MARY HATFIELD JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS INVITATIONAL

Hosted by: USTA Mississippi

Tournament Site: Mobile Tennis Center, 851 Gaillard Drive, Mobile, Alabama 36608.

September 5-6, 2026

This document is to aid those attending Mississippi's: Mary Hatfield JTT Invitational by highlighting regulations to be aware of.

Teams are responsible for reading and abiding by the complete Invitational rules and regulations as listed here.

I. DIVISIONS, BALL TYPE, AND SCORING FORMATS

Division / Level	Court	Ball Color	Racquet	WTN Range	Scoring format
18U ADV	78'	YELLOW	Must be 29" or smaller	40 - 1	Best 2 out of 3 sets, short sets to 4, ad scoring. A set tiebreaker is played at 3 all. A 10-point match tiebreak is played at one set all.
18U INT	78'	YELLOW	Must be 29" or smaller	40 - 23	Best 2 out of 3 sets, short sets to 4, ad scoring. A set tiebreaker is played at 3 all. A 10-point match tiebreak is played at one set all.
18U BEG	78'	YELLOW	Must be 29" or smaller	40 - 27	Best 2 out of 3 sets, short sets to 4, ad scoring. A set tiebreaker is played at 3 all. A 10-point match tiebreak is played at one set all.
14U ADV	78'	YELLOW	Must be 29" or smaller	40 - 1	Best 2 out of 3 sets, short sets to 4, ad scoring. A set tiebreaker is played at 3 all. A 10-point match tiebreak is played at one set all.
14U INT	78'	YELLOW	Must be 29" or smaller	40 - 27	Best 2 out of 3 sets, short sets to 4, ad scoring. A set tiebreaker is played at 3 all. A 10-point match tiebreak is played at one set all.
14U BEG	78'	YELLOW	Must be 29" or smaller	40 - 29	Best 2 out of 3 sets, short sets to 4, ad scoring. A set tiebreaker is played at 3 all. A 10-point match tiebreak is played at one set all.
12U ADV	78'	YELLOW	Must be 29" or smaller	Based on Playtracker	Best 2 out of 3 sets, short sets to 4, ad scoring. A set tiebreaker is played at 3 all. A 10-point match tiebreak is played at one set all.
12U INT	78'	GREEN	Must be 29" or smaller	Based on Playtracker	Best 2 out of 3 sets, short sets to 4, ad scoring. A set tiebreaker is played at 3 all. A 10-point match tiebreak is played at one set all.
12U BEG	78'	GREEN	Must be 29" or smaller	40 - 31	Best 2 out of 3 sets, short sets to 4, ad scoring. A set tiebreaker is played at 3 all. A 10-point match tiebreak is played at one set all.

10U ADV	**78'**	**GREEN**	**Must be 29" or smaller**	**Based on Playtracker**	**Best 2 out of 3 short sets - ad, first to 4 games. 3rd set is a 7-point tiebreak. (only have to win by 1 in set & tiebreak).**
10U INT	**60'**	**ORANGE**	**Must be 25" or smaller**	**Based on Playtracker**	**Best 2 out of 3 short sets - ad, first to 4 games. 3rd set is a 7-point tiebreak. (only have to win by 1 in set & tiebreak).**
10U BEG	**60'**	**ORANGE**	**Must be 25" or smaller**	**Based on Playtracker**	**Best 2 out of 3 short sets - ad, first to 4 games. 3rd set is a 7-point tiebreak. (only have to win by 1 in set & tiebreak).**

II. RULES & INFORMATION

Player / Team Eligibility:

- The World Tennis Number (WTN) at time of registration for that local league will be used to determine the division a player is eligible to participate in during the Championship Year if they have a high confidence factor.
- Player's age must remain eligible in their division through August 31, 2026. - All players must be registered in TennisLink on a local team. State regulations determine a player's eligibility (outside of invitational requirements) for advancement to the Invitational.
- 12 & Under, 14 & Under, and 18 & Under
- Teams are required to have a minimum of 3 boys and 3 girls
- 10 & Under
- Teams are required to have a minimum of 4 players (gender neutral)

III. INVITATIONAL FORMAT

Match App:

- The invitational will use Match App for team registration and score input.

Invitational Format:

- Teams will compete in a round-robin format, with possible advancement to a single elimination playoff depending on the final number of teams participating.

