

# COLUMBIA JR. TEAM TENNIS

## Fall 2011 Local League Rules

Coordinator: Jamie S. Austin, (803) 318-3246, [JoinJTT@gmail.com](mailto:JoinJTT@gmail.com)

The Columbia JTT adheres to all USTA National, Sectional and State regulations in addition to the Columbia JTT local league rules outlined below.

### I. TEAM AND PLAYERS

- a. USTA Membership: All players **must** be a member of USTA. Membership for juniors is as follows: \$19 for 1 year, \$52 for 3 years and \$76 for 5 years. Junior players can also be added to a parent's USTA membership. Membership for families is as follows: \$68 for 1 year, \$184 for 3 years, and \$272 for 5 years. Through December 31, 2011, kids 10 and under, new to the USTA, can receive a **FREE** junior membership. Contact the USTA for additional details at 1-800-990-8782 or visit [www.usta.com/membership](http://www.usta.com/membership) or [www.tryusta.com](http://www.tryusta.com).
- b. League Fees: Columbia JTT league fees are \$22 per player plus a \$3 TennisLink fee.
- c. Online Registration: Players should register online by going to <https://tennislink.usta.com/TEAMTENNIS/Main/Registration.aspx>. Players with a team number from a coach or program coordinator may proceed using the assigned Team ID #. Players without a team should select "Find a Program" and choose Section: Southern, District: South Carolina, Area: Columbia. After registering into the "Open Pool", the player will be contacted by the Columbia JTT Program Coordinator to be assigned to a team.
- d. Requirements:
  - i. Team registration deadline on TennisLink is *September 26, 2011*.
  - ii. Team rosters must have a **MINIMUM** of **8** players (4 girls & 4 boys) registered by the deadline. *\*10U and 8U Beginner teams can have a minimum of 6 players.*
  - iii. Players may be added to team rosters through *October 28, 2011*.
  - iv. The season will begin on *Friday, October 7, 2011* and run through *Thursday, December 1, 2011*.
  - v. All players on Intermediate and Advanced teams must have a **MINIMUM** of **3** individual team matches in TennisLink in order to be qualified to play at the State Championships. (Two individual matches during the same team match do not count towards this minimum.) Only one match default or forfeit by the opposing team counts as match history towards the 3-match minimum.
  - vi. Team Size: Teams should have a roster of 10-14 players. Please try to keep the numbers in that range. If you have too many kids for one team, let's discuss a second team. Any teams that win at the state level and qualify for Sectionals will only be allowed to have ten (10) players on the roster. *\*10U and 8U Beginner teams can have a minimum of 6 players.*
- e. Divisions: For Columbia JTT League to advance ANY teams registered for the fall season to the State Championships, ALL players must remain age eligible through August 31, 2012. This is a new National Rule. Please contact Jamie S. Austin or Michelle Campanella ([campanella@sctennis.com](mailto:campanella@sctennis.com)), Manager of SC Junior Programs, for questions and clarification.

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- f. NTRP Guidelines: The *Beginner* division will consist of players with a skill level of 2.5 and below. The *Intermediate* division will consist of players with skill levels 3.0 and below. The *Advanced* division will consist of players with skill levels 3.5 and above.
  - i. Juniors on USTA Southern Section 1-300 Standing List as of July 31, **2011** for 12s -18s must play in an Advanced division. Juniors on the USTA Southern Section 1-100 Standing List as of July 31, **2011** for 10s must play in the 10s Advanced division but can play Intermediate if they play up in the 12s-18s.
  - ii. A player with a top 20 State Ranking must obtain permission from the Columbia Junior Team Tennis Coordinator to play in a division OTHER than the Advanced division.

## II. FLIGHT PLACEMENT

- a. The Program Coordinator will make final determination of flight placement. Team movement from one 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. Team movement from one flight to another will be based on number of teams registered, and coaches/captains can opt to play up an age group within the same level.

## III. COACHES/CAPTAINS

- a. Each team must have a Coach/Captain or acting Coach/Captain present at the beginning of every match event.
- b. Coaches/Captains or acting Coaches/Captains must exchange the line-ups for all positions simultaneously prior to the start of the match.
- c. Both Coaches/Captains or acting Coaches/Captains must sign the scorecards at the end of the match and retain a copy for their records incase of a dispute.
- d. Scores from each match must be entered online using the USTA TennisLink System: <http://teamtennis.usta.com/Main/HomePage.aspx>. Scores should be posted within 48 hours of the match by the **home team** and confirmed by the opposing team. **If scores are not entered prior to the next scheduled match by either coach/captain, scores will be entered as a double default.**
- e. Coaches/Captains shall agree upon the order of play. In case of conflict, the default order of play is boy's singles, girl's singles, boy's doubles, girl's doubles and mixed doubles.

## IV. TEAM PRACTICES

- a. Teams are required to practice at least one time per week.
- b. Captains/Coaches determine practices at the time and place of their choosing.
- c. Practices should be a minimum of 45 minutes and should focus on skill development.

