



GEORGIA

2024 USTA Southern Junior Team Tennis Georgia State Championship Championship Procedures

(Final as of 02/07/24)

The Championship Procedures will provide the rules and information for the 2024 USTA Southern Junior Team Tennis Georgia State Championship. When not stated in the Championship Procedures, the USTA Georgia regulations and Friend at Court will apply.

State Championship Website (<https://ustageorgia.com/juniors/jtt-championships/>)

Player/Team Eligibility

- All players and teams must meet USTA Southern Junior Team Tennis eligibility requirements.
- All players must be rated according to the ITF World Tennis Number and adhere to Southern and Georgia eligibility requirements.
- Teams must have played in a local league, with each player having played in two separate team matches (different match #'s) and only one may be a default.
- **12U-18U:** Teams must have a minimum of three (3) eligible boys and three (3) eligible girls, (see Play Twice procedure below for doubling up details).
- **10U:** Teams must have a minimum of four (4) eligible players, (see Play Twice procedure below for doubling up details).
- If it is determined that a player is not on the appropriate team level as per our rules, the player will be declared ineligible. All points the player earned will be deducted from the team's total points, the player will be ineligible to play in additional matches and will be ineligible to advance to higher level championships.
- If a team's level has been misrepresented, the team will not be eligible for awards and will not be eligible to advance to other championship competitions.

Championship Format

- State Championship format shall use round robin(s), partial round robin (matches against randomly selected opponents) or single elimination in all levels of competition. The use of multiple round robins, or the use of partial round robin matches, will require a playoff structure to establish a champion.
- For Round Robin Format:
 - Each team shall play every other team in its flight (Exception: Please see Championship Cancellation Policy), and the team with the highest number of games won shall be champion in its flight. Depending on the number of flights per level, single elimination playoff will be used to determine the champion.
 - If a local league has multiple teams in the same level, an attempt will be made to place those teams in separate flights when possible.
 - All teams will be guaranteed a minimum of 3 matches.
- For Partial Round Robin Matches Against Randomly Selected Opponents:
 - Each team shall play three or four team matches against randomly selected opponents. (Exception: Please see Championship Cancellation Policy)
 - The top 4 teams, based on standings and procedures on tiebreakers, will be entered into a Semi-Final and seeded accordingly. (For semi-finals, the draw will be #1 vs #4 and #2 vs #3.)

Sites

- John Drew Smith Tennis Center (**JDS**); Randy Stephens Tennis Center (**RSTC**) and other sites, if needed
- The facilities will be open at 7:00 am each day when tournament matches are scheduled for that site. Courts for tournament play must be cleared by 7:30 am.

Format of Play

- Order of play for each team match **12U-18U:**
 - Boys Singles, Girls Singles, Boys Doubles, Girls Doubles, Mixed Doubles (Unless those playing twice require this order to be changed by the tournament desk)
- Order of play for each team match **10U:**
 - Gender Neutral Singles, Gender Neutral Singles, Gender Neutral Doubles



Balls

- Official USTA approved balls will be used as follows: 10U Beginner and 10U Intermediate will play with orange (Stage 2) balls, 10U Advanced, 12U Beginner and 12U Intermediate will play with green dot (Stage 1) balls. Yellow balls will be used for all other divisions.

Scoring (10U)

- Matches for 10U will be played on modified 60' courts and are no-ad, 2 out of 3, first to 4 games (at 3-3, the winner of the next game wins the set 4-3). For the 3rd set, the first player/team to win seven points wins the set. A team scores a point for every game won and a point for winning the 3rd set. The maximum number of points a player can win is eight (8) points. The maximum number of points a team can win is forty (40) points. Team matches can end in a tie.

Scoring (12U, 14U & 18U)

