

USTA Texas Sectional Junior Team Tennis Regulations

2018



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USTA Texas Junior Team Tennis Objectives:

- To provide leveled competition in a team atmosphere for boys and girls from beginner to advanced ability levels.
- To serve as a “bridge the gap” program to the USTA Schools Program, NJTL, Hot Shots, and other beginner programs and bringing youth from entry level tennis to competitive play in USTA tournaments.
- To provide additional JTT program opportunities outside our current “advancing” and “traditional” Junior Team Tennis partners.
- To provide a “safe” team environment where beginner players can develop a full knowledge of the rules of tennis and develop habits of good sportsmanship.
- To provide a “competitive” team environment where experienced players can seek advancement through competition at the local level and sectional level.
- To encourage volunteer participation from parents as team captains/managers and possibly have them assist in program administration.
- To provide a program that is fair across all local leagues and “to the best of our abilities” across all Junior Team Tennis programs under the umbrella of UTSA.

The “Local” & “Sectional” Junior Team Tennis seasons are designed to introduce kids to team competition in a setting that focuses on play opportunities, developing skills, and FUN. The three priorities of local JTT are to (1) make it easy to form teams, (2) increase play opportunities for every child, and (3) promote level based play. Local seasons give areas as much flexibility as possible to meet the needs of their community while sectional seasons give some structure to create consistency amongst divisions who advance to a sectional championship. Local seasons do not advance to a sectional championship.

The regulations in this document are applicable to USTA Texas “Sectional” Junior Team Tennis Seasons and the requirement for teams to advance to any sectional tournament.

The National Championship Junior Team Tennis season is designed to allow advancement from local and sectional competition to National championship events for 14 and Under and 18 and under Intermediate and Advanced divisions. The delivery of this season is also designed to promote more play opportunities, develop skills and promote the fun of playing with friends on a team while competing for a title. Rules for the National Championship Junior Team Tennis season can be found at:

https://www.usta.com/content/dam/usta/pdfs/20171026%202018%20JTT%20Regulations_book.pdf

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General

USTA Texas Sectional Junior Team Tennis seasons consists of team competition for boys and girls of specific Junior NTRP levels of play and age categories and provides an opportunity for advancement from local competition to a Sectional Championship.

Age Categories

USTA Texas Sectional Junior Team Tennis seasons is divided into four age categories: 10 & Under, 12 & Under, 14 & Under, and 18 & Under.

Levels of Play

Levels of play for each age category are divided by NTRP level. Players are allowed to play above their level of play but not below their level of play.

- 10 & Under (No NTRP Rating level used at this age)
- 12 & Under 1.9 Junior NTRP and below (Beginner)
- 12 & Under 2.4 Junior NTRP and below (Intermediate)
- 12 & Under 2.5 Junior NTRP and above (Advanced)
- 14 & Under 2.4 Junior NTRP and below (Beginner)
- 14 & Under 3.4 Junior NTRP and below (Intermediate)
- 14 & Under 3.5 Junior NTRP and above (Advanced)
- 18 & Under 2.4 Junior NTRP and below (Beginner)
- 18 & Under 3.4 Junior NTRP and below (Intermediate)
- 18 & Under 3.5 Junior NTRP and above (Advanced)

Sectional Championship Advancement

Only 10 & Under Green Ball, 12 & Under 1.9 Junior NTRP and below (Green Ball), 12 & Under 2.4 Junior NTRP and below, 12 & Under 2.5 Junior NTRP and above, 14 & Under 2.4 Junior NTRP and below, 14 & Under 3.4 Junior NTRP and below, 14 & Under 3.5 Junior NTRP and above, 18 & Under 3.4 Junior NTRP and below, 18 & Under 3.5 Junior NTRP and above may progress to the Sectional Championships.

Rating Process

The Junior National Tennis Rating Program (JNTRP) in Tennislink is the official system for determining play levels for USTA Texas Sectional Junior Team Tennis. Additional information for the Junior NTRP can be found at: www.usta.com/juniorratings.

