



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Fall 2017 Section Rules, Regulations & Guidelines

All Local Leagues must adhere to the following:

All players, except those playing in the 10 & under divisions, will need to have a USTA junior rating in order to register for a team. You will find information about USTA Junior Ratings at <http://www.usta.com/juniorratings/>

USTA rules will govern league play, and approved local and section rules, regulations and guidelines will take precedence over national guidelines. Local league rules must be approved by the Section Coordinator.

Coaches, Co-Captains and Team Managers are responsible for reading and knowing all local league and section rules, regulations & guidelines regarding Junior Team Tennis.

Inappropriate behavior from parents, coaches/co-captains, team managers, spectators, or players will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to: breaking rules, cursing, threats, violence, etc. This is a ZERO TOLERANCE policy and any violation may result in a ban from the league.

For all team matches, each team must be supervised by at least one adult.

All players **MUST** be registered and rostered on the online system (Tennislink) **BEFORE** playing their first team match.

The goal is for every player to play in at least 3 team matches during the season. In order for a team to advance to the Section Championships, 3 team matches is the minimum requirement for every player. Each team must have a minimum of 6 eligible players to participate at the section championships.

All Coordinators, Coaches, Co-Captains and Team Managers must complete the 3 step Safe Play and Background Checks procedure in order to participate in our program. Your name must appear on the approved applicants background screening results page that is housed within the USTA.com website. You can find all of the information about Safe Play and Background Checks at <http://www.usta.com/safeplay> .

Youth Progression – players aged 7 to 10 years old must complete USTA’s Youth Progression in order to play “up” in age in 14 & Under Junior Team Tennis. You can find out about Youth Progression on SCTA’s website that is <http://www.socaljuniortennis.com/>



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Junior Team Tennis Fall 2017 season

<u>Registration opens</u>	August 1, 2017
<u>Pre-season meetings</u>	Aug.19 to Sept. 15, 2017
<u>Deadline to create teams</u>	Refer to your local area's timeline
<u>League play begins</u>	Sept. 23 to Oct. 15 (no later than)
<u>Last day to register players</u>	November 24, 2017

▫ <u>Season end date</u>	December 10, 2017
*▫ <u>Area playoffs for Section Champs</u>	December 16 & 17, 2017

* If needed

<u>Deadline to register for Section Champs</u>	December 22, 2017
<u>Section Championships</u>	Jan. 6 & 7, 2018

Indian Wells Tennis Garden, Rancho las Palmas Resort and other tennis facilities in the Coachella Valley

▫ Some areas might end their season at a different date - please check your area's timeline

All area team play for section championship advancement must be concluded no later than Sunday Dec. 17, 2017!

**USTA Jr. Team Tennis is based on Ability (skill level) first before Age.
The Southern California Section categories are as follows:**

2.4 and below Players have little or no prior tennis experience. These players should not have played in any tournaments except Novice level tournaments and should not have any section tournament ranking or points prior to the start of the season.

2.9 and below Players can have some tennis experience. These players have participated in the league but should not have extensive tournament experience and should have not played in Open level junior tournaments.

3.4 and below Players have more tennis experience and may have a section tournament ranking and points from tournament play. These players have participated in the league and play Satellite and/or Open level tournaments.

3.5 and above Players have extensive tennis and tournament experience. These players would usually participate in Open level tournaments and be considered Advanced level players.

Other descriptions regarding general characteristics of playing levels regarding USTA Junior Ratings can be found at <http://www.usta.com/juniorratings/>

USTA Junior Ratings are calculated to the “10th” (ie. 3.3, 2.7, 2.1), and when you self rate, you are able to select the best rating to the 10th when you are registering for a team. Self rates will dynamically change after you play a player with an established rating **4 times** – playing another player who has a self rate does not count toward the magic 4 number. USTA Junior Ratings are calculated from Tournament and Junior Team Tennis play!

There will be an eligibility list for the 10 & under divisions (derived from Open & Satellite level tournament play) that will dictate which division a player must play in that age group. Please check this list to make sure players are not playing in the Intermediate division when they need to be playing in the Satellite or Advanced flight in this age group.

In combined flights at the local league level, a team’s playing level designation must be declared at the start of the local league season. When combining flights, teams should be grouped in ability playing levels wherever possible.

Age & Gender Categories:

- 10 & Under Teams Players must not age up before:
 May 15 (Spring) August 31 (Summer) December 15 (Fall)
Teams are Gender Neutral (a combination of Boys and Girls on a team.)
- 12 & Under Teams Players must not age up before:
 May 15 (Spring) August 31 (Summer) December 15 (Fall)
Teams are Gender Neutral (a combination of Boys and Girls on a team) in Spring and Fall
Co-ed teams only (minimum 3 boys and 3 girls) in Summer
- 14 & Under Teams Players must not age up before:
 May 15 (Spring) August 31 (Summer) December 15 (Fall)
Teams are Gender Neutral (a combination of Boys and Girls on a team) in Spring and Fall
Co-ed teams only (minimum 3 boys and 3 girls) in Summer
- 18 & Under Teams Players must not age up before:
 May 15 (Spring) August 31 (Summer) December 15 (Fall)
Spring – Girls only (due to CIF regulations)
Summer – Int/Sat and Advanced Co-ed teams only (minimum 3 boys and 3 girls)
Fall - Boys only (due to CIF regulations)

TennisLink checks age verification for our 3 program seasons. If for some reason an error occurs through our on-line system (TennisLink), the age up dates listed above will take precedence.

