

USTA Alabama Junior Team Tennis 2026 Regulations

2026 USTA Alabama Junior Team Tennis State Championship

July 10th-12th, 2026 (Auburn, AL)

Entry Fee: \$40 per player

GENERAL INFORMATION

I. USTA ALABAMA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS LEAGUE

USTA Alabama Junior Team Tennis League consists of team competition for boys and girls of specific WTN levels of play and age categories and provides an opportunity for advancement from local competition to Alabama State Championships to Section Invitational Championships. All players must be members of the USTA in good standing.

II. USTA MEMBERSHIP

All individuals who compete in the USTA Alabama Junior Team Tennis League must be current USTA members in good standing through the local season. Any individual who progresses to USTA Alabama State Championship must be a current USTA member through July 12, 2026.

III. AGE CATEGORIES & REQUIREMENTS

USTA Alabama Junior Team Tennis League is divided into five age categories: 18 & Under, 14 & Under, 12 & Under, 10 & Under and 8 & Under. Players must remain age eligible through August 31, 2026, for the age group in which they are participating, in order to register and participate.

IV. DETERMINING PLAYER PLAY LEVEL

- V. 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 based off the chart below.

WTN Rating at time of registration, players with no confidence factor will be able to sign up for any division.

The rating bands for JTT are as follows (UPDATED 5/2/24):

Division	Eligible WTN Range	Ineligible WTN Range
12 & Under Beginner	40-31	*30-1
12 & Under Intermediate (Green Ball)	40-29	28-1
12 & Under Advanced (Yellow Ball)	40-1	NA
14 & Under Beginner	40-29	*28-1
14 & Under Intermediate	40-27	26-1
14 & Under Advanced	40-1	NA
18 & Under Beginner	40-27	*26-1
18 & Under Intermediate	40-23	22-1
18 & Under Advanced	40-1	NA

***ONLY USED IF PLAYER'S WTN HAS HIGH CONFIDENCE
(as of date set by USTA Alabama & LLC)**

In 12U divisions, a player may play Green or Yellow based on PlayTracker regulations/allowances

In 8U & 10U divisions, a player may play Orange or Green based on PlayTracker regulations/allowances

VI. TEAM COACHES/MANAGERS

Each USTA Alabama Junior Team Tennis League team shall have a team coach/manager responsible for the team and its administrative duties during the season. Each team coach/manager shall be in compliance with the USTA Youth Protection Policies and Procedures for USTA Junior Team Tennis. This may take up to 10 business days to receive approval. For more information go to www.usta.com/safeplay.

VII. OFFICIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM

TennisLink is the official information system of the USTA Alabama Junior Team Tennis League. A player's name must be listed on the team roster, as shown in TennisLink, prior to participation in any match. This includes any player who is added to a team roster after the commencement of local league play.

VIII. OFFICIAL SCORE REPORTING AND STANDINGS SYSTEM

All local play history documentation must be entered within 48 hours of the last match of the season played and before entry into any post season championship event. Corrections to completed scorecards must be made within 1 week of the last match of the season played and before entry into any post season championships event. Local Coordinators are responsible for monitoring score entries. Local programs must set in local rules a rule for failure to comply with score entry deadline regulations.

IX. PLAYER AGREEMENT

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

X. WAIVER OF CLAIMS

Players participating in the USTA Alabama 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.

XI. SUSPENDED PLAYERS

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

USTA ALABAMA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS LOCAL LEAGUES

I. LOCAL JTT LEAGUES

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

- a) Examples: Cans of balls needed per match, scoring format, etc.

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

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

DIVISIONS, BALL TYPE, AND SCORING FORMATS (State Championship)					
Division	Level	Court	Ball	Racquet	Scoring
8 & U 10 & U	Beg Int	60'	ORANGE	Must be 25" or smaller	Best 2 out of 3 short sets - no ad, first to 4 games. 3rd set is a 7-point tiebreak. (only have to win by 1 in set & tiebreak).
10 & U	Adv	78'	GREEN		Best 2 out of 3 short sets - no ad, first to 4 games. 3rd set is a 7-point tiebreak. (only have to win by 1 in set & tiebreak).
12 & U	Beg	78'	GREEN		8 game pro set, no ad. 7-point tie breaker at 7-7. (win tie breaker by 2)
12 & U	Int	78'	GREEN		8 game pro set, no ad. 7-point tie breaker at 7-7. (win tie breaker by 2)
12 & U	Adv	78'	YELLOW		8 game pro set, no ad. 7-point tie breaker at 7-7. (win tie breaker by 2)
14 & U	Beg Int Adv	78'	YELLOW		8 game pro set, no ad. 7-point tie breaker at 7-7. (win tie breaker by 2)
18 & U	Beg Int Adv	78'	YELLOW		8 game pro set, no ad. 7-point tie breaker at 7-7. (win tie breaker by 2)

