

TEAM FORMATION

USTA Jr. Team Tennis is based on skill level first. Once players are broken off into their skill levels, players are again sub-divided into the proper age division. Intermediate and Advanced divisions require at least 6 players. We suggest teams have 8-10 players.

The four skill levels are divided into Ralleyball, Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced, as described in the following:

DIVISION:	AGES:	PLAYING ABILITY	Team Formation
Ralleyball	All ages!	NOVICE - little or no prior tennis experience. Players can be total beginners with no playing experience or kids that are not yet playing matches. They will learn the basics while playing against other teams using modified equipment and scoring.	
Novice		Unlike Ralleyball, the novice division uses traditional scoring and match play	
Intermediate	8 – 18	INTERMEDIATE – some tennis experience. NEW: Look at the FEBRUARY 2008 seeding list (see below if you don't know how to find that). Players in the 10's must be listed as 51 or below, 12's they must be 201 or below, 14's 16's and 18's must be 251 and below.	In the following age divisions: 12 & Under 14 & Under 18 & Under
Teams can be made up of any gender, must play in order of strength. To qualify for NATIONALS, teams must be coed and have at least 3 girls and 3 boys.		Players in this ability level have an NTRP rating of 3.0 or below.	
Advanced (OPEN)	8 – 18	ADVANCED – prior tournament experience. This division is <u>open to all players</u> . We are using the FEBRUARY 2008 SEEDING LISTS. The top 50 in the 10's, top 200 in the 12's, top 250 in the 14's, 16's and 18's- MUST PLAY IN THE ADVANCED DIVISION.	In the following age divisions: 12 & Under 14 & Under 18 & Under
Teams are coed and must have at least 3 girls and 3 boys.		Players in this ability level have a JNTRP rating of 3.5 or above.	

***** When checking a player's ranking, use the FEBRUARY 2008 SEEDING LIST. We are looking at ELIGIBLE players only! The top 50 in the 10's, top 200 in the 12's, top 250 in the 14's, 16's and 18's- MUST PLAY IN THE ADVANCED DIVISION- regardless of the age division they choose to play in.**

***** To view the FEBRUARY 2008 seeding list, please go to: www.scta.usta.com, click on Jr. Team Tennis, Rules & Regulations, February 2008 Seeding Lists. If you have trouble finding the information, contact your Area League Commissioner or the SCTA office (310) 208-3838.**

NATIONAL AGE ELIGIBILITY RULES

SECTION AGE ELIGIBILITY RULES

12 & Under- must not turn 13 before August 31, 2008

12 & Under- must not turn 13 before June 30, 2008

14 & Under- must not turn 15 before August 31, 2008

14 & Under- must not turn 15 before June 30, 2008

18 & Under- must not turn 19 before August 31, 2008

18 & Under- must not turn 19 before June 30, 2008

The National Age Eligibility Rules only apply to the 14 & Under teams that will be advancing past their local league. August 31 is the date that the USTA has set for the entire country, and any player advancing to Nationals must not age up before that date!

USTA MEMBERSHIP AND LEAGUE FEES

USTA Fees: USTA Membership is **required** for all Intermediate and Advanced leagues. For more information on USTA membership call 1-800-990-USTA or check the web at www.usta.com.

SCTA League Fees: There are league fees that will be applied to cover league awards, championships, coordinator fees, etc. However, coaches and parents may have the discretion of setting up their own fees, in order to cover other expenses incurred. For example, tennis balls, court rental, prizes, group lessons, team parties, etc. are some possible expenses that may be incurred. There is also a \$3 TennisLink fee for the online processing.

JR. TEAM TENNIS ONLINE REGISTRATION

All Jr. Team Tennis participants **must** be registered using the online registration system. Each coach will have the option of entering all of their players onto the proper teams, or they may have their players register themselves online. Coaches and players will be able to view all of the team rosters in their area as well as match information including opponents, scores, etc. All personal information and credit card numbers will be encrypted and password protected for security and privacy reasons.

