

## **2025 USTA MISSOURI VALLEY CHAMPIONSHIP JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS REGULATIONS**

### **GENERAL:**

For the 2025 Championship Season the Missouri Valley Section will use MVCJTT Qualifiers and Summer Junior Team Tennis Local Leagues to qualify teams to compete in our MVCJTT Section Championships.

### **SECTION CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIER**

An MVCJTT Qualifier is a 1 to 2 day qualifying event for Championship Junior Team Tennis is one of the requirements for both teams and players to advance to Section Championships. The Section will schedule 5 Qualifiers within the section boundaries for championship year 2025.

### **ADVANCEMENT**

All players and teams must compete in at least one match in an MVCJTT Qualifier or win a Summer Junior Team Tennis Local League to become eligible for MVCJTT Section Championships. The Local League must comply with all USTA Missouri Valley Championship Junior Team Tennis regulations. If a Local League is offering a playoff/championship, teams can advance from that event.

### **AGE CATEGORIES**

Age categories include 14 & Under Championship and 18 & Under Championship

- Within a Summer Junior Team Tennis Local League, Playoff or Championship, a team must advance from a division with a minimum of two teams at the same age and play level as the division to which the team is advancing.

### **AGE REQUIREMENT**

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

### **DIVISIONS AND POOLS OF PLAY:**

Each age category will have 1 division of play.

- That division will be divided into pools of play when applicable using the World Tennis Number (WTN)

**TEAM COMPOSITION** A team must have a minimum of four (4) eligible boys and four (4) eligible girls.

### **TEAM COACHES/MANAGERS**

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

- This includes being [SafePlay](#) approved.

## **MVCJTT QUALIFIER AND MVCJTT CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEES**

An MVCJTT Qualifier or MVCJTT Championship Committee of at least three members, one of whom is a USTA Certified Referee or Umpire, shall govern each MVCJTT Qualifier or MVCJTT Championship. At least one member shall be in attendance at all times during play.

## **OFFICIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM**

The USTA's Digital Platform must be used for registering teams and players. A player's name must be listed on the team roster, as shown in the USTA's Digital Platform, prior to participation in any match. The Section will establish deadlines and procedures for registering players and teams in the USTA's Digital Platform.

- For 2025, All Qualifier player registration deadlines will be four days preceding the beginning of the event at 11:59pm (EST)

## **OFFICIAL SCORE REPORTING AND STANDINGS SYSTEM**

The USTA's Digital Platform must be used for reporting scores and providing standings.

- All match scores must be entered within 48 hours of completion of any MVCJTT Qualifier or MVCJTT Championship.

## **CHAMPIONSHIP YEAR**

The MVCJTT Championship Year shall be September 1 to August 31. The MVCJTT Section Championships will occur prior to August 31 in July.

## **PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS**

### **DOMICILE AND RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS**

Residents of foreign countries who meet membership and age requirements may be invited by a Sectional Association to participate, provided that all such matches, prior to the MVCJTT Section Championships, are played within the Section.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

All individuals who compete in MVCJTT must be a USTA member in good standing.

## **PLAYER AGREEMENT**

As a condition of participation, all players, participants, and spectators agree to abide and be bound by the USTA Constitution and Bylaws; "Friend at Court;" "The Code;" Wheelchair Rules of Tennis (unless modified by these MVCJTT Regulations); and the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship.

## **AMATEUR STATUS**

Participation is limited to amateurs.

## **WAIVER OF CLAIMS**

Members, players, spectators, and other participants in USTA tournaments, programs, and events acknowledge the associated risks, assume those risks voluntarily, and in consideration of their attendance at USTA tournaments, programs and events, agree to assume any loss or

damage, and to waive any claim or demand on account of any injury to person or property arising out of or related to their attendance, including, but not limited to, exposure to infectious syndromes or diseases, whether caused by negligence or other fault. By participating in or attending USTA tournaments, programs and events, members, players, spectators, and other participants assume all risks whether known or unknown. Furthermore, members, players, spectators, and other participants agree to release, indemnify and hold harmless the USTA, its affiliated Sectional Associations and Districts/Subdivisions, and the host facility (Released Parties) and the Released Parties' employees, contractors, representatives and agents with respect to any such injury or loss caused by negligence or other fault, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

## **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.

## **DETERMINING PLAYER PLAY LEVEL**

The World Tennis Number (WTN) will be used in the USTA's Digital Platform to determine the play levels of competition.

## **ADVANCEMENT**

The Section will determine and announce the method of advancement of teams.

- Teams must advance from a MVCJTT Qualifier or a Summer Junior Team Tennis Local League division.
  - A team qualifies for Section Championships by either placing 1st or 2nd at a Qualifier in the division they participated in or by winning their Summer Local League Division (this includes a playoff or championship).
- Only the 14 & Under Championship and 18 & Under Championship age categories may advance to the MVCJTT Section Championships.

