



Spring 2018 Section Rules, Regulations & Guidelines

All Local Leagues must adhere to the following:

Our Spring 2018 program will be using the USTA Junior Ratings to place players on teams. 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/junior_ratings/

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

https://netgeneration.usta.com/content/dam/netgen/faq/Registration_PMC_Guide.pdf



Junior Team Tennis Spring 2018 season

<u>Registration opens</u>	January 15, 2018	
<u>Pre-season meetings</u>	Jan. 24 to Feb. 16, 2018	
<u>Deadline to create teams</u>	Refer to your local area's timeline	
<u>League play begins</u>	Feb. 24 to Mar. 18 (no later than)	
<u>Last day to register players</u>	April 27, 2018	
▫ <u>Season end date</u>	May 13, 2018	
*▫ <u>Area playoffs for Section Champs</u>	May 19 & 20, 2018	
* If needed		
<u>Deadline to register for Section Champs</u>	Wed. May 23, 2018	
<u>Section Championships</u>	June 2 & 3, 2018	Site TBD

▫ 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 May 20, 2018!

**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 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 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/junior_ratings/ or <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 a 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 and/or Advanced flight in this age group.

In combined flights in local area leagues, a team’s playing level designation must be declared at the start of the local league season.

Age & Gender Categories:

10 & Under	Players must not age up on or before: May 15 th Teams are Gender Neutral (a combination of Boys and Girls on a team.)
12 and 14 & Under	Players must not age up on or before: May 15 th Teams are Gender Neutral (a combination of Boys and Girls on a team) 14 & Under Summer – Co-ed teams only (minimum 3 boys and 3 girls - for National Championships consideration only)
18 & Under	Players must not age up on or before: May 15 th Spring season – Girls only (due to CIF regulations) Fall season – Boys only (due to CIF regulations) 18 & Under Summer – Co-ed teams only (minimum 3 boys and 3 girls - for National Championships consideration only)

TennisLink checks age verification for our program. 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 is required in our National 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.

Many local programs charge a fee to be involved in their JTT program, and this fee varies. This fee is outside the section fee that all players pay in order to play in our JTT program.

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 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)
- 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

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 a compass draw or single elimination format.) The goal at the Section Championships is for all teams to play a minimum of 3 to a maximum 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 into the Section Championships.
- Wildcards will be granted (when spots at the event are available.) Each area submits a wildcard request (through the Area League Coordinator) to the Manager of JTT, and these are usually given to areas with the most teams from their local leagues in that particular flight.

Uniforms

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

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 Program Coordinator is final.

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!



<https://netgeneration.usta.com/>