Administration

USTA Texas Junior Team Tennis Committee

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USTA Texas Sectional Junior Team Tennis shall be governed by the USTA Texas Junior Team Tennis Committee appointed by the President of USTA Texas and subject to the control and direction of the USTA Texas Executive and Management Committees.

USTA Texas Junior Team Tennis Section Coordinator

The USTA Texas Junior Team Tennis Section Coordinator shall be responsible for the day-today administration of USTA Texas Junior Team Tennis including USTA Texas Section Junior Team Tennis.

Local Area Junior Team Tennis Coordinators

Each Local/Area USTA Texas Junior Team Tennis program shall have a Local/Area Coordinator to implement and administer USTA Junior Team Tennis including the USTA Texas Section Junior Team Tennis seasons and National Championship Junior Team Tennis seasons. All Local/Area Coordinators shall be in compliance with the USTA Youth Protection Policies and Procedures for USTA Junior Team Tennis.

Team Captains/Managers

Each USTA Junior Team Tennis Team shall have a Team Captain/Manager responsible for the team and its administrative affairs during the season. Each Team Captain/Manager shall be in compliance with the USTA Youth Protection Policies and Procedures for USTA Junior Team Tennis and have completed the Team USTA training module, acknowledge and accept the USTA Safe Play Conduct, Policies, and Guidelines, and be greenlit through the NCSI background check process. All local programs will have a captains meetings and/or training before the season to review rules, dates/deadlines, and answer any questions and provide any supporting materials necessary for the program to be successful.

Sectional Championships Committee

A championship committee of at least three members, one of whom is a USTA Certified Referee or Umpire, shall govern each championship event. At least one member of the Championship Committee shall be in attendance at all times during play. The Sectional Championships Committees shall be appointed by the USTA Texas Section.

Official Information System

Tennislink is the official information system of USTA Junior Team Tennis.

Official Registration System

Tennislink Team Tennis is the official system for registering teams and players for participation in USTA Texas Sectional Junior Team Tennis. A player's name must be listed on the team roster, as shown in Tennislink, prior to participation in any match. This includes any player who is added to the team roster after the commencement of local league play. Registration for teams must be before the designated deadlines set for both the Spring and Fall seasons.

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Official Score Reporting and Standings System

Tennislink Team Tennis is the official system for reporting scores and providing standings for the USTA Texas Sectional Junior Team Tennis seasons.

- Unless otherwise established by the section, the entry of match scores into Tennislink Team Tennis must be entered within 48 hours of completion of the match.
- All local play history documentation must be entered within 48 hours of the last match of the season played and before entry into any post season championship event. Corrections to completed score cards must be made within 1 week of the last match of the season played and before entry into any post season championships event.
- All post season championship event match scores must be entered within 48 hours of the completion of their match.

2018 Spring Season

The USTA Texas Sectional Junior Team Tennis Spring Season program shall be open January 1 – May 6, 2018. The Sectional Championships will occur May 18-20, 2018.

2018 Fall Season

The USTA Texas Sectional Junior Team Tennis Fall Season program shall be open July 1 – November 4, 2018. The Sectional Championships will occur November 16-18, 2018.

Local Tennis Season

Each area shall determine within the season dates for when the area's program play is.

National Championship Season

The USTA National Championship Season shall be held in the form of an open tournament June 22 – 24, 2018. Three days of play are required by all teams in order to qualify for the National Championships.

Participation Requirements

Domicile and Residency Requirements

Any individual who competes in USTA Junior Team Tennis must be domiciled within the boundaries of the USTA Texas Section or participate through a USTA Direct Member Organization. Residents of foreign countries who meet membership and age requirements may be invited by USTA Texas to participate in USTA Texas Sectional Junior Team Tennis provided that all such matches are played within the Section.

Membership

Any individual competing in USTA Texas Sectional Junior Team Tennis shall be 18 years of age or under. USTA membership may be required locally for participation within programming but is not required

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within USTA Texas Sectional Junior Team Tennis. Players must create an account on Tennislink to participate within programming.

