



## Winter 2021 USTA Junior Team Tennis Rules & Procedures

### 1. TENNISLINK

Registration for teams and players must be submitted online using the TennisLink program - <http://teamtennis.usta.com>.

Teams will be responsible for the accuracy of their information. **Once a player is added on TennisLink, there are no refunds, under any circumstances.** Please check all player eligibility requirements PRIOR to registering the player. Any questions or concerns should be addressed prior to registering on TennisLink.

### 2. BACKGROUND SCREENING

Captains must submit the background screening and receive approval BEFORE creating a team in TennisLink. This is a requirement through USTA National and the system will NOT allow you to create a team if you have not been approved through the background screening. Screenings are good for two years so if you are a returning captain and need to check your expiration date, please email [safeplay@usta.com](mailto:safeplay@usta.com). You will be completely locked out of TennisLink if you don't renew before your expiration date. Visit <https://customercare.usta.com/hc/en-us/articles/360041617612-How-to-Become-Safe-Play-Approved-Renew> and follow the steps in Net Generation to complete the background screening. You will NOT be able to create a team until this is completed.

You must be approved before you can create a team in TennisLink and the screening approval can take up to 10 business days. We cannot guarantee team entry if the screening is not submitted with enough time for clearance and team submission.

### 3. AGE ELIGIBILITY

All players participating in the Winter season must remain age eligible through August 31st of the Championship Year.\*

\*8U – REMAIN 8 OR YOUNGER THROUGH MARCH 6, 2021 (end of winter season)

10U – BORN SEPTEMBER 2010 & YOUNGER

12U – BORN SEPTEMBER 2008 & YOUNGER

14U – BORN SEPTEMBER 2006 & YOUNGER

18U – BORN SEPTEMBER 2002 & YOUNGER

### 4. LEVEL ELIGIBILITY

**\*Important to read before leveling your team or registering for a team.\***

The USTA Junior Team Tennis play levels are defined as Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced. Please read the guidelines below to determine the appropriate level for all players on your team. When leveling teams and creating divisions, we work with who has registered for the season. Teams may be placed in a higher level at the coordinator's discretion, if this needs to occur to create a complete division, the team captain will be notified by a coordinator.

**To search for a player's standing/points by USTA number go to:**

[http://www.georgia.usta.com/junior\\_team\\_tennis/](http://www.georgia.usta.com/junior_team_tennis/) and you will see a few links – one for 10U Intermediate Level Eligibility (standings), one for the list of girls ineligible for the Beginner level due to points, and one for the list of boys ineligible for the Beginner level due to points.

**To search for tournament standings/points by player name you will need to go to:**

<https://tennislink.usta.com/tournaments/rankings/rankinghome.aspx>. Select Southern, 2020, select appropriate division, select All List Types, click "Find It" and go to the March 9, 2020 standing lists.

Please read the criteria below and use the above links to confirm a player's eligibility.

#### **Beginner Level Eligibility Requirements:**

**Players that meet at least one of these benchmarks in any age group are NOT eligible for participation at the Beginner Level during 2021 Championship Year:**

- Players with a JNTRP rating of 2.5 and above at time of registration.
- Players with more than 180 points in any age group on the posted Georgia Standings List as of March 10, 2020. Point totals shall include both singles and doubles divisions from which points were acquired. Points earned due to defaults will not be considered and may be deducted if noted in writing to the State League Coordinator at time of Championship registration. \*Please note: TennisLink will NOT stop a player that has more than 180 points from registering to a team. It is the responsibility of the parent/captain to check eligibility before registering each player. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
- Players who competed in at least one match in the Beginner Level at the 2019 State Championships cannot play on a Beginner Level team in the same age group during the 2021 Championship Year.

#### **12U-18U Intermediate/Advanced Level Eligibility Requirements:**

**Players that meet at least one of these benchmarks in any age group are NOT eligible for participation at the Intermediate Level during 2021 Championship Year:**

- Players with a JNTRP rating of 3.5 and above at time of registration.
- Players with a 1-300 Southern Section standing in the 14s, 16s, or 18s as of March 9, 2020.\*
- Players with a 1-150 Southern Section standing in the 12s as of March 9, 2020.\*

**\*Please note:** TennisLink will NOT stop an ineligible player from registering to a team. It is the responsibility of the parent/captain to check eligibility before registering each player. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.

