



2011 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 Junior Team Tennis page.

Divisions

Our Goal is to have flights of either 5 - 6 teams who play each other twice for 8 or 10 matches or flights of 9 - 10 teams who play each other once for 8 -9 matches. Teams will have byes during the season. Let your parents know this so they expect it. We decided at our meeting that when we have a flight of 7 or 8 teams, which would only allow for 6 or 7 matches, I will try to schedule scrimmage matches during some of the bye weeks to give the team at least 8 matches. *We decided that if we end up with flights with only 6 or 7 matches in their first round, we wait until they finish their first round to determine whether we will add more matches that count.*

Registration

Players must be registered before they play their first match. If after the first match, a player is not registered, **coaches may enter the scores using an alternate name.** (No entering a default as we mentioned in the meeting. Use an alternate name instead so the scores will be correct if the player registers and we switch out the name. Send an e-mail to Heidi with the match number, and the player's name, and you must cc coach of the team missing the player. They will have until Friday evening, March 4th to get that player

registered. On March 5th I am going to go in and change all those matches so that they either reflect the correct name, or if the player is still not registered, I will change it to a default. After March 4th, any player who plays and is not registered will be defaulted. The only exceptions to this will be when a mistake has been identified.

Team Information Sheet

All teams must be on line by the date the team information sheet is due, which is by 5pm on the date on the sheet. If you don't have the minimum number of players registered you risk being pulled out of the league. The reason for this is that it has been too much of a bummer for other teams who show up with full teams to play those who only have 3 or 4 that day. You need to roster enough to field a full team each week. We recommend you roster 10 on each team.

On your team information sheet, you are asked to designate your team's ability within each ability level. This is very important so that we make sure the kids are playing matches at their same level. **When you put your teams online, make sure you indicate the ability, (I will remove it when I move them into that flight.)**

Please remember the following when you put designate your teams' abilities:

At our LOCAL LEVEL, the teams are put into flights according to strength. Since so few teams go to sectionals, we want to keep the focus on the quality of the local league, and by organizing it according to strength, we try to insure that most of the kids get good matches throughout the season. Please make sure you indicate your teams' correct ability levels. **If you have a mix of players, for example, some advanced and some satellite, you would need to enter the entire team in the advanced group.**

Refunds

If a child is registered and unable to play, you may request a refund up until the last day to add players which is April 18th. However, the deadline to pull your team out of the sheets are due, unless you get it ok'd ahead of time. Otherwise, if you pull out after that date, none of your players on that team will be issued refunds.

General League Format

Each match consists of 2 rounds

Players may play in both rounds

One round is: 6 Singles

One round is: 3 Doubles

No-Add Scoring - (if time allows, and both coaches agree, regular scoring may be used)

10 & Under Novice

The teams are for kids who are not playing matches on their own. They will probably be very young. This is an educational environment where players learn how to play matches using modified equipment. There will be a progression of levels, RED, ORANGE, & GREEN on the same team, and players will be encouraged to move through the levels during the season. Detailed information is provided in the form:
10 & Under Novice Tennis

10 & Under Intermediate

Match Format is a 6-Game Pro Set with a Tie Break at 5 - 5. The tie break is scored as one game, so the winning score would be 6 -5.

12s, 14s Novice and Intermediate and 12s Satellite Format

Match Format is a 6-Game Pro Set with a Tie Break at 5 - 5. The tie break is scored as one game, so the winning score would be 6 -5.

14s Satellite and 12s & 14s Advanced

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

One round is: 3 Boys Singles, 3 Girls Singles

One round is: 1 Boys Doubles, 1 Girls Doubles, 1 Mixed Doubles

Hosting captain/coach will decide which match is played first.

18 & Under Formats

Match Format is 8-Game Pro Set. Tie Break at 7 - 7. The tie break is scored as one game, so the winning score would be 8 -7

- Spring season will be girls-only teams. If a boy plays on a girl's team during the local league, that's ok, but the team won't be allowed to progress to Sectionals and will not win awards. We will have a flight of 18 & Under Genderless teams for boys who don't make their high school team and/or age up out of the 14s.
- Fall Season will be predominantly boys-only teams.
- Summer League will be Co-Ed teams with 3 boys singles, 3 girls singles, 1 Boys Doubles, 1 Girls Doubles and 1 Mixed Doubles

Players must play in order of strength. All players who show up must 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 who don't play each other during the Local League. This should be used in an emergency situation,

and you should continue to add players so you have two full teams without the duplicate player(s). Player must pay and register for both teams. ***If both teams qualify for Sectionals, the player must chose for which team they will play, even if it disqualifies the other team due to not enough players.

League Fee

\$32.50 - Includes Shirt, Local League - (Players playing on two teams will have the option to opt-out of purchasing a second shirt for the second team to which they register. If they select this option, the league fee for the second team will be \$19.50.

Scorecards

Print your scores cards on-line at the Tennis Link Site.

Use your specific match number, it will print all your, and your opponent's registered players at the bottom of the sheet.

Record scores right away. Both teams are to report scores. Either team may go first. Once scores are input, the other captain sees what the first captain put in and either confirms or disputes the scores. **Please report scores within 24 hours.** If you see a score in the computer you believe to be incorrect, **dispute the score and then contact the opponent.** If they entered the score, they will be able to correct it in the system. If you need to correct something you entered, then you will need to send me an e-mail with the match number and cc the opposing coach and I'll make the change.

Individual Defaults

We want to minimize defaults of course.

If you are unable to bring the minimum number required for a match, (4,) please call the opposing coach the night before the match.

Any player who shows up to a match needs to play at least one round.