**www.usta.com (select Team Tennis in the Tennis Link menu)
or
teamtennis.usta.com**

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL COORDINATOR FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

LENGTH OF SEASON

The length of the season is left to the discretion of the ALC. The number of weeks needed to complete a season will depend on the number of teams in the age group and individual skill levels. If you have only a couple of teams at a given level, the teams may have to play each other several times in a Round Robin format. Leagues that have a larger base of players, with several teams at a given level, could play a Single Round Robin or even a Double Round Robin. Leagues with two (2) teams must play each other twice with a home and away schedule. In case of a tie, the same two teams must play each other again with the site determined by a coin flip. In order to be in a league with less than 4 teams and still qualify for the Section Championships, please see the "Local League Rules" in your folder.

***** ALL LEAGUE PLAY MUST BE FINISHED BY MONDAY, JUNE 9th, 2008!*****

A great way to finish the season is to hold an end-of-season event with participation by everyone for recreational, low-key competition. This is a perfect time for the Commissioner to hand out the awards. Each local league can determine how to end their season.

EVENTS

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS

It is suggested by the Section that the winners of each of the divisions in your area be qualified to attend the Section Championships. If a division is large enough to accommodate two draws/schedules or a Commissioner decides a Local League Championship is necessary; the winners of that event would qualify for the Section Championships. If you have a team that does not fit into a division in your area, then they must play against teams in another area of the same age and ability level in order to possibly qualify for the Section Championships. Please ask your Commissioner for further explanation.

It is suggested that a league have at least 4 teams in a division. An area must have at least 2 teams in a division in order to send a team to Section Championships. An area may send 2 teams if they have 10 or more teams in a division, or 3 teams if they have 20 or more teams. An area may send a **MAXIMUM of 3 TEAMS** in a single division. If there are more than 30 teams, it is suggested that a local league playoff be held to determine the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams that will be invited to Sectionals.

SECTION CHAMPIONSHIPS

League winners will compete against other league winners to determine the Southern California Champions. The Section Championships will be held in the following divisions in the following formats (these formats are recommended for your league play):

- **12 & under Intermediate and Advanced**– No-ad 8 game pro-set (12 point tiebreak at 7 all)
- **14 & under Intermediate and Advanced**– No-ad 8 game pro-set (12 point tiebreak at 7 all)
- **18 & under Intermediate and Advanced**– No-ad best 2 out of three sets (12 point tie break at 5 all). A match tiebreak is played in lieu of a third set.

****Total games won** will be tallied throughout the entire event to determine the Section Champions in each division.

ADVANCED 12's and 14's - minimum of 3 boys and 3 girls
2 girls singles, 2 boys singles, and 1 mixed doubles

INTERMEDIATE 12's and 14's – minimum of 6 players, any gender. ***(MUST HAVE 3 girls, 3 boy in order to qualify for the National Championships)***
MUST PLAY IN ORDER OF STRENGTH
2 singles, 2 doubles

INTERMEDIATE & ADVANCED 18's – minimum of 6 players, single gender due to CIF rules.
Boys play in the fall and girls play in the spring.
2 singles and 2 doubles
format subject to change

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

- Must be on an official on-line team roster with match play history recorded on the online system.
- Must have participated in at least two matches that count to be eligible to compete in the playoffs. One on-site default may count as a match played. Players must be available to play when the default is called.
- Must be a league team member in good standing and meet USTA Jr. Team Tennis eligibility requirements.
- NO SUBS!

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The State Championship, known as the Gar Glenney Cup, is held annually at alternating sites in Northern and Southern California during the month of August. Who qualifies?

12 and under Advanced - Fall Section Champions will have a playoff with the spring Section Champions to determine who advances

14 and under Advanced - Fall Section Champions will have a playoff with the spring Section Champions to determine who advances

18 and under Advanced - Fall Section Champions (boys) will combine with the spring Section Champions (girls) to create one co-ed team

A team will qualify automatically if they win both the fall and spring Section Championships.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Each of the 17 sections will send 4 teams to represent their section at Nationals.

