



2018 USTA Junior Team Tennis Orange County ~ Local League Rules (subject to revisions)

General Information

This document, along with all the forms and information you need are posted on the website: www.orangecountyusta.com on the OC Jr. Team Tennis page.

Divisions

Our Goal is to have flights where teams typically play each other in a round robin for 7 – 10 matches. Teams will have byes during the season. Let your parents know this so they expect it.

Registration

Players must be registered before they play their first match. Coaches, make sure you monitor your rosters to make sure your players are getting registered. A player who plays a match without being registered risks being defaulted.

Do not Miss Deadlines to get Teams Online with a Minimum of 6 Players Registered

Follow dates posted on the website on the [Master Schedule and Deadline Date Page](#). When you put your teams online, name them with this information *in the following order*:

- Age level:
 - 10s, 12s, 14s, 18s (age up dates are strictly enforced)

- Ability Levels:
 - Section Championship Levels
 - Gold (3.5 and above)
 - Silver (3.4 and below)
 - Bronze (2.9 and below)
 - OB I – Strong Orange Ball kids who can play a match without help (essentially, those who could play an Orange Ball Tournament).
 - OC Local League Championship Levels
 - A (2.7 and below)
 - B (2.5 and below)
 - C (2.2 and below)
 - D (1.9 and below)

- OB II – Players who have played at least a season of OB II or OB III. OB II and OB III teams may be combined in the same flight.
 - OB III – Players who *NEVER* played OB before. This is their first season. OB II and OB III teams may be combined in the same flight.
- Make sure you don't add players above the rating band or allow self-rated players whose ratings are above the rating level of your team. This can result in your entire team being DQ'd from moving forward to the next level.
- Team Name: (Optional) If you want to list the site where you give your lessons and it's different than where you play your matches, list it here.
- Facility Name: Spell out except for things like TC (Tennis Center) – Do make sure to include HS in your name if you play your matches at a high school site.
- Your Name: Either your first or last, as long as it's not a common name.

Here are some examples of what a team name should look like:

14s Silver BBP – Woodbridge HS – Milado

12s D Costa Mesa TC – Eduardo

18s Gold The Edge – The Tennis Club - Whit

Determining what level your team should play – For Section Championships, ***it is the coach's responsibility to verify the eligibility of each player.*** Teams who play an illegal player during the season may be disqualified from advancing.

- ***If you have a mix of players, some at a higher level and others at the next level lower, you would need to enter the entire team in the higher.***

ONLINE Facility Form

This must be filled out for each site. List any dates your site can't host matches. On the Comments questions let me know anything about your site I need to know for scheduling—for example that you don't have lights. Each site will need to host at least half the total number of teams at their site and we round up. A site with 13 teams would need to host at least 7 each Saturday. If a site has multiple blackout dates, it may need to host more than half.

ONLINE Team Information Form

List your teams on here if you have any dates when they need a team bye. Team Byes are the responsibility of the coaches to arrange with each other, but all dates your team needs off during the season must be listed on this sheet by the deadline date. Team Bye Requests should NOT BE EXCESSIVE. You should roster enough players so your team is available each Saturday, with the exception of one or two days during the season. If your team has less availability, then your team will need to be prepared to play back-to-back Saturday matches and/or reschedules on Sunday. Please be mindful of which team is causing the reschedule when confirming any rescheduling.

Scheduling

Schedules are always out the Sunday night before the league begins. This is a multi-step process. When the schedules first come out, they will be very tentative—bare bones with many mistakes that we will need to correct together. All the times will say 8:00 pm. Coaches will use those first schedules to arrange their first week's matches with each other and then let me know what issues still exist in their schedule and at their facility. Once that step is complete, you will all be sent the entire league in a Google Doc, sorted according to your facility and you will use that to assign your times. If time and manpower permits, we'll work on changing them in Tennislink so that the schedule shows the correct time. The only way this works is if everyone works diligently to meet all the deadline, especially the early ones. The most important deadline is having the teams online and in their correct flights. Every time I need to move a team after the deadline, it creates substantial delay and negatively impacts the quality of the schedules.

Refunds

Refunds may be requested up until the last day to add players using the refund form. The form must be completed and sent in by the deadline date.

General League Format

Each match consists of 2 rounds - Players may play in both rounds

One round is 6 Singles - The other round is 3 Doubles – Hosting Coach decides which round plays first. No-Add Scoring – if time allows, and both coaches agree, regular scoring may be used

18 & Under Formats

Match Format is 8-Game Pro Set. Tie Break at 7 – 7.

14s Gold & Silver

8-Game Pro Set with a Tie Break at 7-7

14s All Other Levels

6-Game Pro Set with a Tie Break at 5-5.

10s & 12s

Match Format is a 6-Game Pro Set with a Tie Break at 5 – 5.

Orange Ball – Must modify court to official 60' OB Court with either tape or drop-down lines

First to 4 games. 4 Singles + 2 Doubles (Can be run on two courts)

Orange Ball teams require extra helpers – contact your local high schools to see if those players will volunteer to help your team.

OB II & III – We strongly suggest one helper per court

OB I – We strongly suggest one helper per 2 courts

- Spring season will be girls-only teams. We will run a separate flight for teams that have any boys on them.
- Fall Season will be boys-only teams. If we have enough mixed-gender teams, we will run a separate flight for them.
- Summer Season – National qualifying for 14s & 18s Advanced and Intermediate teams. These teams must have a minimum of 3 boys and 3 girls on each team. If we have enough interest, we will also run genderless flights for 10s, 12s, 14s & 18s that don't feed into the Nationals.