Player Agreement

All players participating in USTA junior Team Tennis, as a condition of said participation, agree to abide and be bound by the USTA Constitution and Bylaws, the FIREND AT COURT – The USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations including THE CODE and Wheelchair Rules of Tennis (unless modified by these USTA Texas Junior Team Tennis Regulations) and the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship.

Armature Status

USTA Junior Team Tennis participation is limited to armatures.

Waiver of Claims

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

Official Ball

For Sectional Championships, Penn is the official ball.

USTA Youth Protection Policies and Procedures for USTA Junior Team Tennis

The USTA Youth Protection Policies and Procedures apply to USTA Texas Junior Team Tennis and can be found at www.usta.com/safeplay.

Local Competitions, Progression, and Championships

Local Competition

- **Number of Teams:** Locally, USTA Texas Sectional Junior Team Tennis is a team competition in a specified geographical area that applies specific local team regulations and consists of two or more teams per division. For USTA Texas Sectional Junior Team Tennis, a team must advance from a division with a minimum of two teams at the same age and play level as the championship division to which the team is advancing (combination of age and play level – must be approved by Section Coordinator). A local coordinator may choose to divide any or all divisions into flights. A playoff structure may be established to determine a champion for each

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division. If a division only has one team the team may chose to play up a division to play their required matches in order to qualify for the Sectional Championships.

- **Team Composition:** To participate in USTA Texas Sectional Junior Team Tennis teams must have:
 - 10 & Under: 4 players (gender neutral) suggested maximum of 8 players
 - 12 & Under 1.9 Junior NTRP and below: 4 players (gender neutral) suggested maximum of 8 players
 - 12 & Under 2.4 Junior NTRP and below: 4 players (gender neutral) suggested maximum of 8 players
 - 12 & Under 2.5 Junior NTRP and above: 2 boys and 2 girls (co-ed) suggested maximum of 4 boys and 4 girls
 - 14 & Under 2.4 Junior NTRP and below: 2 boys and 2 girls (co-ed) suggested maximum of 4 boys and 4 girls
 - 14 & Under 3.4 Junior NTRP and below: 2 boys and 2 girls (co-ed) suggested maximum of 4 boys and 4 girls
 - 14 & Under 3.5 Junior NTRP and above: 2 boys and 2 girls (co-ed) suggested maximum of 4 boys and 4 girls
 - 18 & Under 3.4 Junior NTRP and below: 2 boys and 2 girls (co-ed) suggested maximum of 4 boys and 4 girls
 - 18 & Under 3.5 Junior NTRP and above: 2 boys and 2 girls (co-ed) suggested maximum of 4 boys and 4 girls
- **Age Requirement:** As validated in TennisLink, players must remain age eligible through the final day of the month in which season sectionals is held to be able to register, participate and advance in the USTA Texas Sectional Junior Team Tennis. Spring season – May 31, Fall season November 30.
- **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. See appendix for Junior NTRP rating chart.
 - 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. USTA Texas asks that all players are rated first by their coach, team captain/manager, or area league coordinator.
- **Competition Format:** The local coordinator may use the format which best meets the needs of the local program e.g., round robin. All teams in a USTA Texas Sectional Junior Team Tennis season are required to play a minimum of two (2) team matches.
 - Team Matches 10 & Under and 12 & Under 2.4 and below divisions: Local coordinators may determine a match format that meets the needs of the local program. The method of determining the winning team of a local team match and also the winner of the local season is determined by the Local Coordinator. In the USTA Texas Sectional Junior Team Tennis play shall be gender neutral (In singles and doubles girls and boys can play each

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other). It is recommended that each team match consists of four singles and two doubles.

