



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

USTA Northern California

Junior Team Tennis

Section Regulations

Championship Year 2020

(1/1/2020 - 12/31/2020)

Waiver of Claims

Players participating in the USTA Junior Team Tennis League acknowledge the risks associated with playing competitive tennis, accept those risks voluntarily, and in consideration of their acceptance in the USTA Junior Team Tennis Program, assume all risks for bodily injury, waive all claims for injury and property damage and release and hold harmless the USTA and the host facility, their officials, employees and agents with respect to any injury or loss caused by negligence or otherwise to the fullest extent permitted by law.

Governing Rules

All USTA Northern California Junior Team Tennis Leagues are governed by the USTA NorCal Junior Team Tennis Regulations (UJTTR). The UJTTR includes additions to the National rules, formulated by the USTA NorCal Junior Team Tennis Department and Junior Team Tennis (JTT) Committee. The UJTTR may be clarified at any time, at the discretion of the JTT Section Coordinator or JTT Committee. Any changes to the UJTTR will not be retroactive.

Compliance with the USTA Jr. Team Tennis Regulations (UJTTR)

As a condition of participation in the USTA NorCal Junior Team Tennis Program, players agree to abide and be bound by the UJTTR, the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship. Team captains shall be responsible for knowing the UJTTR. Team captains shall inform all team members of their obligation to be bound by the UJTTR. Team members shall indicate to their captains their consent to be bound by the UJTTR. Failure to comply with the UJTTR shall not be excused on the grounds that one was misinformed by a USTA staff member or volunteer. Team captains or their representatives at matches shall be responsible for their actions and the actions of their players and spectators. The UJTTR is available on the USTA NorCal web site at www.norcalteamentennis.com. NorCal will use its own Team and Player Registration programs and score reporting system.

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USTA Northern California – Junior Team Tennis Divisions

Gender Neutral Divisions:

- Any combination of boys and/or girls on a team. No restrictions regarding boys vs. girls matches.
 - 10 & Under – Orange Ball
 - 10 & Under – Green Ball
 - 12 & Under – Green Ball
 - 12 & Under – Yellow Ball
 - 14 & Under – Yellow Ball

Same Gender Divisions:

- Gender specific teams, boys only or girls only. Gender specific singles and doubles matches.
 - 15 & Under – Yellow Ball
 - 18 & Under – Yellow Ball

Coed Divisions – (National Championship Advancing):

- Gender specific matches of singles and doubles are played along with mixed doubles. Must adhere to USTA National JTT Regulations and have a minimum of 3 boys/3 girls on each team
 - 14 & Under – Yellow Ball
 - 18 & Under – Yellow Ball

Championship Events: Section, State, and Nationals

- **Spring JTT Section Championships**
 - Teams qualify from spring season JTT championship eligible leagues
- **Summer JTT Section Championships – Same Gender Divisions**
 - Champions qualify for the Gar Glenney Cup in the 15U and 18U divisions
- **Summer JTT Section Championships - Coed Divisions**
 - Champions qualify for the JTT National Championships
- **Gar Glenney Cup (NorCal vs. SoCal)**
 - Same Gender Section Championship teams qualify for this event
- **JTT National Championships**
 - Coed Section Championship teams qualify for this event
 - 14U Intermediate and Advanced
 - 18U Intermediate and Advanced
- **WTT National Championships**
 - 18U Advanced Division
 - JTT Coed Sectionals 2nd Place Coed 18U Adv. Team from 2019
- **Fall JTT Section Championships**
 - No longer offered starting in 2020

Players

1. Membership

A player must be a current USTA member through the end of the league season. If a membership expires before the end of the season, the membership must be renewed in order to participate.

2. Eligibility

A current USTA junior member may play in any Junior Team Tennis league, however any team coach has the right of refusal to play an individual player in a match, or to refuse a player to register for their team. Not all teams are open for new players and may have club/program membership requirements.

2a. Age Requirements

USTA Junior Team Tennis (JTT) Leagues are open to current USTA members who are ages 6 – 18 years old. In order to register for a team, a player must stay age eligible for the division in which they are participating through end of the league season.

