



ALABAMA

2026 USTA ALABAMA JTT STATE CHAMPIONSHIP PROCEDURES

2026 USTA Alabama Southern Junior Team Tennis League State Championships

July 10-12, 2026 (Auburn, AL)

Entry Fee: \$40 per player.

Alabama's Junior Team Tennis State Championships

1. Entering Alabama JTT State Championships

- a) Registration will be through Match Tennis Team App.
- b) Players can register for only one (1) team total for the State Championship.
- c) Registration Opens: June 1st, 2026
- d) Registration Closes: June 28th, 2026
- e) All local league matches must be completed and entered into TennisLink by June 27th, 2026, at 10:59 pm Central Time.

2. Captain Conference Calls

- a) Team Managers must take part in a conference call before the championships. If a team manager cannot attend, another parent or player must call-in in place of that manager.
- b) If a team manager or team representative does not attend the conference call, that team may be penalized 3 games in their first state championship match.

3. Tournament Amenities

- a) All players and up to two (2) team Coaches will receive a championship t-shirt. Players must list their shirt size in Match Tennis Team App, and extra shirts will not be available at the tournament.
- b) One team coach will receive a coaches' gift.

4. Tournament Awards

- a) Awards will be given to the winner and runner-up in each division.

5. Team Roster Makeup/Out of Area Participation

- a) No more than one (1) boy and one (1) girl from out of state may play on a team.

6. Championship Flight Set-Up

- a) Teams will compete in non-elimination, round-robin, or partial round-robin divisions.

- b) If flighted, winning teams will advance to additional, single-elimination round(s) to determine the winner of the division.
- c) If only 2 teams make up a flight, they will be scheduled to play 3 head-to-head matches.
- d) Including single elimination matches, teams will not be scheduled to play more than 3 team matches in any day.
- e) Winners of the division/flight will be determined by total games won.

i. Round Robin:

- a. If a league has multiple teams in the same level, the teams will be placed in separate flights.
- b. Each team shall play every other team in its flight, and the team with the most games won shall be the champion in its flight.
- c. Levels with two flight winners will offer a single elimination finals match to determine the champion.
- d. For those levels with three groups, the second place team based on games overall after flight winner or teams with the most games won will be designated the wildcard.
- e. *If a draw results in the second place team playing against the first place team from its own group, the draw shall be altered as follows: second-place team shall exchange places with a team from the top line of the other semi-final.
- f. Semi-finals will be played as follows for those with three groups: Winner flight 1 vs Second place team, Winner flight 2 vs Winner flight 3.
- g. Semi-finals will be played as follows for those with four groups: Winner flight 1 vs Winner flight 2, Winner flight 3 vs Winner flight 4.

ii. Partial Round Robin:

- a. The format may be used in scenarios when the number of teams does not work well with round-robin or single-elimination formats, such as divisions with 7 teams.
- b. All teams shall be scheduled the same number of matches against randomly selected opponents.
- c. The Championship Committee must determine the process for determining the winner following the partial round-robin matches.
- d. Depending on the number of teams, this could include:
 - i. The team at the top of the standings at the end of the unflighted matches is the winner.
- e. Possible outcomes determined by the tournament committee based on the total number of teams include:
 - i. Top 8 teams with the most games won will make Quarter Finals: #1 vs. #8, #2 vs. #7, #3 vs. #6, #4 vs. #5. Followed by Semifinals, the draw shall be the winner of #1 vs #8 will play the winner of #4 vs. #5, the winner of #2 vs #7 will play the winner of #3 vs #6. Followed by Finals.
 - ii. Top 4 teams with the most games won will make the semifinal. #1 vs. #4, #2 vs. #3. Followed by Finals.

7. Courts & Equipment

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)

1. 8 & Under and 10 & Under:

- A team match at the Alabama JTT State Championship comprises two singles matches and one doubles match. The team securing the most games will be declared the winner.

