

USTA Colorado
2014 Junior Team Tennis Operating Procedures
(Denver-Metro & Northern Colorado)

ELIGIBILITY

Players *do not* need to be current members of the United States Tennis Association. Players may be on only one team and must be registered on their team before their first match. Any match played after the 2nd week of the league season by a player who is not rostered on that team will be recorded as a default. **The age a player will be on August 10, 2014 determines the division in which he/she must play; i.e., a player who turns 11 on or before August 10, 2014 must play in the 12 & under division.** Players who are ranked in the Intermountain Section or Nationally are permitted to participate; however, they must play in the advanced division and nationally ranked players must play up an age group. Teams / players who won the District tournament the previous year *do not* have to move up in age group unless they are past the age cutoff for that age group, however, they should consider playing at a higher level than the previous year.

TEAM MAKE-UP

A team will consist of at least 4 players of the same gender (except for the 10's as noted below) and ability level; however, it is highly recommended that a team be comprised of at least 6 players. Those facilities with excessive defaults the preceding year will need to roster 5 players. Only 2 players are required to be present and able to play at each match during the regular season. If a team only brings 2 players to any regular season match, those players are expected to play both singles and doubles. NOTE: If possible, play doubles first in this situation to speed up the team match. **Defaulting any position for reasons, other than sickness, injury, or an emergency is UNACCEPTABLE and will be tracked by USTA Colorado.**

IMPORTANT: All 10 and Under teams can be any combination of boys and girls. This age group will not have gender specific divisions!

AGE DIVISIONS AND SKILL LEVELS

The following list of divisions are offered, **however, each skill level must have a sufficient number of teams, or the teams will be moved to a different level.** If there are not enough teams in a specific level, USTA Colorado will move the team **UP** to the next level unless specified differently on the team registration form (page 15). Any team registered for a Championship level will be moved up to the Championship level in the next age group should their division not have enough teams.

- 10 & under (Challenger B)/(Challenger A)
- 12 & under (Futures)/(Challenger B)/(Challenger A)/(Championship)
- 14 & under (Futures)/(Challenger B)/(Challenger A)/(Championship)
- 18 & under (Futures)/(Challenger B)/(Challenger A)/(Championship)

Carefully review the Levels of Play guidebook for proper placement of players.

MATCH FORMAT

A team match will consist of 2 singles and 1 doubles. The home team will furnish new balls. The type of ball is designated below:

10 and Under CB and CA – Orange Balls

12 and Under Futures, CB, and CA – Green Balls

12 and Under Championship – Yellow Balls

14 and Under (All levels) – Yellow Balls

18 and Under (All levels) – Yellow Balls

IMPORTANT: All 10 and Under teams can be any combination of boys and girls. This age group will not have gender specific divisions!

Warm-up time is limited to 5 minutes and a forfeit *may* be called 15 minutes after the established match time. The USTA Colorado Operating Procedures and The Code are in effect for all matches. Although it is strongly encouraged, it is not mandatory for players to be arranged in order of strength.

COURTS

Each team must guarantee use of at least 2 courts at the same address. Scheduling cannot accommodate any more than 2 teams per multiple of 2 courts per match time, i.e. 2 courts available, 1 or 2 teams permitted; 4 courts available, 3 or 4 teams permitted; 6 courts, 5 or 6 teams permitted, etc. Half of the teams will be scheduled at home and half will be scheduled away each week.

Reminder: All 10 and Under matches must be played on a 60' court.

COACHING

COACHING IS ILLEGAL! Captains, teammates, spectators, and coaches may not volunteer advice on line calls, scoring, or strategy. Excessive cheering or clapping is not permitted. It is the responsibility of both team captains to work together to control the spectators' conduct during match play. **It is acceptable to have a "Monitor" assist beginner players with scoring, tiebreakers, or rules. This does NOT include calling lines.** Other than a monitor, no other spectators should be on the court. The players should be encouraged to learn these topics throughout the summer so it becomes less necessary to have a monitor on the court as the season advances.

*****Reminder: These are CHILDREN and our goal is to provide them the opportunity to have a positive experience.**

SCHEDULE OF PLAY

A team member is allowed to play 1 singles and 1 doubles position per team match. All matches will be scheduled for Mondays. If players and courts are available, it is allowed to play all 3 positions at the same time. Otherwise, it should be singles followed by doubles or vice versa...doubles followed by singles.

The match times for each age group are as follows*:

8:00 am – 10 & under and 12 & under	(boys and girls)
10:00 am – 18 & under	(boys and girls)
12:00 pm – 14 & under	(boys and girls)

*(Northern Colorado may not have a 12:00 time slot. In this case it would be – 14 & 18 and under matches are at 10:00am)

Teams competing against facilities in year round school districts may need to schedule matches after 3:30 p.m. All facilities need to be understanding and cooperative when such a schedule change is necessary.

