

# **USTA Southern Junior Team Tennis League (SJTTL) (Advancement to Southern Sectionals) 2024 USTA Georgia Regulations**

(Final as of 02/09/24)

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

If Georgia or a Local League does not have a regulation in place to address an issue and there is a Southern regulation on that issue, Georgia or a Local League must follow the Southern regulation.

The State League Coordinator, in conjunction with the USTA Georgia Junior Team Tennis League Committee Chair, shall have the authority to interpret the SJTTL Georgia State Regulations. USTA Georgia Junior Team Tennis League Committee has the authority to amend the SJTTL Georgia State Regulations.

### **I. USTA SOUTHERN JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS LEAGUE**

USTA Southern Junior Team Tennis League (SJTTL) consists of team competition for boys and girls at the beginner, intermediate and advance level of play and age categories and provides an opportunity for advancement from local competition to Georgia State Championships to Southern Sectional Championships. All players must be members of the USTA in good standing.

### **II. USTA SOUTHERN JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP YEAR**

USTA Southern Junior Team Tennis League (SJTTL) Championship Year shall be September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024.

### **III. USTA MEMBERSHIP**

All individuals who compete in the USTA Southern Junior Team Tennis League must be current USTA members in good standing through the local season, USTA Georgia State Championship, and/or USTA Southern Sectional Championship.

### **IV. AGE CATEGORIES & REQUIREMENTS**

USTA Southern Junior Team Tennis League is divided into four age categories: 18 & Under, 14 & Under, 12 & Under and 10 & Under. Players must remain age eligible through August 31, 2024, for the age group in which they are participating, to register and participate.

### **V. DETERMINING PLAYER PLAY LEVEL (**GEORGIA REQUIREMENTS**)**

Beginning Fall 2023 the SJTTL programs in USTA Southern will use the [ITF World Tennis Number](#) to promote level based play across the Section.

- 40-1 scale, with 40 (minimum) being a beginner player and 1 (maximum) being an elite professional.
- Players will have a separate WTN for singles and doubles rating. The registration platform only considers a player's Singles rating at time of registration.
- Players with a low confidence factor will have the option to sign up in any division.
- Players can locate their rating as well as JTT Results within their usta.com profile.
- [Junior Rating Search \(tennislink\)](#)
- [Junior Player Search](#)
- [Inquire to change WTN Number](#)

The rating bands for SJTTL are as follows **(UPDATED 4/22/24)**:

<b>Division</b>	<b>Eligible WTN Range</b>	<b>Ineligible WTN Range</b>
12 & Under Beginner	40-31	*30-1
12 & Under Intermediate (Green Ball)	40-29	28-1
12 & Under Advanced (Yellow Ball)	40-1	NA
14 & Under Beginner	40-29	*28-1
14 & Under Intermediate	40-27	26-1
14 & Under Advanced	40-1	NA
18 & Under Beginner	40-27	*26-1
18 & Under Intermediate	40-23	22-1
18 & Under Advanced	40-1	NA

**\*ONLY USED IF PLAYER'S WTN HAS HIGH CONFIDENCE  
(as of date set by USTA Georgia & LLC)**

In 12U divisions, a player may play Green or Yellow based on PlayTracker regulations/allowances. For more information, please visit: <https://netgeneration.usta.com/us-en/the-net-generation-playtracker.html>

In 10U divisions, a player may play Green or orange based on PlayTracker regulations/allowances. For more information, please visit: <https://netgeneration.usta.com/us-en/the-net-generation-playtracker.html>

#### **VI. TEAM COACHES/MANAGERS**

Each USTA Southern Junior Team Tennis League team shall have a team coach/manager responsible for the team and its administrative duties during the season. Each team coach/manager shall be in compliance with the USTA Youth Protection Policies and Procedures for USTA Junior Team Tennis. This may take up to 10 business days to receive approval. For more information go to [www.usta.com/safeplay](http://www.usta.com/safeplay).

#### **VII. OFFICIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM**

TennisLink is the official information system of the USTA Southern Junior Team Tennis League. A player's name must be listed on the team roster, as shown in TennisLink, prior to participation in any match. This includes any player who is added to a team roster after the commencement of local league play.

#### **VIII. OFFICIAL SCORE REPORTING AND STANDINGS SYSTEM**

All local play history documentation must be entered within 48 hours of the last match of the season played and before entry into any post season championship event. Corrections to completed scorecards must be made within 1 week of the last match of the season played and before entry into any post season championships event. Local Coordinators are responsible for monitoring score entries. Local programs must set a rule for failure to comply with score entry deadline regulations.

