

2024 USTA Southern JTT League (SJTTL) Regulations

Regulation changes for 2024 shown with yellow highlight

State Associations must submit modifications as allowed in State Notes to Southern JTT Committee

GENERAL

Any authority delegated by these Regulations to the State/District Association, hereinafter referred to as "State Association", unless otherwise stated, may be delegated by the State Association to a lower authority. Any lower authority's regulations must not be in conflict with USTA Southern Junior Tennis League Regulations.

The use of court(s) with tennis-related blended lines is permitted. The use of a court(s) with lines for another sport(s) are not permitted.

1.01 NAME

The USTA Southern Board of Directors has approved the adoption of rules and regulations for USTA Southern Junior Team Tennis League, hereinafter referred to as "SJTTL". The regulations for SJTTL shall be known as the SJTTL Regulations.

1.02 SANCTION

All SJTTL competitions are sanctioned in accordance with USTA Regulation XVII.B and any SJTTL State/Local Regulations cannot be in violation of the SJTTL Regulations.

1.03 GOVERNANCE

The SJTTL Regulations shall apply to SJTTL local leagues and championships. "Friend at Court" (the USTA handbook of tennis rules and regulations, including wheelchair rules) regulations shall also apply to SJTTL, unless modified by these SJTTL Regulations. SJTTL matches played without an official, thus the USTA official publication, "The Code" shall be observed. The USTA Point Penalty System shall be in effect.

1.03A WAIVER OF RULES AND PROCEDURES PROHIBITED

Except where a waiver is specifically permitted by a USTA Regulation, SJTTL Regulation or by a SJTTL Procedure, no SJTTL Regulation or SJTTL Procedure shall be waived by any State Association or its lower authority. Any violation of this Regulation shall be subject to such penalties as may be imposed by the USTA Southern Junior Team Tennis Committee. Such penalties are not subject to appeal.

1.03B AMENDMENTS

These SJTTL Regulations may be amended by the USTA Southern JTT Committee. All proposed amendments shall be in writing and shall be forwarded to the USTA Southern JTT Committee at least 10 days before any meeting of the USTA Southern JTT Committee.

1.03C WRITTEN INTERPRETATION

A committee comprised of the Chair & Vice Chair of the USTA Southern JTT Committee and the USTA Southern JTT Manager has the authority and the responsibility to provide interpretations of the SJTTL 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 any USTA JTT League or Event, including SJTTL, is prohibited as specified in the Constitution and Bylaws of the United States Tennis Association Incorporated.

1.04 SJTTL GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1.04A AGE CATEGORIES

Age categories include: 10U, 12U, 14U, & 18U

1.04A(1) 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.

1.04B LEVELS OF PLAY

The World Tennis Number "WTN" at time of registration will be used to determine the Divisions a player is eligible to participate in during the Championship Year if Confidence Factor is 40% or higher.

Age Division	Range	WTN Rating at time of Registration Players with no confidence factor will be able to sign up for any division.
18U Adv	40 - 1	Anyone allowed to play ADV in 18U
18U Int	40 - 23	Must be within range to play INT in 18U
14U Adv	40 - 1	Anyone allowed to play ADV in 14U
14U Int	40 - 27	Must be within range to play INT in 14U

In 12U divisions, a player may play Green or Yellow based on PlayTracker regulations/allowances

In 10U divisions, a player may play Green or Orange based on PlayTracker regulations/allowances

1.04C DIVISIONS

Divisions include:

10U Intermediate (Orange Ball) & 10U Advanced (Green Ball)
12U Intermediate (Green Ball) & 12U Advanced (Yellow Ball)
14U Intermediate & 14U Advanced
18U Intermediate & 18U Advanced

STATE NOTE 1.04C – Each State Association may offer Beginner Divisions. All Beginner Divisions rules are at the discretion of the State Association.

1.04D TEAM COMPOSITION

10U team must have a minimum of 4 players to participate in SJTTL local league.
12U,14U,18U team must have a minimum of three (3) boys and three (3) girls to participate in SJTTL local league.

(See 2.03A for eligibility to advance beyond the local league and 2.03D for player substitution requirements when advancing to a SJTTL Championship).

1.04F ADMINISTRATION

1.04F(1) USTA SOUTHERN JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS COMMITTEE

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

1.04F(2) USTA SOUTHERN JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS MANAGER

USTA Southern Junior Team Tennis Manager shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration of SJTTL.

