

**The Montgomery County Tennis Association administers Junior Team League Programs, through the USTA Juniors platform with year-round opportunities to compete against other players of the same age/playing ability. The USTA Juniors platform generates Universal Tennis Ratings (UTR) for each match entered in the system.**

*Although competition is spirited, it is expected that each participant in league play exhibit good sportsmanship at all times. To this end, MCTA Junior Team Leagues have a zero - tolerance policy regarding any physical altercations that occur at or in connection with any match. Similarly, MCTA is committed to taking all steps necessary to maintain the integrity of its league programs, up to and including the initiation of grievance complaints, or where authorized direct decisions to discipline those who by their own actions (whether directly or indirectly) undermine league integrity. Each league participant is expected to know, and is bound by these Procedures; the Rules of Tennis; The Code: The Players' Guide for Unofficial Matches (printed in Friend at Court). To the extent that the plain meaning of any Local League Rule or procedure may be unclear, it will be construed in a manner to foster good sportsmanship and fair play.*

**The following policies and procedures apply in all MCTA Junior Team League programs:**

**(A) Team Captains.** Every team must have a team captain, who is the person whose name appears as (or in conjunction with) the Team Name as displayed in USTA Juniors website and who is the person that league administration shall communicate with regarding all matters affecting that team. Team captains also must be USTA Safe Play approved before being listed as a captain of a USTA junior team.

**(B) Background Check.** By now all captains should be aware of this USTA requirement. If not, please let me know as TennisLink will not allow captains full team access until they are fully cleared. The process may take up to 10 days so take care of this early. [http://www.usta.com/About-USTA/usta\\_safe\\_play\\_home/](http://www.usta.com/About-USTA/usta_safe_play_home/).

**(C) Roster Additions/Deletions.** With respect to players added to the roster during the local season:

- (1) Players may be added throughout the season up to the start time of a team's next to last local league match.
- (2) Players who have not participated in a match may receive a refund as well as be deleted from a roster at any time by notifying the Junior Team Administrator. Players who have participated in one or more matches cannot be deleted and will not be issued a refund
- (3) Teams that do not have the minimum of 4 players registered 7 days prior to the start of the season, will be deleted from USTA Junior Tennis site. Refunds will be issued to players if needed.
- (4) The Junior Team Administrator may grant a team up to 3 days after registration closes; at no event may a team start match play without the required number of players registered. At which time, team(s) are dropped from the division and refunds will be issued.
- (5) Teams that withdraw after the schedule is published will get 50% of their registration fee refunded.

**(D) Fees.** All Junior Team players pay a one time registration fee for the season.

**(E) Match Scheduling.** All Junior Team matches are played where and when scheduled in USTA

Tennis. It is an expected courtesy for coaches to advise one another directly in advance if they cannot field a full line-up for a match. **No teams will be allowed to register for any Junior Team (Fall, Spring, Winter, etc.) leagues, after the schedule has been completed and emailed to captains.**

A copy of the official and binding schedule of play for the local league season, as may necessarily be amended from time to time, shall be maintained on the USTA Junior Tennis site. While individual team notice of schedule changes is attempted, Captains are responsible for staying abreast of any changes by regularly reviewing the USTA Junior Tennis schedule. Each team match shall be played at the time and site designated in the current USTA Junior Tennis schedule, except only if unless, a) **a facility-related closure or condition prevents it**, b) **Default (match if not started)**, or c) **Retirement (if player/team decides not continue)**.

**(F) Inclement Weather/Hazardous Playing Conditions or Other Interruptions of Play.**

1. **Delay or Interruptions Caused by the Facility.** Where a match is delayed by the facility due to court unavailability or some other cause attributable to the facility *per se* (e.g., power failure), the following procedures shall apply at all tennis facilities. If the match is delayed/interrupted for 30 minutes or less, play will resume and continue for the full allotted time (90 minutes). The starting time of any match scheduled to use the courts following a delayed/interrupted match shall be delayed by the amount of time of the preceding delay/interruption, not to exceed 20 minutes. If the delay/interruption is longer than 30 minutes (i) a match that was in progress may resume; but (ii) a match that had not yet begun shall be rescheduled if there is another league match scheduled to follow it at the same site; otherwise it may commence if both captains agree and the facility allows. Where both captains agree to resume play, a 5-minute warm-up is permitted.
  - a) The Team Captains shall promptly notify the MCTA Junior Team League Administrator that the match was interrupted or cancelled and the reason therefore, and request a rescheduled match date.
  - b) MCTA will reschedule the match indoors or outdoors as it deems feasible and will revise the USTA Junior Tennis published match schedule accordingly. No additional fees for this rescheduled match will be charged.
  