- Matches for 12U, 14U & 18U are no-ad, 2 out of 3, 4-game short sets, with a match tiebreak in lieu of the third set. A set tie break is played at 3-all. A team scores a point for every game won and a point for winning the 3rd set tiebreak. The maximum number of points a player can win is eight (8) points. The maximum number of points a team can win is forty (40) points. Team matches can end in a tie.
 - **NO-AD Scoring:** The first team or player to win four points wins the game. If the score reaches three points all, the receiver has a choice of receiving in the ad or deuce court. The winner of the next point wins the game.
 - **In singles,** the receiver may choose to receive on either the left or right side of the court.
 - **In doubles,** the receiving team has a choice of who will receive the last point. Both players must remain on the same receiving side they have played on during the match.
 - **In mixed doubles,** the boy must receive serve from the boy, and the girl must receive serve from the girl.
 - **Set-Break:** If a set reaches 3-all, players must play a set tie-break. The winner is the first to reach seven (7) points by a margin of 2 points.
 - **In singles,** the first server shall serve one point from the right side. The second server shall serve two points, starting on the left side and ending on the right side. The players continue to alternate serving two points each until one wins a minimum of seven points with a two-point margin. Players change ends of the court every six (6) points.
 - **In doubles,** the first server shall serve one point from the right side. The second server shall serve two points, starting from the left side and ending on the right side. The third server shall serve two points, starting on the left and ending on the right side. The fourth server shall then serve one point from the left side and then players change ends of the courts. The fourth server shall then serve one point from the right side. Play continues in such a manner until one team wins at least seven points with a two-point margin. Teams change ends of the court every six (6) points.
 - **Match Tiebreak:** If a third set is required a match tiebreak will be played, first to reach ten (10) points by a margin of 2 points. One game point will be awarded to the winner of the third set tiebreak.
 - **In singles,** the first server shall serve one point from the right side. The second server shall serve two points, starting on the left side and ending on the right side. The players continue to alternate serving two points each until one wins a minimum of ten (10) points with a two-point margin. Players change ends of the court every six (6) points.
 - **In doubles,** the first server shall serve one point from the right side. The second server shall serve two points, starting from the left side and ending on the right side. The third server shall serve two points, starting on the left and ending on the right side. The fourth server shall then serve one point from the left side and then players change ends of the courts. The fourth server shall then serve one point from the right side. Play continues in such a manner until one team wins at least ten (10) points with a two-point margin. Teams change ends of the court every six (6) points.
- 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.



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.

Play Twice Rule

- **12U-18U:** A team may use different individual players for every line in the team match (singles, doubles, and mixed doubles) OR may choose to play one boy and/or one girl twice, in the mixed doubles position only. 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 robin play or partial round robin play. The Playoffs, and/or Finals are not subject to this regulation. The PINK Play Twice form must be submitted before each match and signed by the tournament desk staff. If it is determined that this rule was violated by an illegal lineup, all points played will stand and the team in compliance will receive all remaining points.
- **10U:** A player **may not** play twice in a team match.

Check-In

- Teams should arrive at the facility **30 minutes prior to each match.** Only Team Captains should come to the tournament desk. Scorecards and PINK Play Twice forms must be filled out ***BEFORE*** reporting to the tournament desk. **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. A representative from the team should notify the tournament desk when their last match is on the court or when it is imminent that a court will become available. This will help the tournament staff in assigning courts.

Defaults

- **12U-18U:** A team **must have a minimum of six (6) eligible players, three (3) boys and three (3) girls, registered and available for the championship.**
- **10U:** A team **must have a minimum of four (4) eligible players, gender neutral, registered and available for the championship.** After the schedule is published, if a situation happens that will cause a team to default a line for the entire championship, 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.

Time Penalties

- **Team** late penalties may be enforced at the tournament referee's discretion, i.e. once one court at the facility for that timeslot 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.



Scorecards & PINK Play Twice Form

- Must be filled out completely **BEFORE** reporting to the tournament desk. Scorecards will need a match number as shown on the schedule. Results will be entered into TennisLink. Balls and cans should be returned at the completion of the match with the completed and signed scorecards. Scorecards for the next match will be distributed when the match is final, and scorecards have been received.

Substitutions

- Once a scorecard has been submitted a 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.

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.

Tiebreak Procedures

- **Team Match** ends in a tie (example 35-35): NO TIEBREAK
- **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 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 match of tied teams.
 6. Percentage of games won in round robin matches.
 7. Coin Flip.
- **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 match of tied teams.
 6. Percentage of games won in partial round robin matches.
 7. Coin Flip.
- **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. Coin Flip
- **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. Coin Flip
- **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).



Levels with Playoff Matches

- 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.

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.

Team Captain(s)/Manager(s)

- Teams may have a Team Captain/Manager, Co-Captain/Manager and a Coach.
 - 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 take 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.

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.
 - 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 championships event.

Umpires

- There will be certified roving umpire present at all championship sites. 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 umpires to be present for matches. In the case of disputed calls and upon the request of the player, captain/manager or coach, a roving umpire 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 umpiring supervision.

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.

Electronic devices

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



Dress Code

- **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.
- The Dress Code will be strictly enforced.

Weather Delays

- ALL weather updates will be sent out through the USTA Georgia State Championship App. If you have the Event Messages "checked" for this championship, you will receive an alert when a message is sent. If you do not have the Event Messages "checked" for this championship, you will not receive an alert, but you can click on Event Messages under this championship and see them.
- 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.