2b. Youth Progression System - (10 and Under Players)

- **Participation Rules:**
 - Players that are 10 and under have the following options regarding JTT participation:
 - **10U Orange Ball and 10U Green Ball leagues**
 - Players that are in the Youth Progression Tracking system are eligible to play in 10U Orange and/or 10U Green ball leagues to earn Youth Progression stars
 - Players earn 5 Stars for participation in a USTA JTT league regular season
 - Must play in 2 team matches during the season
 - Participation stars are awarded at the end of the season
 - Players can earn a maximum of 10 Stars (per year) from JTT local league play
 - Not including bonus stars from JTT Regionals and Sectionals
 - Players can play in either Orange ball and/or Green ball during the same season
 - Players will only earn 5 Stars max. per season if they played in 2 levels
 - **12U Green Ball and 12U Yellow Ball leagues**
 - Any player 10 and under player can participate in a 12U division locally and/or at USTA NorCal JTT Section Championship events, regardless of their Youth Progression status. Players will not earn Youth Progression credit for 12U play.
 - Players can play in multiple age divisions/levels per season, except:
 - Players that have completed the Youth Progression Tracking system are no longer eligible for the 10U Orange Ball division
 - Players that are 10 and under and have not completed the Youth Progression Tracking System are not eligible to play in a 14U, 15U, or 18U division leagues
- **Youth Progression System – JTT Participation Credit (10U Divisions)**
 - **JTT Local League (Regular Season) = 5 Stars**
 - Must play in 2 team matches with scores reported online (singles or doubles)
 - Stars are awarded at the end of the season
 - **JTT Section Championships = 1 Star**
 - **JTT Sportsmanship Award/Nominee = 1 Star**

2c. Advanced/Intermediate Player Benchmark

The Junior National Tennis Rating Program (Junior NTRP) in TennisLink is the official system for determining play levels for USTA National Championship Junior Team Tennis. Additional information for the Junior NTRP can be found at <https://www.usta.com/en/home/play/youth-tennis/programs/national/about-junior-ratings.html>.

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 USTA NorCal regulations to determine the play levels of competition for National Championship Junior Team Tennis and the Gar Glenney Cup.

There are two levels of play for the **2020 JTT Coed Summer Section Championships** and the **2020 JTT Same Gender Summer Section Championships**: Advanced and Intermediate

- **A players rating at the time of registration on their Sectionals team roster will be used to determine their level of play at both Summer Section Championship events**
 - The rating at the time of team registration will also carry through to the JTT National Championships and/or the Gar Glenney Cup in the team was the qualify
- Player Junior NTRP ratings are dynamic and update every two weeks on Friday
- If you would like to know a player's specific rating, email jrteamtennis@norcal.usta.com to ask a USTA Staff member to look up a rating

Advanced/Intermediate Benchmark for Participation

- Players with a rating of 3.5 and above must play in the Advanced Division
 - Regardless of age or age division in which they are playing
- Players with a rating of 3.4 and below are eligible to play in the Intermediate Division

SELF-RATE PROCESS

Players who do not have a Junior NTRP rating on file in TennisLink shall self-rate in accordance with the process available when registering for their team in TennisLink.

General Characteristics of USTA 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.

----- 2020 ADVANCED/INTERMEDIATE PLAYER BENCHMARK -----

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.

2d. Roster Requirement

All players must be on the roster prior to the start of the team match. A computer-generated scorecard is available in the TennisLink program and will contain a list of eligible players at the time it is printed. Any player not on the roster at the time of the match is ineligible and any individual matches that player plays shall be recorded as a default

- If both captains agree, a non-rostered player can play in a match, but the match should still be recorded as a default win for the player that is rostered

Minimum Roster Requirements for Championship Eligible Leagues

- **Gender Neutral Divisions** – 4 players minimum
- **Same Gender Divisions**
 - **Advanced divisions** – 4 boys or 4 girls minimum
 - **Intermediate divisions** – 4 boys or 4 girls minimum

2e. Playing Up a Level or Age Division

Players can play in multiple age divisions/levels, however the following rules apply:

- If a player is 10U and **has not completed** the Youth Progression Tracking system requirements, they are only eligible to play in a 10U or 12U leagues (Orange, Green, or Yellow ball)
- If a player is 10U and **has completed** the Youth Progression Tracking system requirements, they are eligible to play in any age division/level (except 10U Orange ball)
- If a player is 11-18 years old they are eligible to play in multiple age divisions provided they are age eligible to do so
- Any player that is considered as an **Advanced** level player based on their USTA Junior NTRP rating is not eligible to play in a that same gender or coed league at the **Intermediate** level

2f. Playing on More than One Team

Players can play on more than one team at the league level

- Note: Players cannot play on more than one team at Section Championship events, regardless of age division or level

2g. Eligibility for JTT Section Championships

A player is eligible to play on their team at the NorCal JTT Spring Section Championships if they:

- Played at least 2 team matches to completion for the specific advancing team
 - 2 team matches are defined as 2 different **team** opponents, not 2 individual matches within 1 team match.
- Only a maximum of 1 default match may count as a team match played
- Matches recorded online in TennisLink count towards eligibility

Exception: JTT Coed Sectionals (Nationals Qualifier) and JTT Same Gender Sectionals (GGC Qualifier)

- All USTA junior members are eligible for the JTT Coed Section Championships event (provided they are age eligible) and the JTT Same Gender Section Championships (provided they are age eligible)
- No local match play required to participate

2h. Refunds

Individual players can request a USTA JTT league fee refund if the player has not participated in a match during the season. If a player participates in one or more matches during the season,

no refunds shall be given. Players can request a refund up until 1 week after the local league season ends if they did not participate in a match during the season.

Team Captains

3. Home Court Policy

3a. Hosting Responsibilities

Home Court Requirement: In order to field a team(s) in a travel league, the program must be able to host home match. Travel teams with no home courts will not be able to participate.

Balls: For Yellow Ball divisions the home team shall supply new balls for every team match with a minimum of 2 balls for every individual match. For ROG divisions, gently used balls are allowed for match play.

Attire: The home team's facility/organization may determine appropriate tennis attire. It is the responsibility of the home team to contact the visiting team to clarify what is appropriate tennis attire at the home team's site. Home teams are encouraged to post specific site attire regulations on their NorCal Team Page.

Food: Neither the home team nor visiting team is required to provide food at a match, but it is recommended to have water for the players. If you do not have water accessible at your home site, you should notify the opposing team before they visit your site.

Restrooms: Must be accessible and on-site for players' use during a match.

3b. Visitors Responsibilities

As guests, visiting teams are required to follow the guidelines and facility rules as posted on the NorCal Team pages of their opponents.

3c. Reserving Home Courts

Teams are required to reserve home courts for home matches during the season.

- 2 courts minimum (Orange, Green Ball and Coed Yellow Ball divisions)
- 3-6 courts minimum (Same Gender 15U and 18U Divisions)

Certificates of insurance for home courts are available through the USTA NorCal office at no extra charge. Email the Junior Team Tennis Department for an application form (jrteamentennis@norcal.usta.com)

4. JTT Team Match Formats – (Recommended)

Division	Ages/Levels	Individual Matches
Orange Ball Division	10 and Under (Gender Neutral)	4 Singles and 4 Doubles matches
Green Ball Division	10 and Under (Gender Neutral) 12 and Under (Gender Neutral)	4 Singles and 4 Doubles matches
Yellow Ball Division	12 and Under (Gender Neutral)	4 Singles and 4 Doubles matches
Coed Divisions Yellow Ball	14 and Under 18 and Under	2 Singles matches (B & G) 2 Doubles matches (B & G) 1 or 2 Mixed Doubles matches
Same Gender Divisions Yellow Ball	15 and Under 18 and Under	Singles and Doubles matches (varies by local league)

5. Scheduling and Rescheduling

5a. Final Match Deadline - Local League Season

Every local league season has a deadline by which all local league matches must be completed. In determining final standings for advancement opportunities for Spring Sectionals, any matches not completed by the league deadline will be recorded as a non-played match for both teams. Deadlines for each league vary depending on their area.

5b. Rescheduling

If rescheduling is needed, always remember that the two captains can agree to a make-up date between themselves outside of any listed parameters as long as the match is completed by the end of the local league season deadline. Only if the two captains cannot agree, the home team must offer the visiting team at least two different dates (the two dates must be offered at once to give the visiting team a choice between the two) within seven days of the original match date. The dates offered cannot conflict with another originally scheduled league match in the same league.

