



LOWCOUNTRY JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS

Facebook: Lowcountry Junior Team Tennis

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League Season: Sept. 24 – Nov. 12, 2017



2017 Fall Season DATES TO REMEMBER

August 14 Registration Opens

September -TBDCoach/Parent Meeting
Informational meetings will be set up at each Facility participating for anyone interested in participating/learning about Jr Team Tennis in this year's league plus looking to volunteer as a captain for a team.

November 5 Team Registration Closes in TennisLink

September 24.....Team Matches begin

(Location/Date/Time:TBD) Player Party/ Awards

CAPTAIN/COACH DUTIES

PRE-LEAGUE

- Recruit players and parents.
- Complete online background check – **VERY IMPORTANT TO DO BEFORE MATCHES BEGIN**
- Inform parents of USTA membership requirement and benefits.
- Give league registration dates, fees and instructions to parents.

PRACTICE

- Establish days and location for practices/clinics
- Communicate fees and schedules to parents and children

PRE-SEASON

- Try to get a "Team Mom or Team Dad" to bring drinks or snacks and help with transportation or carpooling.
- Teams are responsible for own transportation. It is recommended to try to recruit parents to handle carpooling to practices and matches.

MATCHES

- Each team should designate one team manager for each match.
- Encourage good sportsmanship and appreciation for teammates and coaches.
- Require your players to shake hands with each other after the match.

POST MATCH

- Home team should enter scores on TennisLink and the visiting team should confirm the scores. Be sure to confirm the scores before match is completed.

How to Check a Players Rating:

1. Go to <https://tennislink.usta.com/TeamTennis/Main/FindAJuniorRating.aspx>
2. Check out the link attached for information on junior ratings:
https://www.usta.com/en/home/play/play-member/national/About_Junior_Ratings.html
3. On the Self Rating Process, the link is attached and **PLEASE DO NOT RATE YOUR PLAYERS 3.5 OR ABOVE**

How Do I Self Rate? If you are new to USTA-sanctioned competition, you will need to complete the self-rate process. Players should rate themselves based on their overall tennis ability. If players are stronger at singles or doubles, they should base their rating on the stronger game.

The [rating descriptions](#) are generalizations about skill levels and are simply here to guide you. You may find that you play above or below the category, depending on your competitive ability. The rating level you choose is not meant to be permanent and may be adjusted as your skills change or as your match play demonstrates the need for reclassification. Ultimately, your rating is based upon match results. Be sure to rate yourself accurately. Once you declare an initial self-rating, you are bound by it until you generate a dynamic rating. If you have any questions, ask a coach or parent to help guide you through the process. *All information gathered from players completing the questionnaires will be used solely for purposes relating to the Junior Rating.*



NET GENERATION IS FOR EVERYONE

By working with coaches, schools, parents and community organizations, and offering them the full support of the USTA, we're here to welcome a new generation of players and help them usher in the next era of tennis. Link is attached: <https://netgeneration.usta.com>

2017 Background Checks through Net Generation - Safe Play

As safety is very important in any youth sports program, USTA National have decided to partner with NCSI, who are a background screening provider sponsored by the National Alliance of Youth Sports.

All Jr. Team Tennis coaches/coordinators that are registered in TennisLink will go through the background screening process first. The background screening process is an easy to use online system and takes 45 minutes to process. The process is a simple online application: <https://netgeneration.usta.com/us-en/safe-play-program.html> Background checks are good for 2 years.

All coordinators and coaches must have their background screen completed before access to TennisLink and could take up to 10 days for clearance.

