



To Promote and Develop
the Growth of Tennis.

RICHMOND JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS LOCAL LEAGUE RULES 2018-2019

USTA Junior Team Tennis is governed by National, Sectional, District and Local rules. National rules supersede all others.

OVERVIEW

USTA Junior Team Tennis is the largest co-ed, junior tennis league in the United States. A minimum of 3 girls and 3 boys is needed to form an intermediate or advanced team, 6 players total, (boys &/or girls) is needed for the beginner divisions.

Matches for the 12U, 14U and 18U teams are played on Sunday afternoons beginning **Sunday, September 23rd, 2018**. The season will run approximately six to eight weeks, depending on the number of teams in a particular flight. Matches can be played on school courts, at a public park, in a neighborhood or at a private club. The HOME team sets the start time for the matches, (preferably between 12-5pm). The deadline for teams to register for the Spring Season is **September 12, 2018**.

Players can continue to register until mid October.

***NEW:** All players are welcome to play in the Richmond JTT League but they must reside in the Mid Atlantic Region. When sending teams from Richmond on to play at the Regional, Sectional and National level, it is important that teams & players are in fact from the region.

FORMAT AND SCORING-12U, 14U, 18U

Teams are formed based on age and skill level. There are three levels of play: Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced.

For all Intermediate & Advanced divisions: the lines played are 1 line of boy's singles, 1 line of girl's singles, 1 line of boy's doubles, 1 line of girl's doubles and 1 line of mixed doubles. One girl and one boy may double up to play in two individual matches. The player that doubles up must play boy's/girl's singles OR boy's/girl's doubles and the second match **must be mixed doubles**. A maximum of 4 girls & 4 boys can play each week.

***NEW:** for 12u & 14u Beginner/Green Ball teams ONLY, 2 singles matches and 3 doubles matches will be played each week, with priority given to playing the same genders against one another. As long as 6 players are available, no forfeits will be given. Only 2 players may double up and their last match must be the 3rd line of doubles, (this line is preferably 1 girl and 1 boy).

Individual players may **not** play on more than one team in the same age division and level. It is permissible to play on more than one team if those teams are in different age divisions and/or levels as long as the player meets the age and ratings requirement for each team.

Individual matches are two short sets to 4 games each, no-ad scoring and if the players get to 3-3, they play a 7 point tie-break to see who wins the set. A 3rd set tie-break is played if the sets are split, (to 10 points). **The 18U ADV division will play two 6-game sets, no-ad scoring**, if the players get to 5-5, they play a 7 point tie-break to see who wins the set, **with a 3rd set tie-break if needed, (to 10 points).**

In doubles at deuce, the receiving team decides who will receive serve. In mixed doubles at deuce, the girl must serve to the girl, and the boy must serve to the boy. Players are to switch sides at the completion of each odd game. They may also take a 90 second water break during this time. **The combined number of games won by each team from all five individual matches determines the winner of a team match.**

***NEW:** Players should play in the divisions closest to their ratings: 3.5 or higher must play **ADVANCED ONLY**. Players without ratings will no longer be asked to self rate. There are no disqualifications in Junior Team Tennis for self ratings. If you need help finding a child's rating, the league coordinator will be happy to look that up for you but it can also be found in Tennis Link. If you feel that your player's rating is too high, an appeal may be filed with the section through the league coordinator.

***NEW:** The 12u Beginner teams and 12u Intermediate-Green Ball will play with the green, lower-compression ball. Be sure to have these balls on hand if you are the HOME team captain. All clubs do not keep these in the pro shop but they can be found at local sporting goods stores. All other divisions use the regular yellow ball. **At least 3 new cans of balls should be provided by the HOME team per match date.**

***NEW:** Players may not be added to a team if there are less than 2 regular season matches left since it may be impossible to qualify a player for advancement. **No refunds will be given after October 21st or if a player has played in a match.**

TIE BREAKS

A set tie breaker (7 pts., win by 2) is played at 3 games all. **For the 18U ADV division, a set tie breaker is played at 5 games all.** A match tie-break (10 pts, win by 2) is played in lieu of a 3rd set should the players split sets. Players switch sides after 6 pts are played in the tie-break. No coaching is allowed during tie-breaks.

After the completion of a flight round robin, if two teams are tied for first place, the outcome of their previous head-to-head match determines the flight winner. If during a flight play off match (single elimination round), the teams end in a tie, each teams' coach will designate a girl and a boy to play a mixed doubles match tie breaker (10 pts., win by 2) to determine the winner.

ADVANCEMENT

Individual players must play in at least two local league matches during the same season in order to qualify to play in championship level matches, (Regional/Sectional/National) should the team win their flight.