TEAM COACH / CAPTAIN

Each team must have a Team Coach/Captain. Team captains and co-captains **MUST** be accessible to all teams in the division and to the USTA Colorado coordinator. Only knowledgeable parents should be in charge of a match. **Facility coordinators are responsible for educating their team coach/captain on the code, rules, regulations, and operating procedures.**

SETTING UP A MATCH

Home team captains must contact visiting team captains no later than the Thursday prior to the match to discuss directions, facility particulars, etc. Teams should notify each other how many players they intend to bring to the match. If courts and players are available, it is allowed to have all 3 matches play at the same time. Due to court restrictions at many sites, the matches are scheduled to be played either singles followed by doubles, or doubles followed by singles. It is a nice gesture (but not required) for Home teams to provide snacks and drinks for the visiting team. This information should all be discussed prior to the match date. Everyone is encouraged to work out any time or line-up conflicts that may arise during the season.

RESCHEDULING MATCHES

Rescheduling of a team match should only be requested as a last resort. Team coaches/captains need to have a good handle on who is available each week throughout the season and plan on having backup players in case of injuries, sickness, or emergencies. To ensure enough players each week, USTA Colorado strongly encourages each team to have at least 6 players on their roster. Teams should make every effort to reschedule matches if players are going to be unavailable. With the agreement of both captains, scheduled matches can be played at a different date, time, and/or location. It is urged, but not required, for a team to reschedule a match if the opposing team asks. If a team is unable to reschedule when requested, they are permitted to take the win by default. Although allowed, this is not the best option because this league is meant to allow kids to play. If an agreement has been made and a new match date, time, and/or location has been set, this becomes the scheduled match; therefore, if a team needs to reschedule this match, the same process will be followed as when the first match was rescheduled. USTA Colorado does not need to be notified of rescheduled matches. Captains should utilize vacation schedules and notify opposing teams as early in the season as possible of any match dates that may need to be rescheduled.

Any rained out matches should be rescheduled at a time mutually agreed upon by both team captains. All matches must be played on or before the last regular season match. If an agreeable time cannot be determined, USTA Colorado will select the date. If a match

has started and is suspended because of rain, begin with the same set and game score when play resumes. Once a match has started, no player changes may be made. Any completed matches stand as played with the same players.

A team match should only be rescheduled once. As stated above, if a team match is rescheduled...that new time is then considered the new official match time. All rescheduled matches should take place within one week of the original date and time. The team that was asked to reschedule a match will be permitted to dictate the new time, date, and location of the match.

DEFAULTS

If a team defaults all 3 individual matches *without* notifying their opponent prior to the match, they will *not* be eligible to advance to the State Championships and all prior and future scores may be nullified. If this situation occurs, USTA Colorado should be notified right away. If a team *does* notify their opponent that they cannot field a full team prior to the match, they will remain eligible for the playoffs. Proper notification requires that the captain of the defaulting team speak directly to the captain of the opposing team at least 2 days prior to the match of their inability to make a match. Teams must have the ability to play at least 2 positions. If only 1 player is available, an attempt should be made to reschedule the match. If only 1 position is played, the match will be entered as a total team default. Results from the individual match played will not count toward final standings. If a team is unable to field a full team with rostered players then the team can recruit a non-rostered player to play. It will be scored as 6 games for the opponent and 0 games for the non-rostered player's team for each individual match the non-rostered player plays.

Scorecards must be input accordingly when a default occurs or a non-rostered player is used.

REGULAR SEASON SCORING

A match will consist of 2 singles and 1 doubles. Play will be the best of three sets using no-ad scoring with a set tie-break, also called a 12-point tie-break (first to 7 by 2), if play reaches 6-all. **Important:** A 12-point tie-break (first to 7 win by 2) will also be played in lieu of the third set. A 2-minute break between the second set and the tiebreak in lieu of the third set is permitted. **The Coman Tiebreak will not be used in Junior Team Tennis.**

***Note: All 10 & under divisions (CB and CA) and only the 12 & under Futures division will start the 1st and 2nd sets at 2-all in games.**

Note: Counting games requires that all matches be played out completely and accurately. Players should not retire a match for any reason other than illness or injury. Captains/Coordinators are NOT permitted to change the format of a match.

STANDINGS

Standings are based on the total number of **GAMES** won with a tiebreak of games lost. The first place team in each division will be eligible to advance to the State Championships. In larger divisions, it is possible for a second place team to be invited as a wildcard to the State Championships.

Rationale for Games Won Standings:

1. Every game matters – players shouldn't give up if losing or take it easy if winning
2. A lower skilled player can contribute to the team, even if he/she never wins a match
3. We have to stagger matches because of 2 player minimum and because of court availability. If standings were based on matches won, they could play the 2 singles and decide not to play the doubles because it wouldn't matter – we want the players to play.