IV. SCORING DISPUTES

Players must keep score and make all calls. Team captains and parents cannot interfere. If a dispute arises, players should attempt to settle the dispute. If unsuccessful, players should summon the official to the court.

V. INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT PLAY

12 & Under, 14 & Under, and 18 & Under:
Team play will consist of 5 lines:
Mixed doubles, boys singles, boy's doubles, girls singles, & girls doubles.

- The only place you can double up is singles and mixed.

- If there is a default, a team must default their singles line (least amount of players affected).

10 & Under:
2 singles and 1 doubles – gender neutral.
Play procedure: All 3 (three) courts are assigned at the same time.
- A player can only play 1 court in a team match.
- Players cannot double up or play twice in a team match.
- Players cannot play on more than one team.

Alternative scoring formats:
In the event of a long rain delay, it will be at the discretion of the Tournament Committee to use an alternative playing format. If scoring is changed a conversion of scores may be necessary.

VI. THE POINT PENALTY SYSTEM

The Point Penalty System will be in effect. This means that abusive or unsportsmanlike behavior by players or spectators will not be tolerated. Examples of behavior that warrant PPS are disrespect of officials, racket abuse, ball abuse, swearing, delaying play. The referee will enforce the Point Penalty System as follows: first offense - loss of point; second offense – loss of game; third offense – default.

VII. TEAM SUBSTITUTIONS

All team substitutes must be approved by the tournament committee. Players must be registered in Tennis Link on a local team. State regulations determine player eligibility for advancement to invitational.

12 & Under, 14 & Under, and 18 & Under:
Substitutes cannot exceed more than 50% of a team's original roster.
- In no event can more than 4 substitutes (2 boys & 2 girls) be added to a roster.

Examples of what teams *can do*:
- Teams with 1 boy and 1 girl are ineligible to participate since adding players exceeds 50% of the original team.
- Teams with 2 boys and 2 girls can add only 2 boys and 2 girls to their team.
- Teams with 3 boys and 3 girls can add only 1 boy and 1 girl to their team.
- Teams with 4 boys and 4 girls (or more) cannot add any players.
- Teams with 3 players for one gender, and 1 player for the other, can add two players to the gender with 1 player.

Example of what teams cannot do:
- Teams with any variation 0 & 3 (boys or girls) can NOT add 3 players to the gender with 0 players, and 0 players to the gender with 3 players.

10 & Under:
Substitutes cannot exceed more than 50% of a team's original roster.

Examples of what teams *can do*:
- Teams with four players can add a maximum of one substitute player.
- Teams with two or three players are allowed to add a maximum of two substitute players.

Example of what teams cannot do:
- Teams with five or more players cannot add a substitute player.

VIII. MATCH SUBSTITUTIONS

Once a scorecard has been submitted a match substitution may only be made in the case of illness or injury and approved by the tournament desk. Substitutions in an individual match cannot be made after the first point has been put into play in that individual match.

IX. SCORECARDS

Scorecards are to be submitted on MTTA 30 minutes before the scheduled match time but only when all players are present on site. Results will be entered into Match App/ TennisLink. Balls and cans should be returned at the completion of the match and scorecards should be signed off on the app.

X. CHECK-IN

Teams should arrive at the facility 30 minutes prior to each match. Only Team Captains should come to the tournament desk to pick up the balls for each match. All team members must be present and ready for play at time of check-in. Teams will be assigned 2-4 courts for the match. Should courts become available for additional positions, the teams must play the match when the court(s) become available.

XI. DEFAULTS

12U, 14U, & 18U: A team must have a minimum of six (6) eligible players; three (3) boys and three (3) girls, registered and available for the Invitational.

10U: A team must have a minimum of four (4) eligible players, gender neutral, registered and available for the Invitational.

After the schedule is published, if a situation happens that will cause a team to default a line for the entire Invitational, notice must be given to the tournament director and/or tournament referee and approved prior to the start of play.

If a team needs to default a position, it must be at singles as this will affect the fewest number of players. The opposing team will be given the opportunity to change the lineup in the event of a default.

12U-18U: A team may default a maximum of two positions in a team match without defaulting the entire match.

10U: A team may default a maximum of one position in a team match without defaulting the entire match.