Defaults &/or forfeits by an opposing team do not count toward the 2 match minimum.

***NEW:** Only 1 girl OR 1 boy may be substituted to play at the championship level, if the team drops below the 3 girl & 3 boy minimum. **The substitute player must be from the 14u or 18u Intermediate or Advanced divisions.**

CAPTAIN'S DUTIES

A parent or coach is required to head up the team and handle the administrative duties, such as: reserving courts, emailing the team and the opposing captain, creating line ups, recording and entering scores in Tennis Link, etc. It is possible to share these duties with a co-captain.

All captains and co-captains must complete the NCSI Safe Play background check and register in Net Generation as a Coach/Captain. To begin this process, please visit <https://netgeneration.usta.com/us-en/home.html>. If you do not complete the new background check, you may be shut out of Tennis Link.

Captains should reserve courts for all their home matches upon receiving the match schedule. It is incumbent upon the HOME captain to communicate to the opposing team captain via email of the scheduled match time **no later** than the Monday prior to match day. Any changes to the originally scheduled match time must be communicated via email to the opposing team's captain **48 hours or more** in advance. Both team captains must agree upon the new match time.

An individual captain may **not** captain more than one team in the same age division and level. It is permissible to captain more than one team if those teams are in different age divisions and/or levels. All captains and co-captains must complete the required background check.

A captain or "acting" captain is required to be at every match.

There are no lessons or instruction provided unless the team captain arranges for them outside of the match days.

ENTERING MATCH SCORES

***NEW:** Blank score cards should be printed from Tennis Link. BOTH team captains at the end of team match play should sign the scorecards. Home team captains are responsible for getting the match scores entered into Tennis Link within **24 hours** of match completion

but either captain. If the home team captain is unable to enter scores, the opposing captain can enter them or they can be sent to the League Coordinator to be entered promptly. Captains should keep all score cards in case of disagreement.

The scores are always entered from the perspective of the **winning team**. The winner of the individual match goes first regardless of who won the overall team match. The team that won is then checked on the far right side of the score sheet. The winner of a set tie-break played at 3-3 is awarded one game, (making the final score 4-3). A third set tie-break will always be entered as 1-0, and never 0-1.

COST TO PLAY

The fee for participating in JTT Spring Season 2018 is \$40.00 plus a non-refundable \$3.50 TennisLink fee. A current USTA membership is also required of all players. A one-year membership is \$20.00. Each registered player will receive a Richmond Junior Team Tennis t-shirt.

The home teams provides the match balls, (minimum of 3 new cans per match).

No refunds of the JTT registration fee will be issued after **October 21st, 2018** or if a player has participated in a match. The Tennis Link fee is nonrefundable.

COACHING AND SPORTSMANSHIP

Coaching, by one designated coach or captain is **ONLY** allowed at changeovers, beginning after completion of the 3rd game and after each subsequent odd game. Under no circumstance is coaching allowed during a tie-breaker. **Parents are not permitted to coach or be on the court.**

Players and captains are held to the USTA Code and Friend at Court Regulations. Players are expected to call their own lines clearly and fairly. Use of foul language or unsportsmanlike conduct should be reported to the League Coordinator. Parents are expected to support their child in a positive manner, being a role model of good sportsmanship and fair play. Cheering is allowed and encouraged but only after a point is over. **Applaud for good points and not errors.**

NEW: No more than 15 players are allowed to register for any one team. This rule is to ensure that all players receive ample playing time.

MAKE UP MATCHES

Any matches canceled due to weather should be made up by the following Sunday if possible. Both team captains should be in agreement regarding the rescheduled match day and time. Though it is possible to “piece meal” a make up match, this is not ideal and takes away from the spirit of Junior Team Tennis. Please notify the League Coordinator of the date and time for any rescheduled matches.

TARDINESS FOR MATCHES AND DEFAULTS

All players should be at the match site 15 minutes prior to match time. Based on the scheduled match time, late penalties are enforced as follows:

1-5 min late = loss of toss for serve

5.01-10 min late = loss of toss and loss of 1 game

10.01-15 min late = loss of toss and loss of 2 games

15.01 min late – default of match

If a team must default a line, the captain should let the opposing captain know within 24 hours before the match if possible. Please try to avoid defaults. It is very disappointing to players expecting a match to not to get to play. The team captains should work together to have the kids play an exhibition match if a forfeit does occur.

CONTACT

For any questions or concerns, please contact: Kelley Glen, Richmond League Coordinator
@ Email: jtrichmond@gmail.com or Cell phone: 704-607-5050.