Once a JTT match has been rescheduled officially, and the same team cannot play at the new agreed upon time, their opponent has the option to receive a team default.

If a team has to cancel/reschedule, 48 hours or less prior to a scheduled match, the opposing team may ask to receive a full team match default. Defaults will only be granted if the opposing team does not want to negotiate an alternate make-up date. If a team is notified of having to cancel/reschedule a match, any time before 48 hours prior to the scheduled date/time, the match will be rescheduled and the home team will offer two alternate future dates.

5c. Rescheduling an Interrupted Match

If a match is interrupted for rain, the captains should set up a new date for completing the match by following the rescheduling procedure.

6. Determining League Standings

League standings will be determined by a team's win/loss record during their league season.

Tiebreaker Procedures

In the event of a tie in matches won/lost in final league standings, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:

1. Head to Head match result
2. Number of individual games won for the whole season
3. Winner of the most individual matches for the whole season

During the Match

7. Starting Time

Matches should start at the proposed scheduled starting time. If a team is not present within 15 minutes of the scheduled match start time, it will be considered a full team default.

8. Order of Play

Orange/Green/Yellow Ball Gender Neutral Divisions: 1 singles and 1 doubles match per round.

Coed Divisions: Varies from league to league – Reference local league rules

Same Gender Divisions: Varies from league to league – Reference local league rules

9. Line-ups

Teams are required to field players in order of strength for singles matches. The team captains for each team shall exchange their team's scorecard/roster simultaneously, with all match lines filled in. Once exchanged, no substitutions may be made in an individual match except for injury to, illness of, or disqualification of a player prior to the start of the match, unless agreed upon by both team captains.

10. Individual Match Defaults

A default may be taken if a player is not at the court site ready to play (and no substitute is available) at the time of the scheduled team match.

- 10U and 12U Gender Neutral Division leagues – If a team has 3 players for a match, all round #4 singles and doubles match will be defaulted (4-0 or 6-0).
- Coed and Same Gender Yellow Ball Divisions – Default rules vary based on local league format. Local league default policies will be outlined in the local area rules.

11. Team Defaults

If a team does not show up for their match within 15 minutes after the scheduled start time, the match can be defaulted to the team that is ready to play.

- A team with 2 players below the minimum number of players required for a team match will be forced to record a default for the entire match. The individual matches can still be played, they will just be recorded as defaults.

12. Red, Orange, and Green Ball Divisions - Equipment Requirements

Racquet Requirements – Players competing in a R.O.G. division are required to use the following racquet sizes during local league season play:

10U Red Ball – Up to 21”

10U Orange Ball – Up to 25”

10U / 12U Green Ball – Up to 29”

Note: If a player is observed playing with a non-eligible racquet for that division, the player will be asked to change racquets to a conforming racquet size for that age division/level.

Court Size Requirements – Matches in the R.O.G. divisions must be played on the court sizes below. For the Red or Orange ball divisions, courts must have permanent painted court lines or use throw down lines (Red ball only) or court tape (Red ball or Orange Ball) to create an official court boundary.

10U Red Ball – 36’ Court

10U Orange Ball – 60’ Court

10U / 12U Green Ball – 78’ Court

13. Substitutions

Under no circumstance shall a substitution be made in an individual match after the match has started. (Red ball division substitutions are allowed during play).

14. Scorecards

Blank scorecards are available to captains in Tennislink for every match. Each scorecard includes a current list of rostered/eligible players. The winning team is required to record the scores online within 72 hours after a match, however any team captain has the option of entering the score, even if you were not the winning team. The other team captain should verify online scores after they have been recorded. If a scorecard is not verified by the opposing coach, at the end of the season, all scorecards will be auto-verified and closed to future modification.

15. Warm-up

Warm-up precedes the match and is not considered part of the match. Warm-up is five minutes for all matches. Warm-up shall include serves. A player arriving late, but within the 15-minute default time may not be denied a five-minute warm-up.

16. Coaching

Coaching during matches is allowed on changeovers only. One coach per team must be designated before the match to coach all of his/her players.