- Team Matches 12 & Under 2.5 and above, 14 & Under and 18 & Under divisions: Local coordinators may determine a match format that meets the needs of the local program. The method of determining the winning team of a local team match and also the winner of the local season is determined by the Local Coordinator. In the USTA Texas Sectional Junior Team Tennis play shall be gender specific (In singles and doubles girls play girls and boys play boys) in. It is recommended that each team match consists of two girls singles, two boys singles, one girls doubles and one boys doubles.
- Individual Match: An individual match is any singles match, doubles match, or mixed doubles match played as part of a team match.
- Scoring: Local Coordinators may use a scoring format within Tennislink Team Tennis online system which best meets the needs of the local program. Scores must be recorded in Tennislink Team Tennis within 48 hours of completion of a match. All local play history documentation must be entered within 48 hours of the last match of the season played and before entry into any championships event. Corrections to completed scorecards must be made within 1 week of the last match of the season played, and before entry into any championships events.
- **Individual Defaults:** An individual default occurs when a player fails to appear on time, or is defaulted by a tournament official for misconduct.
 - 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: The defaults described will be scored in accordance with the format in Tennislink Team Tennis. In the event of a default by both opposing players, neither team receives credit for that match win or the games.
 - Penalties for Defaults: The area league coordinator reserved the right to place penalties on the team captain/manager 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, loss of 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. For Junior NTRP computer data entry in Tennislink, mark as retired and submit the actual scores of match at the point of retirement.
- **Team Lineups:** In USTA Texas Sectional Junior Team Tennis the team captains/managers for each team shall exchange their team lineup cards simultaneously prior to the beginning of the team match. 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 such match and except

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under such further circumstances as a local/area competition may authorize. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute is entitled to a five minute warm-up.

- **Player Participation**
 - More than one team: In USTA Texas Sectional Junior Team Tennis players are allowed to play on more than one team in a local program during the same season; provided that the players may not play on more than one team in the same division.
 - More than one individual match: A player may play in any number of individual matches within a team match as determined by the local league.
- **Coaching:** The local program shall determine whether and at what times to allow coaching throughout their local programming. Coaching during sectional championships is only permitted during the 90 second change overs after the first game. In no event is coaching permitted during a tiebreak.
- **Local Champions:** The local competition must be concluded prior to the deadline by USTA Texas. At the conclusion of the local competition, the Area League Coordinator shall certify to USTA Texas the results of the competition and give team captains/managers information to register for sectional championships.

Progression: USTA Texas shall determine and announce the method of progression suitable for the geographical boundaries for advancement of the areas to the Sectional Championships and if any regional playoffs are needed.

- **Local/Area Play-offs:** Each eligible team that wins a specific level of team tennis competition may be eligible to progress to the next championship.
- **Sectional Championships:** Sectional Championship team winners from USTA Texas Sectional seasons will not advance to a national tournament.

Championships: The teams winning the USTA Texas Sectional Championships in each division shall be that season's USTA Texas Sectional Junior Team Tennis Champions.

- **Eligibility:** A player is eligible to progress to sectional championships if that player has met all of the following conditions:
 - Participated on a team from the USTA Texas Sectional Junior Team Tennis eligible program within TennisLink Team Tennis.
 - Played on the advancing team in at least two team matches during the team's local USTA Texas Junior Team Tennis season.
 - The results of the two matches must be recorded in Tennislink Team Tennis. Neither of the two matches may be the product of a default received. A retired match shall count toward the two match requirements for eligibility for the players involved.
 - All local play history documentation must be entered within 48 hours of the last match of the season played before entry into any post season championship event. Corrections to completed scorecards must be made within one week of the last match of the season played, and before entry into any post season championships event.