## **NUMBER OF MVCJTT QUALIFIERS**

The Section will determine the number of Qualifiers, the dates and locations each championship year.

- If MVCJTT Qualifiers are held on more than one day, they must be scheduled on consecutive dates.
- MVCJTT Qualifiers must be open to all teams who fulfill the team participation requirements

## **MVCJTT QUALIFIERS AND MVCJTT CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The following shall apply to all MVCJTT Qualifiers and Section Championships.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

A player is eligible to advance to the MVCJTT Section Championships, if that player has met all the following conditions:

- Participated on a team that advanced from a MVCJTT Qualifier or Summer Junior Team Tennis Local League (this includes a playoff or championship).
- Played in at least one (1) individual match during that team's MVCJTT Qualifier or Summer Junior Team Tennis Local League (this includes a playoff or championship).
- The result of the one (1) match must be recorded in the USTA's Digital Platform.
  - The one (1) match may be the result of a default provided the player accepting the default is present.
- If an advancing team is unable to compete further towards the MVCJTT Section Championships, then the Section will utilize our wildcard selection process to select the next advancing team.
- Is a USTA Member in good standing.

## **TEAM SUBSTITUTIONS**

If an advancing team cannot field the required minimum number of qualified players, another team may be selected by the Sectional Association or its lower authority to advance.

## **PLAYER SUBSTITUTIONS**

If an eligible player on an advancing team is unable to participate, resulting in a failure of the team to meet the minimum team size requirement, an eligible substitute player(s) 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 one substitute, one (1) boy AND/or one (1) girl, be added to meet the minimum team size requirement.
- Any substitutions must be approved by the Championship Committee and shall remain in effect for that entire MVCJTT Championship.
- Substitute players are only allowed for those teams that originally had at least the team minimum of four (4) girls and four (4) boys and were eligible to advance.
- In the event of the return of the original player in a subsequent MVCJTT Championship, the coach/manager must decide whether the substitute player or the original player will participate.
- Any substitute player must come from a team that competed in any of the MVCJTT Qualifiers or the same Summer Junior Team Tennis Local League approved for advancement and being offered throughout the Section.

## **COMPETITION FORMAT**

The competition format may be round robin, single elimination or a combination of the two, at the discretion of the MVCJTT Qualifier or MVCJTT Championship 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 requires a playoff to establish a champion.

## **SINGLE ELIMINATION**

Single elimination format may also be used. The team winning the most games will determine the winner.

## **TEAM MATCH**

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

## **SCORING**

The scoring format will be at the discretion of the MVCJTT Qualifier or MVCJTT Championship committees.

## **PARTICIPATION**

### **MORE THAN ONE TEAM**

A player may play on only one team at each MVCJTT Qualifier. A player advancing from more than one MVCJTT Qualifier shall play on only one team at any subsequent MVCJTT Championship. A player that participated on more than one team during a Summer Junior Team Tennis Local League (this includes a playoff or championship) shall play on only one team at any subsequent MVCJTT Championship

### **MORE THAN ONE INDIVIDUAL MATCH**

A Player may only participate in ONE individual match per team match.

## **TEAM LINEUPS**

The coaches/managers for each team shall exchange their team lineup cards simultaneously prior to the beginning of the team match.

## **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 MVCJTT Qualifier or MVCJTT Championship committees may authorize.

- If the substitution is made during the warmup, the substitute player is entitled to a five (5) 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 MVCJTT Qualifier or MVCJTT Championship committees shall determine whether and at what times to allow coaching. In no event is coaching allowed during a tiebreak.

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

In the event of a tie the following procedures shall be used.

### **ROUND ROBIN FORMAT TIE**

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:

- 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

If none of these steps break the tie, a method determined and announced prior to the MVCJTT Qualifier or MVCJTT Championship shall be used to break the tie.

A tiebreak played in lieu of a deciding final set counts as both one (1) set and one (1) 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.

### **SINGLE ELIMINATION FORMAT TIE**

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

## **INDIVIDUAL DEFAULTS**

### **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**

Defaults will be scored in accordance with the format in the USTA's Digital Platform. In the event of a default by both opposing players, neither team receives credit for that match win or any games.

## **TEAM DEFAULTS**

### **PRIOR TO THE START OF A MVCJTT QUALIFIER OR MVCJTT CHAMPIONSHIP**

A team must have a minimum of eight (8) eligible players, four (4) boys and four (4) girls, available at the start of the MVCJTT Qualifier or MVCJTT Championship.

### **DURING A MVCJTT QUALIFIER OR MVCJTT CHAMPIONSHIP**

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 boys' singles must be defaulted. If a team is short a girl, then the girls' singles must be defaulted. A mixed doubles match may not be defaulted.

## **SCORING OF TEAM DEFAULTS**

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

## **PENALTIES FOR TEAM DEFAULTS MVCJTT**

MVCJTT Qualifier and MVCJTT Championship committees reserve the right to impose penalties on a team 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, medical 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.