

Glossary of Terms

Lowcountry Junior Team Tennis League Rules

COACH/CAPTAIN-

Must be a person 19 years or older, who is not a tennis professional, and is responsible for the team. Any penalties for violations will be imposed upon the team members.

THE CODE-

The current printing of "The Code", N.E. Powell.

CURRENT LJTT YEAR -

January 1 through December 31 of each calendar year.

DEFAULT-

The loss of a match or matches by failing to be present for play within 20 minutes (default time) after the scheduled starting time. When the previous match extends beyond the default time, play must begin immediately when the court becomes available. The non-defaulting Coach/Captain may waive a default as long as the non-defaulting team remains at courtside.

FACILITY-

Four or more courts at the same address.

FOREITURE-

The automatic loss of a match and the point attendant thereto where expressly provided herein for violation of these Rules or as otherwise imposed as a penalty as deemed appropriated by the respective members of the LJTT Board Members.

INELIGIBLE PLAYER-

Any player who is ineligible to play for points under any one or more of the Junior Team Tennis League Rules.

MATCH EVENT-

A series of matches between the counterpart singles players and doubles pairs of two teams scheduled by LJTT as part of the LJTT sanctioned league and tournament play.

PENALTY-

The loss of point(s) or other action expressly imposed by these rules or by the LJTT Board for a violation of these rules.

PLAYER-

Any singles player, doubles player, regular player, additional player or substitute player who is a fully paid USTA and LJTT member in good standing with the LJTT league, who is listed on the team's roster, and who is not an ineligible player under the LJTT Rules. No distinction shall be made among regular, additional or substitute players.

RETIREMENT-

Any player who is unable to continue a match in progress because of loss of natural condition, an accidental injury or a personal emergency.

SCHEDULED MATCH-

Date published on the USTA Tennis Link Team Home Page. In the event of inclement weather of scheduling matches early, the agreed upon time and date of the new match becomes the scheduled match.

SUSPENDED PLAYERS-

All suspended players will be considered ineligible for all LJTT league play including the City Championships and State Championships.

THE USTA RULES-

The current printing of the Rules of Tennis and Cases and Decisions; all other current USTA Rules.

USTA CHAMPIONSHIP YEAR -

September 1 through August 31

USTA WEBSITE-

The LJTT program is contain with the USTA Tennis Link System. To access this system go on to the Internet and use the URL: www.usta.com. Click on Tennis Link in the upper right corner and then on the "Enter Here" within the Team Tennis box located screen center.

I. TEAM AND PLAYERS

A. All team members must be paid members of USTA in good standing through out the league season. Any individual who progresses to championship level in the USTA Jr. Team Tennis League shall be a current Member for the duration of each championship progression. USTA Jr. Team Tennis participation is limited to amateurs players only. Junior USTA memberships are currently \$18.00 per year. All team members must be paid member of LJTT. All junior seasonal league fees are \$35.00 per season.

B. AGE ELIGIBILITY

Minimum age for Junior eligibility: A player must attain his/her 8th birthday during the calendar year in which he/she wishes to play.

18 Under Age Group No player may have reached his/her 18th birthday prior to August 31 of the USTA Championship year in which he/she wishes to play.

14 & Under Age Group: No player may have reached his/her 14 birthday prior to August 31 of the USTA Championship year in which he/she wishes to play.

12 & Under Age Group: No player may have reached his/her 12 birthday prior to August 31 of the USTA Championship year which he/she wishes to play.

10 & Under Age Group: No player may have reached his/her 10th birthday prior to the beginning of the calendar year in which he/she wishes to play.

C. A player may play on only one team and in only one league per season. Further, a player can participate in only two matches per match event.

Any player 18 years of age may play in the Adult Leagues and participate in the State Championships but may not return to the Junior Team Tennis League.

D. Each team must guarantee use of at least 3 courts at the same address. Any court surface, outdoor or indoor, is acceptable.

E. The home team must pay any required court fee and/or guest fee.

F. All Coach/Captain, Team, and Player registration is to be completed online through the USTA Tennis Link System on the Team Tennis Home Page.