**IX. PLAYER AGREEMENT**

As a condition of participation, all players, participants and spectators agree to abide and be bound by the USTA Constitution and Bylaws; "Friend at Court;" "The Code;" Wheelchair Rules of Tennis (unless modified by these SJTTL Regulations) and the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship.

**X. WAIVER OF CLAIMS**

Players participating in the USTA Southern Junior Team Tennis League acknowledge the associated risks, assume those risks voluntarily, and in consideration of their attendance in the program 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 this program 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.

**XI. SUSPENDED PLAYERS**

Any junior player who is suspended from USTA competition is ineligible to participate in the USTA Southern Junior Team Tennis League for the duration of the suspension.

## **SJTTL GEORGIA LOCAL LEAGUES**

### **I. LOCAL LEAGUE FORMAT (Court Size, Ball Color & Scoring Formats)**

The following chart is used for the USTA Georgia State Championship formats and is suggested, but not required for local programs:

<b>DIVISIONS, BALL TYPE, AND SCORING FORMATS (State Championship)</b>					
<u>Division</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Court</u>	<u>Ball</u>	<u>Racquet</u>	<u>Scoring</u>
<b>10 &amp; U</b>	Beg Int	60'	ORANGE	Must be 25" or smaller	Best 2 out of 3 short sets - no ad, first to 4 games. 3rd set is a 7-point tiebreak. (only have to win by 1 in set & tiebreak).
<b>10 &amp; U</b>	Adv	78'	GREEN		Best 2 out of 3 short sets - no ad, first to 4 games. 3rd set is a 7-point tiebreak. (only have to win by 1 in set & tiebreak).
<b>12 &amp; U</b>	Beg Int	78'	GREEN		Best 2 out of 3 sets, short sets to 4 no ad scoring. A set tiebreaker is played at 3 all. A 10-point match tiebreak is played at one set all.
<b>12 &amp; U</b>	Adv	78'	YELLOW		Best 2 out of 3 sets, short sets to 4 no ad scoring. A set tiebreaker is played at 3 all. A 10-point match tiebreak is played at one set all.
<b>14 &amp; U</b>	Beg Int Adv	78'	YELLOW		Best 2 out of 3 sets, short sets to 4 no ad scoring. A set tiebreaker is played at 3 all. A 10-point match tiebreak is played at one set all.
<b>18 &amp; U</b>	Beg Int Adv	78'	YELLOW		Best 2 out of 3 sets, short sets to 4 no ad scoring. A set tiebreaker is played at 3 all. A 10-point match tiebreak is played at one set all.

\*\*ALL Beginner Level play ends at the USTA Georgia State Championship, there is no advancement to the Southern Sectionals.

### **II. COURTS FOR LOCAL LEAGUE PLAY**

"Home teams" will have the choice of court surface for which they wish to play their home matches. Court surface must be the same surface for all individual lines unless prior agreement between both captains. The use of tennis-related blended lines are permitted on courts used for local league matches. The use of other lines for another sport, such as Pickleball, are not permitted on courts used for local league matches.

### **III. NUMBER OF TEAMS**

For the SJTTL in Georgia, a team must advance from a division with a minimum of two teams at the same age and play level as the championship division to which the team is advancing. A local coordinator may choose to divide any or all divisions into flights. A playoff structure may be established to determine a champion for each division.

#### **IV. TEAM COMPOSITION**

Local league regulations may set the minimum number of players required for local league play.

10U – To participate in a USTA Southern Junior Team Tennis League, a team must have a minimum of four eligible (4) players, gender neutral.

12U – 18U: To participate in a USTA Southern Junior Team Tennis League, a team must have a minimum of three eligible (3) boys and three eligible (3) girls.

#### **V. COMPETITION FORMAT**

The local coordinator may use the format which best meets the needs of the local program e.g., round robin. All teams in the USTA Southern Junior Team Tennis League in Georgia are required to play a minimum of two (2) team matches to be eligible to advance a team to the State Championship.

#### **VI. TEAM MATCH**

Local coordinators may determine a match format that meets the needs of the local program. The method of determining the winning team of a local team match and the winner of the local season is determined by the Local League Regulations. In the Southern Junior Team Tennis League, play shall be gender specific (In singles and doubles, girls vs girls and boys vs boys. In mixed doubles, a doubles team comprised of one girl and one boy plays against another doubles team comprised of one girl and one boy). It is recommended that each team match consist of one boy's and one girl's singles, one boy's and one girl's doubles, and one mixed doubles.

#### **VII. INDIVIDUAL MATCH**

An individual match is any singles match, doubles match, or mixed doubles match played as part of a team match.