- **USTA Safe Play:** All JTT Captains and co-captains must complete the USTA Safe Play Program and have a current background check on file through the end of the season or event. Non-cleared team captains can only submit the line ups at a match and cannot coach on court.
 - Each team must be supervised by one adult, 18 years or older
- **Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA):** All JTT captains and co-captains must complete a PCA training in order to register a team for any season and/or JTT event.

17. Cell Phones

“Friend at Court” specifies that if player’s cell phone rings while the ball is in play, it is a deliberate hindrance and as such the opponent may stop play and claim the point. Using a cell phone or other electronic device in any way during a changeover gives the appearance of coaching and is not allowed.

18. Court Monitors

Players may request anyone to act as a court monitor except for their own parent or coach. The court monitor's primary duty is to help both players in an impartial and unbiased manner in accordance with The Code. One or two monitors may be used; each positioned at a net post. The players may ask the monitor(s) for assistance with line calls, foot faults, keeping score, and/or monitoring time between changeovers, points, and sets.

Use of a court monitor does not relieve players of the obligation of making calls in accordance with The Code. Players are expected, as always, to demonstrate good sportsmanship and give their opponent the benefit of the doubt on any calls where there is uncertainty.

Monitors remain silent unless asked by a player to verify a call. When asked, the monitor should only overrule if he/she is 100% sure that the original call made was in error. Otherwise, the original call should stand. If two monitors are used, the one with the clearest and closest view of the play should make the call, especially if along his/her sideline. In a situation in which both monitors believe they saw the play clearly, yet disagree on the call, the point shall be replayed.

If the players ask for assistance with calling foot faults, keeping score, and/or timing intervals between points, changeovers, and sets, the monitor may so act. Otherwise, the monitor should not interject himself/herself into the match and remain silent.

19. Medical Timeouts for Non-officiated League Matches

- A medical time out may not exceed 3 minutes
- One time out per injury or illness is allowed. (Twisted ankle = one time out, sprained shoulder = one time out, heat related illness = one time out, etc.)
- One time out for cramping is allowed per match (leg cramp = one time out, any other cramp in the same match = no time outs left.)
- Fatigue is not a valid reason for a medical time out.

JTT Championship Events

20. JTT Section Championships

- **Spring Section Championships** - Closed event in which qualification through official USTA spring league play is required
 - All championship eligible leagues will qualify teams based on the regular season standings. One out of every four local league teams in a division/flight will advance to the JTT Section Championships for that designated season
 - There must be at least three teams of the same age division/level in a flight in order to qualify a team for Sectionals from that area
- **Summer Sectionals – Same Gender Divisions:** Open registration event. No qualification required. (*Draw size may be limited by Tournament Director based on the number of teams that register*)
- **Summer Sectionals – Coed Divisions:** Open registration event. No qualification required. (*Draw size may be limited by Tournament Director based on the number of teams that register*)
- **Fall Section Championships** – No longer offered in 2020

21. Team Withdrawal or Default at a JTT Event

Any team that withdraws from participation in a JTT Event must notify the NorCal office of their withdrawal no later than 24 hours after receiving their start time for that event. If a team withdraws after the 24 hour period has expired, the team will forfeit their team or player registration fees for that event.

22. Ranking Points

Players receive NorCal Ranking points for each win at the JTT Section Champions (12U Divisions and above) regardless of the position played on the team. Below is a table the details how many ranking points a player will earn per win at each event. (Results from any mixed doubles matches do not count for ranking points).

<u>Event</u>	<u>Points</u>
USTA NorCal Spring JTT Section Championships (12U Green Ball Divisions)	5
USTA NorCal Junior Team Tennis ADVANCED Division Tournaments/Sectionals	62
USTA NorCal Junior Team Tennis INTERMEDIATE Division Tournaments/Sectionals	38
USTA NorCal Junior Team Tennis BEGINNER Division Tournaments/Sectionals	16
USTA Junior Team Tennis ADVANCED Division National Championships	60
USTA Junior Team Tennis INTERMEDIATE Division National Championships	30
Gar Glenney Cup ADVANCED Division	200
Gar Glenney Cup INTERMEDIATE Division	100