1.04F(3) STATE ASSOCIATIONS

USTA Southern has 9 State Associations, the names and territories of which are defined in the USTA Bylaws. Each State Association is responsible for the development and implementation of SJTTL within its geographic territory in accordance with these SJTTL Regulations.

1.04F(3)a STATE JTT COORDINATOR

Each State Association shall appoint an SJTTL State Coordinator, hereinafter referred to as "State Coordinator," to implement and administer SJTTL in its geographical area.

1.04F(3)b TEAM COACHESMANAGERS

Each SJTTL 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.

1.04F(4) SJTTL CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

An SJTTL Championship Committee of at least three members shall govern each SJTTL Championship. At least one member shall be in attendance at all times during play. The SJTTL Championship Committees shall be appointed by the Section or State hosting the Championship. All members of the SJTTL Committee and SJTTL

Championship Committee shall be free of conflict.

SOUTHERN NOTE: 1.04F(4) – The Championship Committee for the USTA Southern SJTTL Section Championship will be the Section JTT Coordinator, a representative from the Southern JTT Committee, and a representative of the local host site.

STATE NOTE 1.04F(4) – A State Championship Committee shall be appointed before the event.

1.04G OFFICIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

The USTA's Digital Platform must be used. Match App, or similar, may be used however all results must be recorded in USTA's Digital Platform.

1.04G(1) OFFICIAL REGISTRATION 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 State Association shall establish deadlines and procedures for registering players and teams in the USTA's Digital Platform.

1.04G(2) OFFICIAL SCORE REPORTING AND STANDINGS SYSTEM

The USTA's Digital Platform must be used for reporting scores and providing standings. Match App, or similar, may be used providing all results are also recorded in USTA's Digital Platform.

1.04G(2)a All match scores must be entered within 48 hours of completion of any SJTTL League or SJTTL Championship.

1.04H SJTTL CHAMPIONSHIP YEAR

The SJTTL Championship Year shall be September 1 to August 31.

1.04J PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

1.04J(1) DOMICILE AND RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

Residents of foreign countries who meet membership and age requirements may be invited by a State Association to participate.

1.04J(2) MEMBERSHIP

All individuals who compete in SJTTL must be a USTA member.

1.04J(3) 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 SJTTL Regulations); and the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship.

1.04J(4) AMATEUR STATUS

Participation is limited to amateurs.

1.04J(5) 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.

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

The SJTTL Sectional Championship Committee will determine and publish the ball type to be used at the event.

STATE NOTE 1.05 - The State Association may determine the ball type used at the State Championship.

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

The USTA Youth Protection Policies and Procedures apply to SJTTL and can be found at www.usta.com/safeplay.

2.00 SJTTL LEAGUES / ADVANCEMENT

2.01 SJTTL LEAGUES

Teams must compete in an SJTTL League to advance. Players must compete in at least two (2) matches (with 2 different match ID numbers) to advance. Each State Association shall determine the date(s) for the SJTTL State Championship. SJTTL leagues & championships may be held on one day or more than one day. 10U, 12U, 14U & 18U Advanced Divisions may play "Local at State" if state chooses. All Intermediate divisions must play a local league then advance to the State Championship.

STATE NOTE 2.01 – Each State Association shall determine the dates(s) for

SJTTL Local Leagues and State Championships.

2.01A NUMBER OF SJTTL LEAGUES

Each State Association will determine the number of SJTTL Leagues.

2.01B - RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR SJTTL LEAGUES & CHAMPIONSHIPS

Any player may play in an SJTTL League and/or Championship regardless of their residence unless otherwise specified by a State residency regulation

STATE NOTE 2.01B - State Association may create residency requirement rules to encourage and foster local play and advancement. For example: A State Association may specify that a percentage of players on a team must currently be residing in that State or the State's geographic area.

2.01C DETERMINING PLAYER PLAY LEVEL

See 1.04B for players who must play advanced.

Players in 10U & 12U Divisions must play divisions based on their current PlayTracker status

It is the responsibility of the player, parent, coach/captain, Local League Coordinator, State Coordinator, and Section Manager to know this regulation, adhere to it, and develop checks and balances to monitor it. A player who completes in the wrong skill level will be addressed based on 3.03B(4) SCORING OF ELIGIBILITY DISQUALIFICATION.

STATE NOTE 2.01C - Each State Association shall have the authority to establish supplemental play level regulations to best ensure the integrity of play levels within their State. Any proposed supplemental regulations must be approved by the USTA Southern JTT Committee.