## V. MATCH EVENTS

- a. All matches will be played on **Fridays at 5:30pm.**
- b. All match events will consist of 1 boy's singles, 1 girl's singles, 1 boy's doubles, 1 girl's doubles and 1 mixed doubles. \*10U Beginner teams will play 2 singles and 3 doubles matches and 8U Beginner teams will play 5 singles matches.

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- c. The home team must guarantee use of at least 3 courts at the same address for a match event. Any court surface, outdoor or indoor, is acceptable.
- d. A team **MUST** have a **minimum of 5 players available for any given match**. Teams eligible for advancing to the State Championships (Intermediate & Advanced teams) must have 3 boys/girls and 2 girls/boys available in order for the match to count towards their team's standings. If a team cannot meet this minimum requirement, then the match should be defaulted or a request made to reschedule the match. A request to reschedule a match **DOES NOT** have to be honored by the opposing captain; nevertheless, a request must be made at least 3 days prior to a scheduled match event. Rescheduled matches should be played within two weeks of the original scheduled match event.
- e. Substitution Rules: Substitutions are allowed to avoid forfeits and to play players in attendance of a match. Teams with less than 4 boys and 4 girls (but a minimum of 5 players) available for a match event, are allowed to substitute girls/boys for boys/girls and play a player more than once during one match event in order for match play to be continuous and to avoid forfeits. Only after all players that have come to the match and have played once, can a player be allowed to play a second match.
- f. The home team has the option of providing food/snack/drinks and will notify the visiting team of provisions.
- g. The home team will provide five (5) unopened cans of USTA approved yellow balls. Each home team will retain its cans of balls at the completion of the match event. *\*10U and 8U divisions should use the USTA approved orange and red balls, respectively.*
- h. Columbia JTT will not provide linesmen or umpires for matches.
- i. Columbia JTT governs play. In cases not specifically covered by these rules, the USTA rules and "The Code" will govern play.
- j. Players listed on a scorecard may be moved upward to fill a vacancy created by a player's absence or a player getting injured during warm-up. Once a player's name is removed from the scorecard, that player will not be allowed to play in the match event.
- k. The 15-minute default rule is in effect for all scheduled matches. A defaulted match is scored as 6 points for the opposing team.
- l. Warm-up is limited to 10 minutes, including practice serves.
- m. Coaching is allowed during changeovers but only by the coach or substitute coach. **Coaching by parents is NOT ALLOWED!** Prior to the start of each match, both coaches should address the parents and tell them that coaching is permissible by the coach or substitute coach **ONLY**.
- n. Parents, spectators, teammates and coaches should not assist in making line calls, scoring or the conduct of a match. In the event that players are unsure of how to proceed with a 7-point set tiebreaker, both team Coaches/Captains may explain the tiebreaker before it is played.

## VI. SCORING

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- a. All matches will be 6-game pro sets with no ad scoring. A match is won when one team wins 6 games by a margin of at least two games. If the score reaches 5-all, a 7-point set tiebreak (first to 7 points by a margin of 2 points) is played and the winning scored is 6-5. *\*10U Beginners and Intermediates will play the first to 4 games with no ad scoring.*
- b. Meet scores will be a cumulative sum of games won for the 5 matches played (i.e. boy's singles, girl's singles, boy's doubles, girl's doubles and mixed doubles).
- c. The final standings for each division will be determined by the total number of games won by the end of the season. If necessary, after the Fall 2011 season, the league will have city playoffs to determine the winning team from each division and winning teams will advance to the State Tournament to be held in Sumter, SC in July 2012.

### VII. PENALTIES, DEFAULTS AND FORFEITS

- a. Upon agreement by the Coaches/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 Columbia JTT Program Coordinator/Advisory Board 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 players.
- c. In those situations where no penalty is provided in the Columbia Jr. Team Tennis Rules, the Columbia JTT Program Coordinator/Advisory Board shall have the authority and discretion to impose appropriate penalties.
- d. If there are any conflicts that cannot be resolved by the team managers within the rules, the Columbia JTT Program Coordinator/Advisory Board should be contacted. All official protests must be submitted to the Columbia JTT Program Coordinator/Advisory Board in writing within 5 days of the match being protested.
- e. 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 match event or averaging more than one default per match event.
- f. If a team has excessive defaults as defined in the rule above, the team and/or its members may be suspended for the next season. This penalty also applies to any team withdrawing after the registration deadline.

### VIII. INCLEMENT WEATHER

- a. If there is any question about the weather, the two Coaches/Captains should communicate as early in the day of the match as possible.
- b. If a game is called off, this should occur prior to 3:00 p.m. so parents can be notified.
- c. If a game is cancelled or rescheduled, it is the coaches' responsibility to make sure that the parents of the players have been notified.

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- d. 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.
- e. If teams have assembled to play and the match is delayed or interrupted by rain or wet courts, teams should be prepared to wait 30 minutes to determine if the courts are playable. If courts are still not playable after 30 minutes, teams are free to leave and reschedule unless both teams agree to wait longer.
- f. A rained-out match must be rescheduled and played before one week after the last scheduled match date of the current season.
- g. If the home team is unable to provide its courts for a makeup 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.