### **10U Intermediate and Advanced Level Eligibility Requirements:**

Players with a 1-75 Southern Section standing in the 10s as of March 9, 2020 and who are playing 10U must play Advanced. If a 10U player has played up in the 12s and has a JNTRP rating of 3.5 or above the player must play Advanced.

\*Please note: TennisLink will NOT stop an ineligible 10U player from registering to a team. It is the responsibility of the parent/captain to check eligibility before registering each player. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.

### **12U-18U Advanced Low and High Levels:**

Players with a JNTRP rating of 3.5 and above at time of registration must play at the advanced level.

**Advanced Low Level** - Players with a JNTRP rating of 1.0-3.9 at time of registration are eligible to play at the Advanced Low level. Advanced Low divisions will be eligible to advance to State and Section Championships but not National Championships.

**Advanced High Level** - Players with a JNTRP rating of 1.0-7.0 at time of registration can play at the Advanced High level. Advanced High divisions will be eligible to advance to State, Section, and National Championships. 12U will only advance to Section Championships.

Final placement will be at USTA Atlanta's discretion, including the option of combining High and Low flights into one, if necessary.

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### **Find Your Rating:**

If you have played a minimum of four matches in the last 18 months in 12U-18U divisions of USTA-sanctioned and/or non-sanctioned junior tournaments and/or Junior Team Tennis leagues, then you more than likely have a dynamic rating.

**[Click here](#) to find your rating!** You must be logged into your USTA account in order to search for a junior rating level.

Please visit [www.usta.com/junior\\_ratings](http://www.usta.com/junior_ratings) for more information regarding junior ratings.

## **5. COURTS**

Each team must guarantee use of at least two (2) courts at the same address and of the same surface. As a courtesy to your opponents, you should advise them in advance if using clay courts. Scheduling cannot accommodate any more than 2 teams per multiple of 2 courts. Example: 2 courts available, 2 teams permitted; 4 courts available, 4 teams permitted; 6 courts, 6 teams permitted, etc.

If you would like to update your JTT court availability, please email Amanda Hunt ([amanda@ustatlanta.com](mailto:amanda@ustatlanta.com)) with the facility and number of courts available for Junior Team Tennis by December 4th. This will help when scheduling numerous teams at a facility.

## 6. TEAMS/ PLAYING TWICE

Each roster must be submitted with a minimum of 8 players, 4 boys and 4 girls. \*8U- 6 player minimum. Any two players may play two positions per match (referred to as "playing twice"). Note: This rule has been updated in an effort to better help teams avoid forfeits. **The same players may not play twice in more than two matches per season.** Abuse of this rule will result in a loss of points. Playing twice will not be permitted in the playoffs or City Finals. In order to avoid forfeits, at least five boys and five girls are recommended.

**\*\*PLAYING ON MULTIPLE TEAMS\*\*** - Players may play on two junior USTA Atlanta rosters per season. Players that are on two rosters in the same season must play in two different age groups. In addition, both teams must be at or above the player's skill level.

## 7. ADD-ONS

A team can add any number of players throughout the season. **Players must check the level eligibility guidelines before registering for the team.** Abuse of this rule may result in disqualification and loss of all points won by that player. Captains are responsible for the accuracy of the skill level of their added players.

Add-ons will be accepted up until the last regular season match. However, a player must have credit for two regular season matches to be eligible for playoffs.

Captains may contact the USTA Atlanta office or their age group coordinator if they have any questions prior to adding a player.

## 8. INELIGIBLE PLAYER

Players MUST be registered on the team roster in TennisLink prior to match play. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in loss of points.

## 9. PLAY-OFF ELIGIBILITY

All players must have credit for two team matches (must be separate dates) during the season to be eligible for USTA Atlanta league Playoffs & City Finals. **A win by forfeit DOES NOT count towards a player's eligibility.** Playing twice is not permitted in the playoffs or City Finals. To be eligible to participate in the Georgia STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS, all players must have credit for two team matches (must be separate dates). **A win by forfeit DOES NOT count towards a player's eligibility.**

## 10. TEAM CAPTAINS

Parent captains are required for all teams. Pros are permitted to be co-captains. In the presence of special circumstances, we will consider pros as captains and review each such situation on a case by case basis. Exceptions will be granted sparingly and only upon a showing of need. Please contact Amanda Hunt, the Director of JTT, at the USTA Atlanta office if you are a pro seeking to be sole captain of a team.