G. Coach/Captains must register online in the USTA Tennis Link System at the Team Tennis Home Page. URL: <http://teamentennis.usta.com/Main/HomePage.aspx>

H. It is the responsibility of the Coach/Captain to create the team online in the USTA Tennis Link System at the Team Tennis Home Page. URL: <http://teamentennis.usta.com/Main/HomePage.aspx>. **Teams must be created first before any players can register.**

I. There is no maximum limit of players, but the minimum of 5 players is required. It is a good idea to have extra players on your roster. All teams must have 3 girls and 3 boys on their team during the regular season to progress to championship level.

J. Players may be added up until midnight on the last day before the scheduled date of the last match event. All

VERTICAL BAR INDICATES

RULES CHANGE

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additions to the roster must be paid and their level must be at or below the current level and flight of the team. If a player is being added after the registration deadline, you will have to contact the LJTT Program Coordinator before the Parent can register their child. **Fees will not be prorated.**

- K. Any person not listed on a roster in accordance with these General Rules shall be an ineligible player. Any changes made to a team roster will be made at the discretion of the LJTT Program Coordinator.

- L. **All players must play in three separate match events with different match IDs during the season to be eligible for the State Championships.** A win by default or forfeit counts as a time played and all player movement rules apply.

II. FLIGHT PLACEMENT

The LJTT Program Coordinator will make final determination of flight placement. Team movement from on flight to another shall be based on the previous season's play, as well as on the addition of new players and the loss of old players. The goal is to match teams with comparable abilities within the league.

III. COACH/CAPTAINS

- A. **Each team must have a coach/captain or acting coach/captain present at the beginning of every match event.** Coach/Captains or acting coach/Captains must exchange line-ups for all positions simultaneously before the start of the match event. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of points. Scores of each match must be entered online the USTA Tennis Link System - Team Tennis Home Page, URL: <http://teamtennis.usta.com/Main/HomePage.aspx> . Score must be record by noon the next day. (In case of violation, refer to Rule V.C.)

- B. Coach/Captains shall agree upon the order of play. In case of conflict, the default order of play is 1 Singles, 1 Doubles, followed by the 2 Singles, 2 Doubles, and so forth.

- C. Teams must determine line-ups according to strength of players in order to make fair and competitive play for all. "Sandbagging", **scheduling stronger pairs below weaker ones**, is prohibited. #1 Singles players must be stronger than #2 singles players, #1 doubles pair must be stronger than #2 doubles pair.

Note: Players may play both singles and doubles during a season. However, line-up must be in accordance with the above rule.

Example: The best player in the line-up at any given match event must play at either #1 singles or #1 doubles.

Player's win/loss record should be used to determine position. Any team not complying with these rules shall forfeit all individual matches concerned. Any questions or problems shall be discussed with your LJTT Program Coordinator **before beginning play.**

IV. MATCH EVENTS

- A. All match events must be played on Sunday starting at 2:30 p.m.
- B. Match events will consist of 3 singles and 2 doubles.
- C. All matches will be 8-game pro sets. A match is won when one team wins eight games by a margin of at least two games. If the score reaches 7-all, a 12-point tiebreak is played and the win is scored 8-7.
- D. Coach/Captains must contact visiting teams Coach/Captain at least 4 days before the match event in order to discuss place, directions and order of matches. During the phone call, as a courtesy, the home team Coach/Captain should inform the visiting Coach/Captain whether the match event will be played on hard or soft courts, indoor or outdoor courts and any dress code restrictions.

- E. LJTT will not provide linesman or umpires for matches.

- F. LJTT govern play. In cases not specifically covered by these rules, USTA rules govern play. In addition, "The Code" as a handbook of ethics and fair play should be understood and followed by every LJTT player, "Lowcountry Jr. Team Tennis Rules" and "The Code" should be available for consultation at all match events.

- G. Players listed on a scorecard may be moved upward to fill a vacancy created by players absent or injured during warm-up. Once a player's name is removed for the scorecard, that player will not be allowed to play in the match event.

- H. The 20-minute default rule, as defined in the Glossary under "Default", is in effect for all scheduled matches. A defaulted match is scored as 8 points for the opposing team. When a match is defaulted, it must be the lower singles or doubles match, whichever is applicable. If the high position of singles or doubles is defaulted after the respective lower position has been played, the team defaulting shall also lose the point earned at the lower position. Teams may not agree to schedule matches later than the next scheduled match event.

- I. Each hosting team Coach/Captain must provide five unopened cans of USTA-approved balls. **Exception:** Oversize balls may be used only if both Coach/Captains agree prior to the start of the match. Each team will retain its cans of ball at the completion of the match event. 10 and under beginner and intermediate teams will use low-compression USTA-approved balls.