2. 12 & Under through 18 & Under:

- Mixed Doubles
- Boys' Doubles
- Girls' Doubles
- Boys' Singles
- Girls' Singles

3. Match Format:

- The sequence consists of mixed doubles, boys' doubles, and girls' doubles initially, followed by boys' singles and girls' singles.
- While players have the option to double up, they must adhere to the sequence of mixed doubles as their first match, followed by singles as their second match.

4. Team Requirements:

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

5. Substitutions and Team Size:

- All substitutions must go through the Local League Coordinator and approved by the State League Coordinator.
- All Advancing teams: A substitute player is allowed only if the team originally had the required minimum number of players eligible to advance.
- 10 & Under:
 - Substitutes cannot exceed more than 50% of a team's original roster.
 - Teams with five or more players cannot add a substitute player.
 - Teams with four players can add a maximum of one substitute player.
 - Teams with two or three players are allowed to add a maximum of two substitute players.
- 12 & Under -18 & Under:
 - Substitutes cannot exceed more than 50% of a team's original roster.
 - In no event can more than 4 substitutes (2 boys & 2 girls) be added to a roster.
 - Teams with 1 boy and 1 girl are ineligible to participate since adding players exceeds 50% of the original team.
 - Teams with 2 boys and 2 girls can add only 2 boys and 2 girls to their team.
 - Teams with 3 boys and 3 girls can add only 1 boy and 1 girl to their team.
 - Teams with 4 boys and 4 girls (or more) cannot add any players.
 - Team with any variation 0 & 3 (boys or girls) can NOT add 3 players to the gender with 0 players, and 0 players to the gender with 3 players.

6. Default Scenarios:

- 8U & 10U if a team is reduced to 3 players, they must default a singles match first to impact the least amount of players.
- 12U, 14U and 18U If a team is reduced to 2 players of a given gender, they must default the doubles event with the shortage to adhere to the double up rule.

7. Team Match Scoring

- The team match is scored by cumulative games won from each court played in the team match. A team scores a point for every game won and 1 point for winning the 3rd set tiebreak. Team matches may end in a tie.
- The scoring formats may be altered at the tournament director's discretion due to weather, etc.

8. Procedures in the event of a tie

1. ROUND ROBIN FORMAT

In the event of a tie in round robin or partial round robin competition, the tie shall be broken by the first of the following procedures that does so:

- Head-to-head team match win/loss record between the tied teams
 - A win is determined by most games won
 - The team with the most team matches won in the round robin flight
 - The team with the most individual matches won in the round robin flight
 - The team with the most sets won in the round robin flight
 - Percentage of games won during match of tied teams
 - Percentage of games won in round robin matches
 - Coin Flip
1. A tiebreak played in lieu of a deciding final set counts as both one (1) set and one (1) game for the purpose of determining the order of finish. If the players inadvertently play out the third set or any portion thereof, it will still count as only one set and one game.

2. SINGLE ELEMINATION FORMAT

When two teams are tied in games during single elimination, each team's coach/manager will designate a girl and boy to play a mixed doubles 10-Point match tiebreak to determine the winner.

9. THE CODE & USTA Rules Govern All Matches

- Players must play by THE CODE during all matches.
- USTA Rules as found in the 2026 Friend at Court will govern all matches.
- A tournament referee will always be present or available by phone during the championship.

10. Match Information

- Team managers must turn in the lineup in Match Tennis Team App. 30 minutes prior to the scheduled match time. Tournament referees can apply lateness penalties if lineup is not entered by the time the match begins. Exceptions can be made to this rule if the tournament is running behind schedule. In those cases, the tournament director will determine the time match cards must be turned in.
- If lineup card is turned in after match time, the team may be penalized based on USTA rules enforced by the referee.
- **Once a lineup has been submitted, it is final. No substitutions may be made in an individual match after the lineup has been submitted, except in the case of injury, illness, or disqualification of a player prior to the start of the match, or under other circumstances approved by the Tournament Committee.**

- **If a submitted lineup or scorecard violates the Double-Up Rule, the affected doubles court shall be penalized as follows:**

o Day 1: The affected doubles court shall begin the match down **0–2** and lose the toss.

o Day 2: The affected doubles court shall begin the match down **0–3** and lose the toss.

o Day 3: The affected doubles court shall be defaulted.