Team captains should work together to ensure a smooth, positive experience for all. Team captains listed on TennisLink must be accessible to all teams in the division and to the coordinator. Information on TennisLink must be accurate. Corrections to a captain's information can be made by sending an email that includes the captain's USTA # to [memberservices@USTA.com](mailto:memberservices@USTA.com) or by calling 1-800-990-8782. Your job goes beyond your team. Team captains may be captain of one team only. **Background checks are mandatory for all team captains and co-captains.**

## 11. COORDINATORS

Each age group has a coordinator. Questions regarding leveling, add-ons, and scorecard corrections should be directed to your assigned coordinator. Only captains should contact the coordinator. Parents should direct their inquiries to the captain to be forwarded to the coordinator. If a conflict arises that cannot be resolved by the team captains within the rules, the coordinator should be contacted, but only after all efforts by team captains have failed. All official grievances must be submitted by the team captain via email to the coordinator with a copy to the USTA Atlanta Director of Junior Leagues within 5 days of the scheduled match being protested. The grievance form can be found on the Captain's Corner portion of the USTA Atlanta website at [www.ustaatlanta.com/cc](http://www.ustaatlanta.com/cc).

## 12. FORMAT/ORDER OF PLAY

One boy's singles, one girl's singles, one boy's doubles, one girls' doubles, and one mixed doubles. The season shall be a round robin or double round robin with each team playing every other team in its division. When players are playing twice, the order of play should be adjusted, in advance of match day, so that the affected positions are played first and last, whenever possible.

8U-4 lines of singles; these lines can be a combination of boy v. boy, girl v. girl, and girl v. boy. Be sure that your lineup is in order of playing strength.

## 13. SETTING UP A MATCH

As a courtesy, home team captains should contact visiting team captains at least 4 days prior to dual meet in order to discuss directions, order of play, etc. The home team captain should inform the visiting team captain of the type of court surface that will be used for the matches and number of courts available. Everyone is encouraged to work out any time or line-up conflicts that may arise during the season.

Teams are expected to play on the scheduled match days as "team" tennis, but with the agreement of both captains, scheduled matches can always be played earlier than the scheduled date. However, if a match is scheduled to be played earlier, the coordinator must be notified. **You may only ask the opposing team captain once to play early. If their answer is no, the match must be played on the default day.**

Playing matches early should be the exception and not the rule. Matches may not be scheduled to play after the TennisLink scheduled date and time – NO EXCEPTIONS! If a captain is not available for a particular match or cannot stay for the duration of a match, a designated replacement, who has been

informed of the rules and regulations, must be named. Replacements must have rules on hand. Extra copies are available on the USTA Atlanta website. If line-ups cannot be agreed upon, teams must play the positions in order as described in Item #12 Format/Order of Play.

#### **14. TEAM FORFEITS**

Teams are encouraged to work together to avoid position defaults for a dual match. If a team defaults an entire match during the season, it may have all matches to date nullified and may be treated as a bye for the remainder of the season. A team that forfeits an entire match or a team that has excessive defaults (an average of more than one default per match) may be withdrawn from the current season and suspended the following season. Players may not register to another team in the same age group. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in disqualification.

#### **15. SCHEDULE CONFLICTS**

We are aware of the overlap of USTA Jr. Team Tennis and USTA Business Women's leagues in the winter as well as ALTA Mixed Doubles on the default day in the winter. In the event of a scheduling conflict during the overlap with either league, the options are as follows:

1. The visiting team has the option of offering courts at their facility.
2. The match may be played earlier in the week.
3. If no time can be agreed upon, the match must be played on the home team's courts on the first available court at the completion of the other leagues' matches.

DEFAULT INFO: IF YOU HAVE TO PLAY A MATCH AFTER THE COMPLETION OF ANOTHER LEAGUE MATCH, THE DEFAULT RULE ONLY APPLIES 15 MINUTES AFTER THE COURT BECOMES AVAILABLE, NOT NECESSARILY FROM THE MATCH START TIME. WE URGE EVERYONE TO BE FLEXIBLE. IF CONFLICTS CANNOT BE WORKED OUT ACCORDING TO THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATIONS, CALL YOUR OVERALL COORDINATOR.

