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MAS Junior Team Tennis Section Rules, Regulations, and Responsibilities 2018

Purpose: to define the policies, practices, regulations and responsibilities to assist Mid-Atlantic JTT Local League Coordinators in managing Local Leagues.

ADMINISTRATION

USTA JTT play is governed by four sets of rules and regulations: USTA National JTT Regulations; Mid-Atlantic Section Rules (below); Mid-Atlantic Section Championship Rules (set for each Championship), and Friend At Court.

League Designations: Local Leagues must receive approval from the Mid-Atlantic section to run a USTA JTT league. Leagues may be formed by CTA's, public or private organizations (Parks and Rec, private clubs, etc.), or individuals.

A goal of the Mid-Atlantic Section is to grow tennis through innovative, dynamic, and responsive programming. To do this, the Mid-Atlantic Section must both expand existing leagues and form new leagues, finding a balance when leagues have some overlap. Situations in which there is the potential for over-lap will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

The process for forming a new JTT League is detailed in ***New JTT League Program Application Process.***

League Administration and Compliance: All Local Leagues must have a Local League Coordinator who agrees to comply with Mid-Atlantic Section JTT Rules and Regulations, participate in Mid-Atlantic Section trainings, and promote the growth of tennis, and who has completed the USTA Safe Play Process.

Rule, Regulation, and Procedure Requests: Any Local League Coordinator or other interested party may submit a request for a Section Rule or Regulation change by following the process outlined in the Appendix.

Championships: All teams and players advancing to Regional and Section Championships must meet all relevant USTA and Mid-Atlantic Section Regulations governing advancement.

The Mid-Atlantic Section will determine the schedule for all Regional and Section Championships, including dates and locations. The schedule for Championships will be posted on the USTA Mid-Atlantic website as soon as it is determined. Dates and locations will be determined based upon factors such as, but not limited to, "finish-by"



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dates set by the JTT National Manager, court needs and costs, venue lay-out, local amenities.

The Mid-Atlantic Section will determine the format for all Regional and Section Championships, and for team and player eligibility for all non-National track JTT Championships.

See **Advancing Leagues** below for more Championship information.

TennisLink: TennisLink is the official system for registering teams and players, and reporting match scores and standings for the USTA JTT program. No local league may commence without first registering via TennisLink, unless given express approval by the Mid-Atlantic Section Manager or Coordinator. No local league winner may advance to championship level competition until all scheduled matches have been recorded in TennisLink.

Jr. Play Committee/Task Force: This Committee will serve as a resource to Mid-Atlantic JTT staff. It may be called upon to provide input into rule changes, new league approvals, and grievances.

ADVANCING LEAGUES and CHAMPIONSHIPS

There are two types of advancing leagues – National Championship JTT Track and JTT Track. National Championship JTT Track includes only those leagues eligible to advance to National Championships: 14U and 18U Intermediate and Advanced meeting all requirements outlined in the USTA JTT National Track Regulations. All other advancing teams are JTT Track.

Currently the Mid-Atlantic Section hosts two types of Championships: Summer and Single Gender (typically winter). See the appendix - ***Championship Grid***.

Local league Coordinator responsibilities, Advancing Leagues:

- Inform the JTT Section Manager/Coordinator of the method for determining which teams will advance - if other than division winner and games won
- Provide the JTT Section Manager/Coordinator with information on which teams to advance within one week of the end of the season, using the method provided by the JTT Manager (eg, spreadsheet).



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- Provide team coach/managers with Championship information – dates, locations, hotel info, rules/regulations, format, etc. before the beginning of the local season or, if not available, as soon as possible
- Assist JTT Section Manager/Coordinator with identifying wild-card teams or “next-in-line” teams, when needed
- Enter match schedules in TennisLink prior to the start of the season. If that is not possible, the League Coordinator shall inform the JTT Section Manager.
- Ensure team coaches/managers are aware of and comply with the national regulation requiring entry of match results within 48 hours of completion of a team match.