#### **VIII. SCORING**

Local Coordinators may use a scoring format within TennisLink Team Tennis online system which best meets the needs of the local program. Scores must be recorded in TennisLink Team Tennis within 48 hours of completion of a match. All local play history documentation must be entered within 48 hours of the last match of the season played and before entry into any championships event. Corrections to completed scorecards must be made within 1 week of the last match of the season played, and before entry into any championships event.

#### **IX. INDIVIDUAL DEFAULTS**

An individual default occurs when a player fails to appear on time. When a team presents a scorecard reflecting a default, the opposing team will be notified and extended the opportunity of adjusting their line-up.

#### **X. 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 a 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. For computer data entry in TennisLink, mark as retired and submit actual scores of match at the point of retirement.

## **XI. TEAM LINEUPS**

The coaches/managers for each team shall exchange their team lineup cards simultaneously prior to the beginning of the team match. No substitutions may be made in an individual match after the lineup has been presented, except for injury to, or illness of a player prior to the start of such match and except under such further circumstances as a local/area competition may authorize. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute is entitled to a five-minute warm-up.

## **XII. PLAYER PARTICIPATION ON MORE THAN ONE TEAM**

Local league programs may allow players to play on more than one team in a local program during the same season, provided that players may not play on more than one team in the same division. This must be established in the local regulations.

## **XIII. MORE THAN ONE INDIVIDUAL MATCH**

Local league programs may allow a player to play in up to two individual matches within the same team match. This must be established in the local regulations.

## **XIV. COACHING**

Local league programs must establish in the local regulations whether and at what times to allow coaching. In no event is coaching permitted during a tiebreak

## **XV. LOCAL CHAMPIONS**

At the conclusion of the local competition, the Local League Coordinator shall certify to the Georgia State Coordinator the results of the competition and provide contact information for the qualifying teams' coaches/managers. All local competition must be concluded prior to the deadline set by USTA Georgia which is June 30<sup>th</sup> of the championship year.

## **XVI. LOCAL PROGRESSION TO GEORGIA CHAMPIONSHIP**

Local leagues may run a maximum of two qualifying programs per Championship Year to determine the number of total berths for each age and level the league may advance to the State Championships. All programs advancing teams must qualify per Georgia regulations.

The USTA Georgia Junior Team Tennis League shall be 9/1/23 through 6/30/24. All local league play must be concluded no later than June 30<sup>th</sup> to be eligible to advance to the Georgia Championships.

Players can advance with their winning local team to the Georgia State Championship if they have met all eligibility requirements and have played in at least two (2) team matches (separate match numbers), one of which can be a default.

Berths are determined as follows:

### Atlanta league berths:

- One berth per season for a maximum of 10 teams in any given age/level, i.e. 2-10 teams, 1 berth
- Two berths per season for a maximum of 20 teams in any given age/level, i.e. 11-20 teams, 2 berths
- Over 20 teams per season, for up to each additional 10 teams added an additional berth is given.

All other league berths:

- One berth per season for a maximum of 4 teams in any given age/level, i.e. 2-4 teams, 1 berth
- Two berths per season for a maximum of 8 teams in any given age/level, i.e. 5-8 teams, 2 berths
- Over 8 teams per season, for up to each additional 4 teams added an additional berth is given.

\*A local league may request additional berths.

## **SJTTL GEORGIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP**

### **I. GEORGIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS DATE AND LOCATION**

The Georgia State Championships are scheduled for July 19-21, 2024 in Macon, GA.

### **II. TEAM COMPOSITION**

10U – To participate in a USTA Southern Junior Team Tennis League, a team must have a minimum of four eligible (4) players, gender neutral.

12U – 18U: To participate in the SJTTL Georgia State Championship, a team must have a minimum of three eligible (3) boys and three eligible (3) girls.

### **III. TEAM SUBSTITUTIONS**

If a team advancing to the Georgia Championships competition cannot field the required minimum number of qualified players, another team may be selected by the local league coordinator to advance.

### **IV. PLAYER SUBSTITUTIONS**

If an eligible player on a team advancing to a championship competition is unable to participate, resulting in a failure of the team to meet the minimum team size requirement, an eligible substitute player may be added. Substitute players are only allowed for teams which originally had the required minimum number of players who are eligible to advance.

10U: In no event can more than one substitution (any gender), be added to meet the minimum team size requirement for championship competition.

12U-18U: In no event can more than two substitute(s), one (1) boy and/or one (1) girl, be added to meet the minimum team size requirement for championship competition.

Any substitutions must be approved by the championship coordinator in which the substitution is occurring and shall remain in effect for that entire championship event.

The substitute player(s) must come from a team competing in a SJTTL in the same local program and season in which the advancing team participated to meet the minimum team size requirement.