2.02 ADVANCEMENT

Each State Association receives one berth per division at the SJTTL Section Championship. Additional "wildcards" may be offered. Each State Association shall determine and announce the method of advancement of teams. Teams must advance from a SJTTL League and/or Championship. All divisions may advance to the SJTTL Section Championship.

2.02A ADVANCEMENT FROM AN SJTTL LEAGUE

Each State Association shall determine the number of teams to advance from an SJTTL League within their State. SJTTL State Championship Committees and State Championship procedures shall govern divisions using a "Local at State" format.

STATE NOTE 2.02A – Each State Association shall determine the number of teams to advance from a SJTTL League to the State Championship. 14U & 18U Advanced Divisions may be played as "local at state" if desired by the State Association.

2.03 SJTTL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The following shall apply to SJTTL Section & State Championships.

2.03A ELIGIBILITY

A player is eligible to advance to the SJTTL Section Championship if that player has met all the following conditions:

2.03A(1) 10U - Participated on a team that advanced from a SJTTL League that was composed of at least 4 players.

12U,14U and 18U - Participated on a team that advanced from a SJTTL League that was composed of at least 3 boys and 3 girls.

2.03A(2) Played in at least two (2) individual matches (with 2 different match ID numbers) during that team's SJTTL League.

2.03A(3) The result of the two (2) matches (with 2 different match ID numbers) must be recorded in USTA Digital Platform. One (1) match may be the result of a default by the opposing team.

2.03A(4) If an advancing team is unable to compete further towards the SJTTL Section Championships, then the State Association may select the advancing team. The team advancing must have played in the division they qualified locally in. After initial invitations, the USTA Southern JTT Manager may offer "wildcards" based on a rotating format or, as time becomes a factor, may invite teams based on a first come first serve offer.

2.03A(5) ELIGIBILITY

Is a USTA Member in good standing.

2.03B SJTTL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Each State Association may hold an SJTTL Championships to determine its SJTTL Champions. The winning teams in each division shall be invited to the SJTTL Section Championships, if otherwise eligible.

2.03C SJTTL SECTION CHAMPIONSHIPS

The teams winning the SJTTL Section Championships in each division shall be that year's SJTTL Section Champions.

2.03D SUBSTITUTIONS

2.03D(1) TEAM SUBSTITUTIONS

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

2.03D(2) 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 may be added.

2.03D(2)a 10U - Substitute player is only allowed for teams which originally had the required minimum number of players (4 players) who are eligible to advance.

12U,14U,18U - Substitute players are only allowed for teams which originally had the required minimum number of players (3 boys and 3 girls) who are eligible to advance.

2.03D(2)b 10U - In no event can more than one (1) player 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 SJTTL Championship.

12U,14U,18U - In no event can more than 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 SJTTL Championship.

2.03D(2)c In the event of the return of the original player in a subsequent SJTTL Championship, the coach/manager must decide whether the substitute player or the original player will participate.

2.03D(2)d The substitute player must come from a team that competed in the same SJTTL League as the team needing the player.

2.03E COMPETITION FORMAT

The competition format may be round robin, partial round robin, single elimination or a combination of the two, at the discretion of the SJTTL Championship Committee.

2.03E(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.

2.03E(2) PARTIAL ROUND ROBIN

The Partial Round Robin Format may be used in scenarios when the number of teams does not work well with round robin or single elimination formats, such as divisions with 7 teams.

- All teams shall be scheduled the same number of matches against randomly selected opponents.
- The Championship Committee must determine the process for determining the winner following the partial round robin matches. Depending on number of teams, this could include: the team at the top of the standings at the end of the

unflighted matches is the winner, the top 2 make a final, or the top 4 make the semifinal. For semifinals, the draw shall be #1 vs. #4, #2 vs. #3.

2.03E(3) SINGLE ELIMINATION

Single elimination format may also be used after round robin or partial round robin play. The team winning the most games will be determined the winner.

2.03F TEAM MATCH

10U - A team match at the SJTTL Section Championship will consist of two singles matches and one doubles match. The team winning the most games will be determined the winner.

12U,14U,18U - A team match at the SJTTL Section Championship will consist of one girls' and one boys' singles, one girls' and one boys' doubles match. The team winning the most games will be determined the winner.

STATE NOTE 2.03F – The State Association may use the same team match format as listed or determine the Team Match format for the SJTTL State Championship. The Team Match format may be different at the SJTTL State Championship and/or SJTTL League.

2.03G SCORING & BALL TYPE

The scoring format and ball type at the SJTTL Section Championship will be at the discretion of the SJTTL League and/or Championship committees.