Miscellaneous Rules

- Junior Ratings: For all advancing leagues with the exception of 8U and 10U, the Ratings function in TennisLink must be turned on. Any player with a rating of 3.5 or above must play Advanced for all leagues except 8U and 10U. Any player may “play up” but cannot “play down”.
- Junior Ratings in Single Gender: For seasons advancing to winter Dec. 2017/Jan. 2018 championships, Jr. Ratings is optional. For the following Single Gender season, Dec. 2018/Jan. 2019, Single Gender will be divided up into two levels – Intermediate and Advanced. Any player 3.5 or higher, must play Advanced. Leagues advancing to that Single Gender Championships must turn on Jr. Ratings.
- Until TennisLink can be set for an Intermediate benchmark, ratings will not be imposed to determine Beginner/Rookie level of play. Players and team captains should use best judgement when choosing to play Beginner/Rookie JTT.
- The Local League Coordinator may schedule any combination of hard courts, clay courts, or indoor/outdoor courts for local league matches. Local League registration dates are set by each Local League Coordinator. The Mid-Atlantic Section determines season “finish-by” dates in order to allow enough time to create Championship match schedules. Any extension must receive prior approval by the JTT Manager/Coordinator.
- All JTT team coaches/managers must be current with the Safe Play process in order to coach at a championship.
- Advancing leagues must either play a full round robin or a round robin within flights. If Local League playoffs are required, playoff formats will be determined by the Local League Coordinator.



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- Play-offs between local leagues – Currently there are no areas in which Local Leagues must participate in an Area play-off to determine advancement to Championships. The decision to require an Area play-off will be made on a case-by-case basis with the input of the respective Local League Coordinators, the Jr. Play Committee, and Mid-Atlantic JTT staff.
- Grievances during championships: see below.
- The practice of serving as both League Coordinator and team coach/manager in an Advancing League is highly discouraged, other than for the purposes of temporary place-holder until such time as the team coach/manager can be installed. A League Coordinator needing to serve as an official team coach/manager **must** make a request to the Mid-Atlantic Section Manager.

Championship Invitations and Wild Cards:

- Summer Championships: Each program is eligible to advance 1 team per every 5 in that division in that season. However, in the case of multiple seasons, this may not always apply. See below.
- Summer Championships: Players may play for only one team at a Regional or Sectional championship. However, a player may play for one team at a Regional event and another team at Sectionals.
- Membership requirement: A current USTA membership is required for players in National Championship JTT Track. Membership for any other division is not required by the Section and is at the discretion of the Local League Coordinator.
- Next-in-line (all Championships): If a team is unable to attend Championships, the team “next in line” may be invited, at the Local League Coordinator’s discretion.
- Multiple seasons (all Championships): In the situation where a league runs multiple seasons advancing to the same Championship, the “next in line” rule does not apply in divisions with fewer than 3 teams and there is significant roster overlap (70% or more).
- Wild Cards (all Championships): A Wild Card invitation (for the purposes of rounding out a flight) to a Championship will be determined by the following method: At or near the close of registration, a program or programs will be pulled from “a hat” by a Mid-Atlantic Section staff member not associated with JTT. The number of opportunities put into the hat for any program is equal to



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the number of teams in that division for programs with more than 3 teams in that division.

The Point Penalty System will be applied during all officiated JTT Championships, excluding 8U, as described in Friend at Court. At un-officiated Championships except 8U, the Tournament Director may apply the Point Penalty System as described in Friend At Court.

NON-ADVANCING LEAGUES

Any approved League may run Non-Advancing Leagues, either instead of or in addition to Advancing Leagues. Local League Coordinators may set team composition, match format and player-eligibility parameters in Non-Advancing leagues. USTA membership is not required for Non-Advancing leagues; however, a USTA member account number (free) is required.

All JTT team coach/managers must complete the Safe Play process.

Creativity and an emphasis on fun are highly encouraged.

CODE OF CONDUCT: TEAM COACH/MANAGER, PLAYER, PARENT, SPECTATORS

Players, persons who appear to be associated with a player (including, but not limited to parents and coaches), officials, and other organizers are expected to encourage and maintain high standards of proper conduct, fair play, and good sportsmanship.

During the course of a match a player shall not engage in verbal abuse, visible or audible profanity, racket abuse, ball abuse, physical abuse, retaliatory calls, and failure to follow instructions of an official or tournament director, or any other unsportsmanlike conduct. (Adapted from 2016 Friend At Court).

At Championships, the Tournament Director reserves the right to remove a spectator from the tournament area for unsportsmanlike conduct. At Championships, the Tournament Director reserves the right to rescind a team coach/manager's privilege to coach for all or part of a tournament for reasons such as, but not limited to, illegal coaching, unsportsmanlike conduct, and encouraging unsportsmanlike conduct by a player.



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Local League Coordinators are expected to convey Code of Conduct expectations to team coach/managers as presented in Friend At Court.