- J. Warm-up is limited to 10 minutes including practice serves.

- K. Coaching is illegal. Teammates, spectators or coaches may not volunteer advice on line call, scoring or on the conduct of a match. The only exceptions to this are (1) to help with the 12-point tiebreak (both team Coach/Captains may explain the tiebreak procedure once, and then leave the court) or (2) during the legal monitoring of a match in the 10 & Under Group. It is the team manager's responsibility to control his/her spectators' conduct during the match play.

- L. No spectator is permitted to sit on the court, even if there is on-court seating.

- M. The LJTT Program assigns equal number of "Home" versus "Visiting" Match Events. When the "Home" team is unable to provide its home courts for any scheduled match, and a conflict arises, the Program Coordinator will try to schedule the match at the "Visiting" team's courts before choosing another court location. **"Home" court status does not correlate with location; make sure you check your Match Schedule to determine whether you are actually "Home" or "Visiting".** If alternate courts are needed, the Coach/Captains must contact the LJTT Program Coordinator.

V. PENALTIES AND FOREITURES

- A. Upon agreement by the coach/captains present at the match event, a player may be removed for the match event and defaulted for unsportsmanlike conduct on the court. Removal from the match event will occur after one warning has been issued. Any incidents of unsportsmanlike behavior must be reported in writing to the LJTT Program Coordinator and may lead to suspension.

- B. In all match events in which an ineligible player participates, the guilty team will be penalized by forfeiting the points earned by the ineligible player. If the ineligible player is played at either 1Singles or 1Doubles, any points earned at 2Singles or 2Doubles, and so forth will be forfeited.

- C. In those situations where no penalty is provided in the Lowcountry Junior Team Tennis Rules, **THE LJTT PROGRAM COORDINATOR SHALL HAVE THE AUTHORITY AND DISCRETION TO IMPOSE APPROPRIATE PENALTIES.**

- D. A team having excessive defaults shall have all its matches to date nullified and shall be treated as a bye for the remainder of the season. Excessive defaults shall be defined as defaulting all points of any given event match or averaging more than one default per match event.
- E. If a team has excessive defaults as defined in Rule V.D., the team and/or its members may be suspended for the next season. This penalty also applies to any team withdrawing after registration deadlines.
- F. If there are any conflicts that cannot be resolved by the team managers within the rules, the LJTT Program Coordinator should be contacted. All official protest must be submitted to the LJTT Program Coordinator in writing within 5 days of the scheduled match being protested.
- G. Any person playing under an assumed name or any person having knowledge of such act, and failing to report said act to the LJTT Program Coordinator in a timely manner, will be suspended for up to one year.

VI. INCLEMENT WEATHER

- A. If there is any question about the weather, the 2 coach/captains should communicate as early in the day of the match as possible. If a game is to be called off, this should occur prior to 1:00 so that parents can be notified. If a game is cancelled or rescheduled, it is the coach's responsibility to make sure that the parents of the players have been notified.
- B. In the event of rain, completed individual matches will stand as played. Incomplete matches must be resumed by the same players at the exact game and point as they stood when halted. Line-ups for matches not started may be changed provided they do not conflict with the player movement rules.
- C. If teams have assembled to play and the match is delayed or interrupted by rain or wet courts, teams should be prepared to wait one half-hour to determine if the courts are playable. If courts are still not playable after one half-hour has elapsed, teams are free to leave and reschedule unless both teams agree to wait longer.
- D. A rained-out match must be rescheduled and played before the next scheduled match date.
- E. If the home team is unable to provide its courts for a make-up match, the visiting team has first option of providing its courts. If the home team cannot provide its courts, nor can the visiting team, the home team must then find another set of courts in the vicinity on which to play the make-up match.
- F. If a Heat advisory is issued, to protect the health of the players we suggest the match be cancelled and rescheduled for a cooler day. The rainout rules apply to rescheduling.
- G. No matches will be played during a Hurricane Warning. There are no provisions for extreme wind.
- H. If temperatures are below 32° before the match is started, and both managers agree, the match may be cancelled and rescheduled. The above rainout rules apply to rescheduling.

VII. SCORING

- A. The total number of games won will be counted to determine the points awarded during a match event.
- B. A total of all points at the end of the season will determine the final standings of each division.