XII. TIME PENALTIES

- Team: late penalties may be enforced at the tournament referee's discretion, i.e. once one court at the facility for that time slot becomes available each player's individual match will start 1 game down for the first five (5) minutes late + loss of toss, for 5.01 minutes to 10:00 minutes late, each individual match will be down 2 additional points and at 10:01 to 15:00 minutes late, each individual match will be down 2 more points for a maximum of 2 games down and loss of toss. At 15:01 minutes late the entire match may be defaulted and will be handled by the referee and the tournament committee.
- Player: late penalties may be enforced at the tournament referee's discretion, i.e. each player's individual line will start 1 game down for the first five (5) minutes late + loss of toss, for 5.01 minutes to 10:00 minutes late, each player's individual line will be down 2 additional points and at 10:01 to 15:00 minutes late, each player's individual line will be down 2 more points for a maximum of 2 games down and loss of toss. At 15:01 minutes late that player's entire line may be defaulted and will be handled by the referee and the tournament committee.

XIII. WARM-UP

Limited to (5) minutes, including serves. All players on the court must take warm-up serves prior to the beginning of play. Captains will be asked to help monitor the warm-up time.

XIV. TIEBREAK PROCEDURES

Team Match:

1. Ends in a tie (example 35-35):
    a. NO TIEBREAK

Round Robin (Teams tied with same # of games won):

1. Head-to-head team matches win/loss record between the tied teams.
    a. A win is determined by most games won.
2. The team with the most team matches won in the round robin flight.
3. The team with the most individual matches won in the round robin flight. 4. The team with the most sets won in the round robin flight.
5. Percentage of games won during matches between tied teams.
6. Percentage of games won in round robin matches.
7. Mixed doubles 10pt. tie-break.

Partial Round Robin (Teams tied with same # of games won):

1. Head-to-head team match win/loss record between the tied teams.
    a. A win is determined by most games won.
2. The team with the most team matches won in the partial round robin flight.
3. The team with the most individual matches won in the partial round robin flight.
4. The team with the most sets won in the partial round robin flight.
5. Percentage of games won during matches between tied teams.
6. Percentage of games won in partial round robin matches.
7. Mixed doubles 10pt. tie-break.

Between Divisions (Same # of teams in each division):

1. The team with the most games won.
2. The team with the most team matches won.
3. The team with the most individual matches won.
4. The team with the most sets won.
5. Percentage of games won during all matches.
6. Mixed doubles 10pt. tie-break.

Between Divisions (each division doesn't have the same # of teams):

1. Percentage of games won (games won divided by games played)
2. Percentage of team matches won (team matches won divided by team matches played)
3. Percentage of individual matches won (individual matches won divided by individual matches played)
4. Percentage of sets won (sets won divided by sets played)
5. Mixed doubles 10pt. tie-break.

Playoff Match:

Once the tie is determined, each team designates a mixed doubles team to play the Match Tiebreak. The teams will flip a coin to determine who serves first and be given a 5-minute warm-up. For the 12U, 14U and 18U, the winner is the first to reach ten (10) points by a margin of two (2) points. For the 10U, the winner is the first to seven (7) points by a margin of two (2).

XV. PLAYOFF PROCEDURES

Levels with teams that advance to playoffs begin each match with zero (0) points. Points from the original round- robin or partial round robin draw are not carried over to the Playoff rounds. The Play Twice rotation begins again in the Playoffs and/or Finals. All teams are required to complete all matches.

XVI. SPECTATOR CONDUCT

Appropriate behavior for all spectators is expected. Interference by parents or spectators is not permitted. Captains/coaches are responsible for knowing and reviewing the Spectator Rules with their team and parents and are responsible for the behavior of their team and spectators. If spectators do not comply with the rules, they may be asked to leave the premises by the official.

XVII. TEAM CAPTAIN(S) / MANAGER(S)

Teams may have a Team Captain/Manager, Co-Captain/Manager and a Coach. - All Team Captains/Managers must be listed as the Team Captain in TennisLink. All Captains must be approved through the USTA Safe Play process. Individuals may be listed as the co-captain for multiple teams.
- The Team Captain/Manager may report infractions to the officials, who shall then take prompt and appropriate action. One coach is designated for the duration of each team match (see coaching rules below). It is encouraged to have a Team

Captain/Manager takes care of the administrative duties and a Coach to take care of coaching duties.
- ALL communication with the tournament staff and/or officials should be done ONLY by the Captain and/or Coach. Abusive or confrontational behavior from anyone toward tournament staff and/or officials will not be tolerated and may result in the suspension of coaching privileges and/or point penalties.