DIVISIONS, BALL TYPE, AND SCORING FORMATS (CHAMPIONSHIP)					
Division	Level	Court	Ball	Scoring	(Racquet)
10U	INT	60"	ORANGE	Best 2 out of 3 short sets - no ad, first to 4 games. 3rd set is a 7-point tiebreak. (only have to win by 1 in set & tiebreak). (Racquet – Must be 25" or smaller)	
10U	ADV	78"	GREEN	Best 2 out of 3 short sets - no ad, first to 4 games. 3rd set is a 7-point tiebreak. (only have to win by 1 in set & tiebreak).	
12U	INT	78"	GREEN	Best 2 out of 3 sets, short sets to 4 no ad scoring. A set tiebreaker is played at 3 all. A 10-point match tiebreak is played at one set all.	

12U	ADV	78"	YELLOW	Best 2 out of 3 sets, short sets to 4 no ad scoring. A set tiebreaker is played at 3 all. A 10-point match tiebreak is played at one set all.
14U &18U	INT & ADV	78"	YELLOW	Best 2 out of 3 sets, short sets to 6. A set tiebreaker is played at 5 all. A 10-point match tiebreak is played at one set all.

STATE NOTE 2.03G - The State Association may determine scoring for the SJTTL Leagues and/or State Championships.

2.03H PARTICIPATION

2.03H(1) MORE THAN ONE TEAM

A player may play on more than one team at a SJTTL Championship as long as the two teams are in different divisions. For instance, a player can not play on two teams in 18U Intermediate. No scheduling accommodations are made.

STATE NOTE 2.03H(1) – State Association may allow players to play on only 1 team at the SJTTL State Championship.

2.03H(2) MORE THAN ONE INDIVIDUAL MATCH

A player shall only play in one individual match per team match at the SJTTL Section Championship.

STATE INFO 2.03H(2) – Depending on the Team Match Format, the State Association may develop “double up” rules, such as “Only one girl and/or one boy may participate in up to two individual matches per team match, one of which must be mixed doubles. In no event may one player play in three individual matches” and may require players to rotate who may double up

2.03I TEAM LINEUPS

The coaches/managers for each team shall exchange their team lineup cards simultaneously prior to the beginning of the team match. Depending on league or championship procedures, this could include, but is not limited to, sharing team lineup card with opposing captain, submitting team lineup card to the tournament desk, or submitting team lineup on a **digital platform**, or similar.

2.03J 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 SJTTL League or Championship

committees may authorize. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, 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.

2.03K COACHING

Coaching at the SJTTL Section Championship shall abide by the following:

Coaching will be allowed during a changeover at the end of odd games. Coaching is considered to be communication, advice, or instruction of any kind, audible or visible, to a player. The following coaching policies must be followed. Any violation of these coaching policies may result in the suspension of the coaching privileges and point penalties:

- One person may be designated to be the Coach of a team during each dual team match and must be registered with the tournament and identified with a Coach badge. Coaches may not alternate during a team match.
- The designated Coach may coach the player(s) when the players change ends at the end of a game and may be done when the players change ends after the first game without delay.
- Coaching is not permitted during a tie-break game or tie-break in lieu of the third set.
- Coach must remain outside the fence and cannot receive input at the fence from any other parties to relay to the player when speaking to the player.
- Coaching should be a positive reinforcement to your player and not against the opponent.
- A player is not allowed to be coached if the coaching is given by signals during play

STATE NOTE 2.03K – The SJTTL League or Championship Committee shall determine whether and at what times to allow coaching.

2.03L PROCEDURES IN THE EVENT OF A TIE

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

2.03L(1) ROUND ROBIN FORMAT

In the event of a tie in round robin or partial 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
- Percentage of games won during match of tied teams
- Percentage of games won in round robin matches
- Coin Flip

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.

2.03L(2) SINGLE ELIMINATION FORMAT

10U- When two teams are tied in games during single elimination, each team's coach/manager will designate (2) players to play a doubles match tiebreak to determine the winner.

12U,14U,18U -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.

2.03M INDIVIDUAL DEFAULTS

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

2.03M(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.

2.03M(2) SCORING OF INDIVIDUAL DEFAULTS

The defaults described in 2.03K 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.

2.03N TEAM DEFAULTS

2.03N(1) PRIOR TO THE START OF THE SJTTL SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

10U - A team must have a minimum of four (4) eligible players available at the start of the SJTTL Sectional Championship (or "Local at State") 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 SJTTL Sectional Championship, the team may participate, but any and all team matches will be defaulted to the opposing team. (See 2.03N(3).)

