

# 2026 Spring State Championship Regulations

## USTA MS Junior Team Tennis

### Team Captains/Coaches

Each USTA Junior Team Tennis Team shall have a Team Captain/Manager responsible for the team, its administrative affairs as well as the behavior of anyone associated with the team (see Spectator Policy below). Each Team Captain/Manager shall be compliant with the USTA Safe Play Policies and Procedures for USTA Junior Team Tennis and be greenlit through the NCSI background check process.

- ***A team deposit of \$150 will be required from each team before being placed on the schedule. This will be done on the Match Team Tennis app. The deposit will be held until the championship is over ensuring teams play all their scheduled matches.***

### Player Participation

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.

**Once at the State Championships players may only participate on ONE team.** 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. Players can only play once in a single match.

### Official Information System

Match Team App and Tennislink is the official information system of USTA Junior Team Tennis.

### Official Championship Registration/Standings System

All teams must register using the Match Team App and TennisLink platforms. The Match Team App will be the platform used to show schedules, enter scores. Standings will be on the app and in Tennislink. A player's name must be listed on the team roster, as shown in the USTA's Digital Platform, prior to participation in any match. The State Association shall establish deadlines and procedures for registering players and teams in the USTA's Digital Platform.

### COMPETITION FORMAT

The competition format may be round robin, partial round robin, or a combination of the two, at the discretion of the Championship Committee.

- **ROUND ROBIN** -If round robin competition is used, each team shall play every other team in its flight and the team with the highest number of total games shall be the champion in its flight. The use of flights requires a playoff to establish a champion.
- **PARTIAL ROUND ROBIN** - The Partial Round Robin Format may be used in scenarios when the number of teams does not work well with round robin.  
All teams shall be scheduled the same number of matches against randomly selected opponents.
- The 2 teams at the top of the standings at the end of the unflighted matches are the 2 teams to make a final.
- **Playoff**- If there are 2 flights with 4 teams in each flight, the first place team will play in the final. The remaining teams will play in a playoff; Flight 1 second place vs Flight 2 second place; Flight 1 third place vs Flight 2 third place and so on. This is to ensure all teams are playing at least 4 matches.

### Team Composition/Format/Scoring

Team compositions will be COED and the match format for age divisions 12U, 14U, and 18U, will consist of 3 doubles courts;

- 1 girl's doubles, 1 boy doubles and 1 mixed court.

At the Spring State tournament, each individual court for ages 12U, 14U, and 18U will play the best out of 3 sets; a set tiebreak played at 5 games all and a third set 10 point tiebreaker if split sets. This could change with the number of teams entered in the championship or inclement of weather.

The 10U age division team composition will be coed and the match format is 3 doubles courts, gender neutral. The scoring format is the best of three short sets to 4, and one game as a set tiebreak at 3 games all, staying in the serving order of the match.

One game is played in lieu of a match tiebreaker, keeping the serving order.

- Local leagues will use the same match and team formats, but may choose a different scoring format.

### Age Eligibility

Players registering for spring teams must be "age eligible" through April 30 (i.e., a player must remain 12 through April 30 in order to sign up for a 12 and under team.)

### Coaching

Coaching is allowed **ONLY** during the **90 second changeovers**. 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 not allowed during the first changeover of the set. Coaching must take place from outside the fence.

**Coaches are not allowed on the court.** In no event is coaching allowed during a tiebreak. Coaching is not allowed on a toilet/change of attire break, medical timeout, or when a player leaves the court seeking the assistance of the official.

### 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 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.

### Substitutions and Additions for Spring State Championships

Teams may add two players to their state championship roster, IF those players were registered and played on another spring local team. (Teams DO NOT have to drop below the minimum amount of players required (3girls and 3 boys) in order to add players to their State roster, they may add regardless, but must be approved by the State Coordinator.

## Levels of Play

We will have intermediate divisions for spring local play and at the Spring State Championship play, so up to 2 advanced players are welcome to play on ANY team. There will NOT be a separate division for advanced teams at Spring State. Advanced players are determined by their WTN points.

## The World Tennis Number “WTN” at time of registration will be used to determine the divisions’ players are eligible to participate in during the Championship YEAR.

A player’s Singles WTN will be used as long as confidence is over 30%. WTNs with a Confidence Factor of 10%-30% will be treated as “no rating”.

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

## Eligibility for Progression for SPRING CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY

If only one team is registered in a division and did not have local play, those teams may advance to the Spring State Championship. However, those teams **MUST** be registered for their local leagues and all players registered for the local team by **April 12**.

- If more than 1 team signs up for a division locally by the local deadline, those teams must have local play to determine who gets to advance.

## Determination of Winners:

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
- c) The final tiebreaker will be the team with the most individual matches won, followed by the most number of sets won.

## Divisions include:

10U Intermediate (Orange Ball)  
 12U Intermediate (Green Ball) & 12U Advanced (Yellow Ball)  
 14U Intermediate & 14U Advanced  
 18U Intermediate & 18U Advanced

## Age Eligibility

Players registering for spring teams must be “age eligible” through April 30 (i.e., a player must remain 12 Through April 30 in order to sign up for a 12 and under team.)