SCORING INFORMATION

No-Ad Scoring

The first team or player to win 4 points wins the game. If the score reaches 3 POINTS ALL, the 7th (or next) point becomes the GAME POINT. In singles, the receiver may choose to either receive in the ad or deuce court. In doubles, the receiving team may choose to receive in either the ad or the deuce court. (Both players must remain on the same receiving side they played during the match.) In calling the score of a no-ad game, players may either use 1, 2, 3 and game or 15, 30, 40 and game. They may call a game of 3-all, deuce.

Tie-break

If the 1st or 2nd set reaches 6 games all, the players must play a 12-point tie-break (first to 7 by 2). The serving order does not change. The team that received the first point of the tie-break begins serving the next set. **If a match splits sets and goes to the 3rd set tiebreaker, that tiebreaker will also be a 12-point tiebreak (first to 7 win by 2).**

Doubles – the first server shall serve 1 point from the right side. The second server shall serve 2 points, starting from the left side and ending on the right side. The third server shall serve 2 points, starting on the left and ending on the right side. The fourth server shall serve 1 point from the left side and then players change ends of court. The fourth server shall then serve 1 point from the right side. Play continues in such a manner until one team wins at least 7 points with a 2-point margin. Teams change ends of the court every 6

points.

Singles – the first server shall serve 1 point from the right side. The second server shall serve 2 points, starting from the left side and ending on the right side. The players continue to alternate serving 2 points each until one wins a minimum of 7 points with a 2-point margin. Players change ends of the court every 6 points.

REPORTING SCORES

Scores should be reported immediately following the completion of a match by inputting scores in TennisLink. Go to <http://tennislink.usta.com/teamtennis.com> to report scores (**you must log in as a captain for one of the teams you are reporting for to have access to the scorecard**). *Failure to report scores within 48 hours of the completion of the match may result in loss of match for the winning team. **The Winning team captain should input the scores.*** The team captain from the losing team should verify that scores have been reported and dispute the scores if there is any incorrect information. If the winning team captain has not input scores within 48 hours after the completion of the match, the losing team captain is allowed to do so. If you dispute a match score for any reason, it is your responsibility to notify USTA Colorado of the reason for the dispute. If USTA Colorado is not notified of the reason for a disputed match, USTA Colorado may confirm the match as it is entered. Any scores not entered by noon on Wednesday, August 1 will be recorded as a double default. Standings can be viewed on TennisLink throughout the season.

Score Entry (TennisLink)

Total number of games won will be counted for the winner and loser. The winner of a third set tie-break receives one extra game. Once matches have been completed, it is the responsibility of the **WINNING** coach/captain to enter the scores on TennisLink. All scores must be entered within 48 hours or the **WINNING** team may receive a total team default for the match.

Scores have to be entered from the winner's perspective. If you are given an error on score entry, the scores have most likely been entered backwards. I.e. TennisLink does not allow a score of 2-6, 2-6. It must be 6-2, 6-2.

GRIEVANCES

A grievance or complaint alleging a violation of the USTA Constitution, By-Laws, Standing Orders, League Regulations or standards of good conduct, fair play and sportsmanship must be filed in writing with the Oversight Committee by the team captain of the team that has competed in the match or by a USTA Colorado Area League Coordinator or Director. A grievance or complaint filed by a team captain during local league competition must be filed within 48 hours after the violation or within 24 hours after the end of local league play, whichever occurs first by fax, e-mail, or mail to USTA Colorado. A \$75 fee will be assessed to the party who is filing the grievance; however, it will be refunded if the Oversight Committee upholds the grievance. The USTA Colorado League Coordinator may file a grievance or complaint within 48 hours after becoming aware of the violation.

The Oversight Committee will send a copy of the complaint to the parties against whom the complaint is made. As soon as reasonable, the Oversight Committee will investigate the complaint with anyone deemed appropriate and render its decision in writing to both parties. The committee shall have the authority to correct any violations found by reasonable means and/or suspend the player(s) from the Junior Team Tennis program and/or reverse any points earned by the player(s) in prior matches.

COLORADO STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Colorado State Championships for Junior Team Tennis will be held August 8-10, 2014, in Denver. Regular season division winners, and possibly some wildcard teams will be invited to play in the State Championships. If a first place team is unable to participate, the opportunity will be offered to the next eligible team in that division.

A player must play in **at least 2 league matches (playing singles and doubles in a team match is permitted but only counts as 1 match for a players State Championship eligibility)** to be eligible for participation. *A team must have at least 3 eligible players available during playoffs to participate.* As with the regular season, each team match can be played with only 2 players. The playoffs will be a round robin format until the final rounds. A team match format will be used for scoring. **The team winning the majority of the 3 individual matches will be awarded 1 team point.** The team with the most team points in each age group/level of play will advance to the single elimination final rounds.

Please contact Dan Lewis at the USTA Colorado with any questions, 303.695.4116 x207, or fax 303.695.6302, or dan@coloradotennis.com.