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- **Substitutions**
 - Team Substitutions: If a team advancing to a championship competition cannot field the required minimum number of qualified players, another team may be selected by the Local Area to advance.
 - Player Substitutions: If an eligible player on a team advancing to a championship competition 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.
 - 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, boy or girl, be added to meet the minimum team size requirement for sectional championship competition. Any substitutions must be approved by the championship coordinator in which the substitution is occurring and shall remain in effect for that entire championship event.
 - Substitution players are only allowed for those teams who originally had at least the team minimum of four players (2 girls and 2 boys for 12U 2.5 and above, 14U and 18U divisions) who are eligible to advance. In the event of the return of the original player in a subsequent championship, the team captain/manager must decide whether the substitute player or the original player will participate.
 - The substitute player must come from a team in the same local program and season in which the advancing team participated to meet the minimum team size requirement.
- **Official Championship Entry:** All teams must register in tennislink Team Tennis for all championships.
- **Competition Format:** The competition format may be round robin, single elimination or a combination of the two at the discretion of the championship committee.
 - Round Robin: If a 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. When using round robin that leads into a single elimination draw winners in the flight may be based off of total winning percentage if flights are uneven in numbers.
 - Single Elimination: Single elimination format may also be used. The team with the highest number of total games shall advance to the next play level.
- **Team Match:**
 - 10 & Under and 12 & Under 2.4 and below divisions: A team match will consist of four singles and two doubles matches. The team with the most games will determine the winner.
 - Tied Team Match: A tie in team matches will be broken by both teams fielding a doubles team to play one 7 point tie breaker. This will count as one game to add to one match for the team match.

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- 12 & Under 2.5 and above, 14 & Under and 18 & Under divisions: A team match will consist of two girls singles, two boys singles, one girls doubles, and one boys doubles matches. The team with the most games will determine the winner.
 - Tied Team Match: A tie in team matches will be broken by both teams fielding a mixed doubles team to play one 7 point tie breaker. This will count as one game to add to one match for the team match.
- **Scoring:** The scoring format will be at the discretion of the championship Committee.
- **Participation:**
 - More than one team: A player shall play for only one team at an area, regional or sectional championship.
 - More than one individual match: Only one girl and/or boy may participate in up to two individual matches per team match. In no event may one player play in three individual matches.
- **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 championship committee may authorize. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute player is entitled to a five 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:** Coaching is allowed ONLY during the 90 second changeovers. Coaching is not allowed during the first changeover of each set. Coaching must take place from outside the fence. Coaches are not allowed on the court. Parents & Spectators are requested to stay at least 5 feet off of the fence. In no event is coaching allowed during a tiebreak.
- **Procedures in the event of a tie:** In the event of a tie in championship competition the following procedures shall be used to break the tie.
 - Round Robin Format: 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 flightIn the event non of these steps break the tie, a method determined and announced by the championship committee before the championship event shall be used to break the tie.
 - Single Elimination Format: When two teams are tied in games during single elimination, the team's captain/manager will follow the team match tie rule to break the team match tie.
- **Individual Defaults:** An individual default occurs when a player fails to appear on time, or is defaulted by a tournament official for misconduct.

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- 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: The defaults described will be scored in accordance with the format in Tennislink Team Tennis. In the event of a default by both opposing players, neither team receives credit for that match win or the games.
- **Team Defaults:**
 - Prior to the Start of a Championship Event: A team must have a minimum of four eligible players (two girls and two boys for 12 & Under 2.4 and above, 14 & Under, and 18 & Under divisions) available at the start of the championship event to be eligible to receive credit for game wins. Should the team not have the required eligible players at the start of the event, the team may participate in the championship event but any and all team matches will be defaulted to the opposing team.
 - During a Championship Event: A team may default a maximum of two positions without defaulting the entire match. In such cases, the default(s) may be dependent on the number and the gender of the defaulting players. Example: If a 14 & Under 2.4 and under team is short a boy the second boys singles line and the boys doubles must be defaulted.
 - Penalties for Team Defaults: The Tournament Director/Committee reserved the right to place penalties on the team captain/manager 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, loss of condition, or emergency.
 - Scoring of Retirements: In case of 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. For Junior NTRP computer data entry in Tennislink, mark as retired and submit.

Grievances

All USTA Junior Team Tennis grievances and grievance appeals shall be administered in accordance with the following provisions.