USTA LOWCOUNTRY JR. TEAM TENNIS FORMAT

- Singles and doubles play within a team match. (1 girl's singles & doubles, 1 boy's singles & doubles, 1 mixed doubles)
 - Team matches will be played in the following order (based on 2 courts per team match):
Boys & Girls Doubles
Boys & Girls Singles
Mixed Doubles
 - Doubling up of players is allowed in the Local format. If doubling up is needed in a match, local format will follow the State format of one of the double ups has to be mixed doubles. No triple play is allowed in local format.
 - Matches will consist of 4 Game Short Set-10U, 3-3 (7 point Tie-Breaker, 6 Games Short Set-12U & 14U, 5-5 (7 point Tie-Breaker) and 18U-8 Game Pro Set (Tie-Breaker at 7-7). Game score is winning by 1 game so score could be 4-3.
 - Winner of breaker will be first to acquire 7 points (**winning by two**). The player whose turn it is to serve will serve the first point of the tie-break game. After this, each player will serve alternately for two consecutive points until the end of the tie-break game.
 - Scoring will be NO-AD. On a 40-40 game point, receiver may choose which side to receive from in doubles. In singles, the receiver may choose which side to receive final point and in mixed doubles, the serve must be gender to gender in the final point.
 - Players will switch sides on the ODD numbered games.
 - Team matches are won by the HIGHEST NUMBER OF GAMES SCORED.
 - If at the end of the mixed doubles matches, the teams are Tied, enter as TIED Match
 - **FRIENDLY CHEERING AND COACHING** from team and spectators is encouraged. Coaches must stand outside fence or at net post to coach and may **only** coach on the changeovers and between sets. *(Please use good sportsmanship and do not do this to distract opponents.)* Coaches for 10 & under teams may coach on the courts. If a player, coach or spectator repeatedly exhibits distracting behavior that interferes with match play, they will receive one warning from the tournament director or coordinator (if available). If the behavior continues, they will be asked to leave the site for the duration of the event. Please report any incidents to the coordinator so situation can be addressed.
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- All team coach/managers are expected to know and abide by all JTT Regulations as stated in the official 2018 JTT regulations and rules book.
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*****Each team will bring one can of tennis balls per an entire match playing Captain/Coach can assign a new can of tennis balls per player for each match or collect money from parents and purchase tennis balls for team matches.**

FALL DIVISIONS/LEVELS OF PLAY

18U, 14U, 12U and 10U Tennis - Beginner 10U & Intermediate Level

- Teams are co-ed and 2 courts are used per match though exhibition matches are encouraged.
- Each team must register a minimum of 3 boys and 3 girls but preferred are 4 boys/girls per team
- No more than 6 boys & 6 girls per team are recommended.
- Each team match consists of FIVE (5) individual matches played in order of: Boy's Doubles, Girl's Doubles, Boy's Singles, Girl's Singles, & Mixed Doubles
- Single Gender League will be offered to 18U Boys

AGE ELIGIBILITY

- Players must be age eligible through August 31st, 2018

MATCHES

Match Schedules

- Area Coordinator will schedule Matches using TennisLink Scheduler computer program.
- The schedule will be available on TennisLink and will include the dates, times and location of all matches.

SUBSTITUTION

- Lineups should be exchanged between the opposing captains before the match begins.
- No substitution may be made in an individual match after the warm up has begun, except for illness, injury, or no show of a player prior to the start of the match. (i.e. the first point has not been played.)
- If no substitution can be made within 15 minutes, that position will be forfeited.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

- Weather conditions that shall authorize the cancellation of a scheduled match are lightning, rain or severe temperatures (a temperature of 40° or colder, or a temperature of 100° or more with heat index including humidity).
- If there is any question about weather, please call April Gift (717) 574-4841
- Make-up matches should be played as soon as possible or rescheduled within a week. This does not mean that the match has to be played but rescheduled. Please give new date to Coordinator so the schedule can be updated.
- Both captains should agree on the makeup day, time and location.
- Please sign up for www.rainedout.com and enter organization of Lowcountry Junior Team Tennis, follow instructions for either receiving text or email about inclement weather and if courts are not playable - give this information to all team member parents
- **Inclement Weather During Play:** In the event inclement weather occurs after play has begun, completed individual matches will stand as played and incomplete matches must be resumed by the same players at the exact game and point that existed when play was halted. Suggestion: write match details (score, server's name) down as players leave the court. If matches have to be played individually with the same players, please do so even if using several dates to complete. If a match has not begun, players can be changed on that particular court if playing on a different date.

RESCHEDULING

- If both captains agree, a match may be rescheduled due to a majority of players being absent from league play and should be played before the originally scheduled match date. A reminder that if you have 3 boys and 3 girls, doubling up is allowed with players only playing as the double up match – mixed doubles as the 2nd match. Your roster must have 3 boys and 3 girls to continue onto districts but encouraging that 4 boys and 4 girls be on a team roster.