## Advancement to State

For every 2 teams in a division, 1 team is eligible to advance to Spring Championship. Local teams who do not have other local teams to play may advance but all players MUST be registered locally on TennisLink by April 12.

## Waiver Claims

Members, players, spectators, and other participants in USTA tournaments, programs, and events Acknowledge the associated risks; assume those risks voluntarily, and in consideration of their attendance at USTA tournaments, programs and events, agree to assume any loss or damage, and to waive any claim or demand on account of any injury to person or property arising out of or related to their attendance, including, but not limited to, exposure to infectious syndromes or diseases, whether caused by negligence or other fault. By participating in or attending USTA tournaments, programs and events, members, players, spectators, and other participants assume all risks whether known or unknown. Furthermore, members, players, spectators, and other participants agree to release, indemnify and hold harmless the USTA, its affiliated Sectional Associations and Districts/Subdivisions, and the host facility (Released Parties) and the Released Parties' employees, contractors, representatives and agents with respect to any such injury or loss caused by negligence or other fault, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

## Player Code of Conduct

1. The highest level of sportsmanship is expected from every player! An understanding of and a commitment to the points below are part of your responsibility as a player in a USTA tournament. Violators of this code or its spirit are subject to disciplinary action.
2. Once you have entered a USTA Mississippi Junior Team Tennis match, honor your commitment to play. Exceptions should only occur in cases of serious illness, injury or personal emergency.
3. From the beginning of the match, play must be continuous. Attempts to stall or extend rest periods for the purpose of recovering from a loss of physical conditions (such as cramps or shortness of breath) are illegal.
4. Intentional distractions that interfere with your opponent's concentration or efforts to play the ball are against the rules.
5. Spectators – including parents, friends and team captains/managers – are welcome to watch and enjoy matches. Their role, however, is clearly restricted to that of passive observer with no involvement of any kind during the match unless otherwise expressed.
6. Players are expected to put forth a full and honest effort regardless of the score or expected outcome.
7. Players are expected to maintain full control over their emotions and behavior throughout the match.

## Individual Defaults

An individual default occurs when a player fails to appear on time or is defaulted by a tournament official for misconduct.

- Procedures in the event of a score default: When a team presents a scorecard reflecting a default, the opposing team will be notified and extended the opportunity of adjusting their line-up.

## Retirement

A retirement occurs when an individual match has started and a player or a doubles team is unable to continue due to injury, loss of condition, or emergency.

- In case of retirement, for the purpose of determining standings, the non-retiring player/doubles team shall be credited with such number of additional games as would have been won if the match was
- completed and the non-retiring player/doubles team won every subsequent game. The winning team will get 6 games. The retired team would get the amount of games that they won.

## Spectator Policy

The most important thing to remember is that you are here to observe! The match is between your player and the opponent.

- **The Tennis Court:** Parents, coaches and anyone associated with the player are NOT allowed on the tennis court at any time. Make sure your player has everything he/she needs before walking on the court. (Water, extra racquet, towel, snack)
- **Communication with your Player:** If your player speaks to you while on court, do not respond. Coaching of any kind is not allowed during play. Coaching is considered to be communication, advice, or instruction of any kind, audible or visible, to a player. Coaching is not allowed on a toilet/change of attire break, medical timeout, bleeding timeout, when players remain on court for a short stoppage of play such as during light rain or repair of the net or net strap, when a player leaves the court seeking the assistance of the official, or when equipment or clothing is being adjusted. Statements such as, "Move your feet" or "Hit to the backhand" are considered coaching; so are hand signals!
- **Line calls:** Spectators never make calls. A player shall not enlist the aid of a spectator in making a call.
- **Scoring:** Spectators may not volunteer advice on scoring. If there is a dispute between the players regarding the correct score, the players must settle the dispute themselves or with the assistance of a certified official.
- **Cheering:** Excessive cheering or clapping is not permitted. Do not clap after an opponent's error such as a double fault or easy miss. No cheering is allowed other than polite clapping after a good point.
- **Attitude:** No abusive behavior towards player, Tournament Director, Staff or Official in language or body language will be tolerated. Poor behavior by the parents will result in the player being penalized.
- **Standards of Conduct:** All players and parents should conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner both on and off the court. Players, persons who appear to be associated with a player (parents, coaches) are under a duty to encourage and maintain high standards of proper conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship. They are under obligation to avoid acts which may be considered detrimental to the game of tennis. Any spectator behavior deemed unacceptable towards a player, other spectator or Staff member shall be cause for immediate removal from the playing area or the entire premises. If said behavior is directed towards a player, either before, during or after a tournament, it shall result in an automatic and immediate suspension of that spectator's right to attend USTA Mississippi Junior Team Tennis events, for a period of time to be determined by the USTA Mississippi Junior Team Tennis Grievance Committee.

**Tournament Website**

The tournament website will house accommodation information, lodging form for out of town participants, Master schedule, Match App link, captains meeting link, and the results of the tournament.

Tournament website click [HERE](#)

**USTA MS Spring State Championships**

**May 2-3, 2026**

**Jackson, MS**