14 & Under Int & Adv will play Oct 23-26 in Mobile, Alabama

18 & Under Int & Adv will play Oct 27-30 in Mobile, Alabama

The teams representing Southern California will be:

*14 & Under Intermediate champions from the spring sectionals (must be coed)

*14 & Under Advanced champions from the spring sectionals

*18 & Under Intermediate champions from our new 18's intermediate coed sectionals

*18 & Under Advanced champions from our new 18's advanced coed sectionals

RULES AND REGULATIONS

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

**Initially, all players who are between the ages 6-18 are eligible to play USTA Jr. Team Tennis.

**Due to CIF (California Interscholastic Federation) regulations, players listed on a High School tennis team roster at the start of league play are *ineligible* to compete on any other tennis teams until the completion of the high school season. For more info please visit: <http://www.cifss.org>

**Players declared ineligible will lose all of their individual matches. The team playing that ineligible player will lose all matches after that player's position (example: if Team A's #2 player is declared ineligible, then team A would lose #2 singles, #3 singles, and #1 doubles)

SOUTHERN CAL SECTION RULES

Each area may adopt their own list of local league rules (in addition to the following) based on the needs of that area.

*****All players must be rostered on the on-line system before their first team match.***

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

*****Inappropriate behavior from parents, coaches, captains, or players will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to: cursing, threats, violence, etc. This is a NO TOLERANCE policy and violation may result in a ban from the league.***

*****The “Official Rules” of the USTA will govern all league play, with the exception of those rules adopted by the league.***

*****Players are to adhere to the SCTA Code of Ethics (refer to www.usta.com/rules).***

*****All matches must be completed by the end of season date set by the SCTA (Nov 18, 2007)***

*****Full Team Default Policy: if team “A” cancels the match, it becomes team “B’s” home match***

*****Players must play in order of strength throughout their local league season.***

*****Coaching during matches is allowed. One coach per team must be designated before the match to coach all of his/her players on changeovers only***

*****For areas with less than 4 teams in a division, Commissioners should refer to the “Local League Rules” in the binder for information on how one of your teams can be eligible for the Section Championship***

*****For any disputes, the League Commissioner must receive written protest no later than 48 hours after the match or incident.***

TENNIS BALLS AND EQUIPMENT

PENN is the OFFICIAL BALL and sponsor of Jr. Team Tennis. There is a special offer of \$2 per can- available to all Jr. Team Tennis coaches/captains. Additional equipment such as tennis racquets, transition balls, and prizes can also be purchased at discounted rates.

For more information please contact:

Carrie Cimino
ccimino@us.head.com
626.799.1644

T-SHIRTS

Local Coordinators can provide teams with order forms or you can call the vendor directly if you would like to order team shirts. The SCTA will provide t-shirts for all Sectional Championship and Gar Glenney Cup participants.

Maryland Screen Printers www.mdscreen.com/ustajrteamtennis.html has been selected as the Authorized Supplier of the assorted logo tees and national designs.

Maryland Screen Printers
1801 Portal Street
Baltimore, MD 21224
(800) 899-8337 x110

Another good resource for t-shirts with very reasonable pricing is:

Straight-Up Inc.
1190 Richards Road Suite #4
Hartland, WI 53029
(262) 367-9999
Ask for: Jim Kulas
e-mail jim@straightupinc.com
www.straightupinc.com

AWARDS

The Commissioner will let the league know how the "League Standings" system will work in their area prior to the season. The winning team in each division will receive 8 individual player awards and 1 team award. Individual player awards and a team award will also be presented to the league runner-up team if there are at least 4 teams in the league.

INSURANCE

GENERAL LIABILITY PROTECTION IS PROVIDED BY THE USTA TO ALL SANCTIONED JR. TEAM TENNIS LEAGUES AT NO COST.

CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE - Bodily Injury and Property Damage Liability protection with primary limits of \$1 million per occurrence is provided to Jr. Team Tennis for players, coaches, and administrators as part of the USTA's own General Liability Insurance Program. Certificates showing the basic limits of liability carried are available upon request.

The USTA, at this time, does not provide automobile insurance. It is suggested that individuals possess their own auto insurance or contract with a private company that specializes in transporting children/groups.

For more information, please contact your Area League Commissioner or the Southern California Tennis Association (310) 208-3838 www.scta.usta.com

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