POST SEASON

LOCAL LEAGUE CHAMPION

- Winners will be determined by **total games** won at the end of the season. The team who has accumulated the most will win their division.
- In the event of a tie at the end of the season, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:
 1. Head to Head.
 2. Least number of sets lost.
 3. Least number of games lost.

ADVANCEMENT TO CHAMPIONSHIPS

- *Winners of the Local League at each division will advance to State Championships.*
- Each player must have a history of a minimum of **two** local team matches **played on two separate dates** on the team advancing from that season and be age eligible through August 31st. Matches won by default do not count as a played match. Qualifying teams must have a minimum of 3 girls and 3 boys, registered through TennisLink Team Tennis and have local match results recorded in the system to advance to the Championships. Only one player can be substituted for playoffs either boy or girl if your roster drops below 3 girls or 3 boys.
- **State Championship Dates:**
July 13-15 (Location – TBD)
- **Sectional Championship Dates : (TBD)**
August 10-12, 2018
- **National Championships: Lake Nona, FL & Dates - TBD**

TENNISLINK INSTRUCTIONS

NEW COACH/MANAGER REGISTRATION/TEAM CREATION

- Once Safe Play Background check is completed and email confirmation of approval to access TennisLink: Complete registration as a Captain in TennisLink. Go to <http://tennislink.usta.com/TEAMTENNIS> scroll down to "Become a Coach/Manager" and follow registration instructions.
- Enter USTA membership number or if not a member, complete personal information to register and receive your Team Tennis Captain number. Write down your number and password and keep with team information
- Follow instructions to create a new team choosing Section: Southern Section, District: South Carolina, Area: Lowcountry Jr Team Tennis click on the JR. next to Lowcountry Jr. Team Tennis.
- Choose Team Name, make sure to choose division your team will be playing in, and complete team creation. Write down team number!!! **Make sure to send your team number to your players so they can register**

RETURNING COACH/MANAGE REGISTRATION/TEAM CREATION

- You will need your USTA membership or COACH/MANAGER Team Tennis number and password.
- Login at <http://tennislink.usta.com/TEAMTENNIS>
- Under My Options click on "Create New Team". Enter Section: Southern, District: South Carolina, Area: Lowcountry and click on the JR. next to Lowcountry Jr. Team Tennis.
- Choose Team Name; make sure to choose division your team will be playing in, complete team creation. Make sure to send your team number to your players so they can register.

PLAYER REGISTRATION INFO

- Player(s) will be unable to register for a team without a current USTA membership number – must be current membership through the season
- Once coach/captains have registered a team in TennisLink they should give the new team number to players to register for their team. Individuals may do this, or the captain of the team may wish to collect the fees and enter all the players at one time.
- Player(s) may be added to a team roster prior to the first match of the season.
- Player(s) must be registered on TennisLink prior to participating in a match.

USTA MEMBERSHIP - TO JOIN OR RENEW

You will need:

- Credit card information (name on card, expiration date, billing zip code)
- If renewal, USTA Number of player

Step 1: Go to www.usta.com/Membership

Step 2: Complete registration form or click on "Renew Membership" on right menu.

Step 3: Complete process, write down or print out membership number.

Player Registration: Coaches Give players your team #:

Step 1: Go to <http://tennislink.usta.com/TEAMTENNIS> click on "Jr. Team Tennis" under TennisLink

Step 2: Click on "Register for a Team"

Step 3: Enter Team number and USTA membership number

Step 4: Click **Proceed to check out**

Step 5: Verify registration is for correct team

Step 6: Enter payment information; select Submit. Print a receipt for a record of payment

TO ENTER/CONFIRM SCORES IN TENNISLINK

SCORE ENTRY

- Home team or Visiting team can enter the match scores in TennisLink.
- Enter **winning team's scores first**, i.e. 4-3.
- Visiting team should verify the scores entered, and confirm the results.
- If there is discrepancy, please select "dispute" the scores online and contact the league coordinator.
- The league coordinator will enter the appropriate changes.

