

# **USTA Louisiana Junior Team Tennis 2026 Regulations (Louisiana Advancing Leagues)**

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**2026 USTA Louisiana Junior Team Tennis State Championship**

**Date: TBA**

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## **GENERAL INFORMATION-**

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

USTA Louisiana Junior Team Tennis League consists of team competition for boys and girls of specific levels of play and age categories. This league provides an opportunity for advancement from local competition to the Louisiana State Championship. All players must be active members of the USTA. USTA junior memberships are free of charge.

### **II. AGE REQUIREMENTS**

For advancing leagues, players must remain age eligible through August 31, 2026, for the age group in which they are participating, in order to register and participate. Special waivers for players ineligible because of their age can be made with the authorization of the State Coordinator. (Please see section iii "Team Composition" under "USTA Louisiana Junior Team Tennis Local Leagues" for more details).

If only one team is registered in a flight of a non-advancing league (beginner level), that team is eligible to be moved to the intermediate flight in their age group (which is advancing) in order to play weekly matches, but is not eligible to advance to state if any of their players do not meet the age requirements.

### **III. TEAM CAPTAINS**

Each USTA Louisiana Junior Team Tennis League team shall have a team coach/captain responsible for the team and its administrative duties during the season. Each team coach/captain must be safe play approved. For more information and to become safe play approved, go to [www.usta.com/safeplay](http://www.usta.com/safeplay).

### **IV. INCLEMENT WEATHER/CANCELED MATCHES**

Each local league shall develop and publish a make-up policy

### **V. PLAYER AGREEMENT**

All players participating in the USTA Louisiana Junior Team League agree to abide and be bound by the USTA Constitution and Bylaws; the [2025 FRIEND AT COURT](#) - The USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations including THE CODE and Wheelchair Rules of Tennis (unless modified by these USTA LOUISIANA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS LEAGUE REGULATIONS) and the standards of good conduct, fair play and good sportsmanship.

### **VI. WAIVER OF CLAIMS**

Players participating in the USTA Louisiana Junior Team Tennis League acknowledge the risks associated with playing tennis, accept those risks voluntarily, and in consideration of their acceptance in the program assume all risks of injury whether property or bodily, waive all claims for any and all injury or damages and agree to release and hold harmless the USTA, any host facility, all officials, employees, volunteers, and agents with respect to any injury or loss caused by negligence or otherwise to the fullest extent permitted, whether in law or equity.

## VII. SUSPENDED PLAYERS

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

## USTA LOUISIANA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS LOCAL LEAGUES

### I. LOCAL JTT LEAGUES

Local League Coordinators should develop additional rules & procedures, which must not become inconsistent with USTA, USTA Southern, and USTA Louisiana and will be approved by the State Coordinator before play begins.

a) Examples: Cans of balls needed per match, scoring format, number of matches in a league, etc.

Local League Coordinators can also have any divisions they would like to offer as non-advancing leagues (below are the Louisiana advancing divisions offered in Louisiana AT THIS TIME).

### II. Louisiana tracks offered at State in Louisiana:

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

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

DIVISIONS, BALL TYPE, AND SCORING FORMATS (State Championship)					
<u>Division</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Court</u>	<u>Ball</u>	<u>Racquet</u>	<u>Scoring</u>
<b>10 &amp; U</b>	Int	60'	ORANGE	Must be 25" or smaller	2 sets to 4 with regular scoring with set tiebreak at 3-all. A 10-point match tiebreak is played in lieu of 3rd set
<b>12 &amp; U</b>	Int	78'	GREEN		2 sets to 4 with regular scoring with set tiebreak at 3-all. A 10-point match tiebreak is played in lieu of 3rd set
<b><u>12 &amp; U</u></b>	<u>Adv</u>	<u>78'</u>	<u>YELLOW</u>		<u>2 sets to 4 with regular scoring with set tiebreak at 3-all. A 10-point match tiebreak is played in lieu of 3rd set</u>
<b>14 &amp; U</b>	Int	78'	YELLOW		2 sets to 4 with regular scoring with set tiebreak at 3-all. A 10-point match tiebreak is played in lieu of 3rd set
<b><u>18 &amp; U</u></b>	<u>Beg</u>	<u>78'</u>	<u>YELLOW</u>		<u>2 sets to 4 with regular scoring with set tiebreak at 3-all. A 10-point match tiebreak is played in lieu of 3rd set</u>
<b>18 &amp; U</b>	Int	78'	YELLOW		2 sets to 4 with regular scoring with set tiebreak at 3-all. A 10-point match tiebreak is played in lieu of 3rd set

\*Round Robin, Partial Round Robin, and/or Single Elimination.

