

COLUMBIA JR. TEAM TENNIS

Fall 2009 Local League Rules

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The Columbia JTT adheres to all USTA National, Section 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: \$18 for 1 year, \$48 for 3 years and \$72 for 5 years. Junior players can also be added to a parent's USTA membership. Membership for families is as follows: \$65 for 1 year, \$175 for 3 years, and \$260 for 5 years. Contact the USTA for additional details at 1-800-990-8782 or visit www.usta.com/membership.
- b. League Fees: Columbia JTT league fees are \$25 per player plus a \$3 TennisLink fee. Each registered player will receive a high performance Nike shirt.
- 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 6, 2009*.
 - ii. Team rosters must have a **MINIMUM** of **8** players (4 girls & 4 boys) registered by the deadline.
 - iii. Players may be added to team rosters through *October 25, 2009*.
 - iv. The season will begin on *Friday, September 25, 2009* and run through *Sunday, November 15, 2009*.
 - v. All players on teams proceeding to State Championships must have a **MINIMUM** of **3** individual team matches in TennisLink. (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 a match history towards the 3 match minimum to qualify to participate in the State Championships.
- e. 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
- f. Divisions¹: 12 & Under Intermediates & Advanced; 14 & Under Intermediates & Advanced; 18 & Under Intermediates & Advanced. Players must remain age eligible through August 31st of 2010 to be eligible for advancement with their team to the State, Sectional and National Championships. Please contact

Jamie S. Austin or Michelle Campanella (campanella@sctennis.com),
Manager of SC Junior Programs, for questions and clarification.

- g. NTRP Guidelines: 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, **2009** for 12s -18s must play in an Advanced division and USTA Southern Section 1-100 Standing List as of July 31, **2009** for 10s must play in an Advanced division.
 - 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. COACH/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 of 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. Either team coach/captain can post results but please discuss who will do so.
- e. Coaches/Captain 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.

III. 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.

IV. MATCH EVENTS

- a. All matches will be played on Fridays at 5:00pm².
- b. 12U, 14U, & 18U 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.
- c. 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 12-point tiebreak (first to 7 points by a margin of 2 points) is played and the winning scored is 6-5.
- d. The home team has the option of providing food/snack/drinks and will notify the visiting team of provisions.
- e. The home team will provide tennis balls for play on each line.
- f. Columbia JTT will not provide linesmen or umpires for matches.
- g. Columbia JTT governs play. In cases not specifically covered by these rules, the USTA rules and "The Code" will govern play.

- h. Players listed on a scorecard may be moved upward to fill a vacancy created by a player's absent or 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.
- i. The 20-minute default rule is in effect for all scheduled matches. A defaulted match is scored as 6 points for the opposing team.
- j. Warm-up is limited to 10 minutes, including practice serves.
- k. 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.
- l. 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 12 point tiebreaker, both team Coaches/Captains may explain the tiebreaker before it is played.

V. SCORING

- a. 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).
- b. A total of all games at the end of the season will determine the final standing for each division. If necessary, after the Fall 2009 season, the league will have city playoffs to determine the winning team from each division and winning teams will proceed to the State Tournament to be held in the Summer of 2010.

VI. PENALTIES AND FORFEITES

- 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 Columbia JTT 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 players.
- c. In those situations where no penalty is provided in the Columbia Jr. Team Tennis Rules, the Columbia JTT Program Coordinator 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 should be contacted. All official protests must be submitted to the Columbia JTT Program Coordinator in writing within 5 days of the scheduled match that is being protested.

VII. 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 canceled or rescheduled, it is the coaches' responsibility to make sure that the parents of the players have been notified.

- 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.

¹ *QuickStart for beginners 8U & 10U to be added Spring 2010. For program information, visit www.quickstarttennis.com*

² *This day and/or time will possibly change in Spring 2010 to accommodate more Jr. players.*