TO ENTER SCORES

You will need:

- Match number (Hint: Print a "Match Summary" report which lists your match ID numbers. Save this for reference throughout the season.)
- Scores from match

Step 1: Go to <http://tennislink.usta.com/TEAMTENNIS>

Step 2: Click on "Jr. Team Tennis"

Step 3: On the right side of the page, select **Click here to login**

Step 4: Enter USTA number or Team Tennis number of captain, and Password, and select **Logon**

Step 5: On the right side of the page, under "My Options", select **Score Entry**

Step 6: Enter the match number, select **Next**

Step 7: Verify it's the correct match for which you wish to enter scores, select **Next**

Step 8: Scorecard: Enter the date the match was played. Select players in each position from the drop down list and enter scores; team that won 2 sets should be entered on left. Click **Next**.

Step 9: Verify information entered is correct. If accurate, click **Finish**.

TO CONFIRM SCORES

You will need:

- Match number (Hint: Print a "Match Summary" report which lists your match ID numbers. Save this for reference throughout the season.)
- Scores from match

Step 1: Go to <http://tennislink.usta.com/TEAMTENNIS>

Step 2: Click on "Jr. Team Tennis"

Step 3: On the right side of the page, select **Click here to login**

Step 4: Enter USTA number (or Team Tennis number) of captain and Password, and select **Logon**

Step 5: On the right side of the page, under "My Options", select **Score Entry**

Step 6: Enter the match number, select **Next**

Step 7: Verify it's the correct match for which you wish to enter scores, select **Next**

Step 8: Scorecard: Review players, positions and scores.

Step 9: Select **confirm**, if accurate. Click **Dispute**, if not accurate and contact the league coordinator for correction of scores.

Step 10: Click **Finish** to complete the process

TEAM REPORTS IN TENNISLINK

- Step 1: Go to <http://tennislink.usta.com/TEAMTENNIS>
- Step 2: Click on "Jr. Team Tennis" under **TennisLink**
- Step 3: On the right side of the page, select **Click here to login**
- Step 4: Enter USTA number of captain and Password, and select **Logon**
- Step 5: On the right side of the page, under "My Options", select **Teams**
- Step 6: On the far right side of your team information, click on the **icon**

From here you can, you can view:

Team Summary - contains players, team standings and team matches

Match Summary - includes match schedule along with results*

Match Schedule - includes schedule along with captains' phone number

Player Roster – includes players' names, address, phone number, etc.

HELPFUL HINTS

Match ID Numbers

You will need match numbers for score entry and score confirmation.

Print a "Match Summary" report which lists your matches along with their ID numbers. Save this for reference throughout the season.

Scorecards

If while in Match Summary, or Match Schedule you click on a match ID number, you can print a blank scorecard for the designated match. This blank scorecard will list the names of all registered players on both the home and visiting teams. Take this to the match for recording scores.

BASIC RULES OF TENNIS AND TENNIS ETIQUETTE

FIRST RULE OF TENNIS:

ALWAYS TREAT YOUR OPPONENTS WITH COURTESY AND RESPECT

1. Server/Receiver—Players stand on opposite sides of court. The person who delivers/hits the ball is the server and the other the receiver.
2. Spin of racket—The player that wins the racket spin may choose or require the opponents to choose the right to serve or receive. The other side shall choose which side he (she) wants to start on.
3. Beginning—Server waits on receiver to be ready and stands behind the baseline to put ball in play. Receiver must allow ball to bounce in service box before returning. In delivering the service, server stands alternately behind right and left courts beginning every game from the right side. Ball served shall go over the net and land in service court, which is diagonally opposite the server.
4. Faults—Service of a fault if server misses ball in attempting to serve, if ball does not land in proper court, or if ball touches anything before hitting ground.
5. Service after Fault—After a fault (if it is first serve), server serves again from the same side/place. If the second serve is also a fault, server loses the point.
6. Service Let—During service, a ball that touches the top of the net but lands in proper court is termed a let and counts for nothing. Serve is replayed. There is no limit to the number of lets.
7. Receiver becomes Server—At the end of the first game, the receiver becomes the server. Player's change ends at the end of the 1st, 3rd, 5th and subsequent alternate games.
8. Players lose point—Players lose the point if ball hits ground twice, if ball hits any object such as net post before landing inside lines, if player or racket touches the net, if ball touches anything other than player's racket.
9. Ball landing on the line is good. (**Repeat...BALL LANDING ON ANY PART OF THE LINE IS GOOD.**) Please advise players of rule before the match has started. A good reminder for young players.
10. No Ad Scoring
11. **THERE IS TO BE NO COACHING OR CALLING OF LINES BY PARENTS OR SPECTATORS DURING MATCHES.** If a player is making possible bad line calls and no official is available, please have a parent from each team watch the match but not making line calls for players.