Players must play in order of strength. All players who show up are expected to play. (Hosting coach needs to make sure this happens if the visiting coach is not present, so they may need to change a pre-designated lineup.)

Players Playing on Two Teams

Players may play on two teams as long as the teams are in different divisions, but players may only play up one level. (A 12s B player may not also play on a BRONZE team, but a 12s A player COULD also play on a 12s or 14s Bronze team) ***If both teams qualify for Sectionals, the player *must choose* for which team they will play, even if it disqualifies the other team due to not enough players. We may allow exceptions, but they must be authorized and documented before they are added to a team.

League Fee -\$23.50

Coach's/Captain's Responsibilities

- Hold a Pre-Season Meeting where you discuss the Rules and Objectives of your team(s) with parents and players
- Host your home matches. Make sure everyone is comfortable and well informed.
- Coaching - Each team may designate one adult per team to be the “coach”. That is the only person who may coach and/or talk to the players during their matches, and only on changeovers. This person must have completed Safe Play. **PLEASE educate your parents on this as well as proper spectator behavior. Guidelines for Player, Parent, and Spectator behavior is posted on the website- www.orangecountyusta.com Please encourage them to read it. Make sure they know they should cheer for all players and all good points and not when a player makes an unforced error.** (Coaches must read and sign Coach's Agreement.)
- Coaching on changeovers only
- Provide 6 new cans of balls for each match. Balls may be reused for 2nd round.
- Address Parents and Players before each match regarding logistics, good sportsmanship, and acceptable/appropriate spectator behavior.
- Hosting coach should gently educate parents and spectators throughout the day about not clapping for double-faults, cheering for good points on both sides, and never talking to or encouraging their players otherwise.
- Ensure the day is positive, irrespective of winning or losing that day for all in attendance.
- Congratulate the players from both teams after the match
- Verify scores with opposing coach/captain.
- Enter scores after the match that same day – BOTH teams enter scores. Retain score cards for each match.
- Do not get into arguments with the opposing coach or parents. If you have a disagree with something, either pull the other coach aside—outside of the earshot of any parents or players—or make a note to talk to them at a different time about any issue you are having. Manage expectations of everyone at your site and make sure issues do not escalate.

Away Matches

- Confirm with your players/parents who will be attending each week.
- Confirm your match each **Monday** with your Opponent.

- If not done on Monday, notify your opponent no later than Thursday evening how many players you will be sending
- If you do not attend, send a designated coach with a scorecard filled out with the lineup. Make sure they record all the scores and return the scorecard to you. If you are sending a parent with a lineup, make sure you educate them as to the policies of the league.

Scorecards & Reporting Scores

- Both coaches are to report scores, and it does not matter who goes first.
- For away matches, make sure the person in charge of your team understands that they must get you a completed scorecard after the match.
- Both coaches must verify the correctness of the scores on the match day. Discrepancies are too difficult to resolve disputed scores after-the-fact. Both sides must verify that scores are correct. Coaches, please tell your players that both teams need to report and make sure the recorded scores are correct.
- Print from the Tennis Link Site. If you use your specific match number, it will print all your, and your opponent's registered players at the bottom of the sheet. Do not play any player who is not registered.
- Record scores same day if possible – no later than Sunday night.
- All scores must be reported no later than the deadline set for reporting final scores. Standings determining advancement will be the standings on that day. Even if a team moves up in the ranks by reporting a score that was legitimately played, but reported after the deadline, it will not count for purposes of advancement.

If a team's matches have been played and remain unreported for two weeks, they may not be allowed to progress. Again, do not rely on the home team to report. **BOTH** coaches are required to report.

Individual Defaults

- **Minimize these by enlisting a team parent to coordinate your players' abilities. Roster enough players so you never have to default a line.**

If you are short a player, you will end up defaulting one match in both rounds. If you are short two players, you will default 2 matches in the singles round and one match in the doubles. Defaults are scored 6-0 or 8-0 for the team receiving the default. The team receiving the default must enter a name in the computer, but the team defaulting doesn't.

Full-Team Defaults

Full-Team Defaults are generally not allowed in the league. Do not enter them. If a match cannot be played, the FT Default will need to be authorized by the ALC, and the same FT Default will be given to all teams in contention (manually), so no team benefits from defaults of this nature.

Not having your strongest players available is not a reason to request a reschedule. Play what lines you can that day and makeup the rest.

The date needs to be set right away. Do not wait until the end of the season to see if it matters. Mutually agree upon a new day/time within one 5 days of the original day of the match. AFTER confirming the new day with your opponent, list is on the Schedule Change Spreadsheet, listed on the Rules, Forms and Information page of the website: www.orangecountyusta.com

ALLSTARING

No All-Star Teams allowed

Post Season Events – Make sure you parents know the deadlines far in advance so you don't come up short players after doing well in your season. These dates are listed on the Master Schedule and Deadlines Dates page of the website: www.orangecountyusta.com

Flights Competing to participate in our Spring Section Championships

10s, 12s, 14s, 18s – GOLD, SILVER, BRONZE + OB I

When a level is divided into more than one flight, those will be designated by I and II and/or III and are typically geographical designations. At the end of the season, the top teams from these flights will need to playoff against each other to determine who advances.

Flights Competing to participate in our OC Local League Playoffs

Levels A, B, C, D, 18s MXD HL, 18s MXD LL, OB II & OB III (Levels may be combined)

We typically take the top 4 teams at each level. When a level is divided into multiple flights, fewer teams from each flight will progress.