

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. (Tennislink) – Local leagues may adopt a rule in addition to this rule.**

****Team Captains/Coaches are responsible for reading and knowing all rules and regulations regarding Jr. Team Tennis.**

****For all league matches, each team must be supervised by at least one adult. – No local league exception.**

****Inappropriate behavior from parents, coaches, captains, or players will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to: breaking rules, cursing, threats, violence etc. This is a NO TOLERANCE policy and violation may result in a ban from the league. – No local league exception – however, each league may administer it's own consequences.**

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

****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 (May 24, 2010).**

****Full Team Default Policy – this is strongly discouraged by the SCTA but each league may set their own policy in this regard.**

****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 consult the Section Office on how to qualify their teams for the Section Championships.**

****For any disputes, the League Commissioner must receive written protest no later than 48 hours after the match or incident. – NO LOCAL LEAGUE EXCEPTION. Local Leagues issues must be settled locally before they seek the help of the Section Office.**

****With regard to 18U Divisions, the policy of the section is that varsity players play in the advanced division; however specific player situations can be discussed with the Local League Commissioner and a waiver can be requested, but must be approved by the Section Coordinator prior to any matches played.**

****It is the Sections Policy that every effort should be made to advance the level of players from novice to intermediate, and then to advance and not to linger in the same ability level.**

****After a team has won the Section Championships or National Championships in the Satellite Division, the players must play in the “Advanced” division.**

****Players who were rostered on the Championship team and did not play in more than 20% of the matches and more than one (1) match of the Championships may petition for exemption – the petition will go through the Area League Commissioner first with final approval from the Section Coordinator. No matches maybe played until an exemption is granted.**

****Players declared ineligible will lose all of their individual matches only.**

****Match scores need to be entered in a timely manner and not at the end of the season! If you are having a problem entering scores please contact your Local League Commissioner or linkteam@usta.com.**

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 Quickstart, Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced, as described in the following:

| DIVISION: | AGES: | PLAYING ABILITY | Team Formation |
|--|------------------|--|--|
| Quickstart | 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 | | Players may not have any ranking! Unlike Quickstart, the novice division uses traditional scoring and match play | |
| Intermediate 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. | 8 – 18 | INTERMEDIATE – some tennis experience. NEW: Look at the January 29, 2010 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. Players in this ability level should have an JNTRP rating of 3.0 or below. | In the following age divisions: 10 & Under 12 & Under 14 & Under 18 & Under |
| Advanced (OPEN) Teams in the 12's and 14's are coed and must have at least 3 girls and 3 boys. The 18 & Under division is genderless. | 8 – 18 | ADVANCED – prior tournament experience. This division is <u>open to all players</u> . We are using the August 10, 2009 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. Players in this ability level should have a JNTRP rating of 3.5 or above. | In the following age divisions: 10 & Under 12 & Under 14 & Under 18 & Under |

***** When checking a player's ranking, use the January 29, 2010 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 January 29, 2010 seeding list, please go to: www.scta.usta.com, click on Jr. Team Tennis, Rules & Regulations, January 29, 2010 Seeding Lists. If you have trouble finding the information, contact your Area League Commissioner or the SCTA office (310) 208-3838.**

AGE ELIGIBILITY RULES

10 & Under Teams- must not turn 11 before August 31, 2010

12 & Under Teams- must not turn 13 before August 31, 2010

14 & Under Teams- must not turn 15 before August 31, 2010

18 & Under Teams- must not turn 19 before August 31, 2010

USTA MEMBERSHIP AND LEAGUE FEES

USTA Fees: USTA Membership is **required for all teams to participate in Junior Team Tennis.**
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, uniforms, championships, coordinator fees, etc. However, Area League Commissioners, 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 contact the Section Office and discuss with the Jr. Team Tennis Section Coordinator.

*****ALL LEAGUE PLAY MUST BE FINISHED BY MONDAY, MAY 24, 2010!*****

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.

PETITION FOR PLAYER EXEMPTION

Petitions for player exemptions must be presented to the Area League Commissioner with accompanying information such as league play history from Tennislink or any other extenuating circumstances. The Area League Commissioner must first approve the petition for exemption if the player is in line with local league rules and may then advance the petition to the Section Coordinator for final approval. If the Area League Commissioner denies the petition the player may request an appeal from the Section Coordinator. The player may not play a match until the petition is approved.