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

### III. TEAM COMPOSITION

To participate in the USTA Louisiana track you may have an ineligible team (any variation of boys and girls on the team) that plays at the local level. However, to advance to State for the Louisiana track, a team must have a minimum of three eligible (3) boys and three eligible (3) girls with all players eligible by Louisiana standards. If local player(s) are not eligible, and they still want to play on the team locally, the local coordinator must receive permission from the State coordinator for that player to participate locally and at State. However, if a player is ineligible they cannot play at an Invitational or Sectional tournament– no exceptions.

10U teams will have a minimum of 4 players, co-ed.

### IV. COMPETITION FORMAT

The local coordinator may use the format which best meets the needs of the local program e.g., round robin. A Local qualifying tournament may be held in lieu of a weekly league as long as all regulations and requirements are met. Leagues that have more than 1 local team in the USTA Louisiana track, players are required to play a minimum of one (1) team match for the player to be eligible for State competition. However, if an area is only able to produce one team to play locally, that team may participate at the Louisiana state tournament with a waiver from the State coordinator.

### V. TEAM MATCH

Local coordinators may determine a match format that meets the needs of the local program. Examples of scoring formats that are commonly used can be found on each area's Google Document shared with the local coordinators. The method of determining the winning team of a local team match and the winner of the local season is determined by the Local coordinator. In the USTA Louisiana track, local match-play can be Co-Ed. However, captains must, to the best of their ability, make sure the players are as equally matched as possible. 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. (One mixed doubles if the local coordinator wants to include mixed doubles.)

### VI. INDIVIDUAL MATCH

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

### VII. SCORING

Local Coordinators may use a scoring format found in TennisLink Junior Team Tennis online system which best meets the needs of the local program. Scores must be recorded in TennisLink Junior 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. (Local coordinators should refer to the Google Document shared with them for commonly used JTT formats or contact the State coordinator).

### VIII. INDIVIDUAL DEFAULTS

An individual default occurs when a player fails to appear or is over 15 minutes late. This results in a default win on that court for the opposing team. If the team is only one player short and two are available, singles shall be defaulted first, as to affect the least amount of players.

## **IX. TEAM LINEUPS**

The coaches/managers for each team shall exchange their team lineup cards simultaneously prior to the beginning of the team match. The local coordinator shall make the rules regarding substitutions after the line-ups have been made and presented.

## **X. 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.

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

Local league programs may or may not allow a player to play up to two individual matches within the same team match. This must be established in the local regulations. (Ex. The girl who plays doubles for her team can also play the girls singles match.)

## **XII. COACHING**

Local leagues may set their own coaching regulations.

## **XIII. WORLD TENNIS NUMBER REQUIREMENTS:**

World tennis Number (WTN) requirements for the Intermediate levels:

14U Intermediate: 40-27 WTN

18U Intermediate: 40-23 WTN

World tennis Number (WTN) requirements for the Beginner levels:

18U Beginner: 40-30 WTN

The World Tennis Number "WTN" at time of registration will be used to determine the Divisions a player is eligible to participate in during the Championship Year if Confidence Factor is medium or high.

## **XIV. LOUISIANA STATE: Refund & Player / Captain Information / State Substitutions**

Deadline for refunds: 7 days before the scheduled tournament.

Only the State coordinator can issue refunds.

Players cannot compete on teams across divisions at State. If a player qualifies in 2 divisions locally, they must choose which division they want to play.

All Captains need to be SafePlay approved before the tournament. Captains and Co-Captains can coach at the same time. If someone other than the captain / co-captain will be coaching, the State coordinator must know to check that the individual is Safe Play approved.

### **LA State substitution rules:**

If an eligible player on an advancing team 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.

**10U:** Substitute players must come from a local championship track team within the championship season. The substitutes must also come from the same division within the championship track. Teams must have 4 players, only 1 being a substitute, to be eligible for State. The substitutes must also be eligible by State regulation standards. All substitutions must be approved by the State Coordinator.

12U, 14U, & 18U: Substitute players must come from a local championship track team within the championship season. The substitutes must also come from the same division within the championship track. Teams must have 3 boys and 3 girls, with only 1 boy and 1 girl being a substitute, to be eligible for State. The substitutes must also be eligible by State regulation standards. Any substitutions must be approved by the State Coordinator.

In the event of the return of the original player for the Invitational Championship, the coach/manager must decide whether the substitute player or the original player will participate.

#### **XV. LOCAL CHAMPIONS**

At the conclusion of the local competition, the Local League Coordinator shall certify to the Louisiana 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 Louisiana which is May 31, 2026. The top 2 teams from each division need to be submitted to the State coordinator by June 7.