#### **16. TEAM LINE-UPS**

Team captains must exchange scorecards with complete line-ups simultaneously prior to starting play (See Rule 19). Once the scorecards have been exchanged, changes to the lineups cannot be made except as follows: (1) if a player becomes ill or injured before his/her individual match is played, another player may be substituted; (2) if a player does not arrive in time to play their individual match, another player may be substituted; or (3) the match is postponed due to inclement weather (see Rule 36). Players removed from the lineup due to (1) or (2) above cannot be reinserted in the match. A substitution is defined as a player not scheduled in the lineup or a player in the lineup that is eligible to play two positions (See Rule 6 regarding playing twice).

#### **17. REGULAR SEASON SCORING**

**8U-** 2 out of 3 games, games are played the first to 7 points. At 6-6, one more point is played to end the game with a score of 7-6. Game scoring is as follows: Player one will serve one point from the deuce side of the court and then one point from the ad side of the court. Player two will then serve one point from

the deuce side of the court and then one point from the ad side of the court. This will continue until one team reaches seven (7) points. Teams switch ends after each game and next team starts serve. **To enter the scores for an 8U match in TennisLink, please be sure to enter the 3<sup>rd</sup> set score as 1-0 Result: Timed Match.** 8U Division Winners are determined by the most individual match points won during the regular season.

**10U-** 2 out of 3 sets; the first to win four games wins a set. If one player wins the first two sets, he or she wins the match. If the players split the first two sets, the third set is a 7 point tiebreak (first to 7 and do not have to win by 2).

**12U & 14U-** 2 out of 3 sets; each set is to 4 games. Set tiebreakers (first to 7, win by 2) to be played at 3-3. If the players split the first two sets, the third set is a match tiebreak (first to 10, win by 2).

**18U-** 2 out of 3 sets with the 3rd set being a match tiebreaker (first team to score 10 points by a 2 point margin.). The maximum number of points for the overall match is 5.

10U, 12U and 14U Division Winners are determined by most games won during the regular season. 18U and 8U Division Winners are determined by the most individual match points won during the regular season.

## **18. AD AND NO AD SCORING**

### *AD (REGULAR) SCORING TO BE USED BY 12U, 14U, and 18U AGE GROUPS*

If a player wins the first point, the score is called 15 for that player; on winning the second point, the score is called 30 for that player; on winning the third point, the score is called 40 for that player, and the fourth point won by a player is scored game for that player except as below:

If both players have won three points, the score is called deuce; and the next point won by a player is called advantage for that player. If the same player wins the next point, he wins the game; if the other player wins the next point the score is again called deuce; and so on, until a player wins the two points immediately following the score at deuce, when the game is scored for that player.

### *NO-AD SCORING TO BE USED BY 10 & UNDER AGE GROUP ONLY \** *(\*and to be used by **all** age groups at Playoffs and City Finals)*

The first team or player to win 4 points wins the game. If the score reaches 3 POINTS ALL, the 7th (or next) point becomes the GAME POINT. In singles, the receiver may choose to receive either in the ad or deuce court\*. In doubles the receiving team may choose to receive in either the ad or deuce court.\* In mixed doubles, the boy must receive serve from the boy and the girl must receive serve from the girl.\* In calling the score of a no-ad game, players may either use 1, 2, 3, and game or 15, 30, 40 and game. They may call a score of 3-all deuce. \*Both players on the receiving team must remain on the same receiving side they played during the match.

## **19. SCORECARDS**

Prior to the match print the scorecard from TennisLink to exchange the lineup before matches begin. Captains should keep possession of their scorecard during the match. After the match, compare cards

with the other team captain. Both captains should record names of players from both teams and all scores and sign both scorecards. A captain's signature on a scorecard represents the captain's agreement that the information contained therein is true and accurate. For 10U, 12U and 14U total number of games won will be counted for both teams. For 8U and 18U total individual matches won will be counted for both teams. Scores must be entered within 24 hours of the conclusion of the match by the team that wins the dual match. Scores must be confirmed within 5 days of the match by the team that does not win the dual match. If scores are not entered within 24 hours by the winning team then either team may enter the scores. If scores are not entered within 48 hours, match may be posted as a double default. Captains shall keep their scorecards in their possession for the duration of the match, and then retain copies of completed scorecards for the entire JTT season.

