



USTA Atlanta Junior Team Tennis Registration Information Winter 2021 Season (January 2021 – March 2021)

Winter 2021 League Information

- Age Groups/Levels: 8U (36ft court), 10U (60ft court), 12U, 14U and 18U with Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced play levels available. 8U- Only beginner and intermediate levels offered. 12U- Beginner and Intermediate levels will be playing with the green dot ball.
- Determining Level of Team: The junior ratings system (JNTRP) and tournament points are used to determine play levels for Junior Team Tennis programs for 12U, 14U and 18U. Advanced levels will have High and Low flights. 10U level eligibility will still be determined by tournament points/standings. **It is very important that you view the [attached document](#) for specific level eligibility requirements.**
- Team Match Format:
 - 10U/12U/14U/18U- Teams are coed with a minimum of 4 boys and 4 girls per team. Each team match consists of 1 line of boys singles, 1 line of girls singles, 1 line of boys doubles, 1 line of girls doubles, and 1 line of mixed doubles in a round robin format. **Scoring formats: 10U play the best-of-three short sets; the first to win four games wins a set. If the players split the first two sets, the third set is a 7 point tiebreak. No-ad scoring for 10U. 12U – 14U play best 2 out of 3 short sets with a match tiebreaker for the third set, and 18U play best 2 out of 3 sets with a match tiebreaker for the third set.**
 - 8U- 4 player minimum; gender neutral (any combination of boys or girls). Each team match consists of 4 lines of singles (boy v. boy, girl v. girl, or boy v. girl). **Scoring format: 8U plays best two-out-of-three games; each game is a 7 point tiebreak. The first to win two games wins the match.**
- Registration Dates: Registration is open October 1st, with the deadline for team registration on **December 4th**. **TennisLink will not allow for late team registrations.** We will reopen for add-ons and post schedules on December 18th. Players can then be added to teams up until the last match of the local round robin season.
- League Registration Fee (per player): The league fee is \$24 per player. All registration is done online. To create a team, visit www.ustaatlanta.com and under “Juniors” on the left hand side of the screen, click “TennisLink”. (Step by step TennisLink instructions are included in this packet.) TennisLink will show the \$21.00 local league fee and a \$3.00 TennisLink fee. **USTA Atlanta only receives the local fee portion. USTA Atlanta does not issue refunds.**
- Background Check: Captains **MUST** complete the mandatory background screening **PRIOR** to registering their 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, click [here](#). 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 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.**
- Schedule Availability: Schedules will be available on TennisLink by December 18th. After schedules are posted, captains will receive an introductory letter from his or her coordinator.
- League Start Date: Play begins Saturday, January 9th at 1:00 pm. For most divisions, teams will be scheduled to have 6 or 7 team matches during the local round robin season.



- Playoffs and Local City Finals: Top teams in each flight will qualify for the playoff bracket in their respective division level. The first round of playoffs will be held February 27 with finals day on March 6. *Divisions with one flight will not advance to playoffs/finals.
- Georgia JTT State Championships: 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 will not advance.

Team Requirements

- Forming a Team: For 10U, 12U, 14U, and 18U, teams need at least 4 boys and 4 girls registered by the deadline. For 8U, teams need at least 6 eligible players (boys and/or girls). Teams need to meet the level and age requirements and should double check eligibility before determining the level of the team.
- Home Facility Requirements: Teams are required to provide two courts of the same surface at their location. All facilities must be located in Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton, Gwinnett, or Forsyth County. Captains at a new facility should contact USTA Atlanta (770-416-4333) to verify your facility is eligible for the USTA Junior Team Tennis program. The following information is required: facility name, address, number of courts. The team cannot register until the facility is processed. Lights are **required** if a make-up match takes place during the evening. Home teams hosting 10U play must have courts prepared for 60ft play (tape, chalk, painter's tape and permanent lines are permissible).
If you would like to update your JTT court availability, please email Amanda Hunt (Amanda@ustaatlanta.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.
- Captain Information: Captains must have a current email address in order to receive league information throughout the season. As captain, you are responsible to get all USTA Atlanta information to players. Please ENSURE that your e-mail and phone number are correct on TennisLink.