2. **Match Postponement Due to Widespread Weather or Other Hazardous Condition.** MCTA relies upon Montgomery County's Community Use of Public Facilities (CUPF) determinations with respect to access to public buildings during adverse weather conditions (e.g., snow, sleet, extreme heat, etc.) as the key determinant whether scheduled league matches must play as scheduled on any given day/night.
  - a) If CUPF announces *public facilities are closed for evening activities due to inclement weather or other hazardous condition in either of the two Montgomery County "weather zones" officially recognized by the National Weather Service*, then all MCTA matches are cancelled, regardless of location or an individual facility's decision to remain open. Captains and players can register on-line with CUPF to receive such notifications directly or may telephone 240-777-2710 for CUPF recorded announcements.
  
  - b) If CUPF is open for business, has considered all relevant facts, and makes no activity closing decision, captains are responsible for contacting the facility to determine whether it is open for play. If open, captains are responsible for ensuring that their teams play, MCTA having already paid

for the courts.

- c) If CUPF has not been open for business and thus unavailable to consider an activity closing decision, then the MCTA Administrator may request approval of the MCTA Board Second Vice President to issue such a decision, and if approved the MCTA Administrator decision shall have the same force and effect as if rendered by CUPF

### **(G) Match structure.**

1. **Team Match.** A team match in each level league shall consist of the approved number of individual singles and doubles matches as stated below:

**Individual Match - Unless otherwise stated by the Junior Team League Administrator, a Team Match plays on three (3) courts simultaneously:**

- **Single Gender Non-Advancing - 2 singles and 1 doubles match; Regular scoring, best 2 out of 3 sets; if teams split sets, players will play a 10 point tie break in the 3rd set.** Any individual match which does not conform to this format is considered a default. **FIVE MINUTE WARMUP. UPDATE: 10U league plays 3 courts of singles**
- **Co-Ed Non-Advancing Competitive League - 2 singles courts and one doubles court (any mix of gender is allowed); Regular scoring, best 2 out of 3 sets; if teams split sets, players will play a 10 point tie break in the 3rd set.** Each Team Match requires four (4) players of any gender for each team. Any individual match which does not conform to this format is considered a default. **FIVE MINUTE WARMUP. UPDATE: 10U league plays 3 courts of singles**

**(H) Warm-up Courts.** Warm-up courts may be purchased as spot time at a facility where allowed, the same as any other patron. Otherwise, players are not authorized or entitled to early access to courts except with the explicit permission of the facility; and if a facility does permit early access without payment of an additional fee, then such courts must be shared equally between the competing teams.

### **(I) Match Administration.**

- (1) **Balls and Court Assignments.** MCTA provides the balls for all league matches. The Home Team Captain shall retrieve at the front desk of the facility/club enough cans of new, yellow, tennis balls to provide one can per individual match actually to be played, and makes court assignments for individual matches from among the courts pre-determined and provided by the facility/club. Only if no specific courts have been assigned for a match, may the home team then make a choice from among those deemed available by the facility/club.

**Exchanging Lineups.** At the line-up exchange, Captains or their designated representatives are required to specify in writing their respective player names for each individual match, court assignments for each individual match, and to finalize agreement on the calling of "Time" (See, J.7.a below). For purposes of the line-up exchange, paper copies of line-ups are required; **screenshots, voicemails, or other electronic communications are not sufficient.** Each captain is responsible for keeping a complete match scorecard for future reference when entering (or validating) the results on TennisLink and/or TopDog Tennis, and to facilitate resolution of any data entry disputes. **If the opposing captain is not ready to exchange line-ups by the official start time for the match, the penalty is loss of toss plus one game assessed against every court of**

**the un-ready team.** Lateness penalties continue to accrue on all courts per the schedule in Section Rules for Local Leagues #7b until all players are present or any default courts are recorded (and court assignments adjusted if necessary to conform to the “bottom up” default rule).

**Lateness.** Whenever at least one player (or one member of a doubles team) is late (i.e., not on the assigned court and ready to play), the players shall be penalized in accordance with the below rules, except that a team member who is both acting as captain and also in the line-up for a particular match shall incur no penalty for lateness until an additional five minutes has elapsed.

