.

COACHING

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

ELIGIBILITY – PLAYOFFS AND DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS

LOCAL PLAYOFFS

For 14s and 18s divisions ONLY, each District will have the ability to host a one-day district playoff to give teams one last chance to qualify for the district championship. This playoff must be completed at least one week before District Championships.

Players need to play at least one match at a playoff event.

DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS

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

- Participated on a team from a USTA MS Junior Team Tennis eligible program within TennisLink Team Tennis or Serve Tennis.
- Played on the advancing team in at least two (2) different team matches during that team's local USTA MS Championship Junior Team Tennis season.
- The results of the two (2) matches must be recorded in TennisLink Team Tennis or Serve 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.

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.

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

CHAMPIONSHIPS

USTA MS shall determine and announce the method of progression suitable for its geographical boundaries for advancement of teams to the USTA MS District Championships and to the next level of Sectional Championships.

DISTRICT

- JTT Intermediate League District Championship - 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 playoffs. A District may request that up to two teams qualify for District Championships in each league with Section approval.
- Advanced District Team Tournament – Players will register individually and will be placed on a team using the waterfall method with WTN for this District Tournament.

SECTIONAL

USTA MS shall hold a Junior Team Tennis Sectional Championship for the 12 & Under green ball divisions, the 14 & Under and 18 & under Intermediate and Advanced Divisions to determine its Sectional Champions.

- JTT Intermediate League Sectional Championship - Each eligible team that wins a specific level at the District Championship may be eligible to progress to the Sectional championship.
- Advanced Sectional Team Tournament – All players must register individually and may be selected on a team using the waterfall method with WTN for this Sectional Tournament (space is limited).

TEAM SUBSTITUTIONS (INTERMEDIATE ONLY)

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.

PLAYER SUBSTITUTIONS (INTERMEDIATE ONLY)

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. Substitute players are only allowed for teams which originally had the required minimum number of players who are eligible to advance.

In no event can more than two substitutes (any gender) 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. 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. 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.

The substitute player must come from a team competing in a MS Championship 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.

OFFICIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS ENTRY

All qualified teams must register in TennisLink Team Tennis or Serve Tennis for all championships by the entry deadline.

COMPETITION FORMAT

The competition format may be round robin, compass draw, or a single elimination, or a combination of two formats, at the discretion of the Sectional Junior Competition committee.

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 may require a playoff to establish a champion.

TEAM MATCH

A team match may consist of one girl's and one boy's singles, one girl's and one boys' doubles, and one mixed doubles match or any combination approved by the Sectional Association. The winning team format will be at the discretion of the championship committee.

SCORING

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

PARTICIPATION - MORE THAN ONE TEAM

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

PARTICIPATION - MORE THAN ONE INDIVIDUAL MATCH

Only one girl and/or only one boy may participate in one or two individual matches per team match set by the Sectional Association. In no event may one player play in three individual matches. Coordinators should refer to playing limitations as described by the Sectional Association in accordance with scheduling guidelines for junior divisions.

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.

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.

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:

- 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.

PLAYER AND TEAM DEFAULTS

PRIOR TO THE START OF A CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

A team must have a minimum of three (3) boys and three (3) girls available at the start of the championship event to be eligible to receive credit for game wins. Should the team not have the required eligible players at the start of the event, a determination will be made about participation of that team at the discretion of the championship committee.

DURING A CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT

If a team needs to default a player during a championship event in a team match, the singles match must be the match defaulted.

SCORING OF A PLAYER MATCH DEFAULT

If a player defaults for any reason other than injury or illness sustained during the championship event, any games that this player participated in during the championship event prior to the default may also be null and void for the overall team results.

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 may 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.

PENALTIES FOR TEAM DEFAULTS

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

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.

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 WTN computer data entry in TennisLink or Serve Tennis, mark as retired and submit.

DISCLAIMER

Unless specifically modified or superseded by USTA Middle States, USTA MS Junior Team Tennis regulations govern all USTA MS sanctioned matches and events. Interpretation of the USTA MS JTT Rules and Regulations are made by the Junior Competition Committee subject to appeal to the Grievance Committee and final appeal to the Board of Directors, if appropriate.

GRIEVANCES

All USTA MS Junior Team Tennis, including USTA MS Championship Junior Team Tennis, grievances and grievance appeals shall be administered in accordance with the provisions of the Sectional Association.

COMMITTEES

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

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.

LOCAL/AREA

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

SECTION/DISTRICT

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

CHAMPIONSHIP EVENT GRIEVANCE COMMITTEES

AREA, DISTRICT, AND SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Sectional Association shall appoint a USTA Junior Team Tennis Championship Event Grievance Committee. The members may be the same as, or different in whole or in part, from the members of the National USTA MS Junior Competition Committee.

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 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.

GENERAL GRIEVANCE

Any grievance other than those defined above alleging a violation of the USTA MS Rules and Regulations or Misconduct.

WTN HIGHLIGHTS



It's a free 40-1 scale which makes assessing your play and seeing your progression more fun and rewarding.



Players get one ITF WTN for singles and one for doubles. Beginners start at 40 and pro players will be closer to 1.



A personalized tool, GameZone, helps you identify players of similar skill level.



You can search an online community to find players wherever you are.



A wide range of player statistics help you track and improve your game.



It's a tool for college coaches to use to evaluate prospective student-athletes worldwide.