

USTA Junior Team Tennis FAQ's (ages 11 – 18)

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1. Who can play USTA Junior Team Tennis (JTT)?

Any child between the ages of 11 and 18 is eligible to participate in Regular JTT. The upper age limit is defined as "must be 18 on August 31, 2010". We welcome players from various levels, from advanced beginners to intermediates to advanced players. All players must be able to serve, rally, and keep score in order to compete successfully in JTT.

2. How much does USTA Junior Team Tennis cost?

JTT fees are **\$40.00**, including all balls, court fees, special activities, and a Nike Drifit uniform shirt with the JTT logo!

In addition, membership in the United States Tennis Association (USTA) is required. USTA junior membership is \$18 for a full year, which entitles the player to a year-long subscription to **SMASH** magazine (a tennis publication for youngsters), and also enables them to compete in USTA sanctioned tournaments and junior team tennis programs for a full year. Discounted Family memberships and multi-year memberships are also available.

3. How do I join the USTA?

Click on the blue "USTA Membership" button on the left-hand side of this page. Or you can call 1-800-990-8782. Either method takes only a few minutes.

4. What if I've lost my USTA number?

Call USTA at 800-990-8782 to get this information. The JTT coordinator can also look up this information for you. Her contact information is at the bottom of this FAQ section.

5. What constitutes a team?

Teams are made up of at least six (6) players – 3 boys, 3 girls. The players self-report their age and skill level (NTRP rating) when they register. The maximum number of players on a team is ten – five boys, five girls. Four of each is an ideal team size.

6. How long does the season last?

The season will start with 2 practices, followed by at least six matches, according to the schedule found on the home page.

7. What are NTRP ratings?

The National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP) offers guidelines in order to assess and group players of similar skill levels. A separate link on this site will take you to the NTRP descriptions. Ask your tennis coach to help you assess your skill level. To keep this in perspective, note that most teaching pros are 4.5 or 5.0 players; most top-notch junior tournament players are 4.0 or 4.5s. The vast majority of experienced recreational players are 3.0s or 3.5s, even those who have been playing for many years. We all tend to rate ourselves "high" - don't be disappointed if your coach rates you lower than you may think you are! Most high school starters are Intermediates (2.5 or 3.0) unless they also have considerable USTA tournament experience with state or sectional rankings.

Beginners (1.0 – 2.0): To be eligible to play in the Beginner Division, all players must be rated according to the NTRP guidelines at 2.0 or below. After a player has been rated, s/he must also meet the following criteria:

- 1 – no match history in a Junior Team Tennis State Championship event;
- 2 – no history of a match win in any sanctioned USTA tournament within the last two (2) Championship years (excluding wins by default or walkover).

Intermediates (2.5 –3.0): To be eligible to play in the Intermediate Division, all players must be rated according to the NTRP guidelines at 3.0 or below, and many not have a July 31, 2008 Southern Standing of #1 – #300 in the 12s – 18s age divisions, and/or #1 – #100 in the 10s, REGARDLESS of the age division of the team.

Advanced (3.5 and above): Any player with a July 31, 2009 Southern standing of #1 – #300 in the 12s – 18s age divisions, and/or #1 – #100 in the 10s, REGARDLESS of the age division of the team, must play in the Advanced Division.

NTRP Examples:

John has only been playing about a year, and would like to play 12- Beginners. However, he won two matches at Level 5 Satellite tournaments last year. Therefore, he is ineligible for the Beginner team and will need to play 12-Intermediate instead.

Jessica NTRP rates herself as a 3.0 and wants to play on a 14-under Intermediate team, but had a 7/31/08 Southern standing in the Girls 12s of #279. She MUST play on an advanced team, even though she is playing “up” an age division.

8. I'm an advanced player; how do I check my Southern Standing?

Go to the following link:

<http://tennislink.usta.com/tournaments/rankings/rankinghome.aspx>

Enter “Southern” in the first box, enter “2009” in the year, select the appropriate division for your child (example, girls 12s), and hit “enter”. When the list comes up, choose the July report. Sort the list by names to find a particular player most quickly.

9. Why do they use July 2009 standings?

The Southern Sectional Junior Team Tennis Championship is in August each year. Therefore, August 1 of the preceding year marks the beginning of the qualifying period for the coming year's championship. The rankings are published on July 31 rather than August 1.

10. What format do teams play?

Teams play five individual matches per team match:

- Singles (boys, girls)
- Doubles (boys, girls)
- Mixed doubles

11. Who are the captains for Jr. Team Tennis?

Our captains are volunteers! **Kids may sign up but won't get to play unless volunteers – usually parents – step forward to help.** PLEASE contact the MTA with your contact information if you'd be willing to help out as the "team mom" or "team dad" for your child. This involves attending a captains' meeting, making a few phone calls or emails, attending the matches with your player, arranging the lineup, and entering match scores online when you are the home team – it does NOT involve coaching tennis! Thanks in advance to many of you who will help us as captains/team parents! Without captains ... the season will not happen.

12. Does my team need a coach?

Coaching is not required for the local Junior Team Tennis season. However, we encourage all interested players to take advantage of the many opportunities for junior lessons and drills at the various tennis centers in town: JDS or Tattnall (www.macontennisconnect.org, or 478-474-5075 or 478-751-9196), Healy Point (www.canongategolf.com or 478-746-2394) and Idle Hour (www.idlehourclub.com or 478-477-6701). Many teams who advance to the State tournament WILL arrange to work with a coach during June and July to better prepare for that event.

13. Where will the matches take place?

Matches will be played at JDS Tennis Center, 3280 North Ingle Place, just off Northside Drive at Riverside. Matches may also be scheduled at Tattnall Tennis Center, 1155 College Street at Oglethorpe St., in downtown Macon.

14. I still have questions!!! Who do I call?

For more information, [email](#) or call the Macon Tennis Association at 478-477-1957.