- 4 cans of balls will be given for each team match.
- Each team match will consist of 5 matches (Mixed doubles, Boys Doubles, Girls Doubles, Boys Singles, Girls Singles.). *Exception is 8&U and 10&U*
- Following a team match, both team Captains must sign off and approve scorecard in Match Tennis Team App.
- Appeals—Captains have up to 30 minutes following a team match to file an appeal for incorrect scoring in Match Tennis Team App. If no appeal is filed within 30 minutes, the match is final.

11. Coaching: Coaches must be registered with their team on Match App by July 3rd

- Coaching will be allowed during a changeover at the end of odd games. Coaching is considered to be communication, advice, or instruction of any kind, audible or visible, to a player. The following coaching policies must be followed. Any violation of these coaching policies may result in the suspension of the coaching privileges and point penalties:
 - A max of 4 people may be designated to be the Coach of a team during each dual team match and must be SafePlay approved, registered with the tournament and identified with a Coach badge.
 - The designated Coaches may coach the player(s) when the players change ends at the end of a game and may be done when the players change ends after the first game without delay.
 - Coaching is not permitted during a tie-break game or tie-break in lieu of the third set.
 - Coach must remain outside the fence and cannot receive input at the fence from any other parties to relay to the player when speaking to the player.
 - Coaching should be a positive reinforcement to your player and not against the opponent.
 - A player is not allowed to be coached if the coaching is given by signals during play.
 - **10U – Each team is allowed one coach on the court to assist players with practical aspects of the game, such as scoring and when to change sides. Coaches must still adhere to the rules regarding when they are permitted to provide coaching on strategy and technique.**

12. Lack of Player

- If an injury occurs after any points have been scored and the player cannot continue, then the team will forfeit the remaining games in that match to their opponent.
- If a team is short a player for any reason prior to a match, the team must forfeit the singles position first for 8U & 10U and doubles match for 12U, 14U and 18U.
- The opposing team will have the opportunity to change their lineup but may not see the lineup card of the team forfeiting a position.

13. Rain/Weather

- If matches are suspended or postponed due to weather, update Match Tennis Team App with score at the time of postponement.
- Do not let players leave the site unless instructed to do so by the tournament director or tournament desk – as soon as courts are playable matches will be sent out. Players and teams who help prepare courts for play get priority.
- Format and scoring may change if significant delays have occurred to assure the event concludes.

14. Grievances

- Grievance forms will be available at the tournament desk. Completed grievance forms must be submitted to the Tournament Referee or Tournament Director within **30 minutes** of the completion of the team match.
- The Championship Grievance Committee will review and rule on all grievances as promptly as possible. Anyone with pertinent information may be asked to provide information to the committee.
- Any team that withdraws from the Alabama JTT State Championships after schedules have been published, or any team that defaults an entire team match or is found to have participated with an invalid lineup or ineligible player, may be subject to a grievance filed by the Tournament Director or Tournament Referee.

15. Tournament Cancellation Policy

- **During Round Robin Play**
- Should inclement weather or other circumstances prevent the completion of a state championship or prevent round robin matches from starting by 5:00 PM on Sunday; the level/flight winners will be determined by the first of the following procedures that does so:
- In the event a level or flight within a level consists of multiple round robins, the first place team will be determined by TennisLink standings at the conclusion of the most recent full round robin. If a full round robin is not completed, the below-mentioned procedures would apply:
- In the event that only one team in a round robin has a mathematical chance of finishing first, that team will be declared the winner of the round robin.
- If more than one team has a mathematical chance of winning their round robin, and the first place team has already beaten the other teams with a mathematical chance of winning, the 1st place team would be considered the round robin winner.
- If a round robin winner cannot be determined, and each team in a round robin has been given the opportunity to complete a minimum of one team match, only teams with a mathematical chance of finishing first will receive an entry into a drawing. Undeclared teams will receive a second entry into the drawing.
- If a round robin winner cannot be determined, and each team in a round robin has not been given the opportunity to complete a minimum of one team match, each team will receive one entry into a drawing to determine the round robin winner.