USTA Membership Optional and League Fees

USTA Membership Optional: USTA membership is optional for all players in our Spring and Fall season; however, it will be required in our Championship Junior Team Tennis Summer season.

If you do not have a USTA membership # and want to play JTT, you must create an account in TennisLink in order to register to play on a team. Please follow these step by step instructions:

- ▶ From the main USTA JTT homepage (right next to Sign-In), click on “Create An Account”
- ▶ Click on Create Account where it says “Do you play in a USTA program...”
- ▶ Choose “I am new to TennisLink and want to create an account” to create your TennisLink account #

This TennisLink account # along with your team number will allow a player to register for a team.

Anyone found to put erroneous information into their new TennisLink account # to register for a team will be removed from our program and will not be allowed to participate in our program in the future.

SCTA Program Fee: The fee charged by the Section is \$20.50. During registration, the online administrator (Active.com) also charges a \$3.00 per player registration fee. The total program fee is \$23.50.

Section Championships

The Section Championships will be held in the following divisions:

- 10 & Under (Intermediate, Satellite & Advanced) – 6 game Pro-Set, no-ad scoring, with a set tiebreak at 5 games all. 2 Singles and 2 Doubles matches will be played.
Minimum of 6 eligible players required. Teams are Gender Neutral (any combination of boys & girls on a team)
- 12 & Under and 14 & Under (2.9 and below; 3.4 and below & 3.5 and above)
8 Game Pro-Set, no-ad scoring, with a set tiebreak at 7 games all. 2 Singles and 2 Doubles matches will be played.
Minimum of 6 eligible players required. Teams are Gender Neutral (any combination of boys & girls on a team)
- 14 & Under (3.4 and below & 3.5 and above) Summer Co-ed season: 8 Game Pro-set, no-ad scoring, with a set tiebreak at 7 games all. 1 boy's & girl's singles, and 1 boy's and girl's doubles & 1 mixed doubles will be played. Minimum of 3 eligible boys and 3 eligible girls required.
- 18 & Under (2.9 and below; 3.4 and below & 3.5 and above)
Best 2 of 3 sets, no-ad scoring, with a set tiebreak at 5 games all. A match tiebreak (first to 10 points, win by 2) is played in lieu of a third set. 2 Singles and 2 Doubles matches will be played.
Minimum of 6 eligible players required, Single Gender (Girls) in Spring and Single Gender (Boys) in Fall
- 18 & Under (3.4 and below & 3.5 and above) Summer Co-ed season: 8 Game Pro-set, no-ad scoring, with a set tiebreak at 7 games all. 1 boy's & girl's singles, and 1 boy's and girl's doubles & 1 mixed doubles will be played. Minimum of 3 eligible boys and 3 eligible girls required.

Formats are subject to change

There will usually be a maximum 8 spots for each division/flight at the Section Championships, where a round robin format will be played. Where an age division/flight warrants an increase in the amount of teams over 8 teams, and alternate format will be used (a combination of either a round robin and/or compass draw or single elimination format.) The goal at the Section Championships is for all teams to play a minimum of 3 to 4 team matches over the course of the weekend.

- Larger areas might need to have an area playoff to determine which team advances to the Section Championships; Smaller areas might need to have a playoff in order to advance.
- Wildcards will be granted (when spots at the event are available.) Each area submits a wildcard request through their Area league Coordinator, and these wildcards are usually given to areas with the most teams from their local leagues in that particular flight.

Section Championships Eligibility

All players participating in the Section Championships must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Player must have played in 3 local area team matches (one match may be an onsite default or an exhibition match on record.)
 - Areas with not enough teams (minimum 2 per flight) may play out of area to become eligible for Championship play. They can also play in another flight within their area to obtain their 3 local area team match requirement for the Section Championships.
 - In order to qualify for the National Championships from our Summer season, your local league flight must have at least 2 teams in your age and ability level.
- Players may only participate for one team only at the Section Championships.
- If a player is listed on the current section eligibility list (10 & Under only) and is on a team at lower ability level, the player and/or entire team can be disqualified during the course of their local league season or at the section championships. It is the coach's responsibility to check their players' names on the current section eligibility list when putting their teams together at the start of your local league season.

Substitutions

There are no substitutions except in cases of a mitigating circumstance (ie. a documented injury, a family emergency, etc.) A written appeal must be made only to the Program Coordinator 10 days in advance of the start date of the Section Championships. A decision will be made no later than 7 days before the start of the event. The decision of the Section Program Manager is final.

Uniforms

Our program strongly recommends that each team has a uniform look. Teams have full autonomy to select their own uniforms (team shirt.) The Jr. Team Tennis program strongly encourages all teams have a uniform look while participating in all team matches throughout the season.

Sportsmanship

Good sportsmanship is required of everyone involved in the Junior Team Tennis program - from the spectators, parents, coaches/co-captains, team managers and players. Any reports of less than desirable behavior will be dealt with immediately. As stated previously, there is a ZERO TOLERANCE policy in effect for anyone involved in any match in our program. With this being said, we truly hope everyone involved in the Southern California Junior Team Tennis program enjoys every aspect of what we have to offer. Thank you for your support and participation in our program!

Net Generation

USTA's new platform for all things junior tennis! This site will be heavily promoted at this year's U.S. Open. To find more information about this new and exciting initiative to get more players involved and engaged in our awesome sport, please visit <https://netgeneration.usta.com/> - thank you so much!