12U,14u,18U - A team must have a minimum of six (6) eligible players, three (3) boys and three (3) girls, available at the start of the SJTTL Sectional Championship (or "Local at State") 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 SJTTL Sectional Championship, the team may participate, but any and all team matches will be defaulted to the opposing team. (See 2.03N(3).)

STATE NOTE 2.03N(1) – State Association may modify or remove this regulation for the State Championship.

2.03N(2) DURING A SJTTL CHAMPIONSHIP OR "LOCAL AT STATE"

10U - A team may default a maximum of one position in a team match without defaulting the entire match. In such cases, the default must be #2 singles match

when three players are available.

12U,14U,18U - 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.

2.03N(3) 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.

2.03N(4) PENALTIES FOR TEAM DEFAULTS

SJTTL Championship committees reserve the right to impose penalties on a team for team or individual defaults.

2.03P 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.

2.03P(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.

3.00 GRIEVANCES

3.01 COMMITTEES

Unless otherwise stated, the USTA Southern JTT Grievance Committees, hereinafter referred to as "Grievance Committees," and USTA Southern JTT Grievance Appeal Committees, hereinafter referred to as "Grievance Appeal Committees," referred to herein shall adjudicate grievances arising out of SJTTL.

3.01A GRIEVANCE COMMITTEES

Each SJTTL Championship shall have a Grievance Committee. All Grievance Committees shall consist of no less than three persons, including a chair, to adjudicate grievances. The members of the Grievance Committee may be the same as, or different in whole or part, from any previous Grievance Committee. All members of the SJTTL Championship Committee shall be free of conflict.

SOUTHERN NOTE 3.01A – The USTA Southern Grievance Committee is (to be determined). Committee members may be modified throughout the year as needed.

STATE NOTE 3.01A(1) – Each State Association shall appoint a Grievance Committee.

3.01B GRIEVANCE APPEAL COMMITTEES

Each SJTTL Championship shall have a Grievance Appeal Committee. All Grievance Appeal Committees shall consist of no less than three persons, including a chair, to consider appeals of decisions rendered. The members may be the same as, or different in whole or part from, any previous Grievance Appeal Committee. No member may be a member of a Grievance Committee that reviewed or decided the original grievance. All members of the SJLT Championship Committee shall be free of conflict.

SOUTHERN NOTE 3.01B – The USTA Southern Grievance Appeal Committee is (to be determined). Committee members may be modified throughout the year as needed.

STATE NOTE 3.01B – Each State Association shall appoint a Grievance Appeal Committee.

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 Regulations; “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 shall constitute an Administrative Grievance.

3.02C ELIGIBILITY GRIEVANCE

Any grievance contending that a player and/or team failed to meet eligibility requirements, shall constitute an Eligibility Grievance.

3.02D RATING GRIEVANCE

3.02D(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 the team to a grievance. Ramifications could result in disqualification.

3.03 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

3.03A GENERAL GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

3.03A(1) An Administrative Grievance shall be made to the SJTTL Championship committee where the actions in question occurred.

3.03A(2) Any grievance against the USTA Southern JTT Manager/Coordinator shall be made with the USTA Southern JTT Committee. The decision of the USTA Southern JTT Committee shall be final and binding.

3.03A(3) All other grievances (General (3.02A), Eligibility (3.02C) and Rating (3.02D)) shall be made with the Grievance Committees at the appropriate SJTTL Championship.

3.03A(4) An SJTTL Championship Committee may declare a player ineligible and disqualify that player without filing a grievance. Examples include but are not limited to: a player suspended due to Suspension Points, a player ranked too high to play in Intermediate division, a player not eligible for a ball color based on PlayTracker, a violation of Safe Play Rules, or egregious behavior in violation of the Code of Conduct.

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

3.03A(6) Any grievance against a team may only be filed by (a) the team coach/manager of the team who has competed in the match where the alleged violation occurred, (b) the Sectional Coordinator, or (c) a member of a SJTTL Championship Committee, except for Eligibility Grievances, which may be made as stated in 3.03B(4).

3.03A(7) Regardless of any other regulation, the Sectional Coordinator or a member of a SJTTL Championship Committee, may file a grievance at any time during the event.

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 and before may be defaulted.

3.03B SJTTL CHAMPIONSHIP PROCEDURES

3.03B(1) Grievances shall be in writing and delivered to the duly appointed site director or designee within 30 minutes of completion of the involved team's match except for Eligibility Grievances. (See 3.03B(4).)

