



Calendar - Fall 2021

- Registration / Team Creation Open on TennisLink: August 18
- Final Day to Submit Teams: September 19
- First Draft of Schedules Posted: September 22
- League Play Begins: September 25
- Final Day to Register Players: October 9
- League Season Ends: December 5 (All scheduled matches scored in TennisLink)
- Section Championships Registration Deadline: December 7
- Section Championships: December 18-19
- Player Age Up Date: December 31, 2021

Section Regulations for USTA Southern California Local League Areas

(Revised 8/15/21; subject to change by the USTA SoCal)

USTA Net Generation Pathway Regulations and USTA SoCal Section Regulations govern all Local Track Junior Team Tennis (JTT) league play. Fair and inclusive level based play is the foundation of USTA JTT and associated regulations. Refer to your Area League Coordinator for National/State Track regulations.

Team Management (coaches and captains) is responsible for understanding USTA Section Regulations and to ensure players and parents follow all regulations while participating in any JTT competition. Assigned Area League Coordinators (ALC's) have oversight in each established play area.

All resources and forms necessary to manage a season are available at ustasocal.com, on the Junior Team Tennis Providers page.

Safe Play

As the national governing body for the sport of tennis in the United States, the USTA is committed to providing a safe and respectful environment for young athletes. Safe Play is the USTA's comprehensive athlete safety program governing appropriate behavior between Adults and Junior players. The USTA worked with the U.S. Center for SafeSport and the United States Olympic Committee to develop Safe Play policies, procedures, and educational resources to support the USTA Safe Play program.

Compliance with the requirements of Safe Play, including clearing USTA background screening and successfully completing Safe Play education is **required** for all JTT Team Coaches, Captains, Managers and any players over 18 yrs. To complete Safe Play, check your status, or renew certification, go to: <https://www.usta.com/en/home/safe-play.html>.

Team Management Eligibility / Tools / Organization

Along with Safe Play compliance (see above), current USTA membership is required to manage teams and use TennisLink.

A Junior Team Tennis "Provider" page is located on the ustasocal.com website. This landing page includes all forms, links, regulations, archived preseason meetings and procedures required to manage teams. ALC's will share access with current JTT Team Management.

ALC's will communicate with current JTT Team Management on a regular basis to provide updates and reminders. For any questions or concerns throughout the season, please contact the local ALC directly via email. Encourage parents to direct any player, sportsmanship, scoring or scheduling questions internally before contacting an ALC.

Team Creation and Player Registration

Once Team Management is Safe Play compliant with a current USTA account, they must "Become a Coach/Captain" in TennisLink under "Junior Team Tennis". Once complete, they are prompted to create a team. Choose the appropriate local league area, division and name the team per this example: **14U 2.9 - RCI Superstars - Fenton**

A minimum of six players are required per team. All players must be registered in TennisLink on the appropriate team prior to playing their first team match. USTA account numbers are required for registration. Junior memberships are free.

Player Registration Fee Per Team: \$25.00 (\$22.00 Section fee + \$3.00 TennisLink/Active.com administrative fee). Individual Programs Providers may require additional fees, payable to the provider as necessary.

Player Divisions By Age & Junior NTRP Levels

- 10 & Under Intermediate Orange Ball (age 7-9)
 - 60' Court
 - Net Generation Play Tracker "Play" points earned
 - Non-advancing to Section Championships
- 10 & Under Advanced Green Ball (age 9-11)
 - Full court
 - Must be Net Generation PlayTracker eligible; "Win" and "Play" points will be earned.
- 12/14 & Under Gender Neutral
 - Junior NTRP divisions 2.4/2.9/3.4 & Below, 3.5 & Above; some areas include non-advancing 2.0 & Below divisions
 - Yellow Ball only
- 18 & Under Boys (Fall Season only due to CIF regulations)
 - Junior NTRP divisions 2.4/2.9/3.4 & Below, 3.5 & Above; some areas include non-advancing 2.0 & Below divisions
 - At least 50% of the team must be 15 years old and above. Any players younger must be scheduled to attend high school in fall 2021
- 18 & Under Mixed (Junior NTRP divisions 2.4/2.9/3.4 & Below, 3.5 & Above; some areas include non-advancing 2.0 & Below divisions)
 - 3 boys/3 Girls minimum per team

Junior NTRP Ratings

- 12-18U divisions only
- 10U = Net Generation PlayTracker
- 12U+ players without a player record should self-rate at 2.0 regardless of division
 - **2.0 & Below**
No prior competitive tennis experience.
 - **2.4 & Below**
Minimal or no prior competitive tennis experience, including Junior Team Tennis and/or Tournaments.
 - **2.9 & Below**
Some competitive tennis experience, including 2.4 and 2.9 Junior Team Tennis divisions and/or USTA Junior Circuits and Level 7 Tournament experience. May be on the National Standings List.
 - **3.4 & Below**
Considerable competitive tennis experience, including 3.4 & below Junior Team Tennis division and/or USTA Tournaments. May be on the National Standings List.
 - **3.5 & Above**
Extensive competitive tennis experience, including 3.4 and 3.5 Junior Team Tennis divisions and/or USTA Junior Section and National Tournaments. May be on the National Standings List.

