



2024 Mississippi Southern Jr Team Tennis Regulations

Team Coaches/Managers:

Each team captain registered in Tennislink must have completed the USTA Jr Team Tennis Background Check and Safeplay requirements. If a captain's previous background check has expired, they will go to www.usta.com/safeplay and sign in with the email address and password used for their USTA ACCOUNT to complete the background check and Safeplay video. Once the background screening is complete, that website will show 4 green checkmarks at the top and the captain is eligible to be linked to their JTT teams to enter scores.

Player Participation More Than One Team:

Players may play on more than one team in the same local league in our state, as long as they are in different age divisions. For example, a player can play on a 14 and under team and an 18 and under team. That player can only play on one of those teams though if advancing to ANY championship. A player may play in the same age division in SEPARATE local leagues, but must choose only one team to play with at the state tournament.

More Than One Match:

Players are not allowed to play more than once in a match.

Team Composition:

12U, 14U, and 18U teams must have at least 3 boys and 3 girls on the original roster to be eligible for advancement. Teams cannot sign up for State if they do not have at least 6 players on the original roster. IF teams have 6 players on the original roster but all of the players can't come to State, that team may THEN use the substitution rule, but must have 6 players committed to sign up for State.

(New in 2024) 10U teams no longer have to be composed of specific gender and must have a minimum of 4 players on the original roster to be eligible for advancement. Teams cannot sign up for State if they do not have at least 4 players on the original roster. IF teams have 4 players on the original roster but all of the players can't come to State, that team may THEN use the substitution rule, but must have 4 players committed to sign up for State.

Southern Match Format:

12U, 14U, and 18U - One girl and boys singles, one girl and boys doubles match. (No Mixed)
(New in 2024) 10U – 2 singles matches and one doubles matches. (Nonspecific gender)

National Rule: Coaching

In our state and section, coaching is allowed by one person during a match (whomever is designated the coach or captain for that match, although that may be a different person each match, it doesn't have to be the captain). Coaching is only allowed during changeovers. It is not allowed during tiebreaks, after the first game of a set, or by hand signals during play.

National Rule: Eligibility for Progression

In order to advance to the summer championship in 2024, a player must have played in **TWO separate team matches (with 2 different match ID numbers) with the team they are advancing with, and ONE default can count towards this total.**

*****JTT ADVANCED DIVISION ELIGIBILITY FOR PROGRESSION*****

If a team that has declared that they want to play in the “Advanced” division, those teams may come straight to State without having to qualify locally, assuming there are no other local teams signed up to play Advanced in their division. If more than one Advanced team is signed up locally in a particular division, then those teams will play one another locally. Advanced teams should contact their local coordinators by July 1 to see if there are other teams locally that the teams would have to “play off” against or if they should register directly for State.

National Rule: Substitutions

12U, 14U, and 18U - After local play is complete and you are advancing to state or sectionals; you can only substitute **ONE** player that wasn’t on your local roster. You can **ONLY** substitute *one player* if you drop below the minimum required to participate (6), so if you have 3 boys and girls from the original roster that are planning on advancing with your team, then you cannot add/sub a player from another team.

Substitutes or players added (in INT) have to have qualified by playing 2 matches with their team.

(New in 2024) 10U – Substitute player is only allowed for teams which originally had the required minimum number of players (4 players) who are eligible to advance.

In no event can more than ONE player be added to meet the minimum team size requirement.

ADVANCED vs INTERMEDIATE

In the summer league teams are eligible to advance to State and Sectionals.

(New in 2024) The World Tennis Number “WTN” at time of registration will be used to determine the divisions a players eligible to participate in during the Championship YEAR if the confidence factor is 40% or higher.

Age Division	Range	WTN Rating at the time of Registration
		Players with no confidence factor will be able to sign up for any division.
18U Adv	40 - 1	Anyone allowed to play ADV in 18U
18U Int	40 - 23	Must be within range to play INT in 18U
14U Adv	40 - 1	Anyone allowed to play ADV in 14U
14U Int	40 - 27	Must be within range to play INT in 14U

In 12U divisions, a player may play Green or Yellow based on PlayTracker regulations/allowances.

In 10U divisions, a player may play Green or Orange based on PlayTracker regulations/allowances.

State Rule: Age Eligibility

All JTT local seasons that will have teams advance to the summer championship will check players’ ages at the time of registration. **Players must remain age eligible through August 31.** (i.e. If Jim turns 13 on August 20, he will have to play 14 and under locally, EVEN if he is still 12 during the local league and the state championships).

Playing “UP” in Age Division

10 and Under players may “play up” in the 12U Intermediate Division, but NOT any division higher than that (12’s Advanced, 14’s, or 18’s) UNLESS they’ve reached “mission complete” status in the Youth play Tracker system. Players older than 10 may play up in ANY JTT age division that they choose.

Team Roster Makeup/ Out of Area Participation (State Rule)

At least 50% of a local JTT roster must be made up of players that list their home address on their USTA membership as being from within that local league’s area. It is up to the captain of the team to check the roster and ensure that their team complies with the rule. As long as 50% of the team is from the local area, the other 50% may come from another area inside Mississippi or from another state.

FYI for State Tournament (Rules You Need to Know)

1. **Scoring:** Local format and scoring will be determined by the local league, and they may choose what they want.
 - The scoring format at the state tournament will be **the best of 3 short sets** (a set to 6 w/ a regular tiebreak at 5 games all) with a match tiebreak (tiebreak to 10) played in lieu of a 3rd set.

2. **Advancement:** The following table will determine how many teams from each local league will advance to the state tournament on **August 4-6 in JACKSON, MS.**

10's, 12's, and 14's table below

- 1-3 teams in a division (1 team advances)
- 4-6 teams in a division (2 teams advance)
- 7-9 teams in a division (3 teams advance)
- 10-12 teams in a division (4 teams advance)
- *There is always a possibility that wildcards will be invited in addition to the qualifying teams.*

18&Under Table

- 1-4 teams in a division (1 team advances)
- 5-8 teams in a division (2 teams advance)
- 9-12 teams in a division (3 teams advance)
- 13-16 teams in a division (4 teams advance)

3. **Scoring:** Winners at state AND in local play will be determined by the following:
 - 1) The winner of the most games will be the winner of a match and a flight
 - 2) If the total games won are tied, the following will be the tiebreak procedures.
 - a) If two teams are tied, head to head results will determine the winner.
 - b) If more than 2 teams are tied, the team with the most team matches won advances
 - b) The final tiebreaker will be the team with the most individual matches won, followed by the most amount of sets won.

4. **BALLS USED/ COURT SIZE**

- The 10's INTERMEDIATE will play on a 60' court with an orange low-compression ball. 10 and under players must use a racquet that is 25" or less.
- The 10U Advanced Level will be played on a full size 78' court with a green dot ball.
- **The 12 and Under INTERMEDIATE Division**

The 12 and Under Intermediate Division will play with a green-dot ball on a full sized court; while the 12U advanced division will play with a yellow ball on a full sized court.