



Greater Fort Worth Tennis Coalition

Junior Team Tennis (JTT) Rules and Regulations

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I. GENERAL

A. All players must have some prior knowledge of the rules, scoring and techniques of tennis.

B. All teams must have at least one adult Team Captain/Team Manager except for 18U who must have an adult supervisor if they choose to self captain. The Team Captain must pass the USTA Safe Play Background check and be listed on Tennis Link as the Team Captain. If there is also a co-captain, they will have their name and cell phone number listed on the season contact sheet. There may also be a Team Manager for an organization that helps organize the teams representing that organization, but is not mandatory.

C. The Team Captain/Team Manager (whichever makes decisions on behalf of team(s)) is responsible for:

a. Communicating and filtering information from the JTT league to parents and players.

b. Determining the eligibility of the players.

c. The make-up and placement of players and teams according to Greater Fort Worth Tennis Coalition (GFWTC) Junior Team Tennis (JTT) rules, and for submitting team rosters and dues through Tennis Link or giving team members the team number to register on Tennis Link. No refunds will be made after registration is submitted, unless the entire division does not make. Addition of players to existing rosters may be made through Tennis Link prior to designated time specified for that season.

D. Monitoring that players (and players parents) under his/her jurisdiction are in compliance with the league rules at all times.

E. Report any exceptions to GFWTC JTT.

F. Must be present, to oversee the matches, ensure that players observe all rules, and see that there is no outside interference in matches.

II. ORGANIZATION

A. All teams must meet minimum player requirements as follows:

1. JTT Sectional Track teams 4 players – 2 boys & 2 girls
2. Local Team Challenges may have teams or may register individually

B. Teams (12U 2.5 NTRP & Above through 18U 3.5 NTRP & Above) must have a minimum of 2 boys/2 girls on their roster. Players must play a minimum of 2 (two) separate regular season matches to be eligible for sectional play. Defaults are not counted as a match towards sectional eligibility.

C. Local Team Challenges – No advancement to sectional championships. This group includes all 10U Orange Ball & Red Ball play as well as 12U Beginner Green Ball. 10U will include players 8-10. These divisions will have play opportunity in Team Challenges scheduled separately from sectional JTT matches.

D. Sectional JTT – Division winners will have the opportunity to advance to a Sectional Championship to compete against other areas in the USTA Texas Section. 10U Green Ball (intermediate/advanced) through 18U Advanced all play in this group; unless the GFWTC JTT area coordinator makes an exception.

E. The number of team matches is dependent on the number of teams in the Division. Divisions containing 6 or more teams may be divided into flights.

III. SUBSTITUTES

A. Substitute players may be used (prior to start of a match) in the event of illness or injury

B. A substitute should be no stronger than the player for whom he or she is substituting.

C. Any substitute of a player not registered on said team, within 24 hours of match completion, will result in an automatic default of that line

IV. FORMAT & SCORING

The guidelines below are for sectional advancing JTT teams. Beginner teams such as Orange ball, Red ball and 12u Green Ball will use the Team Challenges to play their matches outside of the JTT advancing teams.

A. **10U Green Ball** is an advancing division for JTT. Teams will play on 78' court, use "Green" balls, and have no racket restrictions. Teams can be gender neutral. Each team match consists of 4 singles (in order of strength) and 2 doubles (in order of strength) Players may play a maximum of one singles match, and one doubles match per dual team match. If a team has only 3 players, it must default line 4 singles and line 2 doubles. If a team has only 2 players, it must default line 3 & 4 singles and line 2 doubles. Match play is 1 (ONE) 6 game pro set with a 7-point tie breaker at 5-

B. **12U Beginner and Intermediate Yellow Ball** teams can be gender neutral. Each team match consists of 4 singles (in order of strength) and 2 doubles (in order of strength) Players may play a maximum of one singles match, and one doubles match per dual team match. If a team has only 3 players, it must default line 4 singles and line 2 doubles. If a team has only 2 players, it must default line 3 & 4 singles and line 2 doubles. Match play is 1 (ONE) 6 game pro set with a 7-point tie breaker at 5-5.

