



Fall 2009/Winter 2010 Junior Team Tennis Rules

TEAMS: MCTA requires a minimum of six (6) players to be registered for each team. Ten-and-under and 12-and-under are co-ed, though teams do not have to be; 14-and-under and 18-and-under are gender based.

PLAYER PARTICIPATION: While captains have the ultimate responsibility for deciding who plays in any specific match, the schedule is designed so, that if allocated on an equal basis, every player on a six-person roster would play in at least six matches.

MATCH SCHEDULE: All JTT matches are played where and when scheduled in TennisLink.

Matches may not be rescheduled by captains to avoid a default. It is an expected courtesy for captains to advise one another directly in advance if they cannot field a full line-up for a match.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY: MCTA abides by Montgomery County's Community Use of Public Facilities (CUPF) determinations whether to remain open during adverse weather conditions. If CUPF announces that school buildings are closed for evening activities due to inclement weather, then MCTA JTT matches are cancelled, regardless of a facility's decision to remain open. Captains can register on-line with CUPF to receive such notifications directly, or may telephone 240-777-2706 for CUPF recorded announcements. MCTA will make its best efforts to post weather-related closings on its website and to inform affected teams of any known facility closings.

MATCH FORMAT: A Team Match plays on three (3) courts simultaneously and consists of two (2) singles matches and one (1) doubles match. Hence, each Team Match requires four (4) players from each team.

Dress Codes at clubs: Appropriate attire always includes tennis shoes and is required at JTT matches. All white collared or white JTT Team shirts and white shorts are required at Congressional Country Club. Contact the host site with any questions in this regard. *(Links to websites of all tennis facilities hosting MCTA Junior Team Tennis matches can be found on the MCTA JTT website on the Captain's Resource page under Tennis Resources/Links.)*

Balls: Each facility will provide 3 cans of balls for the 3 matches. Captains pick them up at the front desk when checking in, and return used balls to the facility when matches are over.

Length of Play/Lateness: Each individual court will have 90 minutes to play the match, including a maximum ten-minute warm-up. The visiting captain should call time to signal the end of the warm up period and the end of the match. Because matches must be completed within 90 minutes, arriving late increases the likelihood that a match will not finish on time. If a player is late, the USTA Point Penalty System applies: for 0:00–5:00 minutes late, penalty is loss of toss + one game; 5:00–10:00 minutes late, penalty is loss of toss + 2 games; at 10:01 late, penalty is default. While this rule may seem harsh, it is necessary to ensure that all players get a full 90 minutes to play.

Coaching: Not permitted during a match except in 10 & under age group, and then *only to facilitate fair play* – no exceptions in above 10-under. Players are expected to know the rules and to manage their own matches. Captains/acting captains are responsible for ensuring that parents are aware of and abide by the coaching rule.

Defaults: If a team does not have four players to play all individual matches scheduled in a team match, then that team must default either one singles court (if 3 team players are available) or the doubles court (if only 2 team members are available) and pay a corresponding default fee of \$16 per singles court defaulted and \$32 per doubles court defaulted (their opponent's court cost). If a team does not have at least two players available for a match, and hence does not have a mathematical chance to win the match point, it must default the entire team match and pay a corresponding default fee of \$64 (unless an agreement to share costs has been reached – see below). When defaults occur, the team receiving the default is credited with a 6-0, 6-0 win at each position defaulted. MCTA will keep track of all defaults and will bill each captain that owes net default fees and will reimburse each team captain that has a net credit of defaults received.

Shared Costs for Defaulted Courts: If a team defaults one or more courts, it essentially owns those courts. Captains may agree to use the courts for practice. Any arrangement to share courts/court costs must be agreed upon by both captains prior to use and reported to the JTT Administrator at the time scores are entered, otherwise the court costs remain the obligation of the defaulting team.

Use of Unregistered Players: Minimum team roster size is established to minimize the likelihood of defaults and maximize JTT match play for participants. In the interest of play, unregistered players may be used in a line up under the following conditions:

- 1) Only after a captain determines that no registered team member is available to play in a vacant match slot;
- 2) The substitute is from a list of approved subs and is of similar age (and gender if over 12). If after exhausting the sub list a captain is still unable to locate a sub, he/she may contact the JTT Administrator for approval to use an outside sub;
- 3) Subs do not need to be USTA members or registered MCTA JTT players. Subs are not required to pay court fees.

In TennisLink, when reporting match scores that involve substitute players, use the name of a registered player, not the sub.

SCORING: JTT matches utilize regular tennis scoring and best of 2 tiebreak sets. If teams split sets, then a match tiebreak is played in lieu of a third set to determine a winner. In the event that time expires

before completion of the second set, the winner of the most games in both sets shall be declared the winner of the match.

If in a Set or Match tiebreak in when time expires, a team is awarded the tie break if and only if six or more points have been played and one team is ahead by two or more points. Otherwise, the tiebreak does not count. The tiebreak is counted as one game when determining the winner of the match.

Set Tie-Break: The winner is the first player to win seven points while leading by at least two points. The first player to serve does so for one point from the deuce court; thereafter, each player serves two points beginning in the ad court. Switch ends after every 6 points.

Match Tie-Break: Played only if the players split sets and time allows. The winner is the first player to win ten points while leading by at least two points. The first player to serve does so for one point from the deuce court; thereafter, each player serves two points beginning in the ad court. Switch ends after every six points.

Reporting Scores: Winning teams are responsible for posting scores in TennisLink within 48 hours of the completed match. The opposing captain is responsible for confirming or disputing scores within 36 hours thereafter. If a captain does not confirm or dispute within the time frame, he/she forfeits the right to file a dispute. A *Coach's tutorial for using Team TennisLink* is available as a downloadable document on the MCTA website.

CALCULATING STANDINGS: MCTA relies on TennisLink as the official system for score reporting and Standings. *The team winning the majority of games played on all three courts determines the team match winner.*

A level league may or may not play a standard round robin format, depending upon the number of teams in that flight. Where a standard round robin is played (each team plays every other team an equal number of times), Standings as displayed in TennisLink are accurate. Where a standard round robin is not played, TennisLink Standings must be adjusted to determine the winner. In this case, any "extra" matches are not counted. For purposes of this calculation, the "extra" match is the one with the higher TennisLink match code.

REGISTRATION: Information on team and player Registration is on the MCTA website. In order to register with JTT, each player must possess a valid USTA membership.

And questions on rules or policies should be directed to the JTT Administrator at jtt@mctatennis.org or 301 363 4506.