## **20. TIE-BREAK**

In 12U and 14U, if a set reaches 3-3, players must play a set tie-break. The order of serving continues in the same rotation. The first team to reach 7 points wins the set, provided there is a margin of two points over the opponent(s). If necessary, the tiebreak game shall continue until this margin is achieved.

In 18U, playing the best of three sets, a set tie-break is played at 6-all in the first two sets. If teams split sets, a match tiebreaker is played in lieu of a third set. The first team to reach 10 points wins the set and match, provided there is a margin of two points over the opponent(s). If necessary, the tiebreak game shall continue until this margin is achieved.

In doubles, the first server shall serve one point from the right (deuce) side. The second server shall serve two points, starting from the left (ad) side and ending on the right side. The third server shall serve two points, starting on the left and ending on the right side. The fourth server shall serve one point from the left side and then players change ends of the courts. The fourth server shall then serve one point from the right side. Play continues in such a manner until one team wins at least seven points with a two point margin. Teams change ends of the court every six (6) points.

In singles, the first server shall serve one point from the right side. The second server shall serve two points, starting on the left side and ending on the right side. The players continue to alternate serving two points each, until one wins a minimum of seven points with a two point margin. Players change ends of the court every six (6) points.

## **21. USTA RULES GOVERN PLAY**

The Friend at Court, the USTA Handbook of Tennis Rules and Regulations, should be understood and followed by every captain and player. It should be available for consultation along with league rules at all dual meets. Friend at Court can be found at <https://www.usta.com/content/dam/usta/officiating/2019%20Friend%20at%20Court.pdf>.

## **22. MATCH TIMES - DEFAULTS**

Matches are played Saturdays at 1:00 PM.

The 15-minute default rule is in effect for all scheduled matches.



### *Match Time Default Time*

1<sup>st</sup> time slot 1:00pm 1:15pm

2<sup>nd</sup> time slot 2:00pm 2:15pm

3<sup>rd</sup> time slot 2:30pm 2:45pm

Please be as lenient as possible, within reason, about defaults. DEFAULTS MAY ONLY BE CALLED IF A COURT IS AVAILABLE AND READY FOR PLAY.

## **23. BALLS & RACQUETS**

### **A. Balls**

The HOME TEAM will provide the balls for the match.

**12U ADV, 14U and 18U-YELLOW BALL-** You will need a total of 1 can per court. Balls are re-used for subsequent matches on the same court. Home team will also keep the balls at the conclusion of the match.

**12U BEG and INT, 10U ADV -GREEN DOT BALL-** There should be 3 green dot balls per court and home team keeps the balls at the conclusion of the match. These are low compression balls and may be REUSED for multiple matches.

**10U BEG and INT -ORANGE BALL-** There should be 3 orange balls per court, and home team keeps the balls at the conclusion of the match. These are low compression balls and may be REUSED for multiple matches.

**8U-RED FELT BALL-**There should be 3 red balls per court, and home team keeps the balls at the conclusion of the match. These are low compression balls and may be REUSED for multiple matches. FOAM BALLS MAY NOT BE USED FOR MATCH PLAY.

### **B. Racquet Requirements**

**8U- Players must use a 21" or 23" racquet**

**10U-Players must use a 23" or 25" racquet**

\*If a player does not have a proper size racquet, a racquet may be borrowed for the match.

## **24. WARM-UP**

Warm up is limited to 10 minutes including practice serves.

## **25. COACHING**

Coaching during a match is illegal! Captains, teammates, spectators, or coaches may not volunteer advice on line calls or scoring. Excessive cheering or clapping is not permitted. It is the responsibility of both Team Captains to work together as a team to control the spectators' conduct during match play. Parents and or Monitors may not be on the court. For 8U and 10U BEGINNER matches ONLY-if a player or both players request assistance with scoring, tie break etc. the captain, or their designee, from both

teams may approach the court and assist with a specific question. Captains may not assist with their own child's match.