Committees:

- **Grievance Committees:** All grievance Committees shall consist of no less than three persons, including a chair, to adjudicate grievances. The members of the committee may be the same as, or different in whole or part, from the committee first appointed at the beginning of the season.
 - Local Area: Each local area USTA Junior Team Tennis program shall appoint a USTA Junior Team Tennis Grievance Committee.
- Championship Grievance Committees

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- Local Area: Each area shall appoint a USTA Junior Team Tennis Championship Grievance Committee.
 - Sectional Championships: The USTA Texas JTT Committee shall appoint a USTA Junior Team Tennis Championship Grievance Committee.
- Grievance Appeal Committees: All Grievance Appeal Committees shall consist of no less than three persons, including a chair, to consider appeals of decisions rendered by the respective grievance committees. The members of the Grievance Appeal Committee may be the same as, or different in whole or part from, the committee appointed at the beginning of the seasons. No member of a Grievance Appeal Committee may be a member of a Grievance Committee that reviewed or decided the original grievance.
 - Local Area: Each area shall appoint a USTA Junior Team Tennis Grievance Appeal Committee.
 - Sectional: The USTA Texas JTT Committee shall appoint a USTA Junior Team Tennis Grievance Appeal Committee.
 - Championship Grievance Appeal Committees
 - Local Area: Each area shall appoint a USTA Junior Team Tennis Championship Grievance Appeal Committee.
 - Sectional: The USTA Texas JTT Committee shall appoint a USTA Junior Team Tennis Championship Grievance Appeal Committee.

Grievance Types

- **General Grievance:** Any grievance, other than those defined as an administrative grievance, eligibility grievance, rating grievance alleging a violation of the USTA Constitution and Bylaws; the USTA Regulations; the Rules of Tennis: the 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.
- **Administrative Grievance:** Any grievance pertaining to administration of USTA Junior Team Tennis at any level below the National level shall constitute an Administrative Grievance.
- **Eligibility Grievance:** Any grievance contending that a player and/or team failed to meet eligibility requirements to participate in USTA Junior Team Tennis shall constitute an Eligibility Grievance.
- **Rating Grievance:**
 - A team captain/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 that team captain/manager's player or team to a grievance and the ramification could result in disqualification.

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- Self-rated players who enter the USTA Junior Team Tennis by intentionally misrepresenting their actual skill level are considered to have violated the standards of good conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship and are subject to a grievance and the ramifications could result in disqualification.

Grievance Procedures:

- **General Grievance Procedures:**

- An Administrative Grievance below the section level shall be made at the next higher level, their local area. An administrative grievance at the section level shall be made with USTA Texas.
- Any grievance against a USTA Texas Junior Team Tennis Coordinator shall be made within USTA Texas Junior Team Tennis Committee. The decision of USTA Texas Junior Team Tennis Committee shall be final and binding.
- All other grievances (General, Eligibility, and Rating) Shall be made with the USTA Junior Team Tennis Grievance Committees at the appropriate level (Local, Sectional).
- All grievances must be made in writing.
- Any grievance against an individual or team may only be made by (a) the team captain/manager of the team who has competed in the match where alleged violation occurred, (b) a coordinator, or (c) a member of Championships Committee except for Eligibility Grievances which may be made as listed in local procedures.

- **Local Procedures:**

- Any grievance alleging a violation by an individual or team during local competition shall be made in writing with the local area coordinator or designee having jurisdiction. The grievance must be made prior to the commencement of whichever occurs first: (a) the involved team's next team match in that light whether or not the involved player participates or (b) within 24 hours after the end of the local season except for Eligibility Grievances.
- Upon receipt of the grievance, the local area coordinator or designee shall immediately send a copy to the chair of the appropriate USTA Junior Team Tennis Grievance Committee, or other committee as designated in the USTA Junior Team Tennis Regulations, and to the party(ies) against whom the grievance has been made.
- Any grievance regarding failure to meet eligibility requirements may be made by a USTA Junior Team Tennis team captain/manager, coordinator, or member of a Championship Committee at any time. A local coordinator may declare a player ineligible and disqualify that player without filing a grievance prior to the disqualification.
- Scoring of eligibility disqualification in local team play
 - In the event of an eligibility disqualification during the local team tennis season and up to 24 hours after the end of local team play, all matches played by the disqualified player shall be considered defaults and those matches shall be considered wins for the opposing players or doubles teams and scored according to the format described in Tennislink Team Tennis.