C. **12U Advanced Yellow Ball** JTT each team match consists of 2 sets of boys' singles, 2 sets of girls' singles, 1 set of boys' doubles, 1 set of girls' doubles. Players may play a maximum of one singles match, and one doubles match per dual team match. If a team has only 3 players, it must default line 2 singles and the line of doubles in that gender. Match play is 1 (ONE) 6 game pro set with a 7-point tie breaker at 5-5.

D. **14U Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced Yellow Ball** JTT each team match consists of 2 sets of boys' singles, 2 sets of girls' singles, 1 set of boys' doubles, 1 set of girls' doubles. Players may play a maximum of one singles match, and one doubles match per dual team match. If a team has only 3 players, it must default line 2 singles and the line of doubles in that gender. Match play is 1 (ONE) 6 game pro set with a 7-point tie breaker at 5-5.

E. **18U Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced Yellow Ball** JTT each team match consists of 2 sets of boys' singles, 2 sets of girls' singles, 1 set of boys' doubles, 1 set of girls' doubles. Players may play a maximum of one singles match, and one doubles match per dual team match. If a team has only 3 players, it must default line 2 singles and the line of doubles in that gender. Match play is 1 (ONE) 6 game pro set with a 7-point tie breaker at 5-5.

V. ELIGIBILITY & DESCRIPTIONS OF PLAYER DIVISIONS

A. Players cannot have a NTRP rating higher than the team tennis level at which they are playing, at time of player registration.

B. Player NTRP rating at time of registration is the rating the player may play for the season through the Sectional Championship.

C. Age Eligibility – 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 USTA Texas Sectional Junior Team Tennis.

12 & Under

1. NTRP 1.9 and below - Beginners – this division is for players with little or no tournament experience. This division is offered in both Yellow & Green ball. These players must be able to serve and keep score by the beginning of the registered season.

2. NTRP 2.4 and below - Intermediate – this level is for players participating in local and Challenger tournaments.

3. NTRP 2.5 and above - Advanced - this level is for players qualified to play in Champ and Super Champ level tournaments.

14 & Under

1. NTRP 2.4 and below- Beginners – this level is for beginning players with little or no tournament experience. These players must be able to serve and keep score by the beginning of the registered season.

2. NTRP 3.4 and below- Intermediate – this level is for players participating in local and Challenger tournaments.

3. NTRP 3.5 and above- Advanced – this level is for players qualified to play in Champ and Super Champ level tournaments.

18 & Under

1. NTRP 3.4 and below -Intermediate – this level is for players participating in local and Challenger tournaments.

2. NTRP 3.5 and above- Advanced – this level is for players qualified to play in Champ and Super Champ level tournaments.

VI. TEAM DEFAULT/DEFAULTS/INJURIES

A. A Team Default occurs when a team shows up with less than 50% of the players needed to complete a team match. If a team receives 2 (TWO) Team Defaults they will be removed from the league standings and will not be allowed to participate in JTT Sectionals.

B. A Default occurs when a player is scheduled to play and is unable to find a sub; thus, having to forfeit.

a. If a player Defaults 2 (two) times during a season, regardless of reason, the player will not be eligible to play for the remainder of the season. These Defaults do not have to be consecutive.

b. Defaults are a form of questionable sportsmanship.

c. A Default will be scored as 6-0.

C. A Withdraw occurs if a player is unable to finish a match that has been started, because of illness or injury. a. If a player is injured or becomes ill, the player may request a 5-minute time out from the Team Captain. At the end of 5 minutes, play must resume. b. If player cannot resume play, then the match is declared completed and both players will keep any earned games in the match.

VII. INTERFERENCE

A. Teammates, spectators, or parents may not volunteer assistance with line calls, scoring or coaching.

B. ONLY Team Captains/Team Managers or GFWTC JTT Area Coordinators, may speak to players on the court, should an issue arise.