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

*All Tie Breakers will be Non-Coman Procedures

III. COURTS FOR LOCAL LEAGUE PLAY

“Home teams” will have the choice of court surface for which they wish to play their home matches. Court surface must be the same surface for all individual lines unless prior agreement between both captains. The use of tennis-related blended lines are permitted on courts used for local league matches. The use of other lines for another sport, such as Pickleball, are not permitted on courts used for local league matches.

IV. NUMBER OF TEAMS

1. For the USTA Alabama JTT, a team must advance from a division with a minimum of two teams at the same age and play level as the championship division to which the team is advancing. If a team does not have local competition in their division, the team may not advance to the State Championship in that division. A local coordinator may choose to divide any or all divisions into flights. A playoff structure may be established to determine a champion for each division.
2. 10U, 12U, 14U & 18U Advanced Divisions may be played as “local at state”.

V. TEAM COMPOSITION

- a. 10U teams must have a minimum of 4 players to participate in the Alabama JTT State Championship. Matches will be non-gender specific.
- b. 12U, 14U, 18U teams must have a minimum of three (3) boys and three (3) girls to participate in Alabama JTT State Championships.

VI. COMPETITION FORMAT

The local coordinator may use the format which best meets the needs of the local program e.g., round robin. All teams in the USTA Alabama Junior Team Tennis League track are required to play a minimum of two (2) team matches for the league to be viable. All teams that qualify will be allowed to play at our State Championships.

VII. TEAM MATCH

Local coordinators may determine a match format that meets the needs of the local program. The method of determining the winning team of a local team match and the winner of the local season is determined by the Local League Regulations. In the USTA Alabama Junior Team Tennis League, 12U, 14U and 18U play shall be gender specific (In singles and doubles, girls vs girls and boys vs boys. In mixed doubles, a doubles team comprised of one girl and one boy plays against another doubles team comprised of one girl and one boy). 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, and one mixed doubles if the local coordinator wants to include mixed doubles. 10U will be non-gender specific.

VIII. INDIVIDUAL MATCH

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

IX. SCORING

Local Coordinators may use a scoring format within TennisLink Team Tennis online system which best meets the needs of the local program. Scores must be recorded in TennisLink 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.

X. INDIVIDUAL DEFAULTS

An individual default occurs when a player fails to appear on time. When a team presents a scorecard reflecting a default, the opposing team will be notified and extended the opportunity of adjusting their line-up.

XI. RETIREMENT

A retirement occurs when an individual match has started and a player or a doubles team is unable to continue due to injury, loss of condition or emergency. In case of a retirement, for the purpose of determining standings, the non-retiring player/doubles team shall be credited with such number of additional games as would have been won if the match was completed and the non-retiring player/doubles team won every subsequent game. For WTN computer data entry in TennisLink, mark as retired and submit actual scores of match at the point of retirement.

XII. TEAM LINEUPS

The coaches/managers for each team shall exchange their team lineup cards simultaneously prior to the beginning of the team match. No substitutions may be made in an individual match after the lineup has been presented, except for injury to, or illness of a player prior to the start of such match and except under such further circumstances as a local/area competition may authorize. If the substitution is made during the warm-up, the substitute is entitled to a five-minute warm-up.

XIII. 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. This must be established in the local regulations.

XIV. MORE THAN ONE INDIVIDUAL MATCH

Local league programs may allow a player to play up to two individual matches within the same team match. This must be established in the local regulations.

**Teams must compete in an Alabama JTT League to advance. Players must compete in at least two (2) matches to advance, one of which can be a default. Alabama JTT leagues & championships may be held on one day or more than one day. 10U, 12U,14U & 18U Advanced Divisions may play "Local at State" if state chooses. All Intermediate divisions must play a local league then advance to the State Championship.

XV. COACHING

Local league programs must establish in the local regulations whether and at what times to allow coaching. In no event is coaching permitted during a tiebreak

XVI. LOCAL CHAMPIONS

At the conclusion of the local competition, the Local League Coordinator shall certify to the Alabama 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 Alabama which is **June 27th** of the championship year.