

# 2026 USTA Midwest Jr. Team Tennis Section Championship

## Rules of Play - For All Ages/Divisions

\*USTA rules (Friend @ Court 2026) will be enforced by officials for all play and behavior.  
(players, coaches, spectators)

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### Coach/Spectator Behavior

**Coaches are responsible for their own behavior and for players/parents who are part of the team. The USTA Midwest Section “Zero Tolerance Policy” will be enforced from first ball to last ball. ALL COACHES should share the policy with players and parents, so they are aware before the event. The full policy can be found via clicking below:**

**[USTA Midwest Zero Tolerance Policy](#)**

### Check-In

- Coaches will check-in teams and turn in line-up at the site tournament desk 30 minutes prior to scheduled match.

### Match Order/Format

- Two courts are used for team matches.
- For 14s and 18s divisions, each match is an eight game pro-set with no-ad scoring. A set tie-break will be played at 7 games all. (7-point tiebreaker, win by 2)
- For 10s and 12s divisions, each match is a six game set no-ad scoring. A set tie-break will be played at 5 games all. (7-point tiebreaker, win by 2)
- Team scoring is based on cumulative games won for the entire team match.
- Sudden death - if at the completion of a team match, the cumulative game score is tied, each team will put one mixed doubles team on court to compete in a 7-point tiebreaker (first to 7, win by 2). Anyone officially on the team may play the mixed doubles sudden death. The tiebreaker counts as one game for the winning team. In the 10's division, it will be a gender-neutral pair who plays the tiebreaker.
- Scoring/Formats may be altered in tournament by the Tournament Director if needed due to weather or any other unforeseen circumstances.

### Match Warm-up

- Warm-up prior to each match played is a **maximum of 5 minutes**. Officials will be monitoring, when possible, but coaches should also assist to keep match schedule on time.

## **Substitution**

- If a player suffers an injury or illness prior to the first point being played, a substitution may be made (however, the roster order may not be altered).
- Once the first point has been played, a substitution may not be made. If a match is stopped due to injury or default, the score will be ruled a win for the opponent with games being added for a complete set. For example, if the losing player is trailing 3-1, the score would go down as 8-1 in the older age division, and 6-1 in the younger divisions.

## **Forfeit/Default**

Once a court becomes available, the clock starts for a team to present its players for play. If there is a delay, the penalty shall be:

- ❖ 1-5 minute delay: loss of toss and 1 game penalty assessed to each match.
- ❖ 6-10 minute delay: loss of toss and 2 game penalty assessed to each match.
- ❖ 10-15 minute delay: loss of toss and 3 game penalty assessed to each match.
- ❖ More than 15 minutes: Default
  
- ❖ If a singles player or doubles team does not show up for play or defaults, the opponent shall win 8-0 or 6-0 depending on the team age division.
  
- ❖ If a team is short a player, the default will come at the singles position. A team may not compete in the event if they are short more than one boy and more than one girl.
  
- ❖ If a team does not show up, the opponent shall win by a forfeit score of 40-0 or 30-0 depending on the age division.

## **On Court Coaching (NEW FOR 2024)**

- ❖ A coach may coach his players any time during the match so long as they do not interfere with the pace of play. The Coach shall be designated before the start of the match and must remain the coach for the duration of the team match.
- ❖ The coach may stand between the two designated match courts during the match but must remain on the same side of the court as the player (s) they are coaching.
- ❖ The purpose of coaching is to offer quick advice to the player within a 25 second window between points/games. Coaching during changeovers will be the standard 90 seconds.
- ❖ If a coach is deemed delaying play by an official, they will receive a verbal warning for the first offense and will be removed from on-court coaching by official for second offense.
- ❖ Coaches shall not in any way distract or annoy the opposing player.
  - If a coach in any way interferes with play or distracts an opposing player at any time, they shall receive a direct warning from the referee or umpire. For any subsequent violation, his player or doubles team, on the court where the violation occurred, shall be assessed a point penalty for each subsequent occurrence.

### **Rain/Inclement Weather**

- The championship will be outdoors only in 2024. Indoor backup will not be available due to scheduling of other in house events at the facility. We will work around any weather delays as needed and updates will be provided via TEXT Messaging and Facebook Event page.

### **Scoring/Results Reporting/Sportsmanship Pin Presentation**

- The home team coach keeps the score and turns in the completed score card after both coaches have signed off. Once both coaches sign and submit the scorecard to the tournament staff, **NO SCORES** will be changed, and the result **WILL** stand.
- After each match, teams will line up facing one another and each coach will present a sportsmanship pin to a player from the opposing team in a presentation type format to emphasize good sportsmanship. This will be done after every team match.

### **Standings**

**For FINAL team/pool standings ONLY, overall, TEAM WINS will determine final placings.** Should there be a tie in the FINAL POOL standings, team head-to head between the involved teams will be compared. If no team has won against all other teams involved in the tie, the following rules will be used in order.

- ❖ Total overall game won.
- ❖ Fewest total sets lost.
- ❖ Fewest total games lost.
- ❖ Spin of the Racquet/Coin Toss