GRIEVANCES

- Types of grievances: General, Administrative, National, Eligibility, Ratings. See USTA JTT Regulations and JTT National Track Regulations for definitions and procedures. Grievances other than those occurring at Championships or in Local League play may be submitted in writing by a Local League Coordinator in accordance with Mid-Atlantic Section Grievance guidelines. Forms will be provided upon request.
- Championship Grievances: see the USTA National Championship Track Regulations for grievances at all Section-run Championships.
- Local Grievances: Grievances at the Local League level shall be handled in accordance with that League's Rules and Practices.
- The Mid-Atlantic Grievance Committee is an independent party and does not include Section Staff.



Appendix – Request for Rule Changes

**Mid-Atlantic Section Junior Team Tennis Timeline
for Regulations Change Requests**

April 1

Deadline for JTT Local League Coordinators (LLC's) and other interested parties to submit rule change requests for the program year beginning September 1 of the upcoming Championship year.

Proposed regulations changes must be submitted on the [Request for Rule Change Form](#) and emailed to fratt@mas.usta.com.

April 15

The JTT Manager requests input regarding any conflict with national regulations. Barring any conflict, proposed rule changes are sent to Mid-Atlantic Section Jr. Play Committee, the Mid-Atlantic JTT Coordinator and the Mid-Atlantic Director of Community Programs for consideration and comment.

May 31

The Mid-Atlantic Section Jr. Play Committee, the Mid-Atlantic JTT Coordinator and the Mid-Atlantic Director of Community Programs deliver recommendations for rule changes to Mid-Atlantic JTT Manager. The JTT Manager then either

- 1) Informs the Requestor that the change has been denied or,
- 2) Incorporates the rule change into the current Mid-Atlantic Section JTT Rule and Regulations Manual and disseminates to all Local League Coordinators.

The JTT Manager also informs the National Manager of the new Section Rule.



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Request for a Section JTT Rule Change or Discussion

1) Rule, regulation as it currently reads (Cut and paste or type)

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2) Proposed change to Rule, regulation

(Indicate proposed changes in red and or underline)

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3) Rationale:

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Jr. Committee and/or Section staff comments

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Appendix – Championship Grid

MAS JTT Summer Championships – 2017				
Age/Level	Team Minimum	Scoring/Format	Advancement	Eligibility
8U	4, no gender requirement	6 singles; 1 tie-breaker, first to 7; red ball, 36" court	8U Sectionals, stand-alone event	Age thru date of championship; 2 match history (player), default not counted toward minimum; team must play minimum 3 matches on 3 different days
10U Beginner	4, no gender requirement	4 singles, 2 doubles; 4 game no-ad pro-set; at 5-all, play one game; orange ball, 60" court	Beginner Sectionals, stand-alone event	Age thru 8/31; minimum 2 match history (player), default not counted toward minimum; team must play minimum 3 matches on 3 different days
12U, 14U, 18U Beginner	4, no gender requirement	4 singles, 2 doubles; 6 game no-ad pro-set; at 5-all, play one game; green-dot ball	Beginner Sectionals, stand-alone event	
10U Intermediate	4, no gender requirement	4 singles, 2 doubles; 4 game no-ad pro-set; at 5-all, play one game; orange ball, 60" court	Regionals, Sectionals	
10U Advanced	6, 3 girls and 3 boys	BG singles, BG doubles, and mixed; 8 game no-ad pro-set; at 7-all, play one game; green-dot ball	Regionals, Sectionals	
12U Intermediate, 12U Advanced	6, 3 girls and 3 boys	BG singles, BG doubles, and mixed; 8 game no-ad pro-set; at 7-all, play one game	Regionals, Sectionals	
14U and 18U Intermediate and Advanced	6, 3 girls and 3 boys	BG singles, BG doubles, and mixed; 8 game no-ad pro-set; at 7-all, play one game	Regionals, Sectionals, Nationals	



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MAS JTT Winter Single Gender Championships – 2016				
Age/Level	Team Minimum	Scoring	Advancement	Eligibility
12U	4 boys OR 4 girls	4 singles, 4 doubles; timed matches; 6 game no-ad pro-set; at 5-all, play one game	Sectionals	Age thru that Championship; minimum 2 match history (player), default not counted toward minimum; team must play minimum 3 matches on 3 different days
14U	4 boys OR 4 girls			
18U	4 boys OR 4 girls			