XVIII. COACHING

Is allowed during time when players change ends at the end of a game. The following coaching policies must be followed. Any violation of these coaching policies may result in the suspension of the coaching privilege and point penalties.
- Only one person may be designated per team match as the Coach of a team and must be identified with a badge.
- The coach, manager, or captain coaching, must be Safe Play approved.

- A Coach may coach the players when the players change ends at the end of a game, but not during a tiebreak game or 3rd set tiebreak.
- Coaches must remain outside of the fence.
- Coaching should be a positive reinforcement to your player and not against the opponent.
- A player is not allowed to be coached if the coaching is given by signals during play.
- The tournament referee reserves the right to change or alter the coaching rules of a championship event.

XIX. OFFICIALS

There will be certified roving officials present. Roving umpires may be positioned inside the fenced areas and will interfere with play as little as possible. Players should be encouraged to play tennis without the need for officials to be present for matches. In the case of disputed calls and upon the request of the player, captain/manager or coach, a roving official may be supplied to oversee the match. One of the goals of the championships is to teach players to play by The Code as they graduate to other competitions and to understand the role and availability of umpires. Their own misbehavior and/or inability to call lines or trust their opponents not only reflects badly on them but deprives their fellow players of a fair match and thereby requires official supervision.

XX. ELECTRONIC DEVICES

No Electronic devices, including cell phones and smart watches are allowed on the court. **XXI.**

XXI. AWARDS

All registered players on the Champion and Finalist teams for each level with more than two teams will receive awards and team photos will be taken at the Mobile Tennis Center after the division/flight matches are completed. Champions are determined by the total number of games won. Scores must be verified with captains and tournament officials before awards are presented.

XXII. SORTSMANSHIP

Good Sportsmanship nominations are accepted during the state championship. The pick-up location will be relayed through Match App.

XXIII. DRESS CODE

The Dress Code will be strictly enforced.
- Girls: No sports bras without a t-shirt; no shorts/skirts with a rolled down waistband; no bare midriffs.
- Boys: No tank tops. Hemmed sleeveless shirts are permitted.

XXIV. WEATHER DELAYS

ALL weather updates will be sent out through Match App.

In the event of a weather delay, please remain at the tournament site until an event message is sent out or the tournament staff informs you of the playing schedule.

In the event of a long weather delay, it will be at the discretion of the Tournament Committee to use an alternative playing format. If scoring is changed a conversion of scores may be necessary.

Should inclement weather or other circumstances prevent the completion of the tournament; the Tournament Committee will determine the cancellation procedures to determine an Invitational Champion.

XXV. INVITATIONAL DEPOSITS & REFUNDS

Teams that withdraw once the draw/schedule is posted will forfeit their entry fee and their $350 team deposit plus the processing fee. Teams must play the championship to completion. If a team does not play to completion the $350 deposit will not be refunded. If a team leaves before the competition is completed and/or defaults an entire match, the team will be charged the $350 team deposit plus processing fees. In addition, the tournament director and/or referee may file a grievance against the team.

XXVI. GRIEVANCES

Forms are available at each of the sites at the tournament desk. Completed grievance forms must be presented to the Site Director at the site of the match within 30 minutes of the completion of the last individual court of the team match.
- The Invitational committee will handle all grievances as promptly as possible. Anyone with pertinent information will be permitted at any hearings.
- A team that withdraws from the Invitational after schedules are published, or a team having an invalid match or defaulting an entire team match during championship play, will be subject to a grievance filed by the tournament director and/or referee.

XXVII. ADMINISTRATION

The Invitational Committee will use proper and fair judgment with regard to all Invitational championship-related issues.
- Invitational Procedures may be amended at the discretion of the Championship Committee.
- In the event a vote is held and there is a tie, the Southern state staff liaison will break that tie.
- In the event a grievance is brought between two teams from opposing states, those states shall not participate in the grievance procedures for impartiality.
- The Invitational committee handles all Invitational selections.
- The Invitational committee handles all Invitational substitution procedures and approvals.
- The Invitational committee handles all Invitational grievances.

- The Invitational committee may release a team from the Invitational Championship.

The Tournament committee will be made up of state staff presents at the tournament and the tournament head referee.
- All day-of tournament related issues will be brought to the tournament committee. - The tournament committee is required to be available to handle issues the day(s) of the tournament.