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 two matches in the second.

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.

Defaults must always occur from the bottom up. i.e. If you are missing two girls, you default line 2 & 3 singles, and the girls doubles line. Even if it is your line 1 and 2 players who are missing, you move your line 3 player into line 1.

We want to avoid defaults. Please roster enough players on your teams so you have enough players. We recommend about 10. The number one complaint about the league is when parents and players set aside a Saturday to play their match, get there, and find out their opponent is a not show. Coaches... You **MUST** communicate with your players

about whether they are going to be at the match. The easiest way to ensure that you will have enough players is to put one of your team PARENTS in charge of this part of the organization. (I recommend you waive their player's fee, as it is quite a bit of work.) If you are someone I've received complaints about in the past, you will not be allowed to register teams this season unless you agree to have a parent run this part of your team and you provide me with their name and contact information on your team information sheet. If you are one of these coaches, I will contact you directly. You will need one parent for each team.

4/2 Rule-Only for 12s and 14s Advanced

If a team is short one member of either gender, they may play a player of the opposite gender, causing the team to have either 4 boys and 2 girls that day, or 4 girls and 2 boys. The side having 4, lines those players up in order of strength and then take the 4th player and move them to the opposite side and then line those three players in order of strength. Example: You have 4 boys and 2 girls for a match one day.... You would take the 4th boy in strength and move him to the girls side, and then line up those three players in order of strength. If he is stronger than both girls he would play line 1, if weaker, he would play line 3, etc.... 4/2 Scoring works like this: The team who plays against the 4th player, will get 8 games in the scoring regardless of the score. The 4th player will get to count up to 7 of the games they win for their team.

Full-Team Defaults

Full-Team Defaults are not allowed in the league. Never enter them into the system.

Not having your strongest players available is not a reason to request a reschedule. If a team absolutely can not make a match, with the minimum 4 players, they will have to reschedule with the other team. (If you have 4 players, PLAY THE MATCH.)

The date needs to be set right away, and not wait until the end of the season to see if it matters. E-mail the new rescheduled date to Heidi, cc your opponent, and the on-line schedule will be changed to reflect the new date.

The team who would have received the default now becomes the home team if they are able and want to host. The team who would have been the defaulting team may only be allowed to start out with the following penalty system: They play the rescheduled match with only 4 players. (This is up to the discretion of the coach who would have received the default. If they decide to play all the lines, that's fine of course.) If for some reason a full-team default is not made up, at the end of the season, each team in contention will be awarded the same default by the defaulting team. **This is what we want to avoid because it can change the standings after the season is over. Teams who chronically do not field full teams and/or do not complete all their matches are subject to being left out of the league.**

Schedules

Schedules will be posted on-line at www.usta.com under the Team Tennis part of Tennis Link the Sunday night before the league starts. Tell your parent/players that they need to expect to play the first match. Let all your parents and players know where they can find their team's schedules and results.

I will keep in mind the changing of the light as our season progresses. Some of the high school courts do not have lights. I'll do my best with the schedules. As JTT grows, we may need to move into earlier start times at some of the busier facilities.

ALLSTARING

We don't want ALLSTAR teams playing in our league. Please do not put together ALLSTAR teams

Parent Captains

If you use parent captains, please keep them well informed and give me their contact information as soon as you have it. I'd like to require one parent per team for most teams to handle the coordination of the players and communications with the opposing team's contact. We need to make sure there are fewer defaults this season, so the parent needs to get firm commitments from players/parents.

Parents and Coaches at Matches

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 change-overs.

PLEASE educate your parents on this as well as proper spectator behavior. The Code is posted on the website- www.orangecountyusta.com and included in your packet. 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.

Coaching which may only be done on changeovers, may not be obtrusive to other on-going matches. Coaches are allowed to enter the court to coach if it does not affect matches nearby. If two courts are accessed by the same entry, coaches should not cross the near court during a match to get to the far court in order to coach. Coaching should in those instances be done through the fence. Coaches must leave the court after coaching on the changeovers. No spectators are allowed on the court during play. No coaching is allowed when players switch sides during a tie-break. Coaches may never hold up play in order to be able to "get to their players" in order to coach them. The time limit of 90 seconds during a change-over may not be extended because it takes the

coach time to get to the players. Coaches may never yell across another court to communicate to their players.

Coaches need to control their home matches. Do not put parents in charge during a home match.

Deviations from the Rules

We sometimes allow deviations from the rules at the local league level, to get as many kids playing as possible. However, almost always, a team who is allowed to deviate from the rules will not be allowed to progress to Sectionals. They need to know that they will be playing for fun during the season.

Communications

I need at least one e-mail contact per team. Please communicate via e-mail when **Communications must be primarily through e-mail. If you have computer troubles during the season, you will need to get me someone else's e-mail who can receive and relay messages to you.**

Post-League Play

Most times, the winners of each flight will progress on to Sectionals. Where we have divisions split into ability levels of strong, medium, and/or weak, only teams from the strong flights will have a chance to progress to Sectionals. We hope to have another event for the rest of the group. I will keep you informed of this during the season.

Website

I have a website which I also use to post and communicate information to you. Here is the address: www.orangecountyusta.com All the rules and forms are posted on this website. If any of you would like me to post a flyer of yours to advertise your program, I would be happy to do that. The majority of visitors to the site are people who do a search through Google, probably looking for tennis in Orange County. I also have directions to most of the tennis sites in Orange County. If you click on 'Directions' it will give you a list. Please check out to see if your site is listed there. If not, let me know and I will add it. I look forward to working with all of you this season.

Here is my information:

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Orange County Junior Team Tennis Coordinator

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