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

3.03B(3) Any grievance regarding failure to meet eligibility requirements may be

submitted by a team coach/manager, Sectional Coordinator or member of a SJTTL Championship Committee at any time.

3.03B(4) SCORING OF ELIGIBILITY DISQUALIFICATION

3.03B(4)a ELIGIBILITY DISQUALIFICATION THAT OCCURS PRIOR TO OR AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF AN SJTTL CHAMPIONSHIP

In the event of an eligibility disqualification prior to or after the conclusion of a SJTTL Championship, 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.

3.03B(4)b ELIGIBILITY DISQUALIFICATION WHEN USING A ROUND ROBIN FORMAT

In the event of an eligibility disqualification in a round robin format, the disqualified player will not be allowed to continue or advance on that team. 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 the USTA's Digital Platform for determining standings.

3.03B(4)c ELIGIBILITY DISQUALIFICATION WHEN USING A SINGLE ELIMINATION FORMAT

In the case of a disqualification in single elimination format, the disqualified player will not be allowed to continue or advance on 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 the USTA's Digital Platform for determining standings.

3.03C - GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE ACTION

3.03C(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.

3.03C(2) The Grievance Committee shall have the power to dismiss or 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.

3.03C(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.

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

3.04 GRIEVANCE APPEAL

3.04A GENERAL GRIEVANCE APPEAL PROCEDURES

3.04A(1) Any party/parties 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 file the written appeal with the appropriate Grievance Appeal Committee, the Chair of the Grievance Committee whose decision is being appealed, the SJTTL Championship Committee and to the other party/parties involved in the grievance.

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

3.04A(4) The decision of a Grievance Appeal Committee 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.

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/parties 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.

3.04B(5) The decision of the Grievance Appeal Committee shall be by majority vote.

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, email or equivalent communication.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ADVANCED: Any player may play advanced in 14u and 18u, however some players are only eligible to play in advanced based on their WTN. For 10u and 12u, division is based on ball color by PlayTracker.

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

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

CHAMPIONSHIP: Any SJTTL competition held beyond any SJTTL local league.

CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE: Consists of at least three (3) members who are responsible for administration of a Championship. See 1.04F(4).

CHAMPIONSHIP YEAR: The SJTTL Championship Year shall be September 1 to August 31.

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

ELIGIBILITY: Qualifications to play.

FLIGHT: A group of teams competing at a specified SJTTL Championship Competition, where every team in that group plays every other team to declare a winner. If Partial Round Robin format is used, all teams in the group may not play every other team.

GENDER NEUTRAL: A match that has no gender requirements. For instance, a gender neutral singles match could result in a boy versus a girl.

GENDER SPECIFIC: In singles and doubles, girls play girls and boys play boys. In the event of a tie in a single elimination format, mixed doubles will be played, which consists of 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.

GRIEVANCE APPEAL COMMITTEE: Consists of no less than three persons, including a chair, to consider appeals of decisions rendered from a Grievance Committee. All members of the Grievance Appeal Committee should be free of conflict.

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE: Consist of no less than three persons, including a chair, to adjudicate grievances. All members of the Grievance Committee should be free of conflict.

INTERMEDIATE: Players who are within the WTN rating bands for Intermediate may compete in the Intermediate division (as detailed in 1.04B).

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

LEVEL OF PLAY: Advanced & Intermediate skill levels are offered. States may also offer Beginner skill level leagues and/or championship.

MATCH TIEBREAK: First to 10 by a margin of two.

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.

PARTIAL ROUND ROBIN – A format used in scenarios when the number of teams does not work well with round robin or single elimination formats, such as divisions with 7 teams. If this format is used, all teams shall be scheduled the same number of matches against randomly selected opponents.

PLAYER: An individual who registers on a team.

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.

SECTIONAL COORDINATOR: Each Sectional Association shall appoint a Sectional Coordinator to implement and administer SJTTL in its geographical area.

SET TIEBREAK: First to 7 by a margin of two.

SJTTL: USTA Southern Junior Team Tennis League, which is part of Junior Team Tennis.

SJTTL CHAMPIONSHIP: Any SJTTL Championship event that a team advances to after a SJTTL State Championship

SJTTL CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE: Consists of at least three (3) members who are responsible for administration of a SJTTL Championship. See 1.04F(4).

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: A match between two teams consisting of girl's singles, boys' singles, girls' doubles, boys' doubles, and mixed doubles.

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

STATE/DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS: One of nine defined associations that comprise USTA Southern.

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 SJTTL.

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