



2008 USTA JR. TEAM TENNIS SECTION CHAMPIONSHIPS HANDBOOK

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Note:

This handbook is meant as an abbreviated description of the 2008 USTA Jr. Team Tennis Rules and Regulations and an informational source for the 2008 Section Championships. Please consult your USTA State Coordinator for all eligibility requirements.

General Mission / Goals

In USTA Jr. Team Tennis, the team concept emphasizing fun, fitness, and friends. The focus in this kind of play is enjoying the exhilaration of exercise and refining the skills that make tennis fun for players of all ages and levels of competition.

All participants get to play on a team, practice with friends, and play matches together. The 12U, 14U and 18U participants have the opportunity to advance to section competition. Players in the 14U and 18U Intermediate and Advanced Divisions may qualify for the National Championships. The Championships introduce young players to competition in which competitive stress is minimized and competitive learning opportunities are maximized. The emphasis is on the fun aspect of tennis and team spirit. The Championship Events are also designed to: (1) provide a competitive opportunity for maximizing each player's physical and emotional development, (2) promote the spirit of competition and camaraderie which will enhance and strengthen a player's self-esteem (3) provide a national competition climate that focuses more on personal development and less on competitive outcomes.

2008 USTA JR. TEAM TENNIS SECTION CHAMPIONSHIPS SITE AND DATE

(PLAYERS FROM THE INTERMEDIATE - NTRP 3.0 AND BELOW - LEVEL OF PLAY)

(PLAYERS FROM THE ADVANCED – NTRP 3.5 AND ABOVE - LEVEL OF PLAY)

August 22-24, 2008--Play begins Friday, August 22 (approximately 5:00 PM)

Times are tentative.

Tennis Facilities:

Mobile Tennis Center
851 Gaillard Drive
Mobile, AL 36608
(251) 342-7462

Hotel Information:

www.southernjuniorsteamtennis.com

FORMAT OF PLAY

Team Structure

Section Championships

- The Section Championships will host a maximum of one (1) team per Section in the following divisions: 12U, 14U, and 18U-Intermediate and Advanced Divisions. In addition to the 9 State Teams, a wildcard will be drawn for each division.
- Each team must have a minimum of three (3) boys and three (3) girls who must participate in each and every individual team match. (Only one girl and one boy may "double up" for each individual team match. Match of said doubling must do so in MXD for one of the matches.) Teams that arrive to the event without the minimum number of participants must default the slot in which they are short a participant. Please refer the Playing Twice information for details.

Order of Play

The order of play shall be Boys and Girls Singles, Boys' and Girls Doubles, and then Mixed Doubles.

Participants Level of Play

- USTA Jr. Team Tennis use the NTRP rating system to determine placement of eligible teams/individuals in proper divisions.

- Levels of Play: 12 & Under Intermediate (3.0 & Below), and Advanced (3.5 & Above); 14 & Under Intermediate (3.0 & Below) and Advanced (3.5 & Above); 18 & Under Intermediate (3.0 & Below) Advanced (3.5 & Above). Players with a Southern Standing of 1-300 in any age division, as of July 31 preceding the Championship Year, must play in the Advanced Division, even if playing up in a different age division. A player falling below this benchmark should refer to NTRP criteria to determine if their skills require them to play in the advanced division. This NTRP criteria also applies if a player has an NTRP rating from participating in a USTA Adult League. Each individual team member, not the team average, must fit the NTRP guidelines for the level of play. If players are found to be ineligible or out of level they will be disqualified
- If a player is found to be out of level, they will not continue to play in the championships and all points won by that player will be removed.

RULES, REGULATIONS, SCORING, AND COACHING

Rules and Regulations

- USTA rules and regulations will be enforced during the championships.
- All match lineups must be submitted to the tournament desk by the coach/captain at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the match. Penalties will be enforced at the tournament director's discretion. (I.e. Every individual match will start 1 game down for every five (5) minutes the line up is late. At 15 minutes late the entire match is defaulted)

Scoring

The scoring format will be 8 game pro sets with a match tie break played at 7 all and No AD.

The scoring formats may be altered at the tournament director's discretion depending weather conditions. Please refer to the 2008 USTA Jr. Team Tennis Regulations.

Championship Flight Setup

- Teams will participate in a non-elimination round-robin format with playoff crossovers if applicable.
- Teams will be separated into flights/divisions depending on the size of the championship event.
- The winner of each flight/division will be determined by total games won.
- In the event flights tie, a flight tie-break will be determined as follows:
 - (1) If two teams are tied, head-to-head results.
 - (2) If three or more teams are tied: the least number of sets lost, then the least number of games lost, then, finally, a spin of the racquet.

Championship/Playoff Match Tiebreak

In the event that team scores are tied at the completion of a championship or playoff match, the teams will play a mixed doubles, 10-point match tiebreak to determine the winner of the overall match. Players for the mixed doubles may be selected when the tie occurs.

Team Managers and Coaches

All coaches must be 21 years or older.

Teams with may have a Team Manager, Co-Team Manager and a Coach. One coach is required for the duration of the individual match. The Team Manager/Coach may report infractions to the officials, who shall then take prompt and appropriate action. Only the designated Coach will be permitted to coach during the coaching period.

The tournament director reserves the right to change or alter the coaching rules of a championships event.