PLAYER, SPECTATOR AND TEAM ETIQUETTE

Besides the rules of tennis there are also some important unwritten laws, which come under the title of tennis etiquette. Tennis is a social game, a game involving simple politeness and consideration. Everyone will enjoy the game so much more if those standards are maintained. Here are some of the rules, which are most important:

- Talk quietly when standing near tennis courts that are in use.
- Never walk behind a court when a point is still in play. Wait until the point is over and then cross as fast as possible.
- Always come prepared. Bring not only balls, but towels and water to drink when it is hot.
- Wear sneakers for tennis. Other shoes may wear out quickly, hurt your feet, or damage the court.
- When you're ready to play, put racket covers, ball cans, jackets etc., out of everyone's way.
- To see whom serves first, spin your racket. If you win the spin, the choice is yours. You may serve first, or you may choose to receive first or to pick which end of the court you want to start playing on. As a third choice you may make your opponent choose first.
- When sending balls back to a neighboring court, roll them to the back of the court. Never send them back while play is in progress.
- Retrieve balls for your partner and your opponent.
- Don't criticize your partner, but offer encouragement.
- Call your own lines and let your opponent hear the call. If the ball is good say nothing and play on.
- Always respect the line calls of your opponent.
- If there is a disagreement, offer a "let." In other words, replay the point, even if it was a second service.

USTA Jr. Team Tennis Coaches Code of Conduct System

USTA Jr. Team Tennis (JTT) should be a fun and rewarding experience for our children. Character building lessons such as hard work, discipline, sportsmanship, and handling adversity are regularly on display. Parents of JTT players should also enjoy the time spent with their children and watching them develop not just into better tennis players, but into good citizens.

Coaches and organizers of Jr. Team Tennis are under a duty to encourage and maintain high standards of proper conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship. They are under an obligation to avoid acts which may be considered detrimental to the game of tennis. Coaches shall not engage in unsportsmanlike conduct.

The JTT Coaches Code of Conduct System shall apply to all local JTT matches, and championships.

- during the entire team match and practices
- at match facilities

During the course of a match or practice a coach shall not engage in:

- a. Verbal abuse. Swear at a spectator or an opponent in a voice that can be heard by any person;
- b. Visible or audible profanity. Use profanity or insulting, abusive or obscene language in any way that may be heard by any person or use obscene, insulting or abusive gestures;
- c. Racket or Ball abuse. Deliberately throw or hit a ball/racquet in any direction;
- d. Threaten players, parents, or spectators in any way;
- e. Physical abuse. Threaten or inflict bodily injury to anyone; or Threaten or inflict bodily injury to anyone; or
- f. Other unsportsmanlike or inappropriate conduct on or off court at locations such as the match site, or parking lot
- g. Physical act of violence against another person on or off the court by a player, parent, relative, coach, or other person associated with a player
- h. Illegal use of drugs or possession of illegal drugs or Possession or consumption of alcohol beverages
- i. Destruction of property

How do coaches get reported?

- A coach, parent, player, or program administrator directly involved must complete a short reporting form to be found on the South Carolina website and submit to USTA
- USTA South Carolina will maintain records of reports against coaches.
- All reports will be reviewed by a USTA Lowcountry Jr. Team Tennis Grievance Committee in accordance with the USTA Jr. Team Tennis grievance procedures on pages 19-24 in the regulations booklet. Also found at www.usta.com/jtt
- The USTA Lowcountry Grievance Committee will determine and enforce appropriate penalties.

Online Coordinators and Coaches Courses via the JTT website:

<http://tennislink.usta.com/TEAMTENNIS/Main/Home.aspx> Great tool to get started with Junior Team Tennis

<http://training.teamusa.org/store/details/1> Another great tool for coaches to understand the signs of abuse and takes about 45 minutes to complete.

<https://netgeneration.usta.com> Great coaching tool for pros and new coaches plus High School Players helping with your programs.

These are great tools for coaches and coordinators to use!

The main purpose of Jr Team Tennis is to have Fun plus give children the opportunity to gain experience on the courts. Let's not lose sight of this and help to make a better tennis experience on and off the courts for children.