During Round Robin Playoffs

- Should inclement weather or other circumstances prevent the completion of either the semifinals or finals during the State Championship; the following procedures will be used:
- If cancellation occurs before or during the semi-finals, all flight winners will receive two entries in the drawing and any best 2nd place teams will receive one entry into the drawing to determine finalists. Any winning team that has completed their semi-final match will receive two entries into the drawing and the losing team will be excluded from the drawing.
- If cancellation occurs once the finalists have been determined, but play has not begun, each team will receive an entry in the drawing to determine one state champion.
- The Tournament committee may keep both finalist teams at the site past 5:00 PM to see if play can continue later that evening.

During Partial Round Robin Matches Format

- Should inclement weather or other circumstances prevent the completion of our state championship or prevent Partial Round Robin matches from starting by 5:00 PM (local time) on Sunday, the winners will be determined by the first of the following procedures that does so:
- If a minimum of 3 full Partial Round Robin rounds have been completed by all teams, any undefeated teams will receive an entry into a drawing to determine a winner. In this instance, unfinished Partial Round Robin rounds in fourth segment will not count.
- In the event that only one team (after the most recent full Partial Round Robin round) has a mathematical chance of finishing first, that team will be declared the winner.
- If more than one team has a mathematical chance of winning, after the most recent full Partial Round Robin round, and the first-place team has already beaten the other teams with a mathematical chance of winning, the 1st place team would be considered the winner as the head-to-head winner.
- If a winner cannot be determined, and each team has been given the opportunity to complete a minimum of one team match, only teams with a mathematical chance of finishing first will receive an entry into a drawing. Undefeated teams will receive a second entry into the drawing.

During semifinal playoffs:

- Teams that have clinched (won a majority of individual matches) in their semifinal playoff will be considered the winner of their semifinal match.
 - Teams that have not clinched (not won a majority of individual matches) in their semifinal will be put into a drawing to determine the winning semifinalist. For each individual line won by a team, said team will receive an additional entry into the drawing. (For example, the #2 doubles match was finished. The winning team of said #2 doubles match would receive an additional entry into the drawing.)

16. Advancement to Sectional Championship

1. JTT League Invitational Section Championship –September 5th – 6th, 2026 (Mobile, AL)

- Winners of the State Championships 10U Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced, 12U Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced, 14U Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced, and 18U Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced divisions will advance to the JTT League Invitational Section Championships September 5th-6th in Mobile, AL.
- If the first-place team declines the trip, the runner up will be extended the invitation.
- Any wildcards to the JTT League Invitational Section Championships will be offered and determined by the Section Junior Team Tennis Committee.

2026 USTA ALABAMA JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS LEAGUE COMMITTEE

Melissa Shaver
Brett Halsey
Greg Edwards
Mikey McLaughlin
Jason Abraham
Alicia Rafferty
Amanda Hancock
Laura Kroger

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

Will be determined from the list above

GRIEVANCE APPEALS COMMITTEE

Will be determined from the list above

Administration

- All communication will be done through Match Tennis Team.
- Tournament Committee will use proper and fair judgment with regards to all State tournament-related issues.
- Tournament Committee: To be appointed by JTT Alabama State Coordinator.
- Championship Grievance Committee: To be appointed by JTT Alabama State Coordinator.
- Championship Procedures may be amended at Tournament Committee's discretion.