



## 2010 USTA Junior Team Tennis Orange County ~ Local League Rules

### General Information

This document, along with all the forms and information you need are posted on the website: [www.orangecountyusta.com](http://www.orangecountyusta.com) on the Junior Team Tennis page.

### Divisions

Ideally, flights will have 8 - 10 teams and play 7 -9 matches. Teams will have byes during the season. Let your parents know this so they expect it.

### Registration

Players must be registered before they play their first match. If they are not, they are subject to potential default of their played match. **COACHES... DO NOT LET THIS HAPPEN TO YOUR PLAYERS!** Contact me if you are having registration issues. If a team does not have at least 6 players registered 7 days before the league starts, they may be dropped from the schedule. If a player is having so much trouble registering and you want them on your team, you should register them yourselves and as the parent to reimburse you. Coches.... If you play a match and the opponent is not registered, please contact me right away and let me know the match number, flight and players name. Please cc the other coach on the e-mail to me as well. I will find out why the player is not registered and get back to you. Do not enter a default unless I instruct you to do so.

## 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. **Designate as follows on both your team information sheet and when you name your team online.**

**Sectionals will be hosted for the following levels:**

### **ADVANCED**

**(12s, 14s, 18s)**

- Open players
- Anyone with a rating as indicated on the designated seeding lists
- Anyone who has been on a winning team at Sectionals at the Satellite or Intermediate Levels in the past

### **SATELLITE**

**(12s, 14s, 18s)**

- Strong Intermediate Players or are still OK to play at the Intermediate Level
  - Anyone who has been to Sectionals before at the Intermediate level
- Players who won at least 50% of their matches at any of the intermediate levels last season

### **INTERMEDIATE**

**(10s, 12s, 14s)**

- Medium to Weaker Intermediate Players
- Players who did not win at least 50% of their matches at the Intermediate level the previous season

**The following additional Levels will be offered at the Local League Level in Orange County and we will host an end-of-season tournament for this group:**

### **NOVICE**

**(10s, 12s, 14s)**

- Players who can play matches completely by themselves
- This level player would probably not do well in a Satellite tournament

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 four weeks after the season starts. However, the deadline to pull your team out of the league if you are not going to be able to field a full one is the day the team information 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.

### **Super Novice**

No minimum numbers or age limits. Super Novice is for all kids who are just new to tennis. They typically don't play games on their own without help or are just starting to. They don't have to be able to serve. All Super Novice teams go to the same site each week, and the coach typically does drill with the entire group to gauge the ability levels present. Then they gear the day according to who they have present. Some kids will be sent out to play a set, some a short 3-game set, and some will play various games on court.

### **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)

### **8s, 10s, 12s, 14s Novice and Intermediate 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.

## **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.

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.)

## **18 & Under Advanced and Satellite 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 Boys teams for boys who don't make their high school team. If other areas have these teams then the winner may get to go to Sectionals.
- 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 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**

\$30 - Includes Shirt, Local League Awards

## **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, **e-mail me the match number** and what you think the score/player should be, and make sure to cc the coach/captain of your opponent. **If you ever need to make a change in a scorecard you've entered, make sure you e-mail me the name of the flight, the player'(s)' name(s) and all information that needs to be correct AND MAKE SURE TO CC THE COACH OF THE OPPOSING TEAM FOR THAT MATCH.**

### **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 must default line 2 & 3 singles, and the girls doubles line. Even if it is your line 1 and 2 playerS who are missing, you must 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.**

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. The team who would have been the defaulting team may only be allowed to start out with the following penalty system: In the bottom two singles lines, and the bottom doubles line, the team who is causing the reschedule, would only be allowed to win up to 5 games. Their opponent will automatically be awarded 6 games, regardless of their game score. 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

See handout

Schedules will be posted on-line at [www.usta.com](http://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.

## Age Eligibility

Spring Season: Players must remain in their age category through **August 31, 2010** this Spring Season. Make sure you check all your players' birthdays. If a 14 & under player turns 15 on or before 8/31/2010, they may not play in the 14 & under division at all. They must play 18 & under.

## **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](http://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.**

## 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

Teams who win their flights will move on to the next level of competition. If we have more than one flight at a given level, we will host Local League Playoffs to determine which teams go to Sectionals. If we ever need to determine a team to progress without playoffs, and there are more than one flight, then the best overall percentage of game wins will be used which is determined by total games won divided by total games scheduled. (If you don't finish all your matches, your percentage rate will be lower than teams who do finish.) If it is determined that a team was unable to finish their matches due to the uncooperativeness of their opponent, then that team's matches may be negated from the schedule for the purpose of determining the winning team's overall percentage. **Coaches/Captains who do not cooperate in finishing their matches may not be allowed to enter teams the following season.**

## Website

I have a website which I also use to post and communicate information to you. Here is the address: [www.orangecountyusta.com](http://www.orangecountyusta.com) Most of the handouts from tonight are posted there now. This document will be posted there soon as well, after I make any revisions that need to be made after today's meeting. 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:

Heidi Stryker [heidi.stryker@gmail.com](mailto:heidi.stryker@gmail.com)

[www.orangecountyusta.com](http://www.orangecountyusta.com)

Orange County Junior Team Tennis Coordinator

Home - 714-357-0261 Fax - 714-838-1484