## **26. COURT MONITORING GUIDELINES for 8U and 10U BEGINNER MATCHES**

Monitoring 8U and 10U beginner matches is in an effort to ensure that our new players starting their tennis experience learn the game and the sport of tennis correctly. Monitors may be used if requested by one or both of the players and only at the beginner level. If the players are having a problem with scoring, tie break or any element of the sport of tennis, captains, or their designee, from both teams may approach the court and assist in resolving a specific problem the player or players are having. A captain may not assist with their own child's match. Captains may not sit on the court and may not give strategy advice to the players. Monitors may not be used at the INT and ADV levels.

## **27. SPECTATOR RULES AND GUIDELINES**

One of the goals of USTA Junior Team Tennis is to allow the players to experience what it means to be part of a team, where every point won counts toward the total team effort. Support for every player on the court is essential for good teamwork. Team captains will be responsible for advising their players and spectators of the following guidelines for proper behavior during a match.

Clapping for good shots will be allowed provided spectators clap for both teams' good shots. Appropriate cheering will be allowed. Cheering can get out of control, often intimidating children on the court. Cheering can also disrupt other matches in progress. Cheering can also cause conflict between opposing teams.

If there is excessive abuse of the rules no clapping or cheering will be permitted for the remainder of the event.

Examples:

1. Player hits a double fault - no clapping or cheering
2. Player hits a ball 2 feet out on a deuce point - no clapping or cheering
3. Player whiffs a serve - no clapping or cheering
4. Player hits an overhead for a winner - clapping by both teams
5. Players have a long rally - clapping by both teams
6. One match has finished play while other matches in progress – clapping, if not interfering
7. Player hits ball into the net – no clapping or cheering

Spectators should use common sense. Think how your child would feel in a situation before subjecting another child to unfairness. Remember, these teams are all champions already. Even though the score may not reflect it, every child is a winner. Let them play the matches on the courts. Let's all help the players have a wonderful experience so they continue to play tennis in the future.

## **28. SPORTSMANSHIP**

All players and parents should conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner both on and off the court. Please see USTA Atlanta Junior Team Tennis Parent Code of Conduct - <http://assets.usta.com/assets/534/15/Consent-Waiver-Parent%20Conduct.pdf>. Any complaints with

regard to inappropriate behavior at a match should be filed by the captain. A formal Grievance form can be found at [ustaatlanta.com](http://ustaatlanta.com)>Juniors>Captain's Corner>Grievance Form and emailed to the USTA Atlanta Director of Junior Leagues ([amanda@ustaatlanta.com](mailto:amanda@ustaatlanta.com)) within five (5) days of the incident. Both team captains involved will be contacted upon receipt of the form, and letter will be submitted to the local grievance committee. The incident will be reviewed and will result in formal action taken by the Grievance Committee. Repeated grievances filed against a specific team, captain or player may result in suspension from the league.

## **29. HOME COURTS**

If for any unforeseen circumstance, including frozen clay courts during the winter season, the home team is unable to provide its home courts for any scheduled dual meet during the regular season, the visiting team may provide its home courts. The host team is considered the home team. If the visiting team does not elect to provide its home courts, the responsibility reverts to the home team which must provide courts within the approved league area at the scheduled time.

## **30. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

Alcoholic beverages are not to be consumed at a junior match.

## **31. REFRESHMENTS**

The home team is responsible for furnishing water. It is optional for the home team to furnish additional refreshments. Please do not expect refreshments at away matches.

## **32. AWARDS**

At the conclusion of the season, the team winning the most games (10U, 12U and 14U) or individual matches won (8U and 18U) will be declared the Division Winner. Division winners will receive bag tags and will be eligible to participate in the playoffs.

## **33. PLAYOFFS**

Playoffs are held at the end of each season with the top teams competing against each other. The number of teams that go to the playoffs will depend on the number of divisions in that level. All playoff rounds are single elimination. Playing twice is not allowed in the playoffs.

A. Levels with one division will not participate in playoffs/City Finals.

B. Divisions of two will take the first and second place teams to one round of playoffs followed by City Finals.

C. Divisions of three will take all first and the top second place team with the highest winning percentage for one round of playoffs followed by City Finals.

D. In divisions of four, all first and second place teams will play two rounds of playoffs, followed by City Finals.

E. Divisions of five will take five first place teams and the top three second place teams for two rounds of playoffs followed by City Finals.