### **V. COMPETITION FORMAT**

See the SJTTL Georgia State Championship Procedures.

## **VI. TEAM MATCH**

10U – At the SJTTL Georgia State Championship, a team match will consist of two singles and one doubles match, gender neutral.

12U – 18U At the SJTTL Georgia State Championship, a team match will consist of one girl's and one boy's singles, one girl's and one boy's doubles, and one mixed doubles match.

## **VII. MORE THAN ONE TEAM**

A player shall play for only one team at the Georgia State Championships. In the case of a player qualifying for two (2) or more teams that advance, that player may only play on one of those teams.

## **VIII. MORE THAN ONE INDIVIDUAL MATCH**

10U – A player may not play twice in a team match.

12U-18U: At the SJTTL Georgia State Championship, one girl and/or one boy may participate in up to two individual matches per team match, one of which must be mixed doubles. A team may choose to play players twice regardless of the number of players on the roster; this option is not limited to teams with only 3 boys and/or 3 girls. Players who have played twice in a team competition may not play twice again until after three rounds of competition have been completed by their team. The "playing twice" rotation begins again in the fourth round of round/partial robin play. The Playoffs and/or Finals are not subject to this regulation.

## **IX. COACHING**

See the SJTTL Georgia State Championship Procedures.

## **X. PROCEDURES IN THE EVENT OF A TIE**

See the SJTTL Georgia State Championship Procedures.

## **XI. INDIVIDUAL DEFAULTS**

See the SJTTL Georgia State Championship Procedures.

## **XII. TEAM DEFAULTS**

See the SJTTL Georgia State Championship Procedures.

## **XIII. RETIREMENT**

See the SJTTL Georgia State Championship Procedures.

## **GRIEVANCES**

### **I. GRIEVANCES**

Each Local/Area SJTTL shall appoint a Grievance Committee and Grievance Appeals Committee, who must be noted in the Local League regulations. All grievances must be made in writing. Any grievance against an individual or team may only be made by (a) the team coach/manager of the team who has competed in the match where the alleged violation occurred, (b) a coordinator, or (c) a member of a Championships Committee except for Eligibility Grievances.

Play during grievance procedures: An individual may continue to play during the investigation of a grievance and hearing but must understand that, if upheld, all matches played during that time may be defaulted.



**II. LOCAL GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

Any grievance alleging a violation by an individual or team during local competition shall be made in writing with the Local League Coordinator. The grievance must be made prior to the commencement of whichever occurs first: (a) the involved team’s next team match in that flight, whether or not the involved player participates or (b) within 24 hours after the end of the local season except for Eligibility Grievances.

Any grievance regarding failure to meet eligibility requirements may be made by a SJTTL coach/manager or coordinator at any time. The SJTTL Georgia State Coordinator may declare a player ineligible due to eligibility requirements and disqualify that player without filing a grievance prior to the disqualification.

**III. GENERAL GRIEVANCE APPEALS PROCEDURES**

Any party(ies) to the grievance may appeal the decision of the Grievance Committee within the time fixed by the Grievance Committee. Upon receipt of an appeal of the decision of the Grievance Committee, the Grievance Appeal Committee shall act promptly to resolve the appeal.

**IV. SCORING OF ELIGIBILITY DISQUALIFICATION IN LOCAL TEAM PLAY**

In the event of an eligibility disqualification during the local league season and up to 24 hours after the end of local league play, all matches played by the disqualified player shall be considered defaults and those matches shall be considered wins for the opposing players or doubles teams and scored according to the format described in TennisLink (Junior Team Tennis). In case of an eligibility disqualification in single elimination, the last individual match played by the disqualified player shall be considered a win for the opposing player or doubles team and scored according to the format described in TennisLink (Junior Team Tennis) for determining standings. If a double disqualification results in a tie, the local tiebreak procedure shall be used to determine the winner of the team match.

In the event of an eligibility disqualification after the conclusion of the local USTA Georgia Junior Team Tennis League season, including USTA Georgia State Championships, by more than 24 hours, the team will remain eligible to participate and retain games received up to the disqualification, but the ineligible player will not be allowed to continue or advance.

**2024 USTA GEORGIA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS LEAGUE COMMITTEE**

Sharon Ross, Chair  
Michelle Fuller, Board Liaison  
Wendy Chadwell  
Cecilia Choi  
Rebecca Crymes

Karen Fralick  
Amanda Hunt  
John Irvin  
Patricia Johnson  
Hannah Kidd

**GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE**

Amanda Hunt  
Wendy Chadwell

Roxanne Balboa  
Will Ku

**GRIEVANCE APPEALS COMMITTEE**

Rebecca Crymes

Carol Shiver

MaryCay McCullough