**Length of Play/Lateness:** Unless otherwise stated by the Junior Team Administrator, each individual court will have 90 minutes to play the match, including a maximum five-minute warm-up – this includes ground strokes, volleys, overheads and serves. The Point Penalty System applies: **0:01-5:00 minutes late penalty is loss of toss +1 game, 5:01-10:00 minutes late, penalty is loss of toss + 2 games; 10:01 – 15:00 minutes late, penalty is loss of toss +3 games; at 15:01 late, penalty is DEFAULT.** The clock at the facility will be used to determine match start/end, warm up period, and lateness penalties.

- (2) **Coaching:** Coaching is now allowed only during the changeovers for all levels and age groups. Only the team coach, captain, or designated captain, can give coaching advice on the changeovers during junior matches. Parents are allowed to assist during 10U matches only.
- (3) **The Use of Subs:** Subs are allowed for all junior leagues if your 6 rostered players are not available **but will not count towards the match and will not be recorded in the USTA Junior Tennis system.** Players that are not registered must pay \$25 on the MCTA website Store before playing any matches. If you have a sub, please email the MCTA Junior Team Administrator for the payment. Please send all subs this link ([JTT Sub-Registrations](#)) to submit payment.
- (4) **FOR MATCHES DURING THE USTA WINTER SEASON:** All subs must be registered before their scheduled match. Any sub player that is not listed on the roster at the time of the match, he/she’s match will be considered a default.

**(5) Individual Match Forfeits and Defaults.**

1. Unless the two team captains have agreed in writing on defaults in advance of the match, the team seeking to claim a forfeit must have its players present in order to claim the individual match in question. Once a default is proffered, it cannot be withdrawn without the consent of the opposing captain, **except for** matches that must be rescheduled, in which case any default proffered for the original date/time is null and void.
2. Captains are responsible for managing the time of matches; lateness penalties must be claimed before match play begins and players access the courts.

**(6) Time Management.**

- a. **Official Match Time Piece and Who Calls “Time:”** Where a facility uses a horn, bell or similar

device to announce time, it shall be relied upon as the official timepiece for all matches. Where no such device is present and operable, then the Home Team Captain shall determine the official timepiece to be used for the match and the Visiting Team Captain shall determine the person responsible for calling “Time” using said timepiece. No other means of time notification to players on court is permitted. Whatever conditions captains agree to regarding management of time for a match (i.e., timepiece to be used and name of designee to call Time”) should be recorded on each copy of the scorecard before match play begins and should be initialed by each captain. Note that where captains disregard these procedures, the local Grievance Committee is unlikely to be able to fairly determine what relief (if any) is appropriate.

b. **Bathroom Breaks:** Bathroom breaks are allowed.

(7) **Court decorum.** All players must abide by the rules, customs and procedures contained in *The Code* at all times. **No coaching is allowed at any time during the match, including warm-up.** Only Team Captains are permitted to sit courtside. In any event, spectators are permitted on adjacent courts if the matches are finished, provided that such spectators come no closer than the centerline of the court they occupy in relation to the court they are observing (in other words, maintain one-half court width distance from any match still in play). ***No one other than a designated team captain for that match, may intervene, offer an opinion, or become involved in any way, in any match that has not yet been completed,*** except for the calling of “Time” by the Visiting Team Captain or designee, either to begin or end match play on all courts. If a player abandons the court in the middle of a match due to circumstances other than an injury and/or illness, the scores will be recorded as is and the match will be listed as a retirement in USTA Junior Tennis.

## **(J) Match Format:**

### **Single Gender:**

- (1) **12U, 14U, and 18U Divisions: Regular scoring, best 2 out of 3 sets; if teams split sets, players will play a 10 point tie break in the 3rd set.**

### **Co-Ed:**

- (2) **10U (3 courts of singles), 12U, 14U, and 18U Divisions: Regular scoring, best 2 out of 3 sets; if teams split sets, players will play a 10 point tie break in the 3rd set.**

## **FOR ALL LEAGUES:**

After the entire match is completed, **both captains** (or their designees) **shall sign both match scorecards, indicating their agreement that the player names and scores have been properly recorded thereon.** In the event one or more matches finish early (any combination of available teammates may use the court(s), for match play).