10U Divisions/Net Generation PlayTracker

- All players ages 9-11 years old (as of 1/31/21) that were previously in Youth Progression have been grandfathered to the Net Generation PlayTracker platform as a Green Ball player. Some players under 11 progressed with multiple Green Ball wins in 2020 to Yellow Ball in the grandfathering process, and are eligible to participate in the 12U Divisions.
- Players age 9-11, and those age 7-8 that have passed a Net Generation PlayTracker coaches evaluation from Orange Ball to Green Ball by a USPTA/PTR certified professional, are eligible to participate in the 10U Advanced Green Ball Division.
- 100 play points are awarded for participation in a full JTT season (post season wins do not apply). Green Ball players will receive 100 win points per singles win, 50 per doubles win up to a maximum of 400 win points per JTT season. A default in a green ball division will count as a win.
- PlayTracker progress can be viewed on a Player's Profile at usta.com.
- Refer to the [Net Generation PlayTracker page on Netgeneration.com](http://NetGeneration.com) for further information, including Yellow Ball eligibility.

Team Communication

In addition to coaching and administrative duties, Team Management is responsible for maintaining regular communication with players and parents. This includes timely information about match schedules (TennisLink match schedules may not reflect any adjusted dates/times), line ups, team stats and COVID safety guidelines. A preseason meeting with parents and players is recommended to review the format of play, sportsmanship expectations and coaching guidelines.

Sportsmanship

Applies to team management, parents, spectators and players. All JTT participants are required to behave in a manner suited for an on-going positive playing environment. Great sports make a sport great!

Unacceptable behavior, including arguing, cursing, general poor sportsmanship and derogatory comments between team management, parents, spectators and players or towards the ALC's will NOT be tolerated. This behavior includes sideline coaching and line calls by parents or spectators and intentional incorrect calls by players. Poor sportsmanship includes refusal to shake hands following matches, name calling and racquet abuse. Those engaged in such behavior are subject to suspension from the league and USTA tournaments.

In the case of a valid sportsmanship grievance against team management, players or parents, a Sportsmanship Grievance Form must be submitted via ustasocal.com no later than 24 hours following an incident. The complaint will be reviewed by section management and appropriate action will be taken. If necessary, the grievance will be presented to the USTA SoCal Junior Competition Grievance Committee.

Team and Match Management

Programs that field 2+ teams in the same division/flight must play and score the head to head matches within the first 2 weeks of the scheduled season. If round-robin scheduling is necessary, the local ALC will monitor the completed matches.

If a team cannot field separate players for each match line, players are permitted to play a singles and a doubles match at the appropriate match line. The opposing team management should be made aware of this situation prior to the match.

Teams must be supervised by a Safe Play approved adult during each match.

Team management must confirm match times, dates and number of players each team will field for the match 5 days prior to the scheduled match time. Rescheduled match time and date should be mutually agreed upon by both teams within 3 business days and recorded in TennisLink by the ALC.

Advise opposing teams at time of match confirmation of any warm up court availability and confirm which team will supply appropriate match balls. It is recommended that "visiting" teams supply match balls.

Once a line-up is exchanged with the opposing team, no changes can be made. Be sure scheduled players are present at the time of exchange. Use the official score sheets from TennisLink for all lineups.

Water (if not available, players must be advised to bring water) and restrooms must be readily available at match sites.

Additional Insured for Facilities

The USTA will provide a certificate of insurance for match sites that require an additional insured. The request form is available on the JTT Provider link at ustasocal.com.

COVID Protocols & Guidelines

The suggested USTA return to play protocols are posted on the ustasocal.com Provider page. All state, county and local city guidelines apply to facilities. Some facilities may require additional protocols and waivers. Please ensure that Team Management, players and parents adhere to all guidelines. Visit municipality COVID webpages for up to date information.

Coaching

Coaching during matches is permitted by one Safe Play certified adult per team. Each team coach must be designated prior to the start of the match.

Coaching is only permitted on changeovers on court or through the fence.

Team management, parents or spectators may not speak to any players during play (in any language), and must view matches from outside of the court.

Assisting players of opposing teams who are struggling with scoring and rules is encouraged in the spirit of learning the game and creating a sportsmanlike match environment.

Format of Play and Scoring

Refer to your ALC for Format of Play in each division.

A minimum of four players per team, per match is required. In 18U Mixed, at least two boys and two girls are required per match.

Score sheets in TennisLink will reflect the Format of Play and applicable scoring formats. Sheets should be pulled from TennisLink with the specific match ID number. Each score sheet will list players and their current NTRP ratings from both teams, other than the 10U division. Score sheets should be signed by team management from both teams at the conclusion of the match.

Scores must be entered on-line from the winning perspective by the home team within 24 hours of all completed match lines and confirmed on TennisLink by the opposing team. Score change requests will not be granted after that time. Contact your ALC to review any scoring disputes and to request changes.

Do not score players that did not play. Players who are not registered before playing a match will be defaulted. KEEP signed score sheets through the end of the season for a reference to resolve any disputes.

One Exhibition Match per player, recorded with the ALC, can be counted towards post season eligibility.

Teams with the most games recorded in TennisLink at the end of the season will advance to Section Championships unless a head to head playoff is required. If total games are tied, the division winner will be determined by full team match win/loss records.

Post Season Play Eligibility

All divisions listed above will be represented at JTT Section Championships if a minimum number of teams qualify per division.

Teams must complete a minimum of 3 head to head team matches. Teams with the most games recorded in TennisLink at the end of each season will advance to Section Championships unless a head to head playoff is required. If total games are tied, the division winner will be determined by full team match win/loss records. Teams may be invited to participate in various divisions at the discretion of the Section Coordinator.

Players must have 3 recorded matches during separate head to head team matches (scores recorded with one match ID number) to be included on a Section Championships roster. A minimum of 6 eligible players, available for each scheduled round, are required to complete a team roster for Section Championships.



December 18-19, 2021 - Rancho Mirage/Palm Desert

Area League Coordinators

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[Click here for the USTA SoCal website Junior Team Tennis pages and Provider link.](#)

Fall 2021 Provider Access Password: SoCalJTTFall21