Player Requirements

- Level Eligibility: Players registering for a 12U-18U team must use their junior rating (JNTRP) and/or tournament points (BEG level only). 10U level eligibility will still be determined by tournament points/standings. **It is very important that you view the [attached document](#) for specific level eligibility requirements.**
- Age Eligibility: USTA Junior Team Tennis is designed for kids ages 5-18. All players participating in the Winter 2021 season must remain age eligible through August 31st of the 2021 Championship Year (September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2021). *8U-eligibility rules are not the same because 8U teams do not advance past the local level. Players on 8U teams must remain 8 or younger through the winter season (through March 6).
- USTA Membership: USTA junior memberships are now FREE. Players will still need to obtain/renew a membership at www.membership.usta.com or by calling 1-800-990-8782 but there will no longer be a membership fee for junior players. If you have any questions or need to update your membership information please call the above number or email customercare@usta.com.
- Captains should check with all players before registering them for the team. **Once payment has been made no refunds will be issued.** We recommend that each parent be responsible for registering their child on a team.
- If you need additional players for your team, please visit the database of players looking for a team on our website at <http://www.ustaatlanta.com/findateam>.



Other Important Information

- Teams that are formed outside of the USTA Atlanta boundaries (outside of DeKalb, Fulton, Gwinnett, Cobb, and Forsyth) are welcome to participate in USTA Atlanta Junior Team Tennis (if approved). However, teams outside USTA Atlanta boundaries may be required to travel to more (if not all) matches, and will be grouped with the teams in closest proximities as possible.
- USTA Atlanta will make every effort to group teams within the closest proximities possible. Just because your team is closer to one facility does not necessarily mean you will be grouped in that sub-flight.
- TennisLink allows captains to view the “work in progress” that USTA Atlanta has done when putting together schedules. In most cases, teams are shifted around in order to finalize other divisions. **PLEASE NO PHONE CALLS prior to schedules being posted.**



2021 Championship Year **Level Eligibility Requirements**

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

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.

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 for more information regarding junior ratings.



CREATING A TEAM

- As a captain, you **MUST** complete the background screening before you will have access to create a team in TennisLink. If you are a returning captain, your screening is good for 2 years. Please check your expiration date as you will be **LOCKED OUT** of TennisLink if you don't renew before the **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.
- In order to "Create a Team", you will need to become a coach/manager in TennisLink.
- If you need to become a JTT captain, follow these steps:
- Go to TennisLink – <http://tennislink.usta.com/teamtennis> - Then scroll to the bottom of the page and click on 'Become a Coach/Manager'.
- You will follow the necessary prompts depending on whether you have a USTA number or need to create an account. (There is no cost to create an account.)
- Once you have completed these steps, you can register your team.
- **All Captains must create a new team number each season.** This step creates a team number *and* registers the team.
 - Log in to TennisLink as captain
(<http://tennislink.usta.com/TEAMTENNIS/Secure/logon.aspx?Caller=Login>)
 - Click on "Register for a Team", and then click "Click here to create a new team"
 - Select Type of Program (**Jr**)
 - Select Section (**Southern**)
 - Select District (**Georgia**)
 - Select Area (**USTA Atlanta - Juniors**)
 - Click "Go"
 - Select appropriate program.
 - **Make a note of your new team number.**
 - Create team name (Facility name – Captain's last name)
 - Select your Home Court Facility.
 - Select Division and check affiliations.
 - Enter Co-captain Information, if applicable.
 - **Click on "Save"! The system will not create the team unless you hit save.**

REGISTERING A PLAYER

- *Double check the [winter eligibility guidelines](#) for each level before registering your child to a team. No refunds will be given to ineligible players that register to a team.
- Go to Jr. Team Tennis TennisLink home page - <http://tennislink.usta.com/TeamTennis/Main/Home.aspx>
- Click on "Have a Team ID?".
- Enter the Team # of the team you are registering your child for.
- Enter in your child's USTA membership #.
- Complete payment information.
- Check the information carefully. If you register your child incorrectly you will forfeit the TennisLink fee.
- Click "Submit".



CHECKING YOUR TEAM ROSTER

- Go to <http://tennislink.usta.com/teamtennis>.
- Sign in as a Coach/Coordinator with your email address.
- Under "My Options", click on "Teams".
- Don't see your team? Be sure the championship year is designated as **2021**.
- Click on the notebook icon to the right of your team.
- Select "Player Roster."
- This is also where you will view match schedule, get scorecards, etc.