C. If a player needs assistance, he/she is to place his/her racquet down to signal to the sideline to get a Team Captain/Team Manager.

D. Only the Team Captain/Team Manager is allowed to coach players during a match. Should parental interference continue to occur, the JTT Grievance Committee may take action.

VIII. RESCHEDULED MATCHES/WEATHER

- A. The Team Captains/Team Managers will be responsible for determining delays, postponements, and cancellations due to weather issues.
- B. The Team Captains/Team Managers will be responsible for the rescheduling of the match.
- C. If a match has begun and becomes delayed due to weather, the teams must wait 1 hour for courts to become playable. If the courts do not become playable, the remainder of the match will be rescheduled.
- D. The rescheduled match will be played within 14 days from original scheduled date. If the rescheduled match is rained out, the process continues. Exception: If the last match of the season must be rescheduled, it must be played within 7 days from the original scheduled date or by end of season date as set by Texas Section. All matches must be played by the season deadline in order for winning teams to be able to advance to sectionals.
- E. Extreme Weather Conditions: The following weather conditions may subject a match to be rescheduled:
1. If the actual temperature is 40 degrees or below OR the wind chill factor is 32 degrees or below.
 2. The actual temperature is 105 degrees or higher.
 3. If sustained winds are 30 mph or higher.
 4. No match may be cancelled before 12 hours to match time.

IX. SPORTSMANSHIP

- A. Ethical and sportsmanlike conduct is expected of all players and Team Captains/Team Managers. The use of profanity, obscene gestures, slamming balls, throwing a racquet purposely, and habitual bad line calls WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.
- B. The offending player's Team Captain/Team Manger should immediately issue a warning to the player. If the player's Team Captain/Team Manager refuses to give the warning, then the opposing Team Captain/Team Manager may request the GFWTC JTT Area Coordinator to intervene. The GFWTC JTT Area Coordinator has the final say in any dispute.
- C. If a player is warned with a 2nd violation during the same match, the GFWTC JTT Area Coordinator will notify the GFWTC JTT Committee.
- D. The GFWTC Committee will review both violations and determine if the player will be ineligible to play the remainder of the season, as well as any post-season Sectional play. Any special cases will be reviewed and ruled upon by the GFWTC JTT Committee.

X. PROTESTS/GRIEVANCES

- A. Problems arising at a match are to be resolved by the Team Captains/Team Managers. If a problem arises that cannot be resolved by the Team Captains/Team Managers, either may file a protest after the match.
- B. The Team Captain/Team Manager must notify the opposing Team Captain/Team Manager and the GFWTC JTT Area Coordinator as soon as possible that they are filing a grievance.
- C. All protests/grievances must be submitted in writing to the GFWTC JTT Area Coordinator within 4 days of the match protested. The GFWTC JTT Area Coordinator will notify and copy the GFWTC Executive Director and appropriate GFWTC Board Members who will then form a Grievance Committee.
- D. The Grievance Committee will review both sides and decide on appropriate action. Grievance Committee rulings are final.
- E. The GFWTC JTT Area Coordinator will not take part in any Grievance ruling.

XI. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Violation of any GFWTC JTT rule/guideline will result in a violation toward the team that the violator represents and/or is affiliated with; this includes Team Captains, Team Co-Captains, Team Managers, players, and/or family members.

1. First violation will result in a team warning to the involved Team Captains, Team Co-Captains, Team Managers, players and/or family members. GFWTC JTT Committee members and the USTA Texas Section will be informed of the violation and the warning via email.

2. Second violation will result in team disqualification from any/all post season Sectional play. GFWTC JTT Committee members and the USTA Texas Section will be informed of the violation and the warning via email.

3. Third violation will result in the entire team expulsion from the JTT league and all remaining matches will be recorded as defaults. GFWTC JTT Committee members and the USTA Texas Section will be informed of the violation and the expulsion via email.