It is encouraged to have a Team Manager to take care of the administrative duties and a Coach to take care of coaching duties.

Umpires

There will be certified roving umpires 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 or coach/captain, a roving umpire may be supplied to oversee the match. The presence of a USTA-certified umpire is important to those players who have not previously been exposed to the umpiring world.

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.

Rain Schedule

In the event of rain, please remain at the tournament site until the tournament staff informs you of the playing schedule. In the event of a long rain delay, it will be at the discretion of the Tournament Committee to use an alternative-playing format. Winners will be determined by total games won and commonality among teams.

Cancellation

If the championship, or part of the championships is cancelled due to rain or unforeseen circumstances, the championship will not be rescheduled.

Championship Winners

Awards will be given to the teams that finish first and second in both the 12's 14's & 18's divisions.

USTA Sportsmanship Awards

At the conclusion of the Section Championships, a Boy's and Girl's USTA Sportsmanship Award will be awarded from each division of play. Team Managers from opposing teams recommend a girl and boy for every individual match. Recommendations are tallied and a recipient is awarded.

Championship Entry Fees

- A \$21 per player fee payable www.southernjuniorteamtennis.com is required to participate in the Section Championships.
- A \$250 deposit, per team may be charged. The deposit will not be charged as long as the team remains at the event throughout the entire event and does not withdraw from the tournament within 2 weeks of the tournament.

TOURNAMENT DETAILS

Player T-shirts

All players attending the Section Championships will receive a player T-shirt which will be given to the coach for distribution.

Player Pizza and Lunches

Pizza will be served Friday Evening.

Lunch will be provided for Players, Team Manager and Coach on Saturday

Breakfast Snacks will be provided Sunday

Website

Be sure to log onto southerntennis.com and click Jr. Team Tennis for stories, photos and the latest tournament results throughout the weekend.

Mandatory Championship Conference Calls

Mandatory Conference calls will be conducted with Team Managers of participating teams to review any and all information regarding to the championships.

The following dates and times have been schedule for the championships conference calls: please dial 1-800-719-2345 enter code 32682# to enter your call at the appropriate time:

Intermediate Divisions, 7:00 PM EST, August 13, 2008

Advanced Division, 7:00 PM EST, August 14, 2008

TennisLink Registration: Player Registration for USTA Southern Jr Team Tennis Championships. All registrations are done online and entry fees will be collected at time of registration utilizing PayPal. The process simple and secure and does not require a PayPal account. With this new online registration, players select a t-shirt size. Individual players may register, or a Team Manager can register all of the players.

To register have your team number, credit card and t-shirt size ready.

Players must be current USTA Members and have played at least 3 matches (only one of which can be a default) during 2008 season. A minimum of 6 players (3 Boys and 3 Girls) per team are required for a complete team entry. There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$21.00 per player. Teams withdrawing within two weeks of the tournament or not completing their matches at the tournament will be charged a \$250 fee in addition to the entry fees.

- PLAYERS ARE REQUIRED TO BE REGISTERED WITHIN 7 DAYS AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS IN WHICH THE TEAM PARTICIPATED.

- FAILURE TO REGISTER IN TIME MAY RESULT IN THE TEAM BEING REPLACED.

Team Managers must complete the Team Manager Contact Information Form

Tournament Registration: Team Managers are required to turn in all forms during this time (which include photo release forms, medical release form, conduct form and tell us about your team form). Team Mangers and Coach Contact Information Forms should be sent to hatfield@sta.usta.com no later than August 11, 2008.

Tournament Registration Schedule

Friday – 4:00PM-7:00PM (prior to the first day of play) at Mobile Tennis Center

USTA Jr. Team Tennis Section Championships – Tentative Schedule

Intermediate Divisions, 5:00 PM EST, August 22, 2008

Advanced Divisions, 6:00 PM EST, August 22, 2008

MATCHES PER DAY

Each team has a number beside it on the enclosed draw sheet. The information below lists the number of matches per day each team is tentatively scheduled to play. Team Managers will receive the schedule at registration. The schedule will be considered final at registration. Please refer to the information below to determine which days your team will have two matches scheduled. Play consists of round robin play beginning on Friday. All teams will participate in Finals on Sunday with each place from each group competing.

Levels with five (5) teams in Group:

Day One

Team #1 - 1 match
Team #2 - 1 match
Team #3 - 1 match
Team #4 - 1 match
Team #5 - 0 matches

Day Two

Team #1 - 2 match
Team #2 - 2 match
Team #3 - 2 match
Team #4 - 2 matches
Team #5 - 3 match

Day Three

Team #1 - 2 match
Team #2 - 2 match
Team #3 - 2 match
Team #4 - 2 match
Team #5 - 2 matches

Group with Four Teams

Day One

Team #1 - 1 match
Team #2 - 1 match
Team #3 - 1 match
Team #4 - 1 match

Day Two

Team #1 - 2 match
Team #2 - 2 match
Team #3 - 2 match
Team #4 - 2 matches

Day Three

Team #1 - 1 match
Team #2 - 1 match
Team #3 - 1 match
Team #4 - 1 match

Any divisions with fewer than 8 teams will play in one group with one round robin.

Matches will begin on Friday at 5:00pm and the last matches will be scheduled to start at 1:00pm on Sunday.