F. Divisions of six will take six first place teams and the top two second place teams for two rounds of playoffs followed by City Finals.

G. Divisions of seven will take seven first place teams and the highest scoring second place team for two rounds of playoffs followed by City Finals.

H. Divisions of eight will take eight first place teams for two rounds of playoffs followed by City Finals.

Coordinators will assist with the scheduling of playoff matches. No-ad scoring will be used for the playoffs and city finals in all age divisions. There will be no "playing twice" in playoffs and finals. The official order of play for the playoffs/City Finals will be Girls Doubles, Boys Doubles, Mixed Doubles, Girls Singles, and Boys Singles.

In the event of a weekday evening playoff match, coordinators may adjust the start times if the situation warrants.

City Champions (and some select City Finalists/Semifinalists) will be invited to attend the 2021 Junior Team Tennis State Championships in Macon the weekend of July 23-25, 2021. Levels with local play only (8U) will not advance. Teams must participate in playoffs (if applicable) to be eligible for the State Championships.

\*Captains should notify their coordinator as soon as possible if their team is unable to participate in playoffs. Teams that withdraw after playoff draws are complete will be ineligible to compete as a team for the next upcoming season i.e. winter or summer. (A team is defined as 4 or more returning players).

### **34. CITY FINALS**

After completing playoffs, the top two teams in each level will play in the City Finals. Playing twice is not allowed in the City Finals. NO AD SCORING WILL BE USED FOR ALL AGE GROUPS AT CITY FINALS. Winners and Finalists will receive bag tags. **City Finals matches may not be played early.**

### **35. PENALTIES, FORFEITURES & DEFAULTS**

A. In all dual meets in which an ineligible player participates, the team will be penalized by forfeiting the points earned by an ineligible player. The opposing player will be awarded the win.

B. Penalties and violations in those situations where no penalty is provided by the general rules: THE RESPECTIVE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE SHALL HAVE THE AUTHORITY AND DISCRETION TO IMPOSE APPROPRIATE PENALTIES.

C. Teams are encouraged to work together to avoid position defaults for a dual match. If a team defaults an entire match during the season, it may have all matches to date nullified and may be treated as a bye for the remainder of the season. A team that forfeits an entire match or a team that has excessive defaults (an average of more than one default per match) may be withdrawn from the current season

and suspended the following season.

D. If a team withdraws after schedules have been completed a grievance will automatically be filed with the grievance committee and may be suspended the following season.

E. Players not registered online before playing a match are subject to the default of all points earned for that individual match.

### **36. INCLEMENT WEATHER/ RAIN-OUT RULES**

#### **A. RAIN**

In the event of rain during a match, 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 play was halted. Lineups for matches not started (including any position previously to be defaulted) may be changed provided it does not conflict with the eligible player rules. Forfeits stand if the rain begins after the scheduled time of the forfeited match. Matches must be completed in accordance with the Rain-Out Rules. Teams must wait at least 30 minutes before calling the match. If, at the end of 30 minutes, the courts are still not playable, the match is officially null and void. Captains may mutually decide to continue waiting; however, the rainout rules are officially in effect and defaults will not be called on matches started after the 30 minute waiting period has ended.

In the event a Saturday match is cancelled due to rain, teams have 7 days to make up the regularly scheduled match. If no day can be agreed upon, the match must be played on the 8th day. The 8th day is Sunday at 5:00pm. If it rains on the 8th day, the match must be made up the next day there is no rain.

In the event that the second to last regular season match, last regular season match, or playoff match is cancelled due to rain, the default day/time is Sunday at 1:00 PM. If it rains on this day, the match must be made up the next day there is no rain.

In the event of a weekday evening makeup match, the default time is 7:00 PM.

#### **B. TEMPERATURE**

Teams are not obligated to play a match when the temperature is BELOW 32 degrees or ABOVE 95 degrees based on [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com). If teams decide to play at that time, it must be the decision of both captains. Use Rain-Out Rules to reschedule the match. There are no provisions for extreme wind. Wind chill may not be a factor in rescheduling a match. Captains cannot agree to reschedule if the temperature is at or above 32 degrees. Once the match has begun, it cannot be called because of extreme cold. If any player decides that he or she cannot continue, the match will be retired.