Each captain shall **retain one of the signed scorecards for the remainder of the season.** **Failure to retain a signed scorecard may result in waiver of the right to dispute the results of the match.**

**No individual or team match may end in a tie** – where time expires, the winner will be determined based on *the principle that the outcome of each individual match is to be decided by*



*what happens on that court alone.* As a result, scores are to be reported on TennisLink and/or TopDog Tennis using the Timed Match designator and consistent with the instructions immediately below:

- (1) **If in the first set when time expires**, the winner of the most completed games in that set shall be awarded the set and match point. **Only games are tied. the match is to be entered into USTA Junior Tennis as “Timed” and a sudden death point is played to determine the winner. If no sudden death point is played, the home team is listed as the winner.**
- (2) **If in the second set when time expires**, and neither team is ahead by two or more games, the winner of the first set shall be declared the winner of the match and awarded the match point. If a team is ahead by two or more games, that team shall be awarded the second set; and if that team also won the first set, then that team is declared the winner and awarded the match point. If instead, this results in split sets, then the team that won the most total games in both sets on that court is the match winner. **Only games are tied. the match is to be entered into USTA Junior Tennis as “Timed” and a sudden death point is played to determine the winner. If no sudden death point is played, the home team is listed as the winner.**
- (3) **If in a tiebreak in any set or in the deciding match tiebreak when time expires**, a team is awarded the set if and only if six or more points have been played and one team is ahead by two or more points. Otherwise, the tiebreak does not count and the team that has won the most games played on that court is declared the winner. **Only games are tied. the match is to be entered into USTA Junior Tennis as “Timed” and a sudden death point is played to determine the winner. If no sudden death point is played, the home team is listed as the winner.**
- (4) **Reporting Scores:** Winning teams are responsible for posting scores in USTA Junior Tennis within 48 hours of the completed match. Any disputes must be made must be made within 24 hours. There after, no scores can be changed after the dispute deadline. No scores can be changed after the 48 hour deadline has past. If you have any problems, contact MCTA Junior Team League Administrator.

**(K) Calculation of League Standings.** Winners of each division are determine by the amount of games won during the season.

**(L) Grievances/Appeals.**

**(1) Filing a Grievance**

For purposes of filing a Grievance arising out of Junior Team play, the team captain is either one of the two persons listed in the USTA Junior Tennis Captains’ Report for that team, but no one else; and the MCTA Administrator is either the Junior Team League Administrator or where unavailability would prevent timely filing of a grievance complaint, then the MCTA Executive Director.

**(2) Local League Grievance and Grievance Appeals Committee**

The MCTA Second Vice President for Junior Programs shall nominate no fewer than 3 nor more than 6 individuals to serve in a qualified pool of candidates to adjudicate any Grievances or Grievance Appeals that may arise, with the express limitation that no person shall sit on both the



2023 MCTA  
Junior Team Tennis Rules  
Non Advancing



LLGC panel and LLGAC panel hearing the same or derivative Complaint. In nominating individuals to serve, the Second Vice President shall take care that each nominee affirms an interest in serving, demonstrates an appreciation and clear understanding of applicable rules and procedures, and commits to serve on any Grievance/Grievance Appeal to which he/she is assigned and for which he/she has no apparent conflict or other credible basis for recusal.

The Committee shall retain all Grievances filed. Even where the facts are disputed, the filing of 2 or more Grievances by separate Captains against the same team or individual player within any 12- month period, whether within the same league type or not, suggests a pattern of unacceptable behavior that will trigger an LLGC investigation and can result in disciplinary action.

For purposes of MCTA local league play, any Grievance or appeal of a Local League Grievance Committee decision must be filed by electronic means, using the standard forms available on the MCTA website. Original Grievances shall be filed at: [hhughes@mctatennis.org](mailto:hhughes@mctatennis.org) and Grievance Appeals shall be filed at [hhughes@mctatennis.org](mailto:hhughes@mctatennis.org).

### APPENDIX

National, State and Local COVID Guidelines must be followed throughout each season. Prior to playing at each facility, COVID guidelines must be followed and necessary waivers must be signed prior to entering the courts. Please wear masks while playing indoors. A can of tennis balls will be provided for each individual player during the indoor season.

Any questions, please contact our MCTA local Junior Tennis coordinator:

Stephanie Foster  
[kfoster@mctatennis.org](mailto:kfoster@mctatennis.org)