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 or consult the Section Office.

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 Section Champions. The Section Championships will be held in the following divisions in the following formats (these formats are recommended for your league play):

- **10 & under (Intermediate – modified ball)** - No-ad 6 game pro-set (12 point tiebreaker at 5 all)
- **10 & under (Intermediate – regular ball)** – No-ad 6 game pro-set (12 point tiebreak at 5 all)
- **12 & under Intermediate and Advanced**– No-ad 8 game pro-set (12 point tiebreak at 7 all)
 - New for Spring 2010 Intermediate division will be split into Satellite and Intermediate groupings
 - Please discuss with your local league Commissioner as to where your league/team is placed
- **14 & under Intermediate and Advanced**– No-ad 8 game pro-set (12 point tiebreak at 7 all)
 - New for Spring 2010 Intermediate division will be split into Satellite and Intermediate groupings
 - Please discuss with your local league Commissioner as to where your league/team is placed
- **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.

10's Division – minimum of 6 players, any gender.
2 singles, 2 doubles

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 in the 14's)*
MUST PLAY IN ORDER OF STRENGTH
2 singles, 2 doubles

INTERMEDIATE & ADVANCED 18's – minimum of 6 players, any gender.
Players on a high school team that will overlap with Jr. Team Tennis are not eligible due to CIF rules.
2 singles, 2 doubles
formats subject to change

SECTION CHAMPIONSHIPS ELIGIBILITY

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

- Players may only play for only one team during the Championships. Now that the championships are played on multiple weekends this rule still applies to only one team for the entire championships.
- Must be on an official on-line team roster with match play history recorded on the online system.
 - Local areas may petition for an exemption of this rule in these circumstances:
 - Not enough teams in their area so that they must play out of area – scores must then be mailed or faxed to the SCTA office with signatures of both coaches.
- 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.
- **Substitutions at the Section Championships**
 - Teams must drop below the minimum number of required players and maybe allowed only after approved by the Section Coordinator under these conditions:
 - Team drops below the minimum number of players required to compete at the Championships
 - Verified proof that a player is participating and remains in the draw of an SCTA Designated Tournament and the tournament conflicts with the USTA Jr. Team Tennis Section Championships.
 - A documented injury to the player.
 - Team Captains/Coaches must request approval from their Area League Commissioner
 - If the Commissioner approves then the ALC petitions the Section for final approval – Section may approve or Deny
 - If the substitution is approved the coach may chose a player who is comparable to the player they are substituting – this must also be approved by the ALC and the Section.
 - The player must also meet the eligibility requirements (2 matches) and must be from the same local league.
 - A \$30 fee will be assessed for this player to participate.
 - **Teams who have rostered players that do not meet eligibility (2 match minimum) requirement may NOT petition for substitution.**
 - **If player leaves the team before the end of the season the ALC must be notified in writing by the Section registration deadline which is April 30, 2010 then substitution will be permitted.**
 - All documentation for the player substitution including payment must be received by the Section Office the Wednesday prior to the event.

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.

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 combine with the Spring Section Champions to complete the player requirement needed for the Gar Glenney Cup Tournament.

14 and under Advanced - Fall Section Champions will combine with the Spring Section Champions to complete the player requirement needed for the Gar Glenney Cup Tournament.

18 and under Advanced - Fall Section Champions (boys) will combine with the spring Section Champions (girls) to create one co-ed team for the Gar Glenney Cup Tournament.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

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

14 & Under Int & Adv will play Oct 22-24 in Surprise, Arizona

18 & Under Int & Adv will play Oct 29-31 in Surprise, Arizona

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 and Advanced teams will qualify during the Summer League.

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

UNIFORMS & T-SHIRTS

All players that participate in USTA Junior Team Tennis are required to purchase the NIKE high performance Dri-Fit uniform that is required by the USTA. Each Local League Commissioner designates the use of the uniform during the local league season and can decide on the specific uniform for the entire local league.

All teams that advance to the Section Championships are required to look 'uniformed'. This does not necessarily mean that teams must wear the Nike Uniforms.

A 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 or visit www.scta.usta.com

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