Championship Cancellation Policy

- *Round Robin Format (flighted format)*
 - Should inclement weather or other circumstances prevent the completion of the State Championship or prevent round robin matches from starting by a specific time as determined by the Championship Committee on the final day of the championship, the division/flight winners will be determined by the first of the following procedures:
 - In the event a division or flight within a division consists of multiple round robins, the first-place team will be determined by TennisLink standings at the conclusion of the most recent full round of the round robin. If no full round of the round robin is completed, the below-mentioned procedures would apply.
 - If only one team in a round robin has a mathematical chance of finishing first, that team will be declared the winner of the round robin.
 - If more than one team has a mathematical chance of winning their round robin, and the first-place team has already beaten the other teams with a mathematical chance of winning, the 1st place team would be considered the round robin winner as the head-to-head winner.
 - If a round robin winner cannot be determined, and each team in a round robin has been given the opportunity to complete a minimum of one team match, only teams with a mathematical chance of finishing first will receive an entry into a drawing.
 - If a round robin winner cannot be determined, and each team in a round robin has not been given the opportunity to complete a minimum of one team match, each team will receive one entry into a drawing to determine the round robin winner.
- *Partial Round Robin Format*
 - Should inclement weather or other circumstances prevent the completion of the State Championship or prevent un-flighted matches from starting by a specific time as determined by the Championship Committee on the final day of the championship, the winners will be determined by the first of the following procedures that does so:
 - If a minimum of three (3) full partial round robin segments have been completed by all teams, the first-place team will be determined by TennisLink standings at the conclusion of the most recent full round. If at least three (3) full rounds are not completed, the below-mentioned procedures would apply.
 - If only one team (after the most recent full partial round robin segment) has a mathematical chance of finishing first, that team will be declared the winner.
 - If more than one team has a mathematical chance of winning, after the most recent full partial round robin segment, and the first-place team has already beaten the other teams with a mathematical chance of winning, the 1st place team would be considered the winner as the head-to-head winner.
 - If a winner cannot be determined, and each team has been given the opportunity to complete a minimum of one team match, only teams with a mathematical chance of finishing first will receive an entry into a drawing.



- *During Playoffs*
 - Should inclement weather or other circumstances prevent the completion of all playoff rounds during the State Championship; the following procedures will be used to determine round robin winners:
 - Teams that have mathematically clinched their semi-final playoff will be considered the winner of their semi-final match.
 - Teams that have not mathematically clinched their semi-final playoff will be put into a drawing to determine the winning semifinalist. For each individual match won by a team, said team will receive an additional entry into the drawing. (For example, the Boys Doubles match was finished. The winning team of said Boys Doubles match would receive an additional entry into the drawing.)
 - Once the finalists are determined, both teams will be told how the champion will be determined by the USTA Georgia Tournament Director, should cancellation occur after the finals have begun play.
 - If cancellation occurs once the finalists have been determined, but play has not begun, both teams can agree to meet at a mutual location and time to play for the state championship. A deadline will be given by the Championship Committee to complete the match. If both teams cannot agree to a mutual location and time prior to or on the deadline set forth by the Championship Committee, both teams will receive an entry in the drawing to determine one state champion. USTA Georgia will not be responsible for providing an official or for any expenses related to this match.

Championship Deposits

- Teams that withdraw following the roster deadline noted in the regulations and the posting of the draw will not be reimbursed their entry fee. Teams that withdraw once the draw is posted will forfeit their entry fee and their \$350 team deposit plus Tennislink processing fee. Teams must play the championship to completion. 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 TennisLink processing fees. In addition, the tournament director and/or referee may file a grievance against the team.

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 John Drew Smith 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.

Advancement to Southern Section Championships

- The Champion team for each of Intermediate and Advanced divisions will have the opportunity to advance to the USTA Southern Junior Team Tennis Sectional Championship. Advancing teams will need to confirm by Monday, July 29th at noon if they are accepting the berth or the second-place team will then be offered the berth.

Sportsmanship

- Good Sportsmanship nominations are accepted during the state championship. The location will be relayed through the event messages on the state championship app. Winners will be promoted and recognized on the USTA Georgia social media platforms.

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 committees involved will handle all Grievances as promptly as possible. Anyone with pertinent information will be permitted at any hearings.
- A team that withdraws from a championship 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.



Administration

- Rain Hotline: USTA Georgia Championship App Event Messages (See App Download Instructions)
- Event Messages: Download our [USTA Georgia Championship App](#) (available for iPhone and Android). Once you open app, choose which championships you would like to receive Event Message. Event Messages will be used for weather updates, raffles and general tournament info.
- Championship Committee will use proper and fair judgment with regard to all state championship-related issues. This includes but is not limited to procedures and information not listed in the Championship Procedures or Southern/Georgia regulations.
- Championship Committee: To be appointed by USTA Georgia Staff.
- Championship Grievance Committee: TBD by USTA Georgia Staff
- Championship Procedures may be amended at Championship Committee's discretion.
- The Championship Committee may release a team from the USTA Georgia State Championship.