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In case of an eligibility disqualification in single elimination, the last individual match played by the disqualified player shall be considered a win for the opposing player or doubles team and scored according to the format described in Tennislink Team Tennis for determining standings. If a double disqualification results in a tie, the local tiebreak procedure shall be used to determine the winner of the team match.

- In The event of an eligibility disqualification after the conclusion of the USTA Texas Junior Team Tennis season by more than 24 hours, 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.

- **Championship Procedures:**

- Any grievance alleging a violation during championships competition shall be in writing and delivered to the duly appointed site director or designee prior to whichever occurs first: (a) within 30 minutes of completion of the involved team's match or (b) the commencement of the involved team's next match, whether or not the involved player participates except for Eligibility Grievances.
- At the time a scoring a grievance is made, a copy of the grievance shall be delivered by the championship committee or site director to the party(ies) against whom the grievance has been made.
- Any grievance regarding failure to meet eligibility requirements may be submitted by a team captain/manager, coordinator, or member of the championship committee at any time.
- Scoring of eligibility disqualification for championships
 - Eligibility disqualification that occurs prior to or after the conclusion of a championship event: In the event of an eligibility disqualification prior to or after the conclusion of a championship event, the tea 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.
 - Eligibility disqualification that occurs during a championship event when using a round robin format: In the event of an eligibility disqualification in a round robin format during the championship event, the player will not be allowed to continue or advance on that team and 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 Tennislink Team Tennis for determining standings.
 - Eligibility disqualification that occurs during a championship event when using a single elimination format: In the case of a disqualification in single elimination format during the championship event, the 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

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scored according to the format described in Tennislink Team Tennis for determining standings.

- **Grievance Committee Action:**

- Following the receipt of a grievance and as soon as reasonable, the USTA Texas Junior Team tennis 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.
- The USTA Texas Junior Team Tennis Grievance Committee shall have the power to dismiss, 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.
- The USTA Texas Junior Team Tennis 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.
- The decision of the USTA Junior Team Tennis Grievance Committee shall be by majority vote.

Grievance Appeals:

- **General Grievance Appeals Procedures:**

- Any party(ies) 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.
- The party(ies) appealing shall submit written notice of appeal with the appropriate Grievance Appeal Committee, the Chair of the Grievance Committee whose decision is being appealed, local area or sectional USTA Texas Junior Team Tennis Coordinators, and to the other party(ies) involved in the grievance.
- The party(ies) to the appeal shall have an opportunity to submit in writing facts and arguments in support of their respective positions. All information submitted shall be provided to all parties.
- The decision of the Grievance Appeal Committee at the level at which the Grievance was heard shall be final and binding and not subject to appeal except with regard to suspensions of individuals or teams for period of 12 months or more.
- Play during grievance appeal procedures:
 - If the grievance is upheld. The individual or team is subject to all penalties imposed by the Grievance Committee during the appeal process.
 - 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 or remanded for reconsideration.

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- **Grievance Appeal Committee's Action**

- The Grievance Appeal Committee shall not be required to hold any hearing except upon receipt of the grievance to the local or sectional area. 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(ies) to the appeal.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- The decision of the Grievance Appeal Committee shall be by majority vote.

General Procedures for Grievance and Grievance Appeals Committees:

- **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.
- **Written Requirement:** The requirement that a notice or other document be in writing is satisfied if it is sent by mail, telegram, fax, email, or equivalent communication.

Junior National Tennis Rating Program (Junior NTRP)

The Junior National Tennis Rating Program (Junior NTRP), which defines the characteristics of player's levels, is the official system for determining the levels of competition for UTSA Texas Junior Team Tennis.

Players in USTA Texas Junior Team Tennis rate in accordance with the Junior NTRP guidelines. Factors such as a player's on-court performance, tennis background, and any additional information should be considered in the self-rating decision. When players are rating themselves and question at which level they should play, they should place themselves in the higher NTRP level of play.

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Players who are good athletes or intend to spend a great deal of time taking lessons and practicing should be aware that their improvement may be significant enough to surpass their original self-rating by the time they reach the end of the local season or championship level.

To place yourself: Read all categories carefully and then decide which one best describes your present ability level. Be certain that you qualify on all points of all preceding levels as well as those in the level you choose. When rating yourself, assume you are playing against a player of the same gender and the same ability.

General Characteristics of Junior NTRP Levels

Rating Description

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. Player needs to coordinate moving when hitting the ball and 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.

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 plays 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.

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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.

Players in Wheelchairs:

Players in wheelchairs should use these same general characteristics to determine their NTRP skill level. The only differences are as follows:

- **Mobility:** While players in wheelchairs may have skills that would normally provide them with a certain rating, the mobility factor suggests that when competing against able-bodied players, they should participate at an NTRP skill level that provides for competitive rather than compatible play.
- **Serving ability:** Due to the nature of the player's injury or disability, a powerful serve may not be possible. In this case, it may be more realistic to self-rate below 3.5, as serve strength becomes key above this level.
- **Two-Bounce Rule:** Players in wheelchairs will receive two bounces while standing players will receive one bounce in integrated play.

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Code of Conduct

1. The highest level of sportsmanship is expected from every player! An understanding of and a commitment to the points below are part of your responsibility as a player in a USTA tournament. Violators of this code or its spirit are subject to disciplinary action.
2. Once you have entered a USTA Texas Junior Team Tennis match, honor your commitment to play. Exceptions should only occur in cases of serious illness, injury or personal emergency.
3. From the beginning of the match, play must be continuous. Attempts to stall or extend rest periods for the purpose of recovering from a loss of physical conditions (such as cramps or shortness of breath) are illegal.
4. Intentional distractions that interfere with your opponent's concentration or efforts to play the ball are against the rules.
5. Spectators – including parents, friends and team captains/managers – are welcome to watch and enjoy matches. Their role, however, is clearly restricted to that of passive observer with no involvement of any kind during the match unless otherwise expressed.
6. Players are expected to put forth a full and honest effort regardless of the score or expected outcome.
7. Players are expected to maintain full control over their emotions and behavior throughout the match. If you begin to lose your composure during play, try the following: Take several deep breaths, exhale as slowly as possible, and feel your muscles relax. Concentrate on your own game and behavior while ignoring distractions from your opponent or surroundings. Be your own best friend – enjoy your good shots and forget about the poor ones.

10 & Under Jr. Team Tennis Top 10

1. Players in the 10U divisions will receive three participation credit stars for each season of Junior Team Tennis competition, maximum of two seasons calculated per year.
2. In order to receive participation credit, players must play at least 2 team matches on the same Junior Team Tennis Team in a season.
3. Players will receive credit within the division they are currently competing in at the tournament level.
4. Players will not be allowed to apply a green JTT credit towards an orange ball qualification.
5. Scores/participation for players must be recorded on TL for player to receive participation credit.
6. Players playing up into a 12U program green ball program will not receive green ball credit unless local division size was too low and divisions were approved for merge.
7. Players will not receive participation credit for 8U red ball play at this time as no red ball tournament credits are available.

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8. Divisions must use the same colored ball (green/orange/red) for the duration of the league season.
9. Participation credits will be awarded to at the conclusion of the JTT program they are participating in. Players and team captains/managers should check with their local league coordinator to confirm program's end date.
10. In order for players to receive a participation credit they must be listed in a flight/division that is designated on TL as an orange or green ball 10U division/flight. – Those who are 10 and under but playing up into a 12U green ball division must have their information forwarded on to the Texas Section Coordinator for participation credit to be added. Any players who's information has not been forwarded